

PINKIE GORDON LANE PAPERS

(Mss. 4629)

Inventory

Compiled by

Rose Tarbell
2003

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised 2009

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Use of manuscript materials. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please fill out a call slip specifying the materials you wish to see. Consult the Container List for location information needed on the call slip.

Photocopying. Should you wish to request photocopies, please consult a staff member **before** segregating items to be copied. The existing order and arrangement of unbound material must be maintained.

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Proper acknowledgement of LLMVC materials must be made in any resulting writing or publications. The correct form of citation for this manuscript group is given on the summary page. Copies of scholarly publications based on research in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections are welcomed.

SUMMARY

Size.	15 linear feet, 1 volume.
Geographic locations.	Louisiana; Alabama; Iowa.
Inclusive dates.	1925-2001.
Bulk dates.	1970-2000.
Languages.	English.
Summary.	Personal and professional correspondence, poetry, literary manuscripts, printed items, newsletters, programs, newspaper clippings, photographs, conference materials, instructional materials, magazines and journals, and audio tapes of Pinkie Gordon Lane, poet laureate of Louisiana (1989-1992) and Southern University professor of English.
Copyright.	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
Citation.	Pinkie Gordon Lane Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Stack location.	T:128-141; T:100 (short shelf); G:15; OS:L.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Pinkie Gordon Lane (13 January 1923-) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to William Alexander Gordon (d. 1940) and Inez Addie West Gordon (d. 1945). She was the youngest of 4 children, but the only one to live beyond infancy. She attended the Philadelphia School for Girls, graduating in 1940. Lane left her job in a sewing factory in 1945 to enter Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where in 1949 she earned a bachelor's degree in English and art, and began teaching in the public schools of Georgia and Florida (1949-1955). It was during her senior year at Spelman that she met and married Ulysses Simpson Lane (d. 1970) in May 1948.

In 1955 she returned to Atlanta and began working on a master's degree in English from Atlanta University. Upon receiving her degree in 1956, she and her husband left Georgia and moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she took a teaching position at Leland College in Baker, La. from 1957-1959. She left Leland to accept a position as instructor of English at Southern University (Baton Rouge, La.). In 1963 she gave birth to her only child, a son, Gordon Edward Lane.

In 1967, Lane became the first African American woman to receive the Ph.D. degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. While continuing her professional development at Southern University, she was promoted to full professor and served as Director of the English department from 1974 until her retirement in 1986.

Lane's literary career began in 1956 when she found some success as a short story writer. She decided upon poetry as her chosen medium and her first published poem appeared in *Phylon: The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture* in 1961. In addition to her numerous publications in periodicals, she has published 5 books of poetry: *Wind Thoughts* (1972), *Mystic Female* (1978), *I Never Scream: New and Selected Poems* (1985), *Girl at the Window* (1991), and *Elegy for Etheridge* (2000). She has served as editor or contributing editor to anthologies and periodicals such as *Poems by Blacks* (1973), *Discourses on Poetry* (1972), *Callaloo*, and *Black Scholar*.

Lane has traveled globally, participating in numerous workshops, seminars, and poetry readings throughout the United States, Africa, the Virgin Islands, and Haiti. She has held positions as director of the Melvin A. Butler Poetry Festival, 1974-80; Louisiana State Poet Laureate, 1989-1992; Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame inductee, 1991; Visiting Distinguished Professor at the University of Northern Iowa, 1993-94; and Du Pont Scholar, Bridgewater College, 1994.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Pinkie Gordon Lane papers include correspondence, writings, printed items, photographs, conference materials, instructional materials, publications, and topical files that document the personal and professional life of Pinkie Gordon Lane (1923-). Correspondence details her personal relationships with colleagues and family, as well as professional literary activities as writer and editor. Writing materials consist of working copies of her published books of poetry, loose copies of her poems, prose, and articles she composed throughout her career. Printed items consist of press releases, programs, newsletters, newspaper clippings, fliers and invitations, and printed publications relating to events and topics which were of interest to Lane. Photographs illustrate Lane's connection to her literary colleagues, travels, and family; photocopies of photographs comprise the most recent years of the collection. Conference and instructional materials illustrate Lane's commitment to keeping current within English studies and writing instruction. Also included are correspondence, manuscripts, submissions, newsletters, etc., from Lane's time as editor for *South and West Inc.*

LIST OF SUBGROUPS AND SERIES

Subgroup I. Personal Papers

- Series 1. Correspondence, 1962-2001, undated**
- Series 2. Miscellaneous, 1990**
- Series 3. Travel, 1972-1981**
- Series 4. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1975-1987**
- Series 5. Photographs, ca.1925-2000, undated**

