Langston Hughes collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, 1926-2002

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Langston Hughes collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, 1926-2002
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1232
Extent: 2.5 linear ft. (5 boxes)
Abstract: Collection of materials related to African American poet Langston Hughes including writings, correspondence, and printed material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source
Gift, 2002.

Custodial History
Forms part of the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives at Emory University.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Langston Hughes collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Susan Potts McDonald, unknown.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Scope and Content Note
The collection contains material related to Langston Hughes from 1926-2002. This artificially created collection created by James V. Hatch and Camille Billops contains writings by Langston Hughes, including a small number of adaptations and translations; a small amount of correspondence (1938-1986); and printed materials. The printed matter comprises the largest group of materials and includes published writings by Hughes, clippings, programs, promotional materials, materials from The Langston Hughes Festival (sponsored by The City College of the University of New York, 1978-1998), publications of The Langston Hughes Society. Of particular interest in this collection are examples of Hughes’ dramatic works, including the skits and songs for Run, Ghost, Run; Mule Bone, which he wrote with Zora Neale Hurston; and Don’t You Want To Be Free, which includes production notes and costume notes by Hughes. Also included are materials from the Gollancz Limited publishing house including contracts and letters regarding publishing rights.

Arrangement Note
Arranged primarily in alphabetical order; chronological arrangement used for correspondence and The Langston Hughes Festival materials.
## Container List

### Adaptations/translations

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Childress, Alice, &quot;When a Man Sees Red&quot;, adaptation of Hughes's <em>Simple Speaks His Mind</em>, typescript with holograph corrections and notes, 4 pp. circa 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Childress, Alice, &quot;When a Man Sees Red,&quot; adaptation of Hughes's <em>Simple Speaks His Mind</em>, typescript by James V. Hatch, 3 pp. circa 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>O Filho Prodico, Portuguese translation of <em>The Prodigal Son</em>, carbon typescript, 59 pp., no date</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Schoenfeld, Bernard C., <em>Trouble with the Angels</em>, one-act play suggested by an article of the same name by Langston Hughes</td>
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### Correspondence

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Arna Bontemps to Lindsay Patterson, 26 October 1969, regarding Langston Hughes' play</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Bourne, St. Clair, six letters regarding Langston Hughes: Dream Keeper, 1985-1986, also includes 2 pp. project description, publicity newsletters</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to &quot;Block,&quot; TLS, December 7, 1925 [Funding provided by The Buddy Taub Foundation, Dennis A. Roach and Jill Roach, Directors]</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to Rowena Jelliffe, telegram, 5 November 1938</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to Owen Dodson, photocopied ANS, November 1945; December 1959, 1 February 1967</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to Owen Dodson, telegram, 21 September 1950</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to Owen Dodson, TNS, 24 March 1959</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to Owen Dodson, TLS, 1 p. with holograph note, 27 April 1959</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Langston Hughes to William Grant Stills, 1941-1948</td>
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### Gollancz publishing records

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<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td><em>Simple Speaks his Mind</em>, 1950-1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td><em>Simple Stakes a Claim</em>, 1957-1984</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td><em>Simple Takes a Wife</em>, 1953-1954, 1958</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td><em>Tambourines to Glory</em>, 1959-1970</td>
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### Miscellaneous materials

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&quot;Calypso Carousel,&quot; fragment of a performance review, typescript, 1 p. with three sheets of holograph notes, no date</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&quot;How It All Happened...&quot; photocopy of essay regarding the Karamu Theater from an unknown publication, no date</td>
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</table>
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5 3  Langston Hughes Colloquy, volume 3, 2002
5 4  Morias Pinho, Jose de, "Filhos de Santo," holograph manuscript, Portuguese play in three acts, 1947-1948
5 5  Network 2000: In the Spirit of the Harlem Renaissance, volume 10, 2001
5 6  "Plays Written by Langston Hughes," photocopied typescript, incomplete listing of Hughes' plays
5 7  "The Promotion of Our Music... The Continuance and Exposure of Progressive Art and 1st Black Graphics International Cultural Awards," Langston Hughes Theatre, Detroit, Michigan, program, 1975
5 8  Ribeiro, Joaquim, "Aruanda," typescript, Portuguese play in one act, 1947
5 9  Routes, volume 3, number 14, 23 November-6 December 1993
5 10  Town Meeting, bulletin of America's "Town Meeting of the Air," volume 9, number 41, "Let's Face the Race Question," February 17, 1944
5 11  Unidentified manuscript [Rowena Jelliffe?], 17 pp.
5 12  Unidentified manuscript [Rowena Jelliffe?], 12 pp.

