

Ruby A. Black Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Wilhelmina Curry with the
assistance of Sherralyn McCoy



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2010

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010063>

Collection Summary

Title: Ruby A. Black Papers

Span Dates: 1916-1976

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1933-1945)

ID No.: MSS61716

Creator: Black, Ruby A. (Ruby Aurora), 1896-1957

Extent: 35,000 items; 21 containers; 8.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Journalist. Correspondence, writings, subject files, clippings, photographs, and other papers chiefly relating to Black's coverage of Eleanor Roosevelt's White House years and her publication in 1940 of *Eleanor Roosevelt*.

Selected Search Terms

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

People

Black, Ruby A. (Ruby Aurora), 1896-1957.

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962.

Subjects

Journalism--United States.

Presidents' spouses--United States.

Places

United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.

Occupations

Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Ruby A. Black, journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by her daughter, Cornelia Little Motheral, in 1984.

Processing History

The papers of Ruby A. Black were arranged and described in 1958. The collection was expanded and revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ruby A. Black is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ruby A. Black are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ruby A. Black Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1896, Sept. 14	Born, Thornton, Tex.
1913	Entered University of Texas, Austin, Tex., after having previously studied at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colo.
1914-1918	Teacher, public schools, Texas
1917	Reporter, <i>Hustler</i> (Thornton, Tex.)
1921	B.A., University of Texas, Austin, Tex. Manager, Woman's National Journalistic Register, a placement bureau sponsored by Theta Sigma Phi
1921-1923	Taught journalism and studied economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. Wrote for the <i>Wisconsin State Journal</i> , Madison, Wis.
1922	Married Herbert Little (divorced 1955)
1923	Labor editor, St. Louis Times
1927-1932	Editor, <i>Equal Rights Magazine</i>
1928-1941	Head, Ruby A. Black News Bureau
1933	Became White House correspondent for United Press
1940	Published <i>Eleanor Roosevelt</i> . New York: Cuell, Sloan and Pearce
1941-1947	Consultant editor-writer, Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs
1947	Retired because of ill health
1957, Dec. 15	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ruby Aurora Black (1896-1957) span the years 1916-1976, with the bulk from 1933-1945. The collection consists of correspondence, writings, subject files, clippings, photographs, and other papers chiefly relating to Black's coverage as a journalist of Eleanor Roosevelt's White House years and her book *Eleanor Roosevelt* published in 1940. Included are letters from Roosevelt as well as research files and correspondence showing the unfolding of the writing project. There are reports of interviews, correspondence with editors and informants, and insights into the promotion of the biography.

Files relating to Black's work in the Office of the Coordinator of Inter American Affairs in the 1940s include exchanges with the coordinator, Nelson Rockefeller, and other United States officials and Latin American political figures.

Although there is little in the collection about the final decade of her life, a small amount of family correspondence and some fragments of reminiscence shed light on Black's long career as a journalist.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence, 1923-1946](#)
- [Subject File, 1916-1961](#)
- [Miscellany, 1928-1976](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>General Correspondence, 1923-1946</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3-20	<u>Subject File, 1916-1961</u> Correspondence, writings, reports, notes, printed, photographs, and miscellaneous material, with the bulk relating to Eleanor Roosevelt. Arranged by topic or subject largely as filed by Black.
BOX 20-21	<u>Miscellany, 1928-1976</u> Photographs, printed matter, war rations books, and fragile material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2	General Correspondence, 1923-1946 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1923-1939 (5 folders)
BOX 2	1940-1946, undated (7 folders)
BOX 3-20	Subject File, 1916-1961 Correspondence, writings, reports, notes, printed, photographs, and miscellaneous material, with the bulk relating to Eleanor Roosevelt. Arranged by topic or subject largely as filed by Black.
BOX 3	Autobiographical data and related material, 1916-1956, undated (6 folders)
BOX 4	Deficiency Appropriation Bill, 1942
BOX 4	Dies Committee, 1940
BOX 4	Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1940-1942, undated
BOX 4	Early, Eleanor, 1942
BOX 4	Equal Rights for Women, 1925-1944, undated
BOX 4	Feminism, 1924
BOX 4	First Ladies, 1929-1940
BOX 4	Maverick, Maury, 1930-1942
BOX 4	Nation, 1925-1927
BOX 5	Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, 1940-1945 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Patterson, Eleanor Medill ("Cissie"), 1938
BOX 5	Roosevelt, Eleanor
BOX 5	Activities
BOX 5	1933-1937 (5 folders)
BOX 6	1938-1939 (5 folders)
BOX 7	1940-1945 (2 folders)
BOX 7	Beer, wine, and liquor, 1933-1944, undated
BOX 7	Biographical data, 1933-1944, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8	Children, 1937-1944
BOX 8	Congress, 1945
BOX 8	Consumers, 1934-1941
BOX 8	Daughters of the American Revolution, 1933-1939

