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**Guide to the Helen Brown Papers  
DCAAP.0028**

**Moorland-Spingarn Research Center,  
Howard University Collection Number xxx**

**Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by D.C. Africana Archives Project**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 14, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DC Africana Archives Project  
Gelman Library  
Special Collections, Suite 704  
2130 H Street NW  
Washington DC, 20052

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	DC Africana Archives Project
<b>Title</b>	Helen Brown Papers
<b>Date</b>	1898-1987
<b>Extent</b>	5.0 Cubic feet
<b>Location note</b>	This collection is part of the holdings of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, 500 Howard Place, NW, Washington, DC 20059. Please contact them for information on accessing these materials.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Helen Brown was a teacher of home economics in the D.C. Public School system for over 40 years. Her papers consist of consist of teaching materials, lecture notes, and sheet music. Of particular interest are family papers, including correspondence and writings of her father, Sterling N. Brown, and her brother, Sterling A. Brown.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Helen Brown was born in Washington, D.C. Her parents, Rev. Sterling N. Brown and Adelaide A. Brown, had five other children. Her brother was Sterling A. Brown, literary scholar and professor at Howard University. Her sister was Elsie Brown Smith, Dunbar High School teacher and wife of Principal Walter L. Smith. Along with her sisters and brothers, she attended M Street High School, now Dunbar. She received her bachelor's degree in Home Economics in 1920 from Howard University, and her master's degree from Columbia University in 1929. In addition to her studies at Howard and Columbia, Helen also studied at New York and Catholic universities. Helen joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 1917, just four years after its founding at Howard University. In 1920, Helen was appointed to teach home economics at Armstrong High School, where she eventually chaired the department. As part of her teaching responsibilities, Helen served as teacher of Foods and Nutrition and managed the cafeteria. After Armstrong closed, Helen continued her teaching career at Roosevelt High School, and then to Eastern High School, retiring in 1964. Helen taught home economics for over 40 years in the D.C. public school system, serving as the head of the district department during the latter years of her appointment. After retiring from the school district, Helen worked for the Woodlawn Cemetery Perpetual Care Association in order to save and restore one of the last predominately African American burial sites in the city. Helen was a member of Lincoln Temple Congregational Church for over 60 years. Her father, Rev. Sterling N. Brown, served as pastor of Lincoln Temple. Helen passed away in August 1985.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Helen Brown Papers consist of teaching materials, lecture notes, and sheet music. Also included are reports concerning the Home Economics curriculum in D.C. Public Schools, and conference and workshop materials. Of particular interest are family papers, including correspondence and writings of her father, Sterling N. Brown, and her brother, Sterling A. Brown.

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## Arrangement note

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This collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

DC Africana Archives Project

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use note**

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Sterling N. Brown Papers Elsie Brown Smith Papers

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
"Aftermath: Captain Delano's Claim Against Benito Cerreno 1983	3	25
American Book Review 1985	3	37
An Open Letter From "Tinker Belle's" Family to Neighbors c.1980s	3	36
Anna Cooper Obituary (photocopy) 1963	2	10
Audio Cassette: Langston Hughes Festival Award Gala 1986	1	38
Brown, Helen - News Clipping 1928	4	30
C. Erovelle Rhetta Fine Arts Notebook 1926	4	20
Century Club Membership 1979-1980	2	38
Chemistry c.1917	4	11
Christmas Cards (1 of 2) 1983-1986	3	13
Christmas Cards (2 of 2) 1983-1986	3	14
Church Event Programs 1903-1960	2	29

Condolence Letters for Helen's Death to Sterling 1985	3	9
Conference on Black American Culture and Scholarship: Contemporary Issues 1983	3	42
Cooking + Food Science c.1917	4	13
Correspondence: Dr. B.M. Rhetta (1 of 2) 1928	2	34
Correspondence: Dr. B.M. Rhetta (2 of 2) 1928	2	35
Correspondence: Sterling Brown and A.L. DeMond 1929	2	16
Danziger's Completely Undercoated Cartoons 1982	3	15
DC Church Focal Point in Freedom Fight 1965	2	30
Decorative Arts + Interiors 1926	4	21
Economics 1918-1919	4	16
Educational Psychology 1918	4	14
Event Invitations and Programs (1 of 2) 1984-1986	3	11
Event Invitations and Programs (2 of 2) 1984-1986	3	12



