



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Thomas Glave papers**

1990-2012

Sc MG 836

Processed by Robby Koehler, as part of an archival processing project arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center, ca. 2015.

## Summary

**Creator:** Glave, Thomas

**Title:** Thomas Glave papers

**Date:** 1990-2012

**Size:** 9.18 linear feet (22 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

**Source:** Gift of Thomas Glave, 2010-2013.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** Thomas Glave was a writer, scholar, and social activist. The bulk of this collection consists materials that document Glave's career as a scholar and writer.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Some professional material is restricted.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Thomas Glave papers, Sc MG 836, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Robby Koehler, as part of an archival processing project arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center, ca. 2015.

### Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

## Creator History

Thomas Glave is a writer, scholar, and social activist who has published four books of short fiction and essays exploring the experiences of LGBT people of color.

Thomas Glave, Jr. was born in Baychester, New York, on November 10, 1964. His father, Thomas "Ted" Glave, Sr., was a reporter for *The Daily Gleaner* in Kingston, Jamaica. As a child, Glave spent time in both Kingston, Jamaica, and the Bronx, New York. Upon graduating high school in 1982, he attended Bowdoin College for a year before pursuing a career as a professional dancer. In 1990, Glave stopped dancing professionally and returned to Bowdoin to continue his education. During the academic year 1991-1992, Glave traveled to Central and South America as part of an academic exchange program. He completed his degree in 1993, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Latin American Studies.

For the next several years, Glave worked as a writer, receiving several fellowships to support his work from the Bronx Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and other sources. He published short stories in the *Kenyon Review* and other journals and also spent time living in both New York City and Jamaica. In 1996, he applied to the Brown University Creative Writing Program and was accepted. While completing his degree at Brown, Glave was awarded the 1997 O. Henry Prize for Short Fiction for his short story "The Final Inning". In 1998, he completed his MFA in Creative Writing at Brown and accepted a year long Fulbright fellowship in Jamaica, during which he helped found the first Jamaican LGBT rights advocacy group J-FLAG (Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals, and Gays). Upon his return from his Fulbright fellowship, Glave was hired as an Assistant Professor in the English Department of Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York.

His first book of short stories, *Whose Song? and Other Stories* was published in 2000. As a scholar, he edited the first anthology of Afro-Caribbean LGBT literature, *Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Lesbian and Gay Writing from the Antilles*. Glave published his first collection of non-fiction, *Words to Our Now: Imagination and Dissent* in 2005, which was awarded the 2006 Lambda Literary Award. Also in 2006, he was promoted to Associate Professor at Binghamton University.

In 2008, he published his second collection of short stories, *The Torturer's Wife*. During the 2008-2009 academic year, he was appointed to the prestigious Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professorship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was also promoted to Professor at Binghamton University. During 2011-2012, Glave was a visiting fellow at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. Glave's most recent collection of short stories, *Among the Blood People*, was published in 2013. He continues to serve as Professor of English at Binghamton University.

## Scope and Content Note

The bulk of the collection dates from 1990-2012 and consists of unpublished drafts and versions of short fiction and essays, correspondence, promotional fliers for readings and talks, and other materials that document Glave's career as a scholar and writer.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into three series: I. Personal; II. Writing; and III. Professional.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Authors, Black  
Authors, Caribbean -- Jamaica -- 20th century  
Authors, Jamaican -- 20th century  
Caribbean Americans  
Gay activists  
Gay authors  
Gay men in literature  
Gay men's writings, American  
Jamaican Americans

### **Names**

Glave, Thomas

## Container List

### Personal

This series includes interviews conducted with Glave discussing his life and career, papers that Glave wrote during his undergraduate and graduate education, and syllabi and course materials from his teaching career at Binghamton University. Of particular interest are typed and handwritten lists of books that Glave hoped to write.

