

James Haskins, Professor Emeritus

James Haskins (d. 2005) was the author of more than 100 books for adults and young people. In 1994, he was presented the *Washington Post* Children's Book Guild Award for a body of work in nonfiction for young people. His books *Black Music in America*, *The March on Washington*, and *Carter G. Woodson: The Man Who Put "Black" in American History* were selected for the Carter G. Woodson Award for young adult non-fiction in 1989, 1994, and 2001, respectively. His four-book *Count Your Way* series (Arab World, China, Japan, Russia) won the Alabama Library Association Award for best work for children in 1988; and *The Story of Stevie Wonder* won the Coretta Scott King Award in 1976. (Several of his other books also won Coretta Scott King Honor Book Awards.) His awards and recognition for books for the adult trade audience included the 1979 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for excellence in writing in the field of music, for *Scott Joplin: The Man Who Made Ragtime*; and the English-Speaking Union's selection of *Bricktop*, written with Bricktop, as a Book-Across-the-Sea in 1983. His book *The Cotton Club* was the inspiration for the motion picture of the same title in 1984; and *Mr. Bojangles*, written with N.R. Mitgang, was the subject of a Showtime movie starring Gregory Hines.



Professor Haskins served as guest curator for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES) exhibition *The Jazz Age in Paris*, which traveled nationally 1997–2001. He was general editor of the *Hippocrene African Language Dictionaries* series and the John Wiley & Sons' *Black Stars* series. Vice Director, Southeast Region, of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., and a member of the National Education Advisory Committee of The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, he also served as a member of the Framework Development Committee of CIVITAS, a national civic education framework. He wrote numerous articles and book reviews for *The Gainesville Sun*, was books editor for *Opportunity*, the magazine of the National Urban League and *FlaVour* magazine, and was on the board of *Footsteps*, an African-American history magazine for children published by Cobblestone Publications.

The African-American Studies Program has established a fellowship for visiting scholars in Haskins's name. Donations to the James Haskins Visiting Scholar Fellowship can be mailed to the UF Foundation, PO Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604. UF's George A. Smathers Libraries also has created the James Haskins Collection, comprised of his personal library and papers, housed in Special Collections.

Publications by James Haskins

Sole Authorship

- *Diary of a Harlem Schoolteacher* (Grove 1969; Stein & Day 1979)
- *Resistance: Profiles in Nonviolence* (Doubleday 1970)
- *The War and the Protest: Vietnam* (Doubleday 1970)
- *Revolutionaries: Agents of Change* (Lippincott 1971)
- *Profiles in Black Power* (Doubleday 1972)
- *A Piece of the Power: Four Black Mayors* (Dial 1972)
- *Religions* (Lippincott 1973); revised and reissued (Hippocrene 1991)

