

JAMES COLEMAN PREWITT PAPERS

Mss. 4398

Inventory

Compiled by
Camille Boechler

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size	5.6 linear feet, 47 volumes.
Geographic Locations	New Orleans (La.), Baton Rouge (La.), New York (N.Y.)
Inclusive Dates	1930-1989.
Bulk Dates	1947-1989.
Languages	English.
Summary	The James Coleman Prewitt Papers contain correspondence, personal papers, writings, and volumes created by Louisiana writer James Coleman Prewitt.
Access Restrictions	None.
Reproduction Note	May be reproduced.
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	None.
Citation	James Coleman Prewitt Papers, Mss. 4398, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	109:1-4

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

James Coleman Prewitt was born October 17, 1927, in Jacksonville, Florida, the only child of George Coleman Prewitt (1895-1981) and Florrie Gornto Prewitt (1893-1976). In 1928 his family moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he grew up. Prewitt graduated from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1948. While at LSU, he co-founded the student literary magazine *Delta*, for which he served as Associate Editor. After graduating from LSU, Prewitt lived in New York City for a brief period before returning to New Orleans. In 1957 he began teaching in the public school system of Louisiana where he remained until his retirement in 1977. Prewitt was a prolific writer, though he rarely published his work. Throughout his life he completed five novels, two novellas, six short story collections, as well as several poems, essays, and other writings. He also actively journaled, often taking notes that he used in his writing. Prewitt died October 26, 1989, in Gulfport, Mississippi, at age 62.

Note: See the finding aid folder in the Reading Room for a more extensive biographical sketch and chronology of Prewitt written by his friend Charles East.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The James Coleman Prewitt Papers contain the personal papers and the writings of Prewitt. The papers are arranged into four series: Correspondence, Personal Papers, Writings, and Volumes. The Correspondence, Personal Papers, and Volumes series are all arranged chronologically. The Writings series is arranged alphabetically by title. The papers also contain notes left by East that provide additional information, description, and context for most of the items. These notes have been kept with the items to which they refer.

Note: See the finding aid folder in the Reading Room for an additional inventory of the papers written by East that provides further information, description, and context, especially for Prewitt's journals.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1938-1989, undated

Series II. Personal Papers, 1930-1976, undated

Series III. Writings, 1947-1989, undated

Series IV. Volumes, 1939-1989, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1938-1989, undated

This series contains correspondence from 1938 to 1989. Included in this series is correspondence between Prewitt and his mother, Florrie Prewitt (box 1, folders 1-38 and box 2, folders 1-12), as well as correspondence between Prewitt and his close friend, Charles East (box 2, folders 13-19). This series also includes correspondence between Prewitt and various literary agents and editors (box 2, folders 20-21). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series II. Personal Papers, 1930-1976, undated

This series contains personal papers from 1930 to 1976. Included in this series are photographs of Prewitt (box 2, folders 24-25), issues from the LSU student literary magazine *Delta* for which Prewitt served as Associate Editor (box 2, folder 29), Prewitt's review of Truman Capote's *Other Voices, Other Rooms* (box 2, folder 31), and other personal papers. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series III. Writings, 1947-1989, undated

This series contains writings from 1947 to 1989. Included in this series are completed typescripts and drafts of Prewitt's novels, short stories, essays, poems, and other writings. This series includes typescripts and drafts of Prewitt's novels *City of Orgies* (box 2, folders 33-45 and box 3, folders 1-22), *Difference and Decay* (box 4, folders 2-5), *The Hour of the Knife* (box 4, folders 9-13), *Prisoner's Rest* (box 4, folders 27-41), and *The Sleep of the Dead* (box 5, folders 18-24). Also included in this series are typescripts and drafts of Prewitt's short story collections *Communion of Saints* (box 3, folders 28-38), *A Portfolio for Charles East* (box 4, folders 22-26), *The Short Stories of James Coleman Prewitt* (box 5, folders 1-17), *Stories from the Quarter* (box 5, folders 25-33), *Teacher's Lounge* (box 5, folders 34-44), and *A Vision of Judgment* (box 5, folders 45-53). This series also includes Prewitt's *Collected Poems* (box 3, folders 23-27) and the essay compilations *Facing Oblivion* (box 4, folders 6-8) and *The Remains of James Coleman Prewitt* (box 4, folders 42-57). Although most of Prewitt's writings were not published, all titles included in this series are final versions unless otherwise labeled as drafts. This series is arranged alphabetically by title.

