

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 4, Folder 1

Hutchens, Dr. Eleanore, "The Humanities"

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Names:

The Humanities

Types:

book

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Names:

The Humanities

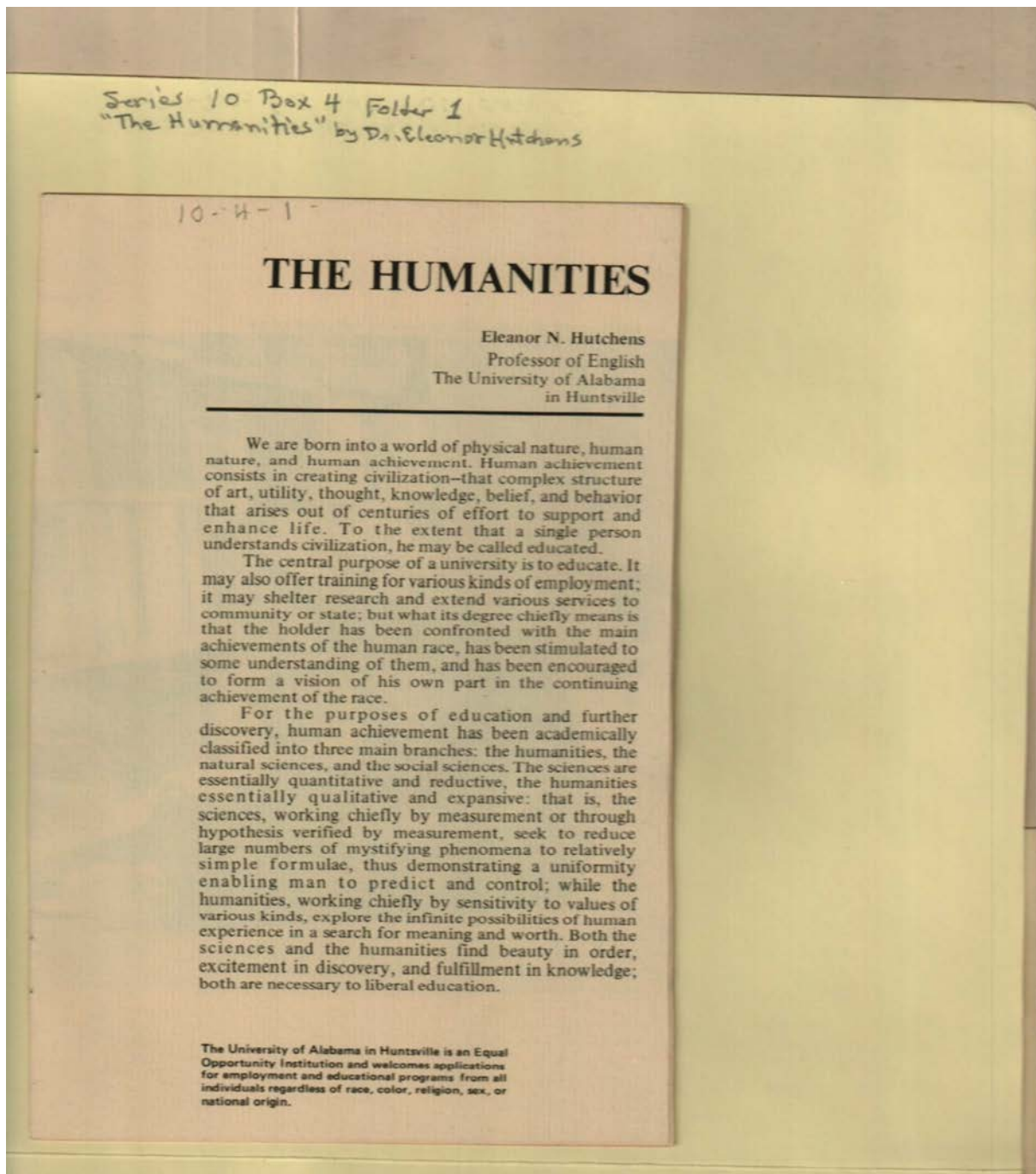
Types:

book

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Names:

Hutchens, Eleanor N.

