



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Helene Johnson poems**

1972-1979

Sc MG 133

## Summary

**Creator:** Johnson, Helene, 1906-1995

**Title:** Helene Johnson poems

**Date:** 1972-1979

**Size:** 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Gift, of Helene Johnson, January 1987.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** Helene Johnson was one a poet of the Harlem Renaissance. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts. She attended Boston University and Columbia University, the latter in in New York City in 1926. Johnson was the youngest of the African American writers of the Harlem Renaissance. She published approximately twenty-five poems which appeared in such magazines as Opportunity, Fire!!, and Vanity Fair, as well as in The New Negro. Her writings were mainly concerned with life in the ghetto and a strong identification with her racial heritage. The Helene Johnson poems consist of more than thirty unpublished and undated poems, with corrections and revisions by Johnson. There are also photocopies of articles which mention Johnson as a Harlem Renaissance poet: "Frank Horne and the Second Echelon Poets of the Harlem Renaissance" from Arna Bontemps's The Harlem Renaissance Remembered, 1972; "Propaganda and Aesthetics: The Literary Politics of Afro-American Magazines in the 20th Century", 1979; and "The Unpublished Poems of Helene Johnson.".

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Helene Johnson poems, Sc MG 133, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, June 1987. Processed through the Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project.

## Creator History

Helene Johnson was one a poet of the Harlem Renaissance. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts.

She attended Boston University and Columbia University, the latter in New York City in 1926. Johnson was the youngest of the African American writers of the Harlem Renaissance. She published approximately twenty-five poems which appeared in such magazines as *Opportunity*, *Fire!!*, and *Vanity Fair*, as well as in *The New Negro*. Her writings were mainly concerned with life in the ghetto and a strong identification with her racial heritage.

## Scope and Content Note

The Helene Johnson poems consist of more than thirty unpublished and undated poems, with corrections and revisions by Johnson. There are also photocopies of articles which mention Johnson as a Harlem Renaissance poet: "Frank Horne and the Second Echelon Poets of the Harlem Renaissance" from Arna Bontemps's *The Harlem Renaissance Remembered*, 1972; "Propaganda and Aesthetics: The Literary Politics of Afro-American Magazines in the 20th Century", 1979; and "The Unpublished Poems of Helene Johnson."

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American women poets  
American poetry -- African American authors  
Authors, Black  
Harlem Renaissance  
Poets, American -- 20th century

### Names

Johnson, Helene, 1906-1995

## **Container List**

- b. 1 f. 1    **Poems**  
              Some handwritten; some include edits.
- b. 1 f. 2    **Articles**