

A Guide to the Langston Hughes Collection

Langston Hughes Collection 1925-1956
1925-1956

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 8870-e
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
1997

History

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A Guide to the Langston Hughes Collection

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

8870-e

Language

English

Extent

11 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

Purchase 1992 September 2

Funding Note

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Item Listing

Letters

Langston Hughes, Westfield, New Jersey, to [Henry Lee] Moon

Unit Date [1930] May 1

Extent ALS, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[Unable to write an article for the Tuskegee Messenger because "my novel and earning a living have kept me bowed down for the last three years"; says his next novel, Not Without Laughter, will be published in August and "it's not about Harlem"; encloses poem "Alabama Earth (At Booker Washington's grave)".]

Langston Hughes, Washington, D. C. (postcard of colorized photograph of the Lincoln Memorial), to Henry Lee Moon, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Unit Date 1930 June 8

Extent APCS

Scope and Content

[Advises Moon to leave the poem ("Alabama Earth") "as is, please, sir!"; mutual friends Alain Locke and Zora Neale Hurston are mentioned.]

Langston Hughes, New York, New York (colorized postcard "On the Beach at Rockaway Beach"), to Henry Lee Moon, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Unit Date 1930 July 18

Extent APCS

Scope and Content

[Thanks Moon for sending copies of the Tuskegee Messenger; mentions Zora Neale Hurston and his mother [Carrie Langston Hughes]; says "New York's full of down home teachers at school" and hopes "the novel [Not Without Laughter?] don't bore you."]

Langston Hughes, "On tour/Columbia, N[orth] C[arolina] (on stylized personal stationery "LH")," to [Henry Lee] Moon

Unit Date 1931 Nov 21

Extent ALS, 2 p.

Scope and Content

[lengthy and detailed recounting of his speaking at Chapel Hill, social arrangements in segregated North Carolina("Refreshments later at a white soda fountain. . . . Nothing happened. It was just like New York."); mentions Contempomagazine, describes his reading before a large audience whom he expected would be hostile but were not (a policeman stood guard outside the building) after controversy surrounding his "Nigger Christ" poem ("Christ In Alabama", which commented on the Scottsboro case and was published in Contempo); Hughes quotes a local sheriff as saying "he doesn't mind Christ being a bastard, but don't call him a nigger!". In a lengthy section marked "Not For Publication" Hughes describes two parties given in his honor (one hosted by Andrew Mellon's nephew) for after the reading where "Southern ladies present, too . . . gallons of home-brew were consumed" and adds that the tour is going well and plans to visit Birmingham.]

Langston Hughes, Cleveland, Ohio, to [Henry Lee] Moon

Unit Date 1936 March 25

Extent ALS, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[World premiere of his play Little Ham, which Hughes missed due to illness; thanks Moon for sending some papers and asks, "How come you can't buy an Amsterdam News nowhere in this town?" Also mentions illness of his mother.]

Langston Hughes, Cleveland, to Henry Lee Moon, New York, New York

Unit Date 1936 July 22

Extent TLS, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[Sends a clipping [not present] and says " Etta Motten's description of Rio makes me want to go down there right away. Cleveland is just the same as ever, but I am glad to be back home and back to work again."]

Langston Hughes, New York, New York (on personalized stationery, with envelope), to Mollyand Henry Lee Moon

Unit Date 1955 Nov 28

Extent TLS, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[Invites the Moons to his home on December 10 to meet "the distinguished South African writer of colour, Peter Abrahams. . . I find Mr. Abrahams a charming fellow and a most interesting conversationalist"; in a handwritten postscript (green ink) Hughes adds, "Not a party--just a salon!"]

Langston Hughes, New York, (on personalized stationery, with envelope), to Henry Lee Moon

Unit Date 1956 Oct 20

Extent TLS, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[Advance copies of I Wonder As I Wanderare "due at any moment" and Moon will receive a copy from the publisher; Pictorial History of The Negro In Americawill appear November 18 "and we're all delighted Mollie [Moon's wife Molly] is helping on it. Crown [Publishers]finds her charming."]

Manuscripts

Langston Hughes poem "Alabama Earth (At Booker Washington's grave)"

Unit Date [1930 May 1]

Extent Tmss, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[This signed copy was originally enclosed with a Hughes letter to Henry Lee Moon, May 1, 1930.]

Langston Hughes poem "Cross", 12 lines

Unit Date [1925]

Extent Amss, 1 p.

Scope and Content

[Describes the emotions of the child of a white father and a black mother; at the bottom of the page Hughes has written, "On this poem my play Mulatto is based."]

Printed

Sheet music, Checkin' On The Freedom Train, lyrics by Langston Hughes and music by Sammy Heyward, published by Handy Brothers Music Co., Inc., Broadway, New York

Unit Date 1947

Extent Printed, 12 p.

Scope and Content

[Based on Hughes' 1947 poem Ballad of The Freedom Train, published in The New Republic(September 1947): 27.]