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COOPER, Anna Julia

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ANNA J. COOPER PAPERS
Collection 23-1 to 23-10

Prepared & Revised by:
Karen L. Jefferson
June 1980

Scope Note

Mrs. Regia Bronson donated the Anna J. Cooper Papers to Howard University in 1971. The papers total five linear feet spanning the period 1881 to 1958. They are comprised primarily of writing by Anna J. Cooper, including news articles, speeches, poems, pamphlets and books.

There are also galley proofs, drafts, and some research materials of her book, *The Life and Writings of the Grimke Family* included in this collection.

Mrs. Cooper served as President of Frelinghuysen University, Washington, D.C. from 1930 to 1941. Among her papers are some materials relating to Frelinghuysen University including programs, legal documents, correspondence, and an account book from the School of Law, 1921-1929.

Other items of note are three scrapbooks of letters, stamps, manuscripts, news articles, memorabilia dating 1881-1940, and an autograph album dating 1883-1889. There are several books and periodicals that have been autographed and inscribed. Among these books is an autographed copy of *Au Pays de "la Vie Intense* by Felix Klein. The papers include several letters and cards from Felix Klein to Anna J. Cooper, as well as a poem by Mrs. Cooper dedicated to him.

Biographical Sketch

- 1858 August 10 Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, the daughter of George Washington Haywood and Hannah Stanley.
- 1877 June 21 Married George Christopher Cooper.
- 1879 September 27 George Cooper died.
- 1884-1885 Professor of Modern Language and Literature, Wilberforce University, Ohio.
- 1885-1887 Instructor of Math, Latin and Greek, St. Augustine's Normal and Collegiate Institute, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 1887 Received M.A. degree in Math from Oberlin College, Ohio.
- 1887 Began teaching at Washington High School, Washington, D.C.
- 1892 Published *A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South*.
- 1900 Addressed Pan-African Conference, Westminster Hall, London.
- 1901-1906 Principal of M. Street High School, Washington, D.C.
- 1906 Appointed supervisor of the Colored Social Settlement.
- 1906-1910 Professor of Foreign language, Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Missouri
- 1910-1930 Teacher of Latin, Dunbar High School Washington, D.C.
- 1911-1913 Attended summer sessions at 'la Guilde' in Paris.
- 1915-1917 Attended Columbia University summer sessions, preparing for her doctorate.
- 1920-1921 Attended extension courses at Columbia University, New York.
- 1925 Received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Paris.
- 1930-41 President and teacher at Frelinghuysen University, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Sketch continued

- 1941-64 President Emeritus and Acting Registrar, Frelinghuysen University.
- 1964 Died.

Source: *The Dictionary of American Negro Biography*, edited by Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston. W. W. Norton, 1982.

Series Description

- Series A**
Box 23-1
to Box 23-2
- Personal Papers**
Biographical data, correspondence, photographs, programs and memorabilia.
- Series B**
Box 23-2
to Box 23-3
- Greeting Cards**
Alphabetically arranged by correspondents. Some of the cards have personal notes enclosed or written on them.
- Series C**
Box 23-4
- Manuscripts by Anna J. Copper**
Holographs of articles, addresses, plays and poems.
- Series D**
Box 23-5
- Published Materials by Anna J. Cooper**
News articles, pamphlets, and books.
- Series E**
Box 23-6
- The Life and Writings of the Grimke Family by Anna J. Cooper**
Research materials, letters typescript and galley proofs of the book.
- Series F**
Box 23-7
- Scrapbooks and Album**
Three scrapbooks comprised of news clippings, letters, poems, broadsides, stamps, and other memorabilia spanning the time period 1881-1940; one autograph album 1883-1889; and an account book of Frelinghuysen University School of Law, 1921-29.
- Series G**
Box 23-8
to Box 23-9
- Printed Materials**
Books, periodicals, and newspaper clippings; some are autographed and inscribed.
- Series H**
Box 23-10
- Duplicates**
Multiple copies of writings by Anna J. Cooper, news articles about her, programs, and Frelinghuysen University catalogues. Items duplicate materials in other series.

Container List

A Personal Papers

- | Box 23-1 | Folder |
|----------|--|
| | 1 Biographical data |
| | 2 Clippings about Anna J. Cooper (xerox copy) |
| | 3 Clippings about Anna J. Cooper (originals fragile) |
| | 4 Correspondence - Incoming Felix Klein |
| | 5 Correspondence, A-K |
| | 6 Correspondence, L-Z |
| | 7 Correspondence - Unsigned and partial names |
| | 8 Correspondence - Partial letters |
| | 9 Financial records |
| | 10 Certificates |
| | 11 Notes |
| | 12 Programs on which her name appears |
| | 13 Programs (general) |
| | 14 Photographs |
| 23-2 | 15 Pictures and memorabilia |
| | 16 Frelinghuysen memorabilia |
| | 17 The Colored Social Settlement Washington, D.C. |
| | 18 Oberlin in Shansi |

B Greeting Cards

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| | 19 A-C |
| | 20 D-F |
| | 21 G-H |
| | 22 J-L |
| 23-3 | 23 M-Q |
| | 24 R-S |
| | 25 T-Y |
| | 26 Partial, illegible names |
| | 27 Unsigned |

