

# Virginia Hamilton Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Donna Ellis



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

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Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009203>

# Collection Summary

Title: Virginia Hamilton Papers

Span Dates: 1938-2003

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1970-1999)

ID No.: MSS84975

Creator: Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002

Extent: 900 items; 47 containers; 18.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: African-American children's author. Correspondence, drafts, proofs, research material, publicity, and reviews pertaining to the production of Hamilton's books.

## 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.

### Personal Names

Burns, Anthony, 1834-1862.

Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002.

Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976.

### Subjects

African American authors.

African Americans--Biography.

African Americans--Fiction.

American literature--African American authors.

Children's books.

### Related Names

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002. Anthony Burns : the defeat and triumph of a fugitive slave. 1988.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002. Bluish : a novel. 1999.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002. House of Dies Drear. 1968.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002. M.C. Higgins, the great. 1974.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002. Paul Robeson : the life and times of a free Black man. 1974.

Hamilton, Virginia, 1936-2002. W.E.B. Du Bois : a biography. 1972.

### Occupations

Authors.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Virginia Hamilton, African-American children's author, were given to the Library of Congress by her husband, Arnold Adoff, between 2003 and 2007.

### Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. A book was transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Some audiotapes have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, Recorded Sound Section. All transfers are identified as part of the Virginia Hamilton Papers.

### Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Virginia Hamilton in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

### Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Virginia Hamilton 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, Virginia Hamilton Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1953-1956	Attended Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio
1956-1958	B.A., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
1959	Attended New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y.
1960	Married Arnold Adoff
1967	Published <i>Zeely</i> . New York: Macmillan
1968	Published <i>The House of Dies Drear</i> . New York: Macmillan
1971	Published <i>The Planet of Junior Brown</i> .
1972	Published <i>W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography</i> . New York: Crowell
1974	Published <i>M. C. Higgins, the Great</i> . New York: Macmillan Published <i>Paul Robeson: The Life and Times of a Black Man</i> . New York: Harper and Row
1975	Published <i>The Writings of W. E. B. Du Bois</i> . New York: Crowell Received John Newbery Medal and National Book Award for <i>M. C. Higgins, the Great</i>
1976	Published <i>Arilla Sun Down</i> . New York: William Morrow
1980-1981	Published the Justice trilogy, <i>Dustland</i> , <i>The Gathering</i> , and <i>Justice and Her Brothers</i> . New York: Greenwillow Books
1982	Published <i>Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush</i> . New York: Philomel
1983	Published <i>The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl</i> . New York: Harper Published <i>Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed</i> . New York: Greenwillow Books

- 1984 Published *A Little Love*. New York: Philomel  
Virginia Hamilton Lecture in Children's Literature established at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
- 1936, Mar. 12 Born, Yellow Springs, Ohio
- 1985 Published *The People Could Fly*. New York: Knopf
- 1988 Published *Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave*. New York: Knopf  
Published *In the Beginning*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich
- 1989 Published *The Bells of Christmas*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich
- 1990 Published *Cousins*. New York: Philomel
- 1992 Received Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing
- 1994 Honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- 1995 Received Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal  
Fellow, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- 1997 Published *Her Stories*. New York: Blue Sky Press
- 1998 Published *Second Cousins*. New York: Blue Sky Press
- 2002, Feb. 19 Died, Yellow Springs, Ohio
- 2003 Posthumous publication of *Wee Winnie Witch's Skinny*. New York: Blue Sky Press

