

THE PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR COLLECTION

An Inventory to the Microfilm Edition
Sara S. Fuller

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Sara S. Fuller

Archives-Library
Ohio Historical Society
Columbus, Ohio
1972



Ode to Ethiopia

... Be proud, my Race, in mind and soul;
Thy name is writ on Glory's scroll
In characters of fire.
High 'mid the clouds of Fame's
 bright sky
Thy banner's blazoned folds now fly,
And truth shall lift them higher....
No other race, or white or black,
When bound as thou wert, to the rack,
So seldom stooped to grieving;
No other race, when free again,
Forgot the past and proved them men
So noble in forgiving.
Go on and up! Our souls and eyes
Shall follow thy continuous rise;
Our ears shall list thy story
From bards who from thy root shall spring,
And proudly tune their lyres to sing
Of Ethiopia's glory.

Paul Laurence Dunbar

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Foreword



Gossie Harold Hudson

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers at the Ohio Historical Society are one of the few collections in the world on which a comprehensive study of a major black poet can be based. To research the life of a poet, one must understand the works, letters, and other papers of the man as well as the context of his literature and the events of the moment. The Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers provide an unparalleled opportunity for the researcher to do this.

Paul Laurence Dunbar, whom the late Toledo Mayor Brand Whitlock once described as a "rare and delicate soul in the blackest skin," was born in Montgomery County, Dayton, Ohio, June 27, 1872. His biography is simply the record of human effort, of the success of an individual who in his own way made a path for other writers. The Dunbar story briefly told is that of a poor black man with very limited educational opportunities beyond high school; a humble fellow who had ambitions to be a preacher, a lawyer, a teacher and sometimes even a musician; a young man who had gone to work at an early age as an elevator operator -- later to become a successful poet-novelist. Before his death on February 9, 1906, Dunbar had written six books of short stories and sketches, plus numerous lyrics, poems, plays, essays, and unpublished stories.

Recognition of Dunbar as a significant poet of his time is shown clearly in both early and recent studies of Afro-American literature. However, a definitive Dunbar biography has yet to be written and will be impossible without full utilization of the Dunbar papers at the Ohio Historical Society.

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers include a voluminous amount of

correspondence to and from Dunbar scrapbooks, financial records, school records, essays, poems, plays, and newspaper clippings. The collection includes correspondence and other papers relating to Dunbar's large coterie of friends, both black and white. Through these documents, one is able to glimpse Dunbar's life and also the times in which he lived. The papers suffer partially from gaps in the correspondence. In addition, the shorthand notebooks of Dunbar's secretary in the closing years of his life have not been transcribed. The Society, however, is in the process of securing transcriptions, and has recently obtained additional letters and papers which will help fill out the correspondence.

This collection suggests opportunities of research beyond a mere biography of Paul Laurence Dunbar. There is much on Alice Dunbar, his wife (also a poet and writer), who deserves a biography of her own. One might wish to explore the posthumous influence of Dunbar's works. Students in literature, black culture, and late nineteenth century American history will find much material in the collection for broader research topics.

The usefulness of any study of Dunbar, his work, his associates, and his cultural milieu will depend upon the extent to which the researcher utilizes the primary source material. The microfilm edition will enable many more scholars to make the fullest possible use of this highly informative collection.

Gossie Harold Hudson
Head, Department of History and Government
Lincoln University
Jefferson City, Missouri

Note to Researchers

Originals: In commemoration of the centenary of Paul Laurence Dunbar's birth, the Ohio Historical Society offers this published inventory to the microfilm edition of the Dunbar papers in hopes that the material will now be accessible to many more scholars and students across the country.

The nine rolls of the microfilm publication contain the Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers, 1873 to 1936, comprising approximately 10,000 items. This includes the combined collection of Dunbar material from three sources: the manuscripts collection in the possession of the Ohio Historical Society; the papers of Alice Dunbar Nelson, loaned to the Society for filming by Pauline A. Young of Wilmington, Delaware; and the photocopy collection assembled by the Ohio Historical Society of copies of original Dunbar materials in the possession of the following institutions: Columbia University; Dayton Public Library; Duke University; Haverford College; The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Library of Congress; Newark Public Library; Wellesley College; Yale University; and the University of Virginia. Both the papers of Paul L. Dunbar and Alice Dunbar Nelson contained material extraneous to the collection which were not filmed. These include pamphlets, photographs, and miscellanea. Also not filmed were the unpublished manuscripts of prose and poetry written by Alice Dunbar Nelson.

Access: The entire Paul Laurence Dunbar collection is open to all researchers. The original manuscript collection and the microfilm edition are available for use in the reading room of the Ohio Historical Society. Researchers may obtain the microfilm edition by purchase or on interlibrary loan from institutions holding copies of the edition or from the Ohio Historical Society. The published inventory of the Dunbar microfilm edition can be found in many research libraries or can be purchased individually or with the microfilm edition from the Ohio Historical Society. Individual roll descriptions are reproduced at the beginning of each respective roll.

Citation: Footnotes and bibliographical references should refer to the original collection at the Ohio Historical Society and to the researcher's use of the microfilm edition. A suggested form for the first citation is:

Matilda J. Dunbar to Paul Laurence Dunbar,
January 1, 1895. Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers,
Ohio Historical Society (microfilm edition, roll 1,
frames 20-21).

A suggested form for citing the photocopies of original Dunbar materials

held by other repositories is:

Booker T. Washington to Paul Laurence Dunbar,
January 1, 1900. Booker T. Washington Papers,
Library of Congress (microfilm edition, Paul
Laurence Dunbar Papers, Ohio Historical Society,
roll 2, frame 43).

Property and Literary Rights: The property rights to the Paul Laurence Dunbar papers reside with the Ohio Historical Society, which exercises responsibility for the physical custody of both the original collection and the master negative of the microfilm edition. Under no circumstances may a researcher make another photoduplication from a microfilm copy.

Literary rights to the Paul Laurence Dunbar papers have not been assigned to the Ohio Historical Society or dedicated to the public. Therefore, meeting the requirements of literary rights is the responsibility of the author and his or her publisher.

Statistics:

Dunbar Papers (Manuscripts Collection #114)

Number of containers - 22 boxes (19 document boxes
and 3 archive boxes)

Number of linear feet - 7.5

Approximate number of items - 10,000

Microfilm Edition (Manuscripts Microfilm #18)

Number of rolls - 9

Number of exposures - 10,579

Average number of exposures per roll - 1,175

Provenance: After his death in 1906, Paul Laurence Dunbar's papers remained with his mother, Matilda Dunbar, until her death on February 24, 1934. In her will, Ms. Dunbar requested that the Dunbar home on Summit Street in Dayton, Ohio be maintained as a memorial to Paul Laurence Dunbar. In October of the same year the home was sold to the Ohio Historical Society to be administered as an official state memorial. After renovation the home was formally dedicated on June 27, 1938.¹

¹Ohio Historical Society, State Memorials Division Dunbar File

The accession records of the archives-library show that the Ohio Historical Society acquired the papers of Paul Laurence Dunbar about 1937. The Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration Writer's Project noted in 1938 that "the Dunbar Collection is unarranged in one steamer trunk (40" x 20" x 18") and one heavy cardboard box (26" x 15" x 9") and stored temporarily in a locked, fireproof basement room of the Ohio Historical Society.² The collection remained in a semi-arrangement state until the papers were arranged and an unpublished inventory prepared by Joyce Harmon, manuscripts processor, in 1968.

In March, 1970, Gossie H. Hudson, then a doctoral candidate at the Ohio State University, and Ms. Sara S. Fuller, of the Ohio Historical Society, visited the Dunbar home in Dayton. After a thorough search of the home and barn, they ascertained that all manuscript materials had been removed from the home with the exception of several display items consisting of photographs, books and certificates. In subsequent interviews with relatives of Paul Laurence Dunbar -- William Murphy, Meta Dent, and Dorothy Murphy of Chicago, and Robert Rice of Dayton -- Ms. Fuller was satisfied that the family did not have any manuscript material in their possession. Ms. Dent said during the interview that drawers of manuscripts were discovered shortly before the family vacated the home. They appeared to have been gnawed and destroyed by mice.

