A

Charles Wright

Bibliography

Compiled by Robert D. Denham
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Preface

Charles Wright began publishing his poems in the early 1960s, which means that his career as a poet is now into its sixth decade. During the course of this time he has published almost thirty volumes of poetry, plus a dozen limited-edition collections. What he has chosen to preserve is contained now in four volumes, which bring together most of the poems that appeared in his numerous books: *Country Music* (1982), *The World of the Ten Thousand Things* (1990), *Negative Blue* (2000), and *Bye-and-Bye* (2011). This substantial and still growing body of work has been recognized for its excellence, having garnered now some two dozen awards and prizes (see Appendix).

The present bibliography provides a record of Wright’s substantial body of work through 2014 and of the things that have been written about that work—books, articles, reviews. The various lists found here are intended to aid readers whose goal is further study and deeper understanding. Users are invited to send me corrections and additions: daytondernham@gmail.com

As almost everyone knows, the World Wide Web addresses (URLs) that use the http protocol, will frequently appear and then disappear. Almost all of those in the present list were active in 2014, but I have not rechecked each one.

Robert D. Denham
Emory, Virginia
January 2015
Primary Sources

Books: Poetry

Alphabetical List of Titles


Chronological List

Iowa City, IA: Grilled Flowers Press, 1979.


Books: Prose


Other Prose

“Al & Wm.” Uncollected Prose, 1–3.
http://www.nationalbook.org/bookchanged_cwright.html


“Larry Levis and the First-time, One-time, Manuscript Day.” *Uncollected Prose*, 4-5.


“Piero.” *Uncollected Prose*, 7–8.


Interviews


Casper, Robert and Dara Weir, moderators. “Q&A with Charles Wright.” At the Flying Object [nonprofit arts organization], Hadley, MA. 24 October 2014.


Cooperman, Matthew. “Interview (with Matthew Cooperman).” Quarter Notes: Improvisations and Interviews, 163–73.


Hill, Derrick. “A Conversation with Poet Charles Wright.” *Tennessee Literary Project*. Middle Tennessee State University. [www.mtsu.edu/tnlitproj](http://www.mtsu.edu/tnlitproj)


Translations

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red.


University of Iowa, 1981.

________. *Selected Poems*. Trans. Jonathan Galassi, Charles Wright, and David Young. Oberlin,

________. *The Storm and Other Poems*. Trans. Charles Wright. Oberlin, OH: Oberlin College Press,
1978.
Broadsides

“After Reading Wang Wei, I Go Outside to the Full Moon.” New York: Dia Center for the Arts, 1991. Trifold portfolio with broadside and biographical information laid in.

“Appalachian Lullaby.” 1 sheet, 28 x 13 cm., provenance unknown.


“Cloud River.” Originally published in China Trace. 1 sheet, 12 x 23 cm. Provenance unknown.

“College Days.” Published on the occasion of the Vereen Bell Memorial Reading at Davidson College in honor of professor of English Gill Holland. Wright read at his alma mater, Davidson College, on 5 April 2004.


“54 Chevy.” Salem, VA: Melas Press, 2000. 333 copies, 33 of which, on Fabriano, are numbered and signed by Wright.


“History Is a Burning Chariot.” Virginia Arts of the Book Center, Charlottesville, VA. 100 copies. Printed by Josef Beery on the occasion of Wright’s giving the inaugural reading as poet laureate at the Library of Congress, 25 September 2014.


“October II.” Emory, VA: Emory and Henry College, 1997. Poem on recto, with “Emory & Henry College is pleased to announce the establishment of The Daniel Leidig Lectureship in Poetry” on verso. 300 copies.

“Omaggio a Montale.” Santa Cruz, CA. 95 copies designed, illustrated with a woodcut, and printed by Gary Young at the Greenhouse Review Press.


Audio and Video Recordings


“American Twilight.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below. Video


“Appalachian Book of the Dead IV.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.

“Appalachian Farewell.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.

“Arrivederci, Kingsport.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.


“Body and Soul.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below. Video. See also “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.


“California Dreaming.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below.


“Cicada Blue.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.


“Grace II.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” above. Video. See also “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.


“Heaven’s Eel.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

“History Is a Burning Chariot.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.


“I Shall Be Released.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below. Video.

“Indian Summer II.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.

“Is.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.


“Just a Closer Walk with Thee.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.


