

# Guide to the Joel E. Spingarn Collection

JWJ MSS 11



by Beinecke Staff

August 1996

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** JWJ MSS 11

**CREATOR:** Spingarn, Joel Elias, 1875-1939

**TITLE:** Joel E. Spingarn Collection

**DATES:** 1910-1947

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.4 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Joel Spingarn Collection contains Correspondence with various persons, including W. E. B. Du Bois, and a German translation of a James Weldon Johnson poem done by Spingarn's wife, Amy.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.spingarn>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.spingarn>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Joel Spingarn Collection contains items presented to the James Weldon Johnson Collection, most likely by Amy Spingarn, Mr. Spingarn's widow, after his death in 1939.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

The Joel E. Spingarn Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## **Preferred Citation**

Joel E. Spingarn Collection. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## **Processing Information**

Former call number: JWJ MSS Small Collections. Additional letters from Langston Hughes to Amy Spingarn were added to folder 15 in June 2001.

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## **JOEL E. SPINGARN (1875-1939)**

Joel Spingarn was an educator and writer who published works on literary criticism and collections of his own poetry. He is most well-known for his involvement in social reform, primarily his work with the NAACP and his establishment of the Spingarn Medal, given to recognize the contributions of African-Americans.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing manuscripts inventory. All pertinent information has been retained.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1926

b. 1, f. 1	Braithwaite, William S. To: 3 / From: 0	1926
b. 1, f. 2	Brawley, Benjamin Includes letter to Mrs. JES To: 6 / From: 0	1917-32
b. 1, f. 3	Carver, George Washington To: 1 / From: 0  Includes letter from Walter White, forwarding letter to JES, 1923 Sep 20	1923 Sep 19
b. 1, f. 4	Cecchi, Emilio To: 1 / From: 0	1938 Feb 16
b. 1, f. 5	Cook, George William To: 6 / From: 0	1917-19
b. 1, f. 6	Davis, Harry E. To: 1 / From: 0	1931 Apr 22
b. 1, f. 7	DeSuze, Carl To: 1 / From: 0	1935 Sep 22
b. 1, f. 8	Dorsey, Emmett To: 1 / From: 0	1935
b. 1, f. 9	Douglas, Aaron To: 1 / From: 0	1928 Jul 19
b. 1, f. 10-12	<a href="#">DuBois, William E. B.</a> To: 86 / From: 1  Includes one letter from DuBois to James Weldon Johnson	1910-38
b. 1, f. 13	<a href="#">Gregory, Montgomery</a> To: 1 / From: 0	1932
b. 1, f. 14	Harrison, Richard B. Letters to Mrs. JES  To: 4 / From: 0	1931-33
b. 1, f. 15	Hughes, Langston Letters to Mrs. JES	1930-34
b. 1, f. 16	<a href="#">Hunt, H. A.</a> To: 1 / From: 0	1934
b. 1, f. 17	Hunton, Addie W. To: 1 / From: 0	1918 Feb 14

b. 1, f. 18	Johnson, Hall Letter to Miss Spingarn To: 1 / From: 0	1933 Mar 17
b. 1, f. 19	Johnson, James Weldon Includes 2 letters to Mrs. JES To: 7 / From: 0	1920, 1929, n.d.
b. 1, f. 20	Johnson, J. Rosamond To: 1 / From: 0	1927 Mar 15
b. 1, f. 21	Logan, Rayford W. To: 1 / From: 0	1938 Jan 4
b. 1, f. 22	<a href="#">Nash, Roy</a> To: 1 / From: 0	1917 May 7
b. 1, f. 23	Randolph, Richetta G. To: 1 / From: 0	1934 Jul 6
b. 1, f. 24	Reid, Ira De A. To: 2 / From: 0	1938
b. 1, f. 25	Russell, Charles Edward To: 1 / From: 0	1932 Jul 6
b. 1, f. 26	Van Vechten, Carl (letter from Mrs. JES) To: 0 / From: 1	1947 Nov
b. 1, f. 27	Weaver, Archie L. To: 1 / From: 0	1931 May 25
	White, Walter <a href="#">See: George Washington Carver, Box 1, folder 3</a>	
b. 1, f. 28	Wilson, Edward N. To: 1 / From: 0	1937 Mar 5
b. 1, f. 29	<a href="#">Young, Charles</a> letter from Young to Frank M. Liston 1 letter	1917 Jun 10

**Series II: Miscellany, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 29a      Translation into German of James Weldon Johnson's "Go Down Death" by Mrs.      n.d.  
JES (Amy Spingarn), typescript  
[Clippings re: Mrs. JES and Spingarn Medal pamphlet formerly found here removed  
to clippings file 11/77]

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

African American authors -- 20th Century --  
Archives  
Authors, American -- 20th Century -- Archives

### **Names**

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt),  
1868-1963  
Spingarn, Amy Einstein, 1883-1980  
Spingarn, Joel Elias, 1875-1939