



The New York Public Library Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound

Guide to the

Tennessee Williams collection of noncommercial recordings

1948

*L (Special) 89-35

Processed by Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound staff.

Summary

Creator: Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983

Title: Tennessee Williams collection of noncommercial recordings

Date: 1948

Source: Gift, Campbell, Mr. S. M, 1966

Abstract: Eleven of the thirteen recordings in the collection were made by Williams in 1948 at a New Orleans carnival booth facility. These recordings primarily feature Williams reading his poems, including selections from *In the Winter of Cities*. Williams also participates in apparently impromptu comic sketches with friends.

Physical Location: *LDC 42787

Conditions Governing Access:

Access to original discs restricted ; use service compact disc. Advance notification for some items may be required.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound.

Alternative Form Available: Preservation tape copies of original discs in: *LT-10 1887 and *LT-10 9996 Service compact disc, made from preservation tapes (1 sound disc : digital, mono. ; 4 3/4 in.) available in *LDC 42787

Preferred citation: Tennessee Williams Collection, *L(Special) 89.35, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

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Creator History

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983), born Thomas Lanier Williams in Columbus, Mississippi, was an American playwright, poet, and novelist. Being from an old Tennessee family, he adopted his first name while in New Orleans in 1939. After graduating from the State University of Iowa in 1938, he traveled around the country while working at odd jobs and writing short plays and getting occasional productions in community theaters. He worked briefly as a scriptwriter for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1943.

He achieved sudden success with the New York production of *The Glass Menagerie* (1945). His subsequent success came with *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1947), which won a Pulitzer Prize.

Although Williams' life was marked by personal disarray, mental stress, and drug addiction, he enjoyed long-term relationships with male companions and continued to be productive. In 1968 he converted to Catholicism.

His later plays include *Summer and Smoke* (1948), *The Rose Tattoo* (1950), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955, Pulitzer Prize), *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1959), and *Night of the Iguana* (1961).

He also published two novels and several poems. Many of his plays were made into successful movies, but his later works were not well received and he became disaffected from the New York professional theater. He died by choking on the cap of a bottle of pills.

Scope and Content Note

Eleven of the thirteen recordings in the collection were made by Williams in 1948 at a New Orleans carnival booth facility. These recordings primarily feature Williams reading his poems, including selections from *In the Winter of Cities*. Williams also participates in apparently impromptu comic sketches with friends. The remaining two recordings are songs by composer Ray Cook with texts from *In the Winter of Cities*, here performed by tenor and piano. These two recordings were given to Williams by Ray Cook.

Arrangement: The collection is organized alphabetically.

Key Terms

Subjects

Poets, American
Songs with piano

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Sound recordings

Names

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983
Cook, Ray, 1934-

Container List

In the winter of cities (Songs) / Ray Cook

*LJ-10 158

*LJ-10 159 (2 sound discs : analog, 78 rpm, aluminum-based acetate ; 10 in.)

Access restricted. Advanced notification required for use. Contents: Heavenly grass -- Sugar in the cane -- Lonesome man -- Cabin.

Pancho singing 1948

*LT-10 9996 (1 sound disc : analog, 78 rpm, paper-based acetate, mono. ; 6 in.)

Rodriguez y Gonzalez, Pancho

Recorded in New Orleans, 1948. Performer: Pancho Rodriguez y Gonzalez. Preservation copy in: *LT-10 1887. Access to original items restricted.

Pancho talks about Glass Menagerie 1948

*LT-10 1887 (1 sound disc : analog, 78 rpm, paper-based acetate, mono. ; 6 in.)

Rodriguez y Gonzalez, Pancho

Recorded in New Orleans, 1948. Speaker: Pancho Rodriguez y Gonzalez. Access to original items restricted.

Poems [recitation] 1948

*LT-10 1887 (7 sound discs : analog, 78 rpm, paper-based acetate, mono. ; 6 in.)

I know things that can't be told ; Peto our pony Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983

Recorded in New Orleans, 1948. Speaker: Tennessee Williams. Access to original items restricted. Contents: One was true one was faithful -- He sympathized with the persecuted Jews -- I know things that can't be told -- Two poems for Margo: I know things that can't be told ; Peto our pony -- Heavenly grass -- Lady-Anemone -- Yes, lately the place has grown wilder.

Princess interview [comic sketch] 1948

*LT-10 1887 (1 sound disc : analog, 78 rpm, paper-based acetate, mono. ; 6 in.)

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983 Rodriguez y Gonzalez, Pancho

Recorded in New Orleans, 1948. Speakers: Tennessee Williams ; Pancho Rodriguez y Gonzalez. Access to original items restricted.

Streetcar named Desire: 11th scene [parody] 1948

*LT-10 1887 (1 sound disc : analog, 78 rpm, aluminum-based acetate ; 7 in.)

Streetcar named Desire: 11th scene Down in the Valley Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983 Alberts, Joanna Maheegan, Johnny

Recorded in New Orleans, 1948. Performers: Tennessee Williams ; Joanna Alberts ; Johnny Maheegan. Access to original items restricted. Contents: Streetcar named Desire: 11th scene -- Trio: Down in the valley.