10-1-2015

HIMES, CHESTER B.

MSRC Staff

Follow this and additional works at: http://dh.howard.edu/finaid_manu

Recommended Citation
http://dh.howard.edu/finaid_manu/94

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Finding Aids at Digital Howard @ Howard University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Manuscript Division by an authorized administrator of Digital Howard @ Howard University. For more information, please contact lopez.matthews@howard.edu.
Scope Note

The Chester Himes letters were acquired through purchase in 1966. The collection, which measures ?? linear foot, consists of letters written in 1955 and 1956. This correspondence is between Chester Himes and Walter Freeman, Associate Editor, *New American Library*, regarding Himes' novels: *The Primitive, The Third Generation*, and Mamie Mason.

The correspondence between Himes and Freeman detail the editing and revision of Himes' manuscripts. Mr. Himes' personal perception on character development, inferences, and plot strategy are revealed. The correspondence also deals with his concerns about publication, copyright, contracts, and the long distance relationship with his agent, since Mr. Himes lived in Paris in 1956.

Additions
Photocopies of eight additional letters dated 1956, were donated in 1988. They include Himes' correspondence with Walter Freeman and other publishers.
Biographical Sketch

1909  July 29        Born in Jefferson City, Missouri.
1913                    Family moved to Cleveland, Ohio.
1926  January      Graduated from high school.
1926  Sept.          Entered Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.
1928  to 1935     Served a seven and one-half prison term for armed robbery.
1934                  First short story, published in Esquire Magazine.
1945                 Published his first novel *If He Hollers Let Him Go*.
1947                 Published *The Lonely Crusade*.
1952                 Published *Cast the First Stone*.
1953 Sailed to France and befriended by Richard Wright.
1954                 Published *The Third Generation*.
1955                 Published *The-Primitive*.
1965                 Published *Pinktoes*.
1966 Published *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, foreign edition
1968 Published *The Big Gold Dream*, foreign edition
1969 Published *All Shot Up*, foreign edition
1969 Published *Blind Man with A Pistol*
1970 Published *Hot Day, Hot Night*
### Series Description

**Series A:** Correspondence

**Box 48-1**

Eleven letters between Himes and Walter Freeman, Associate Editor of the New American Library, regarding Himes' works.

**Additions**

Eight letters between Himes and various publishers, including Walter Freeman.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series A:</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>Folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48-1</td>
<td>Letters, 1955-1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>