

# DODSON, OWEN, 1914-1983.

## Owen Dodson papers, 1910-1998

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## Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Dodson, Owen, 1914-1983.
- Title:** Owen Dodson papers, 1910-1998
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1162
- Extent:** 12.25 linear ft. (26 boxes), 15 oversized papers (OP), 1 bound volume (BV), and AV Masters: .5 linear ft.
- Abstract:** Papers of African American playwright, director, and poet Owen Dodson including correspondence; notes and drafts of poetry, scripts, novels, and other writings; subject files; printed material; personal files; photographs; and audio recordings.
- Language:** Materials entirely in English.
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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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### Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Owen Dodson collection](#), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University and [Countee Cullen/Harold Jackman memorial collection](#), Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center.

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**Source**

Gift, 2010.

**Custodial History**

Originally part of the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives at Emory University.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Owen Dodson papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Elizabeth Roke, August 2011.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Owen Dodson (1914-1983), African American playwright, director, and poet. He served for many years as professor of drama at Howard University, where he became known as the "Dean of Black Theater." Dodson graduated from Bates College in 1936 and then studied at Yale Drama School, graduating with an MFA in 1939. While there, he met, among others, W. H. Auden, with whom he developed a lifelong friendship. He served briefly in the United States Navy, producing plays designed to improve the morale of Black seamen. During this period and throughout his career, Dodson wrote and directed plays and served as a teacher of drama. His pursuits in the humanities were recognized during his life. He received the Rosenwald Fellowship in 1944, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1953, and a Rockefeller Grant in 1969.

As a writer and director of plays, Dodson was closely involved in the world of theater. He was known for his creative casting, and his directing work allowed him to form close friendships with Earle Hyman and Gordon Heath. His plays provide insight into the twentieth-century African American experience. *Divine Comedy* explores the stories surrounding Father Divine, and *Bayou Legend*, a re-imagined Peer Gynt set in Louisiana, was widely performed. Dodson's place in drama was acknowledged when Owen's Song, a celebration of Dodson's work by Glenda Dickerson, was performed at the Kennedy Center in 1974.

Dodson taught first at Spelman College before his time in the Navy, and then spent twenty years at Howard University from 1947-1967 where he directed the Howard University Players. While working as a professor, Dodson often spent his summers involved in drama education at places including University of California Santa Barbara and Lincoln University. He also taught creative writing.

Dodson was also a poet and novelist. His first volume of poems, *Powerful Long Ladder*, was published to great acclaim in 1946. This was followed in 1951 by the autobiographical novel, *Boy at the Window*. He also published a collection of poems in 1968 as *The Confession Stone* (1968), revised and enlarged two years later as *The Confession Stone: Song Cycles*. In 1978, Dodson co-authored a collection of poetry and photographs titled *The Harlem Book of the Dead* with Camille Billops and James Van Der Zee.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the papers of Owen Dodson from 1910-1998. The papers document the development of Dodson's writing career, as well as his involvement in education, race relations, theatre, and the film industry. Materials include correspondence (1910-1982); notes and drafts of poetry, scripts, novels, and other writings (1932-1987); subject files (1929-1995); printed material (1910-1998); personal files (1919-1983); photographs (1912-1979); and audio recordings (1960-1984).

Correspondence contains personal and professional correspondence, including correspondence with family members. Writings consist of Owen Dodson's published and unpublished writings, as well as writings by others and includes notes and drafts of articles and essays, the unpublished "Gossip Book", notes and notebooks, novels, poems, scripts, short stories, speeches, and student writing. Subject files document organizations in which Dodson participated including the Howard University Players and includes files for plays he wrote or directed. Printed material includes newspaper clippings, fliers, programs, and other material by or relating to Dodson. Personal files include certificates, biographical information, bibliographies, and personal materials such as passports. Personal files also contain business records related to Dodson's publishing and material related to his family. Photographs cover the span of Owen Dodson's life, from his early childhood and junior high school days through his time in the Navy, his work at Howard University, and his literary and theatrical careers. Audio recordings are mostly interviews by James Vernon Hatch for his biography of Dodson, *Sorrow is the Only Faithful One*.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into seven series: (1) Correspondence, (2) Writings, (3) Subject files, (4) Printed material, (5) Personal files, (6) Photographs, and (7) Audio recordings.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Correspondence, 1910-1982](#)

[Series 2: Writings, 1932-1987](#)

[Series 3: Subject files, 1929-1995](#)

[Series 4: Printed material, 1910-1998](#)

[Series 5: Personal, 1919-1983](#)

[Series 6: Photographs, 1912-1979](#)

[Series 7: Audio recordings, 1960-1984](#)

## **Series 1**

### **Correspondence, 1910-1982**

#### **Boxes 1-6**

#### **Scope and Content Note**

The series contains personal and professional correspondence of Owen Dodson from 1910-1982. The correspondence is divided into three sections: family, people, and general.

The family section of the correspondence contains letters to and among Owen Dodson, his brother Kenneth Dodson, his sister Lillian Dodson, and his sister Edith Dodson. Some letters are addressed to multiple family members. The correspondence begins with Owen Dodson's letters home from Bates College and Yale University in the 1930s. Many of the letters from 1937-1939 are from Kenneth Dodson, who had a close relationship with Owen and passed away in 1940. Later correspondence is primarily among Lillian, Edith, and Owen; the bulk is from Edith. The correspondence also contains numerous letters and postcards from Owen's trips abroad, documenting the range of his travels. Other correspondence in this section includes a 1910 letter from Booker T. Washington to Owen Dodson's father Nathaniel Dodson, who was his press agent.

The people section of the correspondence contains letters to and from major figures and close friends, documenting Dodson's relationships in the literary and theatrical worlds. Correspondence with publishers is also included in this section.

The general correspondence includes letters not involving family or major figures. This section predominantly contains correspondence relating to speaking engagements, fellowships, teaching positions, and recommendations. Letters to and from acquaintances are also located in the general correspondence.

#### **Arrangement Note**

Family and general correspondence arranged in chronological order. Some correspondence arranged by correspondent.

#### **Family**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Undated
1	2	1910-1936
1	3	1937-1939
1	4	1940-1941
1	5	1944-1948
1	6	1949-1950
1	7	1951-1953
1	8	1954-1962
1	9	1968-1974
1	10	1975-1982

#### **People**

1	11	Ammann, Kurt, 1968
1	12	Amram, David, undated, 1967-1968
1	13	Angelou, Maya, 1973
1	14	Auden, W.H., undated, 1939-1954
2	1	Baldwin, Faith, 1946
2	2	Baldwin, James, 1955
2	3	Barbour, Floyd, 1963-1977
2	4	Barthé, Richmond, 1967-1972
2	5	Bass, George Houston, 1965
2	6	Benét, Stephen Vincent, 1941
2	7	Berkelman, Robert, undated, 1966-1974
2	8	Bethea, Ednah, 1944-1976
2	9	Biddle, Katherine, undated
2	10	Boyd, Marc, undated, 1970
2	11	Braut, Thomas, 1964-1969
2	12	Bright, Helen, 1973
2	13	Brooks, Gwendolyn, 1960-1973
2	14	Bullins, Ed, 1977
2	15	Callahan, Jim and Virginia Callahan, undated
2	16	Carling, Finn, 1960-1971
2	17	Christensen, Carlo, 1957
2	18	Christmas, St. Clair, 1971
2	19	Claas, Peter, 1964
2	20	Coe, Richard, 1974-1980
2	21	Cullen, Countee and Ida Cullen, 1945-1946
2	22	Davis, Arthur, 1973
2	23	Davis, Clinton, 1980
2	24	Dee, Ruby, 1973
2	25	Dickerson, Glenda Townes, 1974-1981
2	26	Du Bois, W.E.B., 1942
2	27	Duckett, Alfred, 1969
2	28	DuWors, Richard, 1969
2	29	Ede, Jim, 1979-1985
2	30	Eliot, T.S., 1952
2	31	Engle, Paul, 1971
2	32	Erni, Malcolm, undated, 1967-1968
2	33	Farrar, Pauline, 1951-1952
2	34	Farrar, Straus and Company, and Giroux, 1946-1982
2	35	Faulkner, William, 1944

