



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

Guide to the

Jeremy Randolph papers

1963-1976 [bulk 1972-1974]

Sc MG 165

Summary

Creator: Randolph, Jeremy

Title: Jeremy Randolph papers

Date: 1963-1976 [bulk 1972-1974]

Size: 9.25 linear feet (11 boxes)

Source: Gift of Leonard Ducree, September 1977.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Jeremy Randolph was an African American actor, poet, playwright, and founder of two independent publishing houses, Rannick Playwrights Company and Amuru Press. The Jeremy Randolph papers primarily document the activities of Randolph's small, independent black publishing company, Amuru Press, during the brief period from 1972 to 1974.

Preferred citation: [Item], Jeremy Randolph papers, Sc MG 165, 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: Accessioned by Susan Davis and Debra Carter, 1978, and Janice Quinter, 2007.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: slides.

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books and a map.

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

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Jeremy Randolph, an African American actor, poet, playwright and founder of independent publishing houses, was born in 1947 in La Grange, Texas. In 1969-1970, Randolph and Georgia C. Nicholas formed the Manhattan-based Nicholas Literary Agency which published poetry, plays, and novels for young Black talent, and offered classes and workshops. In 1970, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Theatre from New York University. Also around that time, he and Georgia Nicholas co-founded Rannick Playwrights Company, publisher and producer of dramatic poetry readings, which published his books of poetry, among other works. That same year, Randolph became the first and youngest Black actor/playwright/director to produce his own Off-Broadway musical play, *Cartouche*. With the sponsorship of Nicholas, in 1970, Randolph and Melvin Gusler established the Theatre of the Incentive in Manhattan, an independent company with a repertoire consisting chiefly of plays written by the membership, and gave performances in clubs, hospitals, schools, and other organizations. In January 1971, Randolph founded a second independent publishing company, Amuru Press, with offices at 161 Madison Avenue in Manhattan, to provide an outlet for Black writers. The press published poetry, plays, short stories, essays, and novels. Randolph focused on unpublished writers from around the country, many who were incarcerated. By May 1972, only fourteen months after its founding, Amuru Press had already published eight books of poetry with plans to publish five plays. The Press also sponsored two Annual Black Writers Conferences in Harlem in 1971 and 1972, with two days of workshops, speakers, panel discussions, poetry readings, and performances.

Scope and Content Note

The Jeremy Randolph papers primarily document the activities of Randolph's small, independent Black publishing company, Amuru Press, during the brief period from 1972 to 1974. The collection includes files of close to two hundred writers, many who were never published previously; these files contain samples of their poetry, short stories, playscripts, and other writings. Many files consist only of correspondence between Amuru and the writer. There is also press and related information for the First and Second Annual Black Writers Conference Randolph sponsored in 1971 and 1972.

Files regarding Randolph contain copies of his books published by Rannick Playwrights Company, as well as other writings, in addition to personal papers (correspondence, report cards, and financial records). There is limited information on the two other organizations he founded, Nicholas Literary Agency and Theatre of the Incentive. There also are subject files of Black organizations in New York, in which some of Randolph served as an instructor (Confrontation House and Habari Congress). Additionally, there are subject files for Black bookstores, Black distributors, Black studies, and Black news, all of which are organized by state.

Arrangement: Arranged into three series: I. Personal; II. Professional; and III. Subject files.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
African American dramatists
African American poets
African American theater
American literature -- African American authors

Authors, Black
Publishers and publishing -- United States

Names

Randolph, Jeremy
Amuru Press (New York, N.Y.)
Rannick Playwrights Company

Container List

- Personal 1963-1974
 - b. 1 f. 1 Writing
 - b. 1 f. 2 Report cards and grades 1963-1969
 - Includes some correspondence.
 - Correspondence
 - b. 1 f. 3-4 1963-1969
 - b. 2 f. 1 1974
 - b. 2 f. 2 Financial records 1969-1974
 - b. 2 f. 3 Arabic study
- Professional 1969-1976
 - Nicholas Literary Agency
 - b. 2 f. 4 1969-1972
 - b. 2 f. 5 Smith, John Henry printed material 1971
 - b. 2 f. 6 Workshop format 1973
 - b. 2 f. 7-8 Theatre of the Incentive 1970
 - Includes letters of request and rejection.
 - b. 2 f. 9 *Cartouche flyer* 1970
 - Amuru Press
 - b. 2 f. 10-11 Correspondence 1970-1974
 - b. 2 f. 12 List of manuscripts and writers
 - b. 2 f. 13-15 Catalog 1974-1976
 - Includes preparation material, sketches, formats, and list of plays.
 - b. 2 f. 16 "Illustrators and Their Designs for Covers, Etc."
 - b. 2 f. 17 Poster
 - Mock ups
 - b. 2 f. 18 Jones, Guil. "The Power of the African Eye" playscript
 - b. 2 f. 19-21 Books
 - b. 2 f. 22 Mailing list 1970
 - b. 2 f. 23 Printed matter on Black publishers and book lists
 - b. 2 f. 24 Rannick Playwrights Company and International Black Writers Conference proposal 1971
 - b. 2 f. 25-26 First New York Black Writers Conference 1971
 - b. 2 f. 27-28 Second New York Black Writers Conference 1972
 - b. 2 f. 29 Rannick Playwrights Company, books for Black Servicemen 1971
 - b. 2 f. 30 Actors' resumes
 - Writers published by Amuru Press 1972-1974
 - b. 3 f. 1 Abdullah, Ayyub James
 - b. 3 f. 2 Adebaloje, Akinsheye A
 - b. 3 f. 3 Ahmasi
 - b. 3 f. 4 Ali, Akilah Aiysha

