

RALPH ELLISON IN CONTEXT

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is the second-most assigned American novel since 1945 and is one of the most enduring. It is studied by many thousands of high school and college students every year and has been since the 1950s. His essays are widely appreciated for their artistry and contributions to the understanding of literature, jazz, and culture in general. *Ralph Ellison in Context* includes authoritative chapters summing up longstanding conversations, while offering groundbreaking essays on a variety of topics not yet covered in the copious critical and biographical literature, including chapters on book design and digital humanities. It provides fresh perspectives on some of the most important people and places in Ellison's life, while exploring where his work and biography cross paths with some of the pressing topics of his time. It also provides several comprehensive studies of various aspects of Ellison's reception and reputation.

PAUL DEVLIN is Associate Professor of English at the United States Merchant Marine Academy and Book Review Editor of *African American Review*. With Henry Louis Gates Jr., he is coeditor of the scholarly editions of Albert Murray's writings. He is also editor of *Riffide* (2011) and *Murray Talks Music* (2016).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-48896-9 — Ralph Ellison in Context
Edited by Paul Devlin
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

RALPH ELLISON IN
CONTEXT

EDITED BY

PAUL DEVLIN

United States Merchant Marine Academy



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-48896-9 — Ralph Ellison in Context
 Edited by Paul Devlin
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108488969
 DOI: 10.1017/9781108773546

© Cambridge University Press 2021

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Devlin, Paul, 1980– editor.

TITLE: Ralph Ellison in context / edited by Paul Devlin.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2021. | Includes
 bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021027006 (print) | LCCN 2021027007 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108488969
 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108732963 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108773546 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Ellison, Ralph. | Ellison, Ralph – Criticism and interpretation. | American
 literature – African American authors – History and criticism. | African American authors –
 Biography. | African Americans in literature. | African Americans – Social conditions – 20th
 century.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PS3555.L625 Z8724 2021 (print) | LCC PS3555.L625 (ebook) | DDC 813/.54
 [B]–dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021027006>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021027007>

ISBN 978-1-108-48896-9 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of
 URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication
 and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,
 accurate or appropriate.

Contents

| | |
|--|------------------|
| <i>List of Figures</i> | <i>page</i> viii |
| <i>Notes on Contributors</i> | x |
| <i>List of Abbreviations</i> | xvii |
| Introduction | I |
| PART I: GEOGRAPHICAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND INTERPERSONAL CONTEXTS | |
| 1 Oklahoma City and “the Territory” <i>Tracy Floreani</i> | 15 |
| 2 Ghosts of Tuskegee <i>Caroline Gebhard</i> | 25 |
| 3 Morteza Drexel Sprague <i>Matthew McKnight</i> | 34 |
| 4 New York City, 1936–1946 <i>Sara Rutkowski</i> | 45 |
| 5 The United States Merchant Marine <i>Paul Devlin</i> | 55 |
| 6 Fanny Ellison <i>Colleen G. Eils</i> | 71 |
| 7 Rome, 1955–1957 <i>Sara Marzioli</i> | 81 |
| 8 Postwar New York City <i>Andrew M. Davenport</i> | 91 |

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| vi | <i>Contents</i> | |
| 9 | Albert Murray after 1962 <i>Paul Devlin</i> | 101 |
| PART II: HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS | | |
| 10 | Visualizing Black Identity in Ellison's Fiction <i>Lena Hill</i> | 117 |
| 11 | Alternating Currents: Electricity, Humanism, and Resistance <i>Jennifer L. Lieberman</i> | 127 |
| 12 | Sounds and Signs of Black Womanhood <i>Meina Yates-Richard</i> | 137 |
| 13 | Masculinity <i>E. Al-Tariq Moore</i> | 147 |
| 14 | Aesthetics of Democracy <i>Sterling Lecater Bland Jr.</i> | 157 |
| 15 | Black Power and Black Arts <i>Matthew Calihman</i> | 167 |
| 16 | Wrestling with the Far Right: Ellison's Representations of Fascism <i>Kevin C. Moore</i> | 177 |
| 17 | Southwestern Swing <i>Steven Lewis</i> | 187 |
| 18 | The Self-Fashioned American Blues Identity <i>Kimberly Mack</i> | 197 |
| 19 | Ellison's Durational View of Bebop <i>Michael Germana</i> | 207 |
| PART III: LITERARY AND CRITICAL CONTEXTS | | |
| 20 | The Harlem Renaissance <i>Michael Borshuk</i> | 219 |
| 21 | Ellison's Early Writings <i>Barbara Foley</i> | 230 |

