

AFRICANA HERITAGE

The New York Public Library • Volume 3, No. 3, 2003 • Where Every Month Is Black History Month

LAYING THE CITY'S FIRST WATER PIPES.

In 1799, black workers installed wooden pipes that carried fresh water to city homes in Manhattan. In the background is the Old Federal Hall at Wall and Nassau streets. Alexander Hamilton, one of the founders of the Manhattan Company, stands to the extreme right. In later years the Manhattan Company became the Chase Manhattan Bank.



Artist: Ezra Winter. Courtesy of the Archival Collection of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe Donates Arthur Ashe's Papers

At a press conference on August 20, 2003, Schomburg Center Chief Howard Dodson, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, and former New York City Mayor David Dinkins formally announced the donation of the Arthur Ashe Papers to the Center. The papers, which include correspondence, writings, speeches, photographs, and other artifacts from the tennis star's extraordinary life, represent a major contribution to the Center's mission—to collect, preserve, and provide access to materials documenting Black life, and to promote the study and interpretation of Black history and culture.

The Arthur Ashe Papers complement drafts and research materials compiled by Ashe for his three-volume history of African-American athletes, *Hard Road to Glory*, work he donated to the Center in 1990. The Arthur Ashe Papers include his autobiography, *Days of Grace: A Memoir*, written with Arnold Rampersad; articles and dippings; awards and tributes; records documenting his involvement in numerous organizations and projects; and photographs, artifacts, and audio-visual material.

Among the individuals whose letters appear in the correspondence are South African leader Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Bishop Desmond Tutu; six American presidents; numerous other public officials; and friends, fans, and fellow athletes. The collection also includes correspondence relating to Ashe's political activities, business ventures, requests, thank-yous for personal appearances, and congratulations for victories won and awards received. There are also a substantial number of letters received after the announcement that he had AIDS. These offer encouragement,

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Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, with Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson and former Mayor David N. Dinkins, announced the donation of the Arthur Ashe Papers to the Schomburg Center.

Rites of Ancestral Return

Commemorating the Colonial African Heritage

The New York City Freedom Trail

In 1991, during the construction of a federal office building at 290 Broadway in New York City, archaeologists excavated one of the most significant finds in American history: the largest known intact colonial African cemetery in America, the African Burial Ground. Believed to be more than five acres in size (about five current-day city blocks), the African Burial Ground is bounded by Duane Street, City Hall Park, and Centre Street in Lower Manhattan. It is a moving, present-day reminder of the extraordinary contributions that enslaved African men, women, and children made to the economy, development, and culture of America. The United States General Services Administration (GSA) has asked the Schomburg Center to organize, produce, and manage a series of events commemorating the reinterment of the skeletal remains of the African ancestors removed from the African Burial Ground eleven years ago. Over the last decade, the remains have been undergoing scientific study at the W. Montague

Continued on page 5

My instinct is to suppress it. This feeling of pride and exhilaration. To try to keep it under control. To try to keep it in perspective. To talk about it quietly, without emotion or compassion. But I can't. Can't keep it under wraps. Can't deny the emotions that I feel. Can't deny the fact of the ancestors' presence. Their expectations. Their demands. Can't deny the fact that we are about to embark on one of the most exciting and historically significant periods in the history of the Center.

On June 30, the General Services Administration entered into a contract with the Schomburg Center to organize and produce a series of events and activities to be held in September and October to ensure that the more than 400 enslaved and quasi-free ancestors from New York City's seventeenth- and eighteenth-century African Burial Ground would be reburied with the dignity, respect, and honor that their service

issues discussed by black writers and in black books, the panel discussions were among the highlights of the Fair. Look for the reruns on C-Span or C-Span Books.

On August 20, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe donated the Arthur Ashe Collection to the Schomburg Center. The authoritative resource for documenting and interpreting his extraordinary and exemplary life, the Arthur Ashe Collection includes correspondence, speeches, photographs, and newspaper and journal articles by and about Arthur Ashe, as well as memorabilia from his sports career and research files for his three-volume history of the black athlete in America, *Hard Road to Glory*. It is a spectacular collection of national and international significance about the life and times of one of the major figures of the twentieth century.

