

Virginia Hamilton Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2007

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2003084975>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009203>

Prepared by Donna Ellis

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Virginia Hamilton Papers

Span Dates: 1938-2003

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1970-1999)

ID No.: MSS84975

Creator: Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002

Extent: 900 items

Extent: 47 containers

Extent: 18.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2003084975>

Summary: African-American children's author. Correspondence, drafts, proofs, research material, publicity, and reviews pertaining to the production of Hamilton's books.

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

Burns, Anthony, 1834-1862.

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002. Anthony Burns : the defeat and triumph of a fugitive slave. 1988.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002. Bluish : a novel. 1999.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002. House of Dies Drear. 1968.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002. M.C. Higgins, the great. 1974.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002. Paul Robeson : the life and times of a free Black man. 1974.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1934-2002. W.E.B. Du Bois : a biography. 1972.

Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976.

Subjects

African American authors.

African Americans--Biography.

African Americans--Fiction.

American literature--African American authors.

Children's books.

Occupations

Authors.

Provenance

The papers of Virginia Hamilton, African-American children's author, were given to the Library of Congress by her husband, Arnold Adoff, between 2003 and 2007.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. A book was transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Some audiotapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, Recorded Sound Section. All transfers are identified as part of the Virginia Hamilton Papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Virginia Hamilton in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Virginia Hamilton are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. 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: Container number, Virginia Hamilton Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1953-1956	Attended Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio
1956-1958	B.A., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
1959	Attended New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y.
1960	Married Arnold Adoff
1967	Published <i>Zeely</i> . New York: Macmillan
1968	Published <i>The House of Dies Drear</i> . New York: Macmillan
1971	Published <i>The Planet of Junior Brown</i> .
1972	Published <i>W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography</i> . New York: Crowell
1974	Published <i>M. C. Higgins, the Great</i> . New York: Macmillan Published <i>Paul Robeson: The Life and Times of a Black Man</i> . New York: Harper and Row
1975	Published <i>The Writings of W. E. B. Du Bois</i> . New York: Crowell Received John Newbery Medal and National Book Award for <i>M. C. Higgins, the Great</i>
1976	Published <i>Arilla Sun Down</i> . New York: William Morrow
1980-1981	Published the Justice trilogy, <i>Dustland</i> , <i>The Gathering</i> , and <i>Justice and Her Brothers</i> . New York: Greenwillow Books
1982	Published <i>Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush</i> . New York: Philomel
1983	Published <i>The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl</i> . New York: Harper Published <i>Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed</i> . New York: Greenwillow Books
1984	Published <i>A Little Love</i> . New York: Philomel Virginia Hamilton Lecture in Children's Literature established at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
1936, Mar. 12	Born, Yellow Springs, Ohio
1985	Published <i>The People Could Fly</i> . New York: Knopf
1988	Published <i>Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave</i> . New York: Knopf Published <i>In the Beginning</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich
1989	Published <i>The Bells of Christmas</i> . New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich
1990	Published <i>Cousins</i> . New York: Philomel
1992	Received Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing
1994	Honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
1995	Received Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal Fellow, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
1997	Published <i>Her Stories</i> . New York: Blue Sky Press
1998	Published <i>Second Cousins</i> . New York: Blue Sky Press

2002, Feb. 19
2003

Died, Yellow Springs, Ohio
Posthumous publication of *Wee Winnie Witch's Skinny*. New York: Blue Sky Press

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Virginia Hamilton (1936-2002) span the years 1938-2003 with the bulk of the material dating between 1970 and 1999. The collection, arranged alphabetically by title of writing with a miscellany file at the end, documents the production of her numerous children's books. Material consists of background information, correspondence with her publishers, drafts of writings, illustrations, printing proofs, publicity items, and reviews. The miscellany contains biographical information, general correspondence, and material relating to Hamilton's public appearances and speeches. Included in the writings are drafts of her biographies of W. E. B. DuBois and Paul Robeson and such works as *Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave*; *Bluish*; *The House of Dies Drear*; and *M. C. Higgins, the Great*, for which she received the National Book Award and the John Newbery Medal.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by title of writing with a miscellany file at the end.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<i>All Jadhv Storybook</i> See Containers 42-43 , <i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhv</i> <i>Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave</i> Background information, undated (2 folders) Correspondence, 1972-1974, 1987, undated Drafts, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	(5 folders) Final version, undated (2 folders) Galley proofs, 1988 Jacket art, undated Miscellany, 1986-1987, undated Revisions, 1987, undated (1 folder)
BOX 3	(3 folders) <i>Arilla Sun Down</i> Background information and notes, undated Drafts, undated (6 folders)
BOX 4	(2 folders) Galley proofs, undated (2 folders) Miscellany, 1983, undated <i>The Bells of Christmas</i> (formerly titled "The Hundred Year Old Christmas") Background information, undated
BOX 5	Drafts, undated (3 folders) Illustrations, 1988, undated Miscellany, 1989, undated Proofs, 1989 Galley Page Printer's set <i>Bluish</i> Background information, 1994-1998, undated Correspondence, 1998-1999, undated Drafts, 1998-1999, undated (1 folder)
BOX 6	(5 folders) Miscellany, 1999, undated <i>Cousins</i>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 7	Drafts, 1990 (2 folders) Miscellany, 1990-1998, undated Proofs, 1990 Galley Page <i>The Dark Way</i> Drafts, 1989-1990 (4 folders) Illustrations, undated
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1990, undated Proofs, 1990 Galley Master
BOX 9	Page Revised master
BOX 10	<i>Dustland</i> Drafts, 1980, undated (3 folders) Galley proofs, 1980 Miscellany, 1979, undated <i>Elements of Literature: Folk Tales from Around the World</i> Background information and notes, 1990-1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Correspondence, 1990-1992, undated Drafts, undated Galley proofs, 1991 <i>The Gathering</i> , undated Drafts (3 folders)
BOX 12	(6 folders) Galley proofs
BOX 13	<i>Her Stories</i> Draft, 1995 Miscellany, 1994-1995 <i>House of Dies Drear</i> Drafts, 1968, undated (5 folders)
BOX 14	Galley proofs, 1968 Miscellany, 1968, 1988, undated Screenplay adaptation, 1979 <i>In the Beginning</i> Background information, undated Correspondence, 1987-1988, undated Drafts, undated (5 folders)
BOX 15	Galley proofs, 1988

