



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

Guide to the

Ted Joans collection

1928-2003

Sc MG 716

Summary

Creator: Joans, Ted

Title: Ted Joans collection

Date: 1928-2003

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of the Estate of Hy Shore, December 2002.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Ted Joans was a painter, poet, trumpeter, and member of the New York Greenwich Village literary Beat Generation. The Ted Joans collection consists mainly of correspondence and notes (1969-2003).

Preferred citation: [Item], Ted Joans collection, Sc MG 716, 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 Nurah-Rosalie Jeter, January 2004.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: posters and art.

Transferred to the Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division: books.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Born in Cairo, Illinois, on July 4, 1928, Ted Joans spent his early years in the Midwest. In 1951, after earning a B.A. in Fine Arts from Indiana University, he moved to Greenwich Village, New York. Known

as a Beat (jazz) poet, Joans was among the first poets to set his poems to jazz music. The author of over 30 books, Joans, a self identified surrealist, worked and wrote until the time of his death on May 7, 2003. He had relocated to Vancouver, Canada, after vowing to never live in the United States again, after the police officers involved in the killing of Amadou Diallo were acquitted of all charges.

Joans survived on the earnings from his art. He read his poems throughout the world, sold artwork he created, and earned royalties from his publications and the recordings of his readings. He maintained residences in Paris, France, and Timbuktu, Mali for many years and made frequent visits to the United States for speaking engagements and performances. On many occasions when visiting New York City, Joans stayed with his friend and attorney, Hy Shore, from whose estate the collection was acquired.

Scope and Content Note

The Ted Joans collection consists mainly of correspondence and notes (1969-2003). The bulk of the material is between Hy Shore, Joans's attorney, agent and friend, with a folder of material on Jim Haynes, a client and friend of Hy Shore and a key social figure in the expatriate community in Paris. Also included is the typescript for "The Hipsters" (1961), poems, sketches, and cartoon style drawings (mostly on envelopes).

Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
African American jazz musicians
African American painters
African American poets
American poetry -- 20th century
American poetry -- African American authors
Authors, Black
Beats (Persons)

Names

Haynes, Jim, 1933-2021
Joans, Ted

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1 About publications and performances 1968-1994
- b. 1 f. 2 General 1969-1998
- Shore, Hy
- b. 1 f. 3-4 ca. 1960-1999
- b. 1 f. 5 Notes 1970-1996
- b. 1 f. 6 Postcards

Writing

- b. 2 f. 1 Poems
- b. 2 f. 2-3 "The Hipsters" typescript
- b. 2 f. 4 Contracts
- b. 2 f. 5 Promotions and publicity for events
- b. 2 f. 6 Financial
- b. 2 f. 7 Artwork 1977-2003
- b. 2 f. 8 Articles about Joans
- b. 2 f. 9 Haynes, Jim