James Langston Hughes Collection
Papers, 1928-1966
SCOPE NOTE

Langston Hughes Collection

Papers, 1928-1966

The Langston Hughes Collection numbers 13 manuscript boxes of biographical data; correspondence; writings (autobiography, books, lyrics, plays, poetry, scripts); articles and clippings; interviews; playbills; programs; photographs; memorabilia and collected items.

Processed by

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James Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

James Langston Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri in 1902. He was the son of James Nathaniel Hughes and Carrie Mercer Langston Hughes. His maternal grandmother's first husband was one of John Brown's men who was killed at Harper's Ferry. Her second husband, Charles Langston, operated an "Underground Railway," that helped slaves escape from the South. Hughes' maternal granduncle, John Mercer Langston, was one of the initial Black Congressmen from Virginia.

Langston Hughes' career as a writer first began when he was a student at Central High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Hughes became a member of the school magazine staff and editor of the yearbook. "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," his first poem to appear in a nationally known magazine, was published the year of 1921 in the Crisis. In 1925, Hughes received the first poetry prize from Opportunity magazine for "The Weary Blues." This poem became the title for Hughes' first book of poetry.

Hughes' work gained national attention, when Vachel Lindsey read three of his poems at the Little Theatre of the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., where Hughes was a busboy in 1925. He later became an internationally known Black poet and spokesman of Black life in the United States, and because of his work during the Harlem Renaissance, Hughes became the poet laureate of Black America.

He published over twenty-five books, including his two notable autobiographies, The Big Sea and I Wonder As I Wander. He also wrote many articles, short stories, and poems which have been published in such magazines as Esquire, New Yorker, Saturday Evening Post, Common Ground, Nation, and New Republic. Hughes had his own weekly column, "Here to Yonder," which was published in the Chicago Defender.

Hughes' other works include anthologies, plays, and song lyrics. His songs have been recorded by such musical greats as Burl Ives, Benny Goodman,
Marian Anderson, Louis Armstrong, and Roland Hayes.

Hughes' was the winner of numerous awards and fellowships including the Julius Rosenwald Fund Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship, and Harmon Award.

Box 1

1.--Biographical Data
   Correspondence
   2.--Abas - Freudenthal--1935-1964
   3.--Gallup - Jone--1940-1962
   4.--Kay - Owens--1938-1965
   5.--Padorano - Wright--1938-1965
   6.--Form Letters
   7.--Correspondence regarding Langston Hughes--1943-1964
   8.--Unidentifiable and n.d.
   9.--Articles--A-H
   10.--Articles--I-O
   11.--Articles--P-Z

Box 2

Writings

1.--Autobiography--The Big Sea--Final Revision, 4th Draft
3.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 1--"In Search of Sun"
4.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 2--"Poetry to the People"
5.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 3--"Moscow Movie"
6.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 4--"South to Samarkland"
7.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 5--"Transition in Turkestan"
8.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 6--"Spring Beside the Kremlin"
9.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 7--"Color Around the Globe"
10.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 8--"Writing for a Living"
11.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Chap. 9--"World Without End"
12.--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Manuscript, Incomplete Copy, No. 2

Box 3

Writings

1.--Books--Famous American Negroes--Written in Arabic
2.--Book Chapters--"Au Coin de la rue"--la revue de poche
3.--Bibliographies
4.--Book Reviews
5.--Book Covers
6.--Lyrics/Music--List of Songs (Manuscripts) Published
7.--Lyrics/Music--"A Salute From Old Broadway"
8.--Lyrics/Music--"Ain't My Gal"
9.--Lyrics/Music--"America in Music: the Founding Father"
10.--Lyrics/Music--"America's Young Black Joe"
11.--Lyrics/Music--"As I Go"
12.--Lyrics/Music--"Bonds for All"
13.--Lyrics/Music--"Crazy Hat"--Manuscripts/Drafts
14.--Lyrics/Music--"Ethiopia Marches On"
15.--Lyrics/Music--"Evenin' Air Blues"
16.--Lyrics/Music--"Feet O' Jesus"
17.--Lyrics/Music--"Freedom Road"
Langston Hughes
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Box 3 (contd.)

