Descriptive Summary

Creator: Young, Kevin, 1970-
Title: Kevin Young papers, 1976-2016
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1447
Extent: 101.375 linear feet (102 boxes), AV Masters: 0.25 linear foot (1 box), and 6.19 GB born digital material (8,950 files)
Abstract: Papers of American poet Kevin Young, including writings, literary correspondence, photographs, printed material, audiovisual material, and born digital material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

The following material has been restricted until February 2028: nonliterary correspondence; manuscript of Colson Whitehead’s first, unpublished novel Return of the Spook and any of its drafts; and notebooks after 2005.

Works in progress are restricted until publication.

Use copies have not been made for audiovisual material in this collection. Researchers must contact the Rose Library at least two weeks in advance for access to these items. Collection restrictions, copyright limitations, or technical complications may hinder the Rose Library's ability to provide access to audiovisual material.
Access to processed born digital materials is only available in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (the Rose Library). Use of the original digital media is restricted.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Separated Material**

The Rose Library also holds books formerly owned by Kevin Young. These materials may be located in Emory University’s online catalog by searching for: Young, Kevin, former owner.

**Source**

Purchase from Kevin Young, 2018.

**Custodial History**

The Rose Library purchased the collection from Kevin Young. Head of Collection Services, Carrie Hintz, packed the collection with Young's assistance at his residence in Decatur, Georgia. The Rose Library contracted with moving company Flood Brothers to transfer the collection from Young's home to the Rose Library.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Kevin Young papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Appraisal Note**

Rose Library Director Rosemary Magee acquired the collection as part of the Rose Library’s holdings in modern and contemporary literature. During processing in 2019, Rose Library staff removed and shredded approximately thirteen linear feet of duplicate and out of scope material. Per the terms of the deed, Rose Library staff deleted email and photographs found in born digital material and returned financial records, medical records, and material created by, or relating exclusively to, Young’s son and Young's father. Appraisal decisions were made by Accessioning Archivist, Meaghan O’Riordan, in consultation with Interim Curator of Literary and Poetry Collections, Carrie Hintz.

**Processing**

Arranged and described at the collection level by Katy Lindquist, March 2019. Lindquist primarily focused on re-housing collection material into archival storage containers for better preservation, including wording loose material. Little to no physical arrangement was performed, other than to address restricted material. Lindquist made efforts to organize the container list intellectually to facilitate locating related material in the collection, such as by grouping together material relating to various book projects.

Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Brenna Edwards, 2020. Born digital materials include files taken from 30 5.25" floppy disks, 67 3.5" floppy disks, 3 Zip disks, 20 optical discs, and 5 internal hard drives.

Forensic disk images were created from the floppy discs using Kryoflux, and from the Zip disks, optical discs, and internal hard drives using GuyMager. Individual files were extracted using
FTK Imager and scanned for viruses using McAfee’s anti-virus software; none were found. Duplicate and system files have been removed, and files were scanned for personally identifiable information; none were found. Text-based files were migrated to PDF using Adobe Acrobat and image files were migrated to JPG using GIMP. File dates have been changed from the original creation date. Access copies retain original folder titles and file names.

This finding aid may include language that is offensive or harmful. Please refer to the Rose Library’s harmful language statement for more information about why such language may appear and ongoing efforts to remediate racist, ableist, sexist, homophobic, euphemistic and other oppressive language. If you are concerned about language used in this finding aid, please contact us at rose.library@emory.edu.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Kevin Young (1970-) is an American poet and nonfiction writer. He was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 8, 1970, to Dr. Paul E. Young, an ophthalmologist, and Dr. Azzie Young, a chemist. Young moved frequently in his youth but spent the majority of his adolescent years in Topeka, Kansas. Young is married to Kate Tuttle, a book columnist at The Boston Globe (Massachusetts).

Young received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts) in 1992 where he studied under the mentorship of Seamus Heaney. While at Harvard, Young helped re-start a literary magazine called Diaspora and was an active member of the Dark Room Collective. From 1992-1994, Young held a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University (Stanford, California) and then received a Master of Fine Arts from Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island).


Young is also the editor of eight volumes of poetry, including The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief and Healing (2010), The Best American Poetry 2011 (2011), The Hungry Ear: Poems of Food & Drink (2012), and The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010 (2012). Young’s poetry

From 2005-2016, Young was the curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library at Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia) while also serving as a professor of English and Creative Writing. In 2016, Young left Emory for a post as the Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York, New York), during which time he also became the Poetry Editor at the *New Yorker*.

Young was named a University Distinguished Professor at Emory University in 2016 and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in the same year. Past honors include a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (2003), a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, and an honorary doctorate from Beloit College (Beloit, Wisconsin).

