

Guide to the Elmo Israel Ellis Papers, 1927–2002

- Title:** Elmo Israel Ellis Papers
- Creator:** Ellis, Elmo Israel
- Creator Dates:** 1918–2005
- Extent:** 1.4 linear feet (mostly photocopies)
- Inclusive Dates:** 1927–2002
- Collection Number:** 1799
- Provenance:** Gift from Elmo I. Ellis, 2002
- Processed by:** Martha Bace, 2008
- Restrictions:** no
- Copyright Statement:** This collection may be protected under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.
- Preferred Citation:** The Elmo Israel Ellis Papers, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama.
- Reference Code:** USALM1799
- Access Points:** Broadcast journalism – Georgia; Radio broadcasters – Georgia; WSB (Radio station: Atlanta, GA); University of Alabama – College of Communication and Information Science; University of Alabama Crimson White (newspaper)
- Language:** English
- Related Materials:** 10 video cassettes of Elmo Ellis interview for WSB-TV, *50 Years in Atlanta*; 5 books in the Alabama Collection (listed below)

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ABSTRACT:

Correspondence, newspaper articles, speeches and other miscellaneous papers written by and about Elmo Israel Ellis from 1927 to 2002. The materials are related to his career as a broadcast journalist/executive and as a newspaper columnist. The collection also includes photographs and video cassettes (BETA and VHS).

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE:

Elmo Israel Ellis was born on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama, the third child and second son of Samuel B. and Bertha F. Seletz Israel. He graduated from West Blocton High School, West Blocton, Bibb County, Alabama in 1936 and then from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1940 with an A.B. degree in journalism. While attending the University of Alabama, Ellis was the editor for both the *Crimson White* and *Rammer–Jammer*. He received his M.A. degree in 1948 from Emory University, Atlanta, De Kalb County, Georgia.

In 1940 he joined WSB radio as the station's first Publicity and Promotion Director. He also served as script manager, production manager and program director. During World War II Ellis joined the United States Air Force where he worked as a writer and producer of radio programs. After the war, he worked as a writer and producer of various radio shows in New York. In 1946 and 1947, he wrote and directed programs such as "We the People," "Great Jury Trials" and "FBI in Peace and War."

In 1948 Ellis rejoined the WSB family as the production manager for WSB-TV. In 1952 he became the programming manager of WSB-AM-FM; he then went on to become the Vice President and General Manager. In 1969 he became Vice President of Cox Broadcasting Company, the parent company of WSB-TV/Radio. During this time Ellis also taught radio and television at Emory University, Georgia State University, and Oglethorpe University.

Ellis retired in 1982 but he stayed active in the communications field by writing weekly columns published in several Atlanta-area newspapers. He wrote several books and innumerable newspaper columns. He won the Peabody Award in 1966 and many other awards and honors throughout his career. In 1995 he was named to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and in January 2000, *Georgia Trend* magazine named Ellis as one of their "100 Georgians of the Century."

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On 26 December 1944, Ellis married Ruth M. Ballinger. The couple settled in Atlanta with their two children. Ellis died on 24 June 2005 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Washington, DC.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS:

The collection consists of correspondence, newspaper articles, speeches and other miscellaneous papers written by and about Elmo Israel Ellis from 1927 to 2002. The materials are related to his career as a broadcast journalist/executive and as a newspaper columnist. The collection also includes photographs and video cassettes (BETA and VHS).

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Series I | Correspondence
Incoming and outgoing correspondence (mainly photocopies – separated but not in any order) |
| Series II | Miscellaneous Papers
Articles, announcements, scripts, reports, etc. by and about Ellis (mainly photocopies – not in any type of order) |
| Series III | Newspaper Articles
Photocopies and newspaper clippings of Ellis' weekly newspaper columns |
| Series IV | Photographs
Photographs of Ellis and others |
| Series V | Speeches
Copies of speeches made by Ellis |
| Series VI | University Papers
Papers, articles, etc., including Crimson White columns and articles |

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CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description
1799.0001	01	Correspondence – Incoming (1 of 2)
	02	Correspondence – Ingoing (2 of 2)
	03	Correspondence – Outgoing
	04	Miscellaneous Papers (1 of 11)
	05	Miscellaneous Papers (2 of 11)
	06	Miscellaneous Papers (3 of 11)
	07	Miscellaneous Papers (4 of 11)
	08	Miscellaneous Papers (5 of 11)
	09	Miscellaneous Papers (6 of 11)
	10	Miscellaneous Papers (7 of 11)
	11	Miscellaneous Papers (8 of 11)
	12	Miscellaneous Papers (9 of 11)
	13	Miscellaneous Papers (10 of 11)
	14	Miscellaneous Papers (11 of 11)
	15	Newspaper Articles (1 of 6)
	16	Newspaper Articles (2 of 6)
	17	Newspaper Articles (3 of 6)
	18	Newspaper Articles (4 of 6)
	19	Newspaper Articles (5 of 6)
	20	Newspaper Articles (6 of 6)
1799.0002	01	Photographs
	02	Photographs – 1992 (“Third World Journalists”)
	03	Speeches
	04	United States Air Force
	05	The University of Alabama (1 of 3)
	06	The University of Alabama (2 of 3)
	07	The University of Alabama – <i>Crimson White Columns</i> (3 of 3)

NOTES:

These books were removed from the collection and added to the Alabama Collection

Ellis, Elmo I.

Radio Station Management (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1948)

Happiness is Worth the Effort (Old Tappan, NJ: Hewitt House, 1970)

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Note: Autographed copy

Opportunities in Broadcasting Careers (Lincolnwood [Chicago]:

NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, 1999)

Note: Autographed copy

The Youthful Option: How to Stop Growing Old and Stay Young for the Rest of Your Life (Atlanta: Aberdeen House, 1996)

Note: Autographed copy

Israel, William E.

Israel Family Tree: a genealogy of the descendants of Zoval Israel of Kobrin, Grodne Gubernia, Russia from whom descended the Goldberg, (Schmulabe and Wolf) Israel, Zavelo, Sherman and Kaler families supplemented by a genealogy of the descendants of the unknown mother of Ethel and Chailia Streicher and of Oscar Light from whom descended the (Wolf) Israel, Pont and Light families and a genealogy of the descendants of the unknown parents of Chai Fraidie, who married Kalman Hirsch Israel, and her sister Shaney, who married Ovner Seletzky from whom descended the Israel, Seletz and Nitzberg families (2nd ed., St. Petersburg, FL: William E. Israel, 1995)

These video cassettes were removed from this collection and added to the Audio Visual Collections (2 copies of each):

Tape 120A – Elmo Ellis interview for WSB-TV, *50 Years in Atlanta* (BETA 30)

Tape 120B – Elmo Ellis interview for WSB-TV, *50 Years in Atlanta* (BETA 30)

Tape 121A – Elmo Ellis interview for WSB-TV, *50 Years in Atlanta* (BETA 30)

Tape 121B – Elmo Ellis interview for WSB-TV, *50 Years in Atlanta* (BETA 30)

Tape 120–121 A & B – Elmo Ellis interview for WSB-TV, *50 Years in Atlanta* (VHS)