Professional (cont.)

Writers published by Amuru Press (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 5 Allen, Vincent S
- b. 3 f. 6 Aweusi, Alli
- b. 3 f. 7 Bailey, Barbara E
- b. 3 f. 8 Bartee, Rich
- b. 3 f. 9 Beaseley, C. J
- b. 3 f. 10 Beck, Richard J
- b. 3 f. 11 Berry, Cortland E
- b. 3 f. 12 Bess, Olean
- b. 3 f. 13 Birchfield, Raymond
- b. 3 f. 14 Blackman, James
- b. 3 f. 15 Blakely, David L
- b. 3 f. 16 Bolden, Paul, Jr
- b. 3 f. 17 Bowles, William
- b. 3 f. 18 Boyd, Clifton DeVal
- b. 3 f. 19 Broche, Josiane
- b. 3 f. 20 Brown, Beth
- b. 3 f. 21 Browne, W. F
- b. 3 f. 22 Buller, James F
- b. 3 f. 23 Calendar, Carlisle
- b. 3 f. 24 Carter, Helen Randolph
- b. 3 f. 25 Calvin, Ernie
- b. 3 f. 26 Casselle, Beni
- b. 3 f. 27 Chapell, Cynthia J
- b. 3 f. 28 Chapell, Mildred E
- b. 3 f. 29 Clark, Steven
- b. 3 f. 30 Clarke, Evelyn S
- b. 3 f. 31 Clay, Jade
- b. 3 f. 32 Clemons, Albert Rasheed
- b. 4 f. 1 Clymire, Robert
- b. 3 f. 2 Codling, Bess
- b. 4 f. 3 Collins, Larry
- b. 4 f. 4 Conn, Bruce C
- b. 4 f. 5 Cook, Jerry B
- b. 4 f. 6 Cummings, Davie L
- b. 4 f. 7 Cunningham, Zella M
- b. 4 f. 8 Daise, Diane
- b. 4 f. 9 Davis, Lloyd
- b. 4 f. 10 Dawson, Aaron
- b. 4 f. 11 Devi, Shakuntala
- b. 4 f. 12 Devine, Juanita
- b. 4 f. 13 Dicks, Leon

Professional (cont.)

Writers published by Amuru Press (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 15-21 Criminal case
- b. 4 f. 22 Dubois, Vashti
- b. 4 f. 23 Duckworth, Thelma L
- b. 4 f. 24 Edet, Edna
- b. 4 f. 25 Edward, Morris
- b. 4 f. 26 Evans, Christine
- b. 4 f. 27 Evans, Samuel C
- b. 4 f. 28 Farwell, D
- b. 4 f. 29 Fernandez, Ana
- b. 4 f. 30 Fisher, James A
- b. 4 f. 31 Fortune Society
- b. 4 f. 32 Foxworth, Nilene
- b. 4 f. 33 Frazier, Ralph
- b. 4 f. 34 Freeman, Kit-Alia
- b. 4 f. 35 Garrett, Earl
- b. 4 f. 36 Gallman, Jerome
- b. 4 f. 37 Glover, Niheem
- b. 4 f. 38 Goldsmith, S
- b. 4 f. 39 Gordon, Richard
- b. 4 f. 40 Grace, John Edward
- b. 4 f. 41 Grange, Sam
- b. 5 f. 1 Grant, Claudia
- b. 5 f. 2 Green, Calvin
- b. 5 f. 3 Greene, Robert
- b. 5 f. 4 Grimes, Nikki
- b. 5 f. 5 Hadi, Sayed El
- b. 5 f. 6 Hall, Norman
- b. 5 f. 7 Hammond, Karla M
- b. 5 f. 8 Hampton, Lionell
- b. 5 f. 9 Harris, James
- b. 5 f. 10 Harrison, Wanda
- b. 5 f. 11 Hartman, Hermene D
- b. 5 f. 12 Hawkins, Jessie
- b. 5 f. 13 Hayes, Derrick
- b. 5 f. 14 High, Claude
- b. 5 f. 15 Hill, Patrice L
- b. 5 f. 16 Holmes, Kirby
- b. 5 f. 17 Hudson, Raleigh
- b. 5 f. 18 Hughes, Georgianna
- b. 5 f. 19 Hughes, William
- b. 5 f. 20 Hurley, Leslie Leroy

Professional (cont.)

