



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Johnny Dark Accessions

1985-2018

Collection UPWC-19058

Descriptive Summary

Creator:

Title: Guide to the Johnny Dark Accessions

Dates: 1985-2018

Abstract: Archival materials donated by writer and longtime Sam Shepard confidant Johnny Dark, spanning 1985–2020. The collection includes personal writings, stories, correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia documenting Dark's creative work, relationships, and ongoing exchanges with friends and family.

Identification: UPWC-19058

Extent: 1 Linear Feet, 2 boxes

Language: English

Repository: The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

Table Of Contents

Biographical Notes	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	5
Physical Location	5
Conditions Governing Access	5
Immediate Source of Acquisition	5
Preferred Citation	5
Conditions Governing Use	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Detailed Description of the Collection	6
Series I: Accession 2019-058	6
Series II: Accession 2021-005	6

Biographical Notes

Sam Shepard and Johnny Dark met in New York City in the early 1960s. Dark married Scarlett Johnson, and Shepard married one of Scarlett's daughters, O-Lan, with whom he had a son, Jesse Shepard. Over the next several years, the two couples lived together in Greenwich Village, Newfoundland, and California; and through the decades, Dark and Shepard have remained close friends.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes archival materials donated from Johnny Dark. The collection contains memorabilia from Johnny Dark of a series of events ranging from 1985 to 2018. The folder titles preceding a semicolon reflect Dark's original descriptions.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use:

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Johnny Dark, 2019, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Johnny Dark Accessions, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials from the Wittliff Collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study. The user assumes responsibility for determining copyright status, obtaining permission to publish, and abiding by U.S. copyright laws.

<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Authors, American -- Texas

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Accession 2019-058

Box	Folder	
3011	1	Johnny Dark's account of a road trip with a French woman named Margane, 2018
3011	2	Road-trip letters from Margane to Johnny Dark, 2017-2018
3011	3	“The Things We Said in Bed”; a recollection of conversations between Johnny Dark, his wife, and girlfriend magic, 1985
3011	4	“Footnotes”; text and pictures, undated
3011	5	Photos and photo albums, handwritten letters to Bill Witliff from Johnny Dark, handwritten letter from Margane, 2018
3011	6	Photos with descriptions (1 of 2), undated
3011	7	Photos with descriptions (2 of 2), undated

Series II: Accession 2021-005

3583	1	Piece written by Johnny Dark for the end of the Johnny and Morgane Lavigne story. Includes the following sections: Part Five, Afterword, Letters, Footnotes, Part Six Fan Mail. Also, included is a note to David Coleman, Director, The Wittliff Collections and photocopied Images of Johnny Dark and Morgane Lavigne, May 1, 2019
3583	2	[Ending of] Piece written by Johnny Dark for the end of the Johnny and Morgane Lavigne story. Includes letter to David Coleman, Director, The Wittliff Collections and the following sections: Afterward, Part Five, Letters, Part Six and Part Seven, June 20, 2019
3583	3	Piece written by Johnny Dark “Now Is All We Have: Notes on the Gurdjiieff Work, San Francisco, 1969-1980. Includes letter to David Coleman, Director, The Wittliff Collections from Johnny Dark, undated [2020]
3583	4	A retelling of James Daugherty's classic 1938 story by Johnny Dark titled “Maura and the Lion”. Includes a note to David Coleman, Director, The Wittliff Collections from Johnny Dark, 6/28/2019
3583	5	“Gone Tomorrow” – story by Johnny Dark, undated
3583	6	Stories by Johnny Dark: 1. “To Begin What Follows” [letters to Jesse Shepard, Sam Shepard's son} 2. “Now Is All We Have: Notes on the Gurdjiieff Work, San Francisco 1969-1980” Volume One Includes note to David Coleman, Director, The Wittliff Collections from Johnny Dark describing pieces, undated [2020]
3583	7	“A Redhead Named Kathleen” – story by Johnny Dark, 4/7/2020
3583	8	Pieces and stories by Johnny Dark: 1. Cover Letter 2. “Kathleen” 3.”Introduction to Letters to My Grandson”, 2020
3583	9	Letters by Johnny Dark: 1. “Letters to Gino 2. “Letters to Robert Dowling” 3. “Letters to My Grandson” 4. “Jesse Shepard” 5. “Kristy Dark” 6. “O-Lan Jones” 7. “Letter to Lee Kissman”, undated