2	36	Fauset, Jessie, 1945
2	37	Fax, Mark, 1968-1971
2	38	Foote, Horton, undated
2	39	Forsyth, James, 1963-1974
2	40	Franklin, John Hope, 1971
2	41	Fratti, Mario, 1966-1971
2	42	Frederick, John T., 1944-1946
2	43	Fried, Milton, Philoime and Michael, 1968-1985
2	44	Gaffney, Floyd, 1969-1973
2	45	Gielgud, John, 1965
2	46	Hagen, Uta, 1973
2	47	Harrison, Paul Carter, 1967
2	48	Hatch, James, undated, 1969-1983
2	49	Hayden, Robert, 1967-1972
2	50	Heath, Gordon, undated
3	1	Heath, Gordon, 1938-1949
3	2	Heath, Gordon, 1950-1955
3	3	Heath, Gordon, 1956-1967
3	4	Heath, Gordon, 1968-1974
3	5	Heath, Gordon, 1975-1980
3	6	Heath, Priscilla, undated, 1941-1980
3	7	Heimbach, Sylvia, 1978-1979
3	8	Hughes, Langston, 1952, 1966
3	9	Hunt, Alma, 1965
3	10	Hyman, Earle, 1949-1980
3	11	Jackman, Harold and Ivie Jackman, 1974
3	12	Jacobsmeier, Diane, undated
3	13	Jelliffe, Rowena and Russell Jelliffe, 1951-1970
3	14	Jessye, Eva, 1973
3	15	Johnson, Helen, 1972-1974
3	16	Jonathan Cape, Inc., Publishers, 1969
3	17	Kelch, Beverly, 1974-1975
3	18	Kenseth, Arnold, 1968-1977
3	19	Kerouac, Jack, 1950
3	20	Kibble, Cortez and Mabel Cortez, 1967
3	21	Killens, John O., 1974
3	22	King, Cynthia Barksdale, 1968
3	23	Kitamura, Takao, 1968
3	24	Lafour, Franklin, 1970-1974

3	25	La Gallienne, Eva, 1967-1972
3	26	Lawson, Warner, 1965-1966
3	27	Lenya, Lotte and George Davis, 1951-1957
3	28	Leonard, John and Margaret Leonard, 1964
3	29	Lewis, Robert, 1973-1979
3	30	Locke, Alain, 1951
4	1	MacLeish, Archibald, 1955
4	2	Major, Clarence, 1972
4	3	Malet, Eduardo, 1952
4	4	McIver, Ralph, 1969-1972
4	5	Michael, Charles, 1969
4	6	Miller, May, 1975-1980
4	7	Miller, Ruth, 1964
4	8	Miniclier, Louis, 1970-1974
4	9	Mitchell, Lofton, 1951
4	10	Montgomery, William, undated, 1971-1972
4	11	Morrison, Toni, 1980
4	12	Newman, Geoffrey, undated
4	13	Nicoll, Allardyce, 1941-1966
4	14	Norman, Jessye, 1968
4	15	O'Brien, John, 1971-1973
4	16	Oenslager, Donald, 1974
4	17	Paul Breman Limited Publishers & Booksellers, 1967-1974
4	18	Parchowski, Alain, undated, 1968
4	19	Payant, Lee, undated, 1969-1974
4	20	Peters, Brock, 1972
4	21	Pollock, Helen, 1968-1972
4	22	Pool, Rosey, 1968-1971
4	23	Priebe, Karl, 1945-1955
4	24	Publishers (other), 1938-1980
4	25	Randall, Dudley, 1972-1974
4	26	Ray, David, University of Missouri, 1971-1974
4	27	Reid, Anne and Ira Reid, 1941-1973
4	28	Reynolds, Thomas, Bates College, 1967-1977
4	29	Rieser, Leonard and Peggy Rieser, 1943-1944
4	30	Rieser, Leonard and Peggy Rieser, 1945-1947
4	31	vRieser, Leonard and Peggy Rieser, 1948-1958
4	32	Riley, Norman, 1971-1972
4	33	Robeson, Essie, 1939-1941



4	34	Ross, Dorothy, undated, 1974-1977
4	35	Russell, Jim, 1968-1969
4	36	Sachetti, Giocondo, 1967
5	1	Schaffner, John, 1938-1966
5	2	Scott, Claude, 1967
5	3	Sebree, Charles, 1944-1959
5	4	Selig, Richard and Florence Selig, 1956-1968
5	5	Shine, Ted, 1967-1974
5	6	Shine, Ted, undated, 1978-1982
5	7	Silvera, Frank, 1968
5	8	Simons, Ellen, 1979-1982
5	9	Smith, Esther, 1967
5	10	Stock, Mildred, 1968
5	11	Stowe, Tom, 1967-1982
5	12	Swallow, William, 1945
5	13	Taylor, Prentiss, undated, 1949
5	14	Thomas Jefferson High School, 1964-1974
5	15	Trajtenberg, Mario, 1960-1962
5	16	Ulderigo, Grassi, 1953
5	17	Van Vechten, Carl, undated, 1943-1952
5	18	Vaughan, James, 1967
5	19	Wadkins, Janice, 1966
5	20	Wesselius, Rudi and Ina Wesselius, 1969
5	21	White, Edgar, 1973
5	22	Wilder, Thornton, 1957-1960
5	23	Williams, Billy Dee, undated
5	24	Willis, Bob, 1977
5	25	Wright, Richard, 1940-1959
5	26	Yu, Peter, 1970-1974

**General**

5	27	Undated
5	28	1938-1949
5	29	1950-1959
6	1	1960-1966
6	2	1967
6	3	1968
6	4	1969
6	5	1970
6	6	1971

6	7	1972
6	8	1973
6	9	1974-1975
6	10	1976-1979
6	11	1980-1982

**Series 2**  
**Writings, 1932-1987**  
**Boxes 7-16 and 26**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series consists of Owen Dodson's published and unpublished writings, as well as writings by others, from 1932-1987. Materials include drafts, notes, and a small amount of printed material directly pertaining to drafts. Writings by Dodson consists of articles and essays, the unpublished "Gossip Book", notes and notebooks, novels, poems, scripts, short stories, speeches, and student writing. Writings by others include drafts of short pieces kept by Dodson.

Articles and essays by Dodson demonstrate his interest in the Harlem Renaissance, his literary predecessors, and the theatre. The "Gossip Book", an unpublished collection of vignettes about literary, political, and musical figures, records Dodson's memories of his time at Howard University. His notes and notebooks from the 1930s show the development of some of his early plays and also provide insight into his critical judgments of prominent playwrights. Later notebooks pertain to his teaching and commentary on theatrical works. Material relating to his novels primarily consists of notes for unpublished projects, although there is a partial draft of his semi-autobiographical novel *Come Home Early, Child*.

Poetry and scripts constitute the largest part of the series. Dodson's poetry shows the eclectic influences of Harlem Renaissance poets, W.H. Auden, William Stanley Braithwaite, and classical poetry. Multiple drafts exist for many of the poems. The scripts show Dodson's development as a playwright from his years at Yale in the 1930s through the end of his life. Of particular interest are the multiple drafts of his major works *Bayou Legend* and *Divine Comedy*.