Writers published by Amuru Press (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 21 Ikonné, Chidi
- b. 5 f. 22 Jaci
- b. 5 f. 23 Jackson, Beth
- b. 5 f. 24 Jackson, Neal R
- b. 5 f. 25 Jackson, Randolph
- b. 5 f. 26 James, Tracy
- b. 6 f. 1 Jeffers, Retha
- b. 6 f. 2 Jefferson, Sonia Wilmetta
- b. 6 f. 3 Jennings, Dee Marrine
- b. 6 f. 4 Jennings, George
- b. 6 f. 5 Johnson, John
- b. 6 f. 6 Johnson, Kenneth
- b. 6 f. 7 Jones, Claybron W., Jr
- b. 6 f. 8 Jones, Harriet
- b. 6 f. 9 Jones, Helen Marie
- b. 6 f. 10 Jones, Syl
- b. 6 f. 11 Kalejaiye, Matthew O
- b. 6 f. 12 Jemp, Joseph
- b. 6 f. 13 Kennedy, Marie J
- b. 6 f. 14 Knight, Thomas, Jr
- b. 6 f. 15 Kudée, Nano Yeboa
- b. 6 f. 16 Lakin, Mattie T
- b. 6 f. 16 Lakin, Mattie T
- b. 6 f. 17 Lane, Pinkie Gordon
- b. 6 f. 18 Lane, Robert
- b. 6 f. 19 Lawson, Rayferd L
- b. 6 f. 20 Lee (Harlem Confrontation)
- b. 6 f. 21 Leslie, Ken
- b. 6 f. 22 Lewis, Mel
- b. 6 f. 23 Lewis, Ronald
- b. 6 f. 24 Linder, Michael K
- b. 6 f. 25 Lofton, Lillard Wayne
- b. 6 f. 26 Lyles, Donald
- b. 6 f. 27 Mackey, Fernandez A., Sr
- b. 6 f. 28 Mackey, Louella
- Manderville, Joseph
- b. 7 f. 1 Essays
- b. 7 f. 2-7 Poetry
Includes "Poetry of a Certain Nature Mixed with a Little Prose" (folder 4), "Sort of Hollywood Poetry..." (folder 5), and waterfront poetry (folder 6).
- b. 7 f. 8 Miscellaneous poetry and articles
- b. 7 f. 9 Various writing

Professional (cont.)

Writers published by Amuru Press (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 1 Marcus, Russell
- b. 8 f. 2 Martin, George (Jocko)
- b. 8 f. 3 Martin, Jackie
- b. 8 f. 4 Matthews, David
- b. 8 f. 5 Matthews, Edith E
- b. 8 f. 6 McClaurin, Irma
- b. 8 f. 7 McClendon, William
- b. 8 f. 8 McDaniel, Armour G
- b. 8 f. 9 McLucas, Angela L. S
- b. 8 f. 10 Miller, Leothee
- b. 8 f. 11 Miller, Alan
- b. 8 f. 12 Minor, Jessina S
- b. 8 f. 13 Montgomery, Robert
- b. 8 f. 14 Moore, Terry
- b. 8 f. 15 Betty (Terry Moore's friend)
- b. 8 f. 16 Morrow, Laverne
- b. 8 f. 17 Narasimhan, P
- b. 8 f. 18 Nelson, Wadiya
- b. 8 f. 19 Nkura, Mikal
- b. 8 f. 20 Ogunleye, George Agged
- b. 8 f. 21 Olulala, Irungu
- b. 8 f. 22 (Omjallo) Lloyd
- b. 9 f. 1 Quick, Colden (Kojo Omawole)
- b. 9 f. 2 Paolino, Mary E
- b. 9 f. 3 Parks, Alphonso
- b. 9 f. 4 Pegram, Lawrence L., Jr
- b. 9 f. 5 Peters, Marjorie and Pierre Long
- b. 9 f. 6 Pinkney, Lawrence V
- b. 9 f. 7 Pomeleo, Thomas Lee
- b. 9 f. 8 Reed, Harold W
- b. 9 f. 9 Ribe, José Huguet
- b. 9 f. 10 Riley, C. Scott
- b. 9 f. 11 Rivers, Danny
- b. 9 f. 12 Russell, Anthony
- b. 9 f. 13 Scott, Mel Lacey
- b. 9 f. 14 Sellers, Priscilla
- b. 9 f. 15 Semida, John
- b. 9 f. 16 Sharp, Sandra
- b. 9 f. 17 Skinner, Theodosia B
- b. 9 f. 18 Smith, Ben
- b. 9 f. 19 Smith, Frank

Professional (cont.)

