The David Rogers Chesnutt Archive, 1946-2016
Collection: Mss. 2016:4

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Descriptive Summary

Title: The David Rogers Chesnutt Archive, 1946-2016

Collection Number: Mss. 2016:4

Creator: David Chesnutt

Extent: 6 boxes

Administrative Information

Provenance: Gift, 2016

Processed by: Raef Mills

Access Restrictions: Open to research

Preferred Citation: [Item], The David Rogers Chesnutt Archive, Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, University of South Carolina Libraries

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Scope and Contents Note

A pioneer in the field of digital humanities, David Chesnutt was born to Thomas Brice and Lena (Moss) Chesnutt in Athens, Alabama in 1940. Chesnutt expressed an interest in journalism from an early age, contributing pieces to school newspapers throughout his grade school years. He went on to write and edit for the University of Alabama newspaper and was awarded a degree in journalism from the university in 1962. After college he worked for the Alabama Journal for several years covering a variety of stories, notably the Cuban missile crisis and the integration of the University of Alabama.

After earning his doctorate in history at the University of Georgia in 1973, Chesnutt was hired as a research professor at the University of South Carolina, a position he
would hold for 35 years. A major project undertaken during this time was the *Henry Laurens Papers* for which Chesnutt served as both associate editor and editor. By the project’s closing in 2002, approximately 12,000 manuscripts form numerous repositories were included. Work on the Laurens papers led to the creation of the *Association for Documentary Editing* in 1978, with Chesnutt as a co-founder. He would later serve as its president from 1991-1992.

Realizing the growing need for digital access to historical documents, Chesnutt was instrumental in the creation of the *Model Editions Partnership* (MEP) using a modified version of the *Text Encoding Initiative*’s protocol. The goal of MEP was to standardize the markup guidelines for documents when digitized to ensure continued access while at the same time keeping records of their efforts in the process for use by others in the field.

Chesnutt’s passion for and expertise with historical documents led to him being selected as the editor of *The Manuscript Society*’s journal in 1979, a post he held for 35 years. His dedication to the field was further recognized when, in 2005, he was awarded *The Order of the Palmetto*, South Carolina’s ‘highest civilian honor for extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation.’

Personal items in the collection include school yearbooks, articles and notes from his journalism career, photographs from throughout his life, and personal correspondence. A notebook containing bird watching records and a collection of material from his time spent studying Buddhism under Chögyam Trungpa shed further light on his personal interests.

The collection also contains material from Chesnutt’s varied professional career. This includes files from Benchmark Inc., records form both his manuscript editing and professorial work, and papers related to the Henry Laurens project in particular. There are also files and recordings from the *Model Editions Partnership*.

Finally, there is also a large collection of audio visual and computer materials that will be of particular interest to technophiles. There are numerous CDs and 5” and 3.5” floppy disks. If labeled correctly, some of these contain records of personal and professional material, while others are software disks. A number of disks are unlabeled. Also included are older model laptops and cords, microcassettes and recorder, 35mm color slides, and Beta and VHS tapes.

There is a box of material that has been closed from view, some for 10 years and some for 30. Every attempt has been made on the part of the processors to maintain the
original file labeling provided by Chesnutt. In addition, items are marked with the amount of time they are to be kept closed.

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## Container List

### Series I: General

Most of the items in this series are of a personal or professional nature and help shed light on Chesnutt’s life and career.

### Box 1

#### Subseries A: Personal

Address books, no date

Alabama Journal [Kennedy memorial service headline], Nov.25, 1963

Birth certificate copies, 1982, 1990

*Boat Patterns Design Catalog*, 1956

Children's mementos, 1977-1994

Clippings saved by DRC, 1973-1981, no date


Day planner [computer printout], 1986

Day planner 1997

Day planner 1999

Day planner 2000

Day planner 2003

DRC/Mary Worth divorce papers, 1978

Family reunions, 2000-2002, no date
Family tree notes, no date
Father's will and funeral arrangements, 1992-1993
Funeral arrangement notes, 1994, no date
Hand-drawn house plans, no date
Jim and Allison Chesnutt wedding mementos, 1997
Map of Montgomery, AL, Jun. 1960
Meal and medicine dosage record, Oct.-Dec. 2014
Military documents 1960-1967, no date
Notebook with misc. notes, mostly birdwatching, 1983-2001
Notes for DRC's will, Feb. 2008
Obituary, DRC [p.10], Dec. 2014
Order of the Palmetto award photocopies and related material, 2005
Passport, 1990
Personal correspondence 1 of 2, 1970-2014
Personal correspondence 2 of 2, no date
Photos, some with annotations, 1946-1994, no date
Poems [original], Nov. 1978, no date
Tennessee Squire Association letter, Apr. 1986
Travel writing award, Dec. 1967-Feb. 1968, no date
USC faculty ID, 1999
White House visitor pass, Aug. 1979
Why do bad things happen? Table of contents, no date
Yancey College yearbook, 1966-1967

