

Ohio University
Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for
Archives & Special Collections

Calvin C. Hernton Collection

MSS# 14

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Author: Calvin Coolidge Hernton

Title: Calvin Hernton Collection

Date: 1950 – 1980

Abstract: Manuscripts, poems, printed matter, and miscellaneous material

Quantity: 1 cu.ft.

BIOGRAPHY OF CALVIN COOLIDGE HERNTON

Writer and teacher, Calvin Coolidge Hernton, was born April 28, 1892 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated from Talladega College with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology in 1954. Two years later he took a Master of Arts degree from Fisk in sociology. Hernton then spent 1956-58 as a social worker with children before taking on a series of academic appointments at several colleges and universities. On May 28, 1958 he married Mildred Webster and they had one son, Antone.

Hernton spent the next several years back in social work and then returned to academe as a writer-in-residence at Central State University before joining the Oberlin College faculty in 1970. Professor Hernton spent two years as a Writer-In-Residence at Oberlin College (1970-72) and then became an associate professor in the African American Studies department. In 1980 he was promoted to Professor of African American Studies and Creative Writing, a position he held until his retirement in 1999.

Professor Hernton had a long and distinguished career at Oberlin College and in the outside world. With interests in African, Caribbean and African American literature, he was one of the guiding forces in the development of the African American Studies Department at Oberlin, as the department chair from 1996 until his retirement. He was the author of seven books in the fields of sociology, poetry and fiction. He wrote several plays and had numerous scholarly articles and poems published, and was invited frequently to make presentations, lectures and readings at colleges and universities around the world.

Calvin Hernton died Sunday, September 31, 2001 after a long struggle with cancer.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

The Calvin Hernton Collection consists primarily of manuscripts, notes, and research materials relating to four of his published books: The Cannabis Experience; The Coming of Chronos to the House of Nightsong; Medicine Man; and, The Sexual Mountain and Black Women Writers. In addition, the collection contains over 200 manuscripts of individual poems, published and unpublished, written between 1960 and 1980.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

These records are organized into the following series:

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|-------------|--|
| Series I: | Manuscripts |
| I.1: | – Non-Fiction Books |
| I.2: | – Collected Poems |
| I.3: | – Individual Poems |
| I.4: | – Poems 1950-1970 (A-O) |
| I.5: | – Poems 1950-1970 (P-Z) |
| I.6: | – Poems 1960-1970 (A-J) |
| I.7: | – Poems 1970s |
| I.8: | – Poems: London, England 1960s to 1970s |
| I.9: | – Miscellaneous – Poems |
| Series II: | Printed Matter – Poems |
| Series III: | Miscellaneous – Book Jackets |
| Series IV: | Manuscript: <u>The Sexual Mountain and Black Women Writers</u> |

Abbreviations with in content list:

Rev. = revisions
TS = typescript

RELATED MATERIALS

John Haines Collection (MSS# 145). Also see ALICE for Hernton's published items in the Ohio University Libraries' Collections.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

- Preferred Citation:** Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.
- Accession Number:** Unknown
- Provenance:** The Ohio University Archives received the collection as a gift from Calvin Hernton in 1981 and 1991.
- Property Rights:** Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.
- Copyrights:** Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.
- Photoduplication:** Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.
- Processing:** Kelly Green processed the 1981 materials in 1982 and Michael Teater processed the 1991 materials.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 / 1	<p>Series I.1 Manuscripts – Non-Fiction Books</p> <p><u>The Cannabis Experience</u> (1974)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quotes and examples, holo, 13 pgs. - outline, CTS with holo rev., 11 pgs. - typescript with holo rev., Chap. 1, 3-11
2	- typescript with holo rev., Chap. 12-20
3	Printed Matter
	- blurb, CTS with holo rev.
	- synopsis by Peter Owen, CTS
	Miscellaneous

- diagrams
- computer punch card types, "Effect Categories"
- 4 The Coming of Chronos to the House of Nightsong (1976)
- first book contract
- carbon typescript with holo rev., 55 pgs.

