

# Ralph Ellison Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

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Latest revision: 2011 August

# Collection Summary

Title: Ralph Ellison Papers

Span Dates: 1890-2005

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1930-1994)

ID No.: MSS83111

Creator: Ellison, Ralph

Extent: 74,800 items; 314 containers plus 25 overisize; 143 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: African-American author and educator. General correspondence, organizational correspondence and reports, family papers, drafts, notes, and production files for novels, essays, poetry, short stories, reviews, and other writings, speeches, lectures, and interviews, reference file, and miscellany documenting Ellison's career and development as a writer. Among the many works represented are *Going to the Territory* (1985), *Invisible Man* (1952), *Shadow and Act* (1964), and the second novel Ellison left unpublished at his death.

## 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.

### People

Bearden, Romare, 1911-1988--Correspondence.

Bellow, Saul--Correspondence.

Brooks, Harry, 1895-1970--Correspondence.

Calicutt, Harold--Correspondence.

Cheever, John--Correspondence.

Ciardi, John, 1916-1986--Correspondence.

Clark, Kenneth Bancroft, 1914-2005--Correspondence.

Davis, Henry B. O., 1911- --Correspondence.

Dawson, William Levi, 1899-1990--Correspondence.

Ellison family.

Ellison, Fanny McConnell. Fanny McConnell Ellison papers.

Ellison, Ralph.

Ellison, Ralph. *Going to the territory*. 1985.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible man*. 1952.

Ellison, Ralph. *Shadow and act*. 1964.

Engle, Paul, 1908-1991--Correspondence.

Fabre, Michel--Correspondence.

Harper, Michael S., 1938- --Correspondence.

Hersey, John, 1914-1993--Correspondence.

Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967--Correspondence.

Hyman, Phoebe--Correspondence.

Hyman, Stanley Edgar, 1919-1970--Correspondence.

Jackson, Shirley, 1916-1965--Correspondence.

Johnson, James Weldon, 1871-1938--Correspondence.

McConnell family.

McPherson, James Alan, 1943- --Correspondence.

Murray, Albert--Correspondence.

Newhall, Joseph F.--Correspondence.

Olmanson, Myron Donald--Correspondence.

Scott, Nathan A.--Correspondence.

Seagrave, Gordon Stifler, 1897-1965--Correspondence.  
Warren, Robert Penn, 1905-1989--Correspondence.  
Wright, Richard, 1908-1960--Correspondence.

#### Organizations

American Medical Center for Burma.  
Bennington College.  
Carnegie Commission on Educational Television.  
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.  
Federal Writers' Project.  
Museum of the City of New York.  
Negro People's Theatre (Chicago, Ill.)  
New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y.)  
Wake Forest University.

#### Subjects

African American authors.  
African Americans--Illinois--Chicago.  
American literature--African American authors.  
American literature.  
Art.  
Civil rights.  
Literature.  
Music.  
Political science.  
Sports.

#### Occupations

Authors.  
Educators.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Ralph Ellison, author and educator, were acquired by the Library of Congress from his widow, Fanny McConnell Ellison and her trustees, through a deposit, gift, and purchase, 1995-2009.

### Processing History

Part I of the papers of Ralph Ellison was arranged and described in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2006. Additional material received between 2006 and 2009 was processed as Part II in 2010.

### Additional Guides

A description of Part I of the Ralph Ellison Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1994-1995*, 56-60.

### Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Books and some artifacts have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Audio and video recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs

Division. A flute and sheet music have been transferred to the Music Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Ralph Ellison Papers.

### Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Ralph Ellison in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for further information.

### Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Roman numeral designating the Part followed by a colon and container number, Ralph Ellison Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Ralph Ellison

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1914, Mar. 1	Born, Oklahoma City, Okla.
1933-1936	Attended Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.
1938-1942	Researcher, Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration Married Rose Poindexter (divorced 1945)
1939	Published short story "Slick Gonna Learn" in <i>Direction</i>
1940	Published short story "The Birthmark" in <i>New Masses</i> Published short story "Afternoon" in <i>American Writing</i> , ed. Hans Otto Storm and others. Prairie City, Ill.: J. A. Decker
1941	Published short story "Mister Toussan" in <i>New Masses</i>
1942	Managing editor, <i>Negro Quarterly</i>
1943-1945	Seaman, merchant marine
1944	Published short story "Flying Home" in <i>Cross Section</i> , ed. Edwin Seaver. New York: L. B. Fischer Published short story "King of the Bingo Game" in <i>Tomorrow</i>
1945	Received Rosenwald Fellowship
1946	Married Fanny McConnell Buford
1948	Published short story "Battle Royal" in '48, <i>The Magazine of the Year</i>

- 1952 Published *Invisible Man*. New York: Random House
- 1953 Received National Book Award for *Invisible Man*
- 1955-1957 Received American Academy of Arts and Letters Fellowship for study in Rome
- 1958-1961 Instructor, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.
- 1960 Published short story "And Hickman Arrives" in *The Noble Savage*
- 1961 Alexander White Visiting Professor, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
- 1962-1964 Visiting Professor of Writing, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
- 1964 Published *Shadow and Act*. New York: Random House
- 1964-1965 Visiting Fellow in American Studies, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
- 1966-1972 Honorary consultant in American Letters, Library of Congress
- 1967-1977 Trustee, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
- 1968-1979 Board of Directors, Educational Broadcasting Corp.
- 1969 Decorated chevalier l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France  
Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 1969-1982 Trustee, New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y.
- 1970-1975 Trustee, Bennington College, Bennington, Vt.
- 1970-1979 Albert Schweitzer Professor of Humanities, New York University, New York, N.Y.
- 1970-1985 Board of Directors, Museum of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
- 1971-1984 Trustee, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- 1972-1985 Board of Visitors, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- 1975 Opening of Ralph Ellison Branch, Metropolitan Library System, Oklahoma City, Okla.
- 1985 Awarded National Medal of Arts
- 1986 Published *Going to the Territory*. New York: Random House
- 1994, Apr. 16 Died, New York, N.Y.
- 1999 Posthumous publication, *Juneteenth*. New York: Random House

Fanny McConnell Ellison

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
[1911 ?], Nov. 27	Born, Louisville, Ky.
1932-1933	Attended Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.
1936	B.A., University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa Married Rodney G. Higgins (divorced 1937)
1938	Founded Negro People's Theatre, Chicago, Ill.
1939	Married Ligon Buford (divorced 1945)
1939-1941	Assistant to John Sengstacke and columnist, <i>Chicago Defender</i>
1942	Typist, Navy Yard, Washington D.C. Researcher, War Production Board, Washington, D.C.
1943-1945	Research assistant, National Urban League, New York, N.Y.
1945-1946	Director of publicity, New York City Housing Authority
1946	Married Ralph Ellison
1946-1953	Secretary to executive director, International Rescue Committee
1953-1966	Accounts manager, Harold L. Oram Associates, with a two-year absence from 1955-1957
1955-1957	Translator, Lampada della Fraternità (World Organization of the Lamp of Brotherhood), Rome, Italy
1963	Traveled to Namkham Hospital, Namkham, Burma, for Harold L. Oram, Inc.
2005, Nov. 19	Died, New York, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ralph Ellison (1914-1994) span the years 1890-2005, with the bulk of the material dating from 1930-1994. The collection documenting Ellison's career as author and educator is organized into two parts. Part I is arranged in nine series: [Family Papers](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Organizations File](#); [Writings File](#); [Speeches, Lectures, and Interviews](#); [Reference File](#); [Miscellany](#); [Closed](#); and [Oversize](#). Part II is arranged in eight series: [Family Papers](#); [General Correspondence](#); [Organizations File](#); [Writings File](#); [Reference File](#); [Miscellany](#); [Addition](#); and [Oversize](#). The papers are in English.

### Part I

Part I of the Ellison Papers spans the years 1890-1996, with most of the papers concentrated between 1933 and 1990.

