Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”

by Zora Neale Hurston

Reviewed by Mary Anne Ellis, Southern History Department, Central Library

Fans of author Zora Neale Hurston are generally most familiar with her famous novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* or with her autobiography *Dust Tracks on a Road*. But another work by Hurston has just been published, even though it was originally written in the 1920s. This was when Hurston traveled to Plateau, Alabama—also known as Africatown—to interview Cudjo Lewis, the last known survivor to have crossed the ocean in the slave ship *Clotilda*. Like many of his unfortunate brothers and sisters during the nineteenth century, Lewis was abducted from his homeland and faced the harrowing Middle Passage across the Atlantic until he arrived in Alabama and was sold as a slave.

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**Local Authors Expo Coming Up on August 11**

**Local Authors Expo – Meet Avery Hurt**

Birmingham’s Avery Elizabeth Hurt began a passion for writing books and magazine articles for adults several years ago. Whenever she encountered a totally new topic, she would go first to the children’s section of the library to learn the basics. She was impressed with what she found there, and pretty soon developed the urge to write for children.

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**Elinor and Winfield Burks at the Wakanda Wheel**

Elinor and Winfield Burks Shine Spotlight on Math and Science at Five Points West Regional Branch Library

Elinor and Winfield Burks have a passion for educating young people about the importance of math and science. Their Science for Kids Ministry has partnered with Kwanzaa Year Round and the Birmingham Public Library for 18 years to offer the Annual Math & Science Day, held July 28 at the Five Points West Regional Branch Library.

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**BPL Faces**

Shea Robinson has bachelor’s degrees in cytotechnology and molecular biology, and a PhD from The University of Alabama at Birmingham in pathophysiology. But for the past 11 years she has used her wealth of knowledge from the classroom to fuel her passion for helping patrons of the Birmingham Public Library.

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**What We’re Reading at BPL**

*Barbarossa: The Glory of the Last “Black Cargo”* by Zora Neale Hurston

Reviewed by Mary Anne Ellis, Southern History Department, Central Library

*Barbarossa: The Glory of the Last “Black Cargo”* is a fascinating narrative of the last survivor of the African slave trade, Cudjo Lewis. The book vividly describes Lewis’ journey from his homeland to the American South, offering a unique perspective on African-American history.

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