

Guide to the Wallace Thurman Collection

JWJ MSS 12



by Beinecke Staff

August 1996

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
WALLACE THURMAN (1902-1934)	4
Scope and Contents	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Correspondence	5
Letters	5
Series II: Writings	6
<i>Aunt Hagar's Children</i>	6
"Harlem" (written with William Jourdan Rapp)	6
Articles about "Harlem" and life in Harlem	6
Series III: Personal Papers, 1934, 1942	8
Restricted Fragile Papers	9
Selected Search Terms	10

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 12

CREATOR: Thurman, Wallace, 1902-1934

TITLE: Wallace Thurman Collection

DATES: 1927-1942

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Wallace Thurman Collection contains Correspondence, (including letters from Langston Hughes), Writings, primarily versions of Aunt Hagar's Children and the musical play Harlem, written with William Jourdan Rapp, and Personal Papers.

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

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.thurman>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Wallace Thurman Collection contains items presented to the James Weldon Johnson Collection after his death in 1934, many from Mrs. William Jourdan Rapp, the widow of Thurman's collaborator on "Harlem."

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Wallace Thurman 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

Wallace Thurman Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

WALLACE THURMAN (1902-1934)

Wallace Thurman was a novelist and playwright who found fame before his early death with the novel *The Blacker the Berry* and the play, "Harlem". A biographical sketch of Thurman written by Harold Jackman, can be found in folder 59 of this collection.

Scope and Contents

NOTE: This finding aid was produced from a previously existing manuscripts inventory. All pertinent information has been retained. Former call number: JWJ MSS Small Collections.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence

Letters

b. 1, f. 1	Grant, Helen from City Hospital To: 1 / From: 0	1934 Dec 3
b. 1, f. 2	Harris, Robert To: 1 / From: 0	1929 Aug 2
b. 1, f. 3	Hughes, Langston To: 6 / From: 0	1929, 1932, n.d.
b. 1, f. 4	Jackman, Harold To: 0 / From: 4	1928-34, n.d.
b. 1, f. 5	Jackman, Harold letters from Jackman to Carl Van Vechten re: Thurman Collection 4 letters	1941-48
b. 1, f. 6	Rapp, Paul letter to William Jourdan Rapp 1 letter	1928 Jul 19
b. 1, f. 7-8	Rapp, William Jourdan To: 0 / From: 25	1928, 1929, n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	Rapp, Mrs. William Jourdan letters to Carl Van Vechten 2 letters	1942, 1944

Series II: Writings*Aunt Hagar's Children*

b. 1, f. 10-15	Draft, typescript and carbon and printed version, corrected Includes: Table of Contents, Author's Preface, "Notes on a Step-child" autobiographical statement "This Negro Literary Renaissance" "Tribute" "Mr. Van Vechten's Jurors" "Frederick Douglass" "Booker T. Washington" "Marcus Garvey" "Draw Your Own Conclusions" "The Perpetual Bugaboo" "The Coming Revolution" "So This Is Harlem" "Terpsichore in Harlem"	n.d.
"Harlem" (written with William Jourdan Rapp)		
b. 1, f. 16	"Cordelia the Crude," scenario of "Harlem", typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 17	"Cordelia the Crude," printed version, <i>Fire!! A Quarterly Devoted to the Younger Negro Artists</i> , Vol. 1, no. 1	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	"Color Parade", title pages and synopsis of early version of "Harlem", holograph and typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19-24	Untitled, early versions of "Harlem", holograph, typescript, and carbon, corrected	n.d.
b. 1, f. 25-27	"City of Refuge", early version of "Harlem", holograph, typescript, and carbon, corrected	n.d.
b. 2, f. 28	"Black Mecca", early version of "Harlem" typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 2, f. 29-31	"Black Belt", early version of "Harlem", typescript carbon (3 copies)	1927
b. 2, f. 32-34	Assorted revised pages of "Harlem"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 35-36	[EMPTY FOLDERS]	
b. 2, f. 37-38	Clippings re: "Harlem"	1929
b. 2, f. 39	Playbills, theater magazines and advertisements re: "Harlem"	1929
b. 2, f. 40	Contract for Crosby Gage to produce "Black Mecca"	1928 Jan 9
Articles about "Harlem" and life in Harlem		
b. 3, f. 41	"Harlem", article about play by Thurman and Rapp, printed version, <i>Detroit Free Press</i>	1929 May 12
b. 3, f. 42	"The Writing of 'Harlem', the Story of a Strange Collaboration" by W. J. Rapp, holograph	n.d.