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Kevin Young from 1976-2016 and includes literary correspondence; writings by Young and others; professional, teaching and research files; notebooks; printed material; photographs; memorabilia and personal papers; audiovisual material; and born digital material.

Literary correspondence includes all correspondence related to Young’s literary life, including correspondence relating to Young’s publications, membership in literary societies, and correspondence with Young’s mentors and his students. Writings by Young include manuscripts and proofs of Young’s published books and edited volumes; poems published in literary magazines, such as *The New Yorker* and *Callaloo*; speeches from conferences, convocations, and commencements; and essays from Young’s coursework and literary fellowships. Writings by others include student work and manuscripts and poetry by others with Young’s comments, most notably the work of Colson Whitehead, Elizabeth Alexander, and Natasha Trethewey.

Professional files include documents related to Young’s academic appointments, files from his work with literary magazines and societies, including *Diaspora* magazine and the Dark Room collective, and files related to his role as curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library at Emory University. Teaching files include course syllabi and course preparation materials. Research files and notebooks include documents and notes related to Young’s literary work.

Printed material includes flyers, event programs, news clippings, and magazine articles. Photographs both by and of Kevin Young from childhood onward are also included in the collection. Memorabilia and personal papers including travel postcards, drawings, and sketches.

Born digital material includes correspondence, drafts, professional files, research files, teaching materials, and writings ranging from 1987 to 2014.

**Arrangement Note**

Material is arranged in the order received where possible and foldered where necessary.

Born digital material arranged into five folders: (1) Floppy disks, (2) MacBook Pro, (3) Macintosh PowerBook G3, (4) Optical discs, and (5) Power Mac G4. Files and folders retain original titles.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RRL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Access copies of processed born digital material [Reading room access ONLY]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&quot;Black Mail,&quot; work by others, notebooks, photographs, and printed material, 1984-2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Black Maria,</em> 1999-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Black Maria,</em> college records, <em>For the Confederate Dead, Jazz Poems,</em> literary correspondence, and printed material, 1988-2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Black Maria, For the Confederate Dead,</em> teaching files, contracts, photographs, notebooks, poems, work by others, research files, printed material, and born digital material [31 floppy disks], 1996-2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Black Maria, To Repel Ghosts,</em> &quot;Gold Griot,&quot; &quot;Zydica,&quot; &quot;Furnic #2,&quot; &quot;Notary,&quot; professional papers, poems, notes, work by others, and printed material, 1995-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Black Maria, To Repel Ghosts,</em> &quot;Psalms of Babylon,&quot; travel memorabilia, literary correspondence, prose, poems, and printed material, 2002-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><em>Blues Poems, Jazz Poems,</em> sheet music, research files, slides, literary correspondence, poems, and printed material, 2001-2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Book of Hours, Dear Darkness, professional papers, literary correspondence, contracts, notes, poems, and printed material, 1998-2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Book of Hours, Jazz Poems, &quot;Thrush,&quot; &quot;Exit Music,&quot; teaching files, research files, and professional papers, 2005-2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Book of Hours, photographs, poems, work by others, and printed material, 2001-2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BD1</td>
<td>Born digital material, including hard drives from Macintosh PowerBook G3 Series, PowerBook G4 A1095, MacBook Pro A1297, Mac Mini A1176, and Power Mac G4, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


17 - College notebooks, high school notebooks, elementary school notebooks, poems, and printed material, 1976-1993

22 - College notebooks, high school notebooks, poems, photographs, and printed material, 1984-1995

15 - College notebooks, middle school notebooks, elementary school notebooks, and printed material, 1981-1988

12 - College notebooks, literary correspondence, negatives, notes, photographs, poems, printed material, professional papers, research files, and work by others, 1989-2010

80 - College notebooks, literary correspondence, teaching files, and printed material, 1988-2008

37 - College notes, high school notes, elementary school notes, and travel memorabilia, 1981-1991

11 - College notebooks, memorabilia, work by others, and printed material, 1988-2010

98 - Comic books and memorabilia, 1979-1997

14 - Dark Room Collective files, literary correspondence, poems, research files, work by others, and awards, 1994-1996
95 - Dark Room Collective files, literary correspondence, professional papers, contracts, applications, work by others, poems, printed material, and born digital material [3 floppy disks], 1992-2013

47 - Dark Room Collective files, Fifth Floor Journal files, "The Spectacle," sketches, work by others, research files, job applications, and photographs, 1987-1997


36 - Dear Darkness, Most Way Home, The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness, Book of Hours, Have Not Sonnets, poems, and printed material, 1990-2011