Series I.2 Manuscripts – Collected Poems

- 5 Medicine Man
- table of contents, TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- 6 - publisher's copy, typescript with holo rev., 139 pgs.
- 7 Sex & Racism in America
- book

Series I.3 Manuscripts – Individual Poems

- 2 / 1 Poems to Wife Mildred
- "Alpha," TS with holo rev.
- "Anniversary," TS with holo rev.
- "Calvin Hernton Seeks to Build and Preserve a House," TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- "Death of a Poet," CTS with holo rev.
- "Dream Walking in Sleep," CTS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- "Epitaph to an Invertebrate," TS with holo rev.
- "Hank Dixon's _____," TS with holo rev.
- "It Will Soon Be April the Month I Was Born...," TS with holo rev.
- Mildred," TS with holo rev., holo signature
- "New Coat," TS with holo rev.
- "New Days," TS with holo rev.
- "New Sun / Old Day," TS with holo rev.
- "Poor Mildred's Delicatessen"
- TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- CTS, 1 p.
- "Sleep"
- Holo
- TS with holo rev.
- "An Unexpurgated Thing for Mildred Hernton," TS
- "When Black," TS with holo rev.

Series I.4 Poems 1950 – 1970 (A-O)

- "Angel," TS with holo rev.
- "At the Beach," TS

- "The Averted Glance," TS with holo rev.
- "Ballad of Jekell and Hyde," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "The Baptism of the Sea,"
- "Beauty," TS with holo rev.
- "Be-bop Man (At Club Harlem)," Ts with holo rev.
- "A Being Exit in the World," CTS with holo rev.
- "The Birth of Hank Dixon," TS with holo rev.
- "Bitter Nights (For Little Rose)," TS with holo rev.
- "The Blackberry Patch," CTS
- "Blues for Handy," CTS with holo rev.
- "Blues in the Night," TS with holo rev.
- "Blues Spiritual (For Billie Holiday)"
 - TS
 - TS with holo rev.
- "Burnt Sunday," CTS with holo rev.
- "Cities rise and cities crumble...," holo
- "Dametta," TS with holo rev.
- "Dancer," CTS with holo rev.
- "Darknight," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Day Break," TS with holo rev.
- "Deep Sea Blues," CTS with holo rev.
- "Dreamlust," TS
- "Drunk Poet in Search of Love," TS with holo rev.
- "Epitaph to an Invertebrate"
 - CTS with holo rev.
 - CTS (2 copies)
- "Expectation," CTS with holo rev.
- "Exploitation and Circumstance (For Mary Ann)," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Feeling," TS with holo rev.
- "The Fellowship Blues," TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- "The Figure in the Square"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - CTS with holo rev.
- "First Soliloquy...(which introduces the skit)," CTS
- "Foreign Ground," TS with holo rev.
- "For Ghana, 1957," TS with holo rev.
- "The Fountain is Weeping," holo
- "Freedom," TS
- "Four Musicians and Forty-One Enthusiasts," CTS with holo rev.
- "Fourteen Children Issue the Syrup of Her Womb," CTS with holo rev.
- "From the City of Glass: A Delayed Sequel to 'Four Musicians and Forty-One Enthusiasts'"

- TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- CTS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- "A Glimpse of You in Red," TS with holo rev.
- "Hallelujah Blues," TS
- "The Haunted," TS with holo rev.
- "The Hangman at the End of His Noose," TS with holo rev.
- "Hank Dixon," TS with holo rev.
- "Hoo Tai's: St. Nicholas at 119th St. (For Dorothy," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "How will it be when I am crossed in the valley...", TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Huntsville, Alabama"
 - TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Icarus (For Modern Man"
 - TS
 - TS with holo rev.
- "It is not corruption that has driven me to the market place...", CTS with holo rev.
- "I Come, My Sweet (To Pearl)," TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- "Id and Ego," TS with holo rev.
- "Jade," TS with holo rev.
- "Lines for Any Woman's Birthday (Especially Catherine)," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Little Rock, U.S.A."
 - TS, 2 pgs.
 - CTS (2 copies), 2 pgs.
- "Loving little flowers I rise early...", TS with holo rev.
- "Man to Wife," CTS with holo rev.
- "My Dream," TS with holo rev.
- "Night," TS with holo rev.
- "Night Train," TS with holo rev.
- "Notice in the Newspaper," TS with holo rev.
- "Now a Day"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - CTS
 - TS with holo rev. (revised)
- "Of Furnace Quarters," CTS
- "Omen: Fall, 1960"
 - TS with holo rev., signed
 - TS (3 copies)
- "On this flat illogical atlas board...", CTS with holo rev.
- "Opral," TS with holo rev.
- "Our Oasis Fallen: Temporary reprieve for the Dean of Guidance," CTS with holo rev.

