<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Walt Whitman Society of America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call Number</strong></td>
<td>JWJ MSS 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Published/Created Date</strong></td>
<td>1942-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rights</strong></td>
<td>The Langston Hughes Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator. The materials are open for research. Boxes 639-667 and items in cold storage (including box 669): Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Container information</strong></td>
<td>Box 167, folder 3061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Generated</strong></td>
<td>2021-08-30 18:41:20 UTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terms of Use</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://guides.library.yale.edu/about/policies/access">https://guides.library.yale.edu/about/policies/access</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>View in DL</strong></td>
<td><a href="https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/31915934">https://collections.library.yale.edu/catalog/31915934</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 22, 1935.

Mr. Fred R. Jones,  
Whitman Society,  
Hampstead, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jones,

In answer to your questions:

1. I do have a copy of I HEAR THE PEOPLE SINGING for which I did the Introduction.

2. I don't know of any musical compositions since 1950 based on Whitman's poetry. You probably know that in the Kurt Weill-Elsa Rice musical, STREET Scene, there is a duet using a part of Whitman's WHEN LILACS LAST IN THE DOORYARD BLOOMED interwoven into the text. ( Vocal score published by Shapiro's, Radio City, N.Y.)

3. Don't know of any ballets or dances based on Whitman.

4. My favorite Whitman poems are SONG AND THE OPEN ROAD and second, I guess, SONG OF THE ANSWERER.

You have probably seen the current Whitman Issue of "NOCTURNE", the Brooklyn College (English Department) student publication out this month.

All my good wishes on your publication, and I hope I may receive a copy when it appears.

Sincerely yours,

Langston Hughes
Langston Hughes
634 St. Nicholas Ave
New York (30)- City
This Letter from:
The Executive Chairman

DEAR Langston Hughes:

I cannot resist urging you once more to become a member of our advisory board on poetry. Your "Freedom's Flow" is in the spirit of our Society.

Elmer Rice, the dramatist, is joining the advisory board and I am going to get Paul Mundy. This will give us a nucleus for a drama on Walt Whitman.

"Salut au Monde" written in 1856 is the message for the world; also "Passage to India" - Whitman's spiritual journey and message.

I expect Dr. Lin Yutang to join us and also someone from India until our personnel of officers represents all those who are greeted in "Salut au Monde."

Also as we are working to publish our little magazine "Salute to Freedom" regularly I would like to have you tell me what is the best report on the Negro Freedom Rally - those in the Times and Herald-Tribune and the NY evening papers was very poor.

A member from Louisiana is recommending Miss Anne Brown, concert singer, Hotel Meurice, NYC. Do you know her?

With my best wishes for your fine efforts for a "free people in a Free World."

Yours very truly,

(Fred R. Jones)

We go to press on a new letterhead sometime next week. Just drop us a postal card if you accept.
Dear Member:

The annual election of officers of your Society will be held May 5, 1943. Nominations by mail are welcomed, if you cannot attend.

This year we will make our first yearly award for the most outstanding book published in 1942-43 on democracy, tolerance and universal understanding.

We are preparing to issue May 25, an 8-page edition of "Salute to Freedom". It will be a commemorative issue to the memory of our distinguished officer, Stephen Vincent Benet.

An outline of our co-operation with the democratic forces of France will be another feature.

We must remind you that Society has no sources of revenue other than membership dues and this letter is a request for your dues for the year 1943.

Yours very truly,

Executive Chairman

April 24, 1943
THE
WALT WHITMAN
SOCIETY OF AMERICA

May men of Goodwill everywhere—
without regard to religion, race or
country—meet in a spirit of Co-op-
eration.

this message has been sent
to five million persons—1836–1912
COMBINATION MEMBERSHIPS

The following offers of books and memberships has been arranged so that the Society will receive a definite portion of the proceeds and the members the books at a reduced price:


With membership membership $2.50. With associate...
Langston Hughes
New Masses,
461 Fourth Ave
New York City
643 St Nicholas Ave
nyc.
Walt Whitman Society
377 Anchor Ave-
Oceanside, N.Y.
Dear Whitmanite:

The Chancellor and other executives of the Hall of Fame-New York University, are anxious to have our Society represented at the unveiling of the Bust and Tablet of Woodrow Wilson, Sunday, May 20, at 3 PM. If you can arrange to be present I am sure you will appreciate the honor and the event.

Fred R. Jones, Executive Chairman

Annual election of WWSA. May 28.
Special bulletin shortly.

Please let me hear from you. To me
Langston Hughes,
20 East 127-th St-
New York City--35--
HONORARY PRESIDENTS—MAURICE MASTERLINCK, DR. THOMAS MANN, DR. GABRIEL WELLS, DR. WILL DURANT, MARISSON S. MORRIS

The Walt Whitman Society of America
(Established 1916)
Organized not as a literary society but as an active movement [national and international] to advocate tolerance and fundamental democracy.

