

William Styron Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013075>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm80041855>

Prepared by Martha Hopkins

Collection Summary

Title: William Styron Papers

Span Dates: 1951-1968

ID No.: MSS41855

Creator: Styron, William, 1925-2006

Extent: 40 items ; 16 containers ; 5.6 linear feet ; 5 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Author and novelist. Correspondence, holograph drafts and corrected galleys of books and articles, research material, clippings, and photographs pertaining to Styron's life and literary works.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Styron, William, 1925-2006.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Confessions of Nat Turner. 1967.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Lie down in darkness. 1951.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Long march. 1955.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Set this house on fire. 1960.

Subjects

American fiction.

American literature.

Fiction.

Literature.

Occupations

Authors.

Novelists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Styron, author and novelist, were given to the Library of Congress by his father, William C. Styron, Sr., and by the author, 1964-1968. An addition was given by Thomas F. Gossett in 1966.

Processing History

The papers of William Styron were housed and described in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Styron is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Styron are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on five reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William Styron Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|---|
| 1925, June 11 | Born, Newport News, Va. |
| 1938 | Mother died; sent to Christchurch School, Christchurch, Va. |
| 1943-1945 | Served in marines in World War II. |
| 1947 | Graduated, Duke University, Durham, N.C. |
| 1947-1950 | Worked briefly for McGraw-Hill, book publishers Studied writing, New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y. Published first short stories and began writing first novel |
| 1951 | Published <i>Lie Down in Darkness</i> . Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Briefly recalled into marines during Korean War. |
| 1952 | Received fellowship in literature, American Academy, Rome Italy; spent time in France and Italy; helped found Paris Review |
| 1953 | Married Rose Burgunder |
| 1954 | Settled in Roxbury, Conn. |
| 1955 | Published <i>The Long March</i> . New York: Vintage Books |
| 1960 | Published <i>Set This House on Fire</i> . New York: Random House |
| 1964 | Fellow, Stillman College, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. |
| 1967 | Published <i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i> . New York: Random House, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize |
| 1972 | Play <i>In the Clap Shack</i> , produced at Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Conn.; became honorary consultant in letters, Library of Congress |
| 1979 | Published <i>Sophie's Choice</i> . New York: Random House |
| 1982 | Published <i>This Quiet Dust</i> . New York: Random House |
| 1984 | Received Connecticut Arts Award |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1990 | Published <i>Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness</i> . New York: Random House |
| 1993 | Awarded National Medal of Arts |
| 2006, Nov. 1 | Died, Martha's Vineyard, Mass. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Styron (1925-2006) span the years 1951-1968 and consist chiefly of holograph drafts and corrected galleys of books and articles by Styron including his novels titled *Lie Down in Darkness* (1951), *The Long March* (1955), *Set This House on Fire* (1960), and *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967). Also includes correspondence, speeches, reviews, research material, clippings, and photographs pertaining to his life and literary works.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by title of work or type of material.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|----------------------|--|
| BOX 1 REEL 1* | <i>Lie Down in Darkness</i> |
| | *Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,519 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Holograph draft in pencil |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Chapters 1-6 (part 1) |
| | (6 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 1 | Chapters 6 (part 1) and 7 (part 2) |
| | (10 folders) |
| BOX 2 REEL 2 | Working typescript with corrections and annotations |
| BOX 2 REEL 2 | pp. 1-229 |
| | (7 folders) |
| BOX 3 REEL 2 | pp. 230-618 |
| | (6 folders) |
| BOX 3 REEL 2 | Editorial typescript, with corrections and emendations made by Bobbs Merrill editor, Hiram Haydn, with author's consent |
| BOX 3 REEL 2 | pp. 1-245 |
| | (5 folders) |
| BOX 4 REEL 2 | pp. 246-330 |
| | (5 folders) |
| BOX 4 REEL 2 | <i>The Long March</i> |
| | Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,519 |
| BOX 4 REEL 2 | Holograph draft in pencil (sheet at end referring reader to "Writers at Work," <i>Paris Review Interviews</i> , Malcolm Cowley, editor (New York 1958, p. 268.)) |
| BOX 4 REEL 2 | Introduction to Norwegian edition |
| BOX 4 REEL 2 | Published in <i>Mississippi Quarterly</i> |
| BOX 4 REEL 2 | Holograph draft in pencil |
| BOX 5 not filmed | <i>Set This House on Fire</i> |
| BOX 5 not filmed | Holograph draft in pencil |
| | (9 folders) |
| BOX 5A not filmed | (3 folders) |

