Summary

Creator: Horton, Anthony, 1968-2012

Title: Anthony Horton papers

Date: 2000-2010

Size: .3 linear feet (1 print box)

Source: Gift, Youme Landowne, 2013

Abstract: Anthony Horton was an African-American man who for a period of his life was homeless and lived in the tunnels beneath the subway trains. Together with author/artist Youme Landowne, Horton wrote and illustrated "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd" (2008) which tells the story of how the two met, his background and his life underground. Horton worked with the Theater of Oppressed NYC, frequently playing the role of a police officer in the troupe's performances. He died in a fire that ripped through his underground home. The Anthony Horton Collection consists of a mock-up for the book he and Youme Landowne wrote and illustrated together, "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd," about Horton's life in the tunnels under the New York City subway system, and letters he wrote to his co-author/friend from 2009-2010. The letters discuss their friendship and his thoughts; most were written while he was an inmate in Downstate Correctional facility in Fishkill, New York. According to Landowne, he was incarcerated because of possession of an antique knife that he wanted to sell. There are additional writings along with original artwork and illustrations.

Preferred citation: [Item], Anthony Horton papers, Sc MG 878, 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: Processed by Janice Quinter, August 28, 2013.

Creator History

Anthony Horton was an African-American man who for a period of his life was homeless and lived in the tunnels beneath the subway trains. Together with author/artist Youme Landowne, Horton wrote and illustrated "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd" (2008) which tells the story of how the two met, his background
and his life underground. Horton worked with the Theater of Oppressed NYC, frequently playing the role of a police officer in the troupe’s performances. He died in a fire that ripped through his underground home.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Anthony Horton Collection consists of a mock-up for the book he and Youme Landowne wrote and illustrated together, "Pitch Black: Don't be Skerd," about Horton's life in the tunnels under the New York City subway system, and letters he wrote to his co-author/friend from 2009-2010. The letters discuss their friendship and his thoughts; most were written while he was an inmate in Downstate Correctional facility in Fishkill, New York. According to Landowne, he was incarcerated because of possession of an antique knife that he wanted to sell. There are additional writings along with original artwork and illustrations.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
- African American authors -- New York (State) -- New York
- African American illustrators
- African American prisoners
- African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Social conditions -- Comic books, strips, etc
- Artists, Black -- New York (State) -- New York
- Black author
- Homeless persons -- New York (State) -- Biography -- Comic books, strips, etc
- Homeless persons as artists -- New York (State) -- New York -- Biography -- Comic books, strips, etc
- Homelessness -- New York (State) -- New York -- Comic books, strips, etc
- Illustrators -- United States
- Streets -- Social aspects -- New York (State) -- New York -- Pictorial works
- Subways -- Social aspects -- New York (State) -- New York -- Pictorial works

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
- Correspondence
- Dummies (printed matter)
- graphic novels
- Illustrations (layout features)
- Letters (correspondence)

**Geographic Names**
- Manhattan (New York, N.Y.) -- Pictorial works

**Names**
- Horton, Anthony, 1968-2012
- Youme
Container List

b. 1 f. 1  “Pitch Black: Don't Be Skerd – Mock-Up” ca. 2007
b. 1 f. 2  Letters to Youme Landowne 2009 - 2010
b. 1 f. 3  Writings – Notebooks (4)
b. 1 f. 4  Writings
b. 1 f. 5  Original artwork and spot illustrations
b. 1 f. 6-7 Original artwork
b. 1 f. 8  Snapshots (9)
b. 1 f. 9  Printed material