I am also pleased to report that several gifts received over the last three months have offset some of the anticipated cuts in our city and state funding. First, the City Council of New York City restored most of the city cuts and added an additional \$125,000 to this fiscal year's appropriation. State Senator David Paterson appropriated \$50,000 to offset some of the state cuts. By the end of the fiscal year, some 550 individuals, mostly members like

you, had responded to the appeal to match the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Million Dollar Challenge Grant to establish an endowment to support building the Center's collections. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund's \$250,000 pledge to match the Mellon Challenge Grant when added to the \$57,000 in gifts by individual donors has brought the total match to \$734,181 to date. We still have to raise \$265,819. We would welcome any contribution you wish to make to help us reach this endowment goal. In the meantime, the Carnegie Corporation has awarded a two-year \$150,000 outright gift to support the building of the collections in the interim. Thanks to everyone who helped us stave off the impact of the anticipated cuts.

More than anything else this summer, the ancestors' presence is with us. They have been calling and we are striving to answer their call. We have been planning. We have been working. And we are calling on you to be part of this historic moment. Come to Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. Come to Wilmington, Philadelphia, and Newark. Come to New York City. Each of us—all of us—owes our African ancestors our presence at one or more of the *Rites of Ancestral Return* ceremonies. I know we can count on you. To remember. To say thank you. And to bid them rest in peace.



In September and October we will ensure that ancestors from New York City's African Burial Ground are reburied with the dignity, respect, and honor that their service to African Americans, New Yorkers, and Americans in general deserve. — Howard Dodson, Schomburg Chief

to African Americans, New Yorkers, and Americans in general deserve.

We were challenged by this opportunity and responsibility. But we were also ennobled and honored by both. Because, in effect, we were being asked to put up or shut up. To figure out how to properly honor our ancestors or to conclude that we could do no better than the city, state, and federal governments and their successors. We believe, no, we know, we are up to the task. And we also know that we are doing it because the ancestors demand that we do it—that they entrust the momentous moment in their long history on this earth to us. We are, have been, and will do everything we can to avoid falling short of their expectations. Most importantly, we intend to do it right. But I am getting ahead of myself.

It's been a busy summer. A busy and productive summer! First, there was the Harlem Book Fair held on Saturday, July 19. In addition to the more than 30,000 people who attended the Fair on 135th Street in front of the Schomburg Center, millions saw it nationally on C-Span. The core of C-Span's seven hours of coverage was the series of panel presentations hosted by the Schomburg Center in its Langston Hughes Auditorium. Provocative, stimulating, on the cutting edge of is-

Schomburg Center Names 2003-2004 Fellows

Scholars-in-Residence Program

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Six Months

Yogita Goyal, Graduate Fellow, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Brown University

PROJECT: *Diasporic Nationalisms, Nationalist Diasporas: Theorizing Race in the Black Atlantic*

John Gray, Independent (Schomburg/Newhouse Fellow)

PROJECT: *Black Music in the Diaspora: An International Bio-Bibliography and Resource Guide*

Stephen Gillroy Hall, Assistant Professor, Department of History, The Ohio State University

PROJECT: *To Give a Faithful Account of the Race: History and Historical Writing in the African-American Community, 1817-1915*

Cheryl D. Hicks, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Williams College

PROJECT: *Confined to Womanhood: Women, Prisons, and Race in the State of New York, 1890-1935*

Jacqueline Delores Malone, Professor, Department of Drama, Theater and Dance, Queens College, City University of New York

PROJECT: *Jazz Music in Motion: African-American Women in Tap and Jazz Dance*

Recent Publications by Former Resident Scholars



To Stand and Fight: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Postwar New York City

By Martha Biondi
Harvard University Press, 384 pp., \$39.95

The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Nationalism

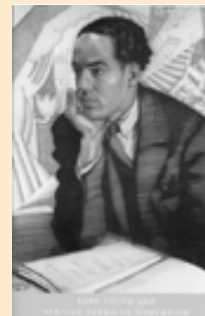
By Brent Hayes Edwards
Harvard University Press, 416 pp., \$24.95

2001 Race Odyssey: African-Americans and Sociology

By Bruce R. Hare
Syracuse University Press, 440 pp., \$49.95

In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863

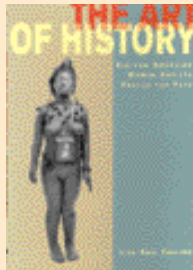
By Leslie Harris
University of Chicago Press, 360 pp., \$42.50



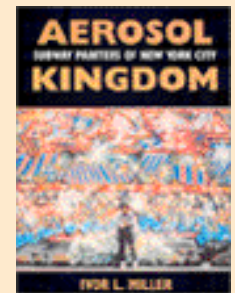
"Rebels to the Right, Revolutionaries to the Left" in Ezra Pound and African American Modernism

(edited by Michael Coyle)
By Kathryn Lindberg
National Poetry Foundation, 280 pp., \$24.95

