



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

Guide to the

**Kathleen Collins papers**

1924-2015 [bulk 1962-1988]

Sc MG 938

Processed by Lauren Stark in October 2019. Much of the collection was initially in binders.

## Summary

**Creator:** Collins, Kathleen, 1942-1988

**Title:** Kathleen Collins papers

**Date:** 1924-2015 [bulk 1962-1988]

**Size:** 3.87 linear feet (11 boxes)

**Source:** Purchased from the Estate of Kathleen Conwell Prettyman in 2017.

**Abstract:** Kathleen Collins (1941-1988) was a playwright, filmmaker, director, novelist, short story writer, and professor of film history and production. Her papers include personal matter, correspondence, printed matter, and various drafts of her writing.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Kathleen Collins papers, Sc MG 938, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English The majority of the material is in English, but there is some correspondence in French.

**Processing note:** Processed by Lauren Stark in October 2019. Much of the collection was initially in binders; the material has been removed for preservation purposes.

### Separated Materials:

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: 1 book

Transferred to the Photographs and Print Division: one folder of photographs

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division in 2017: moving image material. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

### Related Materials:

Kathleen Collins Scripts collection, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center

## Creator History

Kathleen Collins (1941-1988) was a playwright, filmmaker, director, novelist, short story writer, and professor of film history and production. She was born on March 18, 1942, in Jersey City, New Jersey. She attended Skidmore College, where she was introduced to activism upon joining the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); as a member of SNCC, she worked on black southern voter registration. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she earned a master's degree in French literature and cinema at the Middlebury College program at Paris's Sorbonne. From 1967-1974, Collins worked as a film editor for various organizations, including the BBC, Craven Films, and William Greaves Productions, among others. She taught in the Theatre Arts Department of City College in New York City from 1974 until her death in 1988.

Collins was the first African American woman to write, direct, and produce a full-length feature film (*The Cruz Brothers and Miss. Malloy*, 1980, which was based on a Henry Roth novel). Her second feature film, *Losing Ground* (1982), which she directed and coproduced, was based on her original screenplay; it received international acclaim. Also a playwright, her 1982 play, *The Brothers*, was named one of the twelve outstanding plays of the season by the Theatre Communications Group. In 1982 and 1983, she was a finalist for the Susan Blackburn International Prize for Playwriting. Although only a small amount of her work was published before her death in 1988, she wrote six playscripts, over fifteen short stories, and five screenplays. Some of this material was published in two posthumous publications, her short story collection, *Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?* (2016), and *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary: Selected Works of Kathleen Collins* (2019). These publications not only exemplify the breadth of her talent but have introduced her work to a wider audience.

## Scope and Content Note

The Kathleen Collins papers consist of personal and biographical material, correspondence, professional matter, and writing. The personal material includes diplomas, a sketch pad, and her parents' yearbooks, among others. The correspondence, which is all personal, contains letters to and from family and friends; additionally, there is some correspondence between her daughter, Nina Collins, and various family members and friends after Collins's death. The professional matter, which is the smallest series, is comprised of professional correspondence with editors and producers, contracts, and printed matter. The last series, writing, is the largest; it contains manuscripts, published and unpublished, of her various writing, including playscripts, short stories, screenplays, and a novel. This series also consists of writing by Collins's daughter, Nina Collins, who edited *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary*.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into four series: (1) Personal; (2) Correspondence; (3) Professional; and (4) Writing.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American women authors  
Authors, Black

Women motion picture producers and directors -- Fiction  
Women screenwriters

**Occupations**

Dramatists

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Short stories

**Names**

Collins, Kathleen, 1942-1988

Collins, Nina Lorez, 1969-

## Container List

### Personal 1924-2013

This series is divided into two subseries; the first subseries, Biographical, is comprised of material from and about Kathleen Collins, such as her high school and college diplomas, newspaper clippings from when she was a teenager, various resumes, divorce papers, and obituaries, among others. The second subseries, Family, mostly contains material from and about her parents, such as yearbooks, correspondence, and genealogical information. It is further divided into subgroups for each of her parents, Frank Conwell, her father; her mother, Mildred (Jones) Conwell, who died when Collins was a baby; and her stepmother, Laretta (Anderson) Conwell, who raised Collins. There also is an extensive amount of documents about Mildred Conwell's ancestors, compiled by her cousin, Lois Miller Bryan, and her sister, Francine Conwell, around 2007.

