For Clarence Major: poem
1970, 2006

Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F913
Creator: Jones, Gayl.
Title: For Clarence Major : poem
Extent: 3 items (4 p.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F913, Jones, Gayl, For Clarence Major : poem, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 63, F913: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

Source: Originally laid in a copy of Gayl Jones's Corregidora (Spec PS3560 .O483 C65 1975).

Processing: Processed and encoded by Anita Wellner, February 2012.

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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Biographical Notes

Gayl Jones

American novelist and poet Gayl Jones was born November 23, 1949, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Gayl Jones’s first novel, *Corregidora*, which was published by Random House in 1975, explored the psychological effects of slavery and sexual abuse on a modern black woman. In addition to novels, Jones has published works of poetry, such as *Song for Anninho* (1981) and *The Hermit-Woman* (1983); plays, including award-winning, *Chile Woman* (1974); and collections of short stories and criticism.


Sources:


Clarence Major

American poet, novelist and editor Clarence Major was born December 31, 1936, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Educated at the State University of New York at Albany (B.S.) and the Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities (Ph.D., 1978), Clarence Major has written numerous books of poetry, including his most recently published, *Myself Painting*, (2009).

Major has written prize winning fiction, including *My Amputations*, for which he received the Western States Book Award in 1986. Major is also the author of articles, essays, reviews, and other nonfiction, as well as the editor of several anthologies.

Since 1989, Clarence Major has been a professor of twentieth century American literature at the University of California at Davis.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

American novelist and poet Gayl Jones wrote this poem, "For Clarence Major," after meeting Major at Connecticut College in 1970.

In April of 1970, Clarence Major visited Connecticut College to give a reading and to speak informally with students. During that visit Major met and talked with Gayl Jones who was a student at the college. Gayl Jones wrote the poem, "For Clarence Major," a few days after their conversation.

This is the original typescript of the poem which Jones sent to Clarence Major. The poem, which was never published, is accompanied by two handwritten notes in which Clarence Major explained the origin of the poem.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Jones, Gayl.
Major, Clarence.

Topical Terms

Poets, American--20th century.
African American poets--20th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Poems.
Correspondence.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.
MSS 099, F823, Edward Dorn Letters and Poems
Arrangement

Arranged in chronological order.
Detailed Description of the Collection

For Clarence Major: poem, 1970 April 30 [Box 62 F913]
1 item (2 p.)
Typescript poem.

Clarence Major autograph letter of explanation, 2006 August 22 [Box 62 F913]
1 item (1 p.)
Major explained that Jones's poem is based on conversation they had in 1970.

Clarence Major autograph note to Larry, circa 2006 [Box 62 F913]
1 item (1 p.)
Major noted that this poem was never published.