A smaller amount of material pertains to Dodson's speeches, short stories, and student writings. The small section of writings by others includes writings about Dodson in the form of introductions, essays, and tributes; poems; lyrics and musical scores; and speeches, essays, and articles on a variety of topics.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Articles and essays**

Box	Folder	Content
7	1	"An Appreciation of the Bibliography by James Hatch and Omanii Abdullah"
7	2	"The Following is a True Story"
7	3	"The Harlem Renaissance: A Personal View"
7	4	Memorial tribute to W. H. Auden, 1974
7	5	"Mene, Mene Teckle Upharsin", (You have been Weighed in the Balance and Found Wanting)
7	6	"Playwrights in Dark Glasses"
7	7	Reviews, 1963-1980 and undated
7	8	"Who has Seen the Wind", Part I, 1977
7	9	"Who has Seen the Wind", Part II, 1977

7 10 "Who has Seen the Wind", Part III, 1977

**"Gossip Book" (unpublished)**

7 11 Amram, David  
 7 12 *Arsenic and Old Lace*  
 7 13 Atlanta University Dean of Women  
 7 14 Baldwin, James  
 7 15 Baraka, Imamu Amiri  
 7 16 Bates College and Robert Birkelman  
 7 17 Braithwaite, William Stanley  
 7 18 Bryant, Joyce  
 7 19 Charlotte Amalie High School  
 7 20 Committee for Mass Education in Race Relations  
 7 21 Cullen, Countee  
 7 22 Death  
 7 23 Dowling, Eddie  
 7 24 Du Bois, W.E.B.  
 7 25 Duse, Eleanora/European Tour  
 7 26 Ellington, Duke  
 7 27 Europe, 1949  
 7 28 Evanti (Lillian Evans-Tibbs)  
 7 29 Fables  
 7 30 Family  
 7 31 Father Divine  
 7 32 Grimke, Angelina  
 7 33 Harriott, Frank  
 7 34 Harten, T.S.  
 7 35 Holiday, Billie  
 7 36 Howard University  
 7 37 Hughes, Langston  
 7 38 Hyman, Earle  
 7 39 Ischia/Richard Selig  
 7 40 Johnson, Georgia Douglas  
 7 41 Keith  
 7 42 Keith, Kermit  
 7 43 Library of Congress reading  
 7 44 Locke, Alain  
 7 45 McKay, Claude  
 7 46 McNeil, Claudia/Raisin in the Sun  
 8 1 Notes and outline

8	2	Phelps, Myrtle
8	3	Reid, Ann Cooke
8	4	Robeson, Paul
8	5	Robinson, Edwin Arlington
8	6	Robinson, Helen
8	7	Sebree, Charles
8	8	Shakespeare 400
8	9	Shaw, Esther Pouple
8	10	Silvera, Frank
8	11	Simms, Hilda
8	12	Whipper, Leigh
8	13	Wilkerson, Frederick
8	14	Wright, Richard

**Notes and notebooks**

8	15	1930s [1 of 3]
8	16	1930s [2 of 3]
8	17	1930s [3 of 3]
8	18	"12 Gates to the City"
8	19	"Black Vaudville", 1968
8	20	<i>The Seagull</i> by Anton Chekhov
8	21	Teaching
8	22	Tennessee Williams
8	23	Unidentified

**Novels**

8	24	<i>April is the Cruellest Month</i> , book proposal
8	25	<i>Come Home Early Child</i> , notes
8	26	<i>Come Home Early Child</i> , partial draft
8	27	<i>Flesh to Violets</i> , [unpublished] notes, 1978

**Poems**

8	28	1930s
8	29	"After the Lynching", 1938
8	30	"Allegory of Black Seafaring Mothers"
8	31	"Am I Kidding?"
8	32	"Asking"
8	33	"At Now"
8	34	"Ballad of Badmen", 1968
8	35	"Bleeding Lamb"

8	36	"Bazaar"
8	37	"Cages"
8	38	"Carl Van Vechten"
8	39	"Cast our Kits"
8	40	"A Certain Glory" [Christmas poem], 1974
8	41	"Christmas Day 1977 at Swanstowe Bermuda"
8	42	Christmas poems, 1940, 1943, 1979
8	43	"Chronicles from Outer Space"
8	44	"The Clown"
8	45	Compilation notes
8	46	"Crazy Woman to the Virgin"
8	47	"Crystal us the Future"
8	48	"Did Bessie Smith Sing This?"
8	49	"Dogwood and Charred Rope"
8	50	"Easter, 1941"
8	51	"The Enemy"
8	52	"The Failure"
8	53	"For Billie Holiday"
8	54	"For Charles Hughes"
8	55	"For the Inaugural of a Leader"
8	56	"For Kermit"
8	57	"For Kermit Keith's Grandfather"
8	58	"For Margaret Banner"
8	59	"For Marvin", September 1964
8	60	"For Pearl Fisher"
8	61	"For Peggy"
8	62	"For Peter Yu"
8	63	"For Robert Berkelman"
9	1	"For Ted Shine"
9	2	"For W. H. Auden"
9	3	"Funeral Sermon for a Poet"
9	4	"Grand Central Station"
9	5	"Harlem Book of the Dead"
9	6	"Hymn Written after Jeremiah Preach to me in a Dream"
9	7	"I am Tierrieas"
9	8	"I was a Champ"
9	9	"Ira Aldridge"
9	10	"It is Goodnight"
9	11	"Job's Lament"

- 9 12 "Judas" circa 1952  
9 13 "Karia (As She was Baptised)"  
9 14 "King Lear and the Fool", 1939  
9 15 "Lady-O"  
9 16 "Let's Say"  
9 17 "Lonesome Blues"  
9 18 "Lullaby for the children of Montgomery, Alabama"  
9 19 "The Lynching", 1938  
9 20 "The Morning Duke Ellington Praised the Lord and Seven Little Black Davids  
Tapped Danced Unto" [1 of 2]  
9 21 "The Morning Duke Ellington Praised the Lord and Seven Little Black Davids  
Tap-Danced Unto" [2 of 2]  
9 22 "The Morning Duke Ellington Praised the Lord and Six Little Black Davids Tap-  
Danced Unto"  
9 23 "My Love is Tender of the Holy Crosses"  
9 24 "Not the Dead"  
9 25 "Note Left on a Door"  
9 26 "Oh I am Pleased"  
9 27 "On My Birthday", 1982  
9 28 "On My Twenty-Ninth Birthday", 1943  
9 29 "One Day"  
9 30 "Open Letter" [Christmas Poem], 1945  
9 31 "Pearl Primus"  
9 32 "Please"  
9 33 "Prayer for Christmas" 1951  
9 34 "Prisoners"  
9 35 "Rite in Spring"  
9 36 "The Reason"  
9 37 "Round Song for Eleanor Traylor on her December Birthdays", December 1966  
9 38 "Round Song", December 1982  
9 39 "Sailors on Leave"  
9 40 "Seashell"  
9 41 "Sickle Pears"  
9 42 "Six O' Clock"  
9 43 "Sleep"  
9 44 "Song Cycle for Jessye Norman"  
9 45 "Song for Myself", 1977  
9 46 "Song Written in a Boat", 1958  
9 47 "Spiritual"  
9 48 "A Star"