Container List

Container

Contents

	Miscellany, 1987-1989, undated
	<i>Jadhu</i> <i>See Containers 42-43</i> , <i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhu</i>
	<i>Jaguarundi</i>
	Background information and notes, undated
	Correspondence, 1991-1994, undated
	Drafts, 1992-1994, undated
	(3 folders)
	Proofs, 1994
	Color
	Page
	<i>Junius Over Far</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 16	(6 folders)
BOX 17	(1 folder)
	Miscellany, 1985
	Proofs, 1985
	Galley
	Master
	Revised
	Page
	Submission pages, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 18	<i>Justice and Her Brothers</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(7 folders)
BOX 19	(4 folders)
	Galley proofs, 1981
	Miscellany, undated
BOX 20	<i>A Little Love</i>
	Drafts, 1984, undated
	(5 folders)
	Miscellany, 1984-1985, undated
	Proofs
	Galley, 1984
	Master
BOX 21	Revised
	Page, undated
	(2 folders)
	<i>M. C. Higgins, the Great</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 22	(7 folders)
BOX 23	(5 folders)
	John Newbery Medal, 1975
	Miscellany, 1974-1977, 1999, undated
	Proofs

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 24	Bound, 1974 Galley Author's set, 1974 Master, 1974 Twenty-fifth anniversary edition, 1999 (2 folders)
BOX 25	Script, recorded book, 1974 <i>The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl</i> Correspondence, 1976-1984 Drafts, undated (6 folders)
BOX 26	(1 folder) Dramatic adaptation, 1991 Notes, undated Proofs Galley, 1982-1983 (4 folders)
BOX 27	Page, 1983 (3 folders) Reviews, 1983-1984 <i>Many Thousand Gone</i> Background information and notes, 1991, undated Correspondence, 1990-1992, undated Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 28	(7 folders) Miscellany, 1993, undated
BOX 29	Proofs Galley, 1992 Unbound gatherings, 1993 <i>More Tales of Jadhu</i> See Containers 42-43 , <i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhu</i> <i>Mystery of Drear House</i> Drafts, 1985, undated (4 folders)
BOX 30	(6 folders)
BOX 31	(1 folder) Miscellany, 1984-1987, 1995 Notes, undated "The One Hundred Year Old Christmas" See Containers 4-5 , <i>The Bells of Christmas</i> <i>Paul Robeson: The Life and Times of a Free Black Man</i> Drafts, undated (5 folders)
BOX 32	(6 folders) Miscellany, 1969-1974, undated
BOX 33	Proofs, 1974 Galley

Container List

Container	Contents
	Master (2 folders)
	<i>The People Could Fly</i> Miscellany, 1985-1993, undated Proofs, 1985
BOX 34	<i>Plain City</i> Drafts, 1992-1993, undated (6 folders) Miscellany, 1985, 1993, undated Notes, 1993, undated
BOX 35	Page proofs, 1993
	<i>The Planet of Junior Brown</i> Drafts, undated (6 folders)
BOX 36	Galley proofs, 1971 (3 folders)
	Miscellany, 1971
BOX 37	<i>A Ring of Tricksters</i> Background information, 1963 Book layout and design, 1997 (4 folders)
BOX 38	(3 folders)
BOX 39	Drafts, 1996-1997 (3 folders) Miscellany, 1997, undated
	<i>Second Cousins</i> Background information, 1997, undated Drafts, 1997-1998, undated (3 folders)
BOX 40	(3 folders) Miscellany, 1996-1998, undated Proofs, 1998 (2 folders)
BOX 41	(3 folders)
	<i>Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush</i> Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 42	(2 folders) Galley proofs, 1982 (2 folders) Reviews, 1982
	<i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhu</i> Drafts, undated (4 folders)
BOX 43	(2 folders) Galley proofs, 1990-1991 (2 folders) Illustrations, 1991

Container List

Container

Contents

	Reviews, 1969
	<i>W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 44	(5 folders)
	Editor's notes, 1969, undated
	Reviews, 1972
	<i>Wee Winnie Witch's Skinny</i> , 2003
	<i>When Birds Could Talk and Bats Could Sing</i> , 1999
	<i>A White Romance</i>
	Correspondence, 1986-1989, undated
	Drafts, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 45	(5 folders)
	Proofs, 1987
	Bound
	Galley
	<i>Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed</i>
	Background information, 1938
BOX 46	Drafts, undated
	(5 folders)
	Galley proofs, 1983
	Miscellany, 1983-1984
	<i>The Writings of W. E. B. Du Bois</i>
	Correspondence, 1971-1976, undated
	Draft, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 47	(2 folders)
	Galley proofs, 1975
	Review, 1976
	<i>Zeely</i> , 1967
	Miscellany
	Biographical material, 1987, undated
	Correspondence, 1968-1971, 1980, 1987, 1998-1999
	Notes, undated
	Public appearances and speeches, 1969, 1975, 1987, 1994-1998, undated