

Reference Code MS 124

Repository: Georgia Room, Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System, 823 Telfair St. Augusta, GA 30901

Title: Joseph B. Cumming Papers

Date: ca.1954

Extent: 2 boxes, 38 folders

Scope and Content: Contains the 37 episodes of "Out of the Wilderness" a radio broadcast series and background material on the production of the series, as well as a resume of the author's career and several letters.

Name of Creator: Cumming, Joseph B. III

Administrative/Biographical History: Material donated by Joseph B. Cumming in 2009

Joseph B. Cumming III (February 26, 1926-March 9, 2020) Born in Augusta, from one of its first families (an ancestor Thomas Cumming was the first Intendant or Mayor of Augusta), Cumming was known primarily for his work as a Newsweek reporter and Atlanta bureau chief from 1957-1979. He taught journalism at West Georgia College, now the University of West Georgia, from 1981-1991. His output as a writer spanned many genres. He won the Poetry Book Award from the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists in 1983 for his collection of poems *Family Secret*.

In an undated letter contained in this collection Cumming wrote that he considered "Out of the Wilderness" to be crucial to his being hired at Newsweek in 1957. Since he had been paid for writing "Out of the Wilderness" it helped establish his credentials as a professional writer.

Conditions governing access: no restrictions

Related resources:

Joseph B. Cumming papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University. <https://archives.libraries.emory.edu/repositories/7/resources/2584>