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical information
- b. 1 f. 2 Interviews
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Quotations and mentions

### Education

- b. 1 f. 5-6 Undergraduate papers 1989-1993
- b. 1 f. 7 Graduate school papers 1996-1998

### Teaching

- b. 2 f. 1 "Politics and Courage: Contemporary Black Queer Writing"
- b. 2 f. 2 Advanced Fiction Workshop
- b. 2 f. 3 Graduate Fiction Workshop
- b. 2 f. 4 Graduate reading groups 2000-2008
- b. 2 f. 5 "Identity, Sexuality, and Gender in Contemporary Caribbean Literature"
- b. 2 f. 6 Assignments

### Writing

This series consists of manuscripts and typescripts of Glave's stories and essays, along with source materials that inspired particular pieces; correspondence with editors or contributors; and advertisements for his readings and appearances. Material from each of Glave's five books of essays and short stories is included in the series. Materials relating to the production and promotion of each book are foldered separately. Notable items in this series include handwritten drafts of almost all of Glave's stories and essays, along with typescripts with manuscript emendations for important stories such as "The Final Inning". Additionally, correspondence with editors and rejection letters included with most pieces often document the publishing process.

#### *Whose Song? and Other Stories*

- b. 3 f. 1-2 "Accidents"
- b. 3 f. 3-4 "And Love Them?"
- b. 3 f. 5-7 "Commitment"
- b. 4 f. 1-2 "The Final Inning"
- b. 4 f. 3-6 "Flying"
- b. 5 f. 1-5 "The Pit"
- b. 5 f. 6 "A Real Place"
- b. 5 f. 7-8 "Their Story"
- b. 6 f. 1
- b. 6 f. 2-3 "Whose Song?"
- b. 7 f. 1 Contracts
- b. 7 f. 2 Reviews
- b. 7 f. 3 Correspondence
- b. 7 f. 4-5 Interviews 2000-2003
- b. 7 f. 6 Flyers
- Reading engagements

Writing (cont.)

Whose Song? and Other Stories (cont.)

Reading engagements (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 7 2000 Fall
- b. 7 f. 8 2001 Spring-2002 Fall
- b. 8 f. 1
- b. 8 f. 2 2002-2005
- b. 8 f. 3 Book design and marketing
- Words to Our Now*
- b. 9 f. 1 Table of contents
- b. 9 f. 2 "Baychester: A Memory"
- b. 9 f. 3 "Toward a Nobility of the Imagination"
- b. 9 f. 4 "Re-Remembering Essex Hemphill"
- b. 9 f. 5 "Fire and Ink"
- b. 9 f. 6 "Whose Caribbean?"
- b. 9 f. 7 "These Blocks, Not Square"
- b. 9 f. 8 "The Death and Light of Brian Williamson"
- b. 10 f. 1 "*Regarding Caroline Herron's Thereafter Johnny*"
- b. 10 f. 2-3 "Between Jamaica(n) and America(n)"
- b. 10 f. 4 "On the Difficulty of Confiding..."
- b. 10 f. 5 "Panic, Despair: When the Words Do Not Come"
- b. 10 f. 6 "Re-Membering Steen Fenrich"
- b. 10 f. 7 "Regarding a Black Male Monica Lewinsky"
- b. 10 f. 8 "On the Importance of Returning..."
- b. 10 f. 9 "Autumn's Relentlessness: Crimes against Humanity"
- b. 10 f. 10 "Abu Ghraib: Fragments against Forgetting"
- b. 10 f. 11 "Again, the Sea"
- b. 11 f. 1 Proof copies
- b. 11 f. 2 Contracts
- b. 11 f. 3 Reviews
- b. 11 f. 4-7 Correspondence  
Includes correspondence with editors and about reading engagements, reviews, and interviews.
- b. 11 f. 8 Interviews
- b. 11 f. 9 Publicity
- b. 11 f. 10 Lambda Award
- b. 11 f. 11 Catalog
- b. 11 f. 12 Royalty statements
- Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Lesbian and Gay Writing from the Antilles*
- b. 12 f. 1 Table of contents
- b. 12 f. 2 Author's questionnaire
- b. 12 f. 3 Introduction
- b. 12 f. 4 Writer's contact information
- b. 12 f. 5 Biographies
- b. 13 f. 1 Edited manuscripts

Writing (cont.)