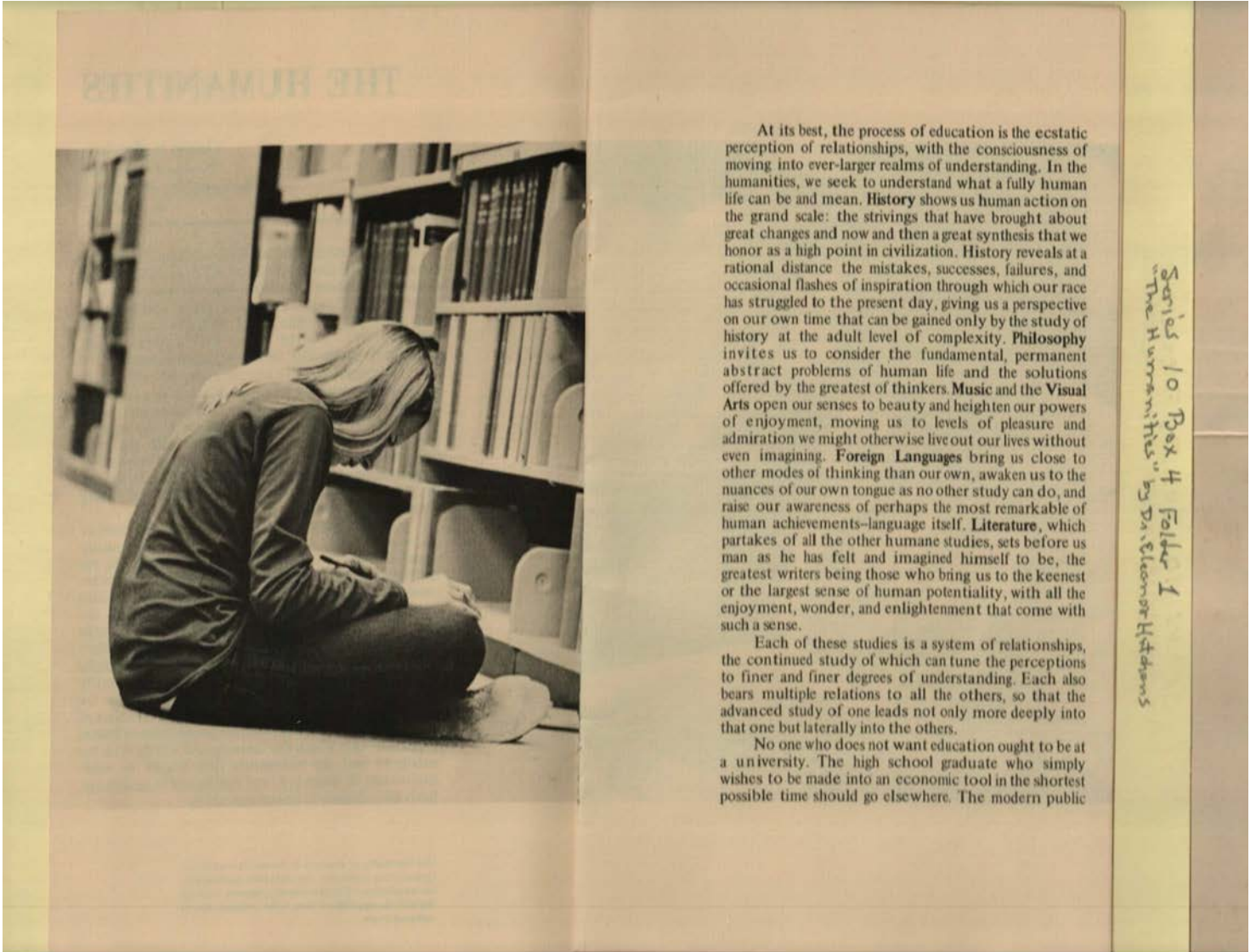
The Humanities

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

book

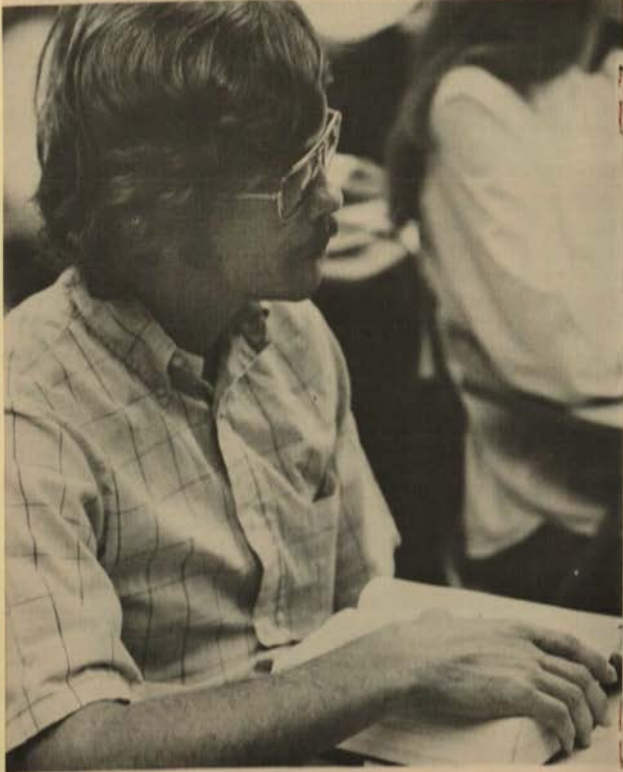


Names:

Humanity Education

Types:

book



university does, however, recognize that most of its students must start earning a living as soon as they finish undergraduate work, and it therefore tries to give them both the foundations of education and the opportunity to prepare for specific kinds of work. In certain fields, such as teaching, engineering, science, and business, the qualifications necessary to get a job are relatively well understood, though it is often not understood that the kind of expanded awareness offered by the humanities is highly important in rising to outstanding performance and leadership in such fields and in others including law and medicine. Least understood of all is the potential future of the humanities major who chooses not to teach and not to go on to a professional school. Where are the jobs for him? He may understand civilization, but how does he become a contributing part of it?

Millions of words pour through the mass media every day, shaping the consciousness of the nation. Behind all these words are thousands of writers and editors—not geniuses, many of them not even highly talented, but all men and women who make careers of putting words together. From their typewriters flow local news items, politicians' speeches, advertising pitches, analyses of world events, soap opera scripts, syndicated columns on everything from high finance to *haute cuisine*, reports of investigations into matters of grave public concern, reviews of public performance in sports and the arts, weather forecasts, editorials, jokes, lay sermons, market reports, and summaries of world events. Most of these writers are fairly ordinary people, but collectively they are having at least as great an effect on the quality of our national life as technology is. Now, most humanities majors must write many papers on the way to the degree. The humanities major who likes to write should find a writing job, prepared to serve a humble apprenticeship and remembering that writing on any level is a craft requiring far more than the desire to have one's say.

