

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Paul Robeson, Ethel Waters, Josh White, and Canada Lee [Langston Hughes]

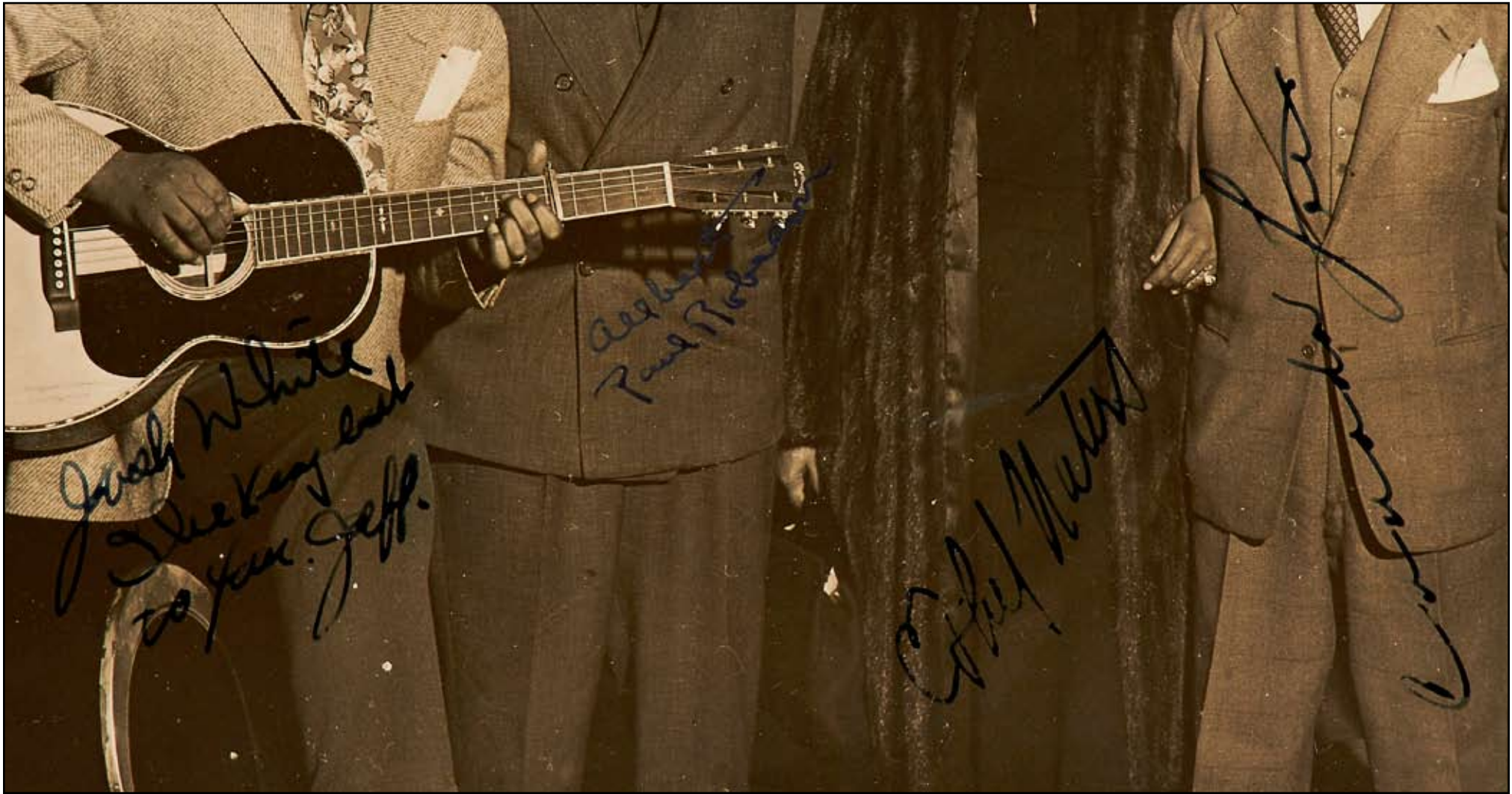
Autographed Photograph of Paul Robeson, Ethel Waters, Josh White, and Canada Lee. [Langston Hughes]

[London: BBC Home Service 1944]

\$4500



Vintage gelatin silver photograph. Image size 6" x 8" in archival mount. Small and unobtrusive horizontal scratch at the bottom of the image else a rich and vibrant very near fine. The photograph shows Josh White playing the guitar and singing, while Robeson, Waters, and Lee look on smiling, along with an unidentified white man. White has inscribed the photograph to "Jeff" (presumably the white gentleman in the image); the other three performers have signed it.



Robeson, Waters, White, and Lee were the principle cast members for the BBC Home Service broadcast of Langston Hughes' radio play, *The Man Who Went to War*, accompanied by folk songs chosen by Alan Lomax. The play was a "ballad opera" about African-American soldiers and their patriotism in the War. Additional cast members included William Vesey, Sonny Terry, and Brownie McGhee. The ballad operas were conceived as a way to promote cultural and interracial friendship between the peoples of Britain and the United States. Broadcast by the BBC, union disputes prevented their being heard in the U.S. Although this was one of the most popular programs to air on the BBC up until that time, the glass masters for the program were accidentally broken before they could be preserved on tape (paraphrased from: <http://research.culturalequity.org/home-radio.jsp>). A rare survivor of a popular but lost show. [BTC#399882]



Josh White
I like you and
to your Jeff.

Arlene
Paul Robeson

Ethel Waters

Carmichael