The [Family Papers](#) contain personal material pertaining to Ellison, his wife Fanny McConnell Ellison, and their parents, siblings, former spouses, and other relatives. A substantial file relating to Ellison's employment includes material from his many teaching appointments. Of particular interest are the notes and reports he compiled for the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Fanny's employment papers document her work for the American Medical Center for Burma through the Harold L. Oram, Inc., fund-raising agency and her contribution as one of the founders of the Negro People's Theatre in Chicago. Also noteworthy are her drawings pertaining to the history of costume executed as a WPA project for the Chicago Board of Education. Household papers contain material on the Ellisons' property in New York, Key West, Florida, and Plainfield, Massachusetts. The latter includes insurance records of the fire which destroyed the first drafts of Ellison's unpublished Hickman novel. Other material in the family papers consists of biographical information, financial, legal, and medical records, school and military records, newspaper and magazine articles about Ellison, travel documents, notes, and printed matter.

The [General Correspondence](#) series contains Ralph and Fanny Ellison's incoming and outgoing letters to friends and business associates. Correspondents include institutions and businesses as well as individuals. Chief among them are Saul Bellow, John Cheever, John Ciardi, Kenneth Bancroft Clark, William Dawson, Paul Engle, Langston Hughes, Stanley Edgar Hyman, Shirley Jackson, Albert Murray, Robert Penn Warren, and Richard Wright. Several of Ellison's letters to friends and acquaintances such as Harry Brooks, Harold Calicutt, and Henry B. O. Davis contain reminiscences of his childhood, college years, and early adulthood.

The [Organizations File](#) concerns a wide range of cultural, educational, and charitable institutions in which Ellison participated as an officer, advisor, or trustee. For example, he served on the governing boards of Bennington College, the Carnegie Commission on Educational Television, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Museum of the City of New York, the New School for Social Research, and Wake Forest University. Material in the file consists primarily of correspondence and reports.

The [Writings File](#) contains drafts, notes, and production material for Ellison's literary works. The material in an essays and essay collections file, arranged alphabetically by title, appeared as journal articles or chapters published in compilations by others. Material pertaining to Ellison's own collections, *Shadow and Act* and *Going to the Territory*, is also included in this section. Many of his essays were reworked and republished several times. Ellison also wrote poetry, reviews of books, films, and recordings, short stories, and forewords, introductions, and endorsements for literary works of others. There is evidence that Ellison wrote book reviews in the 1940s under the pseudonym David Wilson. An incomplete draft of his memoirs also contains notes and outlines. Dates in parentheses in the container list refer to the publication date; other dates refer to the creation and span of the material in the folder.

Material relating to Ellison's novels makes up the bulk of the [Writings File](#). In order to show Ellison's approach to writing, his system of filing drafts alphabetically by title of episode rather than final story sequence has been maintained. Quotation marks are used to indicate episode titles devised by Ellison. A section relating to *Invisible Man* includes production material, publicity items, reviews, opera and film proposals, correspondence with publishers regarding various editions, foreign rights and translations, and the comments and criticism of others. A miscellany section in the Writings File contains bibliographies and literary criticisms of Ellison's works, plot ideas, notes, royalty statements, and information regarding copyrights, permissions, and reprints.

The [Speeches, Lectures, and Interviews](#) series demonstrates Ellison's popularity as a speaker at special events, club meetings, and university seminars. His customary subjects were literary, but also included music and art. During his fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, Ellison lectured at several European seminars. Ellison also held numerous teaching positions ranging from one semester as a visiting professor to appointments lasting for several years. Courses included the contemporary American novel and Russian literature. He was frequently interviewed for radio

programs, magazines, and newspapers. Among his interviewers were Michael S. Harper, Irving Howe, and Robert Penn Warren. The three sections of this series, containing texts, correspondence, notes, and printed matter, are arranged chronologically.

The [Reference File](#) includes newspaper and magazine articles and other printed matter on subjects ranging from music, art, and literature to sports, politics, and civil rights. A large biographical section includes material on individuals whom Ellison either knew or considered interesting.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains address books, appointment calendars, invitations, programs, and ephemera. Also included are papers relating to the awards, citations, and honorary degrees awarded to Ellison. The [Closed](#) series consists primarily of correspondence, writings, and drawings which are too fragile for handling. Photocopies of each item have been placed where the original would have appeared in the collection. Material too large for the document boxes has been moved to the [Oversize](#) series.

