

The Papers of WE.B. Du Bois 1803 (1877-1963) 1979
A Guide by Robert W McDonnell

W.E.B. DU BOIS: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on February 23, 1868, of French, Dutch, and Afro-American ancestry. After primary and secondary education in the local public schools, Du Bois entered Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, as a sophomore in 1885, and was graduated with a B.A. in 1888. In the fall of 1888 he entered Harvard University as a junior and received a second bachelor's degree in 1890. He continued at Harvard for his graduate education, and received the M.A. degree in 1891 and the Ph.D. in 1895. As part of his doctoral work Du Bois studied at the University of Berlin from 1892 to 1894. He was profoundly influenced by both German social science and German civilization. His Harvard dissertation, *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States, 1638-1870*, was published as Volume I of the Harvard Historical Series in 1896.

In 1896 Du Bois married Nina Gomer, who lived until 1950. They had two children, Burghardt, born in 1898 and died in 1900, and Yolande (1901-1960). Du Bois taught at Wilberforce University in Ohio from 1894 to 1896, when he went to the University of Pennsylvania as an assistant instructor in sociology for 1896/97. His major project at Pennsylvania was an intense sociological study of the Negro population of Philadelphia; the resulting *The Philadelphia Negro* was a pioneering work in the use of sociology to study a specific urban population.

In 1897 Du Bois went to Atlanta University, where he was to teach history and economics, to found a department of sociology, and to direct sociological research until 1910. Du Bois established an annual conference, to study each year a single aspect of Negro problems. The results of each year's study were published in the Atlanta University Publications series. Du Bois' plan was to repeat the study of each aspect at regular intervals. Although the quality of the studies varied from year to year and was hampered by insufficient funding, taken together they represent a major resource for an understanding of various aspects of Negro life and the Negro community. It has been observed that except for this project of Du Bois', the continuous social survey has been almost totally lacking in North American sociology.

Not all of Du Bois' work was purely academic. He also wrote numerous articles for the popular press, and *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903) brought him to national attention and is perhaps his most enduring work. The book also helped to bring attention to the growing estrangement in the Afro-American community between the accommodationist theories of Booker T. Washington and Du Bois' insistence that Negroes should demand and receive fully equal treatment. Du Bois' belief received institutional form in 1905 when he founded the Niagara Movement. While the group never had a large membership, it did pave the way for the establishment in 1909 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which was based upon similar principles and was interracial in character.

Du Bois left Atlanta University in 1910 to become director of research and publicity for the NAACP and editor of its monthly journal, *Crisis*. He had earlier founded and edited *The Moon* (1906) and *Horizon* (1907-10). Du Bois' articles and editorials in *Crisis* from 1910 to 1934 solidified his position as a major spokesman for Afro-American rights. He also continued to write for the popular press and published several more books during these years, including *The Negro* (1915), *Darkwater* (1920), *The Gift of Black Folk* (1924), and the novels *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (1911) and *Dark Princess* (1928). His pageant of Black history, *The Star of Ethiopia*, was also presented several times during these years to audiences of thousands.

In the early decades of the twentieth century Du Bois extended his interest in the position of Blacks beyond the borders of the United States to the world scene. He served as vice-president of the 1900 Pan-African Conference in London and organized a series of Pan-African Congresses in various world cities in 1919, 1921, 1923, and 1927. This world-wide interest helped establish Du Bois' reputation on an international basis.

The NAACP and Du Bois both insisted on the full integration of Blacks into the mainstream of American life. With the onset of the Great Depression in the late 1920s, Du Bois modified this position to the extent of calling for a Black nation-alist strategy, with Black-controlled cooperatives and institutions, as the best means of Black survival. Although this did not conflict with his ultimate goal of full integration in America, this position nonetheless led to disagreement within the NAACP, which culminated in Du Bois' resignation from the editorship of *Crisis* and from the Association in 1934.

Returning to Atlanta University, Du Bois resumed teaching duties and the scholarly life. In 1935 he published *Black Reconstruction*, which demonstrated the positive role played by Afro-Americans in the South during the years immediately after the Civil War. Although the book was criticized by Marxists and Non-Marxists alike, its basic interpretation was to become widely accepted by historians. In 1940, Du Bois established *Phylon*, a quarterly social science journal. He also wrote *Black Folk, Then and Now* (1939) and *Dusk of Dawn* (1940) during these years. Du Bois became involved in the preparation of an Encyclopedia of the Negro with the assistance of the Phelps-Stokes Fund. The work was never completed, although a preparatory volume was published in the 1940s.

