Summary

Creator: Joans, Ted

Title: Ted Joans collection

Date: 1928-2003

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)


Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.


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


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