

# Guide to the Zora Neale Hurston Collection

JWJ MSS 9



by Beinecke Staff

August 1996

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** JWJ MSS 9

**CREATOR:** Hurston, Zora Neale, 1891-1960

**TITLE:** Zora Neale Hurston Collection

**DATES:** 1930-1972

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.05 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Zora Neale Hurston Collection contains Correspondence, Writings, including drafts of her autobiography, *Dust Tracks on the Road*, the novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and a play written in collaboration with Langston Hughes, "Mule Bone," as well as a study of Hurston written in 1972 by Robert Hemenway.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.hurston>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Zora Neale Hurston Collection contains items presented to the James Weldon Johnson Collection, principally by Hurston, with additional items from other persons.

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### Conditions Governing Access

Box 3: Restricted fragile material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Zora Neale Hurston Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Zora Neale Hurston Collection. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

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

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## ZORA NEALE HURSTON (1891-1960)

Following an itinerant upbringing, Zora Neale Hurston focused on anthropology studies at Columbia University. Her ethnographic work, however, soon was overshadowed by her creative work, such as her collaboration with Langston Hughes on the play, "Mule Bone," and her novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God." In later years, she was distanced from the original group of Harlem Renaissance writers, but a resurgence of interest about her in the 1970s and 1980s brought a new generation of readers.

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## Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to Zora Neale Hurston, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1930–1934

b. 1, f. 1	<a href="#">Harmon, Ruby (Mrs. Cameron)</a> Includes copy of reply from "Mr. Johnson" To: 2 / From: 0	1934 Mar 26
b. 1, f. 2	<a href="#">Jackman, Harold</a> To: 0 / From: 2	1933, 1944
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">Van Vechten, Carl</a> To: 0 / From: 1	1930 Nov 14
b. 1, f. 4	<a href="#">From Clark, Barrett H. to Carl Van Vechten</a> Includes: carbon of letter from Clark to Langston Hughes	1931
b. 1, f. 5	<a href="#">From Hughes, Langston to Carl Van Vechten</a>	1931
b. 1, f. 6	<a href="#">From Theatre Guild to Carl Van Vechten</a>	1931

**Series II: Writings, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 7	<a href="#">"Are We Citizens", fragment, typescript carbon</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">"Book of Harlem", short story, typescript carbon</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8a	<a href="#">"The Chick with One Hen," typescript carbon, corrected</a>	n.d.
<i>Dust Tracks On A Road</i>		
b. 1, f. 9	<a href="#">Holograph manuscript</a>	1941
b. 1, f. 10	Chapter drafts, typescript and carbon, corrected	1937, n.d.
b. 1, f. 11-14	Setting typescript, with printers notes	
b. 1, f. 15	<a href="#">"The Emperor Effaces Himself," short story, typescript carbon</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 16	<a href="#">"Harlem Slangue", vocabulary, typescript carbon</a>	n.d.
<i>Moses Man of the Mountain</i>		
b. 1, f. 17-19	Holograph manuscript	n.d.
"Mule Bone" (by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes)		
b. 2, f. 20	Act One, mimeograph	1931 Jan 26
b. 2, f. 21	<a href="#">"Now You Cookin' With Gas", short story, two versions (one incomplete): typescript carbon</a>	n.d.
<i>Tell My Horse</i>		
b. 2, f. 22-25	<a href="#">Holograph manuscript, with typescript additions and rewrites</a>	n.d.
b. 2, f. 26	<a href="#">Notes and miscellaneous pages</a>	n.d.
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>		
b. 3, f. 31-33	<a href="#">Holograph manuscript</a> Restricted fragile material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 27-29	Printout from digitized version of holograph manuscript	

## Series III: Other Papers, [1972]

b. 2, f. 30

["Zora Neale Hurston and the Etonville Anthropology" by Robert Hemenway,](#)  
[typescript, photocopy](#)

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[1972]

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

African American authors -- 20th Century --  
Archives  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

### **Names**

Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967  
Hurston, Zora Neale, 1891-1960