

# Ralph Ellison:

## A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

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### Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Ellison, Ralph, 1913-1994
- Title:** Ralph Ellison Collection
- Dates:** 1952-1961
- Extent:** 1 box (.24 linear feet)
- Abstract:** This small collection of the American author, critic, and scholar Ralph Ellison includes a signed, uncorrected proof of *Invisible Man*, Ellison's first novel and winner of the 1953 National Book Award for Fiction. Also present is a typed draft of Ellison's *Esquire* article "Manners and Morals at Minton's, 1941: the Setting for a Revolution," along with tearsheets of the published piece and a letter from Ellison offering the draft for auction on behalf of the student sit-in movement.
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-01309
- Language:** English
- Access:** Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
- Use Policies:** Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation:** Ralph Ellison Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-01309). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

**Acquisition:** Purchase (1961) and Internal Transfer (1976)

**Processed by:** Steve Mielke, 2022

**Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

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## Scope and Contents

This small collection of the American author, critic, and scholar Ralph Ellison includes a signed, uncorrected proof of the Random House 1952 first edition of *Invisible Man*, Ellison's first novel and winner of the 1953 National Book Award for Fiction, the first awarded to an African American author. The proof includes a Ransom Center bookplate "From the Library of Marianne Moore."

Also present is a typed draft of Ellison's January 1959 *Esquire* article "Manners and Morals at Minton's, 1941: the Setting for a Revolution," along with tearsheets of the published piece. Included is a 1961 letter from Ellison to Marvin Rich at the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) offering the draft for an auction on behalf of the student sit-in movement. In the letter, Ellison states that the article appeared in 1960, and that date is written on the tearsheets, but the piece was actually published in 1959.

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*Invisible Man*. Uncorrected proof, signed, 1952

**Container** 1.1-2

"Manners and Morals at Minton's, 1941: the Setting for a Revolution." Typed draft with handwritten corrections, tearsheets, and correspondence, circa 1958-1961

**Container**  
1.3