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The projects of the two libraries are, for the most part complementary, and with increased cooperation, the protocols can be brought together based on OSI standards so that, in the future, computer-to-computer interaction in the library community will be possible.

Gwendolyn Brooks Is Named as Next Library Poetry Consultant

Gwendolyn Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize-winning portrayal of black urban life, has been named Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress for 1985-86. The appointment was made by Daniel J. Boorstin, The Librarian of Congress. "Gwendolyn Brooks writes in lyrics in a world overshadowed by polemics," said Dr. Boorstin in making the announcement. "She brings high honor and a distinctive voice to the company of Poetry Consultants and to the Library of Congress. Having known Miss Brooks since our first meeting in Chicago many years ago, it gives me special pleasure to welcome her to the literary community of Washington." Miss Brooks' first public appearance as Consultant will be Tuesday, October 1, at the Library.

Miss Brooks has previously participated in several Library of Congress programs. A year after recording her poetry for the Library's archive in 1961, she read her poems as part of the Library's National Poetry

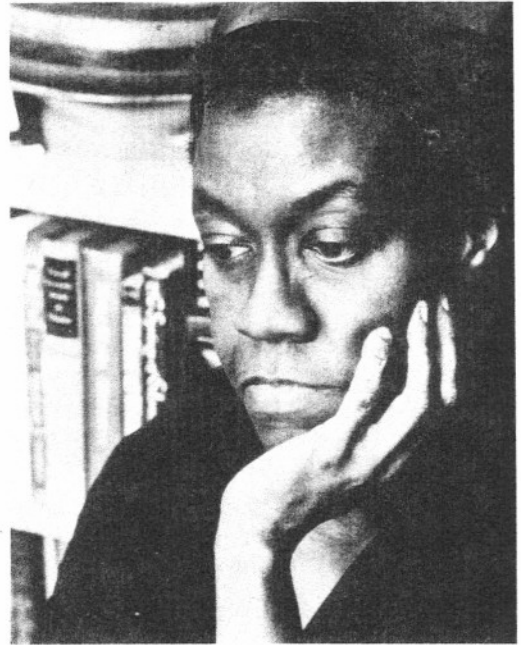


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Festival. She returned in 1969, to read with Katherine Garrison Chapin. Then between 1973 and 1976 she was an Honorary Consultant in American Letters to the Library, joining Robert Hayden and Michael Harper for two programs of readings of Afro-American poetry in 1976.

Gwendolyn Brooks, who has lived and worked for many years in Chicago, published her first book of poetry, *A Street in Bronzeville*, in 1945 after an interval



Gwendolyn Brooks

working as publicity director for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Youth Council in that city. In the same year she was named one of Ten Women of the Year by *Mademoiselle Magazine*. Her second book of poems, *Annie Allen* (1949), won the Pulitzer Prize. Both those volumes and a book, *The Bean Eaters* (1960), are notable for their portrayals of scenes of city life and the impact of poverty and neglect in the ghetto. Her best-known poem from *The Bean Eaters* is the frequently anthologized "We Real Cool."

In the late 1960s, Miss Brooks became interested in fostering the talents of young black writers, especially the Blackstone Rangers, a group of teenaged blacks in Chicago, for whom she conducted poetry workshops. Her 1969 book, *Riot*, reflected new emphases in her attitudes and her work, especially her adherence to principles of the New Black Aesthetic. In that same year she was named Poet Laureate of Illinois. She has also served as a member of the Illinois Arts Council.

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A native of Topeka, Kans., and a graduate of Wilson Junior College, Miss Brooks holds a number of honorary degrees. She has also taught at the University of Wisconsin, Columbia College in Chicago, and other colleges. In 1971 she was Distinguished Professor of the Arts at City College of New York. She has received Guggenheim fellowships, awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and other recognition. However, according to her autobiography, the "most stirring tribute" of her life occurred in December 1969 when black artists of Chicago honored her for her poetic accomplishments and contributions to life in the black community.

In addition to books of poetry, Gwendolyn Brooks has written for children, *Bronzeville Boys and Girls* (1956); a novel, *Maud Martha* (1953); autobiographical works such as *Report from Part One* (1972); and other non-fiction, *The Young Poets' Primer* (1980). Her most recent book is *Very Young Poets* (1983).

The Consultanship in Poetry was established in the Library of Congress in 1936 with funds donated by Archer M. Huntington. The first Consultant was Joseph Auslander, appointed in 1937. Gwendolyn Brooks is the 29th person appointed to the position. She succeeds the late Robert Fitzgerald, 1984-85 Consultant in Poetry, whose illness prevented him from assuming the duties of the Consultanship. Mr. Fitzgerald died January 16. For the past year, Reed Whittemore, 1964-65 Consultant in Poetry, has served as Interim Consultant. Miss Brooks' appointment was announced at Mr. Whittemore's farewell public appearance as Consultant, a lecture at the Library on May 6.