Our Caribbean: A Gathering of Lesbian and Gay Writing from the Antilles (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 2 Glossary
- b. 13 f. 3 Contracts
- b. 13 f. 3 Reviews
- b. 13 f. 5-8 Correspondence  
Includes correspondence with contributors, editors, and agents.
- b. 13 f. 9 Flyers
- b. 13 f. 10 Catalog

*The Torturer's Wife*

- b. 14 f. 1 Table of contents
- b. 14 f. 2 "Between"
- b. 14 f. 3-4 "The Torturer's Wife"
- b. 14 f. 5 "The Blue Globes"
- b. 14 f. 6 "Milk/Sea; Sentience"
- b. 14 f. 7 "Invasion: Evening: Two"
- b. 14 f. 8 "South Beach: 1992"
- b. 14 f. 9 "Woman Impossible Task"
- b. 14 f. 10 "He Who Would Have Become 'Joshua'"
- b. 15 f. 1 "Out There"
- b. 15 f. 2 Edited proofs
- b. 15 f. 3 Contract
- b. 15 f. 4 Correspondence
- b. 15 f. 4 Reviews
- b. 15 f. 6 Interviews
- b. 15 f. 7 Flyers
- b. 15 f. 8 Catalog

*Among the Blood People*

- b. 16 f. 1 "Two Near Water"
- b. 16 f. 2 "Jamaican, Octopus"
- b. 16 f. 3 "The Bloodpeople in the Language"
- b. 16 f. 4 "Andrew Salkey's *An Escape to Autumn Pavement*"
- b. 16 f. 5 "Regarding (Thoughts of) Suicide"
- b. 16 f. 6 "But What Kind of Nonsense Is That"
- b. 16 f. 7 "Meditation (on 'Barebacking')"
- b. 16 f. 8 "This Jamaican Family: The Word, and Dreams"
- b. 16 f. 9 "An Open Letter to the Prime Minister of Jamaica"
- b. 16 f. 10 "The Four of Them"
- b. 16 f. 11 "Toward Joy and Writing"
- b. 16 f. 12 "Again, a Book of Dreams"
- b. 16 f. 13 "Without a Face"
- b. 16 f. 14 "Toward a Queer Prayer"
- b. 16 f. 15 "Interview with the Not-Poem"

Writing (cont.)  
Among the Blood People (cont.)

- b. 17 f. 1 Table of contents
- b. 17 f. 2 Draft manuscript
- b. 17 f. 3-4 Page proofs
- b. 17 f. 5 Correspondence
- b. 17 f. 6 Reviews
- b. 17 f. 7 Flyers
- General writing
- b. 18 f. 1 "An Open Letter to the Bowdoin Orient"
- b. 18 f. 2 "The Final Inning", art exhibit
- b. 18 f. 3 *Foreword to A Small Gathering of Bones*
- b. 18 f. 4 "Essex Hemphill's Oxymoronic Imagination"
- b. 18 f. 5 "How She Became a Skeleton"
- b. 18 f. 6 Testimony for Jamaica/U.S. political asylum case
- b. 18 f. 7 "What Some of Dionne Brand's Journeys..."
- b. 18 f. 8 "Flesh, Blood, Inescapable Memory..."
- b. 18 f. 9 "Representations of Male Images in the Literature"
- b. 18 f. 10 "Notes from England..."
- b. 18 f. 11 "Leighton Leigh Anne Norbrook"
- b. 18 f. 12 Poetry
- b. 18 f. 13 Essays
- b. 18 f. 14 Royalty statements
- Flyers
- b. 18 f. 15 o. 1 1990-1999
- b. 18 f. 16 o. 1 2000-2010
- b. 19 f. 1-2 Rejection letters and slips

Professional

This series consists of non-editorial correspondence about writing and academic matters from over the course of Glave's career, including his evaluations of academic book proposals, his applications for writing and other types of fellowships, and records of his promotion to Professor at Binghamton University in 2009. The folders containing materials related to this process are restricted.

Box 22, folders 1-2 are restricted.

- b. 20 f. 1-2 Correspondence
- b. 20 f. 3 Manuscript evaluations
- b. 20 f. 4 Book series evaluations
- b. 20 f. 5 Letters to English Departments
- Fellowships
- b. 21 f. 1 Accepted 1994-2010
- b. 21 f. 2-3 Rejected 1993-2010
- b. 22 f. 1-2 Promotion to full professor and supporting materials
- Restricted
- b. 22 f. 3 Leverhume Trust Visiting Professor

Professional (cont.)

b. 22 f. 4-6      Speaking engagements