

# Gwendolyn Brooks and *A Street in Bronzeville*: Explore Related Newberry Library Materials

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## ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS:

**JACK CONROY PAPERS** — Jack Conroy was a writer, editor, and the “the old daddy of rebel writing in the United States,” as Richard Wright called him. Conroy’s novel *The Disinherited*, published in 1933, is considered a classic in proletarian literature and depicted in gritty detail the realities of the Great Depression. With Arna Bontemps, Conroy produced the pioneering works *They Seek A City* (1945) and *Anyplace But Here* (1965), both about African-American migration from the South to the North. Conroy also edited radical journals *The Rebel Poet*, *The Anvil*, and *The New Anvil*. Conroy was friends with many of the writers of the Chicago Black Renaissance, including Gwendolyn Brooks, and their correspondence is contained in the collection.

Online inventory: [https://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/Conroy.xml](https://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/Conroy.xml)

**HOKE NORRIS PAPERS** — Hoke Norris was literary editor (1958–1968) at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and during the 1960’s he played a significant role in reporting events surrounding the Civil Rights movement in the South. He then served on the editorial board of the *Chicago Daily News* and taught creative writing at the University of Chicago. Later, Norris became the Director of Public Information at the Chicago Public Library and then served as the Assistant Vice-President for Public Affairs and Director of the Office of Public Information at the University of Chicago. His correspondence with Brooks is contained in the collection. Online inventory: [https://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/Norris.xml](https://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/Norris.xml)

**ALFRED BALK PAPERS** — Alfred Balk was a journalist who exposed the predatory real estate practice of blockbusting in his 1962 article “Confessions of a Block-Buster” for the *Saturday Evening Post*. See, in particular, boxes 10 and 13 for materials related to that article and other issues related to segregated housing in Chicago.

Online inventory: [http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/Balk.xml](http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/Balk.xml)

**VICTOR LAWSON PAPERS** — Owner and publisher of the *Chicago Daily News*, Lawson was also a member of the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, taking significant part in writing *The Negro in Chicago* following the race riots of 1919. See boxes 114 and 115 for materials from his time on the Commission.

Online inventory: [http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/Lawson.xml](http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/Lawson.xml)

**PULLMAN COMPANY RECORDS** — The Pullman Company (originally Pullman’s Palace Car Company) revolutionized rail travel and dramatically increased employment opportunities for African Americans who served as porters and maids on its cars. The records at the Newberry include voluminous individual employee records and labor relations documents, as well as documentation on the town of Pullman (now a historic district on Chicago’s south side). This is a rich source for African-American family and local history.

Online inventory: <http://www.newberry.org/sites/default/files/researchguide-attachments/PullmanGuide.pdf>

**MARK J. SATTER PAPERS** — The papers of this Chicago-born lawyer and civil rights activist include rich materials on his life-long battle against the discriminatory real estate practices of redlining and contract selling.

Online inventory: [http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/Satter.xml](http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/Satter.xml)

**WALLER & BECKWITH REALTY CO. RECORDS** — The business records of this Chicago real estate company cover primarily 1920–1940, including general business files and legal documents, but also include tenant complaints and examples of neighborhood associations’ restrictive covenants attempting to keep African Americans from renting apartments (see box 11, folders 168, 172, and 174).

Online inventory: [http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/WallerB.xml](http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/WallerB.xml)

## ONLINE RESOURCES:

**CHICAGO DEFENDER** — One of the major African-American newspapers in the country, the *Defender* published articles of both national and local interest, including many on segregation, education, real estate, and other issues related to black life in Chicago. By the time Brooks was seventeen, she was publishing poems in the *Defender*. The Newberry has online access (in the library only) to the historical database of the *Defender* from 1909–1975, and also has online access to the *Chicago Tribune* from 1849–1991.

## PRINTED RESOURCES:

To find books about **African American poets, African Americans – Illinois – Chicago, the Black Chicago Renaissance, Gwendolyn Brooks**, and related subjects, consult the Newberry catalog, which you can access on [www.newberry.org](http://www.newberry.org).