

Horace R. Cayton:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Manuscripts for at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Cayton, Horace R., 1903-1970
Title:	Horace R. Cayton Manuscripts for <i>Long Old Road</i>
Dates:	1931-1965
Extent:	3 boxes (1.26 linear feet)
Abstract:	This collection contains materials for the autobiography of Horace R. Cayton, entitled <i>Long Old Road</i> and published in 1965, including chapter outlines and drafts, research materials, and correspondence. All material in the collection is directly related to the content of the autobiography.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-00726
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchase, 1967
Processed by:	Jonathan Reynolds, 2007
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

This collection contains material for the autobiography of Horace R. Cayton, entitled *Long Old Road* and published in 1965. Cayton was one of the foremost African-American sociologists of his time, chronicling the experiences of urban black communities in the northern United States. An author and an educator, he dedicated his life to improving the social conditions of African-Americans in the earlier half of the twentieth century. The collection is organized into two series: I. *Long Old Road* Manuscripts, 1931-1965, and II. Related Papers, 1955-1965 also pertaining to the work.

Series I. is arranged according to the chapter titles of the finished book with background materials and outlines preceding the chapter manuscripts. The background material includes interviews with and short biographies of friends and family. Also present is an obituary for Cayton's sister, Madge, and works about his ancestors, including Hiram Revels, the first African-American person elected to the U.S. Senate.

This section has two compiled notebooks of later drafts of the chapters which parallel the finished work; however, two chapters are missing: "The White Man, Too, Has Troubles," and "Blood Makes Good Paint." They also contain the manuscript of "Back to the Black Metropolis," which is not present in an earlier form.

The Related Papers in Series II. are organized by date. Present are correspondence, including letters by Cayton to his publisher and agent as well as letters from each of them, all regarding *Long Old Road*. Also included are Cayton's résumé, along with his entry for *Who's Who in America* for 1965. There is also a summons for a defamation lawsuit against Cayton and his publisher, Trident Press, brought by Yvonne Plummer for implying that she was of dubious morals.

The collection does not contain material relating to any other work by Horace R. Cayton or directly concerning his personal life outside of what is in the autobiography.

Index Terms

Subjects

African American sociologists--Biography.

African American authors--Biography.

Series I. *Long Old Road* Manuscripts, 1931-1965

Background Material

Cayton family events, timeline **Box 1 Folder 1**

Cayton, H. R., in 1887 story by Van B. Shaw, typescript and correspondence, 1959 **Folder**

Cayton, Horace R., Sr., biography, typescript

Cayton, Madge R., obituary, typescript, 1943

Cayton, Revels, interview for "Labor Pains," typescript

Cayton, Revels, and Violet Rae, interview for "The Bride Was White," typescript, 1962

Hardin, Robert, article on the election of, 1931

Lohman, Joe, interview for "To Be in Chicago in the '30s," typescript, 1962

Revels, Hiram, biography by Elizabeth Lawson, typescript and correspondence, 1958

Roethke, Theodore, article on the death of, 1963

Chapter outlines and synopses **Folder 2**

Chapters **Folder**

"Childhood in the West," notes, typescript, and short story version **Folder 3**

"The Voyage," handwritten first draft and typescript **Folder 4**

"A Boy's Reformation," 3 typescripts of the first draft and a typescript of the third draft **Folder 5**

“Labor Pains,” notes, 3 typescripts of an earlier draft and a typescript of a later draft	Folder 6
“This Policeman’s Lot Was to Learn,” 2 incomplete typescripts of earlier drafts and a typescript of a later draft	Folder 7
“The Bride Was White,” notes, typescript, and a short story version	Folder 8
“To Be in Chicago in the '30s,” notes and typescript	Folder 9
“Tuskegee Was Quite a Place,” first draft typescript and second draft typescript	Folder 10
“Escape to Europe,” notes and typescript	Folder 11
“Back to Black Metropolis,” notes	Folder 12
“The Dark Inner Landscape,” notes and typescript	Folder 13
“In Fear and Trembling,” notes, 8 typescripts of various drafts	Box 2 Folder 1-2
“The White Man, Too, Has Troubles,” typescript	Folder 3
“The Crackup,” notes and typescript	Folder 4
“Blood Makes Good Paint,” 2 typescripts and an incomplete short story version	Folder 5
“The World Is Now the Scene,” article, notes, and a typescript	Folder 6
“The Battle Is Being Won,” notes and incomplete typescript	Folder 7
Compiled notebooks 1 and 2	Folder 8-9

“Corrected office copy” of chapters 1-3, typescript

Box 3
Folder 1

Proof copy

Folder 2

Series II. Related Papers, 1955-1965

Correspondence

Outgoing, 1962-1963, undated

Box 3 Folder 3

Incoming, 1955-1964

Folder 4

Personal Papers

Folder

Defamation lawsuit by Yvonne Plummer Terrelongue, 20 December 1965

**Folder
5**

Negro Leadership Conference, 27-29 August 1965, program

Folder

Résumé, 1965

Who's Who in America 34th ed. entry form, 1965