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George Scarbrough collection

Title: George Scarbrough collection
Collection No: MSS.241
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1977

Abstract: The collection comprises a copy of Tennessee poet George Scarbrough's *New and Selected Poems*, a publisher's brochure, letters, and 5 photographs.

Donor: William Osborne, Memphis State University, 1977.
Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, 2018.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: George Scarbrough collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: December 2018

Biographical information

George Addison Scarbrough (1915-2008) was born on October 20, 1915, on a farm in Patty Station near Benton, Polk County, Tennessee, the son of William Oscar and Louise Anabel McDowell Scarbrough. He was one of seven children of a sharecropping family, including Edith Emmiline, Robert Lee, Charles Spencer "Pete", William Athel, Blaine Pleasant and Joseph Kenneth "Kim". He attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the University of the South, and Lincoln Memorial University, where he earned a BA. He then earned an MA at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he also completed coursework toward a PhD. He earned an MFA at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. In 2005, Scarbrough was awarded an honorary doctorate from Lincoln Memorial University.

Scarbrough worked as a farmer and then as a teacher in secondary schools and colleges, continuing to live in east Tennessee. His poetry was published in many journals during his lifetime. He was the author of the poetry collections *Tellico Blue* (1949), *The Course Is Upward* (1951), *Summer So-Called* (1956), *New and Selected Poems* (1977), the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *Invitation to Kim* (1989), as well as the posthumously published *Under the Lemon Tree* (2011). He also wrote a novel, *A Summer Ago* (1986). Scarbrough died on December 2, 2008, in Knoxville.

Scope and contents

The collection comprises a copy of George Scarbrough's *New and Selected Poems* published in 1977, the publisher's brochure on the book, letters and 5 photographs of the poet.

Subject terms

Scarbrough, George, 1915-2008.

Inventory

Box 1

- Unfolded Scarbrough, George, *New and Selected Poems*, Binghamton, NY: Iris Press, 1977.
- 1 Brochure: Iris Press re: *New and Selected Poems*.
 - 2 Letter: George Scarbrough, Oak Ridge, Tenn., to William Osborne, Chair, English Department, Memphis State University, 1977 June 24. Also 5 photographs of Scarbrough and copies of letters sent by Osborne to Scarbrough, 1977.