Writings--Lyrics/Music

f. 18--Lyrics/Music--"Jump with Jezebel"
19--Lyrics/Music--"Let My People Go Now"
20--Lyrics/Music--"Let Us Remember"--(Opera)
21--Lyrics/Music--"Mary Had a Little Baby"
22--Lyrics/Music--"Moon-Faced, Starry-Eyed"--Songbook--Screen Songs
23--Lyrics/Music--"My America"
24--Lyrics/Music--"New World of Tomorrow"
25--Lyrics/Music--"Night Time"
26--Lyrics/Music--"Oh, What Singers!"--Songbook
27--Lyrics/Music--"On a Christmas Night"
28--Lyrics/Music--"Our Land"
29--Lyrics/Music--"Six Shades of Blue: Tired As I Can Be"
30--Lyrics/Music--"Slumber Time in St. Albans"
31--Lyrics/Music--"The Heart of Harlem"
32--Lyrics/Music--"We'll Hammer it Out Together"
33--Lyrics/Music--Lyrics to Songs From "Street Scene"
34--Lyrics/Music--List of Song Lyrics by Langston Hughes (Concert Nos.)
35--Lyrics/Music--Manuscript Songs Lent to Leavvia Friedberg

Box 4

Writings--Plays

f. 1--Plays--List of Plays
2--Plays--"Emperor of Haiti"
3--Plays--"Jerico-Jim Crow"
4--Plays--"Labor for Victory"
5--Plays--"Street Scene"--Lyrics by Langston Hughes
6--Plays--"The Gospel Glory"
7--Plays--"Troubled Island"--Drafts/Manuscripts
8--Plays--"Wasn't That a Mighty Day"
9--Plays--Radio Script--"In the Service of My Country"
10--Plays--Radio Script--"Pvt. Jim Crow"
11--Plays--Radio Script--"The Man Who Went to War"

Box 5

Writings--Poetry

f. 1--Poetry--"A Little Song on Housing to Put in Your Pipe and Smoke"
2--Poetry--"A Poem for Jacques Roumain"
3--Poetry--"As Befits a Man"
4--Poetry--"Ballad of Harry Moore"
5--Poetry--"The Ballad of Margie Polite"
6--Poetry--"Ballad of Negro History"
7--Poetry--"Ballad of the Sad Love"
8--Poetry--"Benediction"
9--Poetry--"The Backlash Blues"
10--Poetry--"The Big-Timer"
11--Poetry--"The Black Clown"
12--Poetry--"Blue Monday"
13--Poetry--"Bonds: In Memorium"
14--Poetry--"Broke"
Writings--Poetry

f. 15--Poetry--"Brotherly Love"
16--Poetry--"Carol of the Brown King"
17--Poetry--"Centennial"
18--Poetry--"Christmas Cards"
19--Poetry--"Consider Me"
20--Poetry--"Dark Youth of the U.S.A."
21--Poetry--"Death in Yorkville"
22--Poetry--"Dinner Guest: Me"
23--Poetry--"Dream of Freedom"
24--Poetry--"For Russell and Rowena Jelliffe"
25--Poetry--"Freedom Plow"
26--Poetry--"Freedom Train"--Manuscripts/Drafts
27--Poetry--"Freedom Train"--Articles & Clippings
28--Poetry--"Freedom Train"--Presentation of "Freedom Train" Manuscripts to Fisk Univ.
29--Poetry--"Georgia Dusk"
30--Poetry--"Harlem Call"
31--Poetry--"Homecoming Game, 1962"
32--Poetry--"Hope for Harlem"
33--Poetry--"I Dream a World"
34--Poetry--"In Explanation of Our Times"
35--Poetry--"Island"
36--Poetry--"Junior Addict"
37--Poetry--"Layette"
38--Poetry--"Little Dreams"
39--Poetry--"Lumumba's Grave"
40--Poetry--"Miss Blue's Child"
41--Poetry--"Mississippi 1955"
42--Poetry--"The Negro Mother"
43--Poetry--"No Regrets"
44--Poetry--"Not For Publication"
45--Poetry--"On a Christmas Night"
46--Poetry--"Peace Conference in an American Town"
47--Poetry--"Prelude to Our Age"
48--Poetry--"Projection of a Day"
49--Poetry--"Small Memory"
50--Poetry--"Song"
51--Poetry--"Stranger in Town"
52--Poetry--"Sweet Words on Race"
53--Poetry--"To You"
54--Poetry--"Waif in the Park"
55--Poetry--"Without Benefit of Declaration"
56--Poetry--"World War II: Night Edition"
57--Poetry--Collections--A Little Group of Poems on the Struggle for Democracy
58--Poetry--Collections--His Passion and His Glory
59--Poetry--Collections--MISTRAL POEMS
60--Poetry--Collections--Manuscripts/Drafts/Book--Montage of a Dream Deferred
61--Poetry--Collections--Poems Dedicated to Rosa Parks
62--Poetry--Collections--Poems Edited by Langston Hughes--Poems From Black Africa
63--Poetry--Collections--"Poems: Old & New"
64--Poetry--Collections--Poems Read by Langston Hughes at the National Poetry Festival
65--Poetry--Collections--Poems Translated by Langston Hughes--Gypsy Ballads
66--Poetry--Collections--Poems Translated in Foreign Languages
67--Poetry--Miscellaneous
Writings