In 1944 Du Bois was retired from Atlanta University. He soon returned to the NAACP, where his duties were to revolve around special research, especially that relating to the place of the African colonies in the postwar world. Du Bois served as a consultant for the NAACP to the United States delegation at the founding meeting of the United Nations. In 1945 he also served as chairman of the Fifth Pan-African Conference, held in England. In 1948 Du Bois was dismissed by the NAACP after continuing disagreements with other officials over NAACP policies.

In the following years Du Bois served as a co-chairman of the Council on African Affairs, chairman of the Peace Information Center and of the American Peace Crusade. In the 1950 elections he ran as the candidate of the American Labor Party for United States Senator from New York. The activities of the Peace Information Center led to an indictment against Du Bois and four associates as unregistered foreign agents during the anti-Communist vigilantism of 1951. Although the charges were dismissed as groundless later that year, the attack by an arm of his own country's government was a bitter experience for Du Bois. For the next several years Du Bois continued his interest in peace and international affairs, visited Russia and China, and worked on *The Black Flame* trilogy of novels.

Du Bois became a member of the Communist Party of the United States in 1961. That same year, at the age of ninety-three, he moved to Ghana at the invitation of President Kwame Nkrumah to serve as editor of an *Encyclopedia Africana*. Although poor health limited the work he was able to undertake, Du Bois did continue to study and write over the next two years. He gave up American for Ghanaian citizenship and, on August 27, 1963, died in Accra, Ghana at the age of ninety-five. Du Bois was survived by his second wife, the writer Shirley Graham Du Bois, whom he had married in 1951.

Over his lifetime Du Bois wrote or edited over three dozen books and contributed hundreds of articles to periodicals, developed several periodicals into voices of previously unarticulated aspects of Black identity, and became himself one of its most eloquent voices of all time. His contributions to the education and self-concept of Blacks were second to none. In addition, he was one of the founders of sociology: he founded the literature of demography and of race sociology and made contributions of pre-eminence in research methodology, the continuous social survey, and the fields of social stratification and race relations. (See Dan S. Green, "The Truth Shall Make Ye Free; The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois," unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Massachusetts, 1973.) In the creative field he was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters, a body limited to only two hundred Americans recognized for their notable achievements in the arts. Du Bois' reputation was eclipsed during the McCarthy era in the United States, and he died in 1963 before the reputations of McCarthy victims were rehabilitated. But his impact and influence were and are international in scope. Despite the McCarthyist interruption, his place as one of the major spokesmen for Afro-Americans and Blacks in the rest of the world in the twentieth century is assured.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The Du Bois Papers at the University Library document virtually every stage in his long career and show his involvement in many areas of twentieth century racial, literary, and social reform movements. In particular, the correspondence files, including well over 100,000 items on 79 reels of microfilm, show Du Bois' interactions with others in these areas of activity. Du Bois' correspondents were numerous and the topics discussed varied. The earliest letter in the collection, a note to his grandmother, dates from 1877 when Du Bois was just nine years old. Among the latest is the draft of a letter, written not long before his death in 1963, appealing to the leaders of the Soviet Union and China to heal the divisions that had arisen in the world communist movement. The files, containing only a few items from his early youth, become more plentiful for Du Bois' student days in the 1880s and 1890s, and the commencement of his career as scholar and educator in the 1890s and 1900s. They are at their fullest during his period with the NAACP as editor of *The Crisis*, 1910-1934, and they remain nearly as abundant for the last thirty years of his life, 1934-1963.

During his lifetime Du Bois conscientiously retained his incoming letters, copies of his outgoing letters, and files of his speeches, articles, books, and other manuscripts. While these files were most complete for the middle and later stages of his life, all periods are represented to some degree in this collection. Some papers were transferred at various times to Fisk University, Yale University and the Schomburg Center of the New York Public Library, but Du Bois retained ownership of most of his papers pending a final decision on a repository site.