Education
   Board of Publications Banquet booklet, Apr. 1961
   Crimson and White newspapers, May-Jun. 1961
   Material related to Crimson White editorial election, 1961-2016, no date
   Pi Kappa Alpha certificate, Jan. 1961
   Sigma Delta Chi certificate [journalism], Nov. 1960
   Student government association bulletin, 1960-1961
   U of Alabama 'A' book [DRC editor], 1961-1962
Hobbies

*Awareness Techniques* Book 1, 1970
Buddhist chants and instructions, 1989, no date
Buddhist chants and prayer cards, printed, unbound, no date
Buddhist chants, miscellaneous, no date
Chögyam Trungpa retreat notes and pamphlets, 187, no date
Meditation Practice Records, 1985-1988
Photo of DRC with Chögyam Trungpa, no date
*The Daily Practice of Vajrakilaya* and notes by DRC, 1982, 1989, no date
*The Roar of the Werma* and accompanying paper cards in silk case, 1980, no date

Box 2

*Hobbies cont.*

*The Special Vajrayana Preliminaries*: Prostrations, no date
*The Sun of Wisdom* with notes be DRC, 1987, no date
Transmission Talks for Prostrations, 1979
USC stained glass continuing education certificate, Oct. 1978

Juvenalia

Balcoala yearbook, 1956
Balcoala yearbook, 1957
Balcoala yearbook, 1958
National Beta Club certificate, Mar. 1956
NRA Junior Marksman diplomas, June 1954
Principal's Recommendation, May 1955
School Newspapers, 1955-1958

Subseries B: Professional

35mm slides for use in history class lectures, 1994, no date [stored with Oversized material]
Civil service application materials, 1977
Curriculum vita, May 1994
Résumé, no date
Grant research notes, no date
Memo regarding request for tenure, Jan. 1988
Newspaper articles by Chesnutt, Nov. 1962-Aug. 1967
Notes for Basilage conference, 2009
Notes for LIS 7911: Grant Writing, 2005
Phi Alpha Theta certificate [history society], May 1965
Preserve or Perish [report on South Carolina historical records], no date
Professional awards, 1992-2015, no date
Publishing costs for various historical volumes, 1977-1979, no date
Rally to Abolish HUAC advertisement, 1961
Southeastern Archives Education Collaboration ethics inquiry, 2003-2005
U of A integration documents, Jun. 1963, no date

*Benchmark Inc.*

- Articles of dissolution, Dec. 2014
- Business license, 1982, no date
- Corporate letterhead and development materials, 1983, no date
- Income tax Forms, 1997-2001
- Income tax Forms, 2002-2010
- Sales tax records, 1986-2012
- Stock certificate booklet, 1982, no date
- Stock documents, Dec. 1982
- Valuation report, Apr. 1991

*Henry Laurens*

- Carologue vol. 19 no. 1 [Laurens articles p.5 and 20]
- Henry Laurens Papers project inventory, no date
- Index notes, no date
- Magazine articles by/about DRC, 1991-2000
- Material related to closing Laurens grant, 2002-2006
- Papers of Henry Laurens volume 1-14 draft index, Oct. 1994
- Tanselle, G.T. 'Literary Editing' article with explanatory note, no date
Box 3

Manuscript Society

- 50th anniversary dinner program, 1998
- Manuscripts financial records, no date
- Manuscripts vol. 67 no.1 [dedicated to DRC], 2015
- Memo regarding publishing schedule, August 2003
- Photos, 1994-2013, no date

Series II: Technological Materials

- CINDEX, correspondence regarding, Apr. 1979
- CINDEX, user's guide, [2 copies], Jun. 1984
- Cumulative Index Procedures Manual notes, Aug. 2002
- dBase notes and printouts, Mar. 1985-Apr. 1986, no date
- Notebook with technology notes, 1994-1995
- Oxford Text Archive pamphlets, no date
- Papers project html code printouts
- Sgrep homepage printout, NOV. 2001
- TEI meeting material, Jan.-Feb. 1989
- Typesetter code and correspondence, Feb. 1985-Jun. 1986, no date

Subseries A: Model Editions Partnership

- 0.2 glitch fix notes, 2004
- Conference loop, VHS format 1 of 2, Sep. 22, 1999
- Conference loop, VHS format 2 of 2, Sep. 23, 1999
- Files from binder, 1995-1997, no date
- Final report, 2004
- General information [primarily legal and financial], 1999-2003, no date
- Model Editions Partnership, VHS format [5 copies], no date
- Short Credits Version-Master, Betamax format, Sep. 29, 1999
Series III: Audio Visual Materials

This series predominantly includes digital and mechanical files, recording and playback devices, and older model computers.