| | <i>Contents</i> | vii |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----|
| 22 | The Wright School <i>Stephan Kuhl</i> | 240 |
| 23 | Literary Modernism <i>Tessa Roynon</i> | 250 |
| 24 | Beyond Raglan's <i>Hero</i> : Ellison's Ritualist Influences <i>Bryan Crable</i> | 260 |
| 25 | Sociology <i>Scott Selisker</i> | 270 |
| 26 | The Soapbox Speech in Ellison's Fiction <i>Granville Ganter</i> | 280 |
| 27 | Postwar Literary Aesthetics <i>Jesse McCarthy</i> | 290 |
| 28 | Ellison as Correspondent <i>Marc C. Conner</i> | 300 |
| PART IV: RECEPTION AND REPUTATION | | |
| 29 | Critical Reputation, 1994–2020 <i>Paul Devlin and Robert J. Butler</i> | 313 |
| 30 | Reading <i>Invisible Man</i> by Design <i>Kinohi Nishikawa</i> | 327 |
| 31 | Reception of the Hickman Novel <i>Benji de la Piedra</i> | 342 |
| 32 | Reception of the Essay Collections <i>Matthew Lambert</i> | 354 |
| 33 | Reception in the Soviet Union (1953–1991) and Post-Soviet States (1991–2020) <i>Olga Panova</i> | 365 |
| 34 | Biographies of Ellison <i>Timothy Parrish</i> | 376 |
| 35 | Ellison and Digital Humanities <i>J. D. Porter</i> | 385 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 396 |

Figures

| | | |
|------|---|---------|
| 5.1 | Kitchen of SS <i>Jeremiah O'Brien</i> . Photograph by Paul Devlin. | page 60 |
| 5.2 | Another view of the kitchen of SS <i>Jeremiah O'Brien</i> . Photograph by Paul Devlin. | 60 |
| 5.3 | Menu that Ralph Ellison helped to prepare aboard SS <i>Sun Yat Sen</i> . Photograph by Paul Devlin. | 61 |
| 5.4 | Ralph Ellison's photograph from his US Coast Guard Certificate of Service, December 27, 1943. Unattributed photograph. | 64 |
| 8.1 | Elizabeth Catlett's <i>Ralph Ellison Memorial</i> (2003), Riverside Park, New York, with 730 Riverside Drive (Ellison's residence 1952–1994) off to the left behind the sculpture. Photograph by Paul Devlin. | 98 |
| 9.1 | Ralph Ellison, Nancy Lewis, and Arthur Miller, c. early 1960s. Photograph by Albert Murray. Courtesy of the Albert Murray Trust. | 103 |
| 9.2 | Ralph Ellison at a gathering in Albert Murray's apartment, c. 1970s. Photograph by Albert Murray courtesy of the Albert Murray Trust. | 104 |
| 30.1 | Cover of the first edition dust jacket of <i>Invisible Man</i> (1952). Design by E. McKnight Kauffer. | 328 |
| 30.2 | Cover of the first Signet edition of <i>Invisible Man</i> (1953). Art by James Avati. | 331 |
| 30.3 | Cover of the second Signet edition of <i>Invisible Man</i> (1960). Artist unknown. | 334 |
| 30.4 | Cover of the Modern Library edition of <i>Invisible Man</i> (1963). Artist unknown. | 335 |
| 30.5 | Cover of the Vintage thirtieth-anniversary edition of <i>Invisible Man</i> (1982). Artist unknown. | 337 |

| <i>List of Figures</i> | | ix |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| 30.6 | Cover of the Vintage sixtieth-anniversary edition of <i>Invisible Man</i> (2012). Design and lettering by Cardon Webb. | 339 |
| 33.I | Cover of <i>King of the Bingo Game</i> (1985), the only Soviet edition of Ellison's writings. Art and design by Leonid Belsky and Vladimir Potapov. | 371 |
| 35.I | Classification of 200-sentence segments of <i>Invisible Man</i> . Table by J. D. Porter. | 391 |