When Du Bois moved to Ghana in 1961, he left the bulk of his papers with Herbert Aptheker in New York City and named him as editor of a planned edition of Du Bois' correspondence and other works. While Du Bois did take some correspondence and other manuscripts to Africa, Aptheker was left the greater part of the collection, which he and his wife arranged into workable order and supplemented with copies of many Du Bois materials they located in other repositories. The last two years of Du Bois' life generated additional papers including new correspondence, papers relating to the *Encyclopedia Africana*, and other manuscripts. At Du Bois' death in 1963, ownership of his files passed to his widow, Shirley Graham Du Bois. When President Mkrumah's government was overthrown in 1966, Mrs. Du Bois left Ghana in haste for Cairo, Egypt, taking the papers with her. Aptheker continued to care for the papers left with him until the entire collection went to Massachusetts in 1973.

By the early 1970s, the University of Massachusetts Press had contracted with Mrs. Du Bois and Herbert Aptheker to publish selections from the correspondence and other previously unpublished writings of Du Bois. Five volumes were published between 1973 and 1980: three of selected correspondence, plus *The Education of Black People* and *Prayers for Dark People*. At least one additional volume is planned. Aware that plans for a permanent location for the collection had not been made, University of Massachusetts officials negotiated an agreement with Mrs. Du Bois for all of Du Bois' papers in Mrs. Du Bois' and Dr. Aptheker's possession to come to the University Library in 1973. Late in 1979, the Library received an additional accession of material that Mrs. Du Bois had kept with her in Cairo during her lifetime.

DU BOIS MATERIALS IN OTHER REPOSITORIES

While the University of Massachusetts collection constitutes the major source of Du Bois material, other papers are also to be found in other repositories and are not included on the microfilm. Of these other repositories, Fisk University, in Nashville, Tennessee, has the most important collection. A full inventory of these papers has not been completed, but a preliminary listing indicates 128 manuscript boxes of papers. Approximately fifty of these include pamphlets and newspaper and journal clippings on various topics, collected by Du Bois over his lifetime. Another fifty or so boxes include manuscripts of Du Bois' writings, along with research materials used in their preparation. Of particular interest in this area are the research materials and drafts for Du Bois' study of the Black soldier in the First World War. Some short story manuscripts (not published and not represented in the University of Massachusetts collection) are also to be found. Several boxes consist of correspondence, most of which is fairly routine, including arrangements for lectures which Du Bois delivered. Some of this correspondence, however, is substantive. Smaller amounts of material concern the NAACP and Atlanta University and include some Du Bois memorabilia.

Perhaps next in importance are materials in the W.E.B. Du Bois Papers held as part of the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection at Yale University. The five manuscript boxes include a small amount of correspondence (twenty-five or so letters) with Johnson, Countee Cullen, George Padmore and others. Manuscripts are to be found for various writings, including *Dusk of Dawn*, *The Gift of Black Folk*, *Darkwater*, *The Negro*, *The World and Africa* and several articles and poems. Other files concern the two Amenia Conferences, the United Nations, and other areas.

The Schomburg Collection of the New York Public Library also holds a small collection of Du Bois material within the Hugh Smythe Papers. Smythe, a sociologist, was a research assistant to Du Bois in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Materials here include drafts of several essays, articles, and speeches, along with Du Bois' student materials, such as philosophy notes from Harvard University, and other miscellaneous items. These papers have been microfilmed by the New York Public Library.

The gaps that appear in the Du Bois materials at the University of Massachusetts are filled quite neatly in many instances by papers in one or more of these three repositories. There are also smaller amounts of Du Bois materials elsewhere, in private hands and repositories open to the public. Du Bois was in constant communication with a wide variety of prominent individuals whose own papers have since found their way into various archival repositories. Researchers may find Du Bois items in one of these collections for which no copy is to be found elsewhere. The William Stanley Braithwaite Papers at Morgan State University are one of many such examples. The NAACP Papers at the Library of Congress also provide a source of additional information on Du Bois and help to document his work within the organization which dominated so much of his active life.

Many Du Bois materials in other repositories have been copied and the copies donated to the collection by Herbert Aptheker. The University Library is continuing to add copies of both published and unpublished materials by and about Du Bois, but they are not included in the microfilm edition or described in this Guide because they represent only a small proportion of the total Du Bois materials in other locations.