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Virginia Hamilton (1936-2002) span the years 1938-2003 with the bulk of the material dating between 1970 and 1999. The collection, arranged alphabetically by title of writing with a miscellany file at the end, documents the production of her numerous children's books. Material consists of background information, correspondence with her publishers, drafts of writings, illustrations, printing proofs, publicity items, and reviews. The miscellany contains biographical information, general correspondence, and material relating to Hamilton's public appearances and speeches. Included in the writings are drafts of her biographies of W. E. B. DuBois and Paul Robeson and such works as *Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave*; *Bluish*; *The House of Dies Drear*; and *M. C. Higgins, the Great*, for which she received the National Book Award and the John Newbery Medal.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by title of writing with a miscellany file at the end.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	<i>All Jadhv Storybook</i> <a href="#"><i>See Containers 42-43</i></a> , <i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhv</i> <i>Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave</i> Background information, undated (2 folders) Correspondence, 1972-1974, 1987, undated Drafts, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	(5 folders) Final version, undated (2 folders) Galley proofs, 1988 Jacket art, undated Miscellany, 1986-1987, undated Revisions, 1987, undated (1 folder)
BOX 3	(3 folders) <i>Arilla Sun Down</i> Background information and notes, undated Drafts, undated (6 folders)
BOX 4	(2 folders) Galley proofs, undated (2 folders) Miscellany, 1983, undated <i>The Bells of Christmas</i> (formerly titled "The Hundred Year Old Christmas") Background information, undated
BOX 5	Drafts, undated (3 folders) Illustrations, 1988, undated Miscellany, 1989, undated Proofs, 1989 Galley Page Printer's set <i>Bluish</i> Background information, 1994-1998, undated Correspondence, 1998-1999, undated Drafts, 1998-1999, undated (1 folder)
BOX 6	(5 folders) Miscellany, 1999, undated <i>Cousins</i>

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 7	Drafts, 1990 (2 folders) Miscellany, 1990-1998, undated Proofs, 1990 Galley Page <i>The Dark Way</i> Drafts, 1989-1990 (4 folders) Illustrations, undated
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1990, undated Proofs, 1990 Galley Master
BOX 9	Page Revised master
BOX 10	<i>Dustland</i> Drafts, 1980, undated (3 folders) Galley proofs, 1980 Miscellany, 1979, undated <i>Elements of Literature: Folk Tales from Around the World</i> Background information and notes, 1990-1993, undated (2 folders)
BOX 11	Correspondence, 1990-1992, undated Drafts, undated Galley proofs, 1991 <i>The Gathering</i> , undated Drafts (3 folders)
BOX 12	(6 folders) Galley proofs
BOX 13	<i>Her Stories</i> Draft, 1995 Miscellany, 1994-1995 <i>House of Dies Drear</i> Drafts, 1968, undated (5 folders)
BOX 14	Galley proofs, 1968 Miscellany, 1968, 1988, undated Screenplay adaptation, 1979 <i>In the Beginning</i> Background information, undated Correspondence, 1987-1988, undated Drafts, undated (5 folders)
BOX 15	Galley proofs, 1988

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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	Miscellany, 1987-1989, undated
	<i>Jadhu</i> <i>See Containers 42-43</i> , <i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhu</i>
	<i>Jaguarundi</i>
	Background information and notes, undated
	Correspondence, 1991-1994, undated
	Drafts, 1992-1994, undated
	(3 folders)
	Proofs, 1994
	Color
	Page
	<i>Junius Over Far</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(1 folder)
BOX 16	(6 folders)
BOX 17	(1 folder)
	Miscellany, 1985
	Proofs, 1985
	Galley
	Master
	Revised
	Page
	Submission pages, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 18	<i>Justice and Her Brothers</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(7 folders)
BOX 19	(4 folders)
	Galley proofs, 1981
	Miscellany, undated
BOX 20	<i>A Little Love</i>
	Drafts, 1984, undated
	(5 folders)
	Miscellany, 1984-1985, undated
	Proofs
	Galley, 1984
	Master
BOX 21	Revised
	Page, undated
	(2 folders)
	<i>M. C. Higgins, the Great</i>
	Drafts, undated
	(2 folders)
BOX 22	(7 folders)
BOX 23	(5 folders)
	John Newbery Medal, 1975
	Miscellany, 1974-1977, 1999, undated
	Proofs

