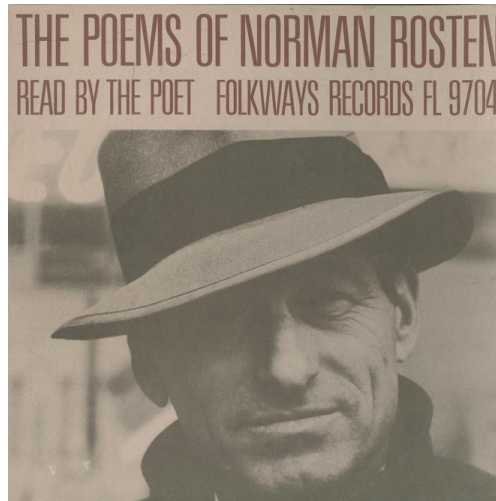


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THE PAPERS OF NORMAN ROSTEN

ACCESSION #91-003



Dates Inclusive dates: 1940s-1960s / Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s

Extent 3 boxes/ 1.5 cubic foot, plus one oversized box

Creators Norman Rosten (1914-1995)

Access / Use The collection is open to researchers.
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Files can be accessed at the Brooklyn College Library Archives & Special Collection, 2900
Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, New York, Main floor

Languages English

Finding aid Guide presently available in-house only.

Acquisition/Appraisal Collection was donated to the college library in 1991.

Description Control Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing
Archives: A Content Standard*.

Preferred Citation Item, folder title, box number, The Papers of Norman Rosten,
Brooklyn College Archives & Special Collections, Brooklyn College Library

Subject Headings Rosten, Norman, 1914-1995.
Passover -- Fiction.
Dickinson, Emily, 1830-1886 in fiction, drama, poetry, etc.

Biographical Note

Norman Rosten (1914-1995), poet and playwright and novelist, was born in New York City. He published many works including books on poetry, fiction and non-fiction novels, screenplays, newspapers and magazine articles, and, early in his career, wrote radio shows.

Although Norman Rosten was born in New York City, his family moved upstate soon afterwards and he grew up on a farm in Hurleyville, New York. As a teenager, Rosten attended the Agricultural College of Cornell University in Ithaca with the thought of becoming a farmer. However, after the family farm burned down, his family returned to New York and, with their resettlement in Brooklyn, Rosten's future would change as well.

In 1931, Rosten enrolled at Brooklyn College. He majored in English planning to become a teacher. Upon graduation in 1935, Rosten was unable to find a teaching job; he then decided to continue his education. Writing now became an important part of his life. He received his Master's Degree from New York University and went on to the University of Michigan (where he would meet his future wife, Hedda). He then began to write in earnest. In 1938, Rosten was awarded the Hopwood Award in Poetry and Drama for *The Proud Pilgrimage*. In 1940, he received the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award for *Return Again Traveler*.

In a diverse career, Mr. Rosten published seven volumes of poetry and four novels which included *The Fourth Decade*, *The Big Road*, *Songs for Patricia*, *The plane and The Shadow*, and *Thrive Upon the Rock*. His plays, produced both on and off Broadway, included *Mister Johnson* (based on a novel by Joyce Cary), *The Golden Door*, and *Come Slowly Eden*. Mr. Rosten's short stories and articles appeared in the Antioch Review, Discovery, Holiday, The Saturday Evening Post, and McCall's. His fiction novels were *Neighborhood Tales*, *Over and Out*, and *Under the Boardwalk*, and his most famous non-fiction memoir about Marilyn Monroe titled *Marilyn: An Untold Story*. Mr. Rosten wrote the screenplay for Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge*, and also became a close personal friend of Mr. Miller's (one of Marilyn Monroe's husbands). In 1993, Mr. Rosten wrote the libretto for "Marilyn" which was presented by the New York City Opera for an opera under a Ford Foundation Grant. As a former Guggenheim Fellow, Norman Rosten was the recipient of an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1979, Borough President Howard Golden named Norman Rosten the Poet Laureate of Brooklyn, a title he held until his death.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains items such as original drafts of published works, photographs, playbills, interviews, reviews, correspondences, and scripts. There is also some publicity material for his screenplay *A View From the Bridge*, an original radio script for *Death of a King*, as well as final revisions. In addition, there are newspaper clippings, magazine articles and some interviews Mr. Rosten gave during his term as Brooklyn's Poet Laureate.

