



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

Guide to the

Harlem Writers Guild records

1998-2009

Sc MG 831

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Harlem Writers Guild Inc.

Title: Harlem Writers Guild records

Date: 1998-2009

Size: 1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift, Grace F. Edwards, 2010

Abstract: The Harlem Writers Guild was established in 1950 and is the oldest organization of African-American writers in the United States. Originally founded as the Harlem Writers Club by John Henrik Clarke, Rosa Guy and John Oliver Killens, it was created as a forum for emerging African-American writers in New York City who felt alienated from the white literary mainstream. The Guild helped nurture African-American literary talent since its inception. Prominent members include Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Terry McMillan, and Louise Meriwether. The Harlem Writers Guild Press was established in 2000 as an imprint to publish the literary works of its members. The Harlem Writers Guild Records collection consists of the work of two Guild members, Grace F. Edwards and K.C. Washington. The collection contains nine manuscripts of published books and unpublished material, including three annotated manuscripts, spanning circa 1998 to 2009. Edwards is the author of the popular Mali Anderson Mystery series. The collection contains three annotated manuscripts: *A Toast Before Dying* (1998), *Do or Die* (2000), and *The Viaduct* (2003). It also includes the manuscript for *No Time to Die* (*The Cereal/Serial Killer*) (1999). The collection also includes a manuscript of Washington's debut novel *Mourning Becomes Her*, which was first published by Harlem Writers Guild Press in 2006, as well as two unpublished manuscripts: "Beauty" (2009) and "Mad River" (2000-2005).

Preferred citation: [Item], Harlem Writers Guild records, Sc MG 831, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

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Rosa Guy and John Oliver Killens, it was created as a forum for emerging African-American writers in New York City who felt alienated from the white literary mainstream. The Guild helped nurture African-American literary talent since its inception. Prominent members include Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Terry McMillan, and Louise Meriwether. The Harlem Writers Guild Press was established in 2000 as an imprint to publish the literary works of its members.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
African American novelists
African American poets
African American women authors
African American women poets
Black author
Writers' workshops

Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Names

Edwards, Grace F. (Grace Frederica)
Washington, K.C.
Harlem Writers Guild Inc.

Container List

Grace F. Edwards

- b. 1 f. 1 *A Toast Before Dying annotated manuscript* 1998
- b. 1 f. 2 *Do or Die annotated manuscript* 2000
- b. 1 f. 3 *No Time to Die (The Cereal/Serial Killer) manuscript* 1999
- b. 1 f. 4 *The Viaduct annotated manuscript* 2003

K.C. Washington

- b. 2 f. 1 "Beauty" unpublished manuscript, chapters 1-21 2009
- b. 2 f. 2 "Beauty" unpublished manuscript, chapters 22-36 2009
- b. 2 f. 3 "Mad River" unpublished manuscript, chapters 1-16 2000
- b. 2 f. 4 "Mad River" unpublished manuscript, chapters 17-26 2005
- b. 3 f. 1 *Mourning Becomes Her manuscript* 2006
- b. 3 f. 2 *Mourning Becomes Her final draft* 2006