Notes on Contributors

STERLING LECATER BLAND, JR. is Associate Professor of English at Rutgers University-Newark. His books include *Voices of the Fugitives: Runaway Slave Stories and Their Fictions of Self-Creation* (2000) and *Understanding 19th-Century Slave Narratives* (2016). He contributed to *Narrative, Race, and Ethnicity in the Americas* (2017) and has published widely in *South Atlantic Review*, *MELUS*, and *American Studies*.

MICHAEL BORSHUK is Associate Professor of African American Literature at Texas Tech University. He is the author of *Swinging the Vernacular: Jazz and African American Modernist Literature* (2006) and numerous other articles and book chapters on African American literature, American modernism, and music, including recently, essays on Albert Murray, August Wilson, jazz on television, and singer-songwriters in the 1970s.

ROBERT J. BUTLER is Emeritus Professor of English at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He has authored or coauthored seven books on African American Literature, including *The Critical Response to Ralph Ellison*, *Contemporary African American Literature: The Open Journey*, and *The City in African American Literature* (with Yoshinobu Hakutani). His articles on a wide variety of American and African American writers have appeared in *American Studies*, *Twentieth Century Literature*, *The Centennial Review*, *African American Review*, and *CLA Journal*.

MATTHEW CALIHMAN is Professor of English at Missouri State University. He is the coeditor, with Gerald Early, of *Approaches to Teaching Baraka's Dutchman* (2018) and the coeditor, with Tracy Floreani and A Yemisi Jimoh, of the *Ralph Ellison Special Issue of American Studies* (2015), and he has published articles in *MELUS* and

Notes on Contributors

xi

Voices in Italian Americana. He served on the organizing committee for the 2014 Ralph Ellison Centennial Symposium in Oklahoma City.

MARC C. CONNER is President of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. He has edited or coedited *The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison*, *The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century*, and *Charles Johnson: The Novelist as Philosopher*. He is a cofounder and secretary/treasurer of the Ralph Ellison Society and has organized multiple symposia, panels, and seminars on Ellison's work.

BRYAN CRABLE is Professor of Communication/Rhetorical Studies and Director of the Waterhouse Family Institute at Villanova University. He is the author of *Ralph Ellison and Kenneth Burke* (2012) and numerous articles and chapters on Burke, Ellison, rhetorical theory, and American racial discourse. His current book project, *White Sacraments*, draws upon archival materials from Ralph Ellison and Jane Ellen Harrison to recast American white supremacy as ritual structure and practice.

ANDREW M. DAVENPORT is the Public Historian at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. and Manager of its *Getting Word African American Oral History Project*. He is a Ph.D. candidate in U.S. History at Georgetown University and since 2019 has been a researcher at the Georgetown Slavery Archive. He has published in *Lapham's Quarterly* and *Smithsonian Magazine*.

BENJI DE LA PIEDRA is a working oral historian who writes about American media, history, and literature. He holds an MA in Oral History from Columbia University and teaches courses at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of the District of Columbia. He has presented papers on Ellison at many conferences, including the International Ralph Ellison Symposium and the American Literature Association, and his scholarship on Ellison has been published in *Literature of the Americas*.

PAUL DEVLIN is Associate Professor of English at the United States Merchant Marine Academy and Book Review Editor of *African American Review*. He is the editor of *Riffside: The Life and Opinions of Papa Jo Jones* (2011) and *Murray Talks Music: Albert Murray on Jazz and Blues* (2016). With Henry Louis Gates Jr., he is coeditor of *Albert Murray: Collected Essays and Memoirs* (2016) and *Albert Murray: Collected Novels and Poems* (2018). Paul has published on Ralph

Ellison in *American Studies*, *Literature of the Americas*, *Slate*, *American Literary History*, and elsewhere, and has presented on Ellison at various conferences including MELUS (2014), the International Ralph Ellison Symposium at the University of Oxford (2017), and (Re)Reading Ralph Ellison at Goethe University (2019). He was a curator of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem's exhibition "Ralph Ellison: A Man and His Records" (2014) and was the exhibition's literary consultant.