- *From Lew Alcindor to Kareem Abdul Jabbar* (Lothrop 1973); revised and reissued (Lothrop 1978)
- *Jokes From Black Folks* (Doubleday 1973)
- *Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback* (Macmillan 1973; Africa World Press 1996)
- *Ralph Bunche: A Most Reluctant Hero* (Hawthorn 1974)
- *Adam Clayton Powell: Portrait of a Marching Black* (Dial 1974; updated, Africa World Press, 1992)
- *Street Gangs: Yesterday and Today* (Hastings House 1974)
- *Witchcraft, Mysticism & Magic in the Black World* (Doubleday 1974)
- *Jobs in Business and Office* (Lothrop 1974)
- *Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron: The Home Run Kings* (Lothrop 1974)
- *Snow Sculpture and Ice Carving* (Macmillan 1974)
- *Fighting Shirley Chisholm* (Dial 1975)
- *The Consumer Movement* (Watts 1975)
- *The Creoles of Color of New Orleans* (Crowell 1975)
- *The Picture Life of Malcolm X* (Watts 1975)
- *Dr. J: A Biography of Julius Erving* (Doubleday 1975)
- *Your Rights: Past and Present* (Hawthorn 1975)
- *The Story of Stevie Wonder* (Lothrop 1976; London: Panther 1978) – **Winner of The Coretta Scott King Award**
- *Always Movin' On: The Life of Langston Hughes* (Watts 1976; updated and reissued, Africa World Press, 1992)
- *A New Kind of Joy: The Story of the Special Olympics* (Doubleday 1976)
- *The Long Struggle: American Labor* (Westminster 1976)
- *Teenage Alcoholism* (Hawthorn 1976)
- *Pele: A Biography* (Doubleday 1976)
- *Barbara Jordan* (Dial 1977)
- *The Life and Death of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Lothrop 1977); updated and reissued (Lothrop 1992)
- *The Cotton Club* (Random House 1977; New American Library 1984; London: Robson, 1985; Paris: Éditions Jade 1985; Hippocrene 1994) – **Inspiration for the film of the same name**
- *Who Are the Handicapped?* (Doubleday 1978)
- *Real Estate Careers* (Watts 1978)
- *Voodoo & Hoodoo: Their Tradition and Craft* (Stein & Day 1978; Scarborough House 1990)
- *Bob McAdoo, Superstar* (Lothrop 1978)
- *George McGinnis: Basketball Superstar* (Hastings House 1978)
- *James Van DerZee: The Picture Takin' Man* (Dodd, Mead 1979; Africa World Press 1991) – **Winner of The Carter G. Woodson Outstanding Merit Award**
- *Andrew Young: Man with a Mission* (Lothrop 1979)
- *Gambling: Who Really Wins?* (Watts 1979)
- *The New Americans: Vietnamese Boat People* (Enslow 1980)
- *I'm Gonna Make You Love Me: The Story of Diana Ross* (Dial 1980)
- *Werewolves* (Watts 1981)
- *Magic: A Biography of Earvin Johnson* (Enslow 1982; updated and reissued as *Sports Star: Magic Johnson* (Enslow 1989)
- *The New Americans: Cuban Boat People* (Enslow 1982)
- *Sugar Ray Leonard* (Lothrop 1982; London: Robson 1989)
- *Katherine Dunham* (Coward, McCann 1982)
- *The Guardian Angels* (Enslow 1983)

- *Lena Horne* (Coward, McCann 1983)
- *Richard Pryor: A Man and His Madness* (Beaufort 1984)
- *About Michael Jackson* (Enslow 1985)
- *Break Dancing* (Lerner 1985)
- *Diana Ross: Star Supreme* (Viking 1985)
- *Leaders of the Middle East* (Enslow 1985)
- *The Statue of Liberty: America's Proud Lady* (Lerner 1986)
- *Corazon Aquino: Leader of the Philippines* (Enslow 1988)
- *Mabel Mercer: A Life* (Atheneum 1987)
- *Queen of the Blues: A Biography of Dinah Washington* (Morrow 1987)
- *Winnie Mandela: Life of Struggle* (Putnam 1988)
- *Bill Cosby: America's Most Famous Father* (Walker 1988)
- *Shirley Temple Black: Actress to Ambassador* (Viking 1988)
- *India Under Indira and Rajiv Gandhi* (Enslow 1989)
- *Outward Dreams: Black Inventors and Their Inventions* (Walker 1991; updated and reissued in paperback 2004)
- *Christopher Columbus: Admiral of the Ocean Sea* (Scholastic 1991; French Canadian edition, Scholastic Canada, 1992)
- *Ella Fitzgerald: A Life Through Jazz* (Great Britain: New English Library 1991; Germany: Hannibal 1992; France: Filipacchi 1992; Japan: Ongaku no Tomo Sha 1993)
- *The Day Martin Luther King, Jr., Was Shot* (Scholastic 1992)
- *One More River to Cross* (Scholastic 1992)
- *Amazing Grace: The Story Behind the Song* (Millbrook 1992)
- *Against All Opposition: Black Explorers in America* (Walker 1992; updated and reissued in paperback 2004)
- *Colin Powell* (Scholastic 1992)
- *Thurgood Marshall: A Life for Justice* (Henry Holt 1992)
- *I Am Somebody! A Biography of Jesse Jackson* (Enslow 1992); revised, updated and republished as *Jesse Jackson: Civil Rights Activist* (Enslow, 2001)
- *Get on Board: The Story of the Underground Railroad* (Scholastic 1992)
- *I Have a Dream: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Millbrook 1992)
- *The Methodist Church* (Hippocrene 1992)
- *The March on Washington* (HarperCollins 1993) – **Winner of The Carter G. Woodson Award 1994**
- *The Headless Haunt and Other African-American Ghost Stories* (HarperCollins 1994)
- *The Scottsboro Boys* (Henry Holt 1994)
- *Freedom Rides* (Hyperion 1994)
- *Black Eagles: African Americans in Aviation* (Scholastic 1995)
- *The Day Fort Sumter Was Fired On* (Scholastic 1995)
- *The Harlem Renaissance* (Millbrook 1996) – **Winner of The Carter G. Woodson Award 1997; Winner of the Coretta Scott King Honor Book 1998**
- *Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam* (Walker 1996)
- *Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement* (Hyperion 1997) – **A Carter G. Woodson Merit Book, 1998**
- *Power to the People: The Rise and Fall of the Black Panther Party* (Simon & Schuster 1997)
- *Spike Lee: By Any Means Necessary* (Walker 1997)
- *Separate But Not Equal: The Dream and the Struggle* (Scholastic 1998)
- *Black, Blue & Gray: African Americans in the Civil War* (Simon & Schuster 1998)
- *Moaning Bones: African-American Ghost Stories* (Lothrop 1998)