Arranged into two subseries: (1) Biographical and (2) Family.

#### Biographical 1959-2013

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Lincoln High School diploma 1959 January 28**  
Lincoln High School (now Lincoln High School Academy of Governance and Social Sciences) is located in Jersey City, New Jersey.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Skidmore College application and transcript 1958-2007**  
Includes 2007 correspondence from Skidmore College to Nina Collins, Kathleen Collins's daughter; photocopies of Kathleen Collins's application and transcript; and photocopies of the College's *Bulletin* from 1959-1960.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Printed matter (photocopies) 1962-1979**  
Includes photocopies of newspaper clippings of Collins's work with the SNCC in Georgia, alongside her close friend, Peggy Dammond, and her subsequent time behind bars for refusing to stop praying on the steps of the City Hall; and one article about Westbeth artists' housing, where Collins lived with her first husband, Douglas Collins.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Skidmore College commencement program and diploma 1963 June 2**
- b. 1 f. 5 **Divorce papers 1973 June 14**  
From her first husband, Douglas Collins.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Resumes ca. 1975-1984**
- b. 1 f. 7 **Associate Builder certificate and exam 1987-1988**  
From the Builders of the Adytum, a non-profit organization based on teachings of the mystical occult.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Sketch book undated**  
Small sketchbook with "Kathleen Conwell" inscribed on the inside front cover; includes titled drawings made with watercolor and possibly marker. Handwritten notes are included on the back inside cover.
- b. 1 f. 9 **Obituaries 1988-2005**  
Includes an "in memoriam" publication from Skidmore College's *Skidmore Scope* from 2005.
- b. 1 f. 10 **Memorial service program 1988 September 30**  
Program includes a copy of Collins's "Call and Response", 1987. Folder also contains a poem written by Peggy Dammond Preacely, her close friend, in September 1988, called "My Sister, My Friend", and another poem, "Browsilk Spirit", written by Jeannette Adams, also in September 1988.
- b. 1 f. 11 **Skidmore College Class of 1963 50th reunion book 2013**

#### Family 1924-2007

Arranged chronologically within each subgroup.

##### Conwell, Frank 1930-2004

Kathleen Collins's father.

Personal (cont.)

Family (cont.)

Conwell, Frank (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 12      **Palmyra High School yearbook 1930**  
Commencement program included on the inside front cover.
- b. 1 f. 13      **Handwritten letter to his mother 1944 May 14**
- b. 1 f. 14      **Jersey City State College yearbook 1950**  
Presently, New Jersey City University.
- b. 1 f. 15      **Printed matter 1968-2004**  
b. 5 f. 1      Includes news clippings (some photocopies) and a website printout of Conwell's successful term as a principal, various obituaries from 1971, and the dedication of the Frank Conwell School. Additionally, there is a memorial service program and the school's dedication ceremony program, both from 1971.
- b. 1 f. 16      **Conwell family tree ca. 2001**  
**Conwell, Mildred 1924-2007**  
Kathleen Collins's mother, born Mildred Jones, who died when Collins was a baby.
- b. 2 f. 1      **Correspondence 1924-1930**  
Includes letters to her mother and cousin.
- b. 2 f. 2-3      **Bordentown High School yearbooks 1929-1930**  
Also includes a *Fabella* (the name of the yearbook) advertising contract; Conwell (Jones) was on the yearbook staff.
- b. 2 f. 4      **Manual Training School, Bordentown, commencement program and postcards 1930**  
Bordentown High School was also known as the Manual Training School.
- b. 2 f. 5      **Writing ca. 1932**  
Includes a typed paper on "The Contributions of Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller to the Field of Negro Education".
- b. 2 f. 6      **Gould family history 2004-2007**  
The ancestors and descendants of Mildred (Jones) Conwell.  
Includes photocopied genealogical information, compiled by Lois Miller Bryan and Francine Conwell (Kathleen Collins's cousin and sister, respectively), correspondence from the two women to their families, newspaper clippings, poems written by ancestors, and clan minutes.
- Conwell, Laretta 1925**  
Kathleen Collins's stepmother, born Laretta Anderson, who raised Collins and her sister, Francine Conwell.
- b. 2 f. 7      **William L. Dickinson High School commencement program 1925 June 23**
- b. 2 f. 8      **Royal Typewriting Company tests 1925 March-December**  
Presumably belonged to Laretta (Anderson) Conwell, who is listed in her high school commencement program with honors in the "industrial program".