## Part II

Part II of the Ellison Papers spans the years 1896-2005, with most of the papers concentrated between 1930 and 1995.

The [Family Papers](#) contain biographical information, correspondence between family members, employment, financial, household, legal, medical and school records, newspaper clippings, and notes. Among the household papers for Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a 1933 receipt for the cornet Ellison bought with hopes of launching a music career. There is also a file on the funeral and many tributes paid to Ellison upon his death in 1994.

A substantial section of the [Family Papers](#) pertains to Fanny McConnell before her marriage to Ellison. Correspondence between her mother, grandmother, and stepfather document employment and living conditions for African Americans in Chicago from the 1930s through the 1960s, including detailed descriptions of the family's move to a housing project in 1959. McConnell's social, educational, and professional life is revealed through correspondence with her friends, colleagues, and mentors. The latter group includes James Weldon Johnson. McConnell's employment records document her involvement with the Namkham Hospital in northern Burma as part of her work at the Harold L. Oram, Inc., fund-raising agency. Correspondence with Gordon Stifler Seagrave, the "Burma Surgeon," and Tun Shein, head and administrator of the hospital respectively, describes daily activities and the nationalization of the hospital in 1965.

The [General Correspondence](#) series contains Ralph and Fanny Ellison's incoming and outgoing letters to friends and business associates. Chief correspondents include Romare Bearden, Michel Fabre, Michael S. Harper, John Hersey, Langston Hughes, Phoebe Hyman (second wife of Stanley Edgar Hyman), James Alan McPherson, Joseph F. Newhall, Myron Donald Olmanson, and Nathan A. Scott.

The [Organizations File](#) documents Ellison's involvement in cultural, educational, and charitable institutions as an officer, advisor, or trustee. Most of the material consists of correspondence and reports.

The [Writings File](#) contains drafts, notes, and production material for Ellison's literary works, speaking engagements, and interviews. The material in an essays and essay collections file, arranged alphabetically by title, appeared as journal articles or chapters published in compilations by others. Material pertaining to Ellison's own collected writings, *Shadow and Act* and *Going to the Territory*, is also included in this section. Other files concern *Invisible Man* and *Juneteenth*, edited by John F. Callanan; drafts of the Hickman novel; and shorter works such as poetry, short stories, book reviews, and forewords and introductions to the writings of others. Typescripts of Ellison's memoirs are accompanied by notes and outlines. Speeches, lectures, and interviews in the series are arranged chronologically.

The [Reference File](#) includes newspaper and magazine articles and other printed matter on subjects ranging from music, art, and literature to sports, politics, and civil rights. A large biographical section includes material on individuals whom Ellison either knew or considered interesting.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains address books, appointment calendars, invitations, programs, and ephemera. Also included are papers relating to the awards, citations, and honorary degrees awarded to Ellison. An [addition](#) contains Ellison's notes for a 1964 lecture. Material too large for the document boxes has been moved to the [Oversize](#) series.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged two parts and therein seventeen series:

### Part I:

- [Family Papers, 1890-1996](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1930-1996](#)
- [Organizations File, 1939-1994](#)
- [Writings File, 1935-1995](#)
- [Speeches, Lectures, and Interviews, 1945-1993](#)
- [Reference File, 1901-1995](#)
- [Miscellany, 1904-1994](#)
- [Closed, 1932-1994](#)
- [Oversize, 1923-1993](#)

