



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

Guide to the

**Voices from the Renaissance collection**

1974-1977

Sc MG 335

## Summary

**Creator:** Lewis, David L., 1936-

**Title:** Voices from the Renaissance collection

**Date:** 1974-1977

**Size:** .06 linear feet (1/2 archival box)

**Source:** Gift of David Levering Lewis, 1987.

**Abstract:** The David Levering Lewis "Voices from the Renaissance" Collection consists of forty-three summary transcripts of interviews Lewis conducted with individuals who were either active during the Harlem Renaissance period or who knew people who were Harlem Renaissance figures. The interviews were done for Lewis's book, *When Harlem Was in Vogue* (1981).

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/scm/request_access)

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Voices from the Renaissance collection, Sc MG 335, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

## Creator History

David Levering Lewis is a Professor of History at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey and earlier taught American and African American history at the University of California, San Diego.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Lewis earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Fisk University, 1956; Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, 1958; and his Ph. D. degree from the London School

of Economics in economic history, 1962. Lewis's research focuses on twentieth-century African American history and comparative intellectual and cultural history as well as European and African history in the late nineteenth century. He is the author of *When Harlem Was in Vogue* (1981).

## Scope and Content Note

The David Levering Lewis "Voices from the Renaissance" Collection consists of forty-three summary transcripts of interviews Lewis conducted with individuals who were either active during the Harlem Renaissance period or who knew people who were Harlem Renaissance figures. The interviews were done for Lewis's book, *When Harlem Was in Vogue* (1981). The transcriptions are impressionistic rather than verbatim, which Lewis prepared from the fifty-two audiotapes containing the interviews. Interviewees include Raoul Abdul; Wilhelmina Adams; Regina Andrews; Helen Armstead-Johnson; Poppy Cannon; Mercer Cook; Miriam DeWitt; Owen Dodson; Aaron Douglas; Pearl and Ivy Fisher; G. James Fleming; Emerson Harper; Jean Blackwell Hutson; C.L.R. James; Henry Lincoln Johnson; Mildred Johnson; Bruce Kellner; Alfred Knopf; Rayford Logan; Gerri Major; Henry and Mollie Moon; A'lelia Nelson Bruce Nugent; Mae Wright Peck; George N. Redd; Helga Rogers; Maurice Russell; George Schuyler; Charless Sebree; Amy Springarn; Mae Miller Sullivan; Marjorie Toomer; Charles H. Wesley; Dorothy West; Leigh Whipper; and Edith Wilson. Interviewees discuss their lives and individuals such as W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, J. A. Rogers, and Carl Van Vechten and his book, *Nigger Heaven*.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- History  
Harlem Renaissance

### Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

### Names

Abdul, Raoul  
Adams, Wilhelmina F. (Wilhelmina Ferris), 1900-  
Douglas, Aaron  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963  
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967  
Hurston, Zora Neale  
Hutson, Jean Blackwell, 1914-1998  
James, C. L. R. (Cyril Lionel Robert), 1901-1989  
Lewis, David L., 1936-  
Nugent, Bruce, 1906-1987  
Rogers, J. A. (Joel Augustus), 1880-1966  
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964  
Whipper, Leigh Rollin, 1876-1975