9	49	"The Star"
9	50	"Stay Where You Are-Chile"
9	51	"Summing up by the Defendant", 1960
9	52	"Tell Rachel, He Whispered"
9	53	"Three Colors for You"
9	54	"Time Between"
9	55	"Trains Passing in the Night"
9	56	"Trilogy for Earle Hyman", 1960
9	57	"A Trip", 1980
9	58	"The Un-cool People"
9	59	Unidentified fragments
10	1	"Vertigo"
10	2	"War Games"
10	3	"We Share the Greed"
10	4	"Well Hey Now"
10	5	"What the News Had"
10	6	"The White Stone", 1934
10	7	"Who is Secret"
10	8	"Who Speaks?" 1961
10	9	"The Widows Talk"
10	10	"The Winning Daylight"
10	11	"Yardbird's Skull (For Charlie Parker)", 1968
10	12	"You October Birds"

**Poems, collected**

10	13	"Cageo", 1953
10	14	"Illusions in the City Streets", notes and drafts
10	15	"Illusions in the City Streets," proposal
10	16	"The Lyric Year", 1930s
10	17	<i>Signifying Darkness</i> , table of contents
10	18	"The Sky is Falling", 1978

**Scripts**

10	19	<i>Always Go Up</i> , notes
10	20	<i>Amistad</i> , 1939 [photocopy]
10	21	<i>April Is the Cruellest Month</i> , notes and fragments, 1940
10	22	<i>The Author Meets the Critics</i> , April 2, 1947
10	23	<i>The Ballad of Dorrie Miller</i> , 1943
10	24	<i>Bayou Legend</i> , notes
10	25	<i>Bayou Legend</i> , draft [1]



- 10 26 *Bayou Legend*, draft [2]  
 10 27 *Bayou Legend*, draft fragments [1 of 2]  
 11 1 *Bayou Legend*, draft fragments [2 of 2]  
 11 2 *Bayou Legend*, typescript [1]  
 11 3 *Bayou Legend*, typescript [2]  
 11 4 *Bayou Legend*, typescript [3]  
 11 5 *Climbing to the Soil*, 1943  
 11 6 *The Confession Stone*, notes and fragments  
 11 7 *The Divine Comedy*, notes and outlines  
 11 8 *The Divine Comedy*, fragments  
 11 9 *The Divine Comedy*, 2nd version, unperformed  
 12 1 *The Divine Comedy*, typescript [1]  
 12 2 *The Divine Comedy*, typescript [2]  
 12 3 *The Divine Comedy*, typescript, 1937  
 12 4 *The Divine Comedy*, typescript, 1976  
 12 5 *The Divine Comedy*, musical score  
 12 6 *Doomsday Tale*  
 12 7 *The Dream Awake*  
 12 8 *Everybody Join Hands*, 1943  
 12 9 *Freedom the Banner*  
 12 10 *Garden of Time* (alternate title: *The Golden Fleece*), 1939  
 12 11 *Gargoyles in Florida*  
 13 1 *Graffiti the Great*, 1977  
 13 2 *Graffiti the Great*, 1982  
 26 1 *The Harlem Renaissance*, partial draft of commentary, undated  
 13 3 *Including Laughter*, 1937  
 13 4 *Jane*, 1933  
 13 5 *Journey to Paradise*  
 13 6 *Justice Blindfolded*, notes and fragments  
 13 7 *Lord Nelson, Naval Hero*, 1943  
 13 8 *Mama Warm Me in Hell*  
 13 9 *The Medea of Euripides*  
 13 10 *The Midwest Mobilizes: From Parkway Community House*, 1943  
 13 11 *The Morning Duke Ellington Praised the Lord and Seven Little Black Davids*  
     *Tap-Danced Unto*, 1976 [1 of 2]  
 13 12 *The Morning Duke Ellington Praised the Lord and Seven Little Black Davids*  
     *Tap-Danced Unto*, 1976 [2 of 2]  
 13 13 *New World A-Comin'*, 1944  
 13 14 *Old Folks at Home*, notes and fragments, 1940  
 14 1 *Owen's Song*, 1974 [photocopy]

- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 14 | 2  | <i>Potsy Played Poison</i>  |
| 14 | 3  | <i>Robert Smalls</i> , 1942 [photocopy]   |
| 14 | 4  | <i>School Yard Play</i> , notes and fragments                                     |
| 14 | 5  | <i>School Yard Play</i> , typescript  |
| 14 | 6  | <i>The Shining Town</i> , 1937  |
| 14 | 7  | <i>The Shining Town</i> , 1987  |
| 14 | 8  | <i>The Sound of Soul</i> , notes  |
| 14 | 9  | <i>The Sound of Soul</i> , drafts   |
| 14 | 10 | <i>The Sound of Soul</i> , 1976   |
| 14 | 11 | <i>The Sound of Soul</i> , 1979   |
| 14 | 12 | <i>The Southern Star</i> , 1937   |
| 14 | 13 | <i>St. Louis Woman</i> , 1943   |
| 14 | 14 | <i>They Seek a City</i> , 1945  |
| 15 | 1  | <i>The Third Fourth of July</i>   |
| 15 | 2  | <i>Til' Victory Is Won</i> , notes and fragments                                  |
| 15 | 3  | <i>Til' Victory Is Won</i> , 1967   |
| 15 | 4  | <i>Til' Victory Is Won</i> [retitled <i>A Season of Summer</i> ], circa post-1967 |
| 15 | 5  | <i>Where You From?</i>  |
| 15 | 6  | <i>With This Darkness</i>   |
| 15 | 7  | Untitled plays  |

**Short stories**

- |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 15 | 8  | "Clarion"  |
| 15 | 9  | "The Giraffe and the Birds"                          |
| 15 | 10 | "The Graveyard and the Circus"                       |
| 15 | 11 | "The Gypsies Who Go by Night through the Tall Grass" |
| 15 | 12 | "The Kisses were the Color of his Hands"             |
| 15 | 13 | "The Other Self", 1935                               |
| 15 | 14 | Unidentified story about death of Dodson's father    |

**Speeches**

- |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|
| 15 | 15 | Audeko recognition award presentation to Garland Lee Thompson, November 15, 1976 |
| 15 | 16 | Valedictory address to Thomas Jefferson High School, 1932                        |

**Student writing**

- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 15 | 17 | Review of <i>Abe Lincoln in Illinois</i> , 1936 |
| 15 | 18 | "The Supernatural in the Modern Theatre", 1937  |

**Writings by others**

- |    |    |                                      |
|----|----|--------------------------------------|
| 15 | 19 | Anderson, Michael Sean, poetry, 1982 |
|----|----|--------------------------------------|

- 26 2 Croxton, Darryl, "Ode to Owen Dodson," 1975
- 15 20 Darmstadter, Karl, "Selichah"
- 15 21 Dixon-Stowell, Brenda, biography of Owen Dodson in *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Afro-American Writers, Volume I*, November 3, 1981
- 15 22 Dodson, Kenneth, essay on "Dauber" by John Masefield
- 15 23 Eberhart, Richard, introduction of Owen Dodson at Dartmouth College, January 10, 1968
- 15 24 Hatch, James V., draft of article on Owen Dodson for *World Authors*, 1986
- 15 25 Hauptman, Gerhardt, *Hannah Lee's Ascension*, translated by Regine Kurlander, 1949
- 15 26 Jackson, Patricia, "In Dedication to Owen Dodson", February 17, 1978
- 15 27 Kelch, Beverly Barnes, *A Commentary on Life in Poem and Song*, May 21, 1975
- 15 28 Miller, Francis, poetry, 1977
- 16 1 Owens, Delee, Paul Graham, Denise Collins, Lone L. Hodges, Jr., and Chico Chambers, *Seeds of Nature*, 1982
- 16 2 Raphling, Sam, *Without Rhyme or Reason*, musical score
- 16 3 Redding, J. Saunders, "Equality and Excellence: The Eternal Dilemma", keynote speech at conference on "The Image of the Negro in American Films," August 17, 1969
- 16 4 Salaam, Yusef Abdul, unidentified article on Owen Dodson
- 16 5 Smith, Theodore, poetry
- 16 6 Thompson, H. Q., song lyrics, 1981
- 16 7 Unidentified author, "La Crosse arrives in Guadeloupe"
- 16 8 Unidentified interview of Dodson
- 16 9 Wallen, John L., "The Constructive Use of Feelings"