**Correspondence 1962-2009**

Correspondence is divided into two subseries, one for Kathleen Collins, and one for her daughter, Nina Collins. Kathleen Collins's correspondence is personal, to and from family and friends. Nina Collins's correspondence is both personal and professional; the personal correspondence is to and from family and friends. Much of this correspondence includes condolence letters and sympathy cards for the death of her mother. Since Nina Collins is the executor of the Kathleen Collins's estate and edited *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary*, she also contacted family and friends for information on her mother, which comprises the rest of the correspondence. There is a small amount of professional and general correspondence for Nina Collins, some of which includes condolences.

Arranged into two subseries: (1) Collins, Kathleen and (2) Collins, Nina.

**Collins, Kathleen 1962-1988**

Arranged in alphabetical order, by last name.

Correspondence (cont.)

Collins, Kathleen (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 1 **Brown, Francine** 1962-1987  
Collins's sister.
- b. 3 f. 2 **Cole, Carole** 1981-1987  
Friend, actress, music producer, and later, CEO of King Cole Productions.
- b. 3 f. 3 **Collins, Carol** ca. 1970-1985  
Collins's mother-in-law (mother of her first husband, Douglas Collins).
- b. 3 f. 4 **Collins, Nina** 1984-1988  
Daughter of Kathleen Collins.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Conwell, Frank and Lauretta** 1962-1974  
Kathleen Collins's parents (father and stepmother).
- b. 3 f. 6 **Dammond, Blulette Lambelet** 1965-2002  
Close friend of Collins's; sister-in-law of Don and Ellen Dammond.  
Also includes memorial service program for Dammond from 2002.  
Some of the correspondence is in French.
- b. 3 f. 7 **Dammond, Don and Ellen Craft** 1963-2007  
Parents of Peggy Dammond Preacely.  
Also includes a memorial service program for Ellen Craft Dammond from 2007.
- b. 3 f. 8 **Preacely, Peggy Dammond** 1971-1987  
Close friend of Collins's since their teenage years. Daughter of Don and Ellen Craft Dammond.
- b. 3 f. 9 **Scott, Seret** 1981-1982  
Friend of Collins's who starred in *Losing Ground*.

**Collins, Nina** 1980-2009

Arranged in alphabetical order.

- b. 3 f. 10 **Collins, Douglas** 1985-1992  
Nina Collins's father; first husband of Kathleen Collins.
- b. 3 f. 11 **Family and friends** 1980-2007  
Includes correspondence with her Aunt Francine, Bob Thompson (possibly Nina Collins's godfather), and Peggy Preacely Dammond, among others.
- b. 3 f. 12 **General** 1988-2009  
Includes some professional correspondence.

**Professional** 1975-2015

This small series includes material related to Collins's career as a director, filmmaker, and writer. It consists of various contracts, such as an actor's contract for *Losing Ground*, a television license agreement for *The Cruz Brothers and Miss Malloy*, and an employment contract for Seret Scott; an equipment list for an unknown production; correspondence with Gail Papp, the leader of the Public Theater's literary department and wife of Joe Papp, the founder of the Public Theater, and Alice Walker, when she worked at *Ms. Magazine*; and printed matter, mostly theater programs and newspaper clippings about Collins's work and career.

Arranged in alphabetical order.

- b. 4 f. 1 **Contracts and equipment list** 1981-1987  
**Correspondence** ca. 1975-1981  
Arranged in alphabetical order.
- b. 4 f. 2 **City College** ca. 1981  
Collins's request for a leave of absence from her teaching duties to research and develop a screenplay on a book written about her ancestors, *Gouldtown: A Very Remarkable Settlement of Ancient Date* by William Steward (1913).

