



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

Guide to the

**Anthony Horton papers**

2000-2010

Sc MG 878

Processed by Janice Quinter, August 28, 2013.

## Summary

**Creator:** Horton, Anthony, 1968-2012

**Title:** Anthony Horton papers

**Date:** 2000-2010

**Size:** .3 linear feet (1 print box)

**Source:** Gift, Youme Landowne, 2013

**Abstract:** Anthony Horton was an African-American man who for a period of his life was homeless and lived in the tunnels beneath the subway trains. Together with author/artist Youme Landowne, Horton wrote and illustrated "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd" (2008) which tells the story of how the two met, his background and his life underground. Horton worked with the Theater of Oppressed NYC, frequently playing the role of a police officer in the troupe's performances. He died in a fire that ripped through his underground home. The Anthony Horton Collection consists of a mock-up for the book he and Youme Landowne wrote and illustrated together, "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd," about Horton's life in the tunnels under the New York City subway system, and letters he wrote to his co-author/friend from 2009-2010. The letters discuss their friendship and his thoughts; most were written while he was an inmate in Downstate Correctional facility in Fishkill, New York. According to Landowne, he was incarcerated because of possession of an antique knife that he wanted to sell. There are additional writings along with original artwork and illustrations.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request_access)

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**Language of the Material:** English

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## Creator History

Anthony Horton was an African-American man who for a period of his life was homeless and lived in the tunnels beneath the subway trains. Together with author/artist Youme Landowne, Horton wrote and illustrated "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd" (2008) which tells the story of how the two met, his background and his life underground. Horton worked with the Theater of Oppressed NYC, frequently playing the role of a police officer in the troupe's performances. He died in a fire that ripped through his underground home.

## Scope and Content Note

The Anthony Horton Collection consists of a mock-up for the book he and Youme Landowne wrote and illustrated together, "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd," about Horton's life in the tunnels under the New York City subway system, and letters he wrote to his co-author/friend from 2009-2010. The letters discuss their friendship and his thoughts; most were written while he was an inmate in Downstate Correctional facility in Fishkill, New York. According to Landowne, he was incarcerated because of possession of an antique knife that he wanted to sell. There are additional writings along with original artwork and illustrations.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American authors -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American illustrators  
African American prisoners  
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Social conditions -- Comic books, strips, etc  
Artists, Black -- New York (State) -- New York  
Black author  
Homeless persons -- New York (State) -- Biography -- Comic books, strips, etc  
Homeless persons as artists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Biography -- Comic books, strips, etc  
Homelessness -- New York (State) -- New York -- Comic books, strips, etc  
Illustrators -- United States  
Streets -- Social aspects -- New York (State) -- New York -- Pictorial works  
Subways -- Social aspects -- New York (State) -- New York -- Pictorial works

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence  
Dummies (printed matter)  
Graphic novels  
Illustrations (layout features)  
Letters (correspondence)

### Geographic Names

Manhattan (New York, N.Y.) -- Pictorial works

### Names

Horton, Anthony, 1968-2012  
Youme

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 "Pitch Black: Don't Be Skerd – Mock-Up" ca. 2007
- b. 1 f. 2 Letters to Youme Landowne 2009 - 2010
- b. 1 f. 3 Writings – Notebooks (4)
- b. 1 f. 4 Writings
- b. 1 f. 5 Original artwork and spot illustrations
- b. 1 f. 6-7 Original artwork
- b. 1 f. 8 Snapshots (9)
- b. 1 f. 9 Printed material