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## Edmonds, John Buell, 1945-2020 (MSS 742)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 742 EDMONDS, John Buell, 1945-2020**

½ box. 5 folders. 4 items. n.d. Originals, typescripts.

SC2022.31.1

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

John Buell Edmonds, the son of Addie and Jewel Edmonds, was born on 2 March 1945 in Warren County, Kentucky. While still a teenager, he began singing with the group The Gospel Ambassadors. Edmonds and the group performed throughout Kentucky while Edmonds attended school, completing 2-1/2 years at Western Kentucky University. In 1964, Edmonds formed the group John Edmonds and the Angelic Specials, which performed in churches and schools across the country. The group relocated to Los Angeles, California in 1970. Now known as The John Edmonds' Gospel Truth, the group affiliated with the Hollywood Overseas Committee in conjunction with USO shows, and performed worldwide. In 1974, the group affiliated with Opryland, U.S.A. and moved to Nashville, Tennessee. After another stint in Los Angeles, Edmonds returned to Bowling Green in 1987 and became music director at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. His company, Ashur Records, released several albums, and Edmonds received numerous awards for his performing career. He died on 23 November 2020 and is buried in Bowling Green's Fairview Cemetery.

**COLLECTION NOTE**

The principal item in this collection (Folders 3 and 4) is the manuscript of *Called, Justified, Glorified, and Gay: The Fictional Memoirs of Gospel Singer, Josephus Hezekiah Carson*, by John Edmonds. The manuscript is based on Edmonds' life and career as a gay, African-American gospel singer.

Also included (Folder 2) is a proposal by Edmonds for the promotion and marketing of the work, including the simultaneous release of a music recording, a schedule of interviews, concerts and appearances, and a dedicated website. The proposal includes a biographical sketch of Edmonds; lists of recordings, tours, concerts and other appearances, honors and awards; a sample chapter for the book; and photocopied photographs.

The final items in this collection (Folder 5) are several handwritten poems, lyrics and brief recollections.

**Note:** *This collection contains graphic sexual content.*

**SHELF LIST**

|              |  |             |                       |
|--------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>BOX 1</b> | <b>John Buell Edmonds</b>  | <b>n.d.</b> | <b>4 items</b>        |
| Folder 1     | Inventory  |             | 1 item                |
| Folder 2     | Proposal for <i>Called, Justified, Glorified, and Gay</i>  | n.d.        | 1 item                |
| Folder 3     | <i>Called, Justified, Glorified, and Gay: The Fictional Memoirs of Gospel Singer, Josephus Hezekiah Carson</i> , by John Edmonds | n.d.        | 1 item<br>(pp. 1-276) |
| Folder 4     | <i>Called, Justified, Glorified, and Gay: The Fictional Memoirs of Gospel Singer, Josephus Hezekiah Carson</i> , by John Edmonds | n.d.        | (pp. 277-539)         |
| Folder 5     | Handwritten poems, lyrics, notes   | n.d.        | 1 item                |

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS EDMONDS, John Buell, n.d.  
742 1945-2020

Manuscript of *Called, Justified, Glorified, and Gay: The Fictional Memoirs of Gospel Singer, Josephus Hezekiah Carson*, by John Edmonds, a memoir based on the Bowling Green, Kentucky native's life as a gay, African-American gospel singer. Includes a proposal for marketing the book, and several handwritten notes and lyrics. This material contains graphic sexual content.

½ box. 5 folders. 4 items. Originals, typescripts.

SC2022.31.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

African Americans – Bowling Green  
Gospel music singers  
Homosexuality

Niedermeier 09/21/2022