45 - Dear Darkness, professional papers, literary correspondence, contracts, teaching files, work by others, research files, poems, prose, notes, and printed material, 1997-2007

55 - Diaspora magazine files, college notes, work by others, literary correspondence, printed material, and born digital material [12 floppy disks], 1989-1996

67 - Diaspora magazine files, Fifth Floor Journal files, Jazz Poems, college notebooks, photographs, work by others, poems, and printed material, 1986-2006

76 - "Done Dog," "Buzzard," "Friendship," negatives, literary correspondence, work by others, professional papers, and printed material, 1991-1996

3 - Drawings, literary correspondence, notes, poems, printed material, professional papers, research files, teaching files, and work by others, 2000-2011

52 - For the Confederate Dead, "African Elegy," work by others, and literary correspondence, 1994-2006

40 - For the Confederate Dead, Black Maria, Giant Steps: The New Generation of African American Writers, Selected Poems: John Berryman, poems, notes, work by others, research files, literary correspondence, and printed material, 1991-2004


7 - Giant Steps: The New Generation of African American Writers, work by others, research files, and notes, 1999


8

29 - *The Grey Album: On the Blackness of Blackness*, professional papers, teaching files, research files, work by others, poems, notes, and printed material, 2006-2010


62 - High school notebooks, college notebooks, notes, and printed material, 1982-1996

61 - High school notebooks, poems, travel memorabilia, and printed material, 1986-2016


78 - *Jazz Poems*, college notes, memorabilia, work by others, research files, photographs, literary correspondence, and printed material, 1990-2001

83 - *Jazz Poems*, photographs, negatives, work by others, research files, poems, literary correspondence, notes, and printed material, 1992-2002

35 - *Jazz Poems*, *To Repel Ghosts*, *Black Maria*, and printed material, 1996-2005

30 - *Jelly Roll: a blues*, *Black Maria*, and poems, 1994-2002


77 - *Jelly Roll: a blues*, *The Hungry Ear: Poems of Food & Drink*, professional papers, photographs, work by others, research files, notebooks, literary
correspondence, printed material, and born digital material [1 compact disc], 1992-2012

16 - Literary correspondence, contracts, notebooks, research files, work by others, photographs, and blank postcards, 1994-2003

93 - Literary correspondence, elementary school notebooks, middle school notebooks, work by others, poems, notes, and printed material, 1976-2001


85 - Literary correspondence, photographs, negatives, notebooks, poems, printed material, and born digital material [1 compact disc], 1981-2009

24 - Literary correspondence, photographs, negatives, teaching files, work by others, research files, notes, poems, and printed material, and born digital material [1 floppy disk], 1993-2000

86 - Literary correspondence, photographs, notes, and printed material, 1979-2004

5 - Literary correspondence, poems, printed material, research files, and work by others, 1995-2011

23 - Literary correspondence, teaching files, middle school notebooks, high school notebooks, poems, awards, and printed material, 1981-1999

90 - Literary correspondence, work by others, research files, poems, and printed material, 2002-2012

84 - Middle school notebooks, poems, work by others, professional papers, literary correspondence, and printed material, 1981-2011

82 - Most Way Home, college notebooks, high school notebooks, and photographs, 1981-1992

20 - Most Way Home, notebooks, poems, printed material, and born digital material [7 floppy disks and 1 iPad], 1992-2004

4 - Notebooks and notes, 1991-2004

8 - Notebooks, notes, work by others, research files, and printed material, 1995-2010

100 - Notebooks and personal correspondence, 1987-2013 [RESTRICTED]

102 - Notebooks and personal correspondence, 1989-2008 [RESTRICTED]

101 - Notebooks, personal correspondence, and personal files 1990-2013 [RESTRICTED]

99 - Notebooks, personal correspondence, personal files, and manuscript of Colson Whitehead's novel Return of the Spook, 1995-2009 [RESTRICTED]

13 - Notes, poems, printed material, professional papers, and research files, 2006-2012

2 - Photographs and negatives, 1992-1998

96 - Photographs, negatives, notebooks, and born digital material of book manuscripts [29 floppy disks], 1991-2004

1 - Printed material, notes, photographs, memorabilia, and born digital material [8 floppy disks], 1992-1996

97 - Professional papers, drawings, posters, notes, and printed material, 1996-2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalog</th>
<th>Title(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>&quot;The Psalms of Babylon,&quot; &quot;Exit Music,&quot; professional papers, teaching files, literary correspondence, poems, work by others, and printed material, 2005-2008</td>
<td>AV1 - Readings, lectures, and interviews, 1996-2002 [original: 1 audiocassette tape, 15 compact discs, 4 mini discs, and 3 VHS tapes]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>