In order to make the microfilm edition as complete as possible, letters were sent to 84 libraries requesting photocopies of Dunbar material and permission to include them in the publication. A letter to the Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, Delaware, yielded the most positive results. Ms. Gladys Coghlan, director of the library, referred the letter to Ms. Pauline A. Young, niece of Alice Dunbar Nelson. Ms. Young informed the Society in April, 1970, that she had the papers of Alice Dunbar Nelson, which included correspondence of Paul Laurence Dunbar, and that she had all the surviving papers of her aunt, with the possible exception of personal correspondence between Alice and Robert Nelson.

Ms. Fuller went to Wilmington in May, 1970 and negotiated an agreement by which Ms. Young loaned the papers to the Society for filming, with the understanding that the papers would be permanently deposited at the Society at a later date. The papers, contained in three archives boxes numbered as 20-22 in the collection, arrived at the Society in two shipments in May, 1970 and September, 1972 and were arranged and microfilmed.

Order Information: This inventory is Volume 2 in a series begun in 1970, the archives-library inventory series. The aim of this set of paperback

²Ohio Historical Society, Dunbar Papers Accession File

volumes is to provide finding aids to many of the Ohio Historical Society's major collections of manuscripts, institutional records, state archives, local government records, newspapers, and audio-visual materials.

Current price and order information for the inventory and the microfilm edition may be obtained from the Order Department, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

Acknowledgements: This microfilm edition was produced with the assistance of many persons. Cooperation and administrative support in all phases of the project have come from David R. Larson, Chief of the Archives and Manuscripts Division, and various other staff members too numerous to mention. The author's gratitude is also extended to Mr. Courtland Matthews of Portland, Oregon and Ms. Pauline A. Young of Wilmington, Delaware, for their valuable additions to the Dunbar papers; to the numerous libraries and repositories who responded to our search for Dunbar material by granting permission to include photocopies of Dunbar material in their collections in this publication; to Louis R. Harlan, University of Maryland, who provided information about Dunbar material in the Booker T. Washington papers; and to Gossie H. Hudson, professor of history at Lincoln University, who provided encouragement and humor.

Several Ohio Historical Society staff members played key roles in preparing the materials for printing and microfilming. Virginia Ingram, paper conservation specialist, skillfully repaired a number of items so they could be fully legible for microfilming; Robert Jones, photographic services specialist, supervised the microfilming of the collection; Bruce Baby designed and illustrated the cover; Jolene Huddle typed the camera ready copy; Ann Myers and David Larson edited the inventory draft into final form; and the author's fullest appreciation goes to Andrea D. Lentz, Head, Information Services, who guided the entire project from start to finish with unfailing patience and excellent judgement.

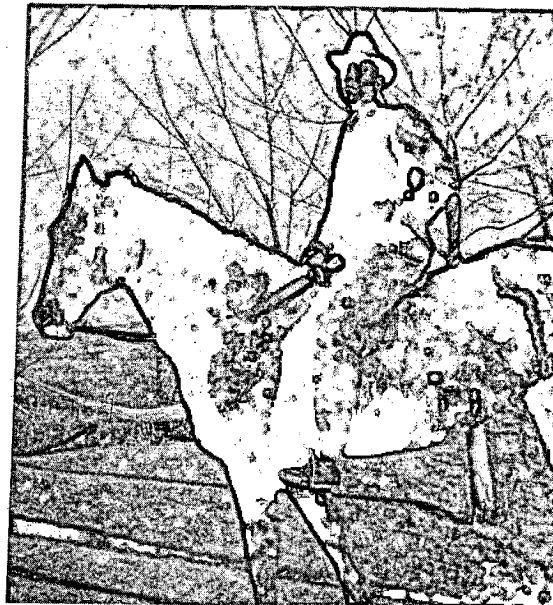
Sara S. Fuller
Manuscripts Specialist
Ohio Historical Society
Columbus, Ohio



Dunbar favored his "loafing holt" for relaxation and writing.



Alice Dunbar Nelson pursued an active literary career of her own.



Dunbar's horse inspired one of his poems "Dat Ol' Mare O' Mine."



The Paul Laurence Dunbar Home in Dayton is a state memorial administered by the Ohio Historical Society.

Matilda J. Dunbar, Paul's mother, told her son plantation stories that appeared later in his dialect poems.



Many of Dunbar's publications and manuscripts are held by the Ohio Historical Society.

Biographical Sketch

Paul Laurence Dunbar

Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Dayton, Ohio, June 27, 1872, the son of Matilda (Burton) and Joshua Dunbar. His father, who was born into slavery in 1823 in Kentucky, fled via the "underground railroad" to Canada before the Civil War. He returned to the United States and enlisted in the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry on June 5, 1863. He was honorably discharged on October 28, 1863 and reenlisted in the Massachusetts 5th Volunteer Infantry and received his discharge from that unit on October 31, 1865 with the rank of sergeant.

After the war Joshua Dunbar moved to Dayton, Ohio and was employed as a plasterer. He met Matilda (Burton) Murphy, a young widow with two small sons, William and Robert, and in 1871 they were married. Matilda Dunbar was born into slavery about 1844 in Shelby County, Kentucky. At the age of seven she was separated from her mother, whom she rejoined in Dayton at the end of the Civil War.

Two children, Paul and Elizabeth were born before the couple was divorced in January of 1874. Elizabeth Dunbar died in 1873, and Joshua Dunbar died of pneumonia on August 16, 1885. Matilda Dunbar was left alone with three small children to rear. Ms. Dunbar labored long hours in order to support her family. Her primary goal was to educate Paul. Between Paul and Matilda Dunbar grew a strong bond of affection which is evidenced throughout Dunbar's poetry and in his private papers.

Matilda Dunbar recognized early that her frail son was a gifted child for at the age of seven he began writing poetry. At Steele High School Dunbar was editor-in-chief of the High School Times, president of the Philomathean Society, and composer of the class song. In 1891 he graduated and took employment as an elevator operator in the Callahan Building.

During his high school years and in the year following graduation, Dunbar continued writing poetry. He had some minor successes with the publication of two of his poems in the Dayton Herald. Encouraged by his family and friends, Dunbar gathered together poems which he had written and contracted with the United Brethren Publishing House in Dayton to publish a small volume of verse entitled Oak and Ivy, which appeared shortly before Christmas of 1892. In order to pay the publisher's cost of \$125, he sold copies of his book to family, friends, and people whom he met while operating the elevator.

Dunbar left Dayton in 1893 and moved to Chicago. Here he became acquainted with Frederick Douglass, who employed him in the Haiti Building at

the World's Columbian Exposition. In a few months he returned to Dayton, resuming his role as an elevator operator and a poet. Although discouraged by financial difficulty, Dunbar continued to write and to speak locally. Before long he became acquainted with Charles Thatcher and Henry A. Tobey of Toledo, who assisted in the printing of Dunbar's second book, Majors and Minors, in 1895. It was this volume of verse that brought Dunbar to the attention of William Dean Howells. Shortly after Howells read a copy of Majors and Minors, he reviewed the volume in Harpers Magazine. Howells' favorable review, which said, "Mr. Dunbar is the first black man to feel the life of the Negro aesthetically, and to express it lyrically," introduced Dunbar to a larger audience, and before long he was in demand for speaking engagements.

The year 1896 saw the publication of a third book, Lyrics of a Lowly Life. By this time Dunbar had achieved recognition as a talented young man. Aware of the benefits of traveling abroad, he spent six months in 1897 in England, touring and making personal appearances. During this period he wrote his first novel, The Uncalled. The trip to England was not wholly successful. Dunbar had financial problems which forced him to return to the United States.