Professional (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 3 **Papp, Gail 1975-1976**  
Photocopies; includes photocopied letter from Nina Collins to Gail Papp asking for permission to retrieve copies of Papp's correspondence with her mother.

- b. 4 f. 4 **Walker, Alice 1975**  
Photocopied letter from Walker to Collins regarding some of Collins's short stories.

Printed matter 1977-2015

- b. 4 f. 5 **1977-1990**  
b. 5 f. 2 Includes a 1977 copy of *The Crisis of Possession in Voodoo* by Dr. Louis Mars, which was translated by Collins; a 1981 program from the "Independent Black American Cinema 1920-1980" festival (includes an interview with Collins); a postcard and program for Collins's play, *The Brothers*, at the American Place Theatre in 1982; various news clippings and articles (mostly photocopies) about Collins and her work; an invitation to PEN New Writers Evening #12, which featured Collins, among others, from 1986; an exhibition catalog for *Black Visions '87: A Salute to the Black Filmmaker*, which includes an interview with Collins; The Women's Project and Productions tenth season brochure from 1988 (which includes various productions of Collins's plays); and a photocopied flyer for a showing of *Losing Ground* at the Visual Studies Workshop in 1990.

- b. 4 f. 6 ***Time-Life Books African American Voices of Triumph: Creative Fire* 1994**  
Includes an article on Collins.

- b. 4 f. 7 **2001-2015**  
b. 5 f. 2 Includes articles about Collins in *The Black Scholar*, vol. 25, #2, 2001 (photocopy); *Blackface: Reflections on African-Americans and the Movies* by Nelson George (expanded edition from 2002); *Feminist Auteurs: Reading Women's Films* by Geetha Ramanathan (2006); and *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, vol. 2, #2, spring 2011; and a *The New York Times* article from 2015.

- b. 4 f. 8 **Research material**  
Includes a copy of "The Creation" by James Weldon Johnson and a clipping of a play about Bessie Coleman. Collins expressed interest in writing about Coleman.

Writing 1971-2007

The majority of this series, the largest, contains typescript drafts of Collins's various writing, including her playscripts, short stories, and screenplays, among others. Most of the drafts have handwritten edits, but many are photocopies.

Arranged into two subseries: (1) Published and (2) Unpublished.

Published 1975-1988

During her life, only a few works of Collins's were published, some of them included here. Many of Collins's previously unpublished work was published posthumously in two volumes, *Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?* (2016) and *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary* (2019). This series mostly contains the material from these two publications, in the order in which they are organized in the final publications themselves. Since Nina Collins edited the latter publication, many of the drafts contain her handwritten comments (usually in colored ink).

Arranged by publication date.

- b. 4 f. 9 **"Losing Ground/Three Short Shorts", *StoryQuarterly* 5/6 1977**  
Includes typescripts drafts, one with handwritten edits, and the final published version. Two of the stories, "Only Once" and "Stepping Back", were later published in *Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?*
- b. 4 f. 10 **"Scapegoat Child", *Bachy* 14, spring/summer edition 1979**  
Includes final published version; later published in *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary*.
- b. 4 f. 11 ***Losing Ground in Screenplays of the African Experience*, edited by Phyllis Rauch Klotman 1991**
- b. 6 f. 1 ***Excerpt from Lollie: A Suburban Tale, Drumvoices Revue*, vol. 3, #1-2, fall/winter edition 1993-1994**  
Includes final printed version; later published in *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary*.

Writing (cont.)

Published (cont.)

*Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?* 2016

Book of Collins's short stories, with a foreword written by Elizabeth Alexander, published in 2016 by HarperCollins.

Comments in blue marker from Nina Collins.

Organized according to the order of the final publication.