MAY 19, 1943

Langston Hughes,
Care, New Mesas, NYC

Dear Mr. Hughes:

We are holding our annual meeting May 22 and I was wondering whether you would care to honor our Society as a member of its advisory board.

Robert Nathan is succeeding Stephen Vincent Benet and Marianne Moore is also going on the poetry division.

We devote our efforts to the advocacy of universal good-will and understanding—-with the words of Walt Whitman as its voice.

On our new personnel of officers we will have representatives of India, China and South America—the nucleus of a co-operating "Salut au Monde."

We publish "Salute to Freedom" spasmodically but it is "tough" and means something.

No special or definite duties are involved, simply co-operation and advice.

I hope you will join us.

Executive Chairman

Yours very truly

Fred R. Jones

address as marked

P.S. We want to print our new letterheads by May 24.
HONORARY PRESIDENTS
(1926-1949)
Maurice Masterlinck Stevens
Stephen V. Benet
Rosaia Rolland
Gabriel Wells
Harrison S. Morris
Adelaide M. Foron
Thomas Donaldson, Jr.
Dr. Morris Lychenheim
* Deceased

HONORARY PRESIDENTS
Dr. Thomas Mann
Dr. W. B. Durant
Joseph Avlander

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN:
Fred R. Jones
P.O. Box 492
Hempstead, N.Y.
Telephone: HE. 1-6003

ADVISORY BOARD:
Frances Winwar
Eleanor Rice
Louis Miller
Simon Gould
Albert Aylward
Frank B. Blain
Dr. Edwin C. Grover
Katherine Mallinoff
Malvin Wolfson
Frank Shay

ADVISORS ON MUSIC
Benjamin Groethune
Christina Wroclawski

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES:
Walt Whitman Foundation
Camden, New Jersey

Wall Whitman Birthplace Association
Huntington, L.I., N.Y.

Wall Whitman Society of America
Marion Lychenheim Bloch
Secretary
Chicago Branch

Wall Whitman Foundation
Los Angeles, Calif.

"EL RETIRO"
Av. Callao 1880
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tulsa Bibliophiles
John B. Shaw
Tulsa, Okla.

WALT WHITMAN WELCOME CENTRE
Marine Drive 1,
20, Ishwar Nivas,

1936 - The Walt Whitman Society of America - 1955
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

An International Organization Advocating Tolerance, World Understanding and Fundamental Democracy

Publishers: SALUTE to FREEDOM and Books on Walt Whitman and Fundamental Democracy.

April 20, 1955.

Langston Hughes,
20 East 127-th St.,
NYC 35.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Greetings! We are trying to get out a publication of 12 pp. and would appreciate the following information:

Do you have a copy of "I Hear the People Singing" introduction by Langston Hughes.

and - We are publishing a list of musical compositions based upon poems of W.W. Do you know of any recent (since 1910) compositions?

Also - any ballet or dance based on W.W. poetry.

What is your selection as the best achievement of W.W.?

Our first list: (prize of $100.00 to the student who writes the best essay on this phase.

1. Passage to India. (Walt's choice). 2. Salut au Monde - not allowed this position by critics. 3. O Captain! My Captain!

With best wishes and thanks.

Yours truly,

Fred R. Jones

1855 - Centenary of Whitman's Message of World Democracy - 1955
Langston Hughes,

20 East 127-th St.,

New York--25--N.Y.,
1936 - The Walt Whitman Society of America - 1955

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

An International Organization Advocating Tolerance, World Understanding and Fundamental Democracy

Publishers: SALUTE to FREEDOM and Books on Walt Whitman and Fundamental Democracy.

April 23, 1955.

Dear Langston Hughes:

I have your letter of yesterday and thank you.

You probably misunderstood me relative to "I Hear the People Singing". We wanted to buy a copy and to know if it was in print. Also to catalogue it in our new list of available Whitman titles.

Will appreciate your reply.

I will get in touch with Elmer Rice. Thanks.

Yours very truly,

Fred R. Jones

1855 - CENTENARY OF WHITMAN'S MESSAGE OF WORLD DEMOCRACY - 1955
20 East 127th St.,
New York 35, N. Y.,
April 26, 1955.

Mr. Fred R. Jones,
Whitman Society,
Hempstead, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Jones,

I'm sorry, but I have only one copy of I HEAR THE PEOPLE SINGING which I have to keep. I don't know if it is still in print or not. It's publishers' imprint is:

Young World Books,
International Publishers,
361 Fourth Avenue,
New York 16, N. Y.

I hope you succeed in locating a copy.

Sincerely yours,

Langston Hughes
Langston Hughes,

20 East 127-th St.,

New York City--35.
June 1, 1955.

