

A
CHARLES WRIGHT
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Robert D. Denham

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Preface

Charles Wright began publishing his poems in the early 1960s, which means that his career as a poet is now into its sixth decade. During the course of this time he has published almost thirty volumes of poetry, plus a dozen limited-edition collections. What he has chosen to preserve is contained now in four volumes, which bring together most of the poems that appeared in his numerous books: *Country Music* (1982), *The World of the Ten Thousand Things* (1990), *Negative Blue* (2000), and *Bye-and-Bye* (2011). This substantial and still growing body of work has been recognized for its excellence, having garnered now some two dozen awards and prizes (see Appendix).

The present bibliography provides a record of Wright's substantial body of work through 2014 and of the things that have been written about that work—books, articles, reviews. The various lists found here are intended to aid readers whose goal is further study and deeper understanding. Users are invited to send me corrections and additions: daytondernham@gmail.com

As almost everyone knows, the World Wide Web addresses (URLs) that use the http protocol, will frequently appear and then disappear. Almost all of those in the present list were active in 2014, but I have not rechecked each one.

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Emory, Virginia
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Primary Sources

Books: Poetry

Alphabetical List of Titles

- Antología mínima.* Trans. Philip Metzidakis. Caracas, Venezuela: Pequeña Venecia, 1993.
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The Charles Wright Archived Papers

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

This collection consists of the papers of Charles Wright. It contains approximately 5,000 items (16 linear shelf feet), including manuscripts, poetry and translation notebooks kept by Charles Wright, professional and personal correspondence, photographs, printed material, news clippings, artwork, interviews, book reviews, and tape recordings. The papers are unrestricted.

Contents List

Correspondence

A: Alphabetical Correspondence

B: Chronological Correspondence

Manuscripts of Works by Charles Wright

A: Bound Volumes of Poetry & Translation Notebooks kept by Charles Wright

B: Poetry Manuscripts Arranged by Title of Book

C: Miscellaneous Manuscripts

Manuscripts by Other Authors

Miscellaneous Papers

The correspondence files with other poets and literary persons and family, have been arranged by the last name of the correspondent (Boxes 1-17). The more frequent correspondents and correspondence with some of the other Pulitzer Prize winners in poetry have been placed in separate folders with the total number of letters noted in the guide.

Correspondence with persons who have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry include: John Ashbery (1 item), Louise Gluck (6 items), Jorie Graham (13 items), Anthony Hecht (1 item), Richard Howard (4 items), Donald Justice (142 items), Galway Kinnell (3 items), Yusef Komunyakaa (1 item), Maxine Kumin (1 item), Philip Levine (207 items), William Meredith (3 items), W.S. Merwin (11 items), Lisel Mueller (1 item), Charles Simic (31 items), James Tate (27 items), Robert Penn Warren (2 items), and Richard Wilbur (2 items).

Other types of correspondence are arranged chronologically in a separate subseries B (Boxes 17-21). This includes correspondence about awards, conferences, workshops, poetry readings and other professional engagements, poems submitted to or accepted by poetry magazines and anthologies, and requests for Wright to judge poetry contests, write recommendations or evaluate candidates for academic positions; greeting cards; post cards; and invitations and announcements.

Of special interest in series two containing manuscripts by Charles Wright are the twelve volumes of hand-written poetry kept by Wright in bound notebooks, from 1968 until the present. These contain his autograph poems in chronological order as they were written. When the poems were used in his published books, Wright would mark through them in pencil. The manuscript series also has an

autograph volume for Wright's translation work and one called "Half-life (A Commonplace Notebook)," where he has recorded quotes or his own thoughts about poetry and related subjects.

Also present in a second subseries and arranged according to the title of the book, are typescripts, setting copies, page proofs, and galleys, for many of his published works, although some typescripts of early manuscripts had already been sold to private collectors in the early eighties prior to the acquisition of these papers by the Library.

A third subseries contains copies of miscellaneous manuscripts by Charles Wright, including: a copy of his Master's Thesis submitted at the University of Iowa, typescripts and galleys of individual poems published in magazines such as *The New Yorker*, and miscellaneous other manuscripts by Wright.

A third series contains manuscripts by other authors sent to Wright for his comment or enjoyment and are arranged by the last name of the author. Most are not complete manuscripts of books by other authors, but when they are and the title of the book is known, it is included in the guide. Some are accompanied by letters from the authors, often discussing their work.

Series four contains miscellaneous papers including: interviews and essays about Charles Wright, artwork by other people, biographical entries about Wright, contracts and publication agreements, a dissertation chapter about Wright, news clippings and printed, photographs, programs, reviews of books by Wright, royalties and honorariums, student papers about Wright, translations of Wright's poetry into Italian and German, interviews and poetry readings by Wright on audio tape, and oversize photographs, artwork, news clippings, dust jackets, and a Winter family genealogical chart.

Approximately 2000 additional papers have been added to the collection. These paper have a separate guide: http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=uva-sc/viu03856.xml;query=#;#dsc_1.1

The Charles Wright Collection, 1975-2001

Emory University. Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library,
Robert W. Woodruff Library

This collection consists of writings by Charles Wright from 1975-2001. Included are typescript drafts of poems from his collections *China Trace*, *The Southern Cross*, *The Other Side of the River*, *Zone Journals*, and *Chickamauga*. Also present are drafts of essays from *Half-life* and *Quarter Notes*. Most drafts contain handwritten corrections and annotations by Wright. Four works, *Bloodlines*, *China Trace*, *The Southern Cross*, and *Night Music* include proofs with additional annotations. The collection also contains drafts of six poems translated by Wright. Finally, a small amount of other prose, such as panel remarks and introductions, are included. Other prose and translations are arranged at the end of the collection, following material from Wright's published collections.

.5 linear ft. (1 box) and 1 oversized paper

Appendix

Charles Wright's Awards and Prizes

1976	Melville Cane Award from the Poetry Society of America for <i>Bloodlines</i>
1976	Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Academy of American Poets for <i>Bloodlines</i>
1977	Academy-Institute Award, American Academy and Institute of the Arts
1979	PEN translation award for <i>The Storm and Other Poems</i>
1980	Ingram Merrill Fellowship in Poetry
1983	National Book Award for <i>Country Music</i>
1983	National Endowment for the Arts Award
1987	Brandeis Creative Arts Citation for poetry
1992	Award of Merit Medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters
1993	Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize
1993	Distinguished Contribution to Letters Award from the Ingram Merrill Foundation
1995	Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters
1996	Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets
1997	Book Prize, <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , for <i>Black Zodiac</i>
1997	National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry (<i>Black Zodiac</i>)
1998	Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for <i>Black Zodiac</i>
1998	Ambassador Book Award for <i>Black Zodiac</i>
1998	Premio Antico Fattore Alla Poesia for <i>Black Zodiac</i>
2002	Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2007	Griffin Prize for Poetry
2008	Bobbitt National Poetry Prize
2009	Weinstein Poetry Prize
2013	Bollingen Prize
2014–2015	Poet Laureate of the United States