The Art of History: African American Women Artists Engage the Past
By Lisa Gail Collins
Rutgers University Press, 224 pp., \$26



Aerosol Kingdom: Subway Painters of New York City
By Ivor L. Miller
University Press of Mississippi, 218 pp., \$30



Junior Scholars Program Planning for Third Year

The New York Life/Schomburg Center Junior Scholars Program promises to be better than ever this year! The Junior Scholars Program will encourage scholars to engage in the rich and ever-growing resources of the Center through expert-guided and self-guided tours of important and comprehensive exhibitions, including *Ralph J. Bunche, Nobel Laureate: A Centennial Retrospective*, *Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World*, and *The Buffalo Soldiers: The African-American Soldier in the U.S. Army*. Scholars will also receive a copy of *Jubilee: The Emergence of African-American Culture*, a publication by the Schomburg Center and National Geographic, for use as a textbook

to facilitate in-depth study of African-American history. Author Howard Dodson and other guest speakers will complement the book's subject matter with talks and discussions.

Students will continue to have the opportunity to develop their ideas, based on the content-rich weekly sessions, into concrete products through their enhanced Video, Media, Dance, Music, Spoken Word, and Theater Special Project teams. Effective this year each of the 150 Junior Scholars will maintain an active portfolio and individual Web page containing exemplary student work. Portfolios will include family genealogy, fiction and non-fiction pieces, music, reviews, journal entries, art, and photographs. Junior Scholars will also have

the opportunity to earn EDUCATS based on their performance in the program, the quality of their work, attendance, and level of scholarship. EDUCATS help students make fiscally responsible choices as they select gifts, trips, concerts, Junior Scholars clothing and resource materials.

Encourage young people to join us on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from October 25, 2003, to May 15, 2004. Students between the ages of eleven and seventeen are welcome to apply. Visit www.juniorscholars.org or contact Caryle G. Leach, Director of the Junior Scholars Program, at (212) 491-2051 (leach@nypl.org) or Deirdre L. Hollman, Associate Director, at (212) 491-2234 (dhollman@nypl.org) for an application or information.

African-American Freedom Trail



Based on historical maps and documents, the original African Burial Ground is believed to be more than five acres in size, about five current-day city blocks. The African Burial Ground is bounded by Duane Street (north), Broadway (west), City Hall Park (south), and Centre Street (east). Much of the cemetery today lies underneath buildings along Reade, Chambers, and Broadway. Human remains have been routinely uncovered along Chambers Street and in City Hall Park.

- Fort Amsterdam 1**
- Broadway 2**
- Fraunces' Tavern 3**
- Downing's Oyster House 4**
- The Wall 5**
- Wall Street Slave Market 6**
- 1712 Slave Revolt 7**
- African Free School 8**
- St. Peter's Church 9**
- Dr. James McCune Smith 10**
- Pinkster Celebration 11**
- 1741 Executions 12**
- Road To Harlem 13**
- 1863 Draft Riots 14**
- Land of the Blacks 15**
- African Burial Ground 16**
- Frederick Douglass 17**
- Abyssinian Baptist Church 18**
- Mother AME Zion Church 19**
- Freedom's Journal 20**
- Huggles' Boarding House 21**

rites, continued from page 1

Cobb Laboratory at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The Rites of Ancestral Return: Commemorating the Colonial African Heritage events will honor the lives, culture, and invaluable role of Africans as colonybuilders in the northeastern United States. The five-city commemorative ceremony represents an opportunity to recognize, honor, and preserve historic properties in our communities. In that spirit, Africana Heritage devotes this issue's Heritage Watch to the New York City Freedom Trail, a map of some twenty-one historical sites (including the African Burial Ground) in Lower Manhattan.

New York City African-American Freedom Trail

1. Fort Amsterdam

In 1625 enslaved Africans arrived in New Amsterdam. Among their first tasks was to build the first fort on Manhattan Island, known as Fort Amsterdam. *One Bowling Green (site of the National Museum of the American Indian)*

2. Broadway

The city's first municipal work force, African slaves cleared land and shoreline and widened Native American trails, including a wide road—later known as Broadway. *Broadway*

3. Fraunces' Tavern

A popular restaurant owned by Samuel Fraunces, a West Indian caterer of French and African origin. Site of General George Washington's farewell address to his troops in 1783. *54 Pearl Street*

4. Downing's Oyster House

Popular restaurant in the early



In colonial New York City, 15 to 20 percent of the population were enslaved Africans. Local black men and women worked at a variety of skilled occupations until racially oriented laws favoring whites restricted work assignments for enslaved and free blacks. Artist: Charles Lilly.