Subgroup II. Professional Papers

- Series 1. Correspondence, 1970-2001, undated**
- Series 2. Writings, 1953-2000, undated**
 - Subseries I. Manuscripts by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1953-1999**
 - Subseries II. Poetry by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1961-1995, undated**
 - Subseries III. Articles/Essays by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1977-2000**
 - Subseries IV. Writings received by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1968-1999, undated**
- Series 3. Conference materials, 1970-2001, undated**
- Series 4. Topical files, 1959-2001, undated**
- Series 5. Instructional Materials, 1993-1996**
- Series 6. Printed items, 1964-2001, undated**
 - Subseries I. Press Releases, 1974-2001, undated**
 - Subseries II. Programs, 1970-2002**
 - Subseries III. Newsletters, 1970-2001, undated**
 - Subseries IV. Fliers and Invitations, 1970-2001, undated**
 - Subseries V. Clippings, 1964-2001, undated**
 - Subseries VI. General, 1963, 1973-1996**

Subgroup 3. South and West, Inc. Records, 1969-1980, undated

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Subgroup I. Personal Papers

Series 1. Correspondence, 1962-2001, undated (3 linear feet)

Letters to and from colleagues, friends, fans, and family. Topics include general comments on current events of interest to Lane, conferences and festivals attended, literary subjects, personal relationships, personal finances, Spelman College, reference to her time as editor of *South and West Inc.*, references to her time in Southern University's English Department in Baton Rouge, La., her time as Louisiana state poet laureate (1989-1992), her participation in the 1996 Olympic Torch relay, use of her poetry in the 1997 film *Love Jones* and in a musical production composed by Dinos Constantinides. Many of her correspondents were fellow poets (a list of frequent correspondents may be located in the Index). Letters regarding her published works or literary career are general in nature, usually addressing literary content, but correspondence regarding the business side of her published works or attempts at publication may be located in the Professional Papers series. Letters to and from her son, Gordon, concentrate on his years after high school as he begins his career as a jazz musician, particularly the financial and family obligations that ensue. There is little mention of her life prior to 1970.

In general, letters received by Lane retain their enclosures. However, copies of letters she sent indicating enclosures do not always include a copy of that enclosure. Some correspondence addresses professional event's in Lane's life, but is not considered to be business correspondence; therefore, some events covered in this series may also be addressed in the Professional Papers – Correspondence series. Additional information concerning events mentioned in these letters could be located in other series within the collection.

Series 2. Miscellaneous, 15 October 1990 (1 folder)

A three-page "diary" entry written by Lane in response to her ongoing relationship with writer, Sam Yette.

Series 3. Travel, 1972-1981 (.3 linear feet)

Collection of brochures, travel books, and maps for United States and African destinations. United States items appear to be for recreational visits, but the African items were collected during her professional visit to Africa in the early 1980s. Countries represented here are Zambia, Cameroon, and Ghana.

Series 4. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1975-1977, 1987 (2 folders)

Convention and conference materials, a list of hosts for regular Baton Rouge chapter meetings, 2 newsletters from 1977, printed items, ritual handbook, report of the executive director, and invitations to the 1987 Founder's Day event.

Series 5. Photographs, ca. 1925-2000 (.3 linear feet)

This series is comprised of both photographic prints in color, and black and white, as well as photocopies of photographic prints created either through use of a conventional copy machine or a color inkjet printer. The photocopies come at the end of the series. Images are mostly of Lane either alone or with colleagues. There are a few photocopies of her as a child. Photocopies also exist of Lane's son, Gordon, and his family. Events such as the Contemporary Black American Poetry meeting in Ghana, Africa in 1981, the 2000 Wintergreen Conference at the College of William and Mary, and the Olympic Torch Relay that passed through Baton Rouge, La. in 1996 are all separated into their own folders.

Subgroup II. Professional Papers

Series 1. Correspondence, 1970-2001, undated (4 linear feet)

Letters to and from colleagues and business contacts concerning poetry readings, publication of her poetry, upcoming conferences, current events, professional experiences and opportunities, personal finances, and public relations. Much of the correspondence from 1989 through the 1990s pertains in some degree to her time served and activities accomplished as Poet Laureate for the State of Louisiana (1989-1992). There is also much discussion of her involvement with professional organizations and visiting professorships. There is some mention of *South and West Inc.* publications within letters (1970s) addressing other issues, and letters regarding the formalities of her collaboration with composer, Dinos Constantinides. Some correspondence containing information used for public relations purposes and self-promotion contains a message to an individual, so is therefore included here (further public relations information may be found in the Press Releases subseries). Telephone conversations of which she has made note are also included.

In general, letters received by Lane retain their enclosures. However, copies of letters she sent indicating enclosures do not always include a copy of that enclosure. Some events covered in this series may also be addressed in the Personal Papers – Correspondence series. Additional information concerning events mentioned in these letters could be located in other series within the collection. .