“Likethenewmoon,Mymotherdriftsthroughthenightsky.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

“Looking West from Laguna Beach at Night.” See “A Reading buy Charles Wright,” below.
“Lullaby.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below. Video. See also “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

“Mt. Caribou at Night.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below.

“Poet Charles Wright Reads James Wright’s Poem ‘The Journey.’” You Tube audio.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8jeTnKFNYg


“Poets Mark Strand and Charles Wright Read from Their Latest Work.” You Tube video. 5 October 2012. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-V4W9WGqi5U


“In Praise of Thomas Hardy.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” below.


“Relics.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video. For audio only, see “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.


“River Run.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video. For audio only, see “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.


“Sentences II.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” above. Video. See also “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

“The Shadow and Smoke.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” above. Video. See also “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

“A Short History of My Life.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.

 http://www.poetryfoundation.org/features/audioitem/1614

“The Sodbuster Saloon and Hall of Fame.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.

“The Song from the Other Side.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.


“Sun-Saddled, Coke-Copping, Bad-Boozing Blues.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” above. Video. For audio only, see “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.

“Time Is a Dark Clock, but Still It Strikes from Time to Time.” “Poet Laureate of the Twilight.” University of Virginia Magazine. Spring 2009.
 http://uvamagazine.org/index.php/arts/article/poet_laureate_of_the_twilight/#.VKyNhHtZv6o

“Time Will Tell.” See “Poet Laureate Charles Wright,” below. Video. See also “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

“Toadstools.” See “Charles Wright / 2012-2013 Lannan Center.” Video.

 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noX72Cmc1cQ


“Why, It’s as Pretty as a Picture.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.

“The Wind Is Calm and Comes from Another World.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.


“Wrong Notes.” See “A Reading by Charles Wright,” above.
Secondary Sources

Books


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- *Choice Reviews Online* 33, no. 8 (1 April 1999): 33–4367.


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Reviews:


Reviews:


Reviews:
- Ferlazzo, P.J. *Choice* 46, no. 10 (June 2009): 1936.

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Articles, Essays, Parts of Books, and Occasional Pieces


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Arteaga, Jose Angel. “Snow! with Charles Wright.” The Friday Influence. 29 November 2013.


Askins, Donald H. “A Tribute to Charles Wright upon the Occasion of Reading his Appalachia.” Appalachian Journal 36, nos. 1–2 (2008): 139.


Doran, Geri. “Softly, the Undernotes.” Northwest Review 49, no. 2 (Fall 2011): 113–14.


Kevorkian, Karen. “[Montale’s] Selected Poems.” Virginia Quarterly Review 81, no. 3 (Summer 2005): 266.


Dissertations and Theses


News Stories and Biographical Notices

[This list includes only a very small portion of the hundreds and hundreds of articles, appearing in the press in 2014, about Wright's having been named the poet laureate of the U.S.]


http://www.vqronline.org/profiles-articles/2014/06/charles-wright-new-us-poet-laureate


http://news.virginia.edu/content/charles-wright-wins-150000-bollingen-prize-his-poetry

http://www.christschool.org/page.cfm?p=417&newsid=498


Crenshaw, Brad. “Southern Man.” *Blue Isands, Blue as Ink.* 14 September 2014. 
http://bradcrenshaw.me/tag/charles-wright/

Curry, Colleen. “Read for Yourself Why Charles Wright Is the Next Poet Laureate.” *ABC News.* 


Keane, Erin. “What You Need to Know About Charles Wright, the New U.S. Poet Laureate.” 


Koeppel, Fredric. “Acclaimed Poet to Appear in Jackson: Wright Will Read at Union University.” 


“McKay and Wright Win Griffin for Poetry.” *Record* [Sherbrooke, PQ] 8 June 2007: 7.


http://www.pbs.org/newshour/poetry/charles-wright-named-u-s-poet-laureate/

Meyers, George. “Wright to Read, Lecture at Ohio Next Month.” *Columbus Dispatch* [Columbus, OH] 31 October 1993: 8D.


Swanson, Stevenson. “‘Master Image-maker,’ Younger Poet Charles Wright Wins Lilly Prize.” *Chicago Tribune* 5 May 1993: 5.


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Note the following short-form references:


Poetry (February 1971): 322.


Gall, Sally M. “Seven from Wesleyan.” Shenandoah 21, no. 1 (1974): 54–70.


*Choice* (September 1975): 848.


*Choice* (March 1978): 75.


*Kirkus Reviews* (15 August 1977): 924.


