

**The Inventory
of the
Dorothy West
Collection
#611**

Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center



West, Dorothy

1972,1973

Box 1

Manuscript Cullen, Countee "Sonnet in Absence" Paris, July 1933. Typescript
signed, 1 p. (Folder 1)

Letters, postcards: 9 TLS, 18 ALS, 8 postcards (Folder 2) 1927-1949

Including: Barthé, Richmond ALS "Thursday nite" with envel. postmarked
Feb. 7, 1936

Bontemps, Arna TLS n.d.

Burleigh, Harry T. ALS June 9, 1933 with envel.

Cullen, Countee ALS April 16, 1931 with envel. (Folder 2a)

ALS May 7, 1931 with envel.

ALS June 15, 1931 with envel.

ALS (postcard) July 16, 1931

ALS Aug. 1, 1931 with envel.

ALS May 10, 1932 with envel.

ALS June 11, 1932 with envel.

ALS (postcard) July 12, 1933.

ALS Aug. 25, 1933 with envel.

TLS Sept. 21, 1933 with envel.

ALS July 17, 1934 with envel.

TLS "Wednesday: with envel. postmarked

Dec. 19, 1934

ALS (postcard) July 17, 1936

Letters, postcards continued (Folder 2)

Hughes, Langston TLS Dec. 5, 1933

ALS Jan. 30, 1934 with envel.

ALS Feb. 22, 1934

Hurston, Zora Neale ALS March 24, 1927 ✓

ALS March 24, 1934

McKay, Claude TLS June 10, 1937 with envel.

ALS (postcard) June 3, 1938

TLS Oct. 5, 1940 with envel.

co-edited Challenge ? [Minus] Marion ALS, no salutation with envel post.
Schomburg, Arthur A. ALS Feb. 28, 1934 with envel. Oct. 21, 36.

Thurman, Wallace ALS September 12, 1934 with envel.

Van Vechten, Carl TLS Nov. 3, 1933 with envel.

TLS Feb. 11, 1934 with envel.

TLS Feb. 27 1934

TLS (postcard) March 24, 1942

ALS (postcard) Oct. 3, 1944

ALS (postcard) Dec. 22, 1949

ALS (Postcard) date obliterated, ca. 1934.

Christmas cards 6, undated (Folder 3)✓Barthé, Richmond 1 card signed, 2 others with printed signatures
and reproductions of his work.

Burleigh, Harry T. Card signed.

McKay, Claude Card signed.

Van Vechten, Carl Card with printed signature and that of wife.

Photographs (#4)

Zora Neale Hurston

2 snapshots : one alone, one sitting on running
board of the Chevrolet given her by Charlotte
W. C. Handy with Langston Hughes. Signed by Handy Osgood Mason.
(neg. also)TWO small photos of Dorothy West: one head and shoulders, 1948, for
bookjacket ; one of her signing books.]

Removed
7/15/99
for photo copies

West, Dorothy

Addenda November 1981

Given to Dr. Adelaide Gulliver by Miss Turner

Box 1 I. LETTERS (#5)

Four letters from Dorothy West in Russia to Grace and Marie Turner in Boston and Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard. 1932-1933.

Dorothy West went to Russia as an actress member of a group of 22 black Americans to make a movie for the Meschrapbom Film Corporation of Moscow. The members of the group, mainly young Northern intellectuals, paid their own way to Russia. Among them were actor Wayland Rudd, actress Sylvia Garner, and the writer Langston Hughes. (See the chapter "Moscow Movie" in Hughes' I WONDER AS I WANDER, 1956, for a description of his experiences in Russia) The movie was to be called "Black and White" and to take place in Birmingham, Alabama. The script turned out to be implausible and the film was never made. Dorothy West and some of the others stayed on in Russia after the original film plans had collapsed.

1. ALS to "My darlings". July 13, 1932. 4p. on 2 leaves, with envelope addressed to The Misses Grace and Marie Turner. Describes trip to Russia by way of Germany and Finland; Langston Hughes took her riding in a horse and buggy at Helsingfors. They visited Leningrad and have settled in Moscow where they are staying at the Grand Hotel.

- Box 1 2. ALS to "My darlings". November 22, [1932]. 7p. With envelope (#5)
addressed to the Misses Grace and Marie Turner. Has been all over
Russia; "I have been living very furiously and learning very much."
Planning to stay on until spring in "This grand experimental
country". Has lived in "quite bourgeois style". Describes life
of the average Russian. Has traveled to Odessa, Tiflis, across
the Georgian Highway to Vladivostock and to the Dneproges dam.
3. ALS to Marie Turner. [Dec.1932]. 4p. on 2 leaves. With Russian
bill for Christmas dinner; DW's holograph note on verso describing
foods. With envelope. Describes places she has visited in
Russia, the closed stores for foreigners to shop in, her Christmas
dinner; the money exchange rate. "I am absorbing this great
experiment to the full."
4. AL to Marie Turner. January 7, [1933]. 3p. on folded leaf. Letter
appears incomplete, no signature. With envelope. On letterhead
of Nord deutscher Lloyd Bremen (crossed out). Describes Christmas
in Russia where Christmas trees are forbidden, winter clothing of
children and of peasants. It has not been excessively cold but
snows continuously. Only 6 of the original group are left. "I
have signed a new contract with Meschrapbom and will be here five
months longer."

II. PRINTED PIECES ABOUT HER BOOK "THE LIVING IS EASY". (#6)

- A. Houghton Mifflin Publicity Release. May 13, 1948. Mimeograph, 2p.
B. "Dorothy West's Book Not Banned". Clip from unidentified newspaper.

WEST, DOROTHY
#611
Addendum September 1991
Gift of Karen Mix

Box 1 VIDEOTAPE

"As I Remember It: A Portrait of
Dorothy West"

Written, produced and directed by Salem
Mekura.

Taped from Channel 2 on September 24,
1991.

Addenda May 1996
Gift of Adelaide Cromwell

Letters: (#7)

West; Dorothy to Adelaide Cromwell
ALS "Friday", n.d. 1p.

ALS "Thirteen January" 1971?, 2p.

Addendum May 1996
from Dorothy West

Photocopy of letter, September 29, 1977, from Adelaide
Cromwell's secretary to New York Public Library,
listing short stories by DW which appeared in the New
York Daily News, 1940s-1960s. (#8)

WEST, DOROTHY
#661
Addendum August 1999

Box 1 [F 9]

A. Manuscripts: The Wedding

1. Outline of The Wedding, 11p.
2. First version, holograph, 9p.
3. Holo. notes, 7p.

B. Correspondence

1. Note by D.W. "Writer at Work"
2. Note from Scott Moyers re: The Wedding
3. Note by D.W. re: Jesse Jackson Cuba trip. Holo.

C. Printed

1. Interview by D.W. with Calvin Butts; describes Jackson's Cuba trip, 26p.

D. Visual

1. Photo of D.W. for book jacket of The Wedding