Shortly after he returned to the United States Dunbar obtained a position at the Library of Congress through the efforts of Robert Ingersoll. In March of 1898 he married Alice Ruth Moore, a poet and school teacher. Ms. Moore and Dunbar had been engaged prior to his departure for England. The marriage was a stormy one, lasting only four years. During this period the Dunbars traveled extensively.

Dunbar had always been a frail man. The years of hard work and traveling began to take their toll. After his separation from Alice in 1902, he returned to Dayton. His health deteriorated rapidly in the next few years, and on February 6, 1906, at the age of 34, he died.

Alice Dunbar Nelson

Alice Ruth Moore was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 19, 1875, the daughter of Patricia and Joseph Moore. She attended the public schools of New Orleans and Straight University from which she graduated in 1892. Ms. Moore taught school in New Orleans until 1896, when she moved east for further schooling. In 1897 she accepted a teaching post in Brooklyn, New York, where she remained until her marriage to Paul Laurence Dunbar in 1898.

Alice Moore's and Paul Dunbar's relationship developed through correspondence and their mutual ambitions for a literary career. In 1895 Alice's first book, Violets and Other Tales, was published by the

Monthly Review Publishing Company of Boston. Paul Dunbar became acquainted with Alice Moore that year, when he read a poem she had written and published. Her photograph accompanied the poem. Dunbar wrote to Ms. Moore in care of the magazine which published her poem, enclosing a poem of his own, "Phyllis." The correspondence lasted for nearly two years. On the eve of Dunbar's departure for England in February of 1897, they became engaged.

Ms. Dunbar continued writing after her marriage. In 1899 Dodd, Mead and Company published The Goodness of St. Rocque. For the next few years the Dunbars traveled extensively, touring the country for Dunbar's speaking engagements. After their separation in 1902, Ms. Dunbar moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where she taught at Howard High School and served as head of the English department until 1920. During this time, she was active in writing and lecturing. In 1914 she published Masterpieces of Negro Eloquence followed by Romances of the Negro in 1932.

Ms. Dunbar was married in 1916 to Robert J. Nelson of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mr. Nelson edited the Wilmington Advocate from 1916 to 1920, and the Washington Eagle from 1925 to 1930. He served as State Athletic Commissioner of Pennsylvania from 1932 to 1935. Until Mr. Nelson's death on February 3, 1929, he was associated with the Simmons Realty firm, and in 1926 was appointed Assistant Director of Public Safety for Pennsylvania.

Ms. Nelson shared her husband's interest in journalism as well as being active in a number of social, political and civic organizations. She succeeded her husband as editor of the Advocate and also served as an associate editor of the African Methodist Review from 1920 to 1923. She contributed regularly to major publications such as Crisis, Opportunity and Colliers, while writing a weekly column for the Pittsburgh Courier and the Washington Eagle.

Ms. Nelson's other interests included active participation in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Interracial Peace Committee, and Delta Sigma Sorority. She worked hard for women's suffrage, civil rights and international peace. In connection with these affiliations she made nationwide speaking tours.

After her death on September 18, 1935, Ms. Nelson's fame was primarily limited to being the widow of Paul Laurence Dunbar. However, she cannot be overlooked in the chronicles of American history as an outstanding and talented woman.

SOURCES

In the years following his death, several biographies of Dunbar were written and published. Lida Keck Wiggins, a poet, wrote the first biography, The

Life and Works of Paul Laurence Dunbar, (New York, 1907). She used interviews, private letters and reminiscences as sources. Biographers since 1907 have added little with the exception of Benjamin Brawley, Professor of English, Paul Laurence Dunbar (Chapel Hill, 1936); and Virginia Cunningham, a novelist, Paul Laurence Dunbar (New York, 1947). An unpublished Ph.D. dissertation by Gossie H. Hudson, A Biography of Paul Laurence Dunbar (Ohio State University, 1970), provides more information and interpretation than any published work to date.

There is no published biography of Alice Dunbar Nelson. For information regarding her life, the editor relied on the newspaper obituaries in Box 20 of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Collection at the Ohio Historical Society.

Scope and Content

In light of contemporary interest in the study and re-examination of black history, the private papers of Paul Laurence Dunbar assume special significance. Writers in the past have not been able to deal with Dunbar's personality, character, or talent because of lack of research material. Lacking access to his papers, or simply ignoring them, writers have produced general, superficial accounts of Dunbar's life. Through his private papers it is now possible to re-appraise Dunbar as a man and as a literary figure. It is not within the scope of this guide to reassess Dunbar but to point out the contents of the papers, and what their principal value is.

There are over 10,000 items in the Dunbar papers arranged in 23 boxes. Boxes 1 to 19 constitute the holdings of the Ohio Historical Society and include correspondence, legal and financial papers, miscellaneous papers, literary manuscripts, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks. They represent series 1 to 5 of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Papers, and are reproduced on rolls 1 to 6 of the microfilm edition. Each series is arranged chronologically except literary manuscripts which are arranged alphabetically by title within 10 subseries. Untitled manuscripts follow titled ones and are arranged alphabetically by first line. In the other series, undated items follow the dated material. Appendix A of the guide lists the literary manuscripts with a more complete explanation of their arrangement.

The private papers of Alice Dunbar Nelson, which have been loaned to the Society by Ms. Pauline A. Young of Wilmington, Delaware with the expressed agreement that these will someday become a permanent part of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Collection, are contained in boxes 20 to 22. These papers are also divided into series 5 to 10, and reproduced on rolls 6 to 9 of this microfilm edition. The papers are arranged chronologically within the following series: correspondence, miscellanea, diaries, scrapbooks, and the correspondence of Alice Dunbar Nelson and Paul Laurence Dunbar. The latter series was accessioned after filming had been completed on the original material at the Society, therefore too late to integrate in its proper place. That series (10) also includes financial records, newspaper clippings, and miscellanea.

The most valuable portion of the entire collection is the correspondence between Paul and Alice, which provides insight into their private lives and personalities. The exchange of letters between Paul and Alice, beginning in 1895 and ending in 1904, is particularly revealing. The letters deal not only with their own personal feelings for each other, but with their literary careers, lecture tours, race relations, health, family and friends, and daily activities.

Paul began writing to Alice after reading a poem which she had published in 1895. From a casual friendship of two people with a mutual interest in writing, the relationship can be traced through its various stages; their engagement in 1897, marriage in March 1898, a separation from July to September of 1898, and their final separation in 1902. In his letters to Alice, Paul reveals himself as a man given to periods of depression, moments of joy, bursts of anger, and other emotions. Paul pours out his deep love for Alice over and over again throughout his letters. But Paul also writes to her concerning his own personal grievances which are often aimed at Alice. Alice, on the other hand, does not appear to be as moody as Paul, and her letters follow a much more consistent pattern of affection and conciliation. A few letters, usually replies to Paul's grievances, reveal that Alice too had a temper.

The researcher can determine their varied activities through their correspondence: Alice teaching in New York, writing, lecturing, traveling; Paul's work at the Library of Congress; the classes he guest-lectured to in 1901 in Jacksonville, Florida and Tuskegee, Alabama; recitals he gave in various cities; and the tour of London, England in 1897. In addition to these activities they discuss their health a great deal. Paul was never a well man, and the extent of his health problems is contained in the letters. Paul's drinking problems are also touched upon.

Although mention of race relations is infrequent, there are glimpses of what it was like to live under the social proscriptions of a white man's world. Of particular interest are Paul's feelings about protest which are aptly expressed in a letter written to Brand Whitlock of Toledo, Ohio on December 26, 1900: "Unless we live our lives of protest, and few of us are willing to do that, we are as guilty as the lynchers of the South--we are all tarred with the same stick." Although Alice was active in the struggle for civil rights at that time, her letters reveal a distain for those blacks which she considered in an inferior social position. Thus the researcher does have the opportunity to peer into the minds and thoughts of Alice and Paul and their relationship to the black race.