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 24	Bound, 1974 Galley Author's set, 1974 Master, 1974 Twenty-fifth anniversary edition, 1999 (2 folders)
BOX 25	Script, recorded book, 1974 <i>The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl</i> Correspondence, 1976-1984 Drafts, undated (6 folders)
BOX 26	(1 folder) Dramatic adaptation, 1991 Notes, undated Proofs Galley, 1982-1983 (4 folders)
BOX 27	Page, 1983 (3 folders) Reviews, 1983-1984 <i>Many Thousand Gone</i> Background information and notes, 1991, undated Correspondence, 1990-1992, undated Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 28	(7 folders) Miscellany, 1993, undated
BOX 29	Proofs Galley, 1992 Unbound gatherings, 1993 <i>More Tales of Jadhu</i> <u><a href="#">See Containers 42-43</a></u> , <i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhu</i> <i>Mystery of Drear House</i> Drafts, 1985, undated (4 folders)
BOX 30	(6 folders)
BOX 31	(1 folder) Miscellany, 1984-1987, 1995 Notes, undated "The One Hundred Year Old Christmas" <u><a href="#">See Containers 4-5</a></u> , <i>The Bells of Christmas</i> <i>Paul Robeson: The Life and Times of a Free Black Man</i> Drafts, undated (5 folders)
BOX 32	(6 folders) Miscellany, 1969-1974, undated
BOX 33	Proofs, 1974 Galley



## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Master (2 folders)
	<i>The People Could Fly</i> Miscellany, 1985-1993, undated Proofs, 1985
BOX 34	<i>Plain City</i> Drafts, 1992-1993, undated (6 folders) Miscellany, 1985, 1993, undated Notes, 1993, undated
BOX 35	Page proofs, 1993 <i>The Planet of Junior Brown</i> Drafts, undated (6 folders)
BOX 36	Galley proofs, 1971 (3 folders) Miscellany, 1971
BOX 37	<i>A Ring of Tricksters</i> Background information, 1963 Book layout and design, 1997 (4 folders)
BOX 38	(3 folders)
BOX 39	Drafts, 1996-1997 (3 folders) Miscellany, 1997, undated
	<i>Second Cousins</i> Background information, 1997, undated Drafts, 1997-1998, undated (3 folders)
BOX 40	(3 folders) Miscellany, 1996-1998, undated Proofs, 1998 (2 folders)
BOX 41	(3 folders)
	<i>Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush</i> Drafts, undated (2 folders)
BOX 42	(2 folders) Galley proofs, 1982 (2 folders) Reviews, 1982
	<i>Time Ago Tales of Jadhu</i> Drafts, undated (4 folders)
BOX 43	(2 folders) Galley proofs, 1990-1991 (2 folders) Illustrations, 1991

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 44	Reviews, 1969 <i>W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography</i> Drafts, undated (2 folders) (5 folders) Editor's notes, 1969, undated Reviews, 1972 <i>Wee Winnie Witch's Skinny</i> , 2003 <i>When Birds Could Talk and Bats Could Sing</i> , 1999 <i>A White Romance</i> Correspondence, 1986-1989, undated Drafts, undated (1 folder)
BOX 45	(5 folders) Proofs, 1987 Bound Galley <i>Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed</i>
BOX 46	Background information, 1938 Drafts, undated (5 folders) Galley proofs, 1983 Miscellany, 1983-1984 <i>The Writings of W. E. B. Du Bois</i> Correspondence, 1971-1976, undated Draft, undated (2 folders)
BOX 47	(2 folders) Galley proofs, 1975 Review, 1976 <i>Zeely</i> , 1967 Miscellany Biographical material, 1987, undated Correspondence, 1968-1971, 1980, 1987, 1998-1999 Notes, undated Public appearances and speeches, 1969, 1975, 1987, 1994-1998, undated