

Rayford Whittingham Logan Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm84061632>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010010>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2024 January

Collection Summary

Title: Rayford Whittingham Logan Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1925-1982

ID No.: MSS61632

Creator: Logan, Rayford Whittingham, 1897-1982

Extent: 800 items

Extent: 10 containers

Extent: 4.0 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm84061632>

Summary: Historian and educator. Correspondence, diaries, and biographical material documenting Logan's concern with racial inequality and his career as an historian of Africans and African Americans.

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

Azikiwe, Nnamdi, 1904-1996.

Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker), 1866-1949--Correspondence.

Johnson, Mordecai W. (Mordecai Wyatt), 1890-1976.

Logan, Rayford Whittingham, 1897-1982.

Logan, Ruth Robinson--Correspondence.

Nkrumah, Kwame, 1909-1972.

Riis, Betty--Correspondence.

Riis, Roger William, 1894-1953--Correspondence.

Organizations

Howard University--Faculty.

United Nations Conference on International Organization (1945 : San Francisco, Calif.)

Subjects

African American universities and colleges.

African Americans.

Africans.

Diplomatic and consular service, Haitian--United States.

Equality.

Pan-Africanism.

Race discrimination.

Universities and colleges--Washington (D.C.)

World War, 1914-1918--France.

Places

Africa--History--Autonomy and independence movements.

Haiti--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Educators.

Historians.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Rayford Whittingham Logan, historian and educator, were bequeathed to the Library of Congress by Logan and received from his estate in 1984.

Processing History

The papers of Rayford Whittingham Logan were processed in 1994 and expanded in 1998 by Bradley Gernand. The finding aid was revised in 2006 and 2011.

Additional Guides

A description of the Rayford Whittingham Logan Papers appears in *Library of Congress Acquisitions: Manuscript Division, 1989*, pp. 13-17.

Related Material

Logan's personal library is located in Howard University's Founder's Library and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard, where, in both cases, it is housed as the Rayford W. Logan Collection.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Rayford Whittingham Logan is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Rayford Whittingham Logan Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1897, Jan. 7	Born, Washington, D. C.
1917	B.A., Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
1917-1919	United States Army, stationed in France

1919-1924 Resided in France

1921 Secretary, Second Pan-African Congress, Paris, France

1921-1924 Deputy secretary, Pan-African Association, Paris, France

1923 Secretary, Third Pan-African Congress, London, England, and Lisbon, Portugal

1925-1930 Professor, Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va.

1927 Married Ruth Robinson (deceased 1966)

1929 A.M., Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

1932 A.M., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

1932-1933 Assistant to editor, *Journal of Negro History*

1933-1938 Professor, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.

1936 Ph.D., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

1938-1965 Professor, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

1940-1945 Chair, Committee on the Participation of Negroes in National Defense

1941 Awarded National Order of Honor and Merit by Republic of Haiti
Published *The Diplomatic Relations of the United States with Haiti, 1776-1891*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press

1941-1943 Member, Advisory Committee of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs

1942 Published *The Operation of the Mandate System in Africa, 1919-1927*. Washington: Foundation Publishers

1945 Correspondent, *Pittsburgh Courier*, at United Nations founding conference, San Francisco, Calif.
Published *The Negro and the Post-War World: A Primer*. Washington: Minorities Publishers; and
The Senate and the Versailles Mandate System. Washington: Minorities Publishers

1945-1948 Foreign affairs editor, *Pittsburgh Courier*

1947-1950 Member, United States National Commission to Unesco

1949 Published *The African Mandates in World Politics*. Washington: Public Affairs Press

1950-1951 Director, Association for the Study of Negro Life and History
Editor, *Journal of Negro History* and *Negro History Bulletin*

1951-1952 Represented NAACP at Sixth General Assembly of the United Nations, Paris, France
Fulbright research fellow, Paris, France

1953 State Department-sponsored studies, West Africa

1954 Published *The Negro in American Life and Thought: The Nadir, 1877-1901*. New York: The Dial Press

1957 Published *The Negro in the United States: A Brief History*. Princeton: D. Van Nostrand

1962 Published *Breve Storia dei Negri d'America*. Rome: Opere Nuove

1964 Published *History of the Negro in the United States*. Calcutta: United States Information Service

1965 Honorary L.H.D., Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.
Published *The Betrayal of the Negro: From Rutherford B. Hayes to Woodrow Wilson*. New York: Collier MacMillan

1965-1969 Historian, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

1967 Published with Irving S. Cohen *The American Negro: Old World Background and New World Experience*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co.; and with Philip Sterling *Four Took Freedom: the Lives of Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Robert Smalls, and Blanche Bruce*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday

1968 Published *Haiti and the Dominican Republic*. London and New York: Oxford University Press for the Royal Institute of International Affairs

1969 Published Howard University: *The First Hundred Years, 1867-1967*. New York: New York University Press

1970 Published *The Negro in the United States, Volume I: From Slavery to Second Class Citizenship, 1619-1945*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.

