



# Smithsonian

*Anacostia Community Museum*

Velma Nesbit manuscript

ACMA.06-127

Anacostia Community Museum Archives  
1901 Fort Place, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20020  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-4853  
ACMArchives@si.edu  
<https://anacostia.si.edu/collection/archives>

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	1
Container Listing .....	

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Velma Nesbit manuscript
<b>Date:</b>	circa 2000
<b>Identifier:</b>	ACMA.06-127
<b>Creator:</b>	Nesbit, Velma, 1925-2002 Berking, Peter (Editor)
<b>Extent:</b>	.5 Linear feet (1 box, 6 linear inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Gift of Peter Berking, 2004.

### Preferred Citation

Velma Nesbit manuscript, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution, gift of Peter Berking.

### Restrictions

Certain portions of this collection are restricted. Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist at [acmarchives@si.edu](mailto:acmarchives@si.edu) for more information.

---

## Biographical / Historical

Velma Nesbit (1925-2002) was born in Fayette, Alabama. She was one of five children; her father was a sharecropper. During the 1950s and 1960s, Nesbit was a nightclub singer in and around New York City, sharing the same bill as Redd Foxx, Nipsey Russell and Dinah Washington. From 1966-1968, Nesbit worked as a governess for the Berking Family. Peter Berking recorded and transcribed Nesbit's oral history.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection, which dates from circa 2000, contains a 144-page typescript copy of the unpublished autobiography of Velma Nesbit, the daughter of an Alabama sharecropper. Also present are 14 audiocassettes, one diskette and four compact discs relating to Nesbit's life and career.

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

African American women -- Biography  
African Americans -- Social conditions  
Children of sharecroppers  
Sharecroppers

Types of Materials:

Audiocassettes  
Compact discs  
Manuscripts  
Oral histories (document genres)

Names:

Nesbit, Velma, 1925-2002