**Dead Color.** San Francisco: Meadow Press, 1980.


*Western American Literature* 17 (Fall 1982): 268.

Material on Wright rpt. in Andrews, 94–5, and in Giannelli, 15–16.


Harris, Roger. “Place to Place.” Star Ledger [Newark, N] 10 January 1988.
J.S. Booklist (15 December 1987).


Guillory, Daniel L. Library Journal 120, no. 6 (1 April 1995): 99.
Pratt, William. World Literature Today 70, no. 4 (Fall 1996): 967.


Brainard, Dulcy. *Publisher’s Weekly* 244, no. 8 (24 February 1997): 84.


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Webster, Loren. “Wright’s Black Zodiac.” In Dark Time.

http://www.lorenwebster.net/In_a_Dark_Time/category/poets/charles-wright/


http://mattgettynonfiction.blogspot.com/2005/03/straw-poetry.html


Hamill, Sam. Seattle Weekly, 8 April 1999; rpt. in issue of 4 March 1999.


Hoffert, Barbara. Library Journal 124 (1 April 1999): 96.


*Virginia Quarterly Review* 75, no. 3 (Summer 1999): 100–1.


Wood, James. See Gioia, above.

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Webster, Loren. “Charles Wright’s Negative Blue.” In a Dark Time, 10 March 2002. http://lorenwebster.net/In_a_Dark_Time/archives/000390.html


Brosi, George. Appalachian Heritage (Summer 2002): 120.


Lang, John. “Charles Wright’s *A Short History of the Shadow*.” *Appalachian Heritage* 30, no. 4 (Fall 2002): 79–84.


Podgurski, David. “‘A Short History of the Shadow’ is a Walk on the Dark Side.” *Stamford Advocate & Greenwich Time*, 7 April 2002: D5, D8.


Sparks, Amy. “Noted Poet Shares Fleeting Thoughts about Life.” *Plain Dealer* [Cleveland], 26 May 2002.


Kennedy, S. *Shenandoah* 54, no. 3 (Winter 2004): 184–6


Courtwright, Nick. *Front Porch* [Texas State University], issue 1.0.


Seamon, Donna. *Booklist* 102, no. 21 (1 July 2006): 22.


**Sestets. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.**


Cariello, Matthew M. *Frogpond Journal* 33, no. 3 (Fall 2010): 103 ff.
Collins, Martha. “The Long and the Short of It (Major Jackson, *Holding Company; Charles Wright, Sestets; Charles Wright, Outtakes*).” *Field* 84 (Spring 2011).
http://www.oberlin.edu/ocpress/FIELD/84.html
http://www.boston.com/ae/books/articles/2009/04/18/perspective_comes_in_six_lines/
Muratori, Fred. *Library Journal* 134, no. 2 (1 February): 75.
http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/review/4954/
http://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/2083/show-me-the-world/


Collins, Martha. “The Long and the Short of It (Major Jackson, *Holding Company; Charles Wright, Sestets; Charles Wright, Outtakes*).” *Field* 84 (Spring 2011).
http://www.oberlin.edu/ocpress/FIELD/84.html
*New Orleans Review.* http://www.neworleansreview.org/outtakes-sestets/


The Charles Wright Archived Papers
Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

This collection consists of the papers of Charles Wright. It contains approximately 5,000 items (16 linear shelf feet), including manuscripts, poetry and translation notebooks kept by Charles Wright, professional and personal correspondence, photographs, printed material, news clippings, artwork, interviews, book reviews, and tape recordings. The papers are unrestricted.

Contents List
- Correspondence
  - A: Alphabetical Correspondence
  - B: Chronological Correspondence
- Manuscripts of Works by Charles Wright
  - A: Bound Volumes of Poetry & Translation Notebooks kept by Charles Wright
  - B: Poetry Manuscripts Arranged by Title of Book
  - C: Miscellaneous Manuscripts
- Manuscripts by Other Authors
- Miscellaneous Papers

The correspondence files with other poets and literary persons and family, have been arranged by the last name of the correspondent (Boxes 1-17). The more frequent correspondents and correspondence with some of the other Pulitzer Prize winners in poetry have been placed in separate folders with the total number of letters noted in the guide.