Dear Langston Hughes:

Please notice the awards—one member is contributing the $100.00 award for 1955-56 and the other $200.00 is for a book or musical composition—Poetry Soc. Of America (you, doubtless know about that one).

I am continuing my efforts to have our headquarters in NYC. And we will be there soon. The Huntington and Camden societies are doing good work but they remain somewhat local.

There is an important movement on the way to have another pretentious Chautauqua in Canada—to be dominated by Whitmanites. Definite announcement shortly.

But I am not strictly commercial and my motive in writing this letter is to ask for suggestions—res the essay awards.

Did I ask you to designate your idea of the best poem in "Leaves of Grass"? We want to add your name to the list of experts. (Sending out 1,000 letters to various colleges).

And you were a member of our advisory board. I will nominate you to that committee.

Yours very truly,

Fred R. Jones

The names and addresses of any likely winner—essays—will be appreciated.

WALT WHITMAN
The Voice of Democracy
Do We Hear It?

The Significance of Whitman's Democracy
By Fred R. Jones

"If we are lost, no victor else has destroy'd us; it is by ourselves we go down to eternal night."

WALT WHITMAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Hempstead, New York
Page I of Brochure-ready June 9—OVER
I can send you any number of copies of this page I.

With award announcements - typed on reverse. FRJ
May 24, 1955.

Present, Past and Future Members:

Annual election of officers of our Society will be held June 9. You are asked to indicate your approval of present officers to suggest new names and to offer constructive criticism and helpful suggestions.

The correct date of the first appearance of "Leaves of Grass", Whitman's immortal message of fundamental democracy, is July 4, 1855. In addition to the many customary ceremonies marking his 136th birthday, May 31, pretentious programs are being arranged for various dates in July, the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 9th. Definite information will be conveyed in a later Bulletin.

To meet the constant and numerous requests for "The Walt Whitman Message of Democracy" - from high school and college students and also from other "searchers" in this and other countries - the Society has decided to offer cash prizes for the best short essay on the subject, "Why I Prefer (title) Poem in Leaves of Grass!". In our brochure (page one enclosed free to members) we are listing the 15 "best poems" named by many experts and an exclusive list of musical compositions, phonograph records, dramatic readings and ballet and dance subjects based on the selections and also on other Whitman verses.

Our Society is without any endowment support; its financial existence is provided by the comparatively low membership fee of $1.00 per year and occasionally by sales of rare Whitman items contributed by members.

Your co-operation in our program to encourage tolerance, world understanding and fundamental Democracy, will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

H.M. Lyon, Secretary.

P.S. PSA- Walt Whitman Award; $200.00. Yearly- Jan.
WWSA " " 200.00. For best essay on any poem in Leaves of Grass-by High School or College student.

*** We expect to announce additional awards-see our next Bulletin.

1855 - CENTENARY OF WHITMAN'S MESSAGE OF WORLD DEMOCRACY - 1955
June 17, 1955,

Dear Langston Hughes:

Despite the sudden tropical heat I am writing to ask for your co-operation. Names of anyone who appears to be a promising contender for the essay award.

And any constructive suggestion or criticism.

Annual election postponed to July 2, 1955.

Yours truly,

Fred R. Jones

[Signature]

Subject: Our 1955-56 Short Essay Awards for High School, Private school and College students in this country or elsewhere.

Greetings:

I. Suggested title: "Why I Prefer the .... Poem in "Leaves of Grass" or any statement or declaration in "Democratic Vistas"; or any other versions. Our brochure carries the following features:

a. A list of the 12 "best" poems in Leaves of Grass, selected by Emerson, Thoreau, Swinburne, Burroughs and other notables of the past and also by distinguished poets and authorities of the present-time.

b. Expert selections in "Democratic Vistas".

c. An exclusive list of musical compositions based upon Whitman's poetry and prose.

d. Dramatic readings by famous actors.

e. Phonograph records, motion picture and ballet themes based also upon Whitman's poetry and prose.

f. Suggested reading: Jefferson, Spinoza, Einstein and versions and selections in world religions.

The awards are $100.00; closing date, Jan. 30, 1956. Also a second award, May 31 (Whitman birth anniversary) 1956. Essays must be limited to not more than 1000 words and preferably 500 words.

Copies of the brochure are sent free to $1-per-year-members. But many public libraries and colleges will be provided with free copies.

Requests for additional information must be accompanied by the necessary postage.

Names of the judges will be announced in a later Bulletin.

Yours truly,

H.M. Lyon, Secretary

P.S. Brochure will carry list of leading 20th Century poets classified as imitators or influenced by Whitman.

WALT WHITMAN
The Voice of Democracy
Do We Hear It?

The Significance of Whitman's Democracy
By Fred R. Jones

"If we are lost, no victor else has destroy'd us; it is by ourselves we go down to eternal night."
W. W.

WALT WHITMAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Hempstead, New York