Collection Outline

Series I: Publications by Norman Rosten

Series II: Norman Rosten - Miscellaneous

Series I: Publications by Norman Rosten

41 folders

This series contains the many of Norman Rosten's published works including plays, poems and articles. It covers *The Big Road (a narrative poem)* including notes, research, and correspondence on writing the manuscript. There are numerous drafts, photographs, reviews and the final production copy. The final copy of *Come Slowly Eden*, a play published in 1996 and the original script for the radio play *Death of a King* is here as is some of the publicity. This series contains the complete evolution of the play *Mr. Johnson* that Norman Rosten wrote with some of his first outlines and drafts (1954) through the production copy of 1956. There is also a published version of the play, a playbill, and a review of the American production in addition to a script from the London production in 1960. In this series you can also find *Over and Out*, a novel published in 1972, and some early drafts and proofs of *The Plane and The Shadow* and the book of poetry that Mr. Rosten wrote, *Selected Poems* (published in 1979). *Under the Boardwalk*, a novel describing Rosten's childhood years in Brooklyn's Coney Island (published in 1968) can be found here as well, along with the photographs and publicity material from this 1961 screenplay based on Arthur Miller's tale. There are also three articles; one published in *The New York Times*, another in *The Phoenix*, and the third one in a magazine titled *The Ones Who Wait* and an LP on the *Poems of Norman Rosten*.

Series II: Norman Rosten - Miscellaneous

4 folders

There are several interviews and articles within this series, some of which appeared in Brooklyn College publications or in Brooklyn neighborhood newspapers. This series bears an invitation to an awards' presentation honoring Mr. Rosten who wrote a short play for the event. One folder in this series contains correspondence; many of which are to and from Rose Sellers, a librarian at Brooklyn College. There is also a letter from Irwin Shaw, an old friend of Rosten's, telling him how valuable his collection is.

Container List

Series I- Publications by Normal Rosten

Box 1

- Folder #1: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Cover Pages
- Folder #2: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Pages 1-25
- Folder #3: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Pages 26-50
- Folder #4: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Pages 51-75
- Folder #5: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Pages 76-100
- Folder #6: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Pages 101-125
- Folder #7: "The Big Road" A Narrative Poem- Pages 126-152
- Folder #8: "The Big Road" Correspondence
- Folder #9: "The Big Road" Notes
- Folder #10: "The Big Road" Photographs
- Folder #11: "The Big Road" Research (see also OVERSIZED box 4 Folder #1)
- Folder #12: "The Big Road" Reviews
- Folder #13: "The Big Road" First Draft, Book I & II
- Folder #14: "The Big Road" First Draft, Book III
- Folder #15: "The Big Road" First Draft, Book IV
- Folder #16: "The Big Road" Final Copy

Container List (continued)

Series I- Publications by Normal Rosten (continued)

Box 2

- Folder #1: "Death of a King" Press Release
- Folder #2: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- Outline
- Folder #3: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PI, Pages 1-25
- Folder #4: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PI, Pages 26-50
- Folder #5: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PI, Pages 51-72
- Folder #6: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PII, Pages 1-25
- Folder #7: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PII, Pages 26-50
- Folder #8: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PII, Pages 51-66
- Folder #9: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PIII, Pages 1-25
- Folder #10: "Mister Johnson" First Written Draft- PIII, Pages 26-41
- Folder #11: "Mister Johnson" First Typing Revision
- Folder #12: "Mister Johnson" Revisions after first typing
- Folder #13: "Mister Johnson" Revisions Nov-Dec 1954

Box 3

- Folder #1: "Mister Johnson" Reviews and Playbills
- Folder #2: "Mister Johnson" London Production
- Folder #3: "Mister Johnson" Production Copy
- Folder #4: "Mister Johnson" Final Copy
- Folder #5: "Over and Out" Final Copy
- Folder #6: "The Plane and the Shadows" Drafts
- Folder #7: "The Plane and the Shadows" Drafts (Jefferson Memorial)
- Folder #8: "The Plane and the Shadows" Page Proofs
- Folder #9: "Selected Poems" and "Under the Boardwalk" Final Copies
- Folder #10: "A View From the Bridge" Photographs
- Folder #11: "A View From the Bridge" Publicity (see also OVERSIZED Box 4 Folder #2)
- Folder #12: Articles by Norman Rosten (see also OVERSIZED Box 4 Folder #3)

Box #4 OVERSIZED

- Folder #1: "The Big Road" Research OVERSIZED (see also Box 1 Folder #11)
- Folder #2: "A View From the Bridge" Publicity OVERSIZED (see also Box 3 Folder #11)
- Folder #3: Articles by Norman Rosten OVERSIZED (see also Box 3 Folder #12)
- Folder #4: Record; "The Poems of Norman Rosten, read by the poet"

Series II Norman Rosten-Miscellaneous

Box 3

- Folder #13: Articles about Norman Rosten (see also OVERSIZED Box 4 Folder #5)
- Folder #14: Correspondence
- Folder #15: Miscellaneous Reviews (see also OVERSIZED Box 4 Folder #6)
- Folder #16: Personal Recollections

Box #4 OVERSIZED

- Folder #5: Articles about Norman Rosten OVERSIZED (see also Box 3 Folder #13)
- Folder #6: Miscellaneous Reviews OVERSIZED (see also Box 3 Folder #15)