Subject File, 1916-1961

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 8	Democratic National Committee, 1933-1940, undated
BOX 8	Department of Agriculture, 1934-1940, undated
BOX 8	Education, 1933-1944
BOX 9	Family
BOX 9	Boettiger, Anna Roosevelt, 1932-1940, undated
BOX 9	Du Pont, Ethel, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. (1914-1988), wedding, 1934-1937 (2 folders)
BOX 9	General, 1932-1945, undated
BOX 9	Grandchildren, 1933-1940, undated
BOX 10	Roosevelt, Elliott, 1937-1945, undated (2 folders)
BOX 10	Roosevelt, Franklin, Jr. (1914-1988), 1941-1942
BOX 10	Roosevelt, James 1933-1938, undated
BOX 10	Roosevelt, John, 1937-1941
BOX 10	Roosevelt, Sara Delano, 1933-1941
BOX 11	Freedom and democracy, 1934-1941, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	General, 1929-1945
BOX 11	District of Columbia, 1935-1940, undated
BOX 11	General, 1933-1942 (2 folders)
BOX 11	Welfare, 1934-1941
BOX 12	Health, 1933-1942
BOX 12	Housing, 1934-1940, undated
BOX 12	Hyde Park, N.Y., 1934-1936
BOX 12	Inauguration, 1941
BOX 12	International affairs, 1939-1940, undated
BOX 12	Labor, 1936-1944, undated
BOX 12	Latin American trip, 1944
BOX 13	March of Dimes drive, 1945
BOX 13	"My Day," 1946
BOX 13	National defense, 1940-1941, undated (3 folders)
BOX 13	Office holder, 1937-1940
BOX 13	Office of Civilian Defense 1941-1945, undated
BOX 14	Undated (2 folders)
BOX 14	Peace and war, 1935-1945 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Pegler, Westbrook, 1944-1945 clippings
BOX 15	<i>The People</i> , undated (2 folders)
BOX 15	Personal, 1933-1945, undated (3 folders)
BOX 15	Politics, 1934

Subject File, 1916-1961

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 15	Child labor, 1934-1937
BOX 16	General, 1934-1944 (3 folders)
BOX 16	Minorities, 1935-1942
BOX 16	O'Day, Caroline, 1934-1936, undated
BOX 16	Third term for Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1939, undated
BOX 16	World Court, 1935
BOX 16	Postwar period, 1933-1945, undated
BOX 16	The press, 1933-1944 (2 folders)
BOX 17	Press Conference Association, 1942-1943, undated
BOX 17	Refugees war relief, 1938-1944, undated
BOX 17	Servants, 1934-1938, undated
BOX 17	Society, 1933-1942, undated (3 folders)
BOX 18	Summaries, 1933-1943, undated (2 folders)
BOX 18	Unemployment, 1933-1940, undated
BOX 18	Women
BOX 18	General, 1923-1961, undated
BOX 18	National Press Club, Washington, D.C., 1933-1944
BOX 19	Politics, 1933-1944, undated (2 folders)
BOX 19	Unemployment, 1933-1940
BOX 19	Youth
BOX 19	American Youth Congress, 1934-1940 (2 folders)
BOX 19	General, 1933-1942
BOX 20	Social Lobby, 1933-1935, undated
BOX 20	United Press Society, 1933-1935, undated
BOX 20	United States Civil Service Commission, 1929-1934
BOX 20	University of Texas, Austin, Tex., 1944, undated
BOX 20	Veterans relief, 1932-1933
BOX 20	Washington Newspaper Guild, 1944-1945
BOX 20-21	Miscellany, 1928-1976 Photographs, printed matter, war rations books, and fragile material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 20	Photographs, undated
BOX 20	Printed matter, 1928, 1976
BOX 20	War ration books, 1942
BOX 21	Fragile material removed from the collection