1800s owned by black abolitionist Thomas Downing. Its cellar served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

5. The Wall

African slaves constructed a wall across Manhattan Island in 1653. Extending from the Hudson River to the East River, it is later known as Wall Street. *Wall Street*

6. Wall Street Slave Market

Established in 1711 at a pier at Wall Street and the East River, African men, women, and children were sold at the Wall Street Slave Market. *Corner of Wall Street and Front Street*

7. 1712 Slave Revolt

A group of enslaved Africans ambushed whites on the outskirts of the city in 1712. Nineteen blacks were executed in response to the slave uprising. *Northwest corner of Maiden Lane and William Street*

8. African Free School

Founded in 1787 in a single room for forty boys and girls. *245 William Street (between Ann Street and Fulton Street)*

9. St. Peter's Church

Destroyed by fire in 1835, the church was rebuilt chiefly from money given by Pierre Toussaint, a former slave and Haitian philanthropist. *22 Barclay Street (southeast corner of Church Street and Barclay Street)*

10. Dr. James McCune Smith

A graduate of the African Free School, Dr. Smith established a medical practice and pharmacy here in 1837.

55 West Broadway (between Murray Street and Park Place)

11. Pinkster Celebration

In the 17th century, the Afro-Dutch community celebrated an African ceremony called Pinkster at this site. The annual celebration coincided with the Christian observance of Pentecost. *City Hall Park*

12. 1741 Executions

A rumor of a slave uprising in New York City led to the trial and convictions of thirty-five defendants. All were executed, either by hanging or burning, including thirty-one black men, two white men, and two white women. *City Hall Park*

13. Road to Harlem

In 1658, African workers built the road to Harlem (later known as the Boston Post Road). *Park Row (to 110th Street and the East River)*

14. 1863 Draft Riots

During four days of citywide violence in July 1863, the homes of African Americans and abolitionists were firebombed. Estimates range from 100 to more than 1,000 people killed, including two men, Abraham Franklin and Jeremiah Robinson, on Roosevelt Street. *Roosevelt Street (between Cherry Street and Oak Street)*

15. Land of the Blacks

From 1643 to 1712, more than thirty farms owned by free blacks spanned the frontier north of the African Burial Ground to 34th Street.

Chinatown, SoHo, Greenwich Village, Little Italy

16. African Burial Ground Memorial Site

An estimated 20,000 men, women, and children were buried in the cemetery here from the late 17th century until it was closed in 1795. Approximately five city blocks, the site was five to six acres in size. *Duane and Elk streets*

17. Frederick Douglass

The Hudson River pier where Frederick Washington Bailey, a runaway slave from Maryland, came ashore in 1838. Aided by the Underground Railroad, Bailey achieved freedom and renamed himself Frederick Douglass. *Chambers and West streets (site of Stuyvesant High School)*

18. Abyssinian Baptist Church

Founded in 1808 by black members of the First Baptist Church. *40 Wall Street*

19. Mother A.M.E. Zion Church

The first African-American church in New York City, founded in 1796. *156 Church Street*

21. Ruggles' Boarding House

Rooming house for blacks owned by black abolitionist David Ruggles, and an Underground Railroad station that assisted hundreds of fugitives, including Frederick Douglass. (Ruggles' first boarding house was located at 67 Lispenard Street.)

36 Lispenard Street

Event Schedule

September 30 – October 4, 2003

Tuesday, September 30

Tribute Ceremony • 6 p.m.
Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel
Howard University
513th Street and Howard Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, October 1

Tribute Ceremony • 12 p.m.
Willard W. Allen Masonic Temple
1307 Eutaw Place Baltimore, Maryland

Wednesday, October 1

Procession • 6 p.m.
Tribute Ceremony African Union Church
1203 Newport Gap Pike Wilmington, Delaware

Thursday, October 2

Procession • 11 a.m.
Tribute Ceremony Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church
419 South 513th Street (Richard Allen Avenue) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tribute Ceremony • 6 p.m.
Bethany Baptist Church
275 W. Market Street Jersey City, New Jersey

Friday, October 3

Flotilla Departure • 9 a.m.
Jersey City/ Liberty Island, New Jersey
Arrival Ceremony • 11 a.m.
South and Wall Streets (New York's colonial slave market)
Procession to African Burial

Ground Memorial Site
12:15 p.m.

