



JAMES STILL HOME
IS THIS LOVELY LOG CABIN
AT THE HEAD OF WOLF-PEN
CREEK IN KNOTT CO,
KY

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473



Gold Casting Figurines Depicting
Life in a Native African
Village. Photo: Morehead State
Univ' Library's Still Collection.

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473



THIRTY GOLD FIGURES OF LIFE
IN AN AFRICAN VILLAGE.
PHOTO: MOREHEAD STATE LIBRARY
JAMES STILL COLLECTION

**From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473**



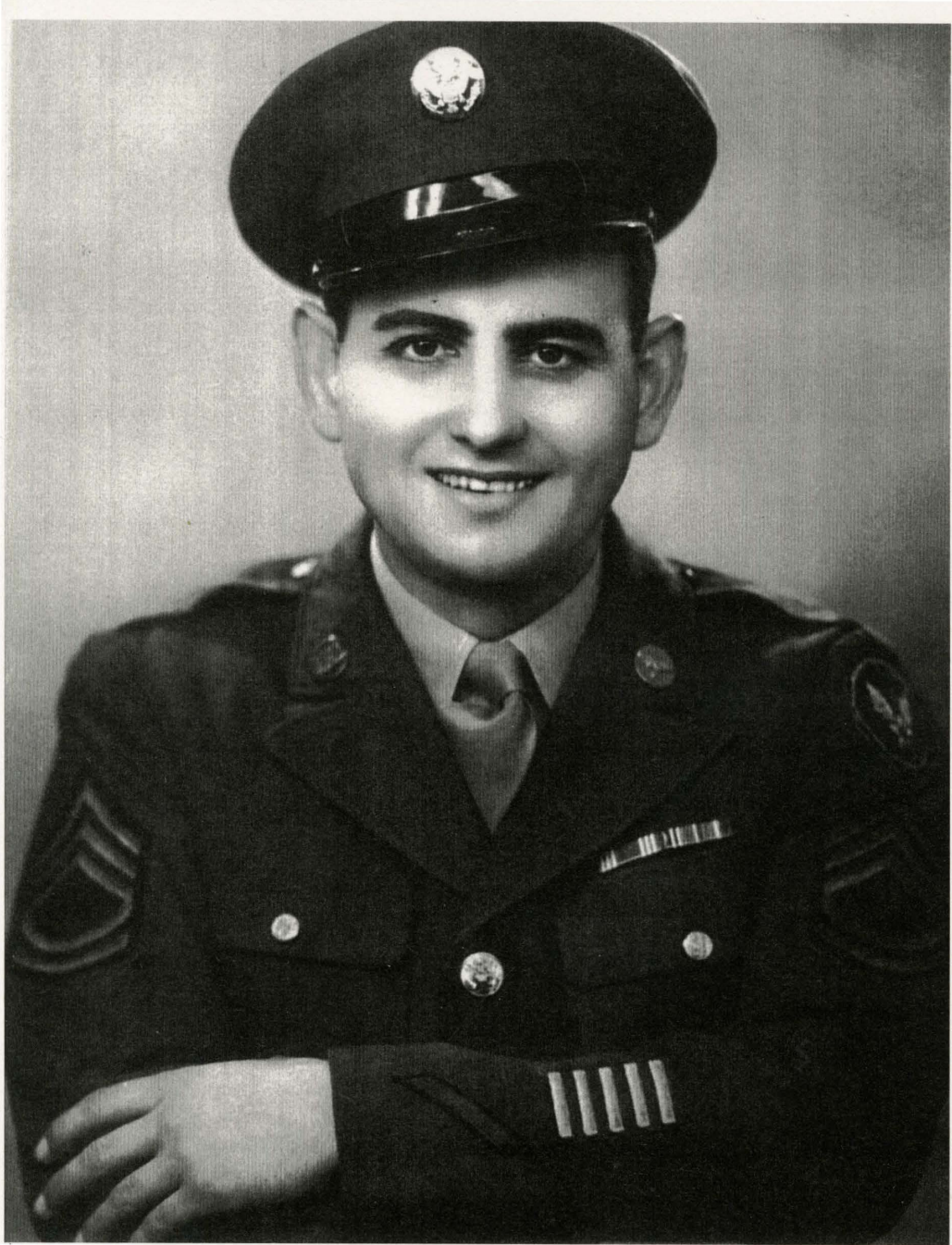
GOOD CASTING FIGURINES
BROUGHT BACK FROM
AFRICA'S ASHANTI KINGDOM
BY JAMES STICK-WWTF

