

**Ralph Ellison Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2024**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm96083111>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms002008>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2002  
Revised 2024 August

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Ralph Ellison Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1890-2007

**Bulk Dates:** 1930-1994

**ID No.:** MSS83111

**Creator:** Ellison, Ralph

**Extent:** 74,900 items

**Extent:** 314 containers plus 25 oversize

**Extent:** 143 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm96083111>

**Summary:** 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are *Going to the Territory* (1985), *Invisible Man* (1952), *Shadow and Act* (1964), and the second novel Ellison left unpublished at his death.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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### 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 L. (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., 1938-2016--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, 1943-2016--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. : 1919-1997)  
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**

African American authors.  
African American educators.  
Authors.  
Educators.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Ralph Ellison were acquired by the Library of Congress from his widow, Fanny McConnell Ellison and her trustees, through a deposit, gift, and purchase, 1995-2009. Additional items were given by Muriel Morisey, Ellison's cousin, in 2010. Material found within books from Ellison's personal library were transferred from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division in 2012.

## **Processing History**

Part I of the papers of Ralph Ellison was arranged and described in 1997 by Donna Ellis with the assistance of Patricia Craig, Julie Hunsaker, Sherralyn McCoy, John Monagle, Angela Moore, and Andrew Passett. The finding aid was revised in 2006. Additional material received between 2006 and 2009 was processed as Part II in 2010 by Donna Ellis with the assistance of Tammi Taylor and Sherralyn McCoy. Two additions to Part II were processed and the finding aid revised in 2009 by Donna Ellis and in 2024 by Joseph K. Brooks.

## **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, where they are described in a finding aid at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/eadrbc.rb016001>. Audio and video recordings have been transferred to the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center. 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. Patrons are encouraged to contact these divisions in advance of a research visit.

## 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

The papers of Ralph Ellison are open to research. The Closed series consists of original material too fragile for handling. Although the originals in the Closed series are not available for use, they are available as photocopies in the location from which the originals were removed. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

## 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

Date	Event
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	Awarded Rosenwald Fellowship
1946	Married Fanny McConnell Buford
1948	Published short story "Battle Royal" in '48, <i>The Magazine of the Year</i>
1952	Published <i>Invisible Man</i> . New York: Random House
1953	Awarded National Book Award for <i>Invisible Man</i>

1955-1957	Awarded 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 <i>The Noble Savage</i>
1961	Alexander White Visiting Professor, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
1962-1964	Visiting Professor of Writing, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1964	Published <i>Shadow and Act</i> . 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	Member, 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	Member, Board of Directors, Museum of the City of New York, New York, N.Y.
1971-1984	Trustee, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
1972-1985	Member, 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 <i>Going to the Territory</i> . New York: Random House
1994, Apr. 16	Died, New York, N.Y.
1999	Publication of <i>Juneteenth</i> . New York: Random House

### **Fanny McConnell Ellison**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
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 (now Myanmar), 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 to 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 nine series: [Family Papers](#) ; [General Correspondence](#) ; [Organizations File](#) ; [Writings File](#) ; [Reference File](#) ; [Miscellany](#) ; [2009 Addition](#) ; [2024 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 (now Myanmar) through the Harold L. Oram, Inc., fundraising 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 that 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 essay 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 each 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 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., fundraising 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. Callahan; 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. Two [additions](#), in 2009 and 2024, contain Ellison's notes for a 1964 lecture, Fanny McConnell Ellison's 1951 appointment calendar, and a family history notebook compiled by Muriel Morisey, Ralph Ellison's cousin. Material too large for the document boxes has been moved to the [Oversize](#) series.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in two parts composed of eighteen 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
- 2009 Addition, 1964
- 2024 Addition, 1951-2007
- Oversize, 1896-2002



## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX I:1-34	<p><b><u>Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996</u></b></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><b><u>Part I: General Correspondence, 1930-1996</u></b></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><b><u>Part I: Organizations File, 1939-1994</u></b></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><b><u>Part I: Writings File, 1935-1995</u></b></p> <p>Drafts of essays, novels, reviews, short stories, and other material written by Ellison.</p> <p>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><b><u>Part I: Speeches, Lectures, and Interviews, 1945-1993</u></b></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><b><u>Part I: Reference File, 1901-1995</u></b></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><b><u>Part I: Miscellany, 1904-1994</u></b></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	<p><b><u>Part I: Closed, 1932-1994</u></b></p> <p>Fragile material consisting mostly of correspondence, drawings, and writings removed from their original location because of condition. Photocopies have been made of each item and are available for use where the original would have appeared in the collection.</p> <p>Organized and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

