

# Guide to the Charles W. Toth Correspondence with Tram Combs

MS 2061



compiled by Jana Krentz

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Yale University Library  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2061

**CREATOR:** Toth, Charles W.

**TITLE:** Charles W. Toth correspondence with Tram Combs

**DATES:** 1954-1963

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** The material is in English.

**SUMMARY:** Sixty-eight letters and postcards, most containing discussion on the publication of Combs' book, *Pilgrim's Terrace: Poems, American, West Indian*, published in Puerto Rico. The collection also includes sixteen pages of long galleys for Combs' book.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Latin American Collection Curator, 2016.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Charles W. Toth Correspondence with Tram Combs (MS 2061). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Charles W. Toth

Charles W. Toth was a graduate of Bard College (1946) and received his Master's Degree from the University of Illinois (1947). He was a professor of history at the Polytechnic Institute in San German, Puerto Rico and the Universidad de Puerto Rico until 1975. He published several books, including *American Revolution and the West Indies, Myth, Reality, and History: Selected Essays*, and *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité: The American Revolution and the European Response*, as well as many scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Americas, Political Research Quarterly*, and *Western Political Quarterly*.

Tram Combs

Tram Combs was born September 25, 1924 in Riverview, Alabama. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force as a second lieutenant until 1946. He received a certificate of professional competence in meteorology from the University of Chicago. Combs studied electronics engineering and attended Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received an A.B. in physics from the University of California in 1948. During the late 1940s, he began to write poetry and focused his career on writing and the arts. Beginning in 1952, Combs managed and owned book store in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands specializing in materials from Central America, Latin America and the Caribbean. While living in St. Thomas he also participated in community, cultural, and political activities, and was actively involved in the gay literary community and was a regular contributor to gay periodicals, such as *Mattachine Review* and *One*. Combs wrote a number of books of poetry including *Pilgrim's Terrace: Poems, American, West Indian* (1957), *Saints Thomas' and Francis' Cities Songs o' Tram* (1958), *Ceremonies in Mind: Artists, Boys, Cats, Lovers, Judges, Priests* (1959), *But Never Mind* (1961), *Saint Thomas: Poems* (1965), and *Briefs: Poems* (1966). His poetry was also published in issues of *BIM*.

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## Scope and Contents

Sixty-eight letters and postcards, most containing discussion on the publication of Combs' book, *Pilgrim's Terrace: Poems, American, West Indian*, published in Puerto Rico. The collection also includes sixteen pages of long galleys for Combs' book.

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## Arrangement

The material is arranged chronologically.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-9	Correspondence	1954-1963
b. 1, f. 10	<i>Pilgrim's Terrace: Poems, American, West Indian galleys</i>	1957

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Names**

Toth, Charles W.

### **Contributors**

Toth, Charles W.  
Combs, Tram, 1924-