



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

Guide to the

**Ann Petry papers**

1920-2012

Sc MG 954

Processed by Barrye Brown, 2019.

## Summary

**Creator:** Petry, Ann, 1908-1997

**Title:** Ann Petry papers

**Date:** 1920-2012

**Size:** 19.12 linear feet (39 boxes, 5 oversize folders)

**Source:** Purchased in 2017.

**Abstract:** The Ann Petry papers document the professional, social, and family life of writer Ann Petry (1908-1997). With the publication of her 1946 debut novel titled, *The Street*, Petry became the first US black woman author to sell over a million copies. The collection consists of personal and professional correspondence, manuscripts, clippings and printed matter, and personal memorabilia.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Ann Petry papers, Sc MG 954, 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 Barrye Brown, 2019.

**Separated Materials:**

Photographs have been transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division.

## Creator History

Ann Petry (originally Anna Houston Lane) was born on October 12, 1908, in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, to Peter Clark Lane and Bertha James Lane. Petry's father was a pharmacist who owned drugstores in Old Saybrook and nearby Old Lyme and her mother was a chiropodist and entrepreneur. Petry was the youngest of two girls. Her older sister's name was Helen Lane (later Bush after marriage). Petry hailed from four generations of African Americans living in the predominantly white, middle class town of Old Saybrook. Stories of her ancestors' hardships in New England planted the creative seeds of inspiration that would eventually become central to her writings. Petry began penning

short stories and one-act plays while in high school. However, much of her time was spent working at the family pharmacy. Upon graduating high school, she briefly attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Hampton, VA where she studied Home Economics. This area of study was not to her liking. So, in keeping with family tradition (in addition to her father, Petry's aunt, Anna Louise James, was also a pharmacist), she decided to become a pharmacist. She attended the Connecticut College of Pharmacy and earned a graduate degree in 1931.

For the next few years, she worked as a pharmacist at the family drugstore while continuing to write short stories in her spare time. In 1938, Ann married George David Petry and moved to New York City to pursue her literary ambitions of becoming a writer. Throughout their time in New York, they lived on Edgecombe Ave., on East 129th St., and eventually in a leftist housing complex in the Bronx, and potentially other locations. While living in New York City, Petry visited a numerologist who told her that she would never be successful unless she dropped the extra "a" from her first name. Thus, Anna became Ann.

Petry's decade in Harlem was rich, dense, productive, and successful. Upon her arrival in Harlem, she soon found work selling advertising space for the *Amsterdam News*, a weekly Harlem publication. She then became a reporter for a weekly paper published by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. called, the *People's Voice*. Petry contributed a women's column called "The Lighter Side" which covered social events and news stories. She taught for the NAACP and at PS 101. Petry was also involved in the arts as an actress. Her debut performance was at the American Negro Theater in a comedy called, *On Striver's Row*, written by Abram Hill. She also took drawing classes at the Harlem Art Center and her husband, George, took weaving classes. She was co-founder of Negro Women Incorporated along with Dollie Lowther Robinson. Negro Women Incorporated was a women's advocacy group that sought to "help women get their money's worth" and was affiliated with the People's Committee, founded by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

To assist in her literary pursuits, Petry enrolled in Mabel Louise Robinson's writing class at Columbia University. Her first short fiction, a romance-suspense piece titled, "Marie of the Cabin Club", was published in 1939 in *The Afro American* under male pseudonym, Arnold Petri. From 1938 until 1944, Petry wrote numerous short stories for literary journals. The initial chapters of *The Street* won Petry the 1945 Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship, which served as a turning point in her career. *The Street* tells the story of protagonist, Lutie Johnson, a single mother trying to provide a better life for her son than could realistically be had amidst the poverty of West 116th St. in Harlem. The book was an instant hit, selling a million and a half copies. It received numerous, positive reviews, being favorably compared with Richard Wright's *Native Son*, and was widely published and translated into French, Spanish, Japanese, and Portuguese. *Country Place*, Petry's second novel, was published the following year in 1947.

Ultimately, the success of *The Street* made Petry a much sought-after but reluctant interview subject and speaker, who would inevitably, if futilely, strive for a secluded writing life in Connecticut. In 1948, after becoming an established writer, Petry and her husband moved back to Old Saybrook. Petry gave birth to her only child, Elisabeth (Liz) Ann Petry, on January 28, 1949. As a departure from her novels, Petry's first foray into the world of children's books also occurred in 1949 with the publication of *Drugstore Cat*. Petry's subsequent publications include her third novel, *The Narrows*, published in 1953; *Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railroad*, published in 1955; *Tituba of Salem Village*, published in 1964; *Legends of the Saints*, in 1970; and a book of short stories titled *Miss Muriel and Other Stories*, published in 1971.