Series 2. Writings, 1953-2000, undated (1 linear foot)

Subseries I. Manuscripts by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1953-1999

Copy of Lane's unpublished prose work, *Stain on My Fingertips*, formerly know as *Puppy Love* (1953-1959). Various working copies or setting copies of her published books of poetry, *Wind Thoughts* (1973), *I Never Scream* (1986), and *Elegy for Etheridge* (2000); many contain handwritten comments or notations.

Subseries II. Poetry by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1961-1995, undated

Copies of poems she labeled as unpublished, published, discarded, or in progress. Their arrangement reflects these categories. Miscellaneous poems she had not organized into these categories are simply compiled as "Poetry." Other than the poems which have no indicated date of creation, most of these were composed in the 1970s. Therefore, it is possible that some she indicated as in progress, unpublished, or discarded were published at a later date.

Subseries III. Articles/Essays by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1977-2000

Collection of articles and book reviews written by Lane. This series also includes reviews written about Lane and her work.

Subseries IV. Writings received by Pinkie Gordon Lane, 1968-1999, undated

Copies of manuscripts or loose poems received by Lane for review. Some of these items were submissions for poetry contests, but many were from Lane's peers who shared their work with her. There are also loose copies of published poems that were found throughout Lane's papers.

Series 3. Conference materials, 1970-2001, undated (.5 linear feet)

Collection of materials publicizing conferences, mostly single items advertising the conference and its pertinent information. Some conferences with multiple materials have been singled out, such as the College Language Association and the Spelman Founder's Day conference. Lane did not attend all of these functions, but still kept records of these events in her files. Some of them are mentioned in her correspondence. Arranged chronologically.

Series 4. Topical files, 1959-2001, undated (.5 linear feet)

Items include transcripts of interviews and speeches involving Lane, the sheet music for the Dinos Constantinides composition written with Lane's poetry, a compilation of her activities in 1992 for an IRS tax audit, project proposals, etc. There is a collection of biographical material documenting Lane's career (including curriculum vitas) and a collection of her personal agendas from 1970-1999 provide a glimpse into her daily routines.

Series 5. Instructional Materials, 1993-1996 (.3 linear feet)

Teaching materials and class notes from Lane's visiting professorships at University of Northern Iowa, University of Southern Alabama, and Bridgewater College. Any items where students may be clearly identified or where grades have been assigned have not been retained (Family Educational Right to Privacy Act. -Buckley Amendment).

Series 6. Printed items, 1964-2001, undated (2.5 linear feet)
Arranged chronologically or by topic.

Subseries I. Press Releases, 1974-2001, undated (.5 linear feet)

Printed press releases issued for events and releases which may or may not involve Lane. She did not attend nor was involved with all these events, but still kept records of them in her files. Most are for literary events or African American current events. Also included are promotional items she penned and forwarded to the appropriate people for inclusion in their publications, such as the Unitarian Church Bulletin, Capitol Area Network Newsletter, *Sunday Magazine*, and various local publications.

Subseries II. Programs, 1970-2002 (.3 linear feet)

Copies of programs collected by Lane from events she attended, or that were solicited to her by other means, but which she chose to keep in her files. Most are programs for events of a literary nature or involving African American events, such as festivals or book releases; some were obtained from memorial services. Included are copies of programs for the Dinos Constantinides musical collaboration with Lane. Some of the items list Lane as a participant in the featured event.

Subseries III. Newsletters, 1970-2001, undated (.5 linear feet)

Copies of various newsletters obtained by Lane. Most are from organizations in the literary field, English education, or involving African American events. While most of them are single items, there were a few which she kept habitually: *Broadside News* (1970-1974), *Capital Area Network*, -part of the International Alliance for Women (1985-2000), and those published by the Unitarian Church (1973-2000). Some of these newsletters feature write-ups about Lane.

Subseries IV. Fliers and Invitations, 1970-2001, undated (.3 linear feet)

Fliers for upcoming literary or African-American cultural events. Also included are invitations for such events, as well as weddings, receptions, special events, etc.

Subseries V. Clippings, 1964-2001, undated (.5 linear feet)

Newspaper clippings either of interest to or involving Lane in some way. Topics involve: people Lane corresponded with in either a literary or academic capacity, current events of interest to her as either literary or related to African-Americans, events occurring at Southern University, and media events in Louisiana such as the Consent Decree and 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. Editorials and letters to the editor that were penned by Lane and accepted for publication were copied and placed in a separate folder.

Subseries VI. General, 1963, 1973-1996

Broadsides, award, handmade poster for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay, magazines, and a scrapbook. The magazines, or journals, were retained by Lane as items of interest. They may contain articles by or about a person she knew or whose career she followed, or they may be about relevant social events in African-American literature and culture. Two of the journals are bound copies of poetry that Lane received during her trip to Africa. An appendix listing all of the journals is included in this inventory. The scrapbook was compiled by Lane to document her literary achievements and includes printed copies of a few of her mass produced poems, news articles, and broadsides. A few unused postcards were retained in a separate folder.