Commemorative Vigil • 1 p.m.
290 Broadway and African Burial Ground Memorial Site
New York, New York

Saturday, October 4

Vigil Ends • 10 a.m.
Public Tribute and Reinterment Ceremony in Foley Square
11 a.m.
New York, New York

AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND

Reinterment Project

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(Information)



Clergy and Schomburg Center staff held hands in prayer at an African Burial Ground commemorative ceremony meeting at the Center. The ceremonies will take place in five cities in September and October.

Eighty-five Schomburg Center volunteers were honored at the annual New York Public Library Volunteer Recognition Day at 42nd Street. Schomburg Center volunteer

Queen E. Jordan celebrated twenty-two years of service. The Center's Volunteer Recognition Day took place on June 19, 2003.



Benjamin Cotton



The Harlem Book Fair honored Ishmael Reed at the Wheatley Book Awards in July.

Yes, it's true...

Unless you leave your IRA or pension plan to a spouse, it can be taxed heavily in your estate. If your estate is over \$1 million, these funds can be subject to both estate *and* income tax, which may total over 80 percent. This leaves your family or other heirs a mere 20 percent of a lifetime of savings.

If you are not leaving your IRA or pension plan to a spouse, it may make sense to name the Schomburg Center as beneficiary of your plan. You can avoid completely income and estate taxes on these funds, thus enabling you to leave more of your other assets to your heirs. And you can make a meaningful gift to the Schomburg Center as part of your legacy. For more information, please contact Randy V. Beranek, Manager of Planned Giving, (212) 930-0568. Email: plannedgifts@nypl.org.

Coming in November 2003 from the Schomburg Center and Free Press

Praise for *Standing in the Need of Prayer*

“More than a mere book about prayer, it is a dose of divinely inspired nutrition from which we can all benefit by simply ingesting one page, three times a day.”

—**Iyanla Vanzant, author of *Every Day I Pray***

“*Standing in the Need of Prayer* is tremendously powerful, a necessary contribution to the historical study of the black experience of adversity and triumph in this country.”

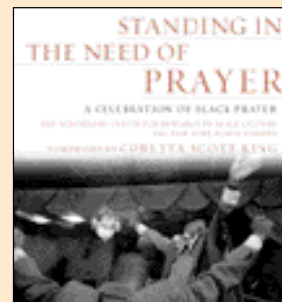
—**Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Chair, Department of African and African-American Studies, Harvard University**

“Within the African-American community, prayer has been the liberating force for a people who have been socially, economically, and politically oppressed. *Standing in the Need of Prayer* exalts the transformational power of prayer.”

—**Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.**

Standing in the Need of Prayer: A Celebration of Black Prayer
Foreword by Coretta Scott King
The Free Press, \$27.50, 224 pp.

From the darkest days on slave ships to the most defiant moments of the Civil Rights Movement, prayer, more than any aspect of religion, has embodied the most intense expression of traditional African and African-American spirituality. In this one-of-a-kind volume, striking photographs and inspiring prayers drawn primarily from the unparalleled collections of the Schomburg Center span the broad spectrum of religious traditions during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Reflecting themes relevant to the black experience—including struggle, triumph, worship, family, and community—*Standing in the Need of Prayer* features examples from diverse religious traditions, including Islam, Christianity, Yoruba, and Vodou. The book also includes prayers from some of history’s most powerful voices, among them W.E.B. Du Bois, James Baldwin, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Jubilee: The Emergence of African-American Culture

Howard Dodson, Amiri Baraka, John Hope Franklin, Gail Buckley, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Annette Gordon-Reed, and Gayraud S. Wilmore
National Geographic, \$35, 224 pp.



This illustrated history documents the courageous and innovative ways that enslaved Africans developed their own unique culture in the midst of slavery and examines how that culture developed and flourished through the years after emancipation to the turn of the century.

EXHIBITIONS

Ralph Johnson Bunche, Nobel Laureate: A Centennial Retrospective

August 7, 2003 – October 2003

The Schomburg Center presents an exhibition honoring the achievements of

Ralph J. Bunche and celebrating the centennial year of the birth of one of the most prominent scholars of the twentieth century. *Ralph Johnson Bunche, Nobel Laureate: A Centennial Retrospective* will feature memorabilia from Ralph J. Bunche’s childhood, including papers, yearbooks, and uniforms from high school and college, where he

excelled in sports and scholastics, graduating valedictorian at UCLA; his award-winning doctoral dissertation from Harvard University; papers and photographs from his world travels; founding documents of the United Nations; the draft of his 1950 Nobel Prize acceptance speech; and letters, photographs, and artifacts from his forty-year career as a scholar, civil rights activist, diplomat, and world statesman.