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|----------------------|--|
| BOX 5B not filmed | Tentative beginning |
| BOX 5B not filmed | Discards and fragments (8 folders) |
| BOX 5B not filmed | Typescript with emendations and corrections |
| BOX 5B not filmed | pp. 1- 353 (6 folders) |
| BOX 6 not filmed | pp. 354-964 (13 folders) |
| BOX 6 not filmed | Author's corrected galleys |
| BOX 6 not filmed | Beginning of short novel, published as "Blankenship" in special 1991 Styron issue of <i>Papers in Language & Literature</i> |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Letter to Marilyn Peterson, Aug.17, 1964 |
| BOX 7 not filmed | "The Achievement of William Styron," by Marilyn Peterson, paper written at Trinity University, San Antonio, Tex., 1963 or 1964, with comments by Styron |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Review of <i>The Letters of F. Scott Fitzgerald</i> , edited by Andrew Turnbull, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Article on death and burial of William Faulkner, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Beginning of article on capital punishment, unpublished, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Review of <i>Slave and Citizen: The Negro in the Americas</i> by Frank Tannenbaum, published in first issue of New York Review of Books, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 7 not filmed | "Guide to Exhibition of Manuscripts, Scores and Books by Newly Elected Members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Recipients of Literary Honors and Awards," May 1952, Styron listed as recipient of fellowship in literature at American Academy in Rome; two of his manuscripts were in the exhibition |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Review of <i>A Southern Prophecy</i> , by Lewis H. Blair, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Review of <i>The Big Love</i> by Florence Aadland, holograph in pencil and typescript |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Review of <i>Candy</i> by Terry Southern and Mason Hoffenberg, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Article called "The Death in Life of Benjamin Reid," holograph in pencil and typescript, includes letter to Styron from Neva Jones, a nurse who corresponded with Reid, and photostat of a letter from Reid to Jones; also contains newspaper clippings relating to Reid case |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Biography of Styron by A. H. Cheyer, <i>Wilson Library Bulletin</i> , Apr. 1962, p. 691 |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Photo of woman and child, unidentified |
| BOX 7 not filmed | Beginnings of review of <i>The Fire Next Time</i> by James Baldwin, unpublished, holograph in pencil |

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|-----------------------|---|
| BOX 7 not filmed | Article on "State of Writers in America," unpublished, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 8 REEL 1** | <i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i> **Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,600 |
| BOX 8 REEL 1** | Holograph in pencil, includes extra and rejected pages (8 folders) |
| BOX 9 REEL 2** | Printer's typesetting typescript, including book designer's specifications and layouts (20 folders) |
| BOX 10-11 REEL 3** | Galley and page proofs |
| BOX 12 not filmed | Advertisement for <i>SS United States</i> , featuring Styron and his wife |
| BOX 12 not filmed | Reviews from newspapers, mainly of <i>Set This House on Fire</i> and one of <i>Confessions of Nat Turner</i> |
| BOX 12 not filmed | Newspaper interview with Styron's father, William C. Styron, Sr. |
| BOX 13 not filmed | Review of <i>Reminiscence</i> by Douglas MacArthur, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 13 not filmed | Review of <i>Thomas Wolfe</i> by Andrew Turnbull, holograph and typescript, <i>Harper's</i> , Apr. 1968 |
| BOX 13 not filmed | Review of <i>Light on Dark Corners</i> by Benjamin Grant Jefferis, holograph in pencil and typescript, <i>Harper's</i> , Feb. 1968 |
| BOX 13 not filmed | "My Generation," holograph in pencil, <i>Esquire</i> , Oct. 1968 |
| BOX 13 not filmed | "In the Jungle," holograph in pencil, <i>New York Review of Books</i> , Sept. 1968 |
| BOX 13 not filmed | "The Oldest America," holograph in pencil and typescript, <i>McCalls</i> , July 1968 |
| BOX 13 not filmed | "This Quiet Dust," holograph in pencil and typescript, <i>Harper's</i> , 1965 (draft of article, not later book of same name that includes article and other writing) |
| BOX 14 not filmed | Letter to the editor, <i>Nation</i> , Mar. 1968, holograph in pencil |
| BOX 14 not filmed | Speech, Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, Nov. 1967, typescript |
| BOX 14 not filmed | Speech, Smith College, Northampton, Mass., Feb. 1968 |