Writers published by Amuru Press (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 20 Spinner, Morris
- b. 9 f. 21 Stiles, Thelma
- b. 9 f. 22 Stovall, Count
- b. 9 f. 23 Sullivan, Donald
- b. 9 f. 24 Sweeney, Joseph M
- b. 9 f. 25 Tate, Sheila
- b. 9 f. 26 Taylor, Arthur
- b. 9 f. 27 Thompson, Dora
- b. 9 f. 28 Thompson, Florine
- b. 9 f. 29 Tipton, G. Robert
- b. 9 f. 30 Turner, Thom M
- b. 9 f. 31 Turner, Vernon (Kitabu)
- b. 9 f. 32 Tyre, Eli
- b. 10 f. 1 Underwood, Darnell
- b. 10 f. 2 Vozzo, Tony
- b. 10 f. 3 Wadley, Earl L
- b. 10 f. 4 Wallace, Gerald L
- b. 10 f. 5 Wallace, Susan J
- b. 10 f. 6 Walmsley, Dewdrop O
- b. 10 f. 7 Walton, Leonard
- b. 10 f. 8 Washington, James A
- b. 10 f. 9 Watkins, Benjamin
- b. 10 f. 10 Watson, Rosella
- b. 10 f. 11 Welch, Leona
- b. 10 f. 12 White, Leona (Larry White)
- b. 10 f. 13 Whitten, Jimmie
- b. 10 f. 14 Williams, Anthony J
- b. 10 f. 15 Williams, George
- b. 10 f. 16 Wilson, Will
- b. 10 f. 17 Wise, Leonard Christian
- b. 10 f. 18 Womack, Allen
- b. 10 f. 19 Wood, Sandie D
- b. 10 f. 20 Young, Ronald
- b. 10 f. 21 Young, Terry

Subject files

Arranged into three subseries: (1) Black organizations; (2) Black bookstores, distributors, and studies; and (3) George Washington Carver.

Black organizations

- b. 10 f. 22-23 African Teachers Association
- b. 11 f. 1 Confrontation House
- b. 11 f. 2 Dawson College

Subject files (cont.)

Black organizations (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 3 Habari Congress
- b. 11 f. 4 National Black Political Agenda
- b. 11 f. 5 Reality House
- b. 11 f. 6 Sickle Cell Festival Committee
- b. 11 f. 7 Student Organization for Black Unity
- b. 11 f. 8 Teenagers Against Drugs

Black bookstores, distributors, and studies

Mailing labels.

Organized alphabetically by state.

- b. 11 f. 9 Alabama
- b. 11 f. 10 Arizona
- b. 11 f. 11 Arkansas
- b. 11 f. 12 California
- b. 11 f. 13 Canada and Puerto Rico
- b. 11 f. 14 Colorado
- b. 11 f. 15 Connecticut
- b. 11 f. 16 District of Columbia
- b. 11 f. 17 Florida
- b. 11 f. 18 Georgia
- b. 11 f. 19 Idaho
- b. 11 f. 20 Indiana
- b. 11 f. 21 Iowa
- b. 11 f. 22 Kansas
- b. 11 f. 23 Kentucky
- b. 11 f. 24 Louisiana
- b. 11 f. 25 Maine
- b. 11 f. 26 Maryland
- b. 11 f. 27 Massachusetts
- b. 11 f. 28 Michigan
- b. 11 f. 29 Minnesota
- b. 11 f. 30 Mississippi
- b. 11 f. 31 Missouri
- b. 11 f. 32 Montana
- b. 11 f. 33 Nebraska
- b. 11 f. 34 New Hampshire
- b. 11 f. 35 New Jersey
- b. 11 f. 36 Nevada
- b. 11 f. 37 New York
- b. 11 f. 38 North Carolina
- b. 11 f. 39 North Dakota

Subject files (cont.)

Black bookstores, distributors, and studies (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 40 Ohio
- b. 11 f. 41 Oklahoma
- b. 11 f. 42 Oregon
- b. 11 f. 43 Pennsylvania
- b. 11 f. 44 Rhode Island
- b. 11 f. 45 South Carolina
- b. 11 f. 46 South Dakota
- b. 11 f. 47 Tennessee
- b. 11 f. 48 Texas
- b. 11 f. 49 Utah
- b. 11 f. 50 Vermont
- b. 11 f. 51 Virginia
- b. 11 f. 52 Washington
- b. 11 f. 53 Wisconsin
- b. 11 f. 54 Wyoming
- b. 11 f. 55 Letters from other Black publishers
- b. 11 f. 56 White publishers
- b. 11 f. 57-58 George Washington Carver seals and first day of issue envelopes