



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Aubrey Howard Bowser papers

1885-1943

Sc MG 287

Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Summary

Creator: Bowser, Aubrey Howard, 1886-1979

Title: Aubrey Howard Bowser papers

Date: 1885-1943

Size: 1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Elizabeth Bowser, March 1990.03/20/90

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Aubrey Howard Bowser was a writer, editor, and educator. Bowser was born in La Mott, Pennsylvania, a town founded by African American Civil War veterans that were led by his grandfather. He was a 1907 graduate of Harvard College, and later worked at the New York Age where he met and subsequently married Jessie Fortune, the daughter of T. Thomas Fortune, editor of the Age. Bowser's writings included book reviews and literary criticism for the New York Amsterdam News; poetry; and an unpublished novel entitled "Black Pilgrim: A Novel of Harlem's Early Life". Bowser also taught in the New York City public schools, including at New York Vocational High School, eventually becoming dean of that school. He died in 1979. The Aubrey Howard Bowser papers consist primarily of writings, academic and school related papers, and letters. Bower's writings include a manuscript for "Black Pilgrim: A Novel of Harlem's Early Life"; a short story, "Maryelle Rose"; poetry; book reviews; and critiques. There are also two full runs of The Rainbow, a weekly literary magazine that he edited, 1919-1920. Academic papers consist of a Harvard College notebook; course lecture notes; papers written for courses taken for his Master's degree and to qualify for a New York City high school teacher's license, 1943; and the publication, "Harvard College Class of 1907 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report" (1935) in which his picture appears. Included are T. Thomas Fortune's book of poetry, Dreams of Life (1905).

Preferred citation: [Item], Aubrey Howard Bowser papers, Sc MG 287, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, March 1990.

Related Materials:

T. Thomas Fortune scrapbook, Sc MG 287, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division,
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Aubrey Howard Bowser was a writer, editor, and educator. Bowser was born in La Mott, Pennsylvania, a town founded by African American Civil War veterans that were led by his grandfather. He was a 1907 graduate of Harvard College, and later worked at the *New York Age* where he met and subsequently married Jessie Fortune, the daughter of T. Thomas Fortune, editor of the *Age*. Bowser's writings included book reviews and literary criticism for the *New York Amsterdam News*; poetry; and an unpublished novel entitled "Black Pilgrim: A Novel of Harlem's Early Life". Bowser also taught in the New York City public schools, including at New York Vocational High School, eventually becoming dean of that school. He died in 1979.

Scope and Content Note

The Aubrey Howard Bowser papers consist primarily of writings, academic and school related papers, and letters. Bower's writings include a manuscript for "Black Pilgrim: A Novel of Harlem's Early Life"; a short story, "Maryelle Rose"; poetry; book reviews; and critiques. There are also two full runs of *The Rainbow*, a weekly literary magazine that he edited, 1919-1920. Academic papers consist of a Harvard College notebook; course lecture notes; papers written for courses taken for his Master's degree and to qualify for a New York City high school teacher's license, 1943; and the publication, "Harvard College Class of 1907 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report" (1935) in which his picture appears. Included are T. Thomas Fortune's book of poetry, *Dreams of Life* (1905).

Key Terms

Subjects

African American educators
African American journalists
African American periodicals
African American poets
African Americans in the newspaper industry
Authors, Black

Names

Bowser, Aubrey Howard, 1886-1979
Fortune, Timothy Thomas, 1856-1928

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Harvard College notebook 1903-1904
- b. 1 f. 2-3 Letters undated
Includes family letters.
- b. 1 f. 4 Speeches
- b. 1 f. 5 Program and poem
- b. 1 f. 6 Academic papers 1943
The Rainbow
- b. 1 f. 7 1919 August-December
- b. 1 f. 8 1919 December-1920 April
- b. 1 f. 9 Lecture notes
- b. 1 f. 10-11 Various writing
Includes short stories and a treatise on books about writing.
- b. 1 f. 12 Editorial
- b. 1 f. 13 Writings by other authors
- b. 2 f. 1 *The Daily Negro Times clippings* 1922-1923
"Black Pilgrim: A Novel of Harlem's Early Life"
- b. 2 f. 2-4 Manuscript
- b. 2 f. 5-6 Typescript
- b. 2 f. 7 "Maryelle Rose" manuscripts
- b. 2 f. 8-9 Book reviews and critiques
- b. 2 f. 10 Writings and clippings ca. 1920-1925
- b. 2 f. 11 "Harvard Class of 1907 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Report" 1930 June
- b. 2 f. 12 *Fortune, Thomas. Dreams of Life: Miscellaneous Poems*