### Part II:

- [Family Papers, 1896-2005](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1935-2004](#)
- [Organizations File, 1946-2000](#)
- [Writings File, 1935-2001](#)
- [Reference File, 1933-2004](#)
- [Miscellany, 1934-2002](#)
- [Addition, 1964](#)
- [Oversize, 1896-2002](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX I:1-34	<p><u>Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996</u></p> <p>Correspondence between family members, vital records, school papers, military records, household, financial, and legal papers, employment records, diaries, notes, newspaper articles, and printed ephemera relating to Ralph and Fanny Ellison and other family members.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and alphabetically by type of material therein. Correspondence between Ralph Ellison and other family members has been placed under his name.</p>
BOX I:35-79	<p><u>Part I: General Correspondence, 1930-1996</u></p> <p>Incoming and outgoing correspondence of Ralph and Fanny Ellison with friends, colleagues, and business associates.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein</p>
BOX I:80-94	<p><u>Part I: Organizations File, 1939-1994</u></p> <p>Correspondence, reports, and printed matter relating to Ellison's participation in professional and social organizations as an officer, trustee, or advisor.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of organization and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX I:95-169	<p><u>Part I: Writings File, 1935-1995</u></p> <p>Drafts of essays, novels, reviews, short stories, and other material written by Ellison. Correspondence and material relating to the production, publicity, and reception of his works are included. Dates in parentheses in the container list refer to the publication date; other dates refer to the period covered by the material in the folder.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of work and by title therein.</p>
BOX I:170-178	<p><u>Part I: Speeches, Lectures, and Interviews, 1945-1993</u></p> <p>Texts of speeches, lectures, and interviews along with related correspondence, notes, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX I:179-211	<p><u>Part I: Reference File, 1901-1995</u></p> <p>Printed matter, primarily newspaper and magazine clippings, on topics of interest to Ellison, such as jazz, blues, photography, art, and prominent individuals.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX I:211-219	<p><u>Part I: Miscellany, 1904-1994</u></p> <p>Appointment books and calendars, awards and citations, honorary degrees, invitations to social, cultural, and charitable events, mailing addresses, notes, printed ephemera, and memorabilia.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>

- BOX I:220-231 Part I: Closed, 1932-1994  
Fragile material consisting mostly of correspondence, drawings, and writings, which has been removed and replaced with photocopies. Organized and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.
- BOX I:OV 1-OV 22 Part I: Oversize, 1923-1993  
Oversize material consisting mostly of drawings, financial and legal records, writings, and printed material. Organized and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.
- BOX II:1-25 Part II: Family Papers, 1896-2005  
Correspondence between family members, household papers, financial, legal, employment, and school records, notes, newspaper articles, and printed matter relating to Ralph and Fanny Ellison and other family members.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and alphabetically by type of material therein.
- BOX II:26-34 Part II: General Correspondence, 1935-2004  
Incoming and outgoing correspondence of Ralph and Fanny Ellison with friends, colleagues, and business associates.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and chronologically therein.
- BOX II:35-42 Part II: Organizations File, 1946-2000  
Correspondence, reports, and printed matter relating to Ellison's participation in professional and social organizations as an officer, trustee, or advisor.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of organization and chronologically therein.
- BOX II:43-72 Part II: Writings File, 1935-2001  
Drafts and typescripts of essays, novels, reviews, short stories, speeches, lectures, interviews, and other material written by Ellison.  
Correspondence relating to the production, publicity, and reception of his works is included.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of work and by title therein, except for speeches, lectures, and interviews, which are arranged chronologically.
- BOX II:72-74 Part II: Reference File, 1933-2004  
Printed matter, primarily newspaper and magazine clippings, on topics of interest to Ellison, such as jazz, blues, photography, art, and prominent individuals.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or name of person or organization.
- BOX II:74-82 Part II: Miscellany, 1934-2002  
Appointment books and calendars, awards and citations, honorary degrees, invitations to social, cultural, and charitable events, mailing addresses, notes, printed ephemera, and memorabilia.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX II:83

Part II: Addition, 1964

Lecture notes, 1964

BOX II:OV 1-OV 3

Part II: Oversize, 1896-2002

Oversize material consisting mostly of awards, citations, honorary degrees, legal records, and printed matter.