Invoking the Spirit: Worship Traditions in the African World

August 1, 2003 – December 2003

The product of more than twenty-five years of travel and research by *New York Times* photojournalist Chester Higgins, Jr., this photographic essay explores worship practices across ethnic, national, cultural, and religious boundaries throughout the African world and documents the vitality and diversity of the global African religious experience. The images featured in the exhibition also serve as the central theme of Higgins’s book, *Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*. Culled from his archive of almost a million photographs documenting the global African experience, the photographs in *Invoking the Spirit* explore the myriad ways in which African peoples venerate their sacred deities, invoking their presence and spirit in their life worlds. Documented here are the



sacred places African peoples—in Africa and the Americas—create and/or consecrate; the diverse spiritual leaders who are involved in the conduct of worship activities; the universal use of prayer as a formal means of communicating with God and the spirits; the rites, rituals, and ceremonies Africans use to pay tribute to God and invoke His/Her presence; and the roles of music and dance in religious services, ceremonies, and rituals.

The Buffalo Soldiers: The African-American Soldier in the U.S. Army

November 6, 2003 – February 28, 2004

Some of the earliest members of the nation's regular peacetime Army, Buffalo Soldiers were sent to the most dangerous, undeveloped parts of the Western Frontier and endured long hours patrolling harsh terrain in extreme weather conditions.



They fought, built or rebuilt Army posts, strung miles of telegraph wire, patrolled the U.S.-Mexican border, escorted settlers, protected herds of cattle and loads of mail, assisted railroad crews, and helped develop the national parks. Featuring the collections of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anthony L. Powell, with illustrations by Avel de Knight, *The Buffalo Soldiers: The African-American Soldier in the U.S. Army* surveys nearly five decades of American history and tells the story of these early African Americans, who earned a reputation for bravery in service to the U.S. Army.

Schomburg Center programs and exhibitions are supported in part by the City of New York, the State of New York, the Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, the New York State Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Legislative Caucus, the Rockefeller Foundation Endowment for the Performing Arts, The Coca-Cola Foundation, New York Life Foundation, Annie E. and Sarah L. Delaney Charitable Trusts, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., and the Edler Hawkins Foundation.

The Schomburg Center is a member of the Harlem Strategic Cultural Collaborative (HSCC).

COMING

December 4 – 20, 2003 (twelve shows)!

Nativity: A Life Story

“...a great addition to the holiday season in New York. Spread the word.”

—The New York Times

Don't miss the biggest *Nativity* ever! Due to the extraordinary demand for last year's *Nativity*, the Schomburg Center, the United Palace Theatre, and James Stovall



are planning three weekends and twelve performances of *Nativity* 2003. The holiday favorite will feature Stephanie Mills, BeBe Winans, Phylicia Rashad, Lillias White, Keith David, Denise Burse-Fernandez, Ebony Jo-Ann, The Ebony Ecumenical Ensemble, The Broadway Inspirational Voices, The Christ United Church Youth-In-Action Chorus, and many more. Tickets on sale now. For ticket charge call (212) 491-2004.

Featured Traveling Exhibitions from the Schomburg Center's Traveling Exhibitions Program

The Schomburg Center has an extensive traveling exhibitions program designed to offer exhibitions to cultural institutions and organizations interested in presenting programs on the history and culture of people of African descent. The Schomburg Center offers two types of traveling exhibitions: Major Exhibitions include original photographs and are available only to facilities with lighting and security at museum-quality standards; Panel Exhibitions are either free-standing framed photo-text panels or wall-hung framed photo-text panels on masonite. They can be booked for four to eight weeks. For all exhibitions the Schomburg Center supplies text panels and labels and sample press kits with releases and photographs. In addition to basic rental fees, local sponsors are responsible for insurance and shipping costs to and from the exhibition site. All exhibition sites must have controlled environments and must meet Schomburg Center security and fire control standards. For a full list of Center exhibitions, and for information about the Schomburg

Center's Traveling Exhibitions program, contact (212) 491-2204.

Art of African Women: Empowering Traditions

The Art of African Women: Empowering Traditions exhibition presents an unprecedented survey of African artistic traditions that have been passed down from mothers to daughters for centuries. The exhibition features more than 160 stunning photographs by internationally acclaimed photojournalist Margaret Courtney-Clarke.



The photographs in the exhibition are complemented by more than 80 objects, some of which have been photographed with their creators. The Art of African Women exhibition surveys traditional interior and exterior design, pottery, weaving, and other decorative arts and includes three components: an introduction to African women and their art forms; a survey of the various motifs that appear in the artwork; and a children's component, *African Kids*.