The remainder of the correspondence is primarily letters and telegrams to and from family and friends. Paul's letters to James N. Matthews are rather interesting. Written early in his career, they deal with his own personal struggles to achieve literary recognition. The correspondence of Matilda J. Dunbar deals chiefly with family and personal affairs. Alice's correspondence, after her separation from Paul in 1902, reflects her interests in education, civil rights, peace work, and her family and other social relationships.

The scrapbooks and newspaper clippings in the collection complement the correspondence in their documentation of the careers of Paul Laurence Dunbar and Alice Dunbar Nelson. They especially provide an excellent source of information regarding Dunbar's activities and his acceptance by critics and the

public. Alice's diaries give good detail regarding her activities, and should not be overlooked as a valuable portion of the collection. Cancelled checks, bills, notes, contracts, and other accounts testify to Dunbar's financial success.

The literary manuscripts do not represent the total output of Paul L. Dunbar. There are few annotations and few deviations from the published versions of his prose and poetry, therefore depriving the researcher of an in-depth analysis of Dunbar's methodology. However, much of the work in the collection is not included in any of Dunbar's books and these manuscripts provide valuable insights into the depth and breadth of Dunbar's total literary efforts.

The papers contain gaps in time, but this seems due to Dunbar's own failure to retain papers and to the attrition of over 40 years of storage. Gaps in chronology appear in the papers of Alice Dunbar Nelson, and because of the tremendous amount of activity in which she was involved, it is apparent that all of her papers have not survived. Also Alice, herself, in a letter to Paul dated March 27, 1898 (Box 22) describes sorting approximately 2,000 letters and setting aside nearly 500 which she considered valueless to be burned. However, the surviving documents of Paul L. Dunbar and Alice Dunbar Nelson do provide a useful framework and are an unparalleled source of information.

Series Description

Series 1: Paul Laurence Dunbar Correspondence (Rolls 1 to 2, boxes 1 to 4)

The Dunbar correspondence includes letters to both Paul Dunbar, 1885 to 1905, and to his mother, Matilda Dunbar, 1873-1934. These are arranged separately. Also included in the collection are letters, 1892 to 1903, written by Dunbar to James N. Matthews of Mason, Illinois; photocopies of Dunbar correspondence housed in other repositories, and shorthand notebooks containing the correspondence of Dunbar 1905 to 1906.

The bulk of the correspondence is incoming, spanning the years 1893 to 1902. Dunbar remained in Dayton until 1893. After the publication of his first two books of poems, Oak and Ivy and Majors and Minors, he began traveling around the country reading his poetry. The correspondence reflects the amount of attention that he received from the general public and from family and friends. Scattered letters from such notables as James Whitcomb Riley and William Dean Howells illustrate the acclaim of the literary community. Friends such as Henry A. Tobey and Charles Thatcher wrote letters of encouragement, oftentimes offering financial aid. Dunbar's most frequent correspondent was Rebekah Baldwin, whose letters contain praise and encouragement for the young poet.

The letters that Dunbar wrote to James A. Matthews are of paramount significance because they are one of the largest groups of outgoing correspondence. Dunbar reveals his private self in these letters. He discusses the problems he has encountered in his pursuit of a career, his despair, fears, ambitions and hopes. Business letters are sparse and scattered, thus creating a void in the documentation of Dunbar's relationship with his editors and his publishers.

The correspondence of Matilda Dunbar, 1873 to 1934, consists primarily of personal letters from her family and her friends. The letters that Paul L. Dunbar wrote to his mother are included in this section. They describe Dunbar's social and literary activities, but beyond that reveal the close bond of affection which existed between Matilda Dunbar and her son. Other letters from family and friends are inquiries about Dunbar's activities, and news regarding family births, deaths, marriages, and other personal matters. Correspondence which Matilda Dunbar received after Paul Dunbar's death in 1906 show the affection and esteem which family, friends, and prominent persons held for Dunbar, and their grief at the time of his death. In the years following Paul L. Dunbar's death, Ms. Dunbar remained in Dayton perpetuating the memory of her son, as evidenced in her later correspondence.

The photocopies, 1895 to 1903, housed in other institutions are chiefly routine and include letters, poems, and the play, "Herrick." With the exception of the letters written by Booker T. Washington and the letters written by Paul L. Dunbar to Brand Whitlock, the material is routine. The letters written by Washington concern Dunbar's authorship of the Tuskegee Institute school song. The letters Dunbar wrote to Whitlock are chiefly personal and very informative regarding Dunbar's private and professional life.

The shorthand notebooks and loose shorthand notes, ca. 1905 to 1906, contain Dunbar's outgoing correspondence in the latter months of his life. The shorthand has been identified as early Graham or Benn Pitman, but has not been transcribed. In many instances the addressee's name is written in longhand, thus making it possible to identify the persons to whom Dunbar was writing.

Series 2: Paul Laurence Dunbar Legal Documents and Financial Records
(Rolls 2 to 3, boxes 6 to 8)

The legal documents, 1893 to 1911, consist of scattered papers and publisher's contracts. The series begins with the military discharge papers of Joshua Dunbar. After his death, Paul and Matilda Dunbar attempted to obtain a pension from the government, and these requests are included in this series. The contracts are with Dodd, Mead and Company, for the publication of poems and books. The principal value of the contracts lies in their financial aspects.

The remainder of the series includes bills and receipts for personal goods and services, cancelled checks, royalty reports from Dodd, Mead and Company, insurance records, savings account books, and hotel and restaurant bills. Unfortunately, these records do not provide full documentation for Dunbar's legal and financial affairs.

Series 3: Paul Laurence Dunbar Miscellanea (Roll 3, box 9)

The miscellaneous items in the Dunbar collection include copies of The Tattler for December 13 and December 20, 1890. The Tattler was published in Dayton by Wilbur and Orville Wright, classmates and friends of Dunbar; certificates and grade reports; recital schedules; calling cards; biographical material about Dunbar; and a scrapbook entitled An Appreciation of Matilda Dunbar, May 9, 1926, which is comprised of letters and newspaper clippings. The recital schedules are chiefly programs in which Dunbar participated. These only represent a few of his many speaking engagements.

Series 4: Paul Laurence Dunbar Literary Manuscripts (Rolls 3 to 4, boxes 10 to 13)

Dunbar is best known for his literary output of productions ranging from books,

poetry and short stories to musical scores. The material in this series constitutes only a small percentage of his literary accomplishments. Included are poetry, plays, novels, short stories, essays, speeches, sheet music and lyrics. Dunbar authored four novels, two of which appear in his papers, The Fanatics and The Love of Landry. Poems which were included in his books and other poems, titled and untitled, indicate Dunbar's style and the range of subject matter. The remainder of the series represents works which were not published in any of Dunbar's books, but reveal the tremendous amount of work that he produced. Many of Dunbar's poems were suitable to be set to music. Dunbar wrote the lyrics for many musical productions in collaboration with others. The items in this collection do not fully document this side of Dunbar's career. See Appendix A for a detailed list of items microfilmed in this series.

Series 5: Paul Laurence Dunbar Newspaper Clippings and Scrapbooks
(Rolls 4 to 5, boxes 14 to 19)

The newspaper clippings, 1898 to 1906, consist of book notices and reviews, poems, articles, clippings about Dunbar's death, and news items regarding his health and his social and literary activities. The scrapbooks, 1893 to 1901, are composed primarily of newspaper clippings, but include recital schedules, calling cards, letters and other miscellanea pertinent to Dunbar's career. The clippings contain book notices and reviews, articles, poems and news items about Dunbar.

Series 6: Alice Dunbar Nelson Correspondence (Rolls 5 to 6, box 20)

The collection begins with the letters of Paul L. Dunbar to Alice Ruth Moore in 1894, letters written while Dunbar was in England in 1897, and later in Washington, D. C. They provide an excellent source of documentation for the months Dunbar spent in England. They contain descriptions of his literary and social activities, and are also rather personal, revealing Dunbar's deep affection for Ms. Moore. The letters 1907 to 1908 are written by Edwina B. Kruse, principal of Howard High School. They are chiefly personal, containing family news, school news and Ms. Kruse's thoughts on a variety of subjects. These also provide an excellent source of information about Alice, for Ms. Kruse comments in her letters on Alice's activities, health and financial problems.

