# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................... 3
Requesting Instructions ........................................................................................................ 3

Administrative Information .................................................................................................. 4
  Immediate Source of Acquisition ...................................................................................... 4
  Conditions Governing Access ......................................................................................... 4
  Conditions Governing Use .............................................................................................. 4
  Preferred Citation ............................................................................................................ 4
  Processing Information .................................................................................................... 4

LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967) .................................................................................... 4

Scope and Contents .............................................................................................................. 4

Collection Contents ............................................................................................................. 6
  Series I. Josephine DeWitt Rhodhamel Gift ................................................................. 6
    LETTERS FROM LANGSTON HUGHES .................................................................. 6
    WRITINGS OF LANGSTON HUGHES ................................................................ 6
    WRITINGS OF OTHERS ....................................................................................... 6
  Series II. Material from Other Sources .......................................................................... 7
    CORRESPONDENCE .............................................................................................. 7
    PHOTOGRAPHS ...................................................................................................... 7
    AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS .................................................................................. 7
      Commercial Sound Recordings .............................................................................. 7
      Commercial Videocassettes .................................................................................... 8
      Media Produced by and for Beinecke Events ......................................................... 8
    ELECTRONIC FILES ............................................................................................ 9
  Restricted Fragile ............................................................................................................ 10

Selected Search Terms ...................................................................................................... 11
Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/  

CALL NUMBER: JWJ MSS 28  

CREATOR: Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967  

TITLE: Langston Hughes collection  

DATES: 1924–1969  

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.75 linear feet (4 boxes) + 1 art storage item  

LANGUAGE: English  

SUMMARY: The Langston Hughes Collection consists of correspondence, writings, photographs, sound recordings, video recordings, electronic files, and other material documenting the life, work, and remembrance of Langston Hughes. Series I, Josephine DeWitt Rhodehamel Gift, is organized into three subseries: Letters from Langston Hughes, Writings of Langston Hughes and Writings of Others. There are letters to Rhodehamel and holograph and typescript versions of poems for Dear Lovely Death. Series II, Material from Other Sources, is organized into four subseries: Correspondence, Photographs, Audiovisual Materials, and Electronic Files. There are groups of letters to Arna Bontemps, Harold Jackman, Arthur Spingarn, Nathaniel White and others. Audiovisual material consists of commercial recordings of Langston Hughes’s work, as well as video recordings of two sessions from Yale University’s “Langston Hughes and His World” conference in February 2002. Electronic files include preliminary and final versions of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library’s online exhibition, “Langston Hughes at 100.”  

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hughesar  

Requesting Instructions  
To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hughesar.  

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.  

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:  
b. box  
f. folder  
item barcode
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The Langston Hughes Collection was acquired through various gifts and purchases to complement the Langston Hughes Papers (JWJ MSS 26). Audiovisual materials and electronic files were acquired or produced at the time of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library's Hughes centenary exhibition and conference in 2002.

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Box 2: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Box 4: Folders 30 and 34 are unused. Original recordings are in Box 2, folders 38 and 39.

Conditions Governing Use
The Langston Hughes Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation
Langston Hughes Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information
This collection contains small groups of material, some of which were formerly part of the Langston Hughes Papers (JWJ MSS 26). These materials were removed from the Hughes Papers during reprocessing because they derive from sources other than Langston Hughes and his estate. Other groups of material were acquired or produced by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library during the Hughes centenary exhibition and conference in 2002. Audiovisual Materials and Electronic Files were added to the Collection in 2006.

LANGSTON HUGHES (1902-1967)
A biographical timeline is provided in the Langston Hughes Papers (JWJ MSS 26).

Scope and Contents
The Langston Hughes Collection consists of letters, manuscripts, audiovisual recordings and other material documenting the life, work, and remembrance of Langston Hughes. The collection spans the years 1924-2002.