Series I.5 Poems 1950-1970 (P-Z)

- "The Patient: Rockland County Sanitarium, New York (For Portia)"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS with holo rev. (revisions of first TS)
- "People," TS
- "Put on your head and wear your head for a crown...", TS with holo rev.
- "Poet," CTS with holo rev.
- "Poet," TS with holo rev.
- "Prayer," TS with holo rev.
- "Progressive Jazz," CTS
- "Question Mark, U.S.A.," TS with holo rev.
- "Remigrant," CTS with holo rev.
- "Richard Wright," TS with holo rev., signed, 2 pgs.
- "Rosenberg," CTS
- "The Savage Man," TS with holo rev.
- "Session"
 - TS
 - CTS
- "Shaggy Tree"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS with holo rev. (revision of first TS)
- "Shipwreck," TS
- "Sick Boy," CTS with holo rev.
- "Silhouette in Sham," TS with holo rev.
- "The Sinful Blues," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Sitting in the Shade"
 - TS
 - CTS
- "Sometimes I'm Happy," CTS with holo rev.
- "Southern Laughter," TS
- "Statement (For the Class of 1954, Talladega College)," TS with holo rev.
- "Stone Hour," TS with holo rev.
- "Strip-Tease," TS
- "Strutting It Low," TS with holo rev.
- "Sunrise In Kluck-kluck Land," TS with holo rev.
- "Sunset and music frost and fire...", TS
- "Symphony in Blast," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Tarahumara to the Weary," TS with holo rev.
- "Teo," TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.

- "That Old Land Mark," TS with holo rev.
- "Thunder rattled, lightning flashed..." TS with holo rev.
- "Thus I Weep"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - CTS with holo rev.
- "Time of Faith," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "To a Certain Governor," holo
- "Tom" CTS
- "Tomorrow"
 - TS
 - CTS
- "The Trick," CTS
- "Variation on Four Songs," CTS with holo rev.
- "Wanderlust," TS with holo rev.
- "War," TS with holo rev.
- "Watch Tower"
 - TS
 - TS with holo rev. (revision of first TS)
- "What Is Your Name," TS with holo rev.
- "White Folks," TS with holo rev.
- "Yellow Negro Poet," TS with holo rev.
- "Young Negro Poet," TS with holo rev.
- "Your Fruits! Ripe with ancient oils of Eden..." TS with holo rev.
- "1961 (Time past contained in time future – T.S. Eliot)"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS

Series I.6 Poems 1960-1970 (A-J)

2 / 4

- "Abraham Lincoln Jones," TS with holo rev.
- "All American Poem," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Almost Sunday," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "The Ambiguity of Perfection (For Paul Tillich)"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - CTS with holo rev. first page; TS with holo rev. second page
 - photocopy transcript
- "And I went up to that shanderliered place..." TS with holo rev.
- "At the Fork," TS with holo rev.
- "Ballad of the Shoe String Kid (For David Henderson)," TS with holo rev.
- "The Birth Before Life," TS with holo rev.
- "Black Metathesis," CTS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- "A Black Stick with a Ball of Cotton for a Head and a Running Machine for a Mouth"

- TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- TS with holo rev. (revision of first TS), 3 pgs.
- TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- “Boy in the Backyard (For Danny),” TS with holo rev.
- “Burnt Sabbath,” TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- “A Canticle for Dancing Women,” TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- “The Catcher in the Rye Kid (For Martin Mitchell)”
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS with holo rev.
- “Circus City,” CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- “Commitment,” TS with holo rev.
- “The Dancer (For Jill Castro)”
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS with holo rev.
- “Deep Sea Diver,” CTS with holo rev.
- “Ed’s House (For David and Pat),” holo
- “Elements of Grammar (To John Little),” TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- “Fall Down (For Eric Dolphy),” TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- “Figure,” TS with holo rev.
- “The Gift Outraged (Tomkis Square Park),” TS with holo rev., 9 pgs.
- “Hank Dixon and the Law,” TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- “Hate Poem #1,” TS with holo rev.
- “Human Race”
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS
- “I Come to Your House Singing,” TS with holo rev.
- “I die I die everyday I die...,” TS
- “I write because I feel I am being outraged, chewed up...,” TS with holo rev.
- “Jitterbugging in the Streets (To Ishmael Reed),” TS with holo rev., 6 pgs.

Series I.6 Poems 1960-1970 (K-Z)

- 2 / 5
- “A Lantern for Abigail Moonlight (To Nora Hicks and Ree Dragonette).” TS with holo rev., 7 pgs.
 - “Litany in Winter’s Garden (For Richard Wright),” TS with holo rev., 7 pgs.
 - “The Long Blues,” TS with holo rev.
 - “Medicine Man,” TS with holo rev.
 - “The Mob”
 - TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
 - TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.

- TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Moods for Haiku," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "On-Set," TS with holo rev.
- "Panther," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "The Passengers (For Ishmael Reed)," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Poem (For Billy the Kid)," TS with holo rev.
- "Poem for the Killer of Fire," holo, 2 pgs.
- "A Psychiatric Analysis of the Scio-Somatic Symptomology Regarding the 'Mongrelization-of-the-Races' Syndrome Involved in the Ontological Struggle for Self-Esteem on the Parts of White Folks and Black Folks in the South and in the North, Notwithstanding (Baby you lied, you lied, you lied, lied, lied.)"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - CTS with holo rev.
- "Richard Wright," TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- "Ritual for the Moon," TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- "Rounding Out a Circle," TS with holo rev.
- "Ruby Falls"
 - TS with holo rev., 11 pgs.
 - TS with holo rev., 11 pgs.
- "Scarecrow," TS with holo rev.
- "The Somewhat Woman"
 - CTS with holo rev.
 - TS with holo rev. (other version)
- "Street Scene"
 - holo
 - TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- "Sweet and Low Down"
 - holo
 - TS with holo rev.
- "Taurus by Aster Fire (To Ree Dragonette)"
- "Terrorist"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - photocopy of *The Carleton Miscellany*, Winter 1965, with holo rev.
 - photocopy of *The Carleton Miscellany*, Winter 1965
- "They cried with I was born..." TS with holo rev.
- "Thief," TS with holo rev.
- "The Trick," TS with holo rev.
- "The Trip," TS with holo rev.
- "Wall thee were driven everywhere..." CTS with holo rev.
- "Where Have All the Young Men Gone," TS with holo rev.
- "The wind rattles my windows..." TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.

- "Woodstock," (For A.G.)," TS with holo rev., 5 pgs.
- "Wooring of the Little Girl Who Lives In a Dark Hall (To Ree Dragonette)," TS with holo rev.
- "Wrought Iron (For Nora)," CTS with holo rev. 2 pgs.
- "Umbra," TS with holo rev.
- "Your heads are fill with sweet thoughts...," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "You Take a Country Like America," TS with holo rev.
- "15 Guys Didn't Space Me Out," TS with holo rev.
- "125th Street, Harlem U.S.A. (For David Henderson)," CTS with holo rev., 3 pgs.