There is no correspondence between 1908 and 1918. The letters for the years 1918 to 1932 are sparse and few are outgoing. The correspondence deals with Ms. Nelson's interest in various organizations, primarily with the American Interracial Peace Committee and the American Friends Service Committee. Ms. Nelson wrote columns for several newspapers and also wrote prose and poetry. Scattered letters reflect those activities. In addition,

Ms. Nelson was a lecturer and toured the country speaking before various groups on the issues of the day. She also received invitations to speak about Paul L. Dunbar and to read his poetry.

Two folders of material contain the letters of Robert Nelson and Pauline A. Young. These include notes of sympathy after Ms. Nelson's death, letters regarding the attempted posthumous publication of This Lofty Oak, a novel by Ms. Nelson, and other letters dealing chiefly with Ms. Nelson.

Series 7: Alice Dunbar Nelson Miscellanea (Roll 6, box 20)

This series includes financial records, 1902 to 1931, itineraries, bulletins, minutes of meetings, and newspaper clippings. These papers are scattered and few. The newspaper clippings contain book notices and reviews about Alice and Paul L. Dunbar, and the obituary notices for Alice Dunbar Nelson.

Series 8: Alice Dunbar Nelson Diaries (Rolls 6 to 7, box 21)

The diaries kept by Ms. Nelson for the years 1921 to 1922 and 1926 to 1931 contain detailed information regarding her activities for those years. She writes about family, health, financial and professional problems. Thus the diaries provide a rich commentary on the private personality of Ms. Nelson. They reveal a woman keenly interested in the issues of the day both political and social; a woman who despite a career maintained her household; a woman intensely concerned with her family and friends; and a woman whose social contacts ranged from a fellow teacher to notables such as W. E. B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson and Adam Clayton Powell, Sr.

Series 9: Alice Dunbar Nelson Scrapbooks (Roll 7, box 21)

The scrapbooks, 1895 to 1930, consist mainly of newspaper clippings. Included are a scrapbook on Ms. Nelson's activities as an ardent suffrage worker, her work for the American Interracial Peace Committee and her columns "Through a Looking Glass," and "From a Woman's Point of View," written for the Washington Eagle and the Pittsburgh Courier. Both columns are commentaries on news and events of the day.

Series 10: Alice Dunbar Nelson and Paul Laurence Dunbar
Correspondence (Rolls 8 to 9, box 22)

The additions to this collection consist of correspondence, financial records, newspaper clippings, and miscellanea, 1895 to 1942. The bulk of the letters are

between Alice (Moore) Dunbar Nelson and Paul Laurence Dunbar. The correspondence provides excellent documentation of their personal relationship, their respective literary pursuits, family activities, health, finances, and daily activities. Scattered letters from 1907 to 1918 reflect some of Alice's interests. The letters for 1918 are numerous, and deal with Ms. Nelson's work on behalf of the war effort. No correspondence for 1918-1934 exists in this series. The correspondence for 1934 deals primarily with Republican politics. Only two letters exist after 1934. The remainder of the collection is sparse and scattered consisting of financial records, newspaper clippings, and miscellanea. Specific topics and major correspondents for this series, as well as the others, are listed on the roll notes.

Roll Notes

Roll 1 (Series 1, boxes 1 to 4)

Paul Laurence Dunbar correspondence, 1885 to 1906 and undated; letters to James N. Matthews, 1892 to 1903; shorthand notes and notebooks, circa 1905 to 1906; and Matilda Dunbar correspondence, 1873 to 1898.

Paul Laurence Dunbar's correspondence spans the years 1885 to 1906 and includes undated letters. The letters are chiefly incoming, dealing with personal and professional affairs. The growing reputation of Dunbar as a poet brought inquiries from a wide variety of interested persons. Among these were H. A. Tobey and Charles Thatcher, who were interested in aiding the young poet. Letters from Rebekah Baldwin are long and reveal much about Dunbar and his relationship to Ms. Baldwin. Letters concerning Dunbar's career, health, finances and personal life are abundant. The shorthand notes and notebooks (ca. 1905-1906) which are untranscribed, are personal and business correspondence written in the last few months of Dunbar's life. Too frail to write himself, he had a secretary for that purpose.

Concerned about his career, Dunbar wrote several long, introspective letters to James H. Matthews of Mason, Illinois from 1892 to 1903. These letters reflect Dunbar's anxiety as well as his hopes for the future.

Matilda Dunbar's correspondence, 1873 to 1898, is primarily personal, much of it dealing with her son and his activities. Family matters, financial affairs and daily activities make up the bulk of the letters. Paul wrote often to his mother from the various places he lived. His letters reflect the deep affection he held for his mother and are also a commentary on his social and literary activities.

Roll 2 (Series 1 to 2, boxes 4 to 8)

Matilda Dunbar correspondence, 1899 to 1934 and undated; photocopies of Dunbar letters in other repositories; legal and financial documents, 1863 to 1911, 1896 to 1905, and undated, respectively.

Matilda Dunbar's correspondence continues on this roll. The bulk of the letters are from her family, particularly Paul, her sons Robert and William Murphy and their children. Several letters from Alice Dunbar dealing with Paul appear here. The letters primarily concern personal family matters, although many of them deal with Paul and his activities. Letters of condolence written to Matilda after Paul's death in 1906 are also included. These letters

not only contain messages of sympathy but also praise for Dunbar's life and work. There are numerous letters to her from family and friends after Paul's death, centering primarily on her activities, although reminiscences of Paul are scattered throughout this section.

The photocopies of correspondence in other repositories are chiefly routine and perfunctory, the largest single group being Dunbar's letters to Booker T. Washington dealing with Dunbar's authorship of the Tuskegee Institute school song. Also bearing mention are several lengthy letters Dunbar wrote to Brand Whitlock in 1900.

The legal documents and financial records include routine household bills and receipts, cancelled checks, contracts with Dodd, Mead and Company, royalty statements, the discharge papers of Joshua Dunbar, the divorce petition of Matilda Dunbar, a copy of the abstract of title to the Dunbar house in Dayton, an agreement with Will Cook regarding the financial arrangements for the musical, "Clorindy," papers regarding Dunbar's estate, and other scattered miscellanea.

Roll 3 (Series 2 to 4, boxes 8 to 11)

Financial records, 1885 to 1906; miscellanea 1890 to 1926; poetry and prose, both published and unpublished.

The financial records include bank books and insurance payment records. The miscellanea includes two copies of The Tattler, recital schedules, calling cards, school certificates and grade reports, articles containing biographical material published in The Watchword and Talent, and a scrapbook, A Memorial to Matilda Dunbar, May 9, 1926, containing correspondence and clippings relating to a benefit given in Ms. Dunbar's honor.

The poetry on this roll consists of holograph and typed poems published in books authored by Dunbar, poems which do not appear in his books, and poems by other authors. Many of the poems are incomplete. A complete list of the poems is contained in Appendix A.

Also appearing on the roll is the complete text of The Fanatics. The first copy is titled The Copperhead, which may have been the original title. The second copy contains a few changes in the original manuscript. The third copy is the galley proofs.

Roll 4 (Series 4 to 5, boxes 12 to 17)

Published and unpublished prose; lyrics; newspaper clippings, 1899 to 1906

and undated; and scrapbooks, 1893 to 1900.

Dunbar's published and unpublished manuscript prose includes the text of The Love of Landry; a play, Herrick, and an untitled, incomplete play; and short stories, essays, speeches and miscellaneous writings. A complete listing is contained in Appendix A.

The newspaper clippings contain book notices, reviews, poems, and articles about Dunbar. The newspaper articles published after his death contain good biographical material. The scrapbooks consist primarily of newspaper clippings, but include scattered programs, calling cards, letters, and other miscellanea.

