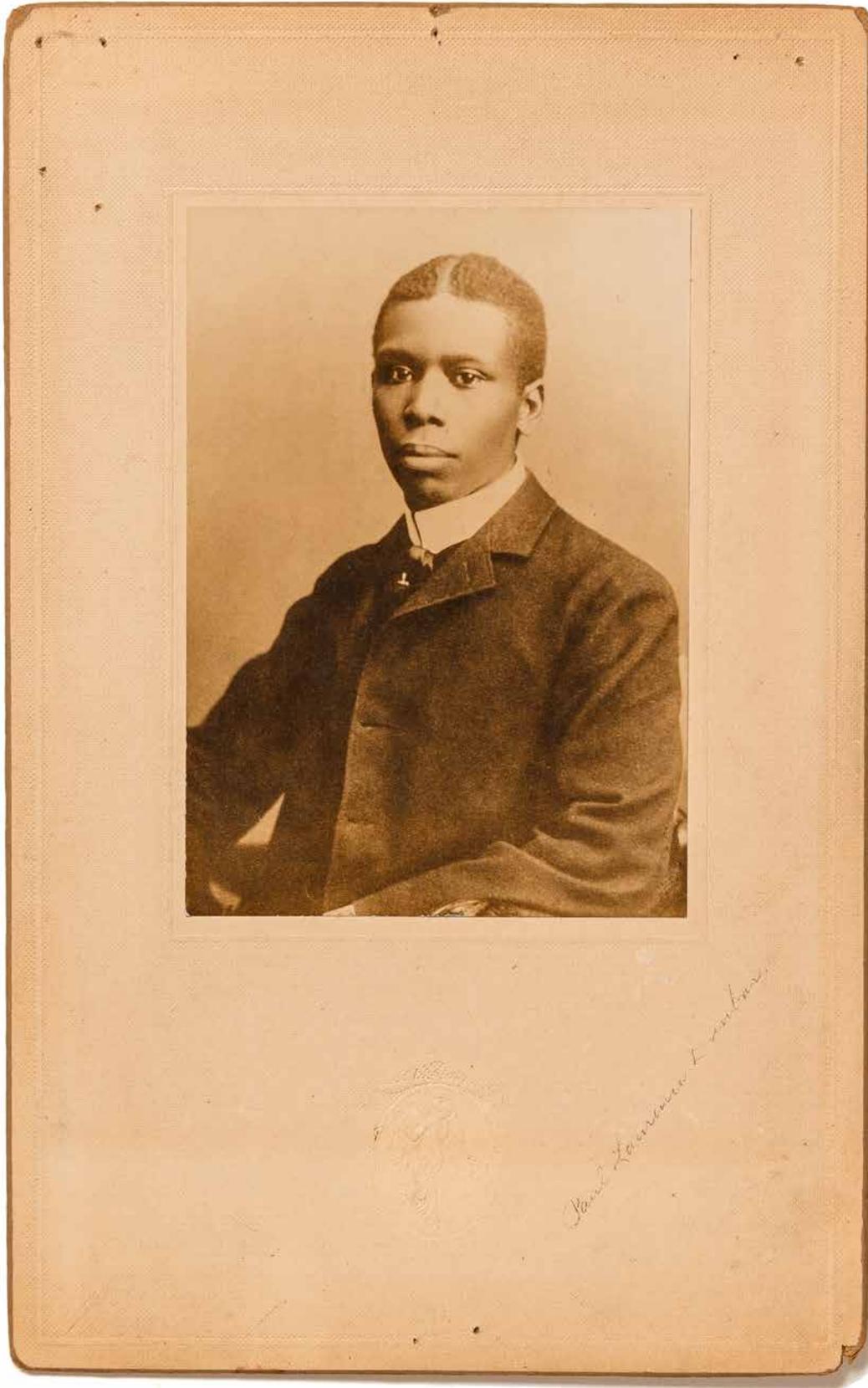


Addison Spurlock

Signed Portrait Photograph of Paul Laurence Dunbar

Washington, D.C.: Scurlock Studio (circa 1906-7)

\$6000



Silver chloride boudoir portrait photograph. Image size is approximately 4" x 5½" mounted on 6¾" x 10½" thick cardstock. Decorative blindstamp on card beneath the image. Studio stamp on verso of Spurlock's 1202 T Street location. Dunbar has signed the card on the lower right hand side beneath his photograph. Very good; some wear to the corners; remains of old small mounting holes at extremities of two corners of the card and center bottom. Signature a little faded but easily readable. Probably contemporary owner's name ("M. L. Bush, West Chester, Pa.") on verso.

Addison Scurlock was an African-American born in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1883. He began his photographic apprenticeship with Rice Studio in Washington, D.C. in 1900. By 1904 he was executing commission portraits on his own at the house of his parents on 'S' street. His studio address on this Dunbar photograph is T Street, which places the date some time between 1906 -1907 (Dunbar died in 1908). Scurlock's studio grew to become 'the' place for Afro-Americans to sit for portraits, and the business carried on for over 90 years, until the deaths of his sons. Among other things, the firm taught the art of photography to a young Jacqueline Bouvier, who would become the "Inquiring Camera Girl" for the "Washington Times-Herald" before marrying John F. Kennedy. The archive of the firm is now regarded as the invaluable resource for the history of the Afro-American community. The Dunbar portrait was taken during the earliest period of the firm.

We have handled books and letters signed by Dunbar, but have never seen a signed photograph offered for sale. [BTC#421721]



Scamlock Studio,

1202 T ST., N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.