Articles about "Harlem" and life in Harlem (continued)

b. 3, f. 43	"'Harlem' as Educational Drama," by Thurman and Rapp, holograph and typescript of article	n.d.
b. 3, f. 44	Articles about the production of "Harlem", holograph Includes: "Casting and Directing Harlem" Untitled article by Wallace Thurman "How 'Harlem' Got to Broadway" by W. J. Rapp "My Collaboration" by Wallace Thurman	n.d.
b. 3, f. 45	"Two Playwrights Look at Harlem" by W. J. Rapp, holograph and typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 3, f. 46	"What's Happening in the Black Belt", by Thurman and Rapp, holograph, typescripts and carbon, corrected, and printed version	n.d.
b. 3, f. 47	"Few Know Real Harlem, the City of Surprises" by Thurman and Rapp, typescripts, corrected and printed version	[1929]
b. 3, f. 48	"Harlem House-Rent Parties", one version by Wallace Thurman, one version by W. J. Rapp, holograph	n.d.
b. 3, f. 49	"Sweetbacks" by W. J. Rapp, holograph	n.d.
b. 3, f. 50	Untitled article re: dance called "The Bump," holograph	n.d.
b. 3, f. 51	"Harlemese" and "Glossary of Harlemisms" by Wallace Thurman and W. J. Rapp, holographs	n.d.
b. 3, f. 52	"A Lady: Past Revolution, in Memoriam: Circa 1936", poem, holograph	1936
b. 3, f. 53	"Negro Artists and the Negro," article, printed version, <i>The New Republic</i>	1927 Aug 31
b. 3, f. 54	"Nephews of Uncle Remus", article, printed version, <i>The Independent</i>	1927 Sep 24
b. 3, f. 55	Review of Langston Hughes; <i>Not Without Laughter</i> , printed version, <i>New York Evening Post</i>	1938 Jul 28
b. 3, f. 56	Untitled autobiographical statement, holograph	n.d.
b. 3, f. 57	Untitled poem fragment	n.d.
b. 3, f. 58	Untitled, four pages of handwritten manuscript about tubercular patients	ca. 1934

Series III: Personal Papers, 1934, 1942

b. 3, f. 59	Biographical sketches of Wallace Thurman by Harold Jackman and Hughes Allison	1934, 1942
b. 3, f. 60	Clippings, re: Wallace Thurman	1935-35, n.d.
b. 3, f. 61	Untitled autobiographical statements by William Jourdan Rapp	n.d.
b. 3, f. 62	William Jourdan Rapp, obituary and memorial address clippings	1942
b. 3, f. 63	Photographs: Wallace Thurman, William Jourdan Rapp, and Chester Erskin	1941-42, n.d.

Restricted Fragile Papers

Box 4: Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 4, f. 64	Box 1, folder 8
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b. 4, f. 65	Box 1, folder 19
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b. 4, f. 66	Box 1, folder 20
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b. 4, f. 67	Box 1, folder 21
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b. 4, f. 68	Box 3, folder 53
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b. 4, f. 69	Box 3, folder 54
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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.

Subjects

African American authors -- 20th Century --
Archives
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

Names

Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967
Rapp, William Jourdan, 1895-1942
Thurman, Wallace, 1902-1934