COLLEEN G. EILS is Associate Professor of English and Associate Director of the West Point Writing Program at the United States Military Academy. Her scholarship on race and indigeneity in contemporary American literature has appeared in *MELUS* and *SAIL*, and her first book is *The Politics of Privacy in Contemporary Native, Latinx, and Asian American Metafiction*.

TRACY FLOREANI is Professor of English at Oklahoma City University. She is the author of *Fifties Ethnicities: The Ethnic Novel and Mass Culture at Midcentury* (2013) and is currently working on a biography of Fanny McConnell Ellison. She was the citywide coordinator of events to celebrate the centenary of Ralph Ellison in his hometown of Oklahoma City, which concluded with a national symposium in 2014.

BARBARA FOLEY is Distinguished Professor Emerita in the English Department at Rutgers University-Newark. She has published widely in the fields of U.S. literary radicalism and African American Literature. Her books include *Wrestling with the Left: The Making of Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man* (2010); *Jean Toomer: Repression, Race, and Revolution* (2014); and *Marxist Literary Criticism Today* (2019).

GRANVILLE GANTER is Associate Professor of English at St. John's University in Queens, NY. He studies oratorical and performance culture, and his essays have appeared in *African American Review*, *Early American Literature*, and *Native American Quarterly*. He is currently working on a cultural biography of the early American lecturer Anne Laura Clarke.

CAROLINE GEBHARD, Professor of English at Tuskegee University, has published more than a dozen articles and book chapters and has served as a guest editor for *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* for the special issue "Recovering Alice Dunbar-Nelson for the 21st Century." With Barbara McCaskill, she coedited *Post-Bellum – Pre-Harlem: African American Literature and Culture, 1877–1919* (2006) and is

Notes on Contributors

xiii

currently coediting a volume in the new Cambridge series *African American Literature in Transition, 1880–1900*.

MICHAEL GERMANA is Professor of English at West Virginia University and the author of two books: *Standards of Value: Money, Race, and Literature in America* (2009) and *Ralph Ellison, Temporal Technologist* (2018). He is a founding and lifetime member of the Ralph Ellison Society.

LENA HILL is Provost and Professor of English and Africana Studies at Washington and Lee University. She has authored numerous articles and three book-length studies that consider Ellison: *Invisible Hawkeyes: African Americans at the University of Iowa during the Long Civil Rights Era* (2016), *Visualizing Blackness and the Creation of the African American Literary Tradition* (2014), and *Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man: A Reference Guide* (2008). Lena is Vice President of the Ralph Ellison Society.

STEPHAN KUHL is Assistant Professor at the Institute for English and American Studies of Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany. His publications include “Richard Wright’s Transnationalism and His Unwritten Magnum Opus” in *The Cambridge Companion to Richard Wright* (ed. Glenda R. Carpio) and the book *Crude Psychology: Richard Wright’s Literary Practice*, which is forthcoming. Together with Luvena Kopp and Nicole Lindenberg, he organized the “(Re)Reading Ralph Ellison” Symposium, held at Goethe University in 2019.

MATTHEW LAMBERT is Assistant Professor of English at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, where he teaches courses in American literature. His book, *The Green Depression: American Ecoliterature of the 1930s and 40s*, is forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi, and he has published articles in the *Journal of Midwest Modern Language Association* and the *Journal of Popular Film and Television*.

STEVEN LEWIS is the founding Curator of the National Museum of African American Music in Nashville, Tennessee, and has presented at national and international conferences of organizations including Rhythm Changes, the Society for American Music, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the Society for Ethnomusicology. He has worked as a researcher for the Thomas

Jefferson Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Carnegie Hall Corporation. His writing has appeared in *Jazz Perspectives*.

