

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.

Hughes, James Langston, 1902-1967.
Papers, 1928-1966.

Box 1

- f. 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

- f. 1--Autobiography--The Big Sea--Final Revision, 4th Draft
2--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--(Outline): New York: May 12, 1956
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
13--Autobiography--I Wonder As I Wander--Book Review, June 13, 1955

Box 3

Writings

- f. 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"

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 Leavia 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"

Box 5 (contd.)

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
--1962
- 65--Poetry--Collections--Poems Translated by Langston Hughes--Gypsy Ballads
- 66--Poetry--Collections--Poems Translated in Foreign Languages
- 67--Poetry--Miscellaneous

Box 6

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
- 3--Articles & Clippings--Foreign--1955-1965; n.d.
- 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--"Jerico-Jim Crow"--1964
- 8--Programs--"Jerico-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.

Box 10

- f. 1--Citation
- 2--List of Material Given to J.W. Johnson Collection
- 3--Photographs
- 4--Posters
- 5--Memorabilia
- 6--Miscellaneous Material

Box 11

Hughes, Collection

- 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

Box 12

Hughes, Collection

- 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.--1940-1963
- 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