Organized and described according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX I:1-34	Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996 Correspondence between family members, vital records, school papers, military records, household, financial, and legal papers, employment records, diaries, notes, newspaper articles, and printed ephemera relating to Ralph and Fanny Ellison and other family members. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member and alphabetically by type of material therein. Correspondence between Ralph Ellison and other family members has been placed under his name.
BOX I:1	Bell, Ida Ellison Correspondence, 1912, 1921-1937 Miscellany, 1918-1938 Buford, Ligon Citizens' Committee for Reemployment, 1938 Miscellany, 1938-1945 Ellison, Alfred, undated Ellison, Fanny McConnell Correspondence Buford, James A., 1943-1944 Buford, Ligon, 1934-1945, 1963, 1980 (3 folders) General, 1930-1996 (4 folders)
BOX I:2	Warren, Billy ("Willie") and George, 1932-1967 (3 folders) Warren, John, Rosanna, and Sue, 1968-1971, 1989-1992 Waugh, Eliza ("Ella"), 1952-1963 Waugh, Robert Harold and Mary, 1955-1957, 1967-1978 Employment <i>Chicago Defender</i> , 1939-1941 (2 folders) Chicago, Ill., Board of Education, Visual Education Project "Ancient Roman and Byzantine Costume," undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
BOX I:3	Correspondence, 1938-1939 "Costume of the Eighteenth Century," undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders) Costume of the Middle Ages and seventeenth century, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)
BOX I:4	(12 folders)

Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996

*Container*

*Contents*

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BOX I:5	Costume of the Middle Ages and seventeenth century, undated <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> (1 folder) “Egyptian Costume,” undated <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> (7 folders) “Greek Costume,” undated (4 folders)
BOX I:6	(1 folder) Miscellany, 1938-1939 Persian and Chinese costume, undated Harold L. Oram, Inc. (fund-raising agency), 1950-1970, 1980-1981 (3 folders) Miscellany, 1933-1955, 1967 National Urban League, 1943-1946 <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> Negro People's Theatre, Chicago, Ill. Constitution and organization, 1939 Correspondence, 1937-1940 (4 folders)
BOX I:7	Financial papers, 1938-1939 Meetings, 1938-1939 Membership and officers, 1938-1939 Miscellany, 1936-1940 (2 folders) Proposals, 1939 New York City Housing Authority, New York, N.Y., 1945-1946 Résumés, 1929-1956 United States Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks, 1941-1942 War Production Board, Traffic Section, 1937-1944
BOX I:8	Works Progress Administration, 1937-1941 World Organization of the Lamp of Brotherhood, 1956-1963 Young Women's Christian Association, 1937-1941 Legal records, 1937, 1944-1954, 1963-1981 (2 folders) Medical records, 1938-1984, 1995 (4 folders) Miscellany, 1929, 1937-1944, 1958-1963
BOX I:9	Notes 1942-1995 (5 folders)
BOX I:10	Undated (5 folders)
BOX I:11	(7 folders)
BOX I:12	(1 folder) School papers Elementary and high school, Chicago, Ill., 1921-1932 <u><i>See also Oversize</i></u> Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn Creative Literature, 1933

Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996

*Container*

*Contents*

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	General, 1931-1938
	General, 1931, 1936-1949 (3 folders)
	University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
	Contemporary British drama, 1933-1936
	Fundamentals of speech, 1936
	General, 1934-1942
BOX I:13	Miscellaneous notes (2 folders)
	Modern drama, 1934-1935
	Stagecraft, undated
	Writings, 1930-1943 (5 folders)
	Ellison, Herbert M.
	Correspondence, 1934-1937
	Miscellany, 1928-1944
	School papers, undated
BOX I:14	Ellison, Ralph
	Biographical information, 1943-1994 (6 folders)
	Correspondence
	Bell, Ida Ellison 1933 (2 folders)
BOX I:15	1934-1937 (6 folders)
	Bell, John, 1933-1935
	Brown, Lewis Thomas and Othello Albertha, 1953-1980
	Buford, Ligon, 1980
	Ellison, Fanny McConnell 1944-1959 (4 folders)
BOX I:16	1961-1963, 1970, 1984-1990 (2 folders)
	Ellison, Herbert M., 1933-1993 (6 folders)
	Ellison, Rose Poindexter, 1939-1943
	Johnston, May Belle DeWitt, 1936-1953
BOX I:17	Miscellaneous family members, 1937-1983
	Diaries, 1934-1936
	Drawings, 1932
	Employment
	Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., 1956-1984 (2 folders)
	Bennington College, Bennington, Vt., 1958, 1964, 1974, 1982-1983
	City University of New York, New York, N.Y., 1959, 1965-1993 (2 folders)

Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996

*Container*

*Contents*

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	General, 1937-1942
	New York University, New York, N.Y.
	1960-1971
	(2 folders)
BOX I:18	1972-1995
	(10 folders)
BOX I:19	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., 1959-1969, 1984-1992
	(2 folders)
	Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., 1953-1954
	University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., 1959-1962
	Works Progress Administration, Federal Writers' Project
	Assignments, 1938-1941
	Correspondence, 1938-1942, 1976-1980
	Miscellany, 1938-1942
	Reports
	Anti-Semitism, undated
	"Cultural Contributions of the American Negro," 1940
BOX I:20	"Famous Trials," 1941
	Folklore, circa 1938
	(2 folders)
	History of New York, N.Y., undated
	"Jews in American Theatre," circa 1939
	"The Negro and the War," circa 1940
	(3 folders)
	"Negro Leadership," undated
BOX I:21	"Negroes of New York"
	Outline and comments, 1940
	Chapters II, V, VI, VII, XVII, XVIII, 1940
	(6 folders)
	Notes, undated
	Radio, undated
	Religion and abolitionism, undated
	Sociological studies, 1929, 1938
	(2 folders)
	Financial records
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- BOX I:120 1985  
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- BOX I:128 Mr. Love New, undated  
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Novels

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“Brotherhood, Louise,” undated

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“Cleo and Mt. Morris Park,” undated

“Emerson,” undated

“Eviction,” undated

“Factory Hospital,” undated

“Fat Man on a Bridge,” undated

“Golden Day-True Blood,” undated

“Harlem,” undated

“Hattie and Julius Franklin,” undated

“Hospital Alley Scene,” also titled, “Nigger, What Kinda Man Am I?” undated

Hospital and Escape,” 1949

“Hospital and St. Mary's” (in continuity), undated

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	“Sea Cook,” also titled, “One-Eyed Cook,” undated
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BOX I:154	1980-1989 Literary agents, 1943-1953, 1989-1990 Opera proposal, 1964-1965 Publicity, 1952-1953, 1981, 1992-1994 Published editions Franklin Library, 1976-1980 New American Library of World Literature, 1951-1971 Random House Correspondence, 1947-1988 (2 folders) Royalty statements, 1951-1980 <i>See also Oversize</i>
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	“Cadillac Flambé,” 1972-1973, 1984 <i>See also Container 125, LeeWillie and the car burning</i>
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	“Did You Ever Dream Lucky?” 1953, 1975-1980
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	“A Hard Time Keeping Up,” (posthumous title), undated
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	“I'm in New York But New York Ain't in Me,” undated
	“In a Strange Country,” also titled, “Black Yank in Britain,” 1944
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	“Mister Toussan,” 1941-1947, 1971
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"Sanctuary," undated  
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1965  
[May], presentation of Howells Medal to John Cheever, American  
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Aug.-Sept., scripts for National Educational Television, "Arts USA:  
Music," 1965  
1966, 26 May, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New  
York, N.Y., 1966  
1968, 6 Nov., "The Uses of History in Fiction," Southern Historical  
Association, New Orleans, La., 1968 [\*See also Container 108, "The Uses  
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1970, 23 Feb., remarks on Duke Ellington, NAACP, New York, N.Y.,  
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Cambridge, Mass., 1974, 1992 [\*See also Container 214, Harvard  
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10 May, "The Little Man Behind the Stove," Curtis Institute of Music,  
Philadelphia, Pa., 1974-1978  
(4 folders)  
21 June, dedication speech, Ralph Ellison Branch, Metropolitan Library  
System, Oklahoma City, Okla., 1975  
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28 Apr., "American Music: A Personal Glance After Two Hundred Years,"  
Society for the Libraries, New York University, New York, N.Y., 1976  
30 Apr., "Perspective of Literature," School of Law, New York  
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- BOX I:172 1979, 19 Sept., Ralph Ellison Festival, Brown University, Providence, R.I., 1979-1980  
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- 1983, 18 May, presentation of Gold Medal for Fiction to Bernard Malamud, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, N.Y., 1966-1973, 1979-1983  
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- 1988, Apr. 6, "Bearden," Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, New York, N.Y., 1988
- 1992, "Intellectuals and Writers Since the Thirties," *Partisan Review* conference, 1992
- 1993, Apr., American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, 1993
- Lectures
- 1945, 1 Nov., "American Negro Writing, A Problem of Identity," Bennington College, Bennington, Vt., 1945
- 1953
- 27 May, "Invisible Man," Hunter College, New York, N.Y., 1953
- 3-5 Aug., class on the contemporary novel, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., 1952-1954 [See also Container 107, "Twentieth Century Writing and the Black Mask of Humanity"](#)
- BOX I:173 1954
- Aug.-Sept., "The Role of the Novel in Creating the American Experience," Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, Salzburg, Austria, 1953-1955, 1961-1966, 1976  
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- Sept.-Oct., Symposium on North American Studies, El Escorial, Spain, 1954
- 1969
- 26 Mar., lecture on *Invisible Man*, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., 1968-1974  
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- BOX I:174 18 Apr., "The Negro Writer: His Contributions, His Problems," Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., 1968-1969 [See also Container 105, "Remembering Richard Wright"](#)
- 1971, 18 July, "Remembering Richard Wright," University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, 1971-1972  
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- Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.
- "Hidden Name and Complex Fate," Library of Congress
- "The Meaning of American Diversity," Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio
- New York University, New York, N.Y.  
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- 1952, *Denver Post*, Denver, Colo., 1952