**Series 3**  
**Subject files, 1929-1995**  
**Boxes 17-18**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains subject files collected by Owen Dodson from 1929-1995. The materials include printed material, notes, and correspondence and are primarily relating to organizations in which Dodson participated and plays he wrote or directed. Files on specific plays contain programs, other material from performances, and reviews. A number of files relate to Dodson's time at Howard University and his work with the Howard University Players. Organizations Dodson was connected to include the Committee for Mass Education in Race Relations and the Library of Congress. The file on the Committee for Mass Education in Race Relations is particularly interesting for its look into the film industry and the correspondence it contains from Edward G. Robinson, Lillian Smith, and Margaret Sullivan.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in alphabetical order.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
17	1	<i>Air Raid, Happy Journey, Til Victory is Won</i> , 1965
17	2	<i>Amen Corner</i> , 1955
17	3	<i>Amistad</i> , 1939-1972
17	4	Auden, W.H., 1973-1984
17	5	Bates College, honorary doctorate, 1967
17	6	<i>Bayou Legend</i> , 1948-1995
17	7	BBC, 1968
17	8	Berriman Junior High School, 1929-1952
17	9	Bryant, David, 1971
17	10	Carnegie Fund for Authors, 1972
17	11	<i>Charade</i> , 1961
17	12	<i>A Christmas Miracle</i> , 1958
17	13	Committee for Mass Education in Race Relations, 1944-1946
17	14	Community Church of New York, 1968-1982
17	15	<i>Confession Stone</i>
17	16	<i>Constellation of Women</i> , 1950-1973
17	17	Davis, Ossie
17	18	<i>Defiant Island</i>
17	19	<i>Divine Comedy</i> , 1938-1977
17	20	<i>The Dream Awake</i> , 1968-1969
17	21	<i>Dutchman, Sho is Hot in The Cotton Patch</i>
17	22	<i>Electra</i> , 1949
17	23	Elzy, Robert, 1972

- 17 24 *Emperor Jones*, 1953  
 17 25 *Fly Blackbird*, 1963  
 17 26 Ford Foundation, 1955-1972  
 17 27 *Garden of Time*, 1939-1945  
 17 28 Guggenheim Foundation, 1953-1968  
 17 29 *Hamlet*, 1964  
 17 30 Harlem School of the Arts, 1971  
 17 31 Harvard University, Black Theatre  
 17 32 Howard University Fine Arts Building, 1961-1970  
 17 33 Howard University Players, 1957-1979  
 17 34 Howard University Research Grant, 1968  
 17 35 Inner City Cultural Center, 1968-1972  
 17 36 King, Julia, 1959  
 18 1 Library of Congress, 1960-1973  
 18 2 *Medea in Africa*, 1963  
 18 3 Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, 1970-1981  
 18 4 *Morning, Noon and Night*, 1962  
 18 5 National Endowment for the Arts, 1976  
 18 6 Navy, 1942-1943  
 18 7 Negro Actors Guild, 1981  
 18 8 *Oedipus Rex*, 1966-1967  
 18 9 *Oranges, Auto Sacramental, The Bird Cage*  
 18 10 *Owen's Song*, 1974-1975  
 18 11 P.E.N., 1972  
 18 12 *Powerful Long Ladder*, 1947-1980  
 18 13 *Return, The Academy, The Sandbox*  
 18 14 Rockefeller Foundation, 1967-1968  
 18 15 Ruth Stephan Poetry Center, 1963-1976  
 18 16 Sebree, Charles  
 18 17 Shakespeare Anniversary Committee, 1964  
 18 18 *Sound of Soul*, 1978-1979  
 18 19 *Streetcar Named Desire*, 1965  
 18 20 Theatre Lobby Productions  
 18 21 Thomas, Edna, 1974  
 18 22 *Til' Victory Is Won*, 1965-1982  
 18 23 *Trojan Women*, 1936  
 18 24 University of California Santa Barbara, Summer Institute in Repertory Theatre,  
 1968  
 18 25 YMCA and YWCA, 1934-1938  
 18 26 York College, 1971-1974

**Series 4**  
**Printed material, 1910-1998**  
**Boxes 19-21 and 26; OP1-13**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains printed material by and about Owen Dodson, as well as materials relating to Dodson's family and general printed material collected by Dodson from 1910-1998. Printed material by Dodson includes articles, drama, poetry, and reviews and documents some of Dodson's more famous works and the publications where his work appeared. Reviews are primarily from the *Washington Afro-American* and highlight Dodson's involvement in the Washington drama scene, as well as Dodson's views on twentieth-century theater.

Printed material about Dodson contains clippings, conference material, fliers, and programs that mention Dodson. This section also includes two yearbooks, *Vista* from Thomas Jefferson High School and *The Mirror* from Bates College. The yearbooks document Dodson's early years and include inscriptions from fellow students.

The family section includes printed material that references Dodson's family, especially his brother, Kenneth Dodson. General printed consists of items collected by Dodson, including clippings, theater programs, and materials from Bates College.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Printed material by Dodson**

**Articles**

Box	Folder	Content
26	3	"Color U.S.A.," undated
19	1	"The Special Wonder of the Theater", <i>The Washingtonian</i> , February 1966
19	2	"Oedipus", <i>world theatre</i> , Vol. 15, No. 5, September-October 1966
19	3	"Who Has Seen the Wind?" <i>New York Amsterdam News</i> , National Scene Magazine Supplement, November-December 1976
19	4	"Who Has Seen The Wind?: Part III", <i>Black American Literature Forum</i> , Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 1980

**Drama**

19	5	<i>Freedom, the Banner, Callaloo</i> No.21, Vol. 7, No. 2, Spring-Summer 1984
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**Poetry**

19	6	"Rhythm", <i>The Garnet</i> , June 1933
19	7	<i>Negro History: A Sonnet Sequence</i> , <i>New Masses</i> , April 14, 1936
19	8	"Black Mother Praying in the Summer 1943", <i>Common Ground</i> , Winter 1944
19	9	"For Edwin R. Embree", <i>Phylon</i> , Vol. 7, No. 4, 1946
19	10	"Sorrow Is the Only Faithful One", <i>The Hilltop</i> , February 17, 1967

- 19 11 "For Langston From Owen", *The Free Lance*, Vol. 11, No.2, 1967  
 19 12 Various poems, *mankind*, Vol. 14, No. 3, April-May 1970  
 19 13 "Chronicles From Outer Space", *The Crisis*, January 1980  
 19 14 Various poems, *The Forerunners: Black Poets in America*, 1981  
 19 15 Various poems, *Callaloo*, Vol. 20, No. 3, 1998