Legal ownership of Du Bois' personal library was conveyed to the University of Massachusetts by Mrs. Du Bois in 1973, but as of 1980 it remained in the office of the Encyclopedia Africana in Accra, Ghana. A list of the books is included in Series 16, Miscellaneous Material.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION

The collection is arranged in twenty series, as follows:

SERIES NUMBER	REEL NUMBER
1 Correspondence	1-79
2 Speeches	80, 81 frames 1-1562
3 Articles	81 frame 1563-1663; 82; 83 frames 1-1329
Subseries	
(A) Articles, Published	81 frames 1563-1663; 82 frames 1-766
(B) <i>Crisis</i> Articles. Published	82 frames 767-1223
(C) Articles Not Known to be Published	82 frames 1224-1599; 83 frames 1-1104
(D) Articles in Printed Form	83 frames 1105-1305
(E) <i>Crisis</i> Articles in Printed Form	83 frames 1306-1329
4 Newspaper Columns	83 frames 1330-1555; 84 frames 1-528
5 Nonfiction Books	84 frames 529-1762; 85; 86 frames 1-169
6 Research Materials	86 frames 170-764
7 Pamphlets and Leaflets	86 frames 765-1276
8 Book Reviews	86 frames 1277-1489
9 Petitions	86 frames 1490-1564
10 Essays, Forewords and Student Papers	86 frames 1565-1666; 87 frames 1-538
11 Novels	87 frames 539-1389
12 Pageants	87 frames 1390-1545
13 Plays	87 frames 1546-1660; 88 frames 1-922
14 Short Stories and Fables	88 frames 923-1367
15 Poetry	88 frames 1368-1590
16 Miscellaneous Material	88 frames 1591-1688; 89 frames 1-1325
17 Photographs	88 frames 1326-1805
18 Memorabilia	89 frames 1806-1860
19 Motion Pictures and Tapes	Not on microfilm; Boxes 347-351
20 Newspaper Clippings	Not on microfilm; Boxes 352-357

Each series is described in detail on the following pages. Materials other than the Correspondence have not been indexed.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SERIES

SERIES 1

CORRESPONDENCE

Years: 1877-1965

119.25 linear feet
Reels 1-79

Series 1, Correspondence, constitutes over three-fourths of the Du Bois Papers at the University of Massachusetts. It includes correspondence received by Du Bois and carbon copies of letters he wrote to others throughout his life. His life covered ninety-five years of important social change in the United States and in the world, during which Du Bois was a leading participant in many of the most important efforts for change. He knew and corresponded with many of the leading figures of his long lifetime.

Du Bois' correspondence files reflect his involvement in many areas of twentieth century racial, literary and social reform movements. The 100,000 or more items document his career and provide a wealth of information on the work of others with whom Du Bois came into contact. The earliest item of correspondence is from 1877, although the bulk of the material is from the post-1910 period. The files continue through the years of his work with the NAACP, teaching and research at Atlanta University during the 1930s and 1940s, return to the NAACP in 1944, involvement with the peace movement in the late 1940s and the 1950s, and work with the *Encyclopedia Africana* until his death in 1963. A few items of Shirley Graham Du Bois' correspondence concerning Du Bois from late 1963, 1964 and 1965 bring this part of the collection to a close. Numbered among Du Bois' correspondents are such figures as Jane Addams, Sherwood Anderson, Ralph Bunche, Andrew Carnegie, Charles Chesnutt, Countee Cullen, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Albert Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi, W. C. Handy, Langston Hughes, William James, James Weldon Johnson, Jomo Kenyatta, Martin Luther King, Jr., Claude McKay, Margaret Mead, Kwame Nkrumah, Eugene O'Neill, Sylvia Pankhurst, A. Phillip Randolph, Paul Robeson, Eleanor, Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt, Bertrand Russell, George Bernard Shaw, Arthur and Joel Spingarn, Moorfield Storey, Mary Church Terrell, Carl Van Vechten, Booker T. Washington, H. G. Wells, Walter White, Roy Wilkins and many other key participants in the history of Du Bois' time.