Printed materials: Clippings
- -  Brooks, Gwendolyn, "Hughes' New Poems Honest and Familiar," (review of Montage of a Dream Deferred) [See Redding, J. Saunders]
3 23  Dixon, Gwendolyn, "Worthy Occasion: Langston Hughes," The Paper, 1 April 1973, p. 8
- -  Galewski, Myron, "Langston Hughes Speaks His Mind," (Review of Simple Speaks His Mind) [See Redding, J. Saunders]
3 25  Gomez, Dalia and Jerald Salzman, "Dreams of Langston Hughes Remembered Here," The Campus, 25 March 1977, p. 9
3 27  "John Meets Langston," The Villager, 2 November 1978, p. 17

4


Lewis, Lidi, "Langston Hughes Honored and Remembered," [photocopy]

Little, Stuart W., "Return of 'Prodigal Son,'" *New York Herald Tribune*, 9 February 1966 [photocopy]


"The Prodigal Son," photograph from *Het Zaatste Nieuws*, 31 October 31, 1965

"'Prodigal Son' Celebrates 100th Show," *The New York Currier*, 28 August 1965


Thomas, Jo, "Returning All the Works of Langston Hughes to Print," *The New York Times*, 31 July 2001

Todd, George, "'Tambourines to Glory' Rings With Excitement," *N.Y. Amsterdam News*, 31 May 1986


**Printed materials: Langston Hughes Festival**

Langston Hughes Festival: Part II, Choral Festival, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 17 May 1978
Langston Hughes Festival: Part I, Choral Festival, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 1 May 1981

Langston Hughes Festival: "A Decade of Celebration," program, The City College of the City University of New York, 10-24 March 1986

Langston Hughes Festival Tribute to Dennis Brutus, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 8 November 1987

Langston Hughes Festival: Langston Hughes: An International Interdisciplinary Conference, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 17-19 November 1988

Langston Hughes Choral-Speaking Festival, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 1988

Langston Hughes Festival Conference: African American Literature and Critical Theory; Tribute to Amiri Baraka, program, The City College of New York City, 9-11 November 1989

Langston Hughes Festival Tribute to Alice Childress, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 10 November 1990


Langston Hughes Festival Conference: Unlocking the African Treasury: New Approaches to African Literature, program, The City College of the City University of New York, 9-11 November 1993

Langston Hughes Festival Tribute to Ernest J. Gaines, announcement, The City College of the City University of New York, 19 November 1994

Langston Hughes Festival Honors Nikki Giovanni, invitation to reception 17 November 1996

24th Annual Langston Hughes Festival Tribute to Albert Murray, announcement, The City College of the City University of New York, 6 November 1997

25th Annual Langston Hughes Festival Tribute to George Lamming, announcement, The City College of the City University of New York, 20 November 1998

Printed materials: Langston Hughes Society

Membership application, 1982
Charter Meeting of the Langston Hughes Society, program, 22 April 1982
Business meeting minutes, 19 April 1984
News and Notes from the Langston Hughes Society, volume 1, numbers 1-2, April, September 1994
Financial report to the membership, 15 July 1984
Letter to Fellows of The Langston Hughes Society, 7 June 1989
The Langston Hughes Review, volume 1, numbers 1-2, 1982
The Langston Hughes Review, volume 2, number 2, 1983
Printed materials: Programs

3  50  "The Barrier," photocopied opera program, Loeb Student Center (New York University) summer concert series, 24 July 1961
3  51  "Black Nativity," play program, Urban Arts Corps presentation of Vinnette Carroll's production, 1971
3  52  "Black Nativity," play program, The Richard Allen Center for Culture and Art (New York), 16-28 December, 19??
3  53  "Esther," photocopied opera program, Hunter College Playhouse (New York), 1961
3  54  First Memorial Tribute to Langston Hughes, program, St. Mark's Methodist Church (New York), 29 May 1967
3  55  "Jericho-Jim Crow," play program, Communication Stabilization Group (Uniondale?) production, no date
3  56  Langston Hughes Celebration, program, The City College of the City University of New York celebration of the 75th anniversary of Langston Hughes' birth, 27 and 31 March 1977
3  57  "Langston Hughes Said," play program, Inner City Cultural Center (California) production, mid 1970s
3  58  "Shakespeare in Harlem," play program, Forty-First Street Theatre (New York), 1960
3  59  "Soul Gone Home," photocopied play program, Burlap Summer Theatre Production (Harlem), mid 1950s
3  60  Tenth Annual Langston Hughes Day Ceremony, program, The East 127th Street Block Association (New York), 29 January 1988