From 1973-1975, Petry briefly moved to Hawaii to serve as a Visiting Professor in the English Department at the University of Hawaii. When she returned to Old Saybrook, much of her time was

divided between writing, parenting, and providing care and assistance to other ailing family members. Petry passed away on April 28, 1997.

**Arrangement:** The Ann Petry papers (1920 - 2012) are arranged in five series: Journals and Diaries, Correspondence, Manuscripts, Clippings and Printed Matter, and Artifacts and Memorabilia. Journals and Diaries are arranged chronologically. The Correspondence series is organized into three sub-series: Family; Friends, Colleagues, and Notables; and Professional and arranged by name of correspondent, as well as chronologically. Professional correspondence is arranged chronologically by sender. Clippings and Printed matter are arranged alphabetically by subject.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American authors  
African American women authors  
African Americans in literature  
American literature -- 20th century  
American literature -- African American authors  
Black author  
Women authors, Black

### **Names**

Petry, Ann, 1908-1997

## Container List

### Journals and Diaries 1920 - 1997 [bulk 1950s - 1980s]

This series includes two folders of biographical information by and about Ann Petry, as well as two of Petry's childhood diaries, and numerous journals. Petry used her journals as a proving ground for story ideas, to record anecdotes, overheard dialogue, and character notes. But even in her honest reportage of daily activities, of the management of her family, her intellectual and physical life, her social and community obligations, she shows vividly the source material for her published work. Petry managed to destroy much of the documentation related to her time in New York City. However, the earliest journal in this series includes some entries about her time in Harlem.

Increasingly, Petry created a version of a memoir through her journals, addressing key moments as far back as her childhood through the lens of years. Her Harlem decade, from 1938-1947, seemingly lost (Petry succeeded in destroying most of those journals), is in fact recorded throughout the '70s, '80s, and '90s. It is also documented in hundreds of her letters to her family from the 1940s. Petry's autobiographical details in these journals can be found nowhere else.

Not all of the journals are equally easy to read through. In one example, she tore pages from earlier journals and added them into a later one; often she would date an entry, but just as often, would not. Earlier journals, especially ones containing notes towards writing, bear nearly no dates. At times she blacked out names with a marker. Journals often include inserts, following the contents of the journals by date or theme or both.

Diaries and journals are arranged chronologically, followed by undated journals and other materials.

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical circa 1970s - 1980s
- b. 1 f. 2 Biographical 1977 - 1997
- b. 1 f. 3 Diary January - June 1920
- b. 1 f. 4 Diary January - February 1922
- b. 2 f. 1 Journal pages 1930s
- b. 2 f. 2 Journal July 1945
- b. 2 f. 3 Journal March 1944 - February 1954
- b. 2 f. 4 Journal November 22, 1955 - June 19, 1956
- b. 2 f. 5 Journal February 22, 1956 - January 1964
- b. 2 f. 6 Journal 1957
- b. 2 f. 7 Journal March 22, 1958 - May 8, 1961
- b. 2 f. 8 Journal pages early 1960s
- b. 2 f. 9 Journal March 24, 1963 - September 1965
- b. 2 f. 10 Journal February 22, 1960 - November 1965
- b. 2 f. 11 Journal 1962 - 1964
- b. 2 f. 12 Journal December 3, 1965 - June 4, 1968
- b. 3 f. 1 Journal June 5, 1968 - July 4, 1969
- b. 3 f. 2 Journal 1967, 1970
- b. 3 f. 3 Journal July 5, 1969 - September 6, 1973
- b. 3 f. 4 Journal 1971 - 1972
- b. 3 f. 5 Journal September 6, 1973 - June 11, 1974
- b. 3 f. 6 Journal August 13, 1974 - April 26, 1975
- b. 3 f. 7 Journal June 12, 1974 - August 12, 1981
- b. 4 f. 1 Journal November 3, 1974 - November 20, 1976

