



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

Guide to the

Langston Hughes collection : additions

1929-1967

Sc MG 129

Summary

Creator: Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967

Title: Langston Hughes collection : additions

Date: 1929-1967

Size: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Purchase from Lindsay Patterson, 1975; gift of letters from Ruth Jett, 1984; gift of letters from Ruth Jett and Herbert Robinson, 1992; gift of legal papers from the Estate of Maxwell Cohen, 2000; gift of script for Jerico-Jim Crow from Ellwoodson Williams, 2003; and gift of Sidney Lapidus, 2015.

Abstract: Poet, novelist, short story writer, playwright, lyricist, and author of juvenile books, Langston Hughes was one of the most prolific African-American writers of the 20th century. Born in Joplin, Missouri, Hughes came to New York in the 1920s and joined other writers and artists in creating what would become known as the Harlem Renaissance. The Langston Hughes collection: additions consists of material in a variety of formats by and about Hughes.

Preferred citation: [Item], Langston Hughes collection : additions, Sc MG 129, 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 Derek Gray and Diana Lachatanere, August 2000.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Related Materials:

Langston Hughes collection, Sc Micro R-977, General Research and Reference Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Poet, novelist, short story writer, playwright, lyricist, and author of juvenile books, Langston Hughes was one of the most prolific African-American writers of the 20th century. Born in Joplin, Missouri, Hughes came to New York in the 1920s and joined other writers and artists in creating what would become known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Scope and Content Note

The Langston Hughes collection: additions consists of material in a variety of formats by and about Hughes. His letters to Ruth Jett and Lindsay Patterson (1959-1967) include his review of the Broadway play, *The Long Dream*. Writings include manuscript and printed versions of his playscripts, *Mulatto*, *Jerico-Jim Crow*, and *Don't You Want to Be Free?*; the libretto for *Simply Heavenly*; the poem, "Song of Spain"; and essays. There are also translations of his poems into other languages; programs; reviews of Hughes's work; biographical material; and clippings.

One third of the collection consists of legal records held by Maxwell T. Cohen, one of Hughes's attorneys. Represented are three lawsuits filed in the mid-1960s on Hughes's behalf. One of the cases deals with a suit brought by Hughes against Gospel, Inc., and the Civic Theatre, Inc., for monies owed from a touring production of *Black Nativity*. The files consists primarily of letters from Cohen to William Ming, Jr., attorney for Gospel, Inc., as well as legal documents. The second lawsuit was filed in 1965 against Educational Heritage, Inc., publisher of the Negro Heritage Library. The suit charged that the defendant used Hughes's name, portrait, and alleged endorsement of Educational Heritage, Inc., in advertisements and other venues, without Hughes's consent. These files also contain correspondence and court documents.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dramatists
African Americans -- Poetry
American drama -- African American authors
American poetry -- African American authors
Authors, Black

Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- Fiction

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Legal documents

Names

Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967
Educational Heritage, Inc. (Yonkers, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical
- b. 1 f. 2 Death 1967
- Correspondence 1931-1967
- b. 1 f. 3 1931-1952
- b. 1 f. 4 Jett, Ruth 1959-1967
- b. 1 f. 5 Patterson, Lindsay 1960-1965
- b. 1 f. 6 Yale University 1942-1960
- Writing 1935-1964
- b. 1 f. 7 *Don't You Want Me to Be Free*
- b. 1 f. 8 *Jericho-Jim Crow*
- b. 1 f. 9-10 *Mulatto*
- b. 1 f. 11 *Simply Heavenly*
- Poetry
- b. 1 f. 12 1938-1964
- b. 1 f. 13 "Songs of Spain" 1937
- b. 1 f. 14 Plays, essays, and libretto
- b. 1 f. 15 Translations of poems 1937-1952
- b. 1 f. 16 Reviews
- b. 1 f. 17 Poems by others
- b. 1 f. 18 Programs 1937-1964
- b. 1 f. 19 Contracts 1942
- b. 1 f. 20 Lists 1964
- b. 1 f. 21 Clippings 1929-1944
- b. 1 f. 22 Interviews
- Legal records 1961-1967
- Hughes vs. Gospel, Inc 1961-1965
- b. 1 f. 23 Cohen, Maxwell 1964-1965
- b. 1 f. 24 Ming, William 1964
- b. 1 f. 25 Cunard, N
- b. 2 f. 1 *Black Nativity, Howard Gotbetter* 1964
- b. 2 f. 2 Contracts and agreements 1961-1964
- b. 2 f. 3 Court exhibit documents 1963
- b. 2 f. 4 Court order 1964
- b. 2 f. 5 Payments 1964-1965
- b. 2 f. 6-7 Educational Heritage, Inc 1965
- b. 2 f. 8 Estate of Langston Hughes vs. Michael Dorfman and Migdal Productions 1967