- *Black Stars: African-American Entrepreneurs* (Wiley 1998)
- *Black Stars: African-American Military Heroes* (Wiley 1998)
- *Distinguished African American Political and Governmental Leaders* (Oryx Press 1999)
- *The Geography of Hope: Black Exodus from the South after Reconstruction* (Millbrook Press 1999)
- *One Nation Under a Groove: Rap Music and Its Roots* (Hyperion 2000); British edition,
- *The Story of Hip-Hop: From Africa to America, Sugarhill to Eminem* (Penguin Books 2002)
- *Toni Morrison: The Magic of Words* (Millbrook Press 2000)
- *One Love, One Heart: A History of Reggae* (Hyperion Books for Children 2001)
- *Champion: A Biography of Muhammad Ali* (Walker & Company 2002); Korean edition, Namuwasup Publishing Co., 2005.
- *Toni Morrison: Telling a Tale Untold* (Millbrook Press 2002)
- *Cecil Poole: A Life in the Law* (Ninth Judicial Circuit Court Historical Society 2002) – **Winner of the 2004 John and Patricia Beatty Award from the California Library Association**
- *Black Stars: African Heroes* (Wiley 2005)

Series

- *Black Theater in America* (Crowell 1982)
- *Black Music in America: A History Through its People* (Harper & Row 1987) – **Winner of The Carter G. Woodson Award 1988**
- *Black Dance in America* (Harper & Row 1990) – **A Coretta Scott King Award Honor Book 1991**; reissued 2001 by Welcome Rain Publishers
- *Count Your Way Through the Arab World/China/Japan/Russia* (Carolrhoda Books 1987) – **Winner of The Alabama Library Association Award 1988**
- *Count Your Way Through Africa/Canada/Korea/Mexico* (Carolrhoda Books 1989)
- *Count Your Way Through Germany/Italy* (Carolrhoda Books 1990)
- *Count Your Way Through India/Israel* (Carolrhoda Books 1991)
- *Count Your Way Through China/Count Your Way Through France/Count Your Way Through Japan/Count Your Way Through Mexico* published in a new CD-ROM edition for the sixth grade reading level by Lerner Classroom, a division of Lerner Publishing, 2001

Editorships

- *Black Manifesto for Education* (Morrow 1973)
- *The Filipino Nation: A Concise History of the Philippines* (3 vols.; Grolier 1982)
- *Hippocrene Great Religions of the World*
- *The Catholic Church* by Barrie Ruth Straus, 1987
- *The Baptists* by J.M. Stifle and Anne Devereaux Jordan, 1988
- *The Seventh-Day Adventists* by Anne Devereaux Jordan, 1990
- *The Episcopal Church* by David Locke, 1992
- *Hippocrene African Language Concise Dictionaries*, series editor:
- *Haitian Creole Concise Dictionary* by Dr. Charmant Theodore, 1997
- *Twi-English Concise Dictionary* by Dr. Paul Kotey, 1997
- *Yoruba-English Concise Dictionary* by Dr. Olabiyi Yai, 1997
- *Black Star Biography Series* (John Wiley & Sons, 1998 +)
- Two volumes authored on entrepreneurs and military heroes (*see above*)
- *African American Inventors* by Otha Richard Sullivan (1998)

- *African American Healers* by Clinton Cox (1999)
- *African American Women Writers* by Brenda Wilkinson (2000)
- *African American Musicians* by Eleanora E. Tate (2000)
- *African-American Teachers* by Clinton Cox (2001)
- *African-American Women Scientists and Inventors* by Otha R. Sullivan (2001)
- *Black Stars Biography Series* (John Wiley & Sons 2002-2003), author/editor
- *Black Stars of the Harlem Renaissance*
- *Black Stars of Colonial and Revolutionary Times*
- *Black Stars of Civil Rights*
- *Black Stars of Civil War Times*
- *Keeping the Faith: African-American Sermons of Liberation* (Welcome Rain 2001); paperback edition, Sensei, 2005.