Roll 5 (Series 5 to 6, boxes 18 through 20)

Paul L. Dunbar scrapbooks, 1900 to 1901; and Alice Dunbar Nelson correspondence, 1897 to 1908.

The scrapbooks of Paul L. Dunbar contain newspaper clippings of book notices, reviews, poems, articles and miscellanea.

The correspondence of Alice Dunbar Nelson consists of letters written by Paul L. Dunbar during his visit to England and while he was in Washington, D. C. in 1897. The letters are chiefly personal, but contain good detail about Dunbar's social and literary activities. The correspondence of Edwina B. Kruse, 1907 to 1908, is virtually a daily commentary on a variety of topics including family matters, financial affairs, education, politics and Ms. Kruse's social and professional activities.

Roll 6 (Series 6 to 8, boxes 20 and 21)

Alice Dunbar Nelson correspondence, 1908 to 1936; Robert Nelson correspondence 1919-1929; Pauline A. Young correspondence, 1935 to 1969; Alice Dunbar Nelson miscellanea, 1902 to 1936; and Alice Dunbar Nelson diaries, 1921, 1922, and 1926.

The correspondence of Edwina B. Kruse to Alice Dunbar Nelson continues on this roll, and is primarily concerned with daily social and professional activities, family matters, and comments on current events. The remainder of the correspondence is primarily routine dealing with business and personal affairs, including letters relating to the American Friends Service Committee, the American Interracial Peace Committee, speaking invitations, and the publication of Ms. Nelson's work. The letters to Robert Nelson relate chiefly to personal affairs and his wife. The letters of Pauline A. Young consist primarily

of condolence messages after Ms. Nelson's death and letters regarding the attempted posthumous publication of This Lofty Oak, a novel by Alice Dunbar Nelson. Ms. Nelson's correspondents include: W. W. Beardsley, Vera Caspary, Ethelind B. Dandridge, Eleanor E. Dutton, Edwina B. Kruse, Ira F. Lewis and Floyd G. Snelson, Jr.

The miscellanea includes scattered financial records, 1902 to 1931, Ms. Nelson's will, station KADN notes, itineraries, and scattered material on the American Interracial Peace Committee. Also included are newspaper clippings, 1894 to 1936, relating to Alice and Paul Dunbar and to Alice Dunbar Nelson. These include book notices, reviews, poems, and good biographical detail on Ms. Nelson.

Ms. Nelson's diaries are daily commentaries on her personal, social, and professional activities, including comments on family matters, financial matters, health problems, speaking engagements, local and national events, and routine activities of the day.

Roll 7 (Series 8 to 9, box 21)

Diaries, 1927 to 1931; and scrapbooks, 1895, 1915 and 1926 to 1930.

The diaries of Alice Dunbar Nelson continue on this roll and contain comments on family matters, social and professional activities, health problems, financial affairs, and events of local and national concern. The scrapbooks are composed of clippings dealing with the publication of Violets and Other Tales, the suffrage movement, the American Interracial Peace Committee, and the Russ Case. There are also scrapbooks containing the columns authored by Ms. Nelson, "As In a Looking Glass" and "From a Woman's Point of View."

Roll 8 (Series 10, box 22)

Alice Dunbar Nelson correspondence, 1895 to 1906.

Alice Dunbar Nelson's correspondence spans the years 1895 to 1906 on this roll. The bulk of the letters are between Alice (Moore) Dunbar Nelson and her first husband, Paul Laurence Dunbar between 1895 and 1902 when they separated. From 1902 to 1906 the letters are to and from family and friends and include scattered letters and telegrams from Paul to Alice.

The collection begins with the correspondence of Paul to Alice in 1895 before they had met. Paul's letters include: two poems written for Alice Ruth Moore entitled "A Song" and "Song"; requests for contributions to the

Indianapolis World of which Dunbar was then editor; discussions of Ms. Moore's prose and poetry; discussion of Paul's own literary career including the editorship of the World; recitals; the meeting of the Western Association of Writers in 1895 where Dunbar was the only black member at that meeting. These letters also reveal a growing interest and affection for Alice.

The letters between 1896 and March of 1898, when Paul and Alice were married, document their relationship, as well as dealing with other personal and professional affairs. The letters are often outpourings of affection, but include those which also reveal a stormy side to their relationship. Prior to their marriage they began addressing one another as husband and wife, and each would sign their letters to that effect. In addition to discussing their forthcoming marriage and plans for their home in Washington, D. C. the letters contain comments on health, family, literary pursuits, and daily activities.

After their marriage on March 6, 1898, Alice remained in Brooklyn, New York teaching; and Paul remained at the Library of Congress. It was not until mid-April that Alice resigned from her position and joined Paul. The letters between them for this period are both affectionate and angry. Paul and Alice were both concerned about the effect of their marriage on their respective families and friends, and these concerns are reflected in the correspondence. Several letters contain Alice's comments on the students in her classes.

There is no correspondence between April and July of 1898. In July Alice left Paul and returned to New York where she remained with her family until September. The correspondence contains news of their activities, health, and discussions of their relationship. There is no correspondence from October until December, when they were again separated while Paul was on tour. The letters deal with daily activities, health, the publication of several articles, one in the Chicago Record on lynching and two forthcoming articles in Outlook on Christmas, speaking schedules which included recitals in Albany, Chicago, Columbus and Toledo, and two friends of Paul's, H. A. Tobey and Will Marion Cook.

The letters between Paul and Alice from 1899 to 1902 deal with family and professional affairs, finances, health, and literary endeavors. In 1901 Paul was on a speaking tour in Jacksonville, Florida and Tuskegee, Alabama and the letters detail his activities, comments on Booker T. Washington, and Jim Crow in the South. Alice's letters deal with her work on The Confessions of a Lazy Woman, health, family and friends. One letter written by Alice is very noteworthy, containing the plantation stories her mother had told her. Another letter dated January 9, 1900, discusses the recruitment of black troops in Ohio during the Civil War. One small group of correspondence concerns the assault on Alice Dunbar during President William McKinley's funeral by a police officer named Kemp. The incident was investigated, but later dismissed.

After their separation in 1902, Paul wrote to Alice several times asking to

see her. Other friends and relatives also tried to intercede, but Alice remained firm, and there was no reconciliation. Paul died in February of 1906, and Alice received many letters of condolence, requests for photographs, autographs, and mementos. The correspondence after 1902 is scattered. Major correspondents include: Sallie Brown, William A. Burns, Marie E. Deemer, Lewis H. Douglass, Matilda J. Dunbar, J. H. Finley, C. A. Fleetwood, Forest Grant, Robert E. Jones, Victoria Earle Matthews, B. F. Swigart, Booker T. Washington.

Roll 9 (Series 10, box 22)

Alice Dunbar Nelson correspondence, 1907 to 1942; financial records, 1898 to 1934; newspaper clippings, 1902 to 1934; printed programs, 1897 to 1934; broadsides, 1934 and undated; Council of National Defense membership cards, 1903 to 1934; invitations, 1904, 1934 and undated; and undated miscellanea.

The correspondence of Alice Dunbar Nelson continues on this roll and is sparse between the years 1907 and 1918. Letters for these years deal with requests for photographs and mementos of Paul Laurence Dunbar, Alice Dunbar's thesis on Milton and Wordsworth, royalties from the Paul L. Dunbar estate, and race relations. The letters for 1918 are numerous and concern black schools and education, the Circle for Negro War Relief, the Wilmington Flag Day Parade, the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense, and Alice's speaking tour through the South on behalf of the Council of National Defense.

From 1918 to 1934 there is no correspondence. The 1934 letters deal primarily with Republican politics in Pennsylvania and Ms. Nelson's activities in the political campaigns of that year. There is one letter for 1935 and one for 1942. There are several undated letters at the end of this section.

