

Scope and Content

The Earl Conrad/Harriet Tubman collection was assembled while the research was being done, generally in 1939 and 1940, and therefore reflects the documents and resources available at that time. The materials themselves are arranged into eight series.

The first series, **Research Correspondence**, consists of letters from Earl Conrad to potential sources of information relating to Harriet Tubman and their responses. The potential sources included historians specializing in the abolitionist movement and the post-Civil War years, librarians in the various communities in which Tubman had lived or based her operations at one time or another, and such national repositories as the Library of Congress, National Archives, and the British Museum, where the official records documenting her life and activities were kept.

Research Notes is comprised of Conrad's notes taken from relevant published works, including histories of the period in which Tubman was active; biographies of contemporary figures; and articles in various newspapers and magazines, such as the *National Anti-Slavery Standard, Liberator*, and the *Boston Commonwealth*, that focused on such social movements as abolition and women's suffrage. Notes also were taken from the general press (*New York Times* and *New York Herald*), the black press (*Frederick Douglass' Newspaper*), and local newspapers (*Auburn Citizen* and *Post-Standard*).

Publishers' Correspondence includes Conrad's correspondence with various publishers in an attempt to get his manuscripts on Tubman published. The letters are significant because they illustrate the strong resistance put forth by the publishing industry against any topic relating to the black experience, even when it dealt with a historical figure of Harriet Tubman's stature. These letters also document the results of an attempt to have the work published in serial form in magazines and newspapers.

Statements and Interviews consists of notes and transcripts of interviews with people who knew or worked with Tubman and members of her family. These are important sources that give direction toward further documentation of her activities. They also illustrate the impact that she had on those around her and the high regard in which she was held even into her later years and after her death.

The next three series—**Programs; Newspapers, Clippings, and Pamphlets; and Miscellaneous Materials**—consist of other materials deposited in the Schomburg Collection by Conrad. Most relate to Tubman, although some do not. Included are newspaper clippings on specific events in her life, pamphlets about her, articles that appeared shortly after her death, programs distributed at the unveiling of a bronze tablet dedicated to her memory in Auburn, New York, and a number of photographs that are identified in the inventory.

The last series, **Manuscripts and Typescripts of Works by Earl Conrad**, consists of various drafts and typescripts of the books and articles about Tubman that developed out of the research represented in the preceding seven series. In processing the papers an attempt was made to reconstruct the drafts as they progressed to the final stage, but where this was not possible, bits and pieces were keyed to the chapters in the publication *Harriet Tubman* (Washington, DC: Associated Publishers, 1943). Unfortunately, some fragments remained that could not be related to specific parts of the books; therefore, these appear at the end of the series in a number of folders labeled "Unidentified Fragments."