1971	Distinguished visiting professor of history, University of Utah, Provo, Utah Published with Michael R. Winston <i>The Negro in the United States, Volume II: Ordeal of Democracy, 1945-1970</i> . New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co
1971-1974	Professor, Howard University, Washington, D. C.
1972	L.L.D., Howard University, Washington, D. C.
1982	Published with Michael R. Winston <i>Dictionary of American Negro Biography</i> . New York: Norton
1982, Nov. 5	Died, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rayford Whittingham Logan (1897-1982) span the years 1925-1982, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the periods 1926-1933 and 1940-1982. Logan, an African American raised in the segregated city of Washington, D. C., was concerned with the indignities and impositions of what he viewed as separate but unequal citizenship and devoted his career to the study of Africans and African Americans. His frustration with racial inequality was a recurring theme throughout his life, as reflected in his diaries, which, kept for over forty years, form the chief research component of this collection. Since Logan did not preserve much of his correspondence other than scattered cards and letters found in his diaries and in small groupings, his diaries provide the only continuous record of his impressions and activities.

These papers are divided into three categories, [Family Papers](#), [Diaries and Related Material](#), and [General Correspondence](#). The [Family Papers](#) consist of correspondence between Logan and his wife, Ruth, detailing their courtship and early marriage, as well as scattered correspondence from later years. Get-well cards addressed to Ruth during her illness in 1964 and sympathy cards addressed to Logan upon his wife's death in 1966 make up the remainder of the personal correspondence. A small biographical file containing assorted information regarding Logan is also included in the Family Papers.

The [Diaries and Related Material File](#) contains diaries that Logan maintained between 1940 and his death in 1982. Diary entries are frequent and lengthy except for those dated near the end of his life, which, though less frequent, are also highly detailed. Loose items have been culled from the diary volumes and filed as related material adjacent to the diaries from which they were removed. Most of the volumes were commercially printed to serve as diaries for specific years, containing one page per day of the year and with covers bearing but one printed year date. Logan generally disregarded the printed dates and did not confine his daily passages to the pages bearing their preprinted dates, nor did he limit himself to one year per volume. Most volumes contain multiple years, of which the year date stamped on the cover is usually the first.

Logan sometimes recorded events predating his diaries, including his army service in France during World War I, the Pan-African movement of the 1920s and 1930s, Haitian diplomatic soirées, speaking engagements, and travels. After 1940, he related events as they occurred. Accounts describe his attendance at various United Nations activities, including its founding conference in San Francisco in 1945, his meetings with African independence leaders Kwame (Francis) Nkrumah of Ghana and Nnamidi Azikiwe of Nigeria, and his career at Howard University. He frequently mentioned Mordecai W. Johnson, longtime Howard president, and his colleagues on the faculty.

The [General Correspondence File](#) contains correspondence to and from Logan and his wife, but consists mostly of letters from A. S. B. Olver and Roger William Riis and Betty Riis. Included is a handwritten letter to Ruth Logan from African-American composer Harry Burleigh expressing pleasure that she was performing one of his pieces and suggesting another that might better suit her vocal range.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Family Papers, 1925-1966](#)
- [Diaries and Related Material, 1940-1982](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1926-1965](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-3	<p><u>Family Papers, 1925-1966</u></p> <p>Correspondence and biographical material regarding Rayford W. and Ruth Logan. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 3-10	<p><u>Diaries and Related Material, 1940-1982</u></p> <p>Diaries recording Logan's travels and daily observations. Arranged by type of diary and therein chronologically. One diary, 1943-1944, is available on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,747.</p>
BOX 10	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1926-1965</u></p> <p>Letters between the Logans and various correspondents.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	Family Papers, 1925-1966 Correspondence and biographical material regarding Rayford W. and Ruth Logan. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Biographical material and photographs, 1925, 1953, undated
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Logan, Rayford Whittingham and Ruth
BOX 1	1926, Apr. 20-1931, Nov. 19
BOX 2	1931, Nov. 23-1960, Aug. 18, undated
BOX 2	Miscellaneous
BOX 2	Get-well cards to Ruth Logan, 1964
BOX 2	Sympathy cards on death of Ruth Logan, 1966 (1 folders)
BOX 3	(1 folders)
BOX 3-10	Diaries and Related Material, 1940-1982 Diaries recording Logan's travels and daily observations. Arranged by type of diary and therein chronologically. One diary, 1943-1944, is available on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,747.
BOX 3	Appointment book, 1959
BOX 3	Personal diaries
BOX 3	1940-1941 (4 folders)
BOX 3	1942
BOX 3	Diary
BOX 4	Related material
BOX 4	1943-1947 * (4 folders) *A portion of the dairies, 1943-1944, is also available on microfilm. Shelf no. 21,747
BOX 4	1947-1949
BOX 4	Diary
BOX 5	Related material
BOX 5	1950-1953 (6 folders)
BOX 6	1954-1957 (4 folders)
BOX 6	1958-1959
BOX 6	1960
BOX 6	Jan. 3-June 12
BOX 7	June 18-Dec. 19
BOX 7	1961-1966

Diaries and Related Material, 1940-1982

Container	Contents
BOX 7	1967, Jan. 4-Feb. 2 (2 folders)
BOX 7	1968-1969 (3 folders)
BOX 7	1970-1978
BOX 7	Diary
BOX 8	Related material
BOX 8	1979-1982 (4 folders)
BOX 9	Travel diaries, 1942, 1951-1953, 1960 (9 folders)
BOX 10	1969 (4 folders)
BOX 10	1973-1978 (4 folders)
BOX 10	General Correspondence, 1926-1965 Letters between the Logans and various correspondents.
BOX 10	To and from Logan
BOX 10	Miscellaneous, 1931, 1951-1952, 1958-1960, 1965, undated
BOX 10	Olver, A. S. B., 1958-1960
BOX 10	Riis, Roger William and Betty, 1941-1957, undated
BOX 10	To and from Ruth Logan, 1926, 1952-1956, undated