4-25-2012

Bolton, Joseph Edward, 1961-1990 (MSS 404)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Joseph Edward Bolton was born on 3 December 1961 in Cadiz, Kentucky, the son of Ed and Nancy (Foster) Bolton. His parents were schoolteachers. Bolton attended public schools in Cadiz. He started his college studies at the University of Mississippi but transferred to Western Kentucky University (WKU) the following year. He graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor’s of Arts degree from WKU, where he received the Jeoffrey McElvee Memorial Award and the Gordon Wilson Award. He then matriculated at the University of Florida (UF), where he received a Master’s in English in 1988. He also finished all the requirements for a MFA from the University of Arizona. He did other graduate work at the University of Houston and at UF. For a brief period he taught creative writing at UF. Bolton committed suicide on 30 March 1990. He had a brief marriage while in Kentucky and was married for a short period in the late-1980s to Laurie Berry.

Bolton’s highly biographical poetry received praise and was published in a number of literary journals. His Breckinridge County Suite was published by The Cummington Press in 1989. Days of Summer Gone, a collection of poems that had been used for his 1988 thesis at UF, was published by The Galileo Press in 1990. Donald Justice collected a large number of his poems in a posthumous book The Last Nostalgia published by the University of Arkansas Press in 1999. Justice had taught Bolton at the University of Florida.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains the collected loose poems of Joseph E. Bolton (folders 13-18). The loose poems are arranged alphabetically by title. A folder of published poems is also included (folder 12) with bibliographical references. The bulk of the collection features Donald Justice’s research notes and correspondence related to publishing a posthumous collection titled The Last Nostalgia. Justice corresponded with Bolton’s father Ed and with one of his close college friends, Tonya Parsons, who provides information about Joe’s life while attending WKU. The collection includes a small amount of biographical material about Bolton and reviews of Days of Summer Gone (1990), and the posthumous work The Last Nostalgia (1999).
### SHELF LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Joseph E. Bolton</th>
<th>1983-2012</th>
<th>602 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and biographical information</td>
<td>1988-2012</td>
<td>10 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Bibliographic listings of Bolton’s poetry</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>5 items</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Paper by Bolton: “Clark’s River Bottom &amp; Kentucky Dam: A Remembrance”</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Untitled paper by Baron Wormser about Bolton’s poetry</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1 item</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Reviews of Bolton’s book of poetry Days of Summer Gone</td>
<td>1990-1998</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>The Last Nostalgia – Research notes</td>
<td>1987-1998</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>The Last Nostalgia – Reviews and advertisements</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>11 items</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Correspondence of Donald Justice related to The Last Nostalgia</td>
<td>1988-1997</td>
<td>33 items</td>
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<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence of Donald Justice related to The Last Nostalgia</td>
<td>Feb.-Aug. 1998</td>
<td>56 items</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Correspondence of Donald Justice related to The Last Nostalgia</td>
<td>Sept. 1998-2000</td>
<td>70 items</td>
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<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Epigraphs</td>
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<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Published poetry</td>
<td>1988-2000</td>
<td>23 items</td>
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<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Poetry, A-B</td>
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<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Poetry, C-G</td>
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<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Poetry, H-L</td>
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<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Poems, M-R</td>
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<td>Folder 17</td>
<td>Poems, S</td>
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<td>Folder 18</td>
<td>Poems, T-Z</td>
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<td>63 items</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS BOLTON, Joseph Edward, 1983-2012
404 1961-1990

Collected loose poems of Joseph E. Bolton, a native of Cadiz, Kentucky and a Western Kentucky University graduate. Bolton published two books of poetry in his lifetime. A posthumous collection, *The Last Nostalgia*, was edited by Don Justice and published in 1999. The bulk of the collection relates to Justice’s research notes and correspondence regarding publication of *The Last Nostalgia*.

1 box. 18 folders. 602 items. Originals and photocopies.
2003.96.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Anderson, Jon V. B1,F9-10
Berry, Laurie B1,F10
Bolton, Edward – Correspondence B1,F8
Bolton, Joseph Edward, 1961-1990 B1,F8
Bolton, Joseph Edward, 1961-1990 – Comments about B1,F8
Byrkit, Rebecca B1,F8-9
Celser, Tonya (Parsons) – Correspondence B1,F9-10
Clark’s River – Relating to B1,F3
Cox, Michael B1,F9
*Days of Summer Gone* (Book) – Relating to B1,F5
Eulogies B1,F8
Justice, Donald Rodney, 1925-2004
Kentucky Dam – Relating to B1,F3
King, Brian – Correspondence B1,F10
Klander, Sharon – Correspondence B1,F8-9
*The Last Nostalgia* (Book) – Relating to B1,F6-10
Orlen, Steve, 1942-2010 B1,F9
Poetry
Steele, Frank – Correspondence B1,F8-9
Sullivan, John Jeremiah, b. 1974 B1,F9
Wendell, Julia B1,F8
Williams, Miller, b. 1930 B1,F8
Wormser, Baron, b. 1948 B1,F4
**SEE or SEE ALSO**

Parsons, Tonya  
   See:  
   Cesler, Tonya (Parsons)

Jeffrey  04/25/2012