

S T A M P

news & notes

U.S. Postal Service Honors Langston Hughes

(NAPSA)—Langston Hughes, a poet particularly known for his insightful, colorful portrayals of black life in America from the 20s through the 60s is being honored as part of the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage commemorative stamp series.



The stamp commemorates both the centennial of Hughes' birth and marks the 25th Anniversary of the Black Heritage series. The stamp art is a 1946 black-and-white photograph of Hughes taken in New York City by renowned photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson, who was a friend of Hughes. Richard Sheaff is the designer and art director of this stamp.



Although Hughes considered himself a poet first, he wrote in many literary genres, from short stories to drama. His innovative poetry combined jazz, blues and the black vernacular



with the traditions of poetry in English. Admired in his own time, Hughes is now considered one of the most important American writers of the 20th century.

Others in the Black Heritage series include Harriet Tubman,



The poet Langston Hughes' work was enormously important in shaping the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

influential in the underground railway, Benjamin O. Davis Sr., the nation's first African-American Brigadier General, and Madam C.J. Walker, 20th century beauty product pioneer.

The series has also honored Bessie Coleman, an African-American aviation pioneer, Martin Luther King, Jr., Benjamin Banneker, Whitney Moore Young, Jr., Jackie Robinson, Scott Joplin, Carter G. Woodson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Sojourner Truth, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, James Weldon Johnson, A. Phillip Randolph, Ida B. Wells, Malcom X, W.E.B. DuBois, Jan Matzeliger, Dr. Allison Davis and Percy Lavon Julian.

For more information on the stamp series, visit the Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com.