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
608-784-7473



GOLD CASTING FIGURINES
FROM ASHANTI KINGDOM
OF AFRICA - BOURBON
TO USA BY JAMES STILL
WENT

From The Collection Of:
Dr. Jack D. Ellis
552 W. Sun St.
Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473



Sgt James Still
US ARMY AIR CORPS
WWII 1942-1945

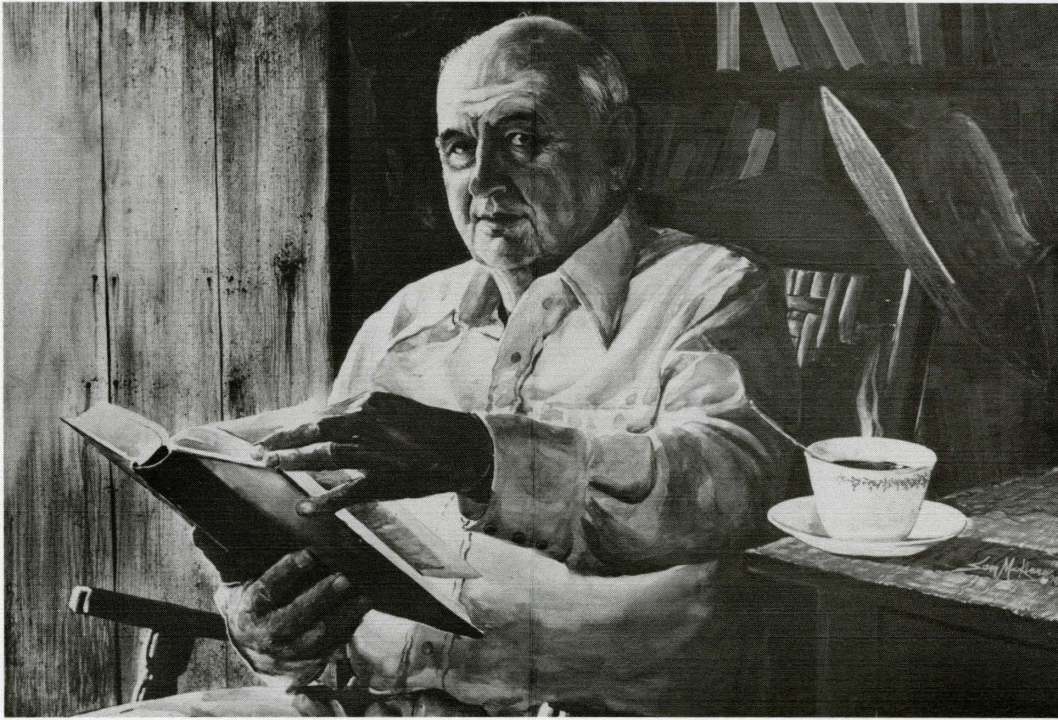
Photo: ANSU'S
JAMES STILL
COLLECTION

Each of these "wash marks"
on her ~~right~~ left sleeve
meant he was over-seas
6 months. He had no fewer
meant he was over seas 2 1/2 years.

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Morehead, KY 40351
606-784-7473



**The James Still Collection
Camden-Carroll Library
Morehead State University
Morehead, Kentucky 40351
(606) 783-2829**



In 1987, Mr. Still was chosen to receive Morehead State University's first Appalachian Treasure Award. A portrait, commissioned by the Library to commemorate the occasion, was painted by regional artist Sam McKinney and hangs in the Still Room alongside his many other honors.