Series I.7 Poems 1970s

- 2 / 6
- "Alex Haley (For Ishmael)," holo
 - "A Ballad of the Life and Times of Joe Louis, The Great Brown Bomber"
 - TS with holo rev., 9 pgs.
 - notes, 4 pgs.
 - "Besieged (171 West College St.)," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
 - "A Canticle for the 1`960s (For Ree Dragonette in memorial)"
 - TS with holo rev., 7 pgs.
 - TS with holo rev., 12 pgs. (revised, first copy)
 - "D Blues," TS with holo rev.
 - "Excavation," holo
 - "Night Dwellers to John A. Willimas – 4 a.m.," holo
 - "A Poem for Chester Himes," holo, 4 pgs.
 - "The Point"
 - holo
 - TS with holo rev., 5 pgs.
 - "Pretty Mamma," holo, 2 pgs.
 - "Salice in the Crane," holo
 - "Skintight (For B and T)"
 - TS with holo rev.
 - TS with holo rev. (revision of first copy)
 - "Tracks," TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
 - "West Boon Dock (For Deborah)," holo
 - "Wolf Trap," holo, 7 pgs.
 - "45," holo

Series I.8 Poems: London, England 1960s to 1970s

- 2 / 7
- "Almost Sunday," photocopy, 2 pgs.
 - "Blackingstone (For Jill)"

- TS with holo rev., 1 pg., holo, 2 pgs.
- TS with holo rev. (revision of first copy)
- "Brighton to Victoria Express," holo, 2 pgs.
- "Country (For Michael Horovitz)," TS with holo rev.
- "Country Talk," TS with holo rev.
- "Fantasy for a Lady"
 - TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
 - TS with holo rev., 3 pgs. (revised)
- "Game Life, London 1967 (To Colin MacInnes)," photocopy from *Evergreen Review*, No. 63, February 1969 (2 copies)
- "In Ghandi's Room," CTS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- "Good Pot," TS with holo rev.
- "The Grove," TS with holo rev.
- "I got news for you...," TS
- "Ingenting," TS with holo rev., 4 pgs.
- "In the Congregation of Man (For Bertrand Russell)," CTS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Jimi Hendrix...," TS
- "July Tears," TS with holo rev.
- "Mad Dogs in Vietnam," TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
- "Pinnicillin, TS with holo rev., 7 pgs.
- "Satan," TS
- "Soho," TS
- "Telescombe Cliffs – Brighton (For Terisa)"
 - holo, 6 pgs.
 - TS with holo rev., 5 pgs.
- "Tessa," TS with holo rev.
- "Thief in the Grove," TS
- "Trissan and Beata," TS with holo rev.
- "Turn Circles (listening to Miles Davis; for Tessa and a few friends at 44 Baker St., London 1964)"
 - TS with holo rev., 2 pgs.
 - photocopy, 2 pgs.

Series I.9 Miscellaneous – Poems

- 2 / 8 - "A Program of Poetry," (Given at Alabama A&M College, November 24, 1958), TS with holo rev., 3 pgs.
- Notes
 - Poem fragments

Series II Printed Matter – Poems

- 2 / 9 - "A Being Exit in the World," offprint

- “Blues Spiritual,” offprint
- “The Distant Drum,” offprint
- “The Gift Outraged,” *Fire*, No. 2, March 1968
- “In Ghandi’s Room,” *Fire*, No. 10
- “Remigrant,” offprint
- “Thief,” offprint
- “The Underlying Strife,” offprint
- “Young Negro Poet,” offprint

Series III Miscellaneous – Book Jackets

2 / 10 The Cannabis Experience, Coming Together, Scarecrow, and White Papers for White Americans

Series IV Manuscripts

3 / 1 Page proof and style sheet
 2 Title page, Dedication, Acknowledgements, Table of Contents, and Introduction (pages I – xv); Chapter One – “Who’s Afraid of Alice Walker?” (pages 1 – 55)
 3 Chapter Two: “The Sexual Mountain and Black Women Writers” (pages 56-91)
 4 Chapter Three: “The Significance of Ann Petry” (pages 92 – 140)
 5 Chapter Four: “Black Women in the Life and Work of Langston Hughes” (pages 141 – 184)
 6 Chapter Five: “Black Women Poets” (pages 185 –232)
 7 Epilogue (pages 233 – 238); Bibliography (pages 239 – 247); and, Index (pages 1 – 22)