Journals and Diaries (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 2 **Journal** November 28, 1976 - March 26, 1978
- b. 4 f. 3 **Journal** May 23, 1977 - August 2, 1978
- b. 4 f. 4 **Journal** July 3, 1978 - July 3, 1980
- b. 4 f. 5 **Journal** 1981
- b. 4 f. 6 **Journal** August 13, 1981 - September 23, 1981
- b. 4 f. 7 **Journal** September 24, 1981 - July 12, 1982
- b. 5 f. 1 **Journal** July 13, 1982 - April 29, 1983
- b. 5 f. 2 **Journal** May 1 - October 22, 1983
- b. 5 f. 3 **Journal** October 23, 1983 - March 24, 1984
- b. 5 f. 4 **Journal** March 25 - May 22, 1984
- b. 5 f. 5 **Journal** May 23 - August 1984
- b. 5 f. 6 **Journal** August 22, 1984 - January 3, 1985
- b. 5 f. 7 **Journal** January 3 - May 9, 1985
- b. 5 f. 8 **Journal** May 10 - August 18, 1985
- b. 6 f. 1 **Journal** August 19, 1985 - February 21, 1986
- b. 6 f. 2 **Journal, Clippings and Quotes, undated** 1986
- b. 6 f. 3 **Journal** February 22, 1986 - January 10, 1987
- b. 6 f. 4 **Journal** January 10 - November 28, 1987
- b. 6 f. 5 **Journal** November 29, 1987 - March 31, 1988
- b. 6 f. 6 **Journal** April 1 - 30, 1988
- b. 7 f. 1 **Journal** April 30 - July 26, 1988
- b. 7 f. 2 **Journal** July 27 - November 3, 1988
- b. 7 f. 3 **Journal** November 4, 1988 - April 4, 1989
- b. 7 f. 4 **Journal** April 6 - June 14, 1989
- b. 7 f. 5 **Journal** June 15, 1989 - February 11, 1990
- b. 7 f. 6 **Journal** February 12 - August 7, 1990
- b. 7 f. 7 **Journal** August 8, 1990 - February 8, 1991
- b. 8 f. 1 **Datebook and notes** circa 1970s - 1980s
- b. 8 f. 2 **Almanac Appointment Book** 1981
- b. 8 f. 3 **Journal** August 19, 1972 - circa 1980s
- b. 8 f. 4 **Journal** circa 1980s
- b. 8 f. 5 **Monthly Planner** 1988
- b. 9 f. 1 **Journal** 1988
- b. 9 f. 2 **Journal** February 8 - October 12, 1991
- b. 9 f. 3 **Journal** October 13 - December 7, 1991
- b. 9 f. 4 **Journal** December 7 - 22, 1991
- b. 9 f. 5 **Journal** December 25, 1991 - April 27, 1992
- b. 9 f. 6 **Journal** April 27 - July 31, 1992
- b. 9 f. 7 **Journal** August 1 - November 12, 1992
- b. 10 f. 1 **Journal** November 13, 1992 - April 27, 1993
- b. 10 f. 2 **Journal** April 27 - September 12, 1993

#### Journals and Diaries (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 3 Journal, undated notes January 14, 1995
- b. 10 f. 4 Journal September 14, 1993 - July 8, 1994
- b. 10 f. 5 Journal October 2, 1994
- b. 10 f. 6 Journal July 9 - December 10, 1994
- b. 10 f. 7 Journal December 12, 1994 - October 18, 1995
- b. 10 f. 8 Journal October 19, 1995 - April 2, 1996
- b. 10 f. 9 Journal April 8 - August 12, 1996
- b. 11 f. 1 Journal August 12 - November 13, 1996
- b. 11 f. 2 Journal March - May, 1995; November 16 - 21, 1996
- b. 11 f. 3 Journal November 22, 1996 - February 7, 1997
- b. 11 f. 4 Journal, Literature Notes and Clippings
- b. 11 f. 5 Journal, undated
- b. 11 f. 6 Journal, undated
- b. 11 f. 7 Journal, undated
- b. 11 f. 8 Journal, undated
- b. 11 f. 9 Journal, undated
- b. 11 f. 10 Journal notes, undated

#### Correspondence 1920 - 2006

The Correspondence series is arranged into three sub-series: Family; Friends, Colleagues, and Notables; and Professional. The Family Correspondence sub-series is arranged chronologically by correspondent. The Friends, Colleagues, and Notables sub-series is arranged alphabetically, as well as chronologically by correspondent. The Professional Correspondence sub-series consists of four sub-groups of letters related to Petry's writing, teaching career, awards and honors, and requests for interviews and speaking engagements.

##### Family

Petry documented her years in New York City in several hundred letters to her mother, father, and sister. Herein are the day-to-day experiences that led her to write *The Street*, whose composition, publication, and reception she commented on directly. Having left Connecticut for New York, she wrote of her early work as a journalist and political activist, and tracked her progress on *The Street*. She wrote about her classes at Columbia University with Mabel Louise Robinson. She wrote about writing *The Street*, editing galleys, and doing promotional interviews. She described her work at *The People's Voice*, the African-American newspaper founded by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., as well as in the ad department of *Vogue*. She wrote of her political activities as the executive secretary of the leftist organization Negro Women Incorporated (some of the letters are composed on the verso of their letterhead). She described her day-to-day life, reactions to current events such as the Harlem riots of 1943, and cultural opinions on books, plays, and films. The letters also document her husband George Petry's experience in the Army during World War II, including his appearance in a film about black soldiers.