### Reviews

- 19 16 "Chekhov's 'Seagull' a hit at National", *The Washington Afro-American*, undated  
 19 17 "'Thousand Clowns' humorous but it'll break hearts, too", *The Washington Afro-American*, September 21, 1963  
 19 18 "'Stop the World' wins high praise", *The Washington Afro-American*, October 26, 1963  
 19 19 "Arena stage presenting premiere of 'The Devils'", *The Washington Afro-American*, November 2, 1963  
 19 20 "A winning, human comedy at National", *The Washington Afro-American*, November 16, 1963  
 19 21 "'Man of All Seasons' puts us all on trial", *The Washington Afro-American*, March 7, 1964  
 19 22 "Josephine Baker scores in National appearance", *The Washington Afro-American*, March 21, 1964  
 19 23 "'Dark of the Moon' described as a success for Arena Stage", *The Washington Afro-American*, June 13, 1964  
 19 24 "'Zizi', 'The Blacks' are vital offerings", *The Washington Afro-American*, October 13, 1964  
 19 25 "Uncommon artistry displayed in National's 'The Physicists'", *The Washington Afro-American*, September 26, 1964  
 19 26 "'Pirates of Penzance' bring poetry to stage at National", *The Washington Afro-American*, November 7, 1964  
 19 27 "Miller's 'After The Fall' is a play with no magic", *The Washington Afro-American*, November 21, 1964  
 19 28 "'110 In The Shade' is National's Yule present", *The Washington Afro-American*, December 19, 1964  
 19 29 "Creative, sensational musical now on stage at the National", *The Washington Afro-American*, February 20, 1965  
 19 30 "Second 'Beyond The Fringe' has lost some of its bite", *The Washington Afro-American*, March 13, 1965

### Printed material about Dodson

#### Advertisements

- 19 31 Farrar, Straus and Company, 1946  
 26 4 Paul Breman Limited Publishers and Book Sellers

**Clippings**

19	32	"History of the Department of Drama and the Howard Players", 1966
19	33	Undated, 1930s-1940s
19	34	1950s
19	35	1960-1965
19	36	1966-1969
20	1	1970-1976
20	2	1977-1979
20	3	1980s-1990s

**Conferences**

20	4	Undated, 1950s
OP1		<i>Heute</i> , No. 99, December 7, 1949
20	5	1960-1969
20	6	1970-1980

**Fliers and Posters**

OP9		"Blood Wedding," by Federico Garcia Lorca, Howard University Players, undated
OP2		"The Confession Stone," by Owen Dodson, Howard University Players, undated
26	5	"Divine Comedy," by Owen Dodson, New Federal Theatre, undated
OP3		"Dr. Faustus," by Christopher Marlowe, Howard University Players, undated
20	7	The Dream Awake, Spoken Arts production, undated
OP4		"Garden of Time," by Owen Dodson, Howard University Players, undated
20	8	Henry Street Settlement Urban Life Center, schedule of events, undated
OP5		"Long Day's Journey into Night," by Eugene O'Neill, Howard University Players, undated
20	9	"The Nite Lite," Resurrection City, Martin Luther King Pavilion, undated
20	10	"On The Town," by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Howard University Players, undated
20	11	"Spotlite On," Salt and Pepper Restaurant, undated
26	6	"The Mummer's Play" by Edgar White, Harlem School of the Arts, undated
26	7	"The Emperor Jones," by Eugene O'Neill, The Howard University Summer School, July 14-25, 1953
OP10		"The Amen Corner," by James Baldwin, Howard University Players, May 11-14, 1955
OP11		"Medea," by Euripides, Howard University Players, November 3-7, 1959
OP12		"Julius Caesar," by William Shakespeare, Howard University Players, May 2-7, 1960
OP13		"Antigone," by Sophocles, Howard University Players, April 25-29, 1961



- OP6 "Rashomon," by Fay Michael Kanin, Howard University Players, October 25 - November 4, 1961
- OP7 "Hamlet," by William Shakespeare, Howard University Players, April 23-May 2, 1964
- 26 8 "'Til Victory is Won," by Mark Fax, Howard University Players, May 12-13, 1967
- 20 12 University of California Santa Barbara, Summer Institute in Repertory Theatre, 1968
- 20 13 Owen Dodson reading, UCLA, July 31, 1968
- OP8 Owen Dodson reading, Dartmouth College, January 10, 1968
- 20 14 Owen Dodson, B.O.S. and English Department, November 20, 1979
- 20 15 WFCR's Poems to a Listener, 1981

### Programs

- 20 16 Undated
- 20 17 1922-1956
- 20 18 1960s
- 20 19 1970s
- 20 20 1980s

### Yearbooks

- 20 21 *Vista*, Thomas Jefferson High School, 1932
- 21 1 *The Mirror*, Bates College, 1936

### Family

- 21 2 Dodson, Kenneth, certificates, 1928-1932
- 21 3 Dodson, Kenneth, clippings, undated, 1932-1938
- 21 4 Dodson, Kenneth, programs, 1930-1933
- 21 5 Dodson, Lillian, 1921
- 21 6 Dodson, Nathaniel, 1910
- 21 7 Dodson, Sarah, undated, 1918

### General printed material

- 26 9 92nd Street YM and YWHA (New York, New York)
- 26 10 American Film Center, The Committee for Mass Education in Race Relations
- 21 8 Announcements and invitations, undated-1982
- 21 9 Bates College
- 26 11 Catalogues
- 21 10 Clippings, undated, 1918
- 21 11 Clippings, 1940s-1950s
- 21 12 Clippings, 1960s

- 21 13 Clippings, 1970s
- 21 14 Clippings, 1980s
- 26 12 Festival Playhouse, 1972
- 21 15 Ford Foundation
- 21 16 French Revolution-Negro Emancipation postcards
- 21 17 Funeral and memorial programs, 1970-1988
- 21 18 Holmes, Eugene, "The Main Philosophical Considerations of Space and Time",  
*American Journal of Physics*, Vol. 18, No. 9, 1950
- 21 19 Howard University
- 26 13 The Institute of Afro-American Affairs, New York University, 1971
- 21 20 Library of Congress, Copyright Office
- 21 21 *New Temple Shakespeare*
- 21 22 *Obsidian II*, Spring-Summer 1986
- 21 23 Programs, 1939-1976
- 21 24 Stadt Theater, St. Gallen, 1977-1979
- 21 25 *Washington International Arts Letter*, Vol. 5, No. 10, November 1966
- 21 26 *World Order*, Spring 1972
- 21 27 Yale walking tour
- 21 28 "Zion's Birthday," flier, New York, undated

**Series 5**  
**Personal, 1919-1983**  
**Box 22-23 and 26**

**Scope and Content Note**

The personal papers contain biographical and personal materials, business files, and family files. Biographical and personal materials include Dodson's funeral program and published obituaries, as well as information relating to his life, including a chronology of his work, résumés, and his Yale University transcript. The business files contain contracts and earnings statements from various publishers and permissions letters for republication of Dodson's plays and poetry. These files demonstrate which of Dodson's poems were most popular and where his works were republished. The family files contain materials relating to Dodson's immediate family, including a card for his father's news service and death announcements for his siblings.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

**Biographical and personal materials**

Box	Folder	Content
22	1	Anthology of writings, by James Hatch and D. Ward
22	2	Bibliography of plays
22	3	Biographical sketches
22	4	Black Oral History Program, Fisk University, 1972
22	5	Bookplate
22	6	Certificate, Thomas Jefferson High School, 1932
22	7	Chronology
22	8	Door plate, Howard University
22	9	Drawing by Sara Lobell, 1966
22	10	Drawings of Owen directing <i>Hamlet</i> , Gregory, 1964
22	11	Funeral and memorial programs, 1983-1984
22	12	Howard University Service Award, 1969
22	13	List of guests for 1971 Christmas dinner
22	14	Medical
22	15	Obituaries, 1983
22	16	Passport
22	17	<i>Remembering Owen Dodson</i> , James Hatch, 1984
22	18	Report card, Thomas Jefferson High School
22	19	Résumés
26	14	Telephone messages, 1982
22	20	"Through the Years with Dr. Owen V. Dodson (1914-1983): A Personal Chronicle of Correspondence, 1975-1983", compiled for Darryl Croxton by Billy Simmons, 1983