Box 4
Apple laptop PowerBook G4, no date
Dell laptop model PPl, no date
Dell laptop model PPO1L, no date
LACIE external hard drive R100391194, no date
Micro dictating cassettes [3], unlabeled, no date
NETGEAR wireless PC card adapter, no date
Power cables, various, no date
SONY microcassette recorder model M-679V, no date

Box 5
Subseries A: CDs
Apple software, 1997-1999, no date
Blank [presumed], no date
Chesnutt files, 2002-2007
Commercial software 1 of 2, 1998-2002
Commercial software 2 of 2, 1998-2002
HL index, 2003-2007, no date
Marcus Sanger files, 1997-2000
MEP 0.2-3.0 files, 2003-2004, no date
MEP 1.0d run CD, no date
MEP 1.0d samples install CD 1 of 2, no date
MEP 1.0d samples install CD 2 of 2, no date
MEP archive files 1 of 2, 1998, no date
MEP archive files 2 of 2, 1998, no date
MEP backup files 1 of 2, 200-2002, no date
MEP backup files 2 of 2, 200-2002, no date
MEP images, 1998-1999
Packard Humanities Institute experimental CD 101 [Benjamin Franklin], 1993
TEI Consortium demo CD, no date
Web Trends log files 1999-2000
Windows software 1996-2000

Subseries B: Floppy

5 inch

"Studies" 1 of 4, 1986-1988
"Studies" 3 of 4, 1986-1988
Blanks [?] 1 of 2, no date
Blanks [?] 2 of 2, no date
Files, various, 1989, no date

Files
Note: the folders titled ‘Miscellaneous’ are file copies by DRC. For many, it is difficult to establish contents.

"My" 1 of 6, 1990
"My" 2 of 6, 1991
"My" 3 of 6, 1991-1994
"My" 4 of 6, 1994-1995
"My" 5 of 6, 1995
"My" 6 of 6, 1996
Benchmark 1 of 4, 1989-1990
Benchmark 2 of 4, 1990-1992
Benchmark 3 of 4, no date
Benchmark 4 of 4, no date
History 791 files, 1994, no date
Lowe.bak, 1993
Markup guidelines, 1996, no date

**Box 6**

Miscellaneous 1 of 14
Miscellaneous 10 of 14
Miscellaneous 11 of 14
Miscellaneous 12 of 14
Miscellaneous 13 of 14
Miscellaneous 14 of 14
Miscellaneous 2 of 14
Miscellaneous 3 of 14
Miscellaneous 4 of 14
Miscellaneous 5 of 14
Miscellaneous 6 of 14
Miscellaneous 7 of 14
Miscellaneous 8 of 14
Miscellaneous 9 of 14
Student work 1 of 3, no date
Student work 2 of 3, no date
Student work 3 of 3, no date

**Software**

Aldus Pagemaker 1 of 2, 1991
Aldus Pagemaker 2 of 2, 1991
Aldus Pagemaker 5.0, 1 of 2, 1993
Aldus Pagemaker 5.0, 2 of 2, 1993
CompuServe Information Manager, 1992
Disk Manager [Mac], 1993
Drawing software, various, 1992, no date
Excel for Mac 1 of 2, 1992
Excel for Mac 2 of 2, 1992
FAXstf for Mac, 1993
Fontographer, 1993
Fonts, miscellaneous, 1 of 3, 1988
Fonts, miscellaneous, 2 of 3, 1989
Fonts, miscellaneous, 3 of 3, 1990, no date
HiJaak Pro, 1993
Illustrator 5.0, 1 of 2, no date
Illustrator 5.0, 2 of 2, no date
Laser Writer II, 1 of 2, 1987-1992
Laser Writer II, 2 of 2, 1992
Mac factory install disks, 1 of 2, 1991-1992
Mac factory install disks, 2 of 2, 1992
OmniPage Pro, 1995
OneScanner for Mac, 1991-1993
Print Programs, various, 1991-1992, no date
Quicken, 1993
SCSI Director, 1993
Software, various, 1 of 3, 1990-1996, no date
Software, various, 2 of 3, 1989-1996, no date
Software, various, 3 of 3, 1993-1995, no date
Symantec, 1 of 3, 1991-1992
Symantec, 2 of 3, 1992
Symantec, 3 of 3, 1992
Word for Mac, 2 of 3, 1992
Word for Mac, 3 of 3, 1992

Unlabeled [presumed blank]
Blank 1 of 10
Blank 2 of 10
Blank 3 of 10
Blank 4 of 10
Eisenhower files

Series IV: Oversized

Fellow of the Manuscript Society award, May 1998
Japanese calligraphy brushes, Dec. 1990
TEI Consortium t-shirt with explanatory note, 2000
The Manuscript Society tome, May 2005