Subgroup 3. South and West, Inc. Records, 1969-1980, n.d (1 linear foot)

Papers relating to Lane's involvement with *South and West Inc.*, a publisher of literary magazines operated by Sue Abbott Boyd. Correspondence begins in 1969 when Lane first submitted copies of her poems for publication with *South and West*, then continues as she

became editor of their publications: *Poems by Blacks*, *Discourses on Poetry*, and *South and West*. Correspondence is primarily with people submitting their work for publication, and with Sue Abbott Boyd, who took ill, but still maintained an interest in the operation of her publications (additional correspondence from Boyd may be found in either the Personal or Professional Papers series). Some correspondence also mentions Lane's publication of her first book of poetry, *Wind Thoughts* (1972). Lane kept some of the manuscripts for publications from 1972-1979. There is also a file of biographical notes on some of the contributors to the magazines over the years, some invoices and purchase orders, and a few copies of the newsletters and "lessons" composed by Sue Abbott Boyd for the benefit of subscribers to *South and West*.

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	12	4	Newsletter: Unitarian Church (1973-2000)
			Subseries IV. Fliers and Invitations
	12	5-15	Fliers/Invitations (1970-2001, undated)
			Subseries V. Clippings
	12	16-33	Clippings (1964-2001, undated)
	12	34	Clippings written by Pinkie Gordon Lane (1980-1999)
	12	36	Clippings: American Poetry Review (July/Aug 1974)
			Subseries VI. General
	12	37	Postcards (undated)
	13	-	Publications – see Appendix A
OS:L	-	1	Broadsides, award, handmade poster (1973-1996)
G:15	Vol. 1		Scrapbook

Subgroup III: South and West, Inc. Records

T:140	14	1-18	Correspondence (1969-1980, undated)
	14	19	<i>Discourses on Poetry</i> , Vol. 6 – Manuscript (1972)
	14	20	<i>Poems by Blacks III</i> , Manuscript (1974)
	14	21	<i>Poems by Blacks III</i> , Miscellaneous (1974)
	14	22	<i>South and West</i> , vol.14 no.2 – Manuscript (1977)
	14	23	<i>South and West</i> Manuscript (1977)
	14	24	<i>South and West</i> , Spring issue - Manuscript (1978)
	14	25	<i>South and West</i> , Winter issue – Manuscript (1978)
	14	26	<i>South and West</i> , vol.15 no.4 / vol.16 no.1 - Manuscript (1979)
	14	27	<i>South and West</i> , Winter issue – Biographical notes (1978)
	14	28	<i>South and West</i> , Fall 1978/Winter 1979 issue – manuscript notes (1978)
	14	29	Biographical notes
	14	30	Miscellaneous
	14	31	<i>South and West</i> newsletter to members (1970-1979, undated)
	14	32	<i>South and West</i> Lessons (1970-1974)
	14	33	<i>South and West</i> purchase orders (1972-1979)

APPENDIX

Index to Printed Items: Publications.
Scholarly journals, magazines, poetry volumes

<u>Titles:</u>	<u>Box No.:</u>
Agovi, Kofi Ermeleh. <i>Gathering the past: poems of an observing soul.</i> (July 1980)	13
<i>Black Scholar: black literature</i> 85. v.16:no.4 (July/Aug. 1985)	13
<i>Black Scholar: crisis in South Africa.</i> v.15:no.6 (Nov./Dec. 1984)	13
<i>Brown: Alumni monthly.</i> v.76:no.3 (Nov. 1975)	13
Finch, A.R.C. <i>The Encyclopedia of Scotland.</i> Caribou Press: 1982.	13
Hess, Harvey and John Thomas, illus. <i>Orchid art and the orchid isle.</i> Malama Arts: Hawaii, 1982.	13
Hess, Harvey. <i>Hawaii Lyrics.</i> Finial Press: Hawaii, 1982.	13
<i>Jet.</i> v.13:no.14 (Jan. 24, 1963)	13
Kuwornu, Doris Adabasu. " <i>Untitled</i> ": <i>a collection of poems.</i> (ca. 1980)	13
<i>New classic.</i> No.5 (1978)	13
<i>New Directions: the Howard University Magazine.</i> v.12:no.1 (Jan. 1985)	13
<i>Rhapsody.</i> v.2 (1984)	13
<i>Seleccion de Poemas de James Hearst.</i> Universidad de Extremadura:Spain, 1992.	13
<i>Significant Voices: a series of readings and discussions by 20th century African American Writers.</i> Kathy M. Ball, ed.	13
<i>South and West.</i> v.14:no.4 (Summer 1978)	13
<i>Spelman Messenger: Alumnae issue.</i> v.105:no.1 (1989)	13