



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## L. Hollingsworth Wood papers4079496

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Other Finding Aids .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	7
Series I: Catalogued Correspondence .....	7
Series II: National Urban League .....	8

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Wood, L. Hollingsworth (Levi Hollingsworth), 1873-1956
<b>Title:</b>	L. Hollingsworth Wood papers
<b>ID:</b>	4079496
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1373
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1910-1953
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 boxes 5 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); L. Hollingsworth Wood papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Levi Hollingsworth Wood was born into a Quaker family in Westchester County, New York, 1873. He was the son of James and Emily (Hollingsworth) Wood, and the brother of Carolena Morris Wood and Ellen Morris Wood. He graduated from Haverford College in 1896 and Columbia University Law School in 1899. He formed the Kirby and Wood law firm in New York. Wood was active in area of peace, social reforms, racial justice, and humanitarian causes. He served on the Trustee of Fisk University from 1917 to 1956. He was one of the founder and President of the National Urban League (NUL) for 26 years. He also supported the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and Civil Liberties Bureau, later became the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 1920. He was involved in the joint Peace Committee of the Hicksite and Orthodox New York Yearly Meetings, Peace Association of Friends and the Peace Committee of Associated Yearly Meetings, Haverford's Board of Managers, the American League to Limit Armaments (also known as the American Union Against Militarism), the American Commission on Conditions in Ireland (1920-1923), Board of International Rescue Committee (chairman, 1940s-1950s), Fellowship of Reconciliation, and so on. He died in 1956

at the Mount Kisco, New York. A more detailed biography about the Woods can be found in Barbour, Hugh. "The Woods of Mt. Kisco." Quaker History, vol. 87, no. 1, 1998, pp. 1-34.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

There are substantial gaps for the years 1921-1939.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Summary

---

Correspondence, memoranda, and financial and legal papers of Wood. The papers chronicle Wood's role in the early history of the National Urban League. Among the major correspondents are Mary McLeod Bethune, Chester Bowles, Pearl S. Buck, Anna Lord Strauss, and Booker T. Washington.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Cataloged and arranged. Collection is arranged in 2 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.

New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### **Revision Description**

PDF replaced with full finding aid, YH April 2020

### **Restrictions on Access**

The following boxes are located off-site: 2-5. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Alternate Form Available**

Pearl S. Buck letters are on: microfilm.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Readers must use microfilm of materials specified above.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Parris, Guichard. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1976. Accession number--M-76.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 09/--/89.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Schomburg Committee of the Trustees of New York Public Library collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

### Related Materials

L. Hollingsworth Wood papers (HC.MC.1175) Quaker and Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.

### Related Materials

L. Hollingsworth Wood correspondence, Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College

### Related Materials

L. Hollingsworth Wood Prison Reform Papers, Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College

### Related Materials

National Urban League records, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

### Related Materials

Guichard Parris papers, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- African Americans
- African Americans -- History
- Sociology, Urban
- Civil rights

- United States -- Social conditions
- Bethune, Mary McLeod, 1875-1955
- Bowles, Chester, 1901-1986
- Buck, Pearl S (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973
- Strauss, Anna Lord, 1899-1979
- Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915
- National Urban League
- Baldwin, Roger N (Roger Nash), 1884-1981
- Seligman, Edwin R. A (Edwin Robert Anderson), 1861-1939

---

## Other Finding Aids

---

[Legacy Finding aid](#)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

Series I: Catalogued Correspondence	
Title/Description	Instances
Adams, Elbridge L.	box 1
Alsop, Joseph W.	box 1
Baldwin, Roger Nash	box 1
Baldwin, Ruth Standish	box 1
Bethune, Mary McLeod	box 1
Bowles, Chester	box 1
Buck, Pearl Sydenstricker	box 1
Cravath, Paul D.	box 1
Garrison, Lloyd K.	box 1
Kellogg, Paul U.	box 1
Keppell, Frederick Paul	box 1
Myrdal, Gunnar	box 1
Ovington, Mary White	box 1
Peabody, George Foster	box 1

Poletti, Charles	box 1
Powell, Adam Clayton, Sr.	box 1
Rousseau, Theodore	box 1
Seligman, Edwin R. A.	box 1
Spingarn, Joel Elias	box 1
Stokes, Anson Phelps	box 1
Strauss, Anna Lord	box 1
Warburg, Felix M.	box 1
Warren, Schuyler N.	box 1
Washington, Booker T.	box 1
White, Alfred T.	box 1
Williams, Talcott	box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series II: National Urban League

Title/Description	Instances
Chronological files	
1910	box 2
1911	box 2
Contributions, 1912	box 2
1915 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 2
1916 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 2
1917 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 2
1918-1920 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 2
1939 <u>Physical Description</u> : 4 folders	box 3
Letters Re. E.K. Jones, 1939	box 3
1942-1944	box 3



Physical Description: 2 folders

Minutes, Ex. Board of Trustees, 1948-1953	box 3
1949	box 3
1951	box 3
By-laws	box 4
Certificate of incorporation: New York Urban League	box 4
Correspondence	box 4
<u>Physical Description: 2 folders</u>	
Arthur Curtiss James Estate	box 4
Ella Sachs Plotz Fund	box 4
Emlen J. T., Paper read at Roundtable Conference	box 4
Estate of Elizabeth Walton-Anna L. Strauss	box 4
Estate of Ruth Standish Baldwin	box 4
Investments	box 4
Itineraries: E.K. Jones and G.E. Haynes	box 4
Memos, newspaper clippings, suggestions	box 4
<u>Physical Description: 2 folders</u>	
Office force	box 4
Alfred T. White resolution	box 4
Report of Mrs. M.E. Walker's fresh air home	box 4
Seligman Bequest	box 4
Walton, Elizabeth, Memorial meeting	box 4
Washington Memorial Meeting	box 4
Receipts	box 5
Statement by National Urban League on race conditions	box 5
Urban League re: war camp community service	box 5
Budget, 1916	box 5
Budget, 1917-1919	box 5
[Black] Tenements	box 5
Memo of the agreement between Eugene K. Jones (Eugene Kinckle Jones) and Martha Harris (Mrs. Harris)	box 5
Conference agencies	box 5
Accountants' report	box 5

Finance committee	box 5
List of lawyers	box 5
Constitution and minutes and statements re: conferences	box 5
L. Hollingsworth Woods papers (selection) photocopies	box 5
Urban League application re-entering social work	box 5
List of colored newspapers	box 5
Annual meeting	box 5
Minutes	box 5
List of members reports of committees and director; and members of various committees	box 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)