Ann Petry wrote to her daughter, Elisabeth (Liz), nearly every day for over two decades, 1970s - 1990s. She wrote to her daughter about her daily life activities, especially her reading – which is broad and deep; her hobbies of gardening and cooking; politics; journalism; racism. She wrote of friends and family, and members of her community, of health concerns, hers and theirs. Liz's less voluminous side of the correspondence is also present. Condolences and additional correspondence to George and Liz, after the death of Ann Petry in 1997 are also included. The Family Correspondence sub-series is arranged chronologically by correspondent.

- b. 12 f. 1 Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute 1926 - 1927
- b. 12 f. 2 Pharmacy 1928, 1931
- b. 12 f. 3 Favorite Poets Birthday Book
- b. 12 f. 4 Address Book

Correspondence (cont.)

Family (cont.)

- b. 12 f. 5 Other Family Correspondence 1931 - 1988
- b. 12 f. 6 Cards, undated
- b. 13 f. 1 Bertha James Lane Writings and Correspondence 1939, 1941
- b. 13 f. 2 Helen Bush to Bertha Lane February 1920 - December 17, 1944
- b. 13 f. 3 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane December 9, 1930 - December 17, 1944
- b. 14 f. 1 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane January - September 7, 1945
- b. 14 f. 2 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane September 10 - December 28, 1945
- b. 14 f. 3 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane January - April 10, 1946
- b. 14 f. 4 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane April 23 - September 24, 1946
- b. 14 f. 5 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane September 29 - December 23, 1946
- b. 14 f. 6 Ann Petry to Bertha Lane January - April 1947
- b. 15 f. 1 Ann Petry Correspondence to "Girls" 1942 - 1945  
"Girls" refers to Petry's mother and sister, Bertha James Lane and Helen Bush.
- b. 15 f. 2 Ann Petry and Helen Bush Correspondence 1924 - October 1945
- b. 15 f. 3 Ann Petry and Helen Bush Correspondence December 1945 - April 1947
- b. 16 f. 1 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry 1968, 1973 - 1974, 1976
- b. 16 f. 2 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - July 1977
- b. 16 f. 3 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry August - December 1977
- b. 16 f. 4 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - June 1978
- b. 16 f. 5 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry July - December 1978
- b. 16 f. 6 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - May 1979
- b. 16 f. 7 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry June - December 1979
- b. 16 f. 8 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January 1980 - July 1981
- b. 16 f. 9 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry August - December 1981
- b. 17 f. 1 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - May 1982
- b. 17 f. 2 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry June - August 1982
- b. 17 f. 3 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry September - December 1982
- b. 17 f. 4 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - April 1983
- b. 17 f. 5 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry May - December 1983
- b. 17 f. 6 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January 1984 - December 1985
- b. 17 f. 7 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January 1986 - December 1988
- b. 17 f. 8 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - December 1989
- b. 18 f. 1 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - February 1990
- b. 18 f. 2 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry March - June 1990
- b. 18 f. 3 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry May - December 1991
- b. 18 f. 4 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - December 1992
- b. 18 f. 5 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - December 1993
- b. 18 f. 6 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - December 1994
- b. 18 f. 7 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - December 1995
- b. 18 f. 8 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry January - December 1996
- b. 18 f. 9 Ann Petry to Elisabeth Petry, undated

Correspondence (cont.)  
Family (cont.)

- b. 18 f. 10 Elisabeth Petry Notes, undated
- b. 18 f. 11 Ann Petry Library
- b. 18 f. 12 Drawings
- b. 19 f. 1 Elisabeth Petry and Ann Petry 1957 - 1996
- b. 19 f. 2 Elisabeth Petry to Ann and George Petry 1981 - 1996
- b. 20 f. 1 Ann Petry Funeral Program
- b. 20 f. 2 Condolences 1997
- b. 20 f. 3 Condolences 1997
- b. 20 f. 4 Condolences 1997
- b. 20 f. 5 Condolences 1997
- b. 20 f. 6 Correspondence to Elisabeth and George Petry 1998-2006

Friends, Colleagues, and Notables

Correspondence consists of personal letters dating from 1940s to the late 1990s. Notable correspondents include Harold Robbins, Laura Z. Hobson, President John F. Kennedy, Moss Hart, John Jagel, Robert L. Crowell, Hildegard Swift, William O. Steele, Gloria Naylor, Anna Quindlen, Jane Bolin, Michelle Cliff, Elizabeth Alexander, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Robert Anderson, Louise E. Jefferson, Marjorie S. Graff, Anita Rio/Eugene Higgins, William "Bill" Shirer, Russell Crouse, Rex Stout. Also present in the collection is fan mail, primarily from children and correspondence requesting biographical information. This sub-series is arranged alphabetically, as well as chronologically by correspondent.

