

2 boxes

The collection contains the papers of Nathaniel Nakasa, who was a journalist with the DRUM magazine, a writer of short stories and the first editor of "The Classic" magazine.

"The Classic" was a black literary magazine of creative writing and art, and was first published from 1963-1971 by The Classic Magazine Trust Fund in Johannesburg. The editors included Nat Nakasa (1963-1964), Barney Simon and Casey Motsisi (1965), Barney Simon (1966-1967), Eve Braatvedt, Jill Chisholm, Stanley Motjuwadi and Joyce Sikhakane (1968), Barney Simon (1969-1971). The contributions of work by leading black writers included Can Themba, Lewis Nkosi, Bessie Head, Leslie Sehume, Julian Beinart, Richard Rive, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Andrew Motjuoadi, Casey Motsisi, as well as Nadine Gordimer, who also served as editor, musicians such as Dollar Brand, photographers including Alfred Kumalo, various French African writers. The Classic Short Story Competition was judged by writers including James Baldwin.

The magazine was suspended from 1971-1974, but was later re-published in Dube Township, Soweto, under the name "The New Classic" in 1975, edited by Siphosiphiso Sepamla, and published by New Classic Publications, but ceased again in 1978, with the "Short Story Special". It was once more revived in 1982, and published with few issues by the African Writers Association.

(The black press in South Africa and Lesotho, by Les and Donna Switzer)

The papers were submitted by Prof Williams, English Department, University of the Witwatersrand. Reference is made to collection A3376 Sylvester Stein, Collection of publications, 1951-1989.

COLLECTION

A THE CLASSIC MAGAZINE, 1963-1984

Please note: The issues 1975-1984 have been digitised, but are only available in-house and subject to copyright.

A1 The Classic, Vol 1, No 1, 1963

A2 The Classic, Vol 1, No 2, 1963

A3 The Classic, Vol 1, No 4, 1965

A4 The Classic, Vol 2, No 1, 1966

The issue was dedicated to Nat Nakasa, after his death on the 14 July 1965, and was titled "The world of Nat Nakasa".

A5 The Classic, Vol 2, No 2, 1966

A6 The Classic, Vol 2, No 3, 1967

A7 The Classic, Vol 3, No 1, 1968

A8 The Classic, Vol 2, No 4, 1968

A9 The Classic, Vol 3, No 2, 1969

A10 The Classic, Vol 3, No 3, 1970

A11 New Classic, No 2, 1975

A12 New Classic, No 5, 1978

This last issue of the New Classic was entitled "Short Story Special".

A13 The Classic, Vol 1, No 1, 1982

The first issue published by the African Writers Association and Skotaville Publishers, was entitled "Committed black literature of the 1980s".

A14 The Classic, Vol 2, No 1, 1983

A15 The Classic, Vol 3, No 1, 1984

B CORRESPONDENCE, 1963-1978

B1 Correspondence with contributors and potential contributors, 1963, 3f
Correspondents include Bennie Bunsee, Athol and Sheila Fugard, Dennis Kiley, Doris Lessing, Arthur Maimane, Stephen Majombosi, Todd Matshikisa, James Matthews, Bloke Modisane, Luis Bernado Monwana, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Lewis Nkosi, Richard Rive, Can Themba and others.

B1.1 Bunsee, Bennie

B1.2 Fugard, Athol and Sheila

B1.3 Kiley, Dennis

B1.4 Lessing, Doris

B1.5 Maimane, Arthur

B1.6 Majombozi, S & Matshikiza, Todd

B1.7 Matthews, James

B1.8 Modisane, Bloke

B1.9 Monwana, L.B.

B1.10 Mphahlele, Ezekiel

B1.11 Nkosi, Lewis

B1.12 Richards, Rive

B1.13 Themba, Can

B1.14 Other

B2 Correspondence about contributors for The Classic, 1963, 1f

Including a letter written by Rajat Neogy, editor of 'Transition' and addressed to Neville Rubin, editor of 'The New African', with copy to Ulli Beier, editor of 'Black Orpheus', Nat Nakasa and Ezekiel Mphahlele. Neogy suggests closer collaboration between the four publications, dated 12 August 1963.

B3 Business correspondence relating to The Classic, 1962-1963, 1f

B3.1 Short Story competition, August 1963

Correspondence with the judges for the competition, which included James Baldwin, William Plomer, Noni Jabavu

B3.2 Correspondence with Farfield Foundation, New York, 1962-1963

The Farfield Foundation provided a grant for the publication of The Classic.

B3.3 Business and advertising correspondence, 1963-1964

B4 Subscriptions to The Classic, correspondence, 1963, 2f

The requests for subscriptions are in no particular order, but are a reflection of the wide interest in this publication.

B5 Correspondence with Audrey Cobden and Sipho Sepamla, 1975-1978

Relating to the re-emergency of The Classic, under the name The New Classic. Please note: This section has not been digitised.

C ARTICLES AND TRIBUTUES ABOUT NAT NAKASA, 1966-2014

Including a tribute by Can Themba to Nat Nakasa and a poem by William Plomer, both of which accompany a note written by Audrey Cobden in 1966.

Please note: Newspaper articles covering the reburial of the remains of Nat Nakase in South Africa in 2014 have not been digitised.