



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

Guide to the

**James Weldon Johnson collection**

1930-1998

Sc MG 698

Processed by Janice Quinter, August 2002.

## Summary

**Creator:** Johnson, James Weldon, 1871-1938

**Title:** James Weldon Johnson collection

**Date:** 1930-1998

**Size:** 0.02 linear feet (2 folders)

**Source:** Gift of Sondra Wilson, April 2002.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** James Weldon Johnson was a publisher, educator, lawyer, composer, artist, diplomat, and civil rights leader. Together with his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, he wrote the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing", which came to be known as the "Negro National Anthem", as well as a large number of popular songs for the musical stage of the early twentieth century. Johnson also served as consul of the United States to Venezuela and Nicaragua. He wrote several books and served as editor of the *New York Age*. From 1920-1931, Johnson was field secretary, then secretary, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1930, he became chair of Creative Literature and Writing at Fisk University. The James Weldon Johnson collection consists primarily of programs honoring Johnson following his death in 1938, including those sponsored by the NAACP, Yale University Library, Virginia Union University, and Hampton Institute. Two programs printed during his lifetime provide information about subjects for his lectures and work with students at Fisk University. News clippings discuss a marker erected, in 1972, at the site of his home in Jacksonville, Florida. An obituary marks the passing of his widow, Grace Nail Johnson, in 1976, and two towels with their embroidered initials complete the collection.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], James Weldon Johnson collection, Sc MG 698, 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:** Processed by Janice Quinter, August 2002.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: drawing.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

**Creator History**

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**Scope and Content Note**

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**Key Terms****Subjects**

African American authors  
African American civic leaders  
African American college teachers  
African American composers  
African American diplomats  
African American editors  
African American lawyers  
Authors, Black

**Names**

Johnson, James Weldon, 1871-1938