- b. 21 f. 1 Correspondence, A - C
- b. 21 f. 2 Correspondence, D - G
- b. 21 f. 3 Correspondence H - K
- b. 21 f. 4 Correspondence, L - Q
- b. 21 f. 5 Correspondence, R - Z
- b. 21 f. 6 Unknown Correspondence
- b. 21 f. 7 Ann Petry, Undelivered Mail
- b. 21 f. 8 Fan Mail 1982 - 1999
- b. 21 f. 9 Notes and Advice to Writers
- b. 21 f. 10 Politics

Contains several letters to various federal, state, and local political figures, and individuals, in which Petry states her political views on a variety of issues, including abortion, women's rights to their own bodies, and poverty. Of particular note, Petry voices her thoughts on race, culture, and politics in an extraordinary 7 page letter to Dollie Lowther Robinson (one of the founders of Negro Women Inc., who later became an organizer and executive for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and an undersecretary of Labor in the John F. Kennedy administration) dated February 21, 1968.

- b. 24 f. 1 Hazel Arnett Ervin 1982 - 1996
- b. 22 f. 1 Atsuko Furomoto/Black Studies Association in Japan 1988 - 1994
- b. 22 f. 2 Diane Isaacs 1977 - 1989
- b. 22 f. 3 Diane Isaacs 1990 - 2001
- b. 22 f. 4 Diane Isaacs, Dissertation, title - page 134 1982
- b. 23 f. 1 Diane Isaacs, Dissertation, pages 135 - 281 1982
- b. 23 f. 2 Albert Newgarden 1988 - 1993
- b. 23 f. 3 Jean-Procope Martin 1985 - 1986, 1989
- b. 24 f. 2 Mabel Louise Robinson 1946 - 1962, 1976
- b. 23 f. 4 Gertrude Serata 1981 - 1984, 1989



Correspondence (cont.)

Friends, Colleagues, and Notables (cont.)

- b. 23 f. 5 Charlotte Watkins 1981 - 1984
- b. 23 f. 6 Charlotte Watkins 1985 - 1996
- b. 24 f. 3 John Weigel and Milton White 1961 - 1990
- b. 24 f. 4 Mark Wilson 1981 - 1986
- b. 24 f. 5 Mark Wilson 1987 - 1997
- b. 24 f. 6 Notables 1934 -1983
- b. 24 f. 7 Notables 1984 -1996

Professional

The Professional Correspondence sub-series consists of four sub-groups of letters related to Petry's writing, teaching career, awards and honors, and requests for interviews and speaking engagements.

Much of the publishing correspondence is arranged chronologically by agent / publisher / publication, with editorial correspondence from numerous firms, houses, and publications, with carbons and drafts by Petry circa 1940s-1990s. There are hundreds of typed letters signed by her agents and publishers, often with enclosures from magazines and publishers about additional rights requested, and at times with carbons or draft letters by Petry, and occasionally with related manuscript / typescript material. This series also includes several files labeled variously for Russell and Volkening, her agency, and several more labeled for publishers / editions etc. The highlight of the agenting correspondence is a collection of dozens of warm, lengthy, informative letters (primarily typed) from Henry Volkening, her agent at Russell & Volkening, 1947-72 – with voluminous material in Russell & Volkening files from 1972-onward, including letters and enclosures from Diarmuid Russell (few), Tim Seldes, and others at Russell & Volkening, as well as occasional carbons and drafts of Petry's letters. Of note, this series contains the original contract for *The Street*, signed by the Vice President of Houghton Mifflin but not by Petry; with a 1956 amendment, signed by Houghton Mifflin Company and also signed by Petry.

Throughout her lifetime, Petry received numerous honors, awards, and recognition, particularly from her home state of Connecticut. The honors and awards correspondence is arranged by institution/organization and includes an oversized folder of honorary degrees and other accolades.

Correspondence related to Petry's teaching career can be found in the University of Hawaii at Manoa folder and is arranged chronologically.

After the success of *The Street*, Petry became a much sought after but reluctant public figure. As such, she received numerous requests for interviews and requests to speak at a variety of events. This correspondence is arranged alphabetically by sender/organization.

- b. 25 f. 1 Houghton Mifflin Company 1945 - 1989
- b. 25 f. 2 Houghton Mifflin Company 1989 - 1993
- b. 25 f. 3 Short Stories 1946 - 1969
- b. 25 f. 4 Publishing Correspondence
- b. 25 f. 5 Henry Volkening and Ann Petry Correspondence 1947 - 1965
- b. 25 f. 6 Henry Volkening and Ann Petry Correspondence 1966 - 1972
- b. 25 f. 7 Russell & Volkening, Inc 1951 - 1990
- b. 25 f. 8 Russell & Volkening, Inc 1991 - 1996
- b. 25 f. 9 Reader's Digest Services, Inc 1971 - 1972
- b. 26 f. 1 The New Mirror 1972 - 1978
- b. 26 f. 2 Tituba of Salem 1983 - 1991
- b. 26 f. 3 Virago Press 1984 - 1987
- b. 26 f. 4 Gale Research Company 1984 - 1987
- b. 26 f. 5 The Street, Beacon Press edition 1985 - 1991

Correspondence (cont.)  
Professional (cont.)