Harlem: The Vision of Morgan and Marvin Smith

Harlem: The Vision of Morgan and Marvin Smith features some 150 photographs taken by twin photographers Morgan and Marvin Smith from the 1930s through the 1950s.

Divided into five sections, *Harlem: The Vision of Morgan and Marvin Smith* surveys the lives, art, and work of these extraordinary artists. With *The Smiths and their Art*, an intimate look at family life and the development of two careers; *Faces of Harlem*, glimpses of Harlem residents pursuing their day-to-day lives; *Newsmakers*, portraits of leading national figures, a photo-essay on issues of the time; *Artists and Entertainers*, a showcase of leading visual, literary, and performing artists; and *Sports Figures*, a look at a period when black athletes were topping racial barriers.

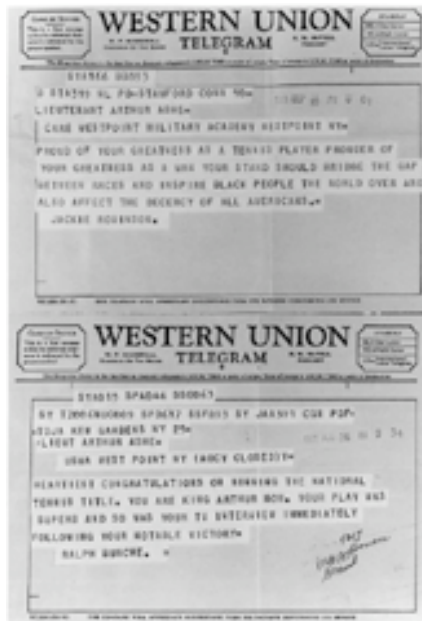




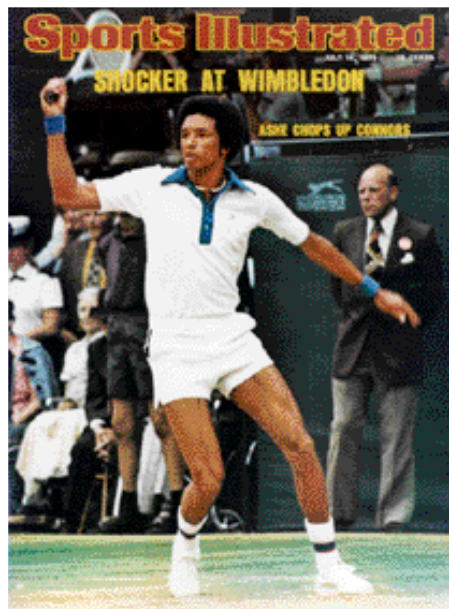
Young Arthur Ashe with his tennis trophies, at home in Richmond, Virginia, 1955.



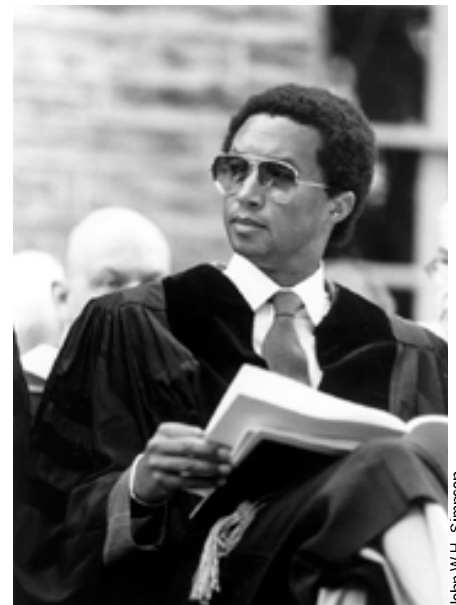
Books authored and co-authored by Arthur Ashe. American and foreign editions of Ashe's books are in the Schomburg Collection.



Congratulatory telegrams from Ralph Bunche and Jackie Robinson.



"Shocker at Wimbledon." *Sports Illustrated* Cover, July 14, 1975.



Arthur Ashe on the day he received an Honorary Doctorate from Princeton, 1982. One of many honorary doctorates Ashe received.

John W.H. Simpson

ASHE, continued from page 1

suggest cures, and also decry the role of the media in revealing his illness to the public.

Ashe's speeches and writings include notes and drafts for his numerous speaking engagements, some written on programs and others more formally typed; transcriptions of lengthy interviews with scholar Arnold Rampersad in preparation for his autobiography; drafts of his column in the *Washington Post*, written from 1977 until his death on subjects of great concern to Ashe, including racism in sports and society, athletes and education, and apartheid, among others; and a vast amount of research material on which he based *Hard Road to Glory*, as well as numerous drafts of the book. The records of organizations and projects with which he was associated document the wide range of his activities, particularly after he

retired from competitive tennis in 1980. They include his Davis Cup captaincy, anti-apartheid activities, and efforts to develop tennis players from impoverished urban areas and to increase college graduation rates of black athletes.