The James Still Room at Morehead State University's Camden-Carroll Library houses books, manuscripts, photographs, and memorabilia collected by Mr. Still during his long and distinguished literary career.

Books written by Mr. Still are displayed alongside autographed copies of works presented to him by Katherine Anne Porter, Carson McCullers, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and several other of his associates. Manuscript materials include typescripts of Mr. Still's short stories and poems, and hand-written correspondence and notebooks of his field work as a Knott County social worker in the 1930's. Photographs of his family and friends, his military service in North Africa, and his travels throughout the world complete the written records.

Other items in the collection include two Jethro Amburgey dulcimers; a wall-hanging presented to the Library on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Mr. Still's great novel *River of Earth*; souvenirs of his travels; and dozens of plaques, certificates, and other awards which attest to Mr. Still's enormous and continuing contribution to literature and to the Appalachian region.

Mr. Still's association with Morehead State dates back to 1952, when he participated in the first writer's workshop held at the school, which was then a teacher's college. His involvement with the workshop continued, and in 1961 he joined the school's faculty; he remained on the faculty until 1970.

The James Still Room was established as the repository for Mr. Still's papers, and was dedicated October 12, 1961, with Harriet Arnow delivering the address. The Still Room was rededicated in 1978 when the tower addition to the library was completed and the library's Special Collections Department was relocated.

The James Still Room, and Camden-Carroll Library's other Special Collections, are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m.

For more information about the James Still Collection, please write or call:

Special Collections Department
Camden-Carroll Library
Morehead State University
Morehead, KY 40351
(606) 783-2829

Works by James Still

- 1937 *Hounds on the Mountain*, Viking Press
1940 *River of Earth*, Viking Press
1941 *On Troublesome Creek*, Viking Press
1974 *Way Down Yonder on Troublesome Creek:
Appalachian Riddles and Rusties*, G.P.
Putnam's Sons
1975 *The Wolfpen Rusties: Appalachian Riddles
and Gee-Haw Whimmy-Diddles*, G.P.
Putnam's Sons
1976 *Pattern of a Man and Other Stories*, Gnomon
Press
1977 *Sporty Creek: A Novel about an Appalachian
Boyhood*, G.P. Putnam's Sons
1977 *Jack and the Wonder Beans*, G.P. Putnam's
Sons
1977 *River of Earth*, University Press of Kentucky
1981 *The Run for the Elbertas*, University Press of
Kentucky
1983 *River of Earth: The Poem and Other Poems*,
King Library Press
1986 *The Wolfpen Poems*, Berea College Press
1989 *Rusties and Riddles and Gee-Haw Whimmy-
Diddles*, University Press of Kentucky
1991 *The Wolfpen Notebooks: A Record of
Appalachian Life*, University Press of
Kentucky
1992 *Heritage*, June Appal Recordings
1995 *Jack and the Wonder Beans*, University Press
of Kentucky

Cover photographic credits clockwise from top left: Lincoln Memorial University, Hindman Settlement School, Dean Cadle, Dean Cadle, Morehead State University, Dean Cadle. Inside photograph of Sam McKinney portrait by Eric Shindelbower.

