James Weldon Johnson

Selected Resources

SOUND RECORDINGS

MUSIC: 4836
Margaret Walker Alexander reads Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar and James Weldon Johnson. Dunbar, Paul Laurence and Johnson, James Weldon. 1975

MUSIC: 4266

MUSIC: 3870

MUSIC: 5611

MUSIC: 4266

VIDEOS

MEDIA: PS3519.O2625Z69 1972

A biography of James Weldon Johnson whose career included music, poetry, and public service. Includes a visualization of his poem The Creation, with a reading by Raymond St. Jacques.

WEBSITES

The Academy of American Poets
http://www.poets.org/poets/poets.cfm?prmID=73 - The largest organization in the country dedicated to the art of poetry.

James Weldon Johnson
http://www.nku.edu/~diesmanj/johnson.html - Site of selected poems.

James Weldon Johnson
http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/amlit/johnson/johnson.html
An extensive exhibit of Johnson's works, including a biography and links to texts and educational resources.

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), a lawyer, poet, songwriter, and novelist, worked for the advancement of Black Americans as an educator, a diplomat, an anthologist of black culture, and an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). After achieving renown as a Broadway songwriter, Johnson served in the U.S. consulates in Venezuela and Nicaragua from 1906 to 1912. As executive secretary of the NAACP from 1916 to 1930, Johnson lobbied vigorously but unsuccessfully for anti-lynching laws, which never received Senate approval. Johnson's Book of American Negro Poetry, published in 1922, was one of the ground-breaking anthologies of the Harlem Renaissance.

John B. Cade Library

Southern University and A&M College

167 Roosevelt Steptoe Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813-0001

http://www.lib.subr.edu
(225) 771-2843

BOOKS

**SHADE: PS3519.O2625A95 1990**

Narrated by a man whose light skin enables him to "pass" for white, the novel describes a journey through the strata of black society at the turn of the century — from a cigar factory in Jacksonville to an elite gambling club in New York. *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man* is a complex and moving examination of the question of race and an unspiring look at what it meant to forge an identity as a man in a culture that recognized nothing but color.

**SHADE: PS3519.O2625 Z463 1990**
Along This Way: The Autobiography of James Weldon Johnson. With an Introduction by Sondra Kathryn Wilson

The life story of the famed black writer, educator, & activist who achieved lasting fame with his novel *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*.

**SHADE: PS3519.O2625G6 1990**

The inspirational sermons of the old Negro preacher are set down as poetry in this collection. Author - Johnson tells of hearing these same themes treated by famous preachers in his youth; some of the sermons are still current, and like the spirituals they have taken a significant place in black folk art today.

**SHADE: F128.9.N3J67 1990**

Johnson combined the skills of the historian, the social scientist, and the reporter to trace the New York black experience from the earliest settlements on Chatham Square during the pre-revolutionary period to the triumphant achievements of Harlem of the 1920s.


James Weldon Johnson, author declares that there is a need for African-American poets to "work out a new and distinctive form of expression," and he predicts that the undeniable creative genius of the Negro is destined to make a distinctive and valuable contribution to American poetry.

**SHADE: ML136.N48Y33 1982**

An annotated catalog that contains manuscripts, writings, and first editions of works by major Black literary figures, primarily of the Harlem Renaissance. The vast resources of the collection span the period from approximately 1850 to the present, but it especially provides a wealth of material from the proponents of the Harlem Renaissance.

**SHADE: E185.61.J69 1971**

Johnson addresses the choices facing both black and white Americans.

**SHADE: M1671.J66 1970**

Written by two teachers, civil rights leader and poet James Weldon Johnson and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson in 1899. The sober linocuts and the devotional text, this adaptation of what was once called the *Negro National Anthem*. In honor of Abraham Lincoln's birthday caption prints created in 1946 and '47 by the granddaughter of slaves; the emphasis is placed on suffering, deliverance and gratitude to God.

**SHADE: E185.97.W278 1965**

Three narratives, gathered together in *Three Negro Classics* chronicle the remarkable evolution of African-American consciousness on both a personal and social level. *The Autobiography of Booker T. Washington* is a startling portrait of one of the great Americans of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The illegitimate son of a white man and a Negro slave, Washington, a man who struggled for his education, would go on to struggle for the dignity of all his people in a hostile and alien society. *W.E.B. DuBois's classic* is a major sociological document and one of the momentous books in the mosaic of American literature. No other work has had greater influence on black thinking, and nowhere is the African-American's unique heritage and his kinship with all men so passionately described. *James Weldon Johnson's penetrating work* is a remarkable human account of the life of black Americans in the early twentieth century and a profound interpretation of his feelings towards the white man and towards members of his own race.

**SHADE: M1670.J67 B65 1940**

James Weldon Johnson discusses the origin and history of more than 120 of the most significant spirituals known.