Faulkner Books The Black Power Imperative Order Form c.1980s	3	34
Federal Writers' Project 1986	3	19
First Annual Mayor's Art Awards 1981	3	30
"The First Editor of Oracle Passes at 78" 1977	1	29
Greeting Cards Sent to Sterling Brown 1985-1986	3	8
"Important Notes" 1982	3	22
HDB Bio / Education / Prof. History 1950-1972	4	28
HDB HU 1920 yearbook Sr. 1920	4	19
Helen - All Diplomas - 1912 Sumner, 1926 M St., 1920 Howard, 1929 Columbia 1912-1929	5	1
Helen - Correspondence with Harper & Row Publishers 1980	1	27
Helen Brown - General Correspondence 1974-1979	1	36
(High School) Chemistry 1A Notebook 1915-1916	4	2
HISTORY notebook (1/2) 1928	4	22

HISTORY notebook (2/2) 1928	4	23
Home Ec Evaluation 1960	4	27
Home Ec Notes + Sex Hygeine 1920	4	18
Howard Alumni: Printed Material, Reunions, Correspondence (1 of 2) 1908-1959	2	31
Howard Alumni: Printed Material, Reunions, Correspondence (2 of 2) 1908-1959	2	32
Howard Examination Notebooks - Chemistry, Sewing, Experimental Cookery, Textiles, Home Ec, Applied Sciences 1916-1920	4	17
Howard Home Ec Department Correspondence/ Dunbar Honor Society 1974-1978	4	29
Howard U News - Late Dr. Sterling N Brown 1929	4	25
Howard University Calendars 1967-1970	2	42
Howard University Choral Society "Hiawatha" Performance 1920	2	37
Howard University Class of 1920 Address Cards (1 of 3) undated	2	45
Howard University Class of 1920 Address Cards (2 of 3) undated	2	46

Howard University Class of 1920 Address Cards (3 of 3) undated	2	47
Howard University Class of 1920 Banquet 1940-1950	2	48
Howard University Guide to Gifts and Bequests 1986	3	27
Humanities - Newsletter of the DC Community Humanities Council 1980	1	35
Installation Exercises of Lincoln Temple YPSCE (Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor) 1906	2	4
Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters 1981-1983	3	31
Later Studies at Howard? Literature? (coursework) 1960s	4	26
Letter From Sterling Brown to Grace Brown 1946	3	1
Letter to Grace Brown from Dr. Helen L. Rhetta 1946	3	4
Letter to Helen Brown from Susie Quandes 1970	2	14
Letter to Sterling N. Brown from Citizens Bank & Trust Co. 1928	2	11
Letters to Grace and Helen Brown From Daisy Brown 1941-1947	3	2
Letters to Grace Brown From John L. Dennis 1943-1946	3	3

Library of Congress Poetry Reading Series 1983-1984	3	28
Lincoln Memorial Congregational Church 65th Anniversary 1946	2	12
Lincoln Temple Choir - The Crucifixion 1905	2	7
Lincoln Temple Choir in a Service of Sacred Song 1902	2	27
Lincoln Temple Printed Material 1964	2	21
Lincoln Temple Remodeling 1901	2	26
Lincoln Temple Sunday School Composition Book (mostly recipes)	4	3
Louisville Kentucky Postcard Set c. 1940s	3	5
M St. / Armstrong HS examinations + grades 1912-1916	4	1
Mary Edna Brown Coleman Obituary undated	1	32
Mary Lorraine Europe October 13, 1885 - October 20, 1947 1947	2	19
Metropolitan Museum of Art Weekly Calendar 1974	2	41
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Certificate of Appreciation 1974	2	36

Musicology Summer Seminar Proposal for Historically Black Colleges and Universities 1983	1	25
Notebook - Chemistry + Misc. c.1916	4	9
Notes: A Theory of Domestic Arts c.1916	4	4
"Notes for Mr. Sterling" 1978-1982	1	26
Notes: Sewing + Textiles + Millinery c.1916	4	6
Organic Chemistry NB c.1917	4	12
Organic Chemistry NB 1918-1919	4	15
Park Temple - Letter from the Pastor 1900	2	8
Photo Collage and Notes undated	2	18
Physiology 1916-1917	4	10
Piano and Song Recital at Lincoln Temple Church 1906	2	2
Poetry Pilot - October 1982 1982	3	39
Prayers For All Seasons Engagement Calendar 1973	2	44