- 22 21 University of Houston faculty candidate profile, 1974
- 22 22 Yale University transcript

**Business records**

- 22 23 Boy at the Window
- 22 24 California State College at Los Angeles contract, 1969
- 22 25 City College of New York, appointment letter and correspondence
- 22 26 Copyright certificate, *New World A-Comin'*, 1944
- 22 27 *Dictionary of American Negro Biography*, 1971
- 22 28 Farrar, Straus and Co., contract and press release, 1946
- 22 29 Fawcett Books royalty statement, 1979
- 22 30 Grambling College royalty statement, 1970
- 22 31 Jonathan Cape Limited, 1969
- 22 32 Permissions letters, plays and stories, 1958-1977
- 23 1 Permissions letters, poetry, 1967-1974
- 23 2 Popular Library Publishers agreement, 1975
- 23 3 Spoken Arts contract, 1968
- 23 4 York College, payroll stub, 1974
- 23 5 Woodie King Associates, Inc., 1972-1982

**Family materials**

- 23 6 Dodson, Edith, death announcement and funeral program, 1983
- 23 7 Dodson, Edith, employment information
- 23 8 Dodson, Edith, marriage announcement, 1948
- 23 9 Dodson, Kenneth, death announcement and funeral program, 1940
- 23 10 Dodson, Lillian, death announcement, 1950
- 23 11 Dodson, Lillian, scrapbook page, 1919
- 23 12 Dodson, Nathaniel, Dodson News Service card

**Series 6**  
**Photographs, 1912-1979**  
**Boxes 24-25, BV1, and OP14-15**

**Scope and Content Note**

The photographs in this collection date from 1912-1979 and cover the span of Owen Dodson's life, from his early childhood and junior high school days through his time in the Navy, his work at Howard University, and his literary and theatrical careers. The photographs are organized into Owen Dodson, family, plays, and other. The Owen Dodson section includes photos of Owen Dodson by himself and with others. These photos show Dodson with friends and colleagues in academic and social settings and document his friendships with Gordon Heath, James Hatch, and Camille Billops. Dodson's sister, Edith, is also prominent in the Owen Dodson section, illustrating her significant role in his life and the closeness of their relationship. Family photographs represent Dodson's immediate family. Production photos from plays written and/or directed by Dodson indicate the prominence of certain plays, including *Bayou Legend* and *Hamlet*, in his directing career. The other photos are primarily pictures of friends and actors known by Dodson.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in alphabetical order with the exception of photographs of Dodson, which are arranged chronologically.

**Owen Dodson**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
24	1	Dodson, Owen, undated
24	2	Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson, undated
24	3	Dodson, Owen, baby photo, [1914]
24	4	Dodson, Owen, and Kenneth Dodson as children with others, [circa 1919]
24	5	Dodson, Owen, as young man, [circa 1920s]
OP14		Dodson, Owen, as young man, [circa 1920s]
24	6	Dodson, Owen, with Kenneth Dodson and Edna Wilson, 1921
24	7	Dodson, Owen, junior high class photo, June 1929
OP15		Dodson, Owen, junior high class photos, 1928-1929
24	8	Dodson, Owen, Bates College, 1932
24	9	Dodson, Owen, in his room at Bates College, 1936
24	10	Dodson, Owen, with Kay Craft, Jimmy Carter, and John Kenny, Bates College, 1936
24	11	Dodson, Owen, summer 1936
24	12	Dodson, Owen, [circa 1940s]
24	13	Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson, Lillian Dodson, and Gordon Heath, 1940
24	14	Dodson, Owen, Navy photos by Carl Van Vechten, 1942
24	15	Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson, Gordon Heath, and others, [circa 1944]

- 24 16 Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson and Lillian Dodson, and Louise Leftwich, [circa 1948]
- 24 17 Dodson, Owen, with Edith and Arthur Taylor, by Alexander King, September 3, 1948
- 24 18 Dodson, Owen, with Eleanor Roosevelt and others, New York Harbor, August 31, 1949
- 24 19 Dodson, Owen, at Howard University, 1952
- 24 20 Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson and Howard University Players, boarding Andrea Doria, September 11, 1953
- 24 21 Dodson, Owen, with others, Italy photos, 1953-1954
- 24 22 Dodson, Owen, with Rolf, May 13, 1955
- 24 23 Dodson, Owen, with Sidney Poitier, Howard University, [circa 1960s]
- 24 24 Dodson, Owen, Howard University Fine Arts building opening, 1961
- 24 25 Dodson, Owen, with Helen Johnson, Greater New York Regional College English Association, May 1, 1961
- 24 26 Dodson, Owen, Washington, D.C., May 7, 1963
- 24 27 Dodson, Owen, with Langston Hughes, Mrs. Martin, and J.W. Butcher, Howard University, [circa June 1963]
- 24 28 Dodson, Owen, 1966
- 24 29 Dodson, Owen, and others, Dartmouth College, January 10, 1968
- 24 30 Dodson, Owen, with Richard Eberhardt, Dartmouth College, January 1968
- 24 31 Dodson, Owen, with Katheryn Doyle Vining and others, S.S. United States, August 25, 1968
- 24 32 Dodson, Owen, [circa 1970s]
- 24 33 Dodson, Owen, by Anthony Barboza, [circa 1970s]
- 24 34 Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson, Jean Hutson, Ivie Jackman, and others, [circa 1970s]
- 24 35 Dodson, Owen, poetry reading, Howard University, February 11, 1974
- 24 36 Dodson, Owen, Christmas dinner, 1974
- 24 37 Dodson, Owen, with Jean Miller and Dr. Steve Henderson, Howard University, March 1974
- 24 38 Dodson, Owen, with others, Outstanding Pioneer Award, 1975
- 24 39 Dodson, Owen, February 1975
- 24 40 Dodson, Owen, with Camille Billops, February 1975
- 24 41 Dodson, Owen, with Robert Wilson and Gordon Heath, February 11, 1975
- 24 42 Dodson, Owen, teaching at the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop, New York, 1976
- 24 43 Dodson, Owen, with Edith Dodson, Camille Billops, and James Van Der Zee, *Harlem Book of the Dead* signing, 1977
- 24 44 Dodson, Owen, with James Hatch, September 11, 1977
- 24 45 Dodson, Owen, with Selma Burke, September 11, 1977

- 24 46 Dodson, Owen, March 1978
- 24 47 Dodson, Owen, with Lloyd Richards, and Ed Bullins, CUNY Grad Center,  
November 8, 1978
- 24 48 Dodson, Owen, with James Butcher, Donal Leace, Sterling Brown, Glenda  
Dickerson, Richard Wesley, Robbie McCauley, Sandy Williams, and Charles  
Bettis, May 12, 1979

### Family

- 24 49 Dodson, Edith, undated
- 24 50 Dodson, Edith, 1936
- 24 51 Dodson, Edith, in mini family photo album, [circa 1940s-1950s]
- 24 52 Dodson, Edith, at Howard University, 1944
- 24 53 Dodson, Edith, February 1975
- BV1 Dodson, Edith, photo album, 1937-1948
- 24 54 Dodson, Evelyn, undated
- 24 55 Dodson, Kenneth, undated
- 24 56 Dodson, Nathaniel, Jr., undated
- 24 57 Dodson, Nathaniel, 1920
- 24 58 Dodson, Kenneth, eighth grade, [1926]
- 24 59 Dodson, Kenneth, high school graduation, 1933