JENNIFER L. LIEBERMAN is Associate Professor of English at the University of North Florida. Her first book is *Power Lines: Electricity in American Life and Literature, 1882–1952* (2017). Her other work can be found in such publications as *MELUS*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Configurations*, *JLS: Journal of Literature and Science*, and *History and Technology*.

KIMBERLY MACK is Assistant Professor of African American literature at the University of Toledo, and her monograph, *Fictional Blues: Narrative Self-Invention from Bessie Smith to Jack White*, was published in 2020 by the University of Massachusetts Press as part of their African American Intellectual History series. Some of her writing has appeared in *Popular Music and Society* and the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. She has presented her work on Ralph Ellison at numerous symposia, seminars, and conferences.

SARA MARZIOLI is an Instructor in Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the Pennsylvania State University. Her research brings into conversation twentieth-century African diasporic and Italian writers and film directors, whose work addresses the intersection of history, narrative, and coloniality in Europe. She has published in *African American Review*, *Atlantic Studies*, and *Modernism/Modernity*. She is working on a book manuscript entitled *The Color of The Archive: Afro-Modernism Between the Atlantic and The Mediterranean*.

JESSE MCCARTHY is Assistant Professor in the departments of English and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of a collection of essays *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?* (Liveright, 2021) and a contributor to the edited volumes *Richard Wright in Context* (Cambridge University Press) and the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to the Essay*.

MATTHEW MCKNIGHT, a writer and editor, was a 2019–2020 fellow at the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the Graduate Center, CUNY. He is working on a biography of Albert Murray. His writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, and *The Point*.

Notes on Contributors

xv

E. AL-TARIQ MOORE is a doctoral candidate at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Teaching Instructor at East Carolina University. His research interests include twentieth-century African American literature, medical humanities, trauma studies, and critical theory and cultural studies with specific interest in masculinity studies. Moore's current projects examine the utility of fictional representations of illness in black men as interventive tools of narrative and other therapies.

KEVIN C. MOORE is a Lecturer in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford University. His work has appeared in *Arizona Quarterly*, *Composition Studies*, *Writing on the Edge*, *MAKE*, *Souciant*, and the *Santa Barbara Independent*, as well as a number of edited collections.

KINOHI NISHIKAWA is Associate Professor of English and African American Studies at Princeton University. He is the author of *Street Players: Black Pulp Fiction and the Making of a Literary Underground* (2018), and of essays appearing in *Book History*, *Chicago Review*, and the edited collection *Black Cultural Production after Civil Rights* (2019).

OLGA PANOVA is Professor at the Department of Foreign Literature, Faculty of Philology, Lomonosov Moscow State University and Associate Researcher at the Sector of Modern European and American Literature, A. M. Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences. She is editor-in-chief of *Literature of the Americas* and, as such, edited "Ralph Ellison: Contemporary Studies," a special section of *Literature of the Americas* 5 (2018).

TIMOTHY PARRISH is a writer and critic living in Sacramento where he teaches for the University of California at Davis. His most recent critical book is *Ralph Ellison and the Genius of America*. His fiction has appeared in *Ploughshares* ("The Critic, a novella"), *Raritan* ("Phillip Roth's Final Hours"), and *Equinox* ("The Temptation of Gram Parsons"), among other places. He edited *The Cambridge Companion to American Novelists* and *The Cambridge Companion to Philip Roth*.

J. D. PORTER is the Digital Humanities Specialist at the Price Lab at the University of Pennsylvania. His work has appeared in *Cultural Analytics*, *Episteme*, and *Public Books*.

TESSA ROYNON is a Senior Research Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford. Her publications include *The Cambridge Introduction to Toni Morrison* (2012), *Toni Morrison and*

the Classical Tradition (2013), and *The Classical Tradition in Modern American Fiction* (2021). She is the coeditor, with Marc Conner, of *Global Ralph Ellison* (forthcoming). In September 2017 she directed the International Ralph Ellison Symposium at the University of Oxford, together with Marc Conner.