- b. 26 f. 6 Beacon Press 1986 - 1989
- b. 26 f. 7 Beacon Press 1990 - 1992
- b. 26 f. 8 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, Beacon Press edition 1988 - 1989
- b. 26 f. 8 Moonstone Inc 1988 - 1989
- b. 26 f. 9 The Street (film/theatrical rights) 1988-1990
- b. 26 f. 10 Carlson Publishing, Inc 1991
- b. 26 f. 11 Children's Literature Association 1991 - 1992
- b. 27 f. 1 The Connecticut Historical Society 1983 - 1990
- b. 27 f. 2 The Connecticut Gallery 1989
- b. 27 f. 3 Connecticut Commission on the Arts 1992 - 1993
- b. 27 f. 4 The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame 1994 - 1998
- b. 27 f. 5 o. 42 Awards and Honors 1920s - 2000  
Awards and Honors include honorary degrees, certificates, and decrees. In addition to the  
aforementioned items, oversize folder 42 contains Petry's high school diplomas from 1921  
and 1925.
- b. 28 f. 1 University of Hawaii at Manoa 1973 - 1975
- b. 28 f. 2 Requests for Interviews and Speaking Engagements 1969 - 1992
- b. 28 f. 3 Requests for Interviews and Speaking Engagements 1992 - 1997
- b. 29 f. 1 The Author's Guild, Inc
- b. 29 f. 2 Boston University 1978 - 1990
- b. 29 f. 3 Callaloo Interview 1991
- b. 29 f. 4 Connecticut College 1988 - 1993
- b. 29 f. 5 Fairfield University 1995 - 1996
- b. 29 f. 6 Free Library of Philadelphia
- b. 29 f. 7 Hampshire College 1987
- b. 29 f. 8 Hartford College for Women 1988 - 1990
- b. 29 f. 9 Manhattan Theatre Club 1995 - 1996
- b. 29 f. 10 Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1983 - 1984
- b. 29 f. 11 Middle Atlantic Writers Association, Inc 1994
- b. 29 f. 12 Mount Holyoke College 1989
- b. 29 f. 13 Radcliffe College 1995, 1997
- b. 29 f. 14 Schomburg Library of Nineteenth Century Black Women Writers
- b. 30 f. 1 Suffolk University 1982 - 1983, 1990
- b. 30 f. 2 Trinity College 1990 - 1993
- b. 30 f. 3 Trinity College 1993 - 1995
- b. 30 f. 4 University of Connecticut 1988 - 1992
- b. 30 f. 5 University of Illinois at Chicago 1983 - 1986, 1991
- b. 30 f. 6 University of Massachusetts 1983 - 1990
- b. 30 f. 7 Wellesley College 1989 - 1990
- b. 30 f. 8 Wesleyan University 1989 - 1990
- b. 30 f. 9 Yale University 1981 - 1983
- b. 31 f. 1 - 7 Speech Drafts and Notes

## Manuscripts 1939 - 1987

This series features published and unpublished works by Petry and consists primarily of typed drafts, full and partial, handwritten notes, notecards, drafts, and related correspondence. There are two incomplete drafts of unpublished work that are of particular interest, *Checkup* and *The Wayfarer*. There is also a folder of poetry by Petry, but it is unclear if these titles have been published. *The Wayfarer* was the last project Petry was working on before her passing in 1997.

This series is arranged chronologically by publication date.