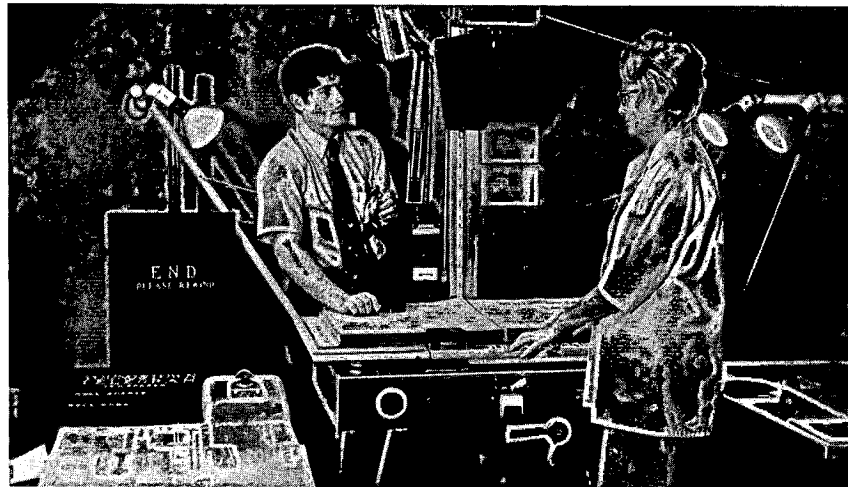
The financial records, 1898 to 1934, consist of bills, receipts, cancelled checks and two royalty statements from Dodd, Mead and Company. The newspaper clippings, 1902 to 1934, contain news on the dismissal of the case against Policeman Kemp, the 1918 Flag Day Parade, and the 1934 Republican campaign. The printed programs, 1897 to 1934; broadsides, 1934 and undated; Council of National Defense membership lists, 1918; membership cards, 1903 to 1934; invitations, 1904, 1934 and undated; and undated miscellanea constitute the remainder of the collection. These are scattered and few, but do reflect some of Alice's interests and activities. Major correspondents include: Caroline S. Bond, Lane Cooper, C. A. Fleetwood, William F. Gable, Ernest L. Jones, Herbert E. Miller, Hannah J. Patterson, Cynthia M. St. John, Emmett J. Scott.



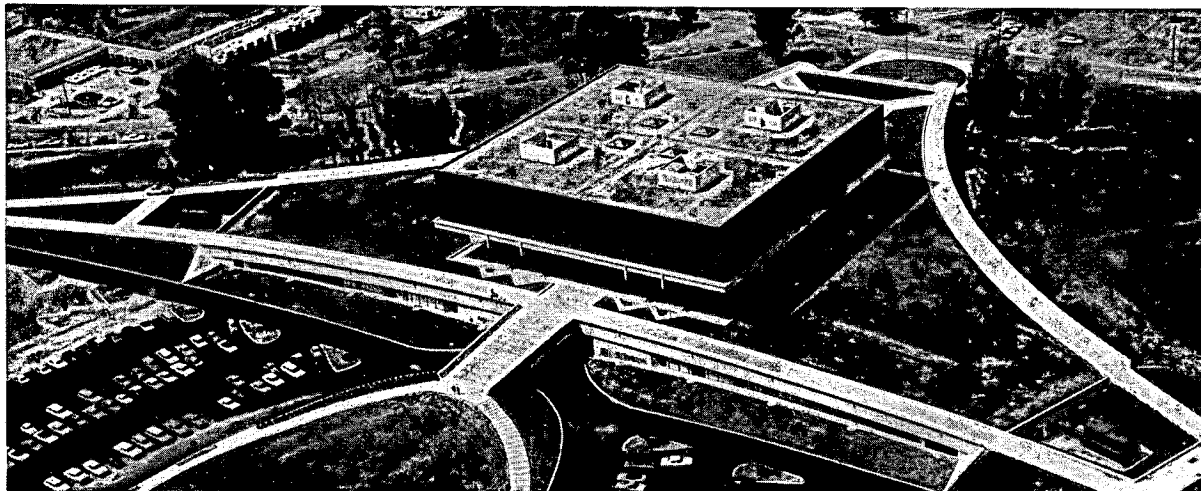
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. University of Akron | 5. Ohio Historical Society |
| 2. Bowling Green State University | 6. Ohio University |
| 3. University of Cincinnati | 7. Western Reserve Historical Society |
| 4. Kent State University | 8. Wright State University |

The eight members of the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers administer Ohio source materials on a geographical basis. Ohio black history is a priority collecting area for the network.

The Dunbar papers were microfilmed by Robert Jones and Delores Vikre to quality archival standards. Every roll has frame numbers and complete targets in addition to using individual light density settings.

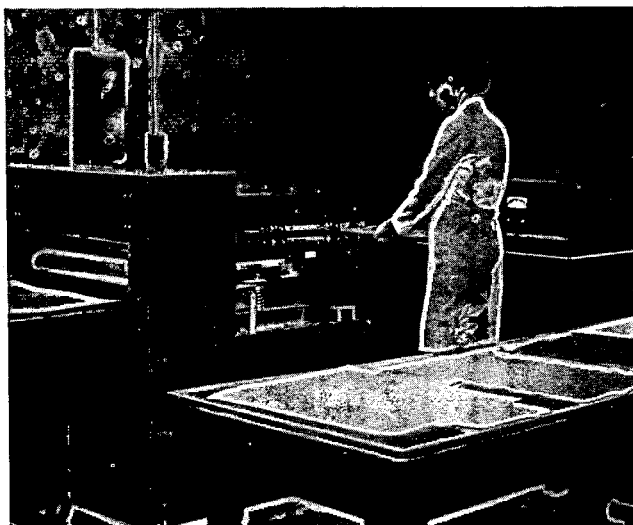


The Columbus headquarters of the Ohio Historical Society, below, the futuristic Ohio Historical Center, opened in 1970. The three story block cantilevered above the three acre ground level museum houses the archives-library functions.





The spacious reading room provides central reference service for all ten of the archives-library media systems: data archives; film-sound, institutional records, local government records, manuscripts, newspapers, oral history, pictures-maps, printed materials, and state archives.



Using the facilities of the only paper conservation lab in Ohio, Virginia Ingram restored many of the documents in the Dunbar collection to insure complete legibility for microfilming.

Inventory author Sara Fuller examines items from the Dunbar collection which is permanently kept in the archives-library stack area.



Appendices

Appendix A: List of Literary Manuscripts in Series 4 (Rolls 3 to 4, boxes 10 to 13)

The literary manuscripts of Paul Laurence Dunbar are arranged alphabetically within 10 groups: poems, novels, plays, short stories, essays, speeches, and miscellaneous writings, untitled works arranged by subject titles, fragments arranged by first line, fragments with no subject titles, sheet music, titled lyrics, and untitled lyrics with subject titles. The poems are sub-divided into: titled poems which appear in books authored by Dunbar, titled poems not appearing in books authored by Dunbar (these may have been published elsewhere), untitled poems having subject titles, untitled poems with no subject titles, incomplete fragments, and poems about or to Dunbar by other authors. The subject titles were determined from the content of the manuscript by the editor to facilitate easier use by the researcher. All of the above are original manuscripts held by the Ohio Historical Society.

