



# **Preliminary Guide to the Roma Stewart Goodwin Blackburn Papers, 1942-1985 and undated**

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

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URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Roma Stewart Goodwin Blackburn papers, 1942-1985 and undated

**Creator:**

Blackburn, Roma Stewart Goodwin

**Extent:**

1.2 Linear Feet

564 Items

**Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.10015

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/blackburnroma/>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Roma Stewart Goodwin Blackburn Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

Primarily correspondence between Roma Blackburn and literary personages, including former students of her husband, William Maxwell Blackburn, professor at Duke University. Also includes poem by Rose Styron, clippings about the poet Elizabeth Bishop, and a program from Bishop's memorial service. One volume, *Heart and Home: A Memoir*, was written by Mrs.

Blackburn. Correspondence includes: letters and postcards from Elizabeth Bishop discussing travels, intellectual life, and literary interests; letters from William Styron discussing fund-raising in memory of Professor William Blackburn for the Duke University Capital Campaign for the Arts and Sciences; letters from Alice Methfessel, close friend of Elizabeth Bishop; and letters from Professor Blackburn's former students Sean Devereaux, Guy Davenport, and Josephine Humphreys Hutcheson. (1964-1984) (46 items) (.2 linear feet)

This addition (218 items, 1942-1985) includes letters to Blackburn from Reynolds Price and Wallace Fowlie and others regarding invitations, travel plans, news, and condolences; material related to the William Blackburn Fund; correspondence from Blackburn's summers in Magog; a story by Max Steele; 23 manuscript pages of Blackburn's autobiography; copies of tributes to William Blackburn from William Styron and Max Steele as well as statistics on the number of students he taught; and photographs (61 black-and-white prints, 4 color prints, 1 color slide, and 2 black-and-white negatives) of Tennessee Williams, Fred Chappell, William Styron, Sean Devereaux, Wallace Fowlie, and William Blackburn as well as other family members. An unidentified audio tape is included. (.6 linear feet) (acc#01-0036)

Addition (2012-0038) (0.4 lin. ft., 300 items) includes personal correspondence to Roma Blackburn from family members and others, clippings and photographs of William Blackburn, and a recording of William Styron reading from *Lie Down in Darkness*. Also included are writings and notes by William Blackburn mostly relating to his W.B. Yeats research.

## **Biographical/Historical**

Lawyer, poet, and writer originally from Prince Edward Island, Canada.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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## **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

However, some of the additions to this collection are not immediately accessible, because they require further processing before use.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. There may be a 48-hour delay in obtaining these materials.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library to use this collection.

## **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library.

## **Acquisition Information**

The Roma Stewart Goodwin Blackburn Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1982-1984, 2001, and 2012.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Rubenstein Library Staff and Katy Wischow

Completed May 4, 2001

Encoded by Ruth E. Bryan

This collection is unprocessed: materials may not have been ordered and described beyond their original condition.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Women poets -- Correspondence
- Black-and-white negatives
- Women poets -- United States -- Biography
- Authors, American -- 20th century -- Correspondence
- College teaching -- United States
- Color photographs
- United States -- Intellectual life -- 20th century
- Audiocassettes
- American poetry -- Women authors
- Black-and-white photographs
- Duke University -- Faculty
- Color slides
- Styron, William, 1925-2006
- Bishop, Elizabeth, 1911-1979
- Blackburn, Roma Stewart Goodwin
- Methfessel, Alice
- Humphreys, Josephine
- Blackburn, William, 1899-1972
- Duke University. Capital Campaign for the Arts and Sciences
- Devereaux, Sean
- Chappell, Fred, 1936-
- Yeats, W. B. (William Butler), 1865-1939
- Price, Reynolds, 1933-2011
- Fowlie, Wallace, 1908-1998
- Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983
- Styron, Rose
- Steele, Max, 1922-2005

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## Collection Inventory

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### Accession March 1, 1982

Correspondence, 1978-1984

Box 1

#### Scope and Contents note

"Brenley," Magog, Canada, and Durham, NC

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### Accession April 30, 1984

Addresses and writings, ca. 1967	Box 1
Clippings, 1978-1983	Box 1
Heart and Home: A Memoir	Box 1

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### Accession 2001-0036

#### Processing Information:

Some of the materials in this collection are not immediately accessible, because they require further processing before use. Technical Services staff need to reformat newspaper clippings; make use copy of audio cassette tape; resleeve photographs. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Unidentified audio cassette tape	Box 1
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Photographs	Box 1
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**Physical Description:** 2 folders

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes 61 black and white photos, 5 color photos, 1 color slide, 2 black and white negatives. Photo subjects include Tennessee Williams, Fred Chappell, William Styron, Sean Devereaux, Wallace Fowlie, and William Blackburn (head shots and candid shots), and other unidentified authors and family members.

Letters received, 1973-1981	Box 1
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**Physical Description:** 1 folder

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes regular correspondence and catching up letters, invitations and travel plans, academic news, and condolence letters.

Letters received, 1973-1981	Box 2
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**Physical Description:** 3 folders

#### Scope and Contents note

Includes regular correspondence and catching up letters, invitations and travel plans, academic news, and condolence letters.

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Letters received, 1973-1985	Box 2
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
Includes correspondence from Roma Blackburn's summers in Magog, a memorial article about William Blackburn, and information about a biography being written. Frequent correspondents include Reynolds Price and Wallace Fowlie.	
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Materials on the Blackburn Campaign (for scholarships) 1962-1984	Box 2
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Roma Blackburn's autobiography, p. 196-219	Box 2
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Testimonials and teaching - William Blackburn	Box 2
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Letters from Wallace Fowlie to Roma Blackburn, 1973-1981	Box 2
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Story by Max Steele, mailed to Roma Blackburn 1980	Box 2
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Newspaper and magazine articles, 1972, 1983-1985	Box 2

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### **Accession (2012-0038)**

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

Addition (2012-0038) (0.4 lin. ft., 300 items) includes personal correspondence to Roma Blackburn from family members and others, clippings and photographs of William Blackburn, and a recording of William Styron reading from *Lie Down in Darkness*. Also included are writings and notes by William Blackburn mostly relating to his W.B. Yeats research.

**Access Restrictions:**

This accession requires further processing before use.

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Correspondence

Personal, 1962-1977 Box 3

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Personal, 1968-1989 Box 3

Letters to Roma Blackburn from Blackburn family, 1972-1978	Box 3
Photographs	Box 3
Recordings	
William Styron reading Lie Down in Darkness	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 1 LP	
William Blackburn	
Articles and clippings about William Blackburn	Box 3
Obituary notices	Box 3
Miscellaneous writings and notes	Box 3
Yeats research notes, drafts, and correspondence	Box 3
<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders	

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