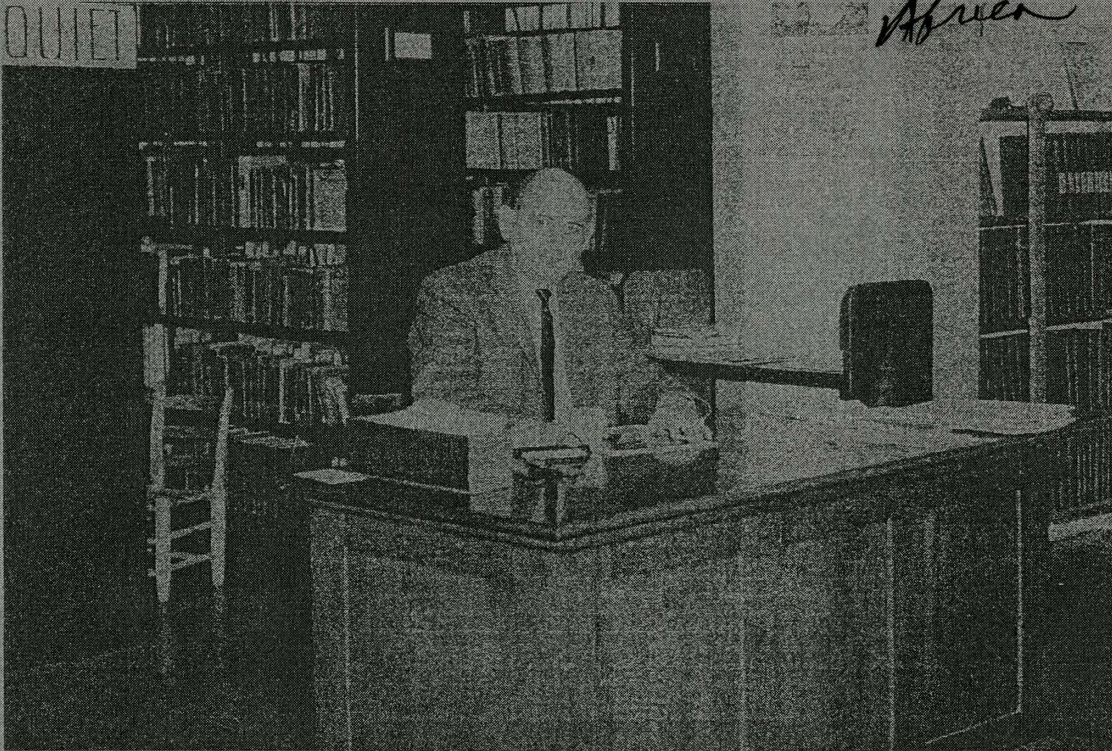


Call-for-Submissions for New Book on James Still

A companion volume to the forthcoming book *James Still: Critical Essays on the Dean of Appalachian Literature* (McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2007) is currently in preparation. The second volume will collect interviews of James Still, memoirs about James Still, and other non-scholarly writings that explore aspects of James Still's life and work.

If you have any writings (published or unpublished) that might fit in this book—or if you know of writings by other people that might qualify for this book—please contact the editor of the aforementioned collection, Ted Olson, as soon as possible (and no later than July 31, 2007): Ted Olson, East Tennessee State University, Box 70400, Johnson City, TN 37614
phone: 423-439-4379, email: olson@etsu.edu

*Gold Castings from the
Asanti Kingdom in
Africa*



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Publishers
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James Still Room In Library Houses Mementos Of Author

By Carol Federspiel

On Oct. 12, 1961, an addition was dedicated to the Johnson Camden Library, the James Still Room. Many students on campus today have never heard of this room and few have been inside it.

As you enter the library, turn right. Two doors down is the door to this room, named for the famous author who is a member of the University English faculty.

The librarian comes to unlock the door. You enter the room and first notice two large stringed instruments hanging from the walls. One is of dark wood; the other is light. They are dulcimers, handmade by Jethro Amburgey, an old friend of Still's.

Below the dulcimers is an old unvarnished wooden desk. Sitting in a wicker chair at this desk, Still wrote most of his novels "River of Earth," "Hounds on the Mountain" and "On Troublesome Creek" short stories and poems.

On top of the desk, at right, is a black leather-back album of clippings from newspapers throughout the country, telling of his life and works. At left is a brown album with more clippings. On top of this album is a small brown ceramic pitcher containing six used pencils, and a handmade nail which came from his log home.