The correspondence is arranged chronologically by year, and alphabetically by name of correspondent within each year. There are two major exceptions to this arrangement: (1) The correspondence from 1877 through 1910 is so sparse, compared to other years, that it has been grouped together in a single alphabetical sequence; (2) By the beginning of 1911, and lasting through 1934, Du Bois had so much correspondence as editor of *The Crisis* (first issued in November 1910) that *Crisis* correspondence has been separated into a discrete group within each year. In each of those years the General correspondence comes first, with a complete alphabet of correspondents, followed by *Crisis*-related correspondence in a second complete alphabet. For more details about filing order, see the section "Notes on Arrangement..." on pages 13-14.

SERIES 2-20, NOT INCLUDED IN THE MICROFILM PUBLISHED IN 1980

Series 2 through 20 (totaling 41.5 linear feet) encompass all materials in the collection other than correspondence. They include manuscripts of speeches, articles, book reviews, pamphlets, leaflets, petitions, essays, fiction and nonfiction books, other creative writing, awards, medals, audio-visual materials, and clippings. These series span virtually Du Bois' entire life, from earliest years until his death in 1963, and include some family materials long before his birth, but the greatest strength is in the last half-century of his life and work. The non-correspondence materials demonstrate Du Bois' multiple talents and interests, and the literary manuscripts show his persistent interest in creative writing, including novels, short stories, plays, pageants, and poetry. Only Series 1 is included in the microfilm edition of 1980, but Series 2 through 20 are available at the University of Massachusetts Library.

SERIES 2

SPEECHES

Years: 1888-1962

8.5 linear feet
Reels 80-81

Series 2, Speeches, includes the manuscripts of over three hundred different speeches, ranging from those he gave at his college commencements from Fisk and Harvard to others delivered near the end of his life. Most date from the 1940s and 1950s and show his interest in world peace, colonialism, and developments in Africa and America. Many speeches are available from his 1950 campaign for election as United States Senator from New York. The speeches as a whole contain Du Bois' developed (and developing) thoughts on various subjects. While a number of his speeches were published, it is worth noting that he would often revise the spoken version considerably before releasing it for publication. Thus the original manuscripts retain considerable research value even in cases where the speech was later published, some in greatly revised form. The speech manuscripts are identified by title; if untitled by Du Bois, a title has been supplied in brackets [].

SERIES 3

ARTICLES

Years: 1887-1968

6.5 linear feet
Reels 81-83

Manuscripts of articles include drafts and other versions of many of the items published by Du Bois in the numerous journals to which he contributed over his lifetime. In addition, complete or incomplete manuscripts are to be found for many articles which apparently were never published. In all, over four hundred manuscripts of articles are in the collection, with dates ranging from the 1880s to articles published after his death in 1963. The manuscripts are arranged in five subseries, and chronologically within each subseries. They are typescripts unless otherwise indicated.

- (A) Articles, published, other than in *Crisis*
- (B) Articles published in *Crisis*
- (C) Articles not known to have been published
- (D) Articles in printed form
- (E) *Crisis* articles in printed form

SERIES 4

NEWSPAPER COLUMNS

Years: 1927-1961
and undated

1.5 linear feet
Reels 83-84

Manuscript versions of Du Bois' columns for the *Chicago Defender*, *Chicago Globe*, *Freedom*, *National Guardian*, *New Africa*, *New York Amsterdam News*, *People's Voice*, and *Pittsburgh Courier* show his thoughts on the news and events of the day. It is important to note that the various newspaper editors did not always publish the columns as submitted, but would occasionally find room to publish only selected portions. Some column manuscripts were, in fact, never published, but they are important as Du Bois' intended public statements of his views. They are arranged alphabetically by title of the newspaper, and chronologically within each paper.

SERIES 5

NONFICTION BOOKS

Years: ca. 1896-1962

5.25 linear feet
Reels 84-86

Manuscripts of nonfiction books include several unpublished items. *A World Search for Democracy* (mostly complete) was prepared in the late 1930s. Also of interest are *Russia and America: An Interpretation*; *This Africa: How It Arose. Whither It Goes*; and research notes for the *Encyclopedia of the Negro* and for a study of the Black soldier in World War I, *The Black Man and the Wounded World*. There are prospectuses of several books. Of those books that were published, of particular interest are several surviving handwritten chapters from *The Souls of Black Folk* and a complete typescript, with handwritten corrections, of *A Soliloquy on Viewing My Life from the Last Decade of Its First Century: The Autobiography of W.E.B. Du Bois*. There are also other manuscripts of published works. The works are arranged alphabetically by title.