Correspondence with persons who have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry include: John Ashbery (1 item), Louise Gluck (6 items), Jorie Graham (13 items), Anthony Hecht (1 item), Richard Howard (4 items), Donald Justice (142 items), Galway Kinnell (3 items), Yusef Komunyakaa (1 item), Maxine Kumin (1 item), Philip Levine (207 items), William Meredith (3 items), W.S. Merwin (11 items), Lisel Mueller (1 item), Charles Simic (31 items), James Tate (27 items), Robert Penn Warren (2 items), and Richard Wilbur (2 items).

Other types of correspondence are arranged chronologically in a separate subseries B (Boxes 17-21). This includes correspondence about awards, conferences, workshops, poetry readings and other professional engagements, poems submitted to or accepted by poetry magazines and anthologies, and requests for Wright to judge poetry contests, write recommendations or evaluate candidates for academic positions; greeting cards; post cards; and invitations and announcements.

Of special interest in series two containing manuscripts by Charles Wright are the twelve volumes of hand-written poetry kept by Wright in bound notebooks, from 1968 until the present. These contain his autograph poems in chronological order as they were written. When the poems were used in his published books, Wright would mark through them in pencil. The manuscript series also has an
autograph volume for Wright’s translation work and one called “Halflife (A Commonplace Notebook),” where he has recorded quotes or his own thoughts about poetry and related subjects. Also present in a second subseries and arranged according to the title of the book, are typescripts, setting copies, page proofs, and galleys, for many of his published works, although some typescripts of early manuscripts had already been sold to private collectors in the early eighties prior to the acquisition of these papers by the Library.

A third subseries contains copies of miscellaneous manuscripts by Charles Wright, including: a copy of his Master’s Thesis submitted at the University of Iowa, typescripts and galleys of individual poems published in magazines such as The New Yorker, and miscellaneous other manuscripts by Wright.

A third series contains manuscripts by other authors sent to Wright for his comment or enjoyment and are arranged by the last name of the author. Most are not complete manuscripts of books by other authors, but when they are and the title of the book is known, it is included in the guide. Some are accompanied by letters from the authors, often discussing their work.

Series four contains miscellaneous papers including: interviews and essays about Charles Wright, artwork by other people, biographical entries about Wright, contracts and publication agreements, a dissertation chapter about Wright, news clippings and printed, photographs, programs, reviews of books by Wright, royalties and honorariums, student papers about Wright, translations of Wright’s poetry into Italian and German, interviews and poetry readings by Wright on audio tape, and oversize photographs, artwork, news clippings, dust jackets, and a Winter family genealogical chart.

Approximately 2000 additional papers have been added to the collection. These paper have a separate guide: http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=uva-sc/viu03856.xml;query=;#dsc_1.1

The Charles Wright Collection, 1975-2001

Emory University. Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Robert W. Woodruff Library

This collection consists of writings by Charles Wright from 1975-2001. Included are typescript drafts of poems from his collections China Trace, The Southern Cross, The Other Side of the River, Zone Journals, and Chickamanga. Also present are drafts of essays from Halflife and Quarter Notes. Most drafts contain handwritten corrections and annotations by Wright. Four works, Bloodlines, China Trace, The Southern Cross, and Night Music include proofs with additional annotations. The collection also contains drafts of six poems translated by Wright. Finally, a small amount of other prose, such as panel remarks and introductions, are included. Other prose and translations are arranged at the end of the collection, following material from Wright’s published collections.

.5 linear ft. (1 box) and 1 oversized paper
Appendix

Charles Wright’s Awards and Prizes

1976 Melville Cane Award from the Poetry Society of America for *Bloodlines*
1976 Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Academy of American Poets for *Bloodlines*
1977 Academy-Institute Award, American Academy and Institute of the Arts
1979 PEN translation award for *The Storm and Other Poems*
1980 Ingram Merrill Fellowship in Poetry
1983 National Book Award for *Country Music*
1983 National Endowment for the Arts Award
1987 Brandeis Creative Arts Citation for poetry
1992 Award of Merit Medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters
1993 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize
1993 Distinguished Contribution to Letters Award from the Ingram Merrill Foundation
1995 Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters
1996 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets
1997 Book Prize, Los Angeles Times, for *Black Zodiac*
1997 National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry (*Black Zodiac*)
1998 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *Black Zodiac*
1998 Ambassador Book Award for *Black Zodiac*
1998 Premio Antico Fattore Alla Poesia for *Black Zodiac*
2002 Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2007 Griffin Prize for Poetry
2008 Bobbitt National Poetry Prize
2009 Weinstein Poetry Prize
2013 Bollingen Prize
2014–2015 Poet Laureate of the United States