### Plays

- 24 60 *Air Raid, Til Victory Is Won, and The Happy Journey*, cast members with  
Dodson, Howard University Players, 1965
- 24 61 *Bartered Bride*, James Exum, et al., Cincinnati, Ohio
- 24 62 *Bayou Legend*, Howard University, 1946
- 24 63 *Bayou Legend*, 1948
- 24 64 *Bayou Legend*, Howard University, 1957
- 24 65 *Bayou Legend*, Amas Theatre, New York City, January 10, 1975
- 24 66 *Bury the Dead*, Harlem School of the Arts, 1971
- 24 67 *Confession Stone*, Theatre Off Park, 1979
- 25 1 *Death of a Salesman*, Lincoln University, August 1, 1960
- 25 2 *Divine Comedy*, Yale University, 1938 [1 of 2]
- 25 3 *Divine Comedy*, Yale University, 1938 [2 of 2]
- 25 4 *Everyman*, Workshops for Careers in the Arts Everyman Street Theater  
Company, 1970
- 25 5 *Garden of Time*, William Greaves and Sadie Brown, American Negro Theatre,  
March 1945
- 25 6 *Hamlet*, featuring Gordon Heath, Earle Hyman, et al., Hampton Institute, 1945
- 25 7 *Hamlet*, Howard University, 1951
- 25 8 *Hamlet*, Howard University, April 1964

- 25 9 *Medea in Africa*, Harlem School of the Arts, May 21, 1971  
 25 10 *No More Peace*, Spelman College, December 1939  
 25 11 *Oedipus Rex*, Howard University, October 1966  
 25 12 *Richard III*, Howard University, 1953  
 25 13 *Sound of Soul*, Brenda Gilmore photographer, 1978  
 25 14 Unidentified production photos, undated  
 25 15 *You Can't Take It With You*, cast: Owen Dodson, Joseph Jenkins, Al Spurlock, Ednah Bethea, Anne Cooke, et al., November 1940

**Other**

- 25 16 Booker, Ruby, [circa 1910-1920s]  
 25 17 Campbell, Erma, actress, [circa 1970s]  
 25 18 Carruthers, Ben, 1959  
 25 19 Castro, Ron, actor, 1970  
 25 20 Carter, Sylvester, Bates College, [circa 1934]  
 25 21 Church built by Indians at Caughnawaga, New York, no date  
 25 22 Danish production photo, 1950  
 25 23 De Suze, Carl, 1937  
 25 24 D.C. Black Repertory Dance Company, Kikki Shepherd and Bernie Gibson, [circa 1960s-1970s]  
 25 25 Gilberts, Lou, Martha Lou Gilberts, and children, 1975  
 25 26 Gill, Roscoe, composer of *The Morning Duke Ellington Praised the Lord and Seven Little Black Davids Tap-Danced Unto*, [circa 1960s-1970s]  
 25 27 Hall, Ed, actor, 1971  
 25 28 Harrington, Oliver, artist, Yale roommate, 1938  
 25 29 Harrington, Oliver, Yale roommate, 1941  
 25 30 Harriot, Frank, actor, 1945  
 25 31 Heath, Gordon, no date  
 25 32 Heath, Priscilla, 1936  
 25 33 Hinton, Mercie, 1978  
 25 34 Houston, Gary, co-chair Dartmouth College, January 10, 1968  
 25 35 Howard University, Douglass Hall, 1944  
 25 36 Kurt [?], 1957  
 25 37 Lucas, Helen Olivia, 1912  
 25 38 Lucas, Clarence, [circa 1920s-1930s]  
 25 39 Marquee announcing Dodson poetry reading at Black Arts Festival, Dartmouth College, 1968  
 25 40 Marshall, Agnes, 1936  
 25 41 Michael, Charles, actor, 1971  
 25 42 Moore, Jerry, actor, 1939



- 25 43 National Benefit Life Insurance Company, no date
- 25 44 Newman, Geoffrey, [circa 1960s-1970s]
- 25 45 Newman, Geoffrey, at Wabash College, 1974
- 25 46 Office, [circa 1960s]
- 25 47 Pawley, Thomas, actor, 1940
- 25 48 Pitcher, Oliver, 1971
- 25 49 Randolph, Grace, 1975
- 25 50 Reid, Anne Cooke, Oberlin College, [circa 1930s]
- 25 51 Sacchetti, Giocondo, 1954
- 25 52 The Scurlock Studio, Washington D.C., no date
- 25 53 Snowden, Frank, with group at the Epidaurus Theater, no date
- 25 54 Spurlock, Al, 1940
- 25 55 Trajtenberg, Mario, on State Island ferry, 1960
- 25 56 Turner, Charles, actor, 1979
- 25 57 Unidentified, 1957-1976, no date
- 25 58 Unidentified artwork (slides), 1972

**Series 7**  
**Audio recordings, 1960-1984**  
**AV1**

**Scope and Content Note**

The series contains audio recordings of Dodson's interviews, public readings, performances, and talks from 1960-1984, as well as a memorial documentary. Of particular interest are the 1979 performance of his play *Confession Stone* and his talks on *Hamlet* from 1982.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in chronological order.

Box	Folder	Content
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, reading at Library of Congress with Richard Eberhart, December 13, 1960 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmr80][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmrdj]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, reading at Library of Congress, March 23, 1973 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmr6q][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmr7v]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, Ethel Pitts Walker's dissertation on ANT, January 5, 1975 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmrb8]
AV1	-	<i>Confession Stone</i> , Theatre Off-Park, New York City, February 14, 1979 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmsdn][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmsch]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, discussing 1940s, time in United States Navy and work with Committee for Mass Education in Race Relations, February 25, 1979 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmtkf]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, January 28, 1981 [tape 1 of 2] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmtmk][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmvbk]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, January 28, 1981 and February 12, 1981 [tape 2 of 2] [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmvcq][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cmvdv]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, February 25 and March 3, 1981 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cqtf3][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cqtg7]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, March 25 and April 4, 1981 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cr0dj][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cr0fp]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, biography, April 8 and 23, 1981 [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cr1pr][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cr1nm]
AV1	-	Dodson, Owen, May 20, 1981

- [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cr3pz][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crh1k]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, discussing Howard University, European trip, and Scandinavia, August 5 and 21, 1981  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crgvs][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crgwx]
- AV1 - Dodson, Edith, September 16, 1981  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crgz6]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, October 7 and 14, 1981  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crh2q][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crk8r]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, October 21 and 28, 1981  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crkb1][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crk9w]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, November 3, 1981  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crk7m][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmt2]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, January 6 and February 17, 1982  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmqn][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmsx]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, March 26 and June 18, 1982  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmnc][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmk3]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, poetry *Jazz in praise*, July 1, 1982  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmph]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, talk on *Hamlet* for ATA, New York University talk with Earle Hyman on *Hamlet*, September 16 and 18, 1982 [tape 1 of 2]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmv6][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmm7]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, talk on *Hamlet* for ATA, New York University talk with Earle Hyman on *Hamlet*, September 16 and 18, 1982 [tape 2 of 2]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmrs]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, Remembering Owen Dodson, with Helen Lucas Lyles, Joe Weixlmann, Ted Shine, Earle Hyman, Camille Billops, Sallee Hardy, Jim Hatch, "Artists and Influence Series," June 3, 1984 [tape 1 of 2]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmxg][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crmwb]
- AV1 - Dodson, Owen, Remembering Owen Dodson, with Helen Lucas Lyles, Joe Weixlmann, Ted Shine, Earle Hyman, Camille Billops, Sallee Hardy, Jim Hatch, "Artists and Influence Series," June 3, 1984 [tape 2 of 2]  
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crn38][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id crn4d]
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