



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

Guide to the

Cheryl Boyce-Taylor papers

1982-2014 [bulk 1997-2014]

Sc MG 919

Summary

Creator: Boyce-Taylor, Cheryl, 1950-

Title: Cheryl Boyce-Taylor papers

Date: 1982-2014 [bulk 1997-2014]

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Cheryl Boyce-Taylor, December 2014.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Cheryl Boyce-Taylor was born in Arima, Trinidad, and migrated to St. Albans Queens at the age of thirteen. Boyce-Taylor attended a Seventh Day Adventist high school in the Bronx, and completed undergraduate studies at City College of New York. Boyce-Taylor later completed an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine, Stonecast. She married Walt Taylor at the age of 19, and gave birth to her son, Malik Isaac, a year later. In the early 1970s, she formed the Boyce-Taylor Theatrical Company and began performing her poetry. She began taking her poetry more seriously after completing a course at Hunter College with Audre Lorde during this same time period. Boyce-Taylor has published several full-length poetry monographs including: *As A Woman I Laugh and Cry: Poems, Birthsounds, Rhythms and Other Contractions*, *Convincing the Body*, and *Raw Air*. Her work has been featured in magazines and journals such as *Callaloo*, in addition to her notable work with choreographer Ron K. Brown's Evidence Dance Company. The Cheryl Boyce-Taylor papers, 1982-2014, partially document the artistic and personal life of poet, visual and teaching artist, Cheryl Boyce-Taylor. The collection contains biographical material, such as correspondence and interview transcripts; writing material, such as manuscripts, drafts; and printed matter, such as programs, flyers, and clippings.

Preferred citation: [Item], Cheryl Boyce-Taylor papers, Sc MG 919, 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 Aleksandra M. Mitchell, November 2015.

Creator History

Cheryl Boyce-Taylor was born in Arima, Trinidad, and migrated to St. Albans Queens at the age of thirteen. Boyce-Taylor attended a Seventh Day Adventist high school in the Bronx, and completed undergraduate studies at City College of New York. Boyce-Taylor later completed an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine, Stonecast. She married Walt Taylor at the age of 19, and gave birth to her son, Malik Isaac, a year later. In the early 1970s, she formed the Boyce-Taylor Theatrical Company and began performing her poetry. She began taking her poetry more seriously after completing a course at Hunter College with Audre Lorde during this same time period. Boyce-Taylor has published several full-length poetry monographs including: *As A Woman I Laugh and Cry: Poems, Birthsounds, Rhythms and Other Contractions*, *Convincing the Body*, and *Raw Air*. Her work has been featured in magazines and journals such as *Callaloo*, in addition to her notable work with choreographer Ron K. Brown's Evidence Dance Company.

Custodial History

The collection was held and maintained by Cheryl Boyce-Taylor until its donation to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Scope and Content Note

The Cheryl Boyce-Taylor papers, 1982-2014, partially document the artistic and personal life of poet, visual and teaching artist, Cheryl Boyce-Taylor. The collection contains biographical material, such as correspondence and interview transcripts; writing material, such as manuscripts, drafts; and printed matter, such as programs, flyers, and clippings.

Arrangement: Arranged into three series: I. Biographical; II. Writing; and III. Printed matter.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American lesbians
African American women authors
African American women poets
African Americans -- Race identity
Authors, Black
Erotic literature writers
Lesbian authors
Race relations -- United States
Women poets, Caribbean

Names

Boyce-Taylor, Cheryl, 1950-

Container List

Biographical 1964-2014

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 1 Photocopies of photographs 1964-2014
- b. 1 f. 2 Greeting cards 1984
- b. 1 f. 3 Interviews 1997-2012
Includes interview in *HX for Her*, December 1997.
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence 2002-2014
- b. 1 f. 5 Artwork 2005
- b. 1 f. 6 M.F.A. thesis, "Wild Sorrel" 2010-2012
Later published in *Arrival*.

Writing

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 7 *As a Woman I Laugh and Cry: Poems* 1982
- b. 1 f. 8 *Birthsounds, Rhythms and Other Contractions* 1990
- b. 1 f. 9 *Cayenne* 1994
- b. 1 f. 10 "Breaking Sky: Love Poems" 1996
- b. 1 f. 11 *Convincing the Body* 1997
- b. 1 f. 12 *Raw Air* 1997
- b. 1 f. 13 Miscellaneous poems 1997-2008
- b. 1 f. 14 *Bum Rush the Page* 2001
- b. 1 f. 15 *Poem* 2002
Booklet containing the poem, "Mango Pretty".
- b. 1 f. 16 "Shout: New Poems" 2007
- b. 2 f. 1 *Bullets and Butterflies* 2010
- b. 2 f. 2 *For the Crowns of Your Heads: Poems for Haiti* 2010
Includes Boyce-Taylor's poem, "Teeth Marks".
- b. 2 f. 3 *Night When Moon Follows* 2010
- b. 2 f. 4 *Of Fire, of Iron: Poems from the Hot Poets Collective* 2011
Edited by Boyce-Taylor and contains four of her poems.
- b. 2 f. 5 *The Red Bible: New Poems* 2011
Includes the poem, "The Red Bible", which was later published in *Arrival*.
- b. 2 f. 6 *Poets and Writers Magazine* 2013 January-February
Includes Boyce-Taylor's article, "Finding Calypso Muse".
- b. 2 f. 7 *Killens Review of Arts and Letters* 2014 Fall-Winter
Includes three of Boyce-Taylor's poems.
- b. 2 f. 8 "Zuihitsu Juice Journal #1" 2014 Winter
Journal produced from Boyce-Taylor's workshop of the same name; includes some of her poems as well.

Printed matter

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 2 f. 9-10 Programs and flyers 1990-2014
- b. 2 f. 11 Newspaper clippings 1998-1999

Printed matter (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 12 *Ronald K. Brown's Evidence playbill* 1999
Boyce-Taylor wrote the text for the "Water" performance.
- b. 2 f. 13 Business cards