SERIES 6

RESEARCH MATERIALS

Years: 1896-1959
and undated

0.75 linear feet
Reel 86

Research materials in the Papers include typescripts, handwritten manuscripts, and clipped and other printed materials, arranged in the following sequence: research notes on Africa, general research notes, notes that appear likely to have been made for speeches or articles, and miscellaneous research materials. There are about 800 to 1,000 pages in all, in these four groups.

SERIES 7

PAMPHLETS AND LEAFLETS

Years: 1902-1962

1 linear foot
Reel 86

Materials that resulted, or were intended to result, in pamphlets or leaflets appear in this series in typed, handwritten, and/or printed form. The publications range from 1902 until 1962, and the subjects show a great variety, ranging from Du Bois' 1904 Credo and a Bibliography of the Negro Folk Song in America to Blacks, Black education, Benjamin Franklin, peace, and the H-bomb. The materials are arranged chronologically.

SERIES 8

BOOK REVIEWS

Years: 1905-1961

1 linear foot
Reel 86

Fifty-five reviews by Du Bois of books by other authors are included here, in chronological order from 1905 to 1961. Du Bois concentrated, in these reviews, on Blacks, Africa, the American South, and race relations.

SERIES 9

PETITIONS

Years: 1947-1961

0.25 linear foot
Reel 86

Petitions here include the manuscript of Du Bois' introduction and the contributions of some other authors to the NAACP's 1947 *Appeal to the World: A Statement on the Denial of Human Rights to Minorities...* and other petitions from then to 1961.

SERIES 10

ESSAYS, FOREWORDS, AND STUDENT PAPERS

Years: ca.1888-1962

1 linear foot
Reels 86-87

Each of the subseries indicated in the series title is arranged chronologically. The sub-series Essays is limited to Du Bois' contributions to encyclopedias and other works of multiple authorship. Most were published 1924-1962, but several apparently were never published. There are five Forewords contributed by Du Bois to books written by others between 1922 and 1962. The Student Papers are arranged in four groups: papers at Fisk around 1888; papers at Harvard, 1888-1891; student papers, largely on economics and politics, from the 1890s; and "Sketches, 1889-1896," which includes some travel notes, journals, notes on celebrations of his birth-day, and some creative writing.

SERIES 11

NOVELS

Years: 1892-1961

1.25 linear feet
Reel 87

The earliest evidence in the Papers of Du Bois as a novelist is the manuscript and plot outline of *A Fellow of Harvard*, 1892, when Du Bois was twenty-four years old. The latest is fragments and notes concerning his trilogy *The Black Flame* and notes on *Worlds of Color*, both dating from 1961. The materials are arranged alphabetically by title, with a number of untitled or unidentified fragments and notes at the end of the file.

SERIES 12

PAGEANTS

Years: 1913-1941 and undated

0.5 linear feet
Reel 87

Du Bois' pageants were large-scale presentations on the course of Black history that were designed to appeal to a mass audience. His most famous pageant, *The Star of Ethiopia*, designed for a cast of 1,000, was presented in 1913 in New York, in 1915 in Washington, in 1916 in Philadelphia, and in 1925 in Los Angeles. *The Star of Ethiopia* papers include typescripts and manuscripts, stage directions, posters, programs, and financial records of some productions. Manuscripts for other pageants include *George Washington and Black Folk: A Pageant for the Bicentenary, 1732-1932*; *The Jewel of Ethiopia*; *The Seven Gifts of Ethiopia*; *The Nine Tales of Black Folk*, and others. The pageants are arranged alphabetically by title.

SERIES 13

PLAYS

Years: 1928-1940 and undated

2 linear feet
Reels 87-88

The manuscripts of plays are in two groups. The first, *Playthings of the Night*, was intended for book publication in 1931, and contains introductory essays by Du Bois and various drafts of five plays. The second group, *The Darker Wisdom*, was intended for book publication in 1940, and contains manuscripts of four of the five plays in the previously-proposed title (one with a changed title). The plays included are *The All Mother* (later entitled *The Slave, the Serf, and the Blond Beast*); *Black Hercules at the Forks of the Road*; *Black Man*; *Christ on the Andes*; and *Seven Up*. There are also an outline for *The Prodigal Race*, an unidentified fragment of a play or tale, and variant title-pages or subtitles.