Behind many writers for the mass media is another army of workers: the research staff, whose jobs offer a

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goal to the humanities major who really likes to pursue information, verify it, collate it with other findings, and make it yield further information. The college term paper is the first faint approach to this kind of work. Researchers now work not only for the media themselves but for politicians and others who use the media; the vast amount of information available on any public topic makes it advisable that anyone venturing to speak on the subject either do a great deal of homework or have it done for him.

Both factfinding and writing, with some creative imagination as well, are required in the large field of public relations. Industry and nonprofit organizations alike employ writers who can put into words their reasons for being. They issue newsletters and training manuals for their own staffs, brochures and other special materials for the public, and joint publications with other organizations in the same fields. If the humanities major has worked well in college, he has learned how to learn, so that he can quickly gain the insight he needs to write about a subject he never heard of before, perceiving not only its internal principles but its relation to the rest of the world. He need not, however, enter an alien field; the worlds of art and music have their wordsmiths too, and if he majored in one of the fine arts he can become some kind of spokesman for it even if he chooses not to teach it and doesn't hope to make a living practicing it.

The versatile use of the mind that is the chief goal of a humanistic education is an advantage in any career. Once he gets a job, the humanities major can bring to it qualifications that make for leadership more than do specific skills, and he is likely to rise. Graduates who have spent their college years learning a specific kind of work often find themselves either held to its lowest levels or discharged when the work force is reduced, while those whose education and qualities of mind have made them resourceful in the face of change can work upward by different routes and develop multiple defenses against unfavorable shifts in the job market.

