Countee Cullen (1903-1946), respected for the intelligence and eloquence of his dark, brooding poetry, is generally considered one of the finest poets to arise out of the Harlem Renaissance. Cullen published his first collection of poems, *Color*, in 1925, shortly before graduating from New York University. Cullen protested against the label "Negro poet," yet his best poetry invariably shows the influence of his racial consciousness. Cullen, who taught in New York City's public schools until his death, published several other volumes of poetry, including *Copper Sun*, *The Ballad of a Brown Girl*, and *The Black Christ*. 