1. Poems

a. Titled Poems Appearing in Books Authored by Dunbar

At Night	Musical, A
Career, A	Night
Death of the First Born, The	October
Deserted Plantation, The	Ol' Tunes, The
Diplomacy	On The River
Discovery, The	Parted
Drowsy Day, A	Place Where the Rainbow Ends,
Faith	The
Fisher Child's Lullaby, The	Puttin' the Baby Away
Growing - Gray	Quilting, The
Hope	River of Ruin, The
Keep a Pluggin' Away	Scamp
Kidnapped	Speakin' At the Co't House
Lazy Day, A	Spellin' Bee, The
Life	Spring Song
Liza May	To Her
Lost Dream, A	To Louise
Love's Draft	Twell De Night is Pas'
Masters, The	Weltschmerz
Melancholia	Winter's Approach
Monk's Walk, The	Winter Song
Morning	Yesterday and Tomorrow

b. Unpublished Poems (to OHS Knowledge) - Titled Poems Not Appearing in Books Authored by Dunbar

Bird Call, A	Letter, A
Come and Kiss Me Sweet and Twenty	Lonely Hunter, The
Concert, The	Love Is a Star
Content	(An untitled poem appears on the back)
(Untitled poem on same page)	Making Up, The
Emancipation	Matter of Locality, A
Happy! Happy! Happy!	Night on the Chesapeake
Incantation and Invocation	Nobody's Town
(There are miscellaneous notes on the reverse of this manuscript)	Ode to John Patterson
In The Depths	Our Hopes and Home
John Hay	Passage, The
Keeping in Touch	Song
Lament, A	Tim
	To Miss Mamie Emerson
	Virginia Reel, A

c. Unpublished Poems (to OHS Knowledge) - Untitled Poems, Arranged by Subject Titles

Algebra	Goodnight
Ambition	Homecoming
Chappie, A	I Do Not Want No Big Position
Clouds	Little Girl Next Door, The
Colored Ball, The	Moralizing
Comrade	Mother and Her Baby, A
Conflict and Strife	Oh Lawd How Long
Death of a Woman	Old School, The
Dreams	Spring
Drowsy God, The	Sun, The
Dungeon, The	(Notes and incomplete poem on reverse side)
(Poem on reverse side, untitled, indistinct)	What's The Use of Dreaming
Farmer Spittle's Spellin' Bee	(Letter on back)
Friendship and Love	

d. Untitled Poems for Which No Subject Title Could be Determined, Arranged Alphabetically by First Line

"Now go to Pagus and you may see..."
"Oh fairest flowr's of fading fall"

"These are the days..."
"Why said another, I once..."

e. Incomplete Fragments

f. Poems About or to Dunbar by Other Authors, Arranged Alphabetically

To Paul Lawrence Dunbar Melville C. Bryant
Grief Louise A. Burleigh
Goodbye Sweet Day Louise A. Burleigh
If You Were Mine Louise A. Burleigh
My Own Louise A. Burleigh
Troupers Xmas Day, The J. Edward Green
Poet, The Annie Hawkins
Difference, The Ella Wheeler Niles (?)
To Mr. Dunbar Lida Keck Wiggins
White Shadow, The Lida Keck Wiggins
Rustling of the Leaves, The Thomas Wockett
Paul Lawrence Dunbar Author Unknown
To Paul Author Unknown

2. Novels

The Fanatics
Love of Landry

3. Plays

Herrick
Quibler's Wife, The
Untitled Play

4. Short Stories, Essays, Speeches, and Miscellaneous Writings

Biography of Washington
Case of Cadwallader
Cause and Effect
Denver and Distance
Destruction of the Forest, The
Jimmy Weedon's Contretemps
Minority Committee, The
The Negro in Washington (Saturday Evening Post)
Prophecy of Fate, A
Sister Jackson's Superstitions
Some Aspects of the Missionary Question

Speeches
Way of a Woman, The
Notebook of Miscellaneous Essays and Speeches

5. Untitled Works Arranged by Subject Titles Alphabetically

Archie Rivers
Changes, The
Dalworth and Kitty
Detective Story, A
Dialogue Between Four Friends
Drama of Fools
Free Methodist Church, The
Gunfight, The
Jared Hargot
Love
Man Named Ben Adams, A
Murder Story
Reginald Vere
War of Independence

6. Fragments - Untitled Works Arranged by First Line Alphabetically

"covered and said bridling..."
"doors open; playing house..."
"He had sailed the Spanish main..."
"Kid sp. money buying novels..."
"Mike throws down hard..."
"One hates to say it of Mrs..."
"P. S. But Oh! for your and the Harp..."
"The Spring sunshine not yet..."
"waves as they lashed the pier..."

7. Unidentified Fragments for Which No Subject Title or First Line
Could be Determined

8. Sheet Music

Darky Dan
Death Song, A
Forgotten
Oh Fairest Belle (These two lyrics appear on the same sheet)
Beautiful Dreams
Untitled music sheets

9. Lyrics - Titled

Rocking in the Old Canoe

10. Untitled Lyrics Arranged by Subject Alphabetically

Girl, A
Kitty
New York

Appendix B: Bibliography of Published Works by Paul Laurence Dunbar

1. Books of Poems

Oak and Ivy. Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren, 1893.
Majors and Minors. Toledo, Ohio: Hadley and Hadley, 1895.
Lyrics of a Lowly Life. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1896.
Lyrics of the Hearthside. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1899.
Poems of Cabin and Field. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1899.
Candle Lightin' Time. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1901.
Lyrics of Love and Laughter. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1903.
When Malindy Sings. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1903.
Li'l Gal. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1904.
Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1905.
Howdy Honey Howdy. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1905.
Joggin' Erlong. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1906.
Speaking of Christmas. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1914.

2. Books of Short Stories

Folks From Dixie. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1900.
Strength of Gideon & Other Short Stories: New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1900.
In Old Plantation Days. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1903.
Heart of Happy Hollow. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1904.

3. Novels

Sport of the Gods. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1898.
The Uncalled. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1899.
The Love of Landry. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1899.
The Fanatics. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1901.

Appendix C: Bibliography of Works About Dunbar

- Arnold, E. "Some Personal Reminiscences of Paul L. Dunbar". Journal of Negro History, XVII (October 1932), 400 - 408.
- Brawley, Benjamin. Paul L. Dunbar: Poet of his People. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1936.
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- Cooper, J. "Paul L. Dunbar the Poet". Unpublished Masters Thesis, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1931.
- Cunningham, Virginia. Paul L. Dunbar and his Song. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1947.
- Daniel, Theodore W. "Paul L. Dunbar and the Democratic Ideal". Negro History Bulletin, Vol. VI (June 1943), 206 - 208.
- Dunbar, Alice M. "The Poet and his Song". Philadelphia A.M.E. Church Review, XII (1914), 121 - 135
- Gloster, H. M. "Paul L. Dunbar". Negro Voices in American Fiction, (n.d.)
- Gould, Jean. That Dunbar boy; the story of America's famous Negro poet. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1958.
- Green, M. "Paul L. Dunbar, Afro-American poet; story". Instructor, (1968).
- Howells, William D. "Paul L. Dunbar". The Bookman, (April 1906).
- Howells, William D. "The Chief Singer of the Negro Race". Current Literature, (April 1906).
- Hudson, Gossie H. "Biography of Paul Laurence Dunbar". Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1970.
- Kaufman, R. E. "A Visit to the Home of Paul L. Dunbar". The Presbyterian Magazine, (March 1931).
- Lawson, Victor. Dunbar Critically Examined. Washington, D.C.: Associated Publication, 1968.
- Phillips, Waldo. "Paul L. Dunbar: A New Perspective". Negro History Bulletin, XXIX, 1. (October 1965), 8 - 9.
- Stronks, James B. "Paul Laurence Dunbar and William Dean Howells". Ohio History Quarterly, XXVII (1957), 95 - 108.
- Walker, Allen. "Paul Dunbar, a Study in Genius". Psychology Review, XXV (January 1938).
- Wiggins, Lida Keck. The Life and Works of Paul Laurence Dunbar. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1907.

About the Author



Sara S. Fuller has been manuscripts specialist at the Ohio Historical Society since 1969. A native of Steubenville, Ohio, Ms. Fuller received her bachelor's degree in history from Ohio State University and is now completing work on her master's degree in history at Ohio State. She was assistant editor of the Inventory to the Warren G. Harding Papers (1970) and assistant editor to Guide to Manuscripts at the Ohio Historical Society (1972). She serves on the finding aids committee of the Society of American Archivists and is an active member of the Society of Ohio Archivists. Ms. Fuller is currently compiling a Guide to Research Materials on Ohio Black History and a Guide to Resources on Biographies of Ohioans.