- b. 6 f. 2 "Exteriors" typescript with handwritten edits undated  
Various drafts.
- b. 6 f. 3 "Interiors" typescripts undated  
Various drafts with a few edits, not handwritten.
- b. 6 f. 4 "The Uncle" typescripts undated  
Two drafts, one of which is a photocopy and the other of which appears to be a more recent computer-generated copy.
- b. 6 f. 5 "How Does One Say" typescripts with handwritten edits undated  
Various drafts.
- b. 6 f. 6 "Only Once" typescripts undated  
Various drafts.
- b. 6 f. 7 "Whatever Happened to Interracial Love" typescripts undated  
Various drafts, some with handwritten edits. Some drafts include earlier titles.
- b. 6 f. 8 "Conference: Parts I and II" typescripts undated  
Various drafts, some with handwritten edits.
- b. 6 f. 9 "The Happy Family" typescripts undated  
Two drafts, one of which appears to be a more recent computer-generated copy.
- b. 6 f. 10 "Treatment for a Story" typescripts with handwritten edits undated  
Various drafts; earliest one has a different title.
- b. 6 f. 11 "Stepping Back" typescripts with handwritten edits undated  
Various drafts; first one has earlier title.
- b. 6 f. 12 "When Love Withers All of Life Cries" typescript undated  
Appears to be a more recent computer-generated copy.
- b. 6 f. 13 "Broken Spirit" typescripts with handwritten edits undated  
Various drafts; first one has earlier title.
- b. 6 f. 14 "Documentary Style" typescripts with handwritten edits undated  
Various drafts.
- b. 6 f. 15 "Lifelines" typescripts undated  
Two drafts, one of which appears to be a more recent computer-generated copy.
- b. 6 f. 16 "Of Poets, Galleries, New York Passages" typescripts undated  
Two drafts, one of which is a photocopy and the other of which appears to be a computer-generated copy.
- b. 6 f. 17 "Dead Memories...Dead Dreams" typescript (photocopy) undated

*Notes from a Black Woman's Diary* 2019

A book of selected works of Collins's, edited by her daughter, Nina Collins, with a foreword by Danielle Evans; published in 2019 by HarperCollins.

Drafts or typescripts of "Scapegoat Child" are not included in this collection.

Organized according to the order in the final publication.

Stories

- b. 6 f. 18 "Nina Simone" typescripts undated  
Various drafts.
- b. 6 f. 19 "Raschida" typescript with handwritten edits undated

Writing (cont.)

Published (cont.)

Notes from a Black Woman's Diary (cont.)

"Lollie: A Suburban Tale" (unfinished novel) 1987-1988

Although the final publication only contains an excerpt, these files contain what seem to be mostly complete typescripts and various fragments.

- b. 6 f. 20 Mostly complete typescript with handwritten edits 1987-1988
- b. 7 f. 1 Mostly complete typescript with handwritten edits undated
- b. 7 f. 2-4 Fragments of typescripts with handwritten edits undated
- b. 7 f. 5 Table of contents drafts undated  
One handwritten draft and one typed draft.
- b. 8 f. 1 "Notes from a Black Woman's Diary" typescript 1975 December 27  
Includes some edits, possibly made with a highlighter.
- b. 8 f. 2 Letter typescripts 1962-1988  
Typescript includes purple comments from Nina Collins; includes some of Kathleen Collins's mother's letters. Typescript most likely transcribed ca. 2007.

Plays

The original collection was housed in binders, organized by Nina Collins; she added a table of contents, which is included in the unpublished series (since it includes unpublished material). In this table of contents, some of the scripts are marked with numbers. It is unclear what these numbers represent, but they possibly stand for the number of the draft.

- b. 8 f. 3-4 *The Brothers* 1980  
Two copies, one of which is a photocopy. The copy in folder 3 is marked as #3 on Nina Collins's table of contents.
- b. 8 f. 5-6 *Begin the Beguine* typescripts 1984  
The original typescript includes four one-act plays, which are listed separately in the final publication of *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary*. There are two copies here, one of which is a photocopy. There is also a separate typescript just of *The Reading* in folder 6.

Screenplays

- b. 8 f. 7 *A Summer Diary* bound typescript and separate synopsis 1982
- b. 8 f. 8 *Losing Ground* typescript with handwritten edits (photocopy) 1981  
Marked as the "Director's copy".

