



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

Guide to the

Paul Laurence Dunbar collection

1892-1902

Sc Micro R-1535

Summary

Creator: Dunbar, Paul Laurence, 1872-1906.

Title: Paul Laurence Dunbar collection

Date: 1892-1902

Size: 0.13 linear feet (2 reels)

Source: Received in 1940 from the Ohio Historical Society.

Abstract: This collection consists of correspondence, scrapbook pages, a ledger, and a manuscript about Dunbar.

Conditions Governing Use: Researchers are restricted to using the microfilm.

Preferred citation: [Item], Paul Laurence Dunbar collection, Sc Micro R-1535, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Paul Laurence Dunbar was born on June 27, 1872, to freed slaves from Kentucky. He became one of the first influential Black poets in American literature, and was internationally acclaimed for his dialectic verse in collections such as *Majors and Minors* (1895) and *Lyrics of Lowly Life* (1896). These poems, however, constitute only a small portion of Dunbar's canon, which is replete with novels, short stories, essays, and many poems in standard English. In its entirety, Dunbar's literary body is regarded as an impressive representation of Black life in turn-of-the-century America.

In 1897, Dunbar obtained a clerkship at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Soon afterwards he married fellow writer Alice Ruth Moore. Although his health suffered during the two years he lived in Washington, the period nonetheless proved fruitful for Dunbar. In 1898, he published his first short story collection, *Folks From Dixie*, and his first novel, *The Uncalled*. Dunbar's health took a turn for the worse and he died on February 9, 1906, at age thirty-three.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of correspondence, scrapbook pages, a ledger, and a manuscript about Dunbar.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Music

African Americans -- Poetry

American literature -- African American authors

Authors, Black

Publishers and publishing

Names

Dunbar, Mathilda Jane, 1848-1943

Dunbar, Paul Laurence, 1872-1906.

Dunbar-Nelson, Alice Moore, 1875-1935

Container List

- r. 1 Calendar
 - Scrapbook pages
 - Kept by one of Dunbar's teachers.
 - Includes a note from Jean Blackwell Hutson.
- r. 1 Nos. 1-16
- r. 1 Nos. 17-49
- r. 1 Nos. 50-99
- r. 1 Nos. 100-104
- r. 1 Ledger
- r. 1 "The Story of Dunbar by a Southerner"
- r. 2 Correspondence between Langston Hughes and the Daytona and Montgomery Public Library regarding memorial to Dunbar
- r. 2 Lyndenberg, H. M. correspondence regarding research on Dunbar
- r. 2 Uncataloged manuscripts
 - Interview with Dunbar's mother
 - This interview was not microfilmed.