Arthur Ashe, 1943 – 1993

Arthur Robert Ashe, Jr., tennis champion and human rights activist, was born in Richmond, Virginia, on July 10, 1943. He grew up adjacent to Brook Field Park, a segregated playground where his father served as superintendent, and began to play tennis on the park courts at about age seven. Ashe recalled watching Ronald Charity, the most accomplished black tennis player in Richmond, practicing at the park. One day, Charity asked him if he would like to learn to play. "As casually as that," Ashe said later, "my life

was transformed."

Ashe altered the sport of tennis as well, with an early career punctuated by singles titles at national junior championships. In 1961, he entered the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) on a tennis scholarship, and by 1963 he had made his first trip outside the United States to Wimbledon.

In 1968, a few years after graduating UCLA, and while serving in the U.S. Army as a systems analyst at West Point, Ashe captured the U.S. Open title. He was still an amateur but was ranked number one in the world. In 1969, after completing his active duty with the Army, Ashe turned professional. In 1970, he won the second of his three Grand Slam singles titles. In 1975, he upset Jimmy Connors to win at Wimbledon, and was again ranked number one.

Ashe retired from competitive tennis in

April 1980 after suffering a heart attack and months later under going quadruple bypass surgery. After his retirement, Ashe was named captain of the United States Davis Cup team and served in that position for five years. In June 1983, he had a second bypass surgery, after which he received a blood transfusion to shore up his strength.

Ashe's achievements as a tennis player were matched by his commitment to social service. In retirement, he became involved in a host of projects and activities, raising funds for the American Heart Association and maintaining his involvement in junior tennis and player development. (Ashe co-founded the Ashe-Bolletieri Cities (ABC) Tennis Program in the 1980s as a support mechanism for young people in cities.) A tireless anti-apartheid activist, Ashe founded Athletes and Artists Against Apartheid with Harry Belafonte in 1983 to persuade other athletes and performing artists to boycott South Africa. He also served as a board member of TransAfrica, a lobbying and research group on African affairs, headed by his childhood friend Randall Robinson.

Ashe married photographer Jeanne Moutoussamy in 1977, and in 1986 he became a father with the arrival of his daughter, Camera. He remained an important presence in sports in retirement as well, as captain of the Davis Cup team and in the media. He also researched and wrote a comprehensive three-volume history of African-American athletes, *Hard Road to Glory*, which was published in 1988. Ashe served as a television commentator for HBO and ABC and continued a column in the *Washington Post*, begun in 1977, writing about racism in sports and society, athletes and education, apartheid, and many other subjects.

In September 1988, after he had experienced symptoms of weakness and numbness, tests revealed that Ashe was HIV-positive. He and his doctors believed that the transfused blood he received after his second bypass surgery in 1983 was the cause of the disease.

In April 1992, in response to rumors about his health, Ashe held a press conference to announce that he had AIDS. He soon



Ashe is arrested outside the White House for protesting U.S. policy toward Haitian refugees, September 9, 1992.

became active in the fight against the disease, raising funds and speaking around the country to increase public awareness. He established the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS, spoke to the United Nations on World AIDS Day, and joined the National Advisory Council of the Harvard AIDS Institute. He also began work on his autobiography, *Days of Grace: A Memoir*, which he completed days before his death.

Ashe died of pneumonia in New York City on February 6, 1993, and was buried in Richmond, Virginia. His posthumous tributes include honorary degrees and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The new stadium at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, New York, was named in his honor, as was the UCLA student health center. In his home state of Virginia, the Arthur Ashe Monument stands at the corner of Richmond's Monument Avenue and Rosemeath Road. The monument shows Ashe surrounded by children and holding a tennis racquet in one hand and books in the other. It stands in sharp contrast to the statues of Confederate war heroes that line the blocks of Richmond's historic district, and its inscription reads, in part, "...placed on Monument Avenue and Rosemeath Road on July 10, 1996, to inspire children and people of all nationalities."

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A Message from the National Membership Chair

Knowing our legacy—undistorted by others and documented by those who lived it—correctly aligns you and me and our children in the continuing struggle to fully claim our dignity in all areas of life.



Dr. Maya Angelou

Please join with me and thousands of others who are making certain that the Schomburg has the funds not only to continue its unique mission, but to expand its outreach into every home, school, and library.

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