

Memory of the World Register - Nomination Form
Trinidad and Tobago - The Derek Walcott Collection

Abstract

The Derek Walcott Collection is of world significance. It was generated by Derek Walcott, whose literary output has won him many outstanding international awards, including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. It consists of original, unique documents. Its social, cultural and spiritual value transcends a national culture.

Identity and Location

Name of the Documentary Heritage: The Derek Walcott Collection - manuscripts, correspondence, papers, clippings, unpublished work, diaries, notebooks etc. of the Nobel laureate Derek Walcott.

Country: Trinidad and Tobago

State, Province or Region: West Indies

Address: St. Augustine, Trinidad

Name of Institution: The Main Library, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Legal Information

Owner: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Custodian: The Main Library

Legal Status:

Category of ownership: Corporate

Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage: No legal provisions. The Library follows the accepted standards for preservation of this type of material

Accessibility: Limited access to bona fide researchers.

Copyright status: Restrictions on reproduction unless special permission granted by author or under terms of agreement.

Responsible administration: The West Indian and Special Collections Division is managed by a professional librarian/historian. The Library also has on staff two professional librarians with specialized training, one in copyright and the other in preservation.

Identification

Description: Manuscripts including diaries and letters; photographs; sketches and paintings.

Bibliographic details: An inventory to the Collection is being prepared using CDS/ISIS software.

Visual documentation: -

History: The items have been purchased.

Bibliography: -

Names, qualifications and contact details of independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage:

Mrs Yvonne V. Stephenson, Campus Librarian

Dr Margaret Rouse-Jones, Librarian II, West Indiana & Special Collections

The Main Library, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Management Plan

The Derek Walcott Collection is of world significance since its originator won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. It consists of original, unique documents. Access to this collection (whether originals or copies) will be limited. Strict measures will be in force with regard to accessibility and use of the collection. There is, as yet, no preservation budget.

West Indiana and Special Collections Division of the Library where the Collection is housed is expected to move into new quarters within the next academic year. Procedures and policies relating to a controlled physical environment will be put in place.

One professional librarian has received specialized training in preservation. Two members of the Bindery and Conservation Unit have had formal training in Microfilming.

A disaster plan is now being finalised.

Assessment against the Selection Criteria

The Derek Walcott Collection is of world significance according to criteria 4 and 7. It was generated by Derek Walcott, whose literary output has won him many outstanding international awards, including the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. Its social, cultural and spiritual value transcends a national culture.

Contextual assessment: The original documents were purchased from the original source, Derek Walcott.

Authenticity: Same as 5.2

Rarity: -

Consultation

Owner: Not necessary since they are owned by Institution.

Nominator

Contactperson:

Mrs Yvonne Stephenson

Campus Librarian

Custodian

The Main Library

The University of the West Indies

St. Augustine

Trinidad and Tobago

West Indies

Phone: 1-(809) 662-2002 (Ext. 2008/9)

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Assessment of Risk

The main threat is the lack of a preservation budget dedicated to this purpose. Amount of funding available will vary according to other demands made on the Library budget.

Preservation Assessment

- *Present physical state:* Fair but needs some attention.
- *History of preservation:* -
- *Current preservation policy in relation to proposed nominated documentary heritage:* Microfilming of deteriorating material. Restricted use and access.
- *Person or organization responsible for preservation:* Bindery and Conservation Unit under the direction of Head, Technical Services and a professional trained in conservation techniques.