SERIES 14

SHORT STORIES AND FABLES

Years: 1895-1950s

1 linear foot
Reel 88

The handwritten and typed manuscripts are in two groups: seven "fables" of one to two pages each, and some thirty-five longer short stories plus a few fragments. The earliest dated item is an 1895 story about Wilberforce University. Du Bois continued to write in this genre at least into the 1950s, when there are many stories signed "Bud Weisob," an anagram of his own name, perhaps an attempt to avoid the McCarthy era's blacklisting of known or suspected Communists. The great majority of the stories were never published.

SERIES 15

POETRY

Years: 1907-1965 and undated

0.25 linear foot
Reel 88

Throughout his life Du Bois wrote poetry. Among his notable published efforts were "The Song of the Smoke," "The Christmas Prayers of God," "Suez," and "Ghana Calls." The poetry is arranged in two groups: about 130 pages of poetry that was published, mostly in *Horizon*, *Crisis*, and *Masses and Mainstream*, and about two hundred pages that remain unpublished or unidentified.

SERIES 16

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

Years: 1803-1964

2.25 linear feet
Reels 88-89

Genealogical records include vital, military, financial, and land records; lists of relatives and important family dates, two diaries (1856 and 1861) of Du Bois' paternal grandfather Alexander Du Bois; and correspondence of his (1875 and 1878). There are manuscript and printed materials from Du Bois' years at Great Barrington High School; Fisk University, including his certificates and contracts for teaching in Tennessee in 1886 and 1887; Harvard University; the University of Berlin; and Wilberforce and Atlanta University. Also included are brief bio-graphies of Du Bois, bibliographies of his writings, a list of books in his personal library, and a typed transcription of an unpublished oral history interview with Du Bois by William Ingersoll in 1960. Works by others include Shirley Graham Du Bois' notes and fragments of speeches for the legal defense of Du Bois in 1951; six poems by Yolande Du Bois; manuscript speeches and published articles by one of Du Bois' assistants, Hugh Smythe; handwritten and typed articles and speeches by others; and printed materials dealing in the main with the status, education, and economics of Blacks.

SERIES 17

PHOTOGRAPHS

Years: ca.1864-1963

2.5 linear feet
Reel 89

The photographs are arranged in three groups. First are several hundred photographs that Du Bois solicited for publication in *The Crisis*: photographs of Black children, Black recipients of college degrees and honors, and Blacks in important positions. This series of photographs published in *The Crisis* is Du Bois' contribution to, and probably the initiation of, the marshalling of evidence that "Black is beautiful." The second group is just under two hundred Du Bois family and personal photographs, including one album arranged in roughly chronological order. Some of the most-photographed trips and other events in Du Bois' life have been arranged, together with photographs on other specific topics, among the approximately three hundred photographs in the third group, "Theme" photographs.

SERIES 18

MEMORABILIA

Years: 1913-1963

0.5 linear feet
Reel 89

This series comprises medals, badges, and certificates of honorary and earned degrees and other awards and honors. There are nearly one hundred items, ranging from class reunion badges to the Spingarn Medal won by Du Bois in 1920, the Du Bois Medal created in his honor by the American Negro Commemorative Society, the Lenin Medal, and certificates of election to Phi Beta Kappa, honorary degrees from universities in the United States and abroad, and election to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1944.

SERIES 19

MOTION PICTURES AND TAPES

Years: 1958-1979

2.5 linear feet
Not on microfilm

Motion pictures and videotape copies of Du Bois receiving honorary degree in Prague in 1958 and visiting Premier Chou En-lai, Vice-Premier Chen Yi, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and others in China in 1959; and of the dedication in 1969 and dedication as a National Historic Landmark in 1979 of Du Bois' birthsite in Great Barrington, Mass. Audiotapes of the burial service of Du Bois, 8/29/63 and tribute by Kwame Nkrumah.

SERIES 20

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Years: 1901-1955 and undated

3 linear feet
Not on microfilm

The collection of newspaper clippings about Du Bois and subjects of interest to him has not been organized for use and is in poor condition physically.

