



Guide to the William Demby Papers, 1986-2008

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

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

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Summary

Collection Title:

William Demby papers, 1986-2008

Creator:

Demby, William

Abstract:

The William Demby Papers contain four versions of his unpublished work of fiction, "King Comus." It also contains a lengthy interview transcript, personal documents, biographical writings, a small amount of correspondence, and various other documents.

Extent:

1 Linear Feet

Physical Location:

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

Language:

English

Language:

Materials in English and Italian.

Collection ID:

RL.10189

Permalink:

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/dembywilliam/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William Demby Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Most notable in the William Demby Papers are his unfinished novel, "King Comus," and a lengthy interview transcript from 2008. The collection also contains miscellaneous correspondence, personal documents, and research.

Biographical/Historical

William Demby (1922-2013) was the author of "Beetlecreek," "The Catacombs," and "Love Story Black." Demby's education was interrupted by World War II, when he served in Italy. He resumed his studies and then returned to Italy to marry Lucia Drudi. He married civil rights attorney Barbara Ann Morris after the death of his first wife and split his time between Florence, Italy and Sag Harbor, NY.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

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. The library may require up to 48-hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Acquisition Information

The William Demby Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2014.

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 David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Processed by: Janice Hansen, December 2014.

Accessions described in this finding aid: 2014-0190

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Names and Subjects

- American literature -- African American authors -- History and criticism theory, etc.
- African American authors

Collection Inventory

King Comus, undated Box 1

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Contents

4 versions.

Interview with William Demby, 2008 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Interview took place from July 12-14, 2008 in Sag Harbor, NY. Unedited transcript.

Personal Documents, 2004 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Includes marriage and death certificates and a Permit of Stay.

Biographical Writings on Demby, 2004-2013 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Includes "Celebration of the Life of William Demby."

Correspondence, 2001-2007 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Various emails, letters, postcards, and faxes.

1986 Supplement to The Woodson Source Book,
1986 Box 2

Scope and Contents

By Minnie Shumate Woodson.

Miscellaneous Draft and Research Notes,
undated Box 2

In the Company of Charlatans, 2007[?] Box 2

Scope and Contents

By Gregory Lewis, nephew of William Demby. Details his fight for equality in the work force.