

The Black Experience in Kansas

*an inauguration
and a celebration!
21 February 1984*

The Black History Collection
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARIES

The Black History Collection

As part of the series of events organized to celebrate Black History Month, we are particularly pleased to announce formally the inauguration of a program to establish a Black History Collection within the University of Kansas Libraries. As materials are acquired, they will be placed in the Kansas Collection in order to make available resources essential to the understanding of the black experience in Kansas and the region, and to assist in preserving the records and history of the black community.

The Kansas Collection already contains a number of important resources, such as books and photographs of Langston Hughes (currently on exhibit in the Kansas Collection); organization records of the Greater Kansas City Council on Race and Religion and the Kansas Advisory Council on Civil Rights, and photographs documenting black military life at Fort Riley, as well as personal letters and diaries.

In order to develop the Collection, we will be seeking the assistance of many individuals and organizations as we attempt to uncover personal letters, diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, and organizational, religious and educational records that may be lying forgotten in the attic or on a closet shelf. As part of the library collections these materials will contribute substantially to the understanding and study of the black experience. The Kenneth Spencer Research Library, where the materials will be housed, is equipped with an environmental control system designed to provide a safe environment for historical items which would perish if not given proper care and handling.

It is particularly appropriate on this occasion that we have the opportunity to honor a man who has contributed so much to the life of the state of Kansas and whose story is so worthy a part of the Black Experience in Kansas—ELMER JACKSON, distinguished lawyer and community leader. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Jackson's papers will become a part of the Black History Collection at the University of Kansas.

Tuesday, February 21, 1984 in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library

7 p.m. View the exhibit "Langston Hughes: Black Genius", drawn from the holdings of the Kansas Collection

(Kansas Collection, Spencer Ground Level)

8 p.m. Chancellor GENE A. BUDIG: Introductory remarks

Dr. BERTRAM CARUTHERS, former Assistant Superintendent, Kansas City, Kansas, Unified School District, speaking on "Black Americans and the Struggle for Excellence in Education"

(Spencer Auditorium, Level 2)

Following Dr. Caruthers' address there will be a reception in the Kansas Collection and further opportunity to view the Langston Hughes exhibit.

Sponsored by the Department of African Studies and the Kansas Collection, University of Kansas Libraries



ELMER C. JACKSON, Jr., born in Kansas City, Kansas, on October 22, 1912, received his early education in Kansas City public schools. He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1933 and the bachelor of law in 1935. He has practiced law for nearly 50 years in Kansas.

Mr. Jackson served as president of the National Bar Association in 1959 and 1960; as the first black member and chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents; and in many capacities in civic, community and national organizations, including the NAACP, mental health groups, and legal aid organizations.