

Guide to the Countee Cullen Collection

JWJ MSS 7



by Beinecke Staff

August 1996

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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 7

CREATOR: Cullen, Countee, 1903-1946

TITLE: Countee Cullen Collection

DATES: 1923-1946

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.4 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Countee Cullen gained fame principally as a poet, during the Harlem Renaissance, and later taught in the New York City school system.

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

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.cullen>.

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 Countee Cullen Collection contains items presented to the James Weldon Johnson Collection by various persons, including Mr. Cullen, by way of Carl Van Vechten, with one later purchase ("Karengé Ya Marengé").

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Countee Cullen 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

Countee Cullen Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

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

COUNTEE CULLEN (1903-1946)

Recognized at an early age for his poetic gift, Cullen became one of the leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance. Following the success of his volumes of poems, he studied in France on a Guggenheim Fellowship, married Yolande DuBois, the daughter of W.E.B. DuBois, and taught in the New York City school system.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials relating to Countee Cullen.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1937-45, n.d.

b. 1, f. 1-5	Atkinson, Edward To: 0 / From: 51	1937-45, n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	Braithwaite, Fiona To: 1 / From: 0	1926 Apr 22
b. 1, f. 7	Byrd, Sydonia To: 1 / From: 0	1927 Jan 11
b. 1, f. 8	Cottingham, Clive To: 0 / From: 5	1938-46, n.d.
b. 1, f. 9-15	DuBois, Yolande To: 104 / From: 0	1923-29
b. 1, f. 16	Grass, Bella To: 1 / From: 0	1934 Jul 12
b. 1, f. 17	Gross, --- carbon of letter from Cullen To: 1 / From: 0	1945 May 8
b. 1, f. 18	Hughes, Langston To: 1 / From: 0	1928 Apr 4
b. 1, f. 19-20	Jackman, Harold To: 0 / From: 26 Includes letter from F.A. Cullen, notes from Jackman to Carl Van Vechten and notes by Carl Van Vechten	1923-45
b. 2, f. 21	LaGuardia, Fiorello To: 1 / From: 1	1945 May
b. 2, f. 22	Littleboy, Rex To: 3 / From: 0	1928
b. 2, f. 23	Sebree, Charles Includes letter from Harold Jackman to Sebree, letter from Owen [Dodson?] to Carl Van Vechten, and draft of poem, "Description of the Wakeupworld" by Cullen To: 0 / From: 12	1940
b. 2, f. 24	Thomas, Rughmarie To: 6 / From: 0	1925-26
b. 2, f. 25	Van Vechten, Carl To: 0 / From: 1	1943 Nov 18

Series II: Writings

<i>The Black Christ</i>		
b. 2, f. 26	Holograph notebook with other poems	1928-29
b. 2, f. 27	Holograph notebook copy made for and inscribed to Clive Cottingham	n.d.
b. 2, f. 28	Excerpts, typescript	n.d.
<i>Copper Sun</i>		
b. 2, f. 29	Galley proofs	1927
<i>"Karengé Ya Marengé"</i>		
b. 2, f. 30	Holograph, signed	1942 Aug 24
<i>The Lost Zoo</i>		
b. 2, f. 31	Holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 2, f. 32	Holograph copy inscribed to Roberta Bosley	
b. 2, f. 33	Typescript, corrected, inscribed to Roberta Bosley	n.d.
b. 2, f. 34	Introduction, "A Word About Christopher", typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 2, f. 35	"Second and final draft" (setting typescript), inscribed to Carl Van Vechten Includes photograph of Christopher Cat	n.d.
b. 2, f. 36	Galley proofs	1940 Sep 13
b. 2, f. 37	Publicity statement, cover design and photo of Christopher Cat	1940
<i>Medea ["Byword for Evil"]</i>		
b. 3, f. 38	Prologue and epilogue of Cullen's adaptation, holograph notebook	n.d.
b. 3, f. 39	Typescript carbon of script	n.d.
b. 3, f. 40	Epilogue, typescript carbon	n.d.
<i>My Lives and How I Lost Them</i>		
b. 3, f. 41-43	Setting typescript	1942
<i>One Way to Heaven</i>		
b. 3, f. 44-45	Typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 46	Setting typescript Includes: postcard from Harper and Brothers to Countee Cullen and from Harold [Jackman] to Carl Van Vechten	1932
b. 3, f. 47	Play adaptation, typescript, corrected	n.d.
Poems		

Poems (continued)

b. 4, f. 48-49	Drafts, titled and untitled, holograph and typescript Includes: poems removed from letters to Edward Atkinson and letters to Carl Van Vechten	1926-42
b. 4, f. 50	Holograph notebook, filled with French exercises and some poems	n.d.

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

Cullen, Countee, 1903-1946