

Digital reproduction of  
Langston Hughes on the  
Hoover Dam Construction Site  
1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of  
photographs featuring  
(top to bottom, left to right)  
Loren Miller, Langston Hughes,  
Norman Macleod, and Carl Echols  
on Hoover Dam construction site  
1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of photograph  
taken by Langston Hughes on Pyramid Lake, near Reno  
featuring (left to right), Mrs. Willard, Miss Thooey, Tommy,  
and Gordon, guests of Ted Gilbert on a picnic, 1934

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

## Black Drillers on the Hoover Dam, 1933–34

Courtesy of UNLV Special Collections

Digital reproduction of photograph taken by Langston  
Hughes showing  
the living conditions of workers during the construction of  
the Hoover Dam  
1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

## Digital reproduction of Langston Hughes's notification sent to Maxim Lieber, 1934

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of Advertisement for the Dixie Jubilee Quartette, published in the *Lake Elsinore Valley Sun-Tribune*, 1934

In his journal entry dated October 14, 1934, Hughes documents his travels to Carson City with the Dixie Quartette, a musical group that performed at the Dixie Club, a segregated venue in Reno.

Lake Elsinore Valley Sun-Tribune, Reno

## A letter to by Langston Hughes sent to Maxim Lieber, 1934

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC



*Esquire* magazine featuring Langston Hughes's short story,  
*On the Road*,  
based in Reno, 1935

The Nevada Museum of Art Thomas and Pauline  
Tuscher Library Special Collections

Digital reproduction of *Oscar H. Hammond's, U.S. Weatherman, Got Job Shortly After 'Exam' in 1907*—an article by Langston Hughes about Oscar Hammond, the first Black weatherman in the United States, who lived in Reno. Published in *The New York Amsterdam News*, December 1, 1934

NEW

*Esquire* magazine featuring short  
story *Slice Em Down* based in Reno  
1936

The Nevada Museum of Art Thomas and Pauline  
Tuscher Library Special Collections

Digital reproduction of  
*Slice Him Down* Typescript  
1934

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of letter  
regarding *The Ways of White Folks*  
1934

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of *The Cast  
of Ethiopia at the Bar of Justice*, featuring Oscar Hammond,  
1935

Nevada History Preservation Society, Reno

*Langston Hughes Essentials,*  
Unabridged Album, 2007

The Nevada Museum of Art Thomas and Pauline  
Tuscher Library Special Collections

# Digital reproduction of handwritten poem, “Negro Speaks of Rivers”

Not dated

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC





September 1925 *Vanity Fair*  
magazine featuring article  
*Langston Hughes* by  
Carl Van Vechten, 1925

Hughes met the philanthropist and writer Carl Van Vechten, who helped him publish his first book of poems, *The Weary Blues* (1926). Four of the poems later included in the volume are featured in Van Vechten's 1925 *Vanity Fair* article titled *Langston Hughes*.

The Nevada Museum of Art Thomas and Pauline  
Tuscher Library Special Collections

## Digital reproduction of Langston Hughes sketches, 1952

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of poem  
“Blues Heard on Lenox Avenue”  
1957

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction  
draft of *Simple Stories*  
1950s

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of a letter by  
Martin Luther King, Jr. to Langston Hughes. Hughes's poem  
"I Dream a World" inspired King's *I Have a Dream* speech,  
1960s

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of  
American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by  
permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Reprint of original *Fire!!: A Quarterly Devoted to the Younger Negro Artists*, 1926

In 1927, Langston Hughes spent the summer in New York working with writers, Zora Neale Hurston, Wallace Thurman, Bruce Nugent, Gwendolyn Bennett, John P. Davis, and artist Aaron Douglas on a magazine entitled *Fire!!: A Quarterly Devoted to the Younger Negro Artists*. The group only produced one issue due to a lack of funding.

Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of Loren Miller  
on the Hoover Dam Construction Site  
1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC



# Digital reproduction of Loren Miller and Norman Macleod in Las Vegas, 1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of  
California Eagle newspaper  
articles regarding the Hoover  
Dam Construction Site, 1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

*The Ways of White Folks,*  
written by Langston Hughes.  
Originally published in 1934

LB Book Collection

Digital reproduction of African Americans employed as  
drillers  
during the construction of Hoover  
Dam in Boulder City, 1932

UNLV Special Collections

# Digital reproduction of Loren Miller on the Hoover Dam Construction Site 1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of Loren Miller  
and Norman Macleod in Las Vegas  
1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

## Digital reproduction of Langston Hughes in Carmel, 1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

*The Ways of White Folks*, written  
by Langston Hughes. Originally published in 1934

In 1934, before Langston Hughes's trip to Reno, progressive art patron Noël Sullivan hosted him at his cottage, Innisfree, in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. During his stay, Hughes compiled *The Ways of White Folks*, his first collection of short stories, which he dedicated to Sullivan. The volume explores the complexities of racial interactions in the United States.

The LB Book Collection



Digital reproduction of poem, "Hoover Dam Remembered  
from El Tovar," by Norman Macleod. Originally published in  
*New Masses*  
1932

Digital reproduction of African Americans employed as  
drillers during the construction of the Hoover Dam in  
Boulder City, 1932

UNLV Special Collections

Digital reproduction of correspondence between Langston  
Hughes and Noël  
Sullivan, while Hughes was in Reno, 1932

Noël Sullivan Papers. Berkeley, CA. Bancroft Library. U of California.

*One Way Ticket*, first edition, written by  
Langston Hughes and illustrated by Jacob  
Lawrence. Published in 1949

The LB Book Collection

*The Big Sea: An Autobiography*,  
first edition, written by Langston Hughes. Published in  
1940

*The Big Sea: An Autobiography* was the first  
autobiography written by Langston Hughes. In it, he  
recounts his early life, including his childhood, his  
experience as a steward on a ship traveling to Africa  
and Europe, and his involvement in the Harlem  
Renaissance.

Signed copy of *Not Without  
Laughter*, second edition, written  
by Langston Hughes. Originally published in 1930

The LB Book Collection

Signed copy of *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*, first edition, written by Langston Hughes and Roy DeCarava. Published in 1955

The LB Book Collection

NEW

Reprint of magazine *Fire!!*: A  
*Quarterly Devoted to the Younger  
Negro Artists*, 1926

Nevada Museum of Art Special Collections



Correspondence between  
Langston Hughes and Jacob  
Lawrence regarding illustrations  
for *One Way Ticket*  
Not dated

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

*The Best of Simple*, first edition,  
written by Langston Hughes.  
Published in 1961

Langston Hughes created Jesse B. Semple—better known as "Simple"—as a fictional character to give voice to the everyday thoughts, struggles, and humor of working-class African Americans. First appearing in the *Chicago Defender* in the 1940s, Simple quickly became a recurring figure through whom Hughes explored serious racial and social issues with informal speech and sharp wit. Hughes's creative process began with a straightforward draft, which he later enriched with vivid characterizations in the published versions, making the stories both accessible and deeply resonant.

*Langston Hughes—The Black Verse, 12 Moods for Jazz.*

Spoken word album written by Langston Hughes,  
released in 1969

The LB Book Collection

Digital reproductions of newspaper articles, *Denial of Work on Hoover Dam Makes Las Vegas City of Despair and Lot of Negro Worker Grows Steadily Worse, Says Langston [Hughes]*, regarding the Hoover Dam Construction Site, originally published in the *California Eagle* , 1932

*Las Vegas, Nevada – Las Vegas is a city of hopelessness and despair, at least in the colony of 300 – 400 Negro workers and their families, who turned to it as the land of promise where they could escape the terrible depression which has brooded over America for the past three years.*

*They came out here with high hopes and with the same spirit that had driven hundreds of earlier Americans to heed the advice of Horace Greeley and go west. These workers and their families expected to find work, hard work it is true, but work. They expected to find the glamorous west of which they had read where men and women were not measured in terms of color.*