The collection is housed in 4 boxes and organized into two series: Josephine DeWitt Rhodehamel Gift and Material from Other Sources. Box 2 contains material that is Restricted Fragile.
Series I, Josephine DeWitt Rhodehamel Gift, is organized into three subseries: Letters from Langston Hughes, Writings of Langston Hughes and Writings of Others. Letters from Langston Hughes, housed in box 1, consist exclusively of letters from Hughes to Rhodehamel, of Berkeley, California, dating from 1930-40. Letters mention Rhodehamel's efforts to acquire particular pieces of work by Hughes for herself and "the library," his work and travel, and his gratitude for her interest. The Writings of Langston Hughes subseries contains holograph and typescript versions of poems for Dear Lovely Death (1931) laid in decorated boards. There is also a typescript copy of Louise Thompson's article on Hughes' first novel, Not Without Laughter (1930).

Series II, Material from Other Sources, housed in boxes 1, 3, and 4, is organized into four subseries: Correspondence, Photographs, Audiovisual Material and Electronic Files. The Correspondence subseries consists of correspondence from Hughes to others and is arranged alphabetically by recipient. There are groups of letters to Arna Bontemps, Harold Jackman, Arthur Spingarn, Nathaniel White and others. More than 20 letters to Arna Bontemps, dating from March to September 1948, deal with their anthology The Poetry of the Negro (1949). Most of Hughes' letters to Harold Jackman are brief, but longer letters from 1924 and 1933 respectively touch on the economic hardships of life in Paris and the production of Hughes' plays, "Mulatto" and "The Ways of White Folks," by the Harlem Experimental Theatre. Hughes solicited Arthur Spingarn's help in early December 1935 to obtain royalties from the American Play Company for the Vanderbilt Theatre's production of "Mulatto," and subsequent letters, also dating from December 1935, discuss Spingarn's efforts on his behalf. There are many brief letters and cards to Nathaniel White, one of Hughes' assistants, dating from the late 1940s to early 1950s. Enclosures, third-party correspondence and correspondence to Hughes are noted in the folder description. There are photographs of Hughes dating from 1934 and 1969.

The Audiovisual Material subseries consists of audio and video recordings acquired or produced by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library for the Library's 2002 exhibition "Langston at 100" and the Yale University conference "Langston Hughes and His World" which was held by the University's Department of African American Studies and the Beinecke Library in February 2002. The material includes both commercial recordings relating to Hughes, and video recordings of "Langston Hughes and His World" conference sessions "An Evening of Jazz and Poetry" and "The Theatre of Langston Hughes." The Electronic Files subseries consists of preliminary and final .html files for the online exhibition "Langston Hughes at 100."

Restricted Fragile materials are housed in box 2.
# Collection Contents

**Series I. Josephine DeWitt Rhodehamel Gift**

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Gift of Josephine DeWitt Rhodehamel, 1964

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1930–40, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes clipping of poems in Russian and printed advertisement for the 1936 Curran Theatre production of “Mulatto”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>“Dear Lovely Death,” poems, holograph and typescript, corrected</td>
<td>1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>“Langston Hughes, Novelist,” article by Louise Thompson, typescript carbon, corrected</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series II. Material from Other Sources

1.33 linear feet (2 boxes)

Correspondence and Photographs acquired by gift or purchase from various sources. Audiovisual Material and Electronic Files acquired or produced by the Beinecke Library for the Hughes centenary exhibition and conference in 2002.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 4 | Bontemps, Arna  
Includes letter from Bontemps to Hughes | 1948–64, n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Franklin, “Miss” | 1927 Feb 27   |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Friedberg, Leavia  
Includes printed invitations and letters to Hughes from Josh White and the Negro Actors Guild of America | 1942, n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Gallop, Donald | 1950–51       |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Hill, Lawrence  
Contains copy of letter | 1963 Sep 24   |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Jackman, Harold  
Includes review of Gilpin Players 1936 production of “Little Ham” at the Karamu Theater | 1924–37       |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Rutherford, Tom  
Includes letter from Rutherford to Bernard Knollenberg | 1942 Sep       |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Spingarn, Arthur B. (Arthur Barnett) | 1935          |
| b. 1, f. 12 | White, Nathaniel  
Includes postcard from White to Hughes | 1946–51, n.d. |

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 13</td>
<td>Photograph of Langston Hughes</td>
<td>1969 Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Art, f. 14</td>
<td>Photograph of Langston Hughes by Sibyl Anikeeff</td>
<td>[1934 Sep 15?]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

