

## Jean Blackwell Hutson, 1914-1998

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The Africana Librarians Council (ALC) remembers with great fondness Jean Blackwell Hutson, a regular participant in the work of the ALC and member of the ASA for many years.

Jean Hutson attended her first ALC meeting in 1959 and her participation in ALC activities continued until retirement. In addition to her contributions to the ongoing work of the ALC, Jean Hutson is remembered by generations of researchers at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for the collections she built and the assistance she offered in their use.

A graduate of Barnard College (1935) and Columbia University Graduate School of Library Service (1936), Jean Hutson's career was devoted to the New York City Public Library System. From 1948 until 1980 she was first curator and then chief of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. She retired from the New York Public Library in 1984. During her tenure, the collections at the Schomburg Center grew and its status as a major resource for research on Black history and culture became more widely known. Her focus on providing an adequate facility for the collections resulted in the 1981 opening of a new building that included space not only for the Schomburg Center's collections but also for research, exhibitions, and programming. Kwame Nkrumah, who had met Jean Hutson when he used the resources of the Schomburg Center, invited her to Ghana in 1964-65 to assist in the development of the African Collection at the University of Ghana. She established collection policies at the Balme Library that included materials about the diaspora as well as African studies. She remained professionally active during her retirement. For example, she served on the Task Force

on Library and Information Services to Cultural Minorities of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science in the 1980s.

Publications during her retirement include a chapter on the Schomburg Center in *Black Bibliophiles and Collectors: Preservers of Black History* (Washington: Howard University Press, 1990). The professional contributions of Jean Blackwell Hutson are discussed in detail in *Glendora Johnson-Cooper's African American Historical Continuity: Jean Blackwell Hutson and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Reclaiming the American Library Past: Writing the Women In* edited by Suzanne Hildenbrand (Norwood: Ablex, 1996) 27-51.

In her statement accompanying her portrait in Brian Lanker's *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America* (New York: Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 1989), Jean Hutson reflected on the Schomburg Center: "One of the main things the Schomburg does is supply the ammunition for change. It is a part of the public library, open to everybody, everywhere. You don't have to be registered at the university to have access to the materials. The catalog is available all around the world. That has been and continues to be the opportunity that the Schomburg offers."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Faculty Seminar In South Africa

■The Council on International Educational Exchange is pleased to offer "South Africa: New Directions in Nation-Building," an International Faculty Development Seminar to South Africa June 6-16, 1999. The seminar is designed for U.S. university faculty and administrators, in an effort to help stimulate initiatives toward internationalizing curricula. The seminar is hosted by the University of the Western Cape, located in Cape Town. In addition to lectures and discussions with South African academics and other experts in the communities, the seminar includes study

tours related to the seminar theme. Site visits include: a tour of the townships of Cape Town (including Soweto, Langa, and Khayelitsha), a meeting with a representative of Parliament, and sitting in on a Truth and Reconciliation Commission forum. This 11-day seminar begins in Cape Town and ends in Pretoria. The seminar fee is \$1,950, which includes accommodations, lectures, site visits and study tours, orientation and farewell receptions, breakfast and lunch daily, airport transfers overseas (including an internal flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg), and international travel insurance. For further information, please contact Council's IFDS Department by telephone at (212) 822-2747, or by E-mail at [ifds@cicee.org](mailto:ifds@cicee.org). You may also refer to our web site at <http://www.cicee.org/ifds>.

### Global Education

■The World Affairs Council of Boston is looking for Africans who are interested in sharing their culture with U.S. children in a one-time classroom visit. If interested, please contact: Silvi Llosa, Global Education Office, World Affairs Council of Boston, 617-482-1740

### African Odyssey Interactive

■The Kennedy Center's African Odyssey Interactive Program has announced its Spring 1999 Chat Session Schedule. The following chat sessions will all take place from 12 Noon - 1 pm:  
-**April 2:** Mark Wright on *Revue Noire*, Contemporary African Photography  
Mark Wright, A Curator at the Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture will discuss the contemporary African photographers whose work is being shown at the *Revue Noire* exhibit in the South Gallery from April 22 through May 22, 1999.

-**May TBD:** Souleymane Koly: Writer and Director of Mandingo opera *Waramba* Playwright / Director Souleymane Koly will discuss his Mandingo opera *Waramba*, which will be seen in the Eisenhower Theater on May 4 and 5. Time not yet determined.

-**May 21:** Mahen Bonetti: Director & Creator of New York's African Film Festival  
The New York African Film Festival is being coordinated in collaboration with the American Film Institute. The May 20 -23 festival will feature five different films from Cote D'Ivoire, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, and Zaire. Time not yet determined.