



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

Guide to the

**Charles Gordone collection**

1962-1995

Sc MG 691

## Summary

**Creator:** Gordone, Charles

**Title:** Charles Gordone collection

**Date:** 1962-1995

**Size:** 3 linear feet (2 record cartons, 1 archival box)

**Abstract:** The bulk of the Charles Gordone Collection pertains to the author's Pulitzer-prize winning play "No Place to Be Somebody," which includes several versions of the play script, programs, letters, playbills, flyers, posters, production and showcase materials, press, and two files for awards Gordone received from the Pulitzer Prize and the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1970 and 1971, respectively.

**Preferred citation:** Charles Gordone collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

Charles Gordone (1925-1995) playwright, director and actor, was best known for his 1970 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "No Place to Be Somebody". For over forty years he directed more than thirty-four productions, including "The Iceman Cometh," "Mamzel Jolie," "Night of the Iguana," "No Place to be Somebody," "The Colored Museum," "The Glass Menagerie," "Of Mice and Men," "Death of a Salesman," "Book of the Dead," and "Faust." Gordone had his work produced on Broadway, off-Broadway, in Europe, and in American regional, college, and community theaters. His acting credits include roles in the theater, television, and film.

## Scope and Content Note

The bulk of the Charles Gordone Collection pertains to the author's Pulitzer-prize winning play "No Place to Be Somebody," which includes several versions of the play script, programs, letters, playbills, flyers, posters, production and showcase materials, press, and two files for awards Gordone received from the Pulitzer Prize and the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1970 and 1971,

respectively.||||There are two files of biographical information that contain a resume and clippings of interviews with the author. Other play and film scripts, book outlines, treatments, contract and press releases by the author can be found here including "Ace Space - Soul Detective," "BABA-CHOPS or the Last of the Holy Wars," "The Black Child," "The Block," "A Color of Life," "From These Ashes," "The Percenters," "Roane, Brown and Cherry," "The Strange Case of Doctor Smith," "W.A.S.P.," "The World's Champeen Lip Dansuh An' Wata melon Jooglah," and an unidentified work. The collection also contains an adaptation of a play by actor Sidney Easton, "A Little Light Around the Place," and play scripts by other writers including Wole Soyinka and Leah-Carla Gordone, daughter of Charles Gordone and Jeanne Warner.||||There also subject files for Blacfrica Speakers Bureau, the Committee for the Employment of Negro Performers, actor Sidney Easton, and the Foundation of the Promotion of Afro-American Performing Arts, and name address file for individuals involved in the production of "No Easy Place to Be," and the Committee for the Employment of Negro Performers.

**Arrangement:** I. Personal, 1995; II. Professional, 1937-1989

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American authors  
African American dramatists  
African Americans in the performing arts  
American drama -- 20th century  
American drama -- African American authors  
Authors -- United States  
Dramatists, American -- 20th century  
Theater -- Production and direction

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Plays  
Scripts  
Theater programs

### **Names**

Gordone, Charles  
Easton, Sidney  
Soyinka, Wole