**Commercial Sound Recordings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 3, f. 17 | *Black nativity - gospel on Broadway* [Compact disc]  
Re-release of VeeJay 5022 (1962)  
Collectables, COL-CD-7161 | 2000 |
| b. 3, f. 18 | *Amaize, Odekhiren. The Negro speaks of rivers, and other art songs by African- American composers* [Compact disc]  
Musician Showcase Recordings, MS1011 | 1999 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 19</td>
<td><em>Jimmie Lunceford and his orchestra, 1941-1945</em> (French import) [Compact disc]</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 20</td>
<td><em>Lincoln, Abbey. Abbey is blue</em> (Japanese import) [Compact disc] VICJ-60490</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 22</td>
<td><em>Lutcher, Nellie. The Best of Nellie Lutcher</em> [Compact disc] Capitol Jazz, CDP 7243 8 35039 2 6</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 23</td>
<td><em>Midge Williams and her Jazz Jesters, 1937-1938</em> (French import) [Compact disc] Classics 745</td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 24</td>
<td><em>Siegmeister, Elie. Selections</em> [Compact disc] CRI American masters series, CRI 814</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commercial Videocassettes**

These videocassettes are commercial and have not been digitized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 28</td>
<td><em>Stormy Weather (1943)</em> [VHS]</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Media Produced by and for Beinecke Events

Box 2: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 29</td>
<td><em>Langston Hughes at 100 1 Videocassette (VHS)</em> This is a videocassette copy of the original recording. It has not been digitized. Accompanied by program</td>
<td>2002 Feb 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 38</td>
<td>“An Evening of Jazz and Poetry,” Langston Hughes and His World: A Centenniel Celebration conference, Yale University (Tape 1 of 2) 1 Videocassette (Hi8) duration: 01:39:08 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</td>
<td>2002 February 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 31, f. 39002104618245</td>
<td>“An Evening of Jazz and Poetry,” Langston Hughes and His World: A Centennial Celebration conference, Yale University (1 of 2) 1 Videocassette (VHS) This is a videocassette copy of the original recording. It has not been digitized.</td>
<td>2002 Feb 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 32, f. 39002104618252</td>
<td>“An Evening of Jazz and Poetry,” Langston Hughes and His World: A Centennial Celebration conference, Yale University (2 of 2) 1 Videocassette (VHS) This is a videocassette copy of the original recording. It has not been digitized.</td>
<td>2002 Feb 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 39, f. 39002104618336</td>
<td>“The Theatre of Langston Hughes,” Langston Hughes and His World: A Centennial Celebration conference, Yale University (Tape 2 of 2) 1 Videocassette (Hi8) duration: 01:35:02 Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.</td>
<td>2002 February 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 34, f. 39002104618294</td>
<td>“The Theatre of Langston Hughes,” Langston Hughes and His World: A Centennial Celebration conference, Yale University [VHS] This is a videocassette copy of the original recording. It has not been digitized.</td>
<td>2002 Feb 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 35</td>
<td>Langston Hughes Reads - CD format [Compact disc]</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ELECTRONIC FILES**

| b. 3, f. 36 | “Langston at 100” website, html files, preliminary version | [2002] |
| b. 3, f. 37 | “Langston at 100” website, html files, final version (“Web and library versions”) | 2002 Jan 30 |
Restricted Fragile

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Box 2: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 15</td>
<td>Box 1, folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 16</td>
<td>Box 1, folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 39</td>
<td>Box 4, folder 33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Subjects
African American authors -- 20th Century -- Archives
American literature -- 20th Century
Authors
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives
Harlem Renaissance -- Archives

Genres / Formats
Born digital
Compact discs
Photographic prints
Videocassettes

Occupations
Poets

Names
Bontemps, Arna, 1902-1973
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967
Jackman, Harold, 1901-1961
Rhodehamel, Josephine DeWitt
White, Nathaniel

Corporate Bodies
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Langston Hughes and His World -- New Haven, Conn. -- 2002
Langston Hughes at 100 (Exhibition : New Haven, CT) -- 2002
Yale University. Dept. of African American Studies