

## **note on the text**

Various forms of prose texts by Ralph Ellison are cited in this work, some transcribed from handwritten drafts, others from typescripts at various stages of completion. The misspellings that occur in these texts have been for the most part retained; “[*sic*]” has been used sparingly. In cases where meaning is hard to discern at first glance, but unambiguous, entire words have been replaced by bracketed corrections. In cases where Ellison’s intention is not entirely clear, the misspelled word has been reproduced, along with a bracketed respelling followed by a question mark.