Co-Authorships

- *The Psychology of Black Language*, with Hugh F. Butts, M.D. (Barnes & Noble 1973); updated and reissued (Hippocrene, 1993)
- *The Great American Crazyies*, with Kathleen Benson and Ellen Inkelis (Condor 1977)
- *The Stevie Wonder Scrapbook*, with Kathleen Benson (Grosset & Dunlap 1978)
- *Scott Joplin: The Man Who Made Ragtime*, with Kathleen Benson (Doubleday 1978; London: Robson 1979; Mexico: Angel Urraza 1979; Stein & Day 1980) – **Winner of The ASCAP Deems Taylor Award 1979**
- *The Quiet Revolution: The Struggle for the Rights of Disabled Americans*, with J.M. Stifle (Crowell 1979)
- *The Child Abuse Help Book*, with Pat Connolly (Addison-Wesley 1982)
- *Donna Summer*, with J M Stifle (Atlantic Monthly 1983)
- *Nat King Cole: A Personal and Professional Biography*, with Kathleen Benson (Stein & Day 1984; Britain/Robson 1986; Scarborough House 1990; Finland/Art House Oy 2002)
- *Lena: A Personal and Professional Biography of Lena Horne*, with Kathleen Benson (Stein & Day 1983; Scarborough House 1991)
- *Bricktop*, with *Bricktop* (Atheneum 1983) – **Named a Book-Across-the-Sea by the English-Speaking Union**
- *Space Challenger: The Story of Guion Bluford*, with Kathleen Benson (Carolrhoda 1984)
- *Nat King Cole*, with Kathleen Benson (Stein & Day 1984; Scarborough House 1990)
- *Double Dutch*, with David Walker (Enslow 1985)
- *Mr. Bojangles: The Biography of Bill Robinson*, with N.R. Mitgang (Morrow 1988; London/Robson 2001)
- *The Sixties Reader*, with Kathleen Benson (Viking 1988)
- *Hamp: An Autobiography*, with Lionel Hampton (Warner 1989)
- *Scatman*, with Helen Crothers (Morrow 1991)
- *Rosa Parks: My Story*, with Rosa Parks (Dial 1992)
- *Hippocrene Guide to the Historic Black South*, with Joann Biondi (1993)
- *Hippocrene Guide to Black New York*, with Joann Biondi (1994)
- *From Afar to Zulu: A Dictionary of African Cultures*, with Joann Biondi (Walker 1995)
- *Count Your Way Through Brazil/France/Greece/Ireland*, with Kathleen Benson (Carolrhoda 1996)
- *I Am Rosa Parks*, with Rosa Parks (Dial 1997) – **A Carter G. Woodson Award Honor Book 1998**
- *African Beginnings*, with Kathleen Benson (Lothrop 1998)

- *Bound for America: The Forced Migration of Africans to the New World*, with Kathleen Benson (Lothrop 1999)
- *Out of the Darkness: The Story of Blacks Moving North, 1890–1940*, with Kathleen Benson (Marshall Cavendish 1999)
- *Carter G. Woodson: The Man Who Put “Black” in American History*, with Kathleen Benson (Millbrook 2000) – **Winner of The Carter G. Woodson Award Honor Book, 2001**
- *Following Freedom’s Star: The Story of the Underground Railroad*, with Kathleen Benson (Marshall Cavendish 2001)
- *Conjure Times: Black Magicians in America*, with Kathleen Benson (Walker & Company 2001)
- *Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America*, with Kathleen Benson (HarperCollins 2001)
- *The House that Jack Built: The Hal Jackson Story*, with Hal Jackson (Amistad 2001)

From the website for the Department of English at the University of Florida (March 24, 2011)