Place, Memory, Poetry, and the James Emanuel Papers at the Library of Congress

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Overview

Topics Covered

Project Goals
James A. Emanuel
Access to the Archive
System of Documentation
Mapping Ideas
Framework
**Project Goals**

- Digital Access to over 100 Materials archived at LOC
- Short literary focused documentary on Emanuel’s life
- Aligned design and theoretical Frameworks in Manifold
James A. Emanuel

- Arrived June 15, 1921 in Alliance, NE
- Served in the US Army during WWII (1942-6), Secret Secretary for Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
- Developed the first course of African American poetry at CUNY, City College (1966)
- Published the first monograph on Langston Hughes (1967)
- Edited an early Anthology of Af-Am Lit (1968)
- Received two Fulbright Awards to Grenoble, France & Warsaw, Poland (1971-3, 1975-6)
- Published 12 books of poetry (1968-2001)
- Moved to France permanently in 1983.
- Created the Jazz Haiku poetic form (1997).
- Departed September 28, 2013 in Paris, France
The specific affordances of this digital archive makes available materials that were left by Emanuel in the public domain yet are only accessible at the Library of Congress. Pivotal to this project are Emanuel’s travels and his system of documentation.

Poem begun at Le Barry, 1 Aug 1985, 11:20 a.m.—12:37, 4:40 p.m.—5 a.m.

A BLACK MILITANT POEM SPEAKS
by WACO McRae

I was born militant,

descended

when the world first touched me,
depressed me, broke me.

I received my education,

my wisdom in the world's house,

my dominating spirit,

my blood.

In my veins, there was something,

something powerful,

something fierce.

I grew up in the world's house,

my education,

my mind,

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Mapping Ideas: Interactive Coordinates

Clicking on the place-mark will reveal a side-panel of the materials (poems, letters, notes, etc.) that reference the particular location. There will be a hyperlink directing users to the document in digital archive in Manifold.

Drawbacks:
• Perhaps too many clicks to get to materials in the digital archive.
• Sustainability of the project, i.e. Licensing costs to sustain publishing agreement with Google, ArcGIS, Carto, or other mapping platforms.

Benefits:
• An interactive-map representation of Emanuel’s locations, emphasizing his interest in place.
• Users do not have to know locations; they could just swipe across the map to see placemarks.
• Potential to be networked with other interactive-map projects.
Mapping Ideas: Search and Tags

Using the Search Tool and the Tag drop-down menu, users will be able to type and search a particular location or find a location in the list of tags.

**Drawbacks:**
- Some users may need to have some background on Emanuel to know what places to search.
- In places where Emanuel has several sites (such as France), users may not know the proximity of locations.

**Benefits:**
- Project resources provides users with a familiar gallery view.
- Users can click a resource without losing the current page.
Using documents and photos from Emanuel’s Papers; manuscripts, photos, and stories from interviewees; and stock footage, we will share stories about James Emanuel and place in a short documentary.

Drawbacks:
• The medium (45 min doc) will limit the breadth of Emanuel’s travels and his system of documentation.
• Working within budget and time constraints makes this a project that emphasizes the role of Paris in Emanuel’s creative life.

Benefits:
• Provide contexts and witnesses to Emanuel’s life abroad.
• Has the potential to expand the reach of Emanuel’s digital archive.
Framework

From Dissertation to Publication: The dissertation highlights the map, which correlates with the poems and the timeline. The publication will highlight thematic collections of the materials, documentary film that includes archival materials, and "maps." The project's design and emphasis on an online archive is connected to Emanuel's concern with memory and survival in the contexts of his own life and broader African American life, history and culture.
Thank you!

I appreciate your time and feedback.
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