Proposal Summary: "I'm Too Busy to Talk Now: Conversations with American Artists over 70" 1983	3	38
Request to Use Excerpt from Southern Road by Sterling A Brown 1983	3	32
Restoration of Lincoln Temple's Historic Bell 1952	2	15
Reverend Sterling N. Brown's Speech to President Harding 1922	2	28
Sewing Exam - Howard 1916	4	8
Sewing Swatch Workbook (Artifact), Perfection Tailor System NB c.1916	4	7
Sheet Music: Bach, The Well-Tempered Clavichord 1908	1	4
Sheet Music: Clair de Lune for Piano 1927	1	14
Sheet Music: Clementi Gradus Ad Parnassum 1903	1	5
Sheet Music: Crazy Words Crazy Tune, "Vo-Do-De-o" 1927	1	20
Sheet Music: Enchantment 1922	1	3
Sheet Music: From Holberg's Time Suite in Olden Style 1907	1	13
Sheet Music: Loeschhorn Studies for the Piano 1902	1	12

Sheet Music: Magnolia Suite for Piano 1912	1	23
Sheet Music: Rachmaninoff Album of Compositions 1920	1	11
Sheet Music: Robert Schumann's Compositionen undated	1	21
Sheet Music: S. Coleridge-Taylor Paino Compositions 1921	1	22
Sheet Music: Scenes From The Song of Hiawatha 1900	1	1
Sheet Music: Selected Studies, Heller undated	1	15
Sheet Music: Selections From the Music Dramas of Richard Wagner Arranged for the Piano 1921	1	6
Sheet Music: Special Sacred Songs 1913	1	17
Sheet Music: Symphonien von W.A. Mozart undated	1	24
Sheet Music: That's How I Feel About You 1928	1	18
Sheet Music: The Atonement 1903	1	2
Sheet Music: The Two Pianists, A Collection for Four Hands 1904	1	16
Sheet Music: Thirty Piano Compositions, Felix Mendelssohn 1906	1	8

Sheet Music: Three Songs For Low or Medium Voice with Piano Accompaniment 1921	1	19
Sheet Music: Twenty Original Piano Compositions, Franz Liszt 1904	1	7
Sheet Music: Volume 1 Beethoven Sonatas 1909	1	9
Sheet Music: Volume 2 Beethoven Sonatas 1909	1	10
Statement in Support of Request for Rezoning undated	1	30
Sterling A Brown - Royalties 1979-1981	1	34
Sterling A Brown Curriculum Vitae undated	3	23
Sterling A Brown Howard University Century Club Membership 1985	3	35
Sterling A Brown: Building the Black Aesthetic Tradition by Joanne V. Gabbin 1983	1	37
Sterling A Brown: Federal Income Tax Notes 1978-1981	1	33
Sterling A Brown: Insurance and Tax Documents 1978-1983	3	21
Sterling A Brown: Personal Correspondence (various people) 1984-1985	3	10
Sterling A Brown: Professional Correspondence (1 of 2) 1984-1987	3	6



Sterling A Brown: Professional Correspondence (2 of 2) 1984-1987	3	7
Sterling Brown - My Own Life Story 1924	2	1
Sterling Brown Poetry Competition Entries 1982	3	24
Sterling Brown Poetry Reading at Folger Shakespeare Library 1981	3	33
Testimonial and Reception in Honor of Mr. P.B. Badgley 1923	2	17
The Association of Howard University Retirees Minutes 1984-1985	3	16
The Atonement Benefit Girl Reserve Camp Fund 1922	2	20
The Circles of Help - Reverend Sterling Brown 1903	2	13
The Federal Poet 1985-1986	3	20
The Howard University Bulletin 1928-1931	2	33
The Poetry Society of America Coin 1974	1	39
The Temple Calendar, Volume VI, No. 13 1908	2	6
The Temple Calendar, Volume VIII, No. 24 1909	2	9
The Temple Index, Volume II, No. 4 1898	2	25

The Temple Index, Volume II, No. 9 1899	2	24
The Temple Index, Volume II, No. I 1898	2	5
The Washington Northstar - September 29, 1983 1983	3	40
Towards The Preservation of a Heritage: Inagural Exhibition of Howard University Museum 1979	2	39
Tribute to Black College Faculty and Adminsitration Dinner Invitation 1981	3	41
A Tribute to Sterling A Brown 1982	3	29
"Two Outstanding Statements in the News Article on Opposite Page" undated	1	31
UNICEF 1970 Weekly Calendar 1970	2	40
Union First Checking Statements 1979-1980	3	18
United States Civic - Oscar De Priest letter, constitution 1929	4	24
untitled/undated Notebook - physiology, food science c.1916	4	5
Vernon Life Calendar 1963	2	43
Washington Post Clippings 1898-1929	2	3

"Williams: A Documentary Perspective" 1983	3	26
Williams College Society of Alumni 1984	3	17
Woodlawn Cemetary Perpetual Care Association 1980	1	28
Woodlawn Sketches - 1976 Calendar (1 of 2) 1975	2	22
Woodlawn Sketches - 1976 Calendar (2 of 2) 1975	2	23