Unpublished 1971-2007

This subseries consists of Collins's unpublished material, including her diaries and writing not included in her two posthumous publications. Although some of the playscripts included here were produced, they were not technically published. This subseries also consists of writing by Nina Collins, mostly notes on her mother's life and work and interviews with family and her mother's friends; presumably these materials were intended for inclusion in *Notes from a Black Woman's Diary*. Also, Nina Collins's table of contents for her mother's playscripts and short stories, originally housed in binders, are included here.

Arranged first alphabetically by type of writing, then chronologically within each one.

- b. 9 f. 1-2 Diaries (photocopies) 1985-1987  
Includes handwritten excerpts, all of which are photocopies, from Kathleen Collins's diaries; also contains a typed version with handwritten notes by Nina Collins.
- b. 9 f. 3 Untitled novel 1974  
Handwritten, unfinished novel composed in a composition book.  
Playscripts 1974-1988  
Dates do not include the date of Nina Collins's table of contents.
- b. 9 f. 4 *Portrait of Katherine* typescript 1974  
Includes a handwritten inscription from Kathy to Carol.  
*Almost Music* 1976-1980  
Music written by Michael D. Minard.
- b. 9 f. 5 *Almost Music: A Fantasy* typescript with handwritten edits 1976

Writing (cont.)

Unpublished (cont.)

Playscripts (cont.)

Almost Music (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 6 *Almost Music: A Cabaret Play typescripts* 1980  
Includes two photocopies; the first one was marked as #2 by Nina Collins in her table of contents.
- b. 9 f. 7 *In the Midnight Hour typescripts* 1978  
Includes two photocopies; first one marked as #1 by Nina Collins in her table of contents.
- b. 9 f. 8 *While Older Men Speak typescript with handwritten edits* 1985
- b. 9 f. 9 *Looking for Jane typescripts* 1988  
Two photocopies; the first has some handwritten edits and was marked as #5 by Nina Collins in her table of contents.
- b. 9 f. 10 Table of contents for playscripts, written and organized by Nina Collins ca. 2007

Poetry 1988

- b. 10 f. 1 "Call and Response" typescript 1988  
Signed photocopy; poem used in Collins's and Bluet Dammond's memorial service programs.
- b. 10 f. 2 "Extending Space" and "Drag War" typescripts undated  
Both poems appear on one sheet of paper alongside a pencil drawing of a woman reclining. Unclear if the poems and/or drawing are by Kathleen Collins.

Screenplays 1971-1988

Date range does not include the table of contents by Nina Collins.

*Women, Sisters, and Friends typescripts* 1971-1996

- b. 10 f. 3 Two copies, one of which was bound 1971  
Note on first copy most likely from Nina Collins.
- b. 10 f. 4 Bound, photocopied shooting script with handwritten notes 1971-1996  
Includes two copyright dates, 1971 by Kathleen Collins and 1996 by the Estate of Kathleen Conwell Prettyman.
- b. 10 f. 5 *Lila typescript (photocopy)* 1974
- b. 10 f. 6 *The Story of Three Colored Ladies typescript (photocopy)* 1975  
Includes some handwritten edits.
- b. 10 f. 7 *Madame Flor typescripts* 1986-1987  
Two photocopies, one of which is bound. Bound copy has some deletions; the other copy has a slightly different title.
- b. 10 f. 8-9 *Conversations with Julie manuscripts* 1988  
Two copies, one of which is a handwritten photocopy and the other of which is a typescript.
- b. 10 f. 10 Table of contents organized and written by Nina Collins ca. 2007  
List also includes published material.

Short stories undated

None of the stories are dated; includes a table of contents written and organized by Nina Collins ca. 2007.

Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 11 f. 1 "Summer Madness" typescripts undated  
Two incomplete copies; the first copy has some handwritten edits while the other copy is a photocopy.
- b. 11 f. 2 "The Toy Salesman" typescripts with handwritten edits undated
- b. 11 f. 3 Table of contents compiled by Nina Collins ca. 2007  
Includes published material.
- b. 11 f. 4 *Nina Collins's writing for Notes from a Black Woman's Diary* ca. 2007  
Includes her thoughts on her mother and her mother's work and transcripts of her interviews with her father, Douglas Collins; her Aunt Francine; her grandmother; and Seret Scott.