Printed materials: Promotional materials
"Reading the Proclamation," Commemoration of the centennial of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation [including a reading by Langston Hughes], University of Michigan, 8 January 1963

"Jericho-Jim Crow," collage of newspaper clippings promoting availability of the play for fund-raising purposes, circa 1964

"Jericho-Jim Crow," flier for production directed by Alvin Ailey and William Hairston, one night only, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 14, 1964

"The Prodigal Son" (Langston Hughes) and The Exception and the Rule" (Bertolt Brecht), group of newspaper clippings combined to promote the double bill at Greenwich Mews (New York) and to advertise The Mandarin House Restaurant, circa 1965

"Simply Heavenly," announcement of the Harlem Premiere, Harlem School of the Arts Community Theatre, 12 May 1972

Paul Laurence Dunbar-Langston Hughes Celebration, list of participants, list and announcement, 2 April 1973


One Special Play. Four Special Events., Sunday evenings at Lincoln Center Theater, announcement of special events celebrating "Mule Bone," January-February 19[91]


Langston Hughes Stamp, United States Postal Service, announcement, February 2002

Langston Hughes: A Twentieth-Century Masters Tribute, PEN American Center (New York), announcement, 30 April 2002

Printed materials: Writings by Langston Hughes


"A Dream Deferred," translated into eleven languages, compiled and edited by Stanley H. Barkan and Eva Feiler, Cross-Cultural Communications Post-a-Poem, Series 3, number 5, prepared for The City College of the City University of New York celebration of the 75th anniversary of Langston Hughes' birth, 27 and 31 March 1977


"The Gold Piece: a Children's Play," photocopy from SADSA Encore, no date, pp. 30-32

"Harlem Sweeties," poem, clipping from unknown source

"How a Play Was Born: 'The Emperor of Haiti,'" photocopied Chicago Defender column, no date
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3 18 "Obsession de la Nuit" (Dream Variation), translation of Hughes poem into French within an essay: "The Dark Tower," *Opportunity*, May 1928, p. 146

**Writings about Langston Hughes**


3 2 Dodson, Owen, "Langston Hughes," interview transcript, J. Hatch, interviewer, December 1971


3 5 Jelliffe, Rowena, "Rowena Jelliffe on Langston Hughes," photocopied interview transcript, New York Center of Visual History (Cleveland, Ohio), St. Clair Bourne, director, 25 November 1985


3 7 Matheus, John F., "Langston Hughes As Translator," offprint from *CLA Journal*, volume 9, number 4, June 1968 [signed by the author]

3 8 Porter, Hugh E., "A Birthday Message," song written by the musical director of "Jericho-Jim Crow," for Langston Hughes on his birthday, no date

3 9 Unidentified script outline relating to life of Langston Hughes, no date

3 10 Scott, Mark, "Langston Hughes of Kansas," photocopied article from *Kansas History*, volume 3, number 1, Spring 1980 [includes letter from the author]

**Writings by Langston Hughes**

1 1 *Angelo Herndon Jones: A One-Act Play of Negro Life*, photocopied typescript, 21 pp. circa 1938

1 2 *The Barrier: A Musical Drama*, libretto by Langston Hughes, score by Jan Meyerowitz, photocopied typescript, 1950

1 3 *Cavalcade of the Negro Theatre*, by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps [one act, for the American Negro Exposition, Chicago], photocopied typescript, 12 pp. with clipping, 1940

- - "Choreography Come to Central Avenue" [See *Run, Ghost, Run*]

- - "Conscientious Objector" [See *Run, Ghost, Run*]

- - "Cops and Robbers" [See *Run, Ghost, Run*]