Series IV. Volumes, 1939-1989, undated

This series contains volumes from 1939 to 1989. Included in this series are journals that Prewitt kept throughout his life. Volumes 1 through 8 include his early writings from 1939 to 1944, volumes 9 through 16 include fiction writing from 1945 to 1947, and volumes 17 through 47 are Prewitt's personal journals from 1947 to 1989. This series is arranged chronologically.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

American literature--Louisiana.	III-IV
American poetry--Louisiana.	III-IV
Authors, American--Louisiana.	I-IV
Correspondence.	I
Diaries.	IV
Prewitt, James Coleman, 1927-1989.	I-IV

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
		Series I. Correspondence, 1938-1989, undated		
	109:2	1	1-27	James Prewitt to Florrie Prewitt, 1938-1967
			28-38	Florrie Prewitt to James Prewitt, 1947-1954
		2	1-12	Florrie Prewitt to James Prewitt, 1960-1970, undated
			13-17	Charles East to James Prewitt, 1948-1989
			18-19	James Prewitt to Charles East, circa 1950-1986, undated
			20-21	Literary agents and editors, 1951-1989
			22-23	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1945-1989, undated
		Series II. Personal Papers, 1930-1976, undated		
			24-25	Photographs, circa 1930-1955, undated
			26	Autograph volume, Beauregard School Class of 1940
			27	Phi Eta Sigma Fraternity certificate, 1945
			28	Proposed book titles, 1947-1948
			29	<i>Delta</i> student literary magazine, 1947-1948
			30	Newspaper clippings, 1947-1976
			31	Prewitt's review of Truman Capote's <i>Other Voices, Other Rooms</i> , 1948
			32	Golden Meadow High School commencement and football programs, 1961-1965
		Series III. Writings 1947-1989, undated		
			33-45	<i>City of Orgies</i> drafts, 1969-1989
	109:3	3	1-22	<i>City of Orgies</i> typescript, 1969-1989
			23	<i>Collected Poems</i> drafts, circa 1968-1986
			24-27	<i>Collected Poems</i> typescript, circa 1968-1986
			28-38	<i>Communion of Saints</i> typescript, circa 1969
		4	1	"The Daughters of Lot" drafts, circa 1989
			2-5	<i>Difference and Decay</i> typescript, 1948-1950
			6-8	<i>Facing Oblivion</i> drafts, circa 1985-1989
			9-13	<i>The Hour of the Knife</i> typescript, 1950-1953
			14	"Mr. J.C. and Mr. I.H." drafts, circa 1980-1989, undated
			15-21	<i>Mrs. Mellioni and Other Stories</i> typescript, circa 1973
			22-26	<i>A Portfolio for Charles East</i> typescript, 1988
			27-41	<i>Prisoner's Rest</i> typescript, circa 1956-1966
			42-57	<i>The Remains of James Coleman Prewitt</i> typescript, circa 1981-1989
	109:4	5	1-17	<i>The Short Stories of James Coleman Prewitt</i> typescript, 1947-1952
			18-24	<i>The Sleep of the Dead</i> typescript, 1953-1955
			25-33	<i>Stories from the Quarter</i> typescript, 1955-1956

Stack

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
109:4	5	34-44	<i>Teacher's Lounge</i> typescript, circa 1969-1988
		45-53	<i>A Vision of Judgment</i> typescript, circa 1963-1967
		54-62	Discarded manuscript pages, undated
109:1	6	1-8	Discarded manuscript pages, undated

Series IV. Volumes, 1939-1989, undated

	7	1-8	Volumes 1-8, Early writings, circa 1939-1944, undated
109:4	--	Vols. 9-16	Fiction journals, 1945-1947
	--	Vols. 17-44	Personal journals, 1947-1988
109:1	7	9-11	Volumes 45-47, Personal journals, 1988-1989