NOTES ON ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION AND USE OF THE SELECTIVE ITEM LIST AND INDEX

The most important limitation of the Guide and the Selective Item List is that they are only selective; they are not, and could not attempt to be, a complete listing of the 130,000 or so pages in the Papers. An attempt to single out all historically significant items can never fully succeed, and the only way a reader can be sure of finding all letters written by or to a given correspondent, or all of Du Bois' or others' letters on a particular subject, is to read through all possibly relevant sections of the microfilm. An attempt was indeed made, for certain correspondents of special significance, to identify all of their letters to or from Du Bois found in the Papers. But because of the size of such a task, the listing of a personal or organizational correspondent at one point in the Guide does not guarantee that all letters to, from, or about that correspondent in the Papers have been listed.

An attempt was made to identify and date all correspondence and correspondence-related materials (such as enclosures) so that they could be filed appropriately, but some materials could not be fully identified and dated. The alphabetical sequence (or two sequences during the *Crisis* years 1911-1934) for each year is followed by any unidentified letters known to have been written or received during that year and any non-correspondence miscellany that was found with that year's correspondence but could not be placed with certainty with any of the individual letters. Much of it was probably enclosures.

The yearly files are followed by a sequence of material that could not be dated with any certainty. That material is arranged alphabetically if the name of the correspondent could be established. Thus anyone interested in all the correspondence by or to a particular individual or organization should search the "undated" section as well as the yearly files. This identified but undated material is followed by correspondence for which neither date nor author (or recipient) could be determined. As in the yearly files, much of this miscellany may be enclosures which were separated from letters.

After most of the microfilming of the Du Bois Papers had been completed, some 1,500 to 2,000 pages of correspondence were received from the estate of Shirley Graham Du Bois. It was impracticable to make the numerous splices that would put these items into proper sequence with the rest of the correspondence. Therefore, they were arranged and filmed as a single alphabetical Supplement, which occupies Reel 79 of the film.

A collection of Du Bois' personal materials has been arranged as part of the correspondence, on Reels 77 and 78. This includes his correspondence with his secretaries and assistants, lecture and appointment schedules and calendars, notes, statements, and financial items. These materials are arranged by year.

In a collection of this size and character it did not prove possible to place every item in perfect filing order. For example, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, when abbreviated "NAACP" as it often is, may have its correspondence in any given year filed under National Association..., or as an abbreviation at the beginning or the ending of the N's, and it or any other entry may have been filed, and therefore filmed, in one alphabetical position in one year and a different position in a different year.

Where an individual wrote or received a letter primarily as a representative of an organization rather than on his own behalf, the letter is filed under the name of the organization. In the Selective Item List such letters are listed and alphabetized by name of the organization, with the name of the individual following in parentheses (). A reader seeking all the correspondence to or from an individual can use the index for help in locating such letters, with the usual caution that all listings in the Guide are selective, and the additional caution that in such cases the letters are actually filed and filmed under the name of the organization even when the index includes an entry under the name of the individual.

As a means of providing at least a modest subject approach to the correspondence, a good many names of individuals and organizations and a very small number of what were judged the most important general subjects dealt with in the correspondence were singled out for mention in the index as subjects (not merely as correspondents). For these entries also, both the listings in the Item List and the references in the index are selective rather than complete, and both the year and the name of the author or recipient are necessary in order to locate the correspondence in the body of the Guide and in the microfilm.

Reel and frame numbers have been added to the Selective Item List to enable the user to move quickly from the Guide to the microfilm. Only one frame number has been used for each description, corresponding to the first actual frame in which the relevant material appears. The material in question may continue through many succeeding frames. The index to the correspondence provides the year and alphabetical entry in the Selective Item List, where more detail and reel and frame numbers can be found. However, it must be noted that in any group of correspondence with a person or organization during a year, the Index, like the Selective Item List, gives only the frame number where that group of correspondence begins, whether the particular item listed in the index occurs on the first, second, or a much " later frame in the sequence^Therefore, if an indexed item is not found on the frame 1 isted in the index, the user may need to scan all correspondence with the same correspondent on the frames that follow.

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THE PAPERS OF W.E.B. DU BOIS MICROFILM REEL LIST

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