SARA RUTKOWSKI is Assistant Professor of English at the City University of New York: Kingsborough Community College. She is the author of *Literary Legacies of the Federal Writers' Project: Voices of the Depression in the American Postwar Era* (2017) and has published various essays on Depression-era and postwar American writers and the cultural and political contexts of twentieth-century global literature.

SCOTT SELISKER is Associate Professor of English at the University of Arizona. He is the author of *Human Programming* (2016), and his essay "Simply by Reacting?: *Invisible Man's* Automata and the Sociology of Race" was awarded the 2012 Norman Foerster Prize for Best Essay published in *American Literature*.

MEINA YATES-RICHARD is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and English at Emory University and a 2018–2019 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow. Her essay "WHAT IS YOUR MOTHER'S NAME?: Maternal Disavowal and the Reverberating Aesthetic of Black Women's Pain in Black Nationalist Literature" was awarded the 2016 Norman Foerster Prize for Best Essay published in *American Literature*, and she has also published essays in the *Journal of West Indian Literature* and *American Studies*.

Abbreviations

| | |
|---------------|--|
| AMP | Albert Murray Papers, Houghton Library on behalf of the Hutchins Center for African and African American History and Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. |
| CE | Ralph Ellison, <i>The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison</i> , revised and updated edn, ed. John F. Callahan (New York, NY: Modern Library, 2003). |
| CPUSA | Communist Party of the United States. |
| CwAM | <i>Conversations with Albert Murray</i> , ed. Roberta S. Maguire (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1997). |
| CwRE | <i>Conversations with Ralph Ellison</i> , eds. Maryemma Graham and Amritjit Singh (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1994). |
| FH | Ralph Ellison, <i>Flying Home and Other Stories</i> , second Vintage International edn, ed. John F. Callahan (New York, NY: Vintage International, 2012). |
| Foley | Barbara Foley, <i>Wrestling with the Left: The Making of Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man</i> (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010). |
| Hickman Novel | Refers to the entirety of the drafts of the novel that Ellison worked on subsequent to <i>Invisible Man</i> as opposed to the posthumously published portions (TD and <i>Juneteenth</i>) and to the work to which the excerpts published by Ellison belong. |
| HB | Ralph Ellison, "Out of the Hospital and Under the Bar," in <i>Soon, One Morning: New Writing by American Negroes, 1940–1962</i> , ed. Herbert Hill (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1963), 242–90. |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| xviii | <i>List of Abbreviations</i> |
| IM | Ralph Ellison, <i>Invisible Man</i> (New York, NY: Vintage International, 1995). |
| Invisible | The narrator-protagonist of <i>Invisible Man</i> after being introduced in a chapter as “the Invisible Man.” |
| Jackson | Lawrence Jackson, <i>Ralph Ellison: Emergence of Genius</i> , paperback edn (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 2007). |
| LwM | Ralph Ellison, <i>Living with Music: Ralph Ellison’s Jazz Writings</i> , ed. Robert G. O’Meally (New York, NY: Modern Library, 2001). |
| MTM | <i>Murray Talks Music: Albert Murray on Jazz and Blues</i> , ed. Paul Devlin (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2016). |
| Rampersad | Arnold Rampersad, <i>Ralph Ellison: A Life</i> (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007). |
| REP | Ralph Ellison Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. |
| SL | Ralph Ellison, <i>The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison</i> , eds. John F. Callahan and Marc C. Conner (New York, NY: Random House, 2019). |
| TD | Ralph Ellison, <i>Three Days Before the Shooting. . .</i> , eds. John F. Callahan and Adam Bradley (New York, NY: Modern Library, 2010). |
| TT | Ralph Ellison and Albert Murray, <i>Trading Twelves: The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison and Albert Murray</i> , eds. Albert Murray and John F. Callahan (New York, NY: Modern Library, 2000). |
| UNY | Ralph Ellison, “Adventures of an Unintentional New Yorker” (n.d. Typescript), Part I: Box I: 95, F.1, REP. |
| varHB | Ralph Ellison, “Hospital and Escape” (1949 Typescript), Part I: Box I: 144, F.13, REP. [Variant of HB.] |