f. 1--Scripts--Gospel TV Time--October 6, 1962
2--Short Stories--"Blessed Assurance"
3--Short Stories--Jesse B. Simple Stories
4--Speeches & Lectures
5--A List of the Translations of Langston Hughes' Works in Foreign Languages
6--Miscellaneous Writings
7--General--Civil Rights Calendar 1965
8--General--"Concerning Red Baiting"
9--General--"Drama in Everyday Life"
10--General--"Simple's Soliloquy From Hamlet"
11--General--"South of Light Bulbs and Pomegranates"
12--General--"The Gospel Queen and the Empress of the Blues"
13--General--"The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (Synopsis for Film)
14--General--"The Strollin Twenties"--Prologue

Box 7

f. 1--Articles & Clippings--1935-1956
2--Articles & Clippings--1957-1966
4--Articles & Clippings--n.d.
5--Book Reviews
6--Interviews--Radio Interview with Betty Granger
7--Interviews--Testimony Before the U.S. Senate--1953
8--Publicity--1937-1957
9--Publicity--1958-1966
10--Publicity--n.d.

Box 8

f. 1--Playbills--1957-1964
2--Programs--Personal Appearances by Langston Hughes--1932-1958
3--Programs--Personal Appearances by Langston Hughes--1959-1965
4--Programs--Personal Appearances by Langston Hughes--n.d.

Box 9

Programs

f. 1--Programs--"Black Nativity"--1962-1965
2--Programs--"Black Nativity"--n.d.
3--Programs--"Carnival"--1965
4--Programs--"Don't You Want to Be Free"--1945-1963
5--Programs--"Don't You Want to Be Free"--n.d.
6--Programs--"The Gospel Glow"--1962
7--Programs--"Jericco-Jim Crow"--1964
8--Programs--"Jericco-Jim Crow"--n.d.
9--Programs--"The Prodigal Son"--1965
10--Programs--"Shakespeare in Harlem"--1960-1962
11--Programs--"Shakespeare in Harlem"--n.d.
12--Programs--"Simply Heaven"--1957-1965
13--Programs--"Simply Heaven"--n.d.
14--Programs--"Street Scene"--1960-1966
15--Programs--1938-1966
16--Programs--n.d.
f. 1--Citation
2--List of Material Given to J.W. Johnson Collection
3--Photographs
4--Posters
5--Memorabilia
6--Miscellaneous Material

Hughes, Collection

Box 11

f. 1--Addresses (Miscellaneous)
2--Addresses of Poets & Writers
3--Addresses & Speeches--A-Z--1944-1965
4--Announcements--1935-1966
5--Announcements--Undated
6--Articles & Clippings--1943-1964
7--Articles & Clippings--Undated
8--Articles & Clippings--Foreign Languages
9--Biographical Sketches--Undated
10--Book Reviews--Undated
11--Brochures & Pamphlets--1943-1966
12--Brochures & Pamphlets--Undated
13--Bulletins--1945-1964
14--Calendar--1964
15--Civil Rights Material--1941-1964
16--Civil Rights Material--Undated
17--Correspondence--Miscellaneous--1958-1965
18--Guest Lists
19--Invitations--1944-1966
20--Invitations--Undated
21--Lists--(Miscellaneous) of Play Cast & Party Guests
22--Magazines--1943-1948

Hughes, Collection

Box 12

f. 1--News Bulletins--'New Sign'--1938-1944
2--Newsletters--1944-1966
3--Newsletters--Negro Actors Guild Newsletters--1943-1945
4--Newsletters--Undated
5--Photographs
6--Poems by Other Writers--Last Names--A-Z
7--Poems by Other Writers--Miscellaneous Collections
8--Poems by Others--Foreign Languages
9--Posters
10--Press Releases
11--Printed Matter--Karamu House
12--Sheet Music/Songs
13--Programs--Conferences, Meetings, Festivals, Etc.--1940-1965
14--Programs--Music, Dance, and Art--1928-1946
Box 13

Hughes, Collection

f. 1--Programs--Music, Dance, and Art--1947-1966
   2--Programs--Music, Dance, and Art--Undated
   3--Programs--Music, Dance, and Art--Foreign Languages
   4--Programs--Playbills--1943-1966
   5--Programs--Playbills--Undated
   6--Programs--Playbills--Foreign Languages
   7--Writings by Other Authors--Last Names--A-Z
   8--Miscellaneous Material