*Instead, they have found only the bitterest poverty and no employment at all. Baffled and beaten by the lack of work some of them have turned to bootlegging and other forms of lawbreaking where color does not bar them. These workers found in Las Vegas some of the most rigid color bars ever erected in the United States. They found the restaurants and other public places refusing Negroes. They found a city where Negroes are warned by the police not to walk down the certain side of a street—that street is the one which contains the open houses of prostitution.*

*And worse than these color bars, the Negro workers found that their government had decided to refuse them work at Boulder Dam, the project which had drawn them to the west. Of course, the government denies that it is active in the discrimination.*

## Digital reproduction of photograph of Langston Hughes at Boulder Dam Construction Site, 1932

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

(left to right)

Digital reproduction of photograph  
by Sybil Anikeef of Langston  
Hughes with Noël Sullivan's dog,  
Greta, in Carmel, 1934

Digital reproduction of photograph  
by Carl Van Vechten of Langston Hughes in New York, 1939

Digital reproduction of photograph  
by Sybil Anikeef of Langston  
Hughes in Carmel, 1934

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Audio file of *Essential Hughes Unabridged* Read by Langston Hughes (HarperCollins Publishers, 2007), featuring Langston Hughes reading the following:

*One Way Ticket*, 00:43 min.

*Commentary – When I was 13...*, 8:07 min.

*The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, 00:47 min.

*Commentary – I went to Columbia*, 1:40 min.

*Mama and Daughter*, 00:45 min.

*I, Too*, 00:34 min.

The Nevada Museum of Art Thomas and Pauline  
Tuscher Library Special Collections

Digital reproduction of Langston Hughes’s Reno journal entry, 1934

During his travels in Northern Nevada Hughes kept records of his daily activities. Some of his excursions include picnics at Ecko Lake near Elko and making trips to nearby Virginia City and Pyramid Lake.

September 2

To Ernestine Ball’s on Echo Lake. Slept under the stars. Can feel the altitude 7620.

September 3

Rowed and swam in lake. Went to see...getting divorce in Nevada. On to Truckee.

September 4

Noel goes to SF. I leave on 5:55 for Reno. Stop at Mrs. Hubbard [sic], 521 Elko Street.

September 5

Several fellows, porters, etc., batch here. I go in with them on board.

September 6

Got in touch with Ted Gilbert at the old Nixon House. Won 2.00 at Chinaman’s

September 7

Had tea with Mr. Gilbert, Mrs. Willard (Union Trust Co.) and Miss Tookey of Washington. Also C...

September 8

Went to Pyramid Lake with same party from picnic, Back to lose 3.00 at Chinaman’s.

September 9

Lost 3 bucks at the Chinaman’s. To colored club with Garner. “The Chinaman’s” and the “colored club” seem to be the main entertainment establishments that Hughes enjoyed regularly while in Reno.

September 10

To the gym with Chocolate and Wilber. Kept time for the fighters.

September 11

To Virginia City with Gordon, tour the old gold mines Crystal bar and opera house.

September 12

Everyone came to see me off at the airport. Swell flight over the mountains and into the sunset.

October 13

Arrive Reno in early morning. Win 1.50 at Chinaman’s. To colored club at night. Swell blues and jazz.

October 14

To Carson City with the Dixie Quartette. Fouche; Arnette Williams, 2 more of L.A.

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

(left, clockwise from top)

Digital reproduction of  
Langston Hughes photograph  
taken by Ralph Ellison, not dated



Digital reproduction of Langston  
Hughes photograph on the college campus of Lincoln  
University, 1920s

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction of Langston  
Hughes photograph, not dated

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

Digital reproduction photograph of Langston Hughes,  
Zora Neale Hurston and Jessie Redmon at the Tuskegee  
Institute, 1927

Langston Hughes Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Used by permission of the Estate of Langston Hughes and International Literary Properties, LLC

(right)

Digital reproduction photograph of Party of Langston  
Hughes on the Roof of 580 St. Nicholas Avenue  
featuring (left to right) Langston Hughes, Charles S.  
Johnson, E. Franklin Frazier, Rudolph Fisher,  
and Hubert T. Delany, 1924

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Photographs and Prints Division, The New York Public Library Digital Collections.