- o. 41 "Marie of the Cabin Club" (1939) and The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers Poster  
Folder contains large print of "Marie of the Cabin Club", a romance suspense piece published in 1939 under Ann Petry's male pseudonym, Arnold Petri; and large poster celebrating the publication of *The Schomburg Library of Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers* series.
- b. 32 f. 1 Harlem (Holiday, 1949)  
This folder contains the 17 page typescript draft of the article, "Harlem", as well as an outline for the article and related research materials. Also contains a draft letter to Carl Van Vechten.
- b. 32 f. 3 Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad, pages 9 - 108  
1955
- b. 32 f. 4 Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad, pages 109 - 227  
1955
- b. 32 f. 5 Harriet Tubman, Miscellaneous
  - o. 40 Harriet Tubman Galley Proofs  
Marked up, galley proofs of *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*.
- b. 32 f. 2 Has Anybody Seen Miss Dora Dean? 1958  
Contains 26 page typescript draft and related correspondence.
- b. 32 f. 6 Legends of the Saints 1970  
Typescript draft, pages 1-55. Originally published in 1970.
- b. 33 f. 1 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 1 - 123 1971
- b. 33 f. 2 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 124 - 228 1971
- b. 33 f. 3 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 229 - 330 1971
- b. 33 f. 4 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 331 - 429 1971
- b. 33 f. 5 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 1 - 123 1971
- b. 33 f. 6 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 124 - 176, 229 - 296 1971
- b. 33 f. 7 Miss Muriel and Other Stories, pages 331 - 429 1971
- b. 33 f. 7 The Moses Project 1985 - 1986  
Short story originally published in *Harbor Review*, 1986. Folder contains several typescript drafts and related correspondence.
- b. 32 f. 8 When I Was a Child 1991 - 1992  
Folder contains a few versions, typed and annotated, with two titles: "My First Real Hat," (3 pages) and "When I Was a Child," (3 pages). Additional copy, also 3 pages, a variant, with lighter annotations. Published by University of Connecticut for the Children's Literature Association.
- b. 32 f. 9 Notes on Witchcraft
- b. 32 f. 10 Notes for Pedro  
These notes pertain to Petry's friend, Anthony "Uncle Tony" Sparaco, who inspired the character Pedro Gonzalez in "The New Mirror" and "The Migraine Workers."

Manuscripts (cont.)

- b. 34 f. 1 **Poetry**  
Contains a few dozen leaves total, including a range of notes and manuscript drafts, annotated and clean typescripts of several poems, primarily pertaining to the theme of black identity – "See How They Run," about slavery; "New York City" / "Noo York City"; "Black is the Color"; "My Own Dear Black Self". File includes occasional related correspondence, and literary subject clippings as well.
- b. 34 f. 2 **Checkup (unpublished)**
- b. 34 f. 3 **The Wayfarer (unpublished)**  
Folder contains a few dozen leaves which consist of handwritten pages as a sort of sketch and incomplete, annotated typescript. There are also pieces that have nothing to do with the story, and some of the typewritten pages are on the back of a draft of *Tituba of Salem Village*.
- b. 34 f. 4 **On Writing**
- b. 34 f. 5 **On Writing: Interview with Ann Petry June 28, 1987**
- b. 34 f. 6 **Notes, Drafts, and Discards**
- b. 35 **Notecards**
- o. 43 **The Desk of Ann Petry**  
Materials that were found on or around Ann Petry's writing desk such as a card from her daughter, Liz, a sketch, a magazine cover, and Japanese poetry.

Clippings and Printed Matter 1922 - 2012

Clippings and Printed Matter are arranged alphabetically by subject. This series contains material collected by Ann Petry but also others, such as her mother, Bertha James Lane as well as her daughter, Elisabeth Petry.

- b. 36 f. 1 **Abortion**
- b. 36 f. 2 **American Legacy: The Magazine of African American History and Culture**  
Winter 2006
- b. 36 f. 3 **American Visions: The Magazine of Afro-American Culture** June/July 1992
- b. 36 f. 4 **Anna Louise James**
- b. 36 f. 5 **Ann Petry Articles**
- b. 36 f. 6 **Fifth Annual Celebration of Black Writing Poster, Community College of Philadelphia** February 1989
- b. 36 f. 7 **Antiques**
- b. 36 f. 8 **Antiques**
- b. 36 f. 9 **Articles about Ann Petry**
- b. 36 f. 10 **Bio/Memoir**
- b. 36 f. 11 **Blacks**
- b. 36 f. 12 **Blacks**
- b. 36 f. 13 **Blacks**
- b. 36 f. 14 **Black Artists**
- b. 36 f. 15 **Black History**
- b. 36 f. 16 **Black Literature**
- b. 36 f. 17 **Black Statistics**
- b. 36 f. 18 **Black Women of Connecticut: Achievements Against the Odds**
- b. 36 f. 19 **Black Women Writers**
- b. 36 f. 20 **Books to Read**
- b. 36 f. 21 **Books to Buy/Books to Read**
- b. 36 f. 22 **Books to Buy/Books to Read**

Clippings and Printed Matter (cont.)