Container List

C Manuscript by Anna J. Cooper

Manuscript and Addresses

Box 23-4	Folder
	28 Manuscripts
	29 Address, accepting her diploma from the Sorbonne, Univ. of Paris 12/29/25
	30 Bible Quotation
	31 Christ's Church, A 20th Century Parable
	32 The Ethics of the Negro Question
	33 Foreword On Education
	34 Modern Education
	35 The Negro's Dialect
	36 A Problem in American Education; Loss of Speech through Isolation
	37 The Third Step (autobiographical)
	38 The Tie What Used to Bind; a Mid-Victorian Negro Marriage

Plays and Programs

39	Christmas Bells; a one act play for children
40	The Cock That Makes The Sun Rise. Synopsis of a play
41	Dunbar Day Junior Rhetorical Program - drafts
42	An Evening with Vergie; a playlet in two acts from scenes in the Aeneid
43	From Servitude to Service contributions from the Negro Peoples in American History: a pageant 1940

Poems

44	The Answer
45	Aunt Charlotte
46	A Bench Beside the Road
47	The Black Madonna of Chartres,

France

48	Dunbar H.S. Alma Mater
49	Grapes from Thorns; the First Step (3 poems)
50	A Message
51	Resurrexit, Resurgam
52	Sandy Klaws
53	Simon of Cyrene

Container List

C Manuscript by Anna J. Cooper continued

France

- Box 23-4 Folder
- 54 Sterling Calhoun
 - 55 They Also
 - 56 To: M.L. Abbe Felix Klein

D Published Materials by Anna J. Cooper

- Box 23-5 Folder
- 57 Clippings of articles by Anna J. Cooper (xerox materials)
 - 58 Clippings of articles by Anna J. Cooper (originals)
 - 59 Angry Saxons and Negro Education
 - 60 L'attitude de la France a l'egard de l'escalauage pendant la revolution
 - 61 College extension for working people
 - 62 Equality of Races and the Democratic Movement
 - 63 The Higher Education of Woman
 - 64 Hitler and the Negro
 - 65 The Humor of Teaching
 - 66 Legislative Measures Concerning Slavery in the U.S.
 - 67 Oberlin College, Class Letters
 - 68 Le Peterinage de Charlemagne
 - 69 Le Peterinage de Charlemagne - Advertisements
 - 70 A Voice from the South

E The Life and Writings of the Grimke Family by Anna J. Cooper

- Box 23-6
- 71 Original letters for Grimke books
 - 72 Pictures of the Grimke book
 - 73 Published materials for the Grimke book
 - 74 Typescripts of letters for the Grimke book
 - 75 Manuscript for the Grimke book
 - 76 Manuscript for the Grimke book
 - 77 Manuscript for the Grimke book
 - 78 Manuscript for the Grimke book
 - 79 Manuscript for the Grimke book
 - 80 Galley Proofs

Container List

E The Life and Writings of the Grimke Family by Anna J.Cooper continued

- Box 23-6 Folder
- 81 Galley Proofs
 - 82 Galley Proofs
 - 83 Galley Proofs
 - 84 Galley Proofs
 - 85 Galley Proofs
 - 86 Galley Proofs

F Scrapbooks and Albums

- Box 23-7
- 87 Autograph album 1883-1889
 - 88 Scrapbook no.1 1881-1926
 - 89 Scrapbook no.2 1931-1940
 - 90 Scrapbook no.3 undated
 - 91 Law School Account Book 1921- 1929 Frelinghuysen University

G Printed Materials

Books

- Box 23-8
- 92 Bellegarde, Dantes. L'Occupation Americaine d' Haite; ses Consequences Morales and Economiques. Port-au-Prince, 1929.
 - 93 Brown, Roscoe C. Little Charlie Browne; The Genesis, Acts, and Revelations of Charles F. M. Browne. Washington, D.C., 1957
 - 94 Child, Lydia Maria. The Freedman's Book, Boston 1865. (inscribed)
 - 95 Foley, James W. A Christmas Prayer. Chicago, 1915.
 - 96 Frost, William Goodell. Far the Mountains; An Autobiography. Now York, E117. (autographed)
 - 97 Klein, Felex. Au Pays de "La Vie Intense." Paris, 1911, (autographed)

Periodicals

- Box 23-9
- 98 Invitation to Learning; Discussions of Great Books and Significant Ideas. Fall 1951, v. I no. 3. (inscribed)

Container List

G Printed Materials continued

- Box 23-9 Folder
- 99 Mercure de France. Jan. 1, 1924, v. 169 no. 613.
- The Oberlin Alumni Magazine
- 100 June, October, 1913
- 101 January, October, November, 1914
- 102 February, March, April, May, November, 1915
- 103 La Revue du Monde Noir, n.d.
- 104 Clippings - miscellaneous

H Duplicates

- Box 23-10 La Pelerinage de Charlemagne 1925, by A. J. Cooper (10)
- The Third Step n.d. by A. J. Cooper (2)
- From Servitude to Service n.d. by A. J. Cooper (9)
- Aunt Charlotte by A. J. Cooper (17)
- AKA Souvenir Programs Dec. 29, 1925 (6)
- (news article) "D.C. Scholar Looks at 100Years of Living"
- (news article) "Negro Educator Sees Life's Meaning at 100"
- Frelinghuysen University Decennial Catalogue (2)
- Frelinghuysen University second Decennial Catalogue (2)