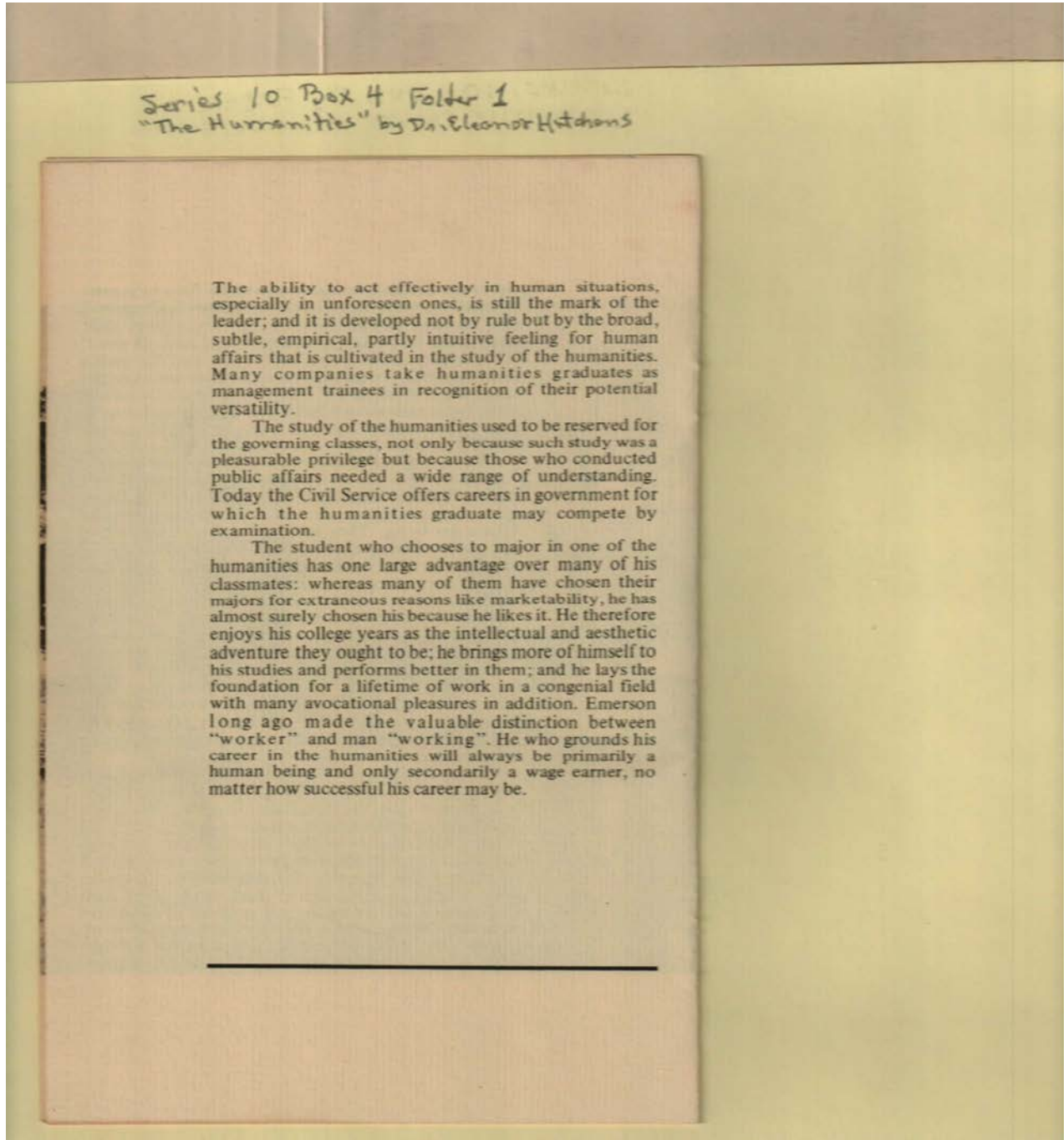
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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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Provenance: Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



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ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

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