- b. 36 f. 23 Books to Buy/Books to Read
- b. 36 f. 24 Book Reviews
- b. 36 f. 25 The Boston Globe Magazine February 2, 1992
- b. 36 f. 26 Boston Sunday Herald July 19, 1992
- b. 36 f. 27 Children
- b. 36 f. 28 Children's Books
- b. 36 f. 29 CLA Journal September 1986
- b. 36 f. 30 CLA Journal September 2005
- b. 36 f. 31 The Color Purple
- b. 36 f. 32 Commonplace Book
- b. 36 f. 33 Contemporary Authors, Autobiography Series
- b. 36 f. 34 Connecticut Library Association Annual Convention 1958
- b. 36 f. 35 Connecticut Pharmacist September/October 1986
- b. 36 f. 36 Connecticut Women
- b. 36 f. 37 Copyright
- b. 36 f. 38 The Dixie Hummingbirds
- b. 36 f. 39 Drama
  - b. 37 f. 1 Ebony November 1984
  - b. 37 f. 2 Ebony March 1999
  - b. 37 f. 3 Essence May 2000
  - b. 37 f. 4 The of Black Separatism, by Bayard Rustin
  - b. 37 f. 5 Genre Writing Program: Historical Fiction
  - b. 37 f. 6 Harper's Magazine May 1960
  - b. 37 f. 7 The Hartford Courant Sunday Magazine March 23, 1997
  - b. 37 f. 8 The Hartford Courant February 2, 2001
  - b. 37 f. 9 Ideas for Fiction
- b. 37 f. 10 Indians
- b. 37 f. 11 Information for Writers
- b. 37 f. 12 Making the Scence, by Nina Woessner and William Sheldon 1972
- b. 37 f. 13 Malcolm Lowry/Bertrand Russell
- b. 37 f. 14 Migrant Workers
- b. 37 f. 15 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 16 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 17 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 18 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 19 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 20 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 21 Miscellaneous Topics
- b. 37 f. 22 Miss Muriel and Other Stories
- b. 37 f. 23 The Moses Project
- b. 37 f. 24 Moving Pictures

Clippings and Printed Matter (cont.)

- b. 37 f. 25 MS July/August 1995
- b. 37 f. 26 Nabakov
- b. 37 f. 27 Nature
- b. 37 f. 28 Native Son
- b. 37 f. 29 Negro Children
- b. 37 f. 30 Negro Material (Bertha J. Lane's)
- b. 37 f. 31 Negro - Unusual Material
- b. 37 f. 32 News from the Schlesinger Library 2012
- b. 37 f. 33 New York City
- b. 37 f. 34 The New York Times Book Review February 16, 1997
- b. 37 f. 35 The New York Times Book Review November 16, 1997
- b. 37 f. 36 Northeast, The Hartford Courant November 8, 1992
- b. 37 f. 37 Northeast, The Hartford Courant September 29, 2002
- b. 37 f. 38 Obituaries - Ann Petry
- b. 37 f. 39 Pharmacy in History 1986
- b. 38 f. 1 Phylon
- b. 38 f. 2 The Pluralism of Poetry, by Charles Guenther
- b. 38 f. 3 Poetry
- b. 38 f. 4 Poetry
- b. 38 f. 5 Poetry
- b. 38 f. 6 Poetry
- b. 38 f. 7 Poetry
- b. 38 f. 8 QBR, The Black Book Review November/December 1995
- b. 38 f. 9 Ralph Ellison
- b. 38 f. 10 Redbook May 1967
- b. 38 f. 11 Redbook February 1971
- b. 38 f. 12 Resources
- b. 38 f. 13 Reviews of The Street
- b. 38 f. 14 Reviews of The Street
- b. 38 f. 15 Robert Graves
- b. 38 f. 16 Robert Lowell
- b. 38 f. 17 Saturday Review of Literature
- b. 38 f. 18 Short Story - Writing
- b. 38 f. 19 Slavery
- b. 38 f. 20 Story Ideas, Dialogues, Situations
- b. 38 f. 21 Television
- b. 38 f. 22 Tennessee Williams
- b. 38 f. 23 Trinity Reporter Summer 1993
- b. 38 f. 24 Tubman, Harriet, Encyclopedia Britannica, by Ann Petry
- b. 38 f. 25 Vanity Fair March 1992
- b. 38 f. 26 Vietnam - Politics

Clippings and Printed Matter (cont.)

- b. 38 f. 27 Virginia Harrington Obituaries
- b. 38 f. 28 Watchman Industrial School 1928 - 1932
- b. 38 f. 29 Witchcraft and Supernatural
- b. 38 f. 30 Women
- b. 38 f. 31 Women's History Resources, Resource Service Catalog 1987 - 1988
- b. 38 f. 32 Writers and Writing
- b. 38 f. 33 Writers and Writing
- b. 38 f. 34 Writers and Writing
- b. 38 f. 35 Writers Interviews
- b. 38 f. 36 The Yale University Library Gazette April 1949

b. 39 Artifacts and Memorabilia circa 1980s, 1990s

Contains honorary degree regalia from Suffolk University (1983) and a medal for the 1992 Arts Award, issued by the Connecticut Commission of the Arts. This series also contains calendars kept by Petry.

o. 44 Calendars

Contains 2 copies of the The Writer's Desk, 1999 Calendar, photographed by Jill Krementz, as well as 2 notebooks of photocopied photographs of Petry and other Black writers featured in this calendar; and a New England Native American Calendar, 1995-1996.