

# Guide to the Countee Cullen Collection

JWJ MSS 7



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 7

**CREATOR:** Cullen, Countee, 1903-1946

**TITLE:** Countee Cullen Collection

**DATES:** 1923-1946

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.4 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Countee Cullen gained fame principally as a poet, during the Harlem Renaissance, and later taught in the New York City school system.

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

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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.cullen>.

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 Countee Cullen Collection contains items presented to the James Weldon Johnson Collection by various persons, including Mr. Cullen, by way of Carl Van Vechten, with one later purchase ("Karengé Ya Marengé").

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

The Countee Cullen 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**

Countee Cullen Collection. Yale Collection of American Literature. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## **Processing Information**

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing manuscripts inventory. All pertinent information has been retained. Former call number: JWJ MSS Small Collections.

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## **COUNTEE CULLEN (1903-1946)**

Recognized at an early age for his poetic gift, Cullen became one of the leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance. Following the success of his volumes of poems, he studied in France on a Guggenheim Fellowship, married Yolande DuBois, the daughter of W.E.B. DuBois, and taught in the New York City school system.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This collection contains materials relating to Countee Cullen.

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**Collection Contents**
**Series I: Correspondence, 1937-45, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 1-5	<a href="#">Atkinson, Edward</a> To: 0 / From: 51	1937-45, n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	<a href="#">Braithwaite, Fiona</a> To: 1 / From: 0	1926 Apr 22
b. 1, f. 7	<a href="#">Byrd, Sydonia</a> To: 1 / From: 0	1927 Jan 11
b. 1, f. 8	<a href="#">Cottingham, Clive</a> To: 0 / From: 5	1938-46, n.d.
b. 1, f. 9-15	<a href="#">DuBois, Yolande</a> To: 104 / From: 0	1923-29
b. 1, f. 16	Grass, Bella To: 1 / From: 0	1934 Jul 12
b. 1, f. 17	<a href="#">Gross, ---</a> carbon of letter from Cullen To: 1 / From: 0	1945 May 8
b. 1, f. 18	<a href="#">Hughes, Langston</a> To: 1 / From: 0	1928 Apr 4
b. 1, f. 19-20	<a href="#">Jackman, Harold</a> To: 0 / From: 26 Includes letter from F.A. Cullen, notes from Jackman to Carl Van Vechten and notes by Carl Van Vechten	1923-45
b. 2, f. 21	<a href="#">LaGuardia, Fiorello</a> To: 1 / From: 1	1945 May
b. 2, f. 22	<a href="#">Littleboy, Rex</a> To: 3 / From: 0	1928
b. 2, f. 23	<a href="#">Sebree, Charles</a> Includes letter from Harold Jackman to Sebree, letter from Owen [Dodson?] to Carl Van Vechten, and draft of poem, "Description of the Wakeupworld" by Cullen To: 0 / From: 12	1940
b. 2, f. 24	<a href="#">Thomas, Rughmarie</a> To: 6 / From: 0	1925-26
b. 2, f. 25	<a href="#">Van Vechten, Carl</a> To: 0 / From: 1	1943 Nov 18

**Series II: Writings**

<i>The Black Christ</i>		
b. 2, f. 26	<a href="#">Holograph notebook with other poems</a>	1928-29
b. 2, f. 27	<a href="#">Holograph notebook copy made for and inscribed to Clive Cottingham</a>	n.d.
b. 2, f. 28	<a href="#">Excerpts, typescript</a>	n.d.
<i>Copper Sun</i>		
b. 2, f. 29	Galley proofs	1927
<i>"Karengé Ya Marengé"</i>		
b. 2, f. 30	Holograph, signed	1942 Aug 24
<i>The Lost Zoo</i>		
b. 2, f. 31	Holograph, corrected	n.d.
b. 2, f. 32	Holograph copy inscribed to Roberta Bosley	
b. 2, f. 33	Typescript, corrected, inscribed to Roberta Bosley	n.d.
b. 2, f. 34	Introduction, "A Word About Christopher", typescript carbon	n.d.
b. 2, f. 35	"Second and final draft" (setting typescript), inscribed to Carl Van Vechten Includes photograph of Christopher Cat	n.d.
b. 2, f. 36	Galley proofs	1940 Sep 13
b. 2, f. 37	Publicity statement, cover design and photo of Christopher Cat	1940
<i>Medea ["Byword for Evil"]</i>		
b. 3, f. 38	Prologue and epilogue of Cullen's adaptation, holograph notebook	n.d.
b. 3, f. 39	Typescript carbon of script	n.d.
b. 3, f. 40	Epilogue, typescript carbon	n.d.
<i>My Lives and How I Lost Them</i>		
b. 3, f. 41-43	Setting typescript	1942
<i>One Way to Heaven</i>		
b. 3, f. 44-45	Typescript, corrected	n.d.
b. 3, f. 46	Setting typescript Includes: postcard from Harper and Brothers to Countee Cullen and from Harold [Jackman] to Carl Van Vechten	1932
b. 3, f. 47	Play adaptation, typescript, corrected	n.d.
Poems		

## Poems (continued)

b. 4, f. 48-49	<a href="#">Drafts, titled and untitled, holograph and typescript</a> Includes: poems removed from letters to Edward Atkinson and letters to Carl Van Vechten	1926-42
b. 4, f. 50	<a href="#">Holograph notebook, filled with French exercises and some poems</a>	n.d.

## **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**

Cullen, Countee, 1903-1946