



# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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## Langston Hughes

### Signed Photograph of Hughes as a Bus Boy

[No place - New York?: no publisher - Alfred A. Knopf? 1940 copy of a 1926 image?]

\$3500

LANGSTON HUGHES, as bus boy in the Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D. C. December 1926, the day after he was "discovered" by Vachel Lindsay. (See THE BIG SEA, page 210, for the story).

8" x 10" black and white gelatin silver photograph. Two tiny paper remnants on the verso where it was previously mounted else fine and clear. Image of Hughes in a white uniform and hat carrying a tray laden with dishes. Inscribed by Hughes in deep black ink across the bottom of his jacket and pants: "Inscribed especially for Fraser Drew. Sincerely, Langston Hughes." On the verso is the printed or typed caption: "Langston Hughes, as bus boy in the Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. December 1926, the day after he was 'discovered' by Vachel Lindsay. (See *The Big Sea*, page 210, for the story)", thus leading us to believe this photo was used by the publisher Alfred A. Knopf to promote Hughes' first autobiography *The Big Sea* (1940). Drew was a much beloved English professor and collector. All evidence is that Hughes was a generous signer, but this is as nice a signed image as we've seen of him.

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