- 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:82**      **Part II: 2009 Addition, 1964**  
 Lecture notes.
- BOX II:82-83**      **Part II: 2024 Addition, 1951-2007**  
 Family history notebook, appointment calendar, correspondence, newspaper clippings, notes and ephemera.  
 Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

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

Container	Contents
BOX I:1-34	<p><b>Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996</b></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:1	<p>Bell, Ida Ellison Correspondence, 1912, 1921-1937 Miscellany, 1918-1938</p> <p>Buford, Ligon Citizens' Committee for Reemployment, 1938 Miscellany, 1938-1945</p> <p>Ellison, Alfred, undated</p> <p>Ellison, Fanny McConnell Correspondence Buford, James A., 1943-1944 Buford, Ligon, 1934-1945, 1963, 1980 (3 folders) General, 1930-1996 (4 folders)</p>
BOX I:2	<p>Warren, Billy ("Willie") and George, 1932-1967 (3 folders)</p> <p>Warren, John, Rosanna, and Sue, 1968-1971, 1989-1992</p> <p>Waugh, Eliza ("Ella"), 1952-1963</p> <p>Waugh, Robert Harold and Mary, 1955-1957, 1967-1978</p> <p>Employment <i>Chicago Defender</i>, 1939-1941 (2 folders)</p> <p>Chicago, Ill., Board of Education, Visual Education Project "Ancient Roman and Byzantine Costume," undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)</p>
BOX I:3	<p>Correspondence, 1938-1939 "Costume of the Eighteenth Century," undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)</p> <p>Costume of the Middle Ages and seventeenth century, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (5 folders)</p>
BOX I:4	<p>Costume of the Middle Ages and seventeenth century, undated (12 folders)</p>
BOX I:5	<p>Costume of the Middle Ages and seventeenth century, undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (1 folder)</p>

## Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996

### Container

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	“Egyptian Costume,” undated <i>See also Oversize</i> (7 folders)
	“Greek Costume,” undated (4 folders)
BOX I:6	“Greek Costume,” undated (1 folder) Miscellany, 1938-1939 Persian and Chinese costume, undated Harold L. Oram, Inc. (fundraising agency), 1950-1970, 1980-1981 (3 folders) Miscellany, 1933-1955, 1967 National Urban League, 1943-1946 <i>See also Oversize</i> 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	Undated (7 folders)
BOX I:12	Undated (1 folder) School papers Elementary and high school, Chicago, Ill., 1921-1932 <i>See also Oversize</i> Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn Creative Literature, 1933

## Part I: Family Papers, 1890-1996

### Container

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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
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BOX I:105	“Remembering Jimmy,” 1958 “Remembering Richard Wright” (1984), 1983-1984 <i>See also Container 174, Lectures, 1971, 18 July</i> “Richard Wright and Negro Fiction,” 1941 “Richard Wright’s Blues” (1945), 1945 Drafts and partial drafts Draft fragments and notes “Romare Bearden: Paintings and Projections” (1970), 1969-1970, 1985 “The Shadow and the Act” (1949), 1949-1950 <i>Shadow and Act</i> (1964) Contracts, 1964-1968 Correspondence, 1964-1978 Drafts “Introduction,” undated “ <i>An American Dilemma: A Review</i> ,” 1944
BOX I:106	“Twentieth Century Fiction and the Black Mask of Humanity,” circa 1946, 1953 Miscellaneous text, 1964-1966 Miscellany, 1964-1967, 1995 Reviews, 1964-1967 Royalty statements, 1966-1974

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(1 folder)

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- 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 (4 folders)
- 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 (3 folders)
- 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 (2 folders)
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- "Hidden Name and Complex Fate," Library of Congress
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- New York University, New York, N.Y. (2 folders)
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- 1952, *Denver Post*, Denver, Colo., 1952
- 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 (3 folders)
- 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
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	Golsan, Lucy, 1982
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#### 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.

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*The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison* (1995), 1995

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“February,” 1996

*Going to the Territory* (1986), 1986-1988

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Author's proofs

1964

May

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“What America Would Be Like Without Blacks,” 1994

“What Everybody Has Always Known About Sex: Some Reminders,” undated

Forewords, introductions, and endorsements

Crouch, Stanley, undated

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Kouwenhoven, John Atlee, *The Beer Can By the Highway*, 1987

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	“ <i>Donelson; The Sale of Filmstrips to Townspeople</i> ,” undated
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