1 4 "Crazy Hat," lyrics by Langston Hughes and music by Harry Balkin, typescript, 4 pp., no date
| 1   | 5   | Don't You Want To Be Free [a play of Negro history], new and revised version with production notes and costume notes by Langston Hughes, carbon typescript, 55 pp., 1938 |
| 1   | 6   | The Em-Fueher Jones [one act play], typescript with some holograph corrections, 5 pp., circa 1938 |
| 1   | 7   | Front Porch, Act 2, Scene 3 and Act 3, scenes 1-2, carbon typescript, with letter to Rowena Jelliffe, changes and additions, corrected page 20, and typescript notes from Hughes, circa 1938 |
| 1   | 8   | Gospel Glory, revised rehearsal script, photocopied typescript [from the Schomburg Collection, New York Public Library], 29 pp., 1972 |
| -   | -   | "Guest of Honor" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| -   | -   | "Harlem Debutante" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| -   | -   | "Hollywood Mammy" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| 1   | 9   | Jericho-Jim Crow, song sheets, carbon typescript, 1963 |
| 1   | 10  | Jericho-Jim Crow, script, typescript and carbon typescript, with holograph notes, 1963 |
| 1   | 11  | Jericho-Jim Crow, prompt script, carbon typescript with holograph notes, 1963 |
| -   | -   | "Justice Go Blind" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| -   | -   | "Keeping the Records Straight" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| 1   | 12  | Langston Hughes: Writer, Biographical Information, "Langston Hughes' last resume" written at head of p.1 [after 1964] |
| 1   | 13  | Little Ham, Act 1, Karamu script with corrections, 20 pp., circa 1930 |
| 1   | 14  | Little Ham, Act 2-3, Karamu script with corrections, 20 pp., circa 1930 |
| -   | -   | "Mad Scene from Woolworth's" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| -   | -   | "Madame, How Can I Fall in Love?" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| -   | -   | "Mardi Gras in New Orleans" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| 1   | 15  | Mule Bone, written with Zora Neale Hurston, Act 1, Karamu Script, 19 pp. no date |
| 1   | 16  | Mule Bone, written with Zora Neale Hurston, Act 2, Karamu Script, 12 pp. no date |
| 1   | 17  | Mule Bone, written with Zora Neale Hurston, Act 3, Karamu Script, 6 pp., no date |
| -   | -   | "National Unity" [See Run, Ghost, Run] |
| 1   | 18  | "De Organizer," photocopied score, lyrics by Langston Hughes, music by James P. Johnson, no date |
| 1   | 19  | The Organizer, blues opera in one act, with James P. Johnson, carbon typescript, 11 pp., circa 1938 |
| 1   | 20  | The Prodigal Son, ("a song play with traditional spirituals and gospel hymns illuminating the bible story here retold by Langston Hughes"), photocopied typescript, 1963 |
| 1   | 21  | Run, Ghost, Run: Skits and Songs for a Negro Revue, including "Run, Ghost, Run;" "Choreography Come to Central Avenue;" "That Good Old Union
Feeling; "Conscientious Objector;" "Troubles of a Genius" (with Elliot Carpenter and Elliott Walsh); "Patron of the Arts" (with Ray Golden); "Madame, How Can I Fall in Love?"; "Cops and Robbers;" "Song for a Dark Girl" (with Waldemar Hills); "Hollywood Mammy" (with Otis Renee); "National Unity;" "Song for the Working Class" (with Elie Siegmeister); "Justice Go Blind;" "Keeping the Records Straight;" "Harlem Debutante;" "Guest of Honor;" "Third Floor Airshaft Blues;" "Mardi Gras in New Orleans;" "Mad Scene from Woolworth's;" "Young Black Joe" (with music by Carpenter), carbon typescript with some holograph corrections and notes, unpublished, 1941

1 22 Scarlet Sister Barry, carbon typescript, 3 pp. circa 1930

2 1 Simple, (a folk musical in two acts), carbon typescript with some corrections, 97 pp., 1957

2 2 Simple Takes a Wife, photocopied typescript [from Schomburg Collection, New York Public Library], 1958

2 3 Sold Away, variant title for The Sun Do Move, Prologue and Act 1, typescript with some corrections, 17 pp., no date

- - "Song for a Dark Girl" [See Run, Ghost, Run]

- - "Song for the Working Class" [See Run, Ghost, Run]

2 4 Soul Gone Home, one-act play, typescript with some holograph corrections, 7 pp., [1937]

2 5 The Sun Do Move, Prologue and three acts, typescript with holograph notes and corrections, 69 pp., [1930]

2 6 Tambourines to Glory, musical melodrama, photocopied typescript, revised version, 1960, with excerpts from reviews of the novel and comments on the play bound with the script and letter from Lawrence Langner dated 27 October 1961

- - "That Good Old Union Feeling" [See Run, Ghost, Run]

- - "Third Floor Airshaft Blues" [See Run, Ghost, Run]

2 7 Troubled Island, three act play, photocopied typescript, no date

- - "Troubles of a Genius" [See Run, Ghost, Run]

2 8 Unidentified fragment, typescript with holograph notes, 1 pp., no date

- - "Young Black Joe" [See Run, Ghost, Run]

2 9 Wide Wide River, libretto in one act, score by Granville English, photocopied typescript, 33 pp. 1956