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- 1953, 8 Feb., "Faulkner, *The Bear*," radio broadcast, Irving Howe and Lyman Bryson, 1953
- BOX I:175 1955, "Ralph Ellison, The Art of Fiction," *Paris Review*, Spring 1955  
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- 1960, 11 May, "A Talk with Ralph Ellison," Richard G. Stern, 1960-1961
- 1964, "An Interview with Ralph Ellison," Allen Geller, *Tamarack Review*, Summer, 1964
- 1965  
May, *Umbra*, 1965-1966  
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- 4-18 Nov., National Educational Television, 1965
- Pierre Dommergues, 1965-1967
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- BOX I:176 *Who Speaks for the Negro?* Robert Penn Warren, 1964-1965  
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- 1966  
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- 30 Aug., United States Senate, Subcommittee on Reorganization of the Committee on Government Operations, 1966-1967  
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- 1967  
Mar., "A Very Stern Discipline," *Harper's Magazine*, 1966-1967  
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- BOX I:177 May, *America* (Russian edition), 1967
- Radio broadcast, WGBH, Boston, Mass., Richard H. Lee, 1966-1967
- 1969, "Ralph Ellison, La Invisibilidad del Negro y el Pluralismo Cultural," Esther Tusquets, *Triunfo*, Spring 1969
- 1970, "The Scholar's Bookshelf," radio broadcast, John Graham, 1970-1973
- 1971, 30 Sept., "Ralph Ellison, 20 Years After," David L. Carson, 1971-1974  
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- 1972  
Dec., "Interview with Ralph Ellison," John O'Brien
- circa 1972, John Hersey, 1972-1973
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27 Jan., "Interview with Ralph Ellison," Ron Welburn, *Grackle*, 1976-1977
- 7 Mar., "Ralph Ellison: An Interview," Michael S. Harper and Robert B. Stepto, 1975-1977  
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- BOX I:178 "An Interview with Ralph Ellison: Visible Man," Howard Sage, *Pulp*, Summer 1976
- Ishmael Reed, Steve Cannon, and Quincy Troupe, *Yardbird Reader*, 1976-1978  
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- 1982  
Oct., *Playboy*, 1982

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- No month, John Hersey, 1982  
Undated, "An Interview with Ralph Ellison," N. A. Samstag and Ted Cohen  
Miscellaneous notes and fragments, circa 1940, 1954-1960, 1966-1969  
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- BOX I:179-211      Part I: Reference File, 1901-1995  
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interest to Ellison, such as jazz, blues, photography, art, and prominent  
individuals.  
Arranged alphabetically by subject.
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