Below the desk is a handwoven willow basket filled with crumpled papers such as an author might discard from his early efforts.

In front of this desk is a glass case containing Still's three novels, the original manuscript of "River of Earth," and letters from the Atlantic Monthly commending him on some poems. There are also two awards here: the Rush Storns Medal, which he received in 1928, and the Southern Authors' Award of 1940.

During his earlier years, Still worked for the Federal Emergency Relief Association. One of his case books was used in his writing of "River of Earth". It is found here. The other items are three coins, one of which is an old Roman coin, dating back to the Caesars.

On the right side of the room is a bookcase with a glass front. In this you find several gold weights from a king's treasury of ancient times. Visiting Egypt, Still came across these weights, of which no two are alike, and began to collect them. There are only a few such collections in the world. His thesis, written at Vanderbilt University; is on a shelf below medals he received while a sergeant in the Air Force.

On top of the bookcase are pictures from his days in the service, his travels in Egypt and on the Gold Coast. Cherished most are pictures of friends and relatives. There is also a picture of the Hindman school where he spent many years teaching.

On the walls are pictures of his home in Knott County. It is a one-room log cabin which was once in an isolated area that now is turning into a community. The pictures show the true Kentucky life about which he writes.

On the left side of the room is a file cabinet containing many manuscripts and personal letters. A

larger bookcase is found here. It contains not only several of his books, but also periodicals which have published his works. His writings have appeared in several famous literary collections.

Still finds much of his fiction reprinted in textbooks for both colleges and high schools. Many of his short stories have appeared in books of psychiatry such as "The World of Psychoanalysis" and "The World Within."

He not only has many of his own works, but proudly displays autographed books of other famous writers, as William Faulkner's "Barn Burning," and Katherine Anne Porter's "Flowering Judas."

Above this bookcase is a Literary Map of Kentucky showing pictures of the famous men of the state. Still is depicted here as a school teacher.

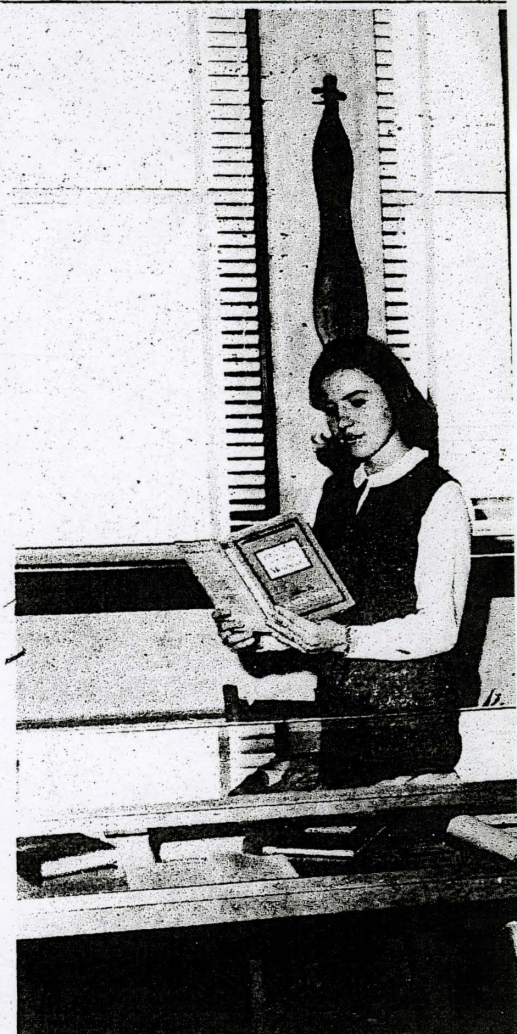
Not all of James Still's accomplishments are displayed in this room. Throughout the years he has received many awards.

In 1937, he received the Publishers' Fellowship; in 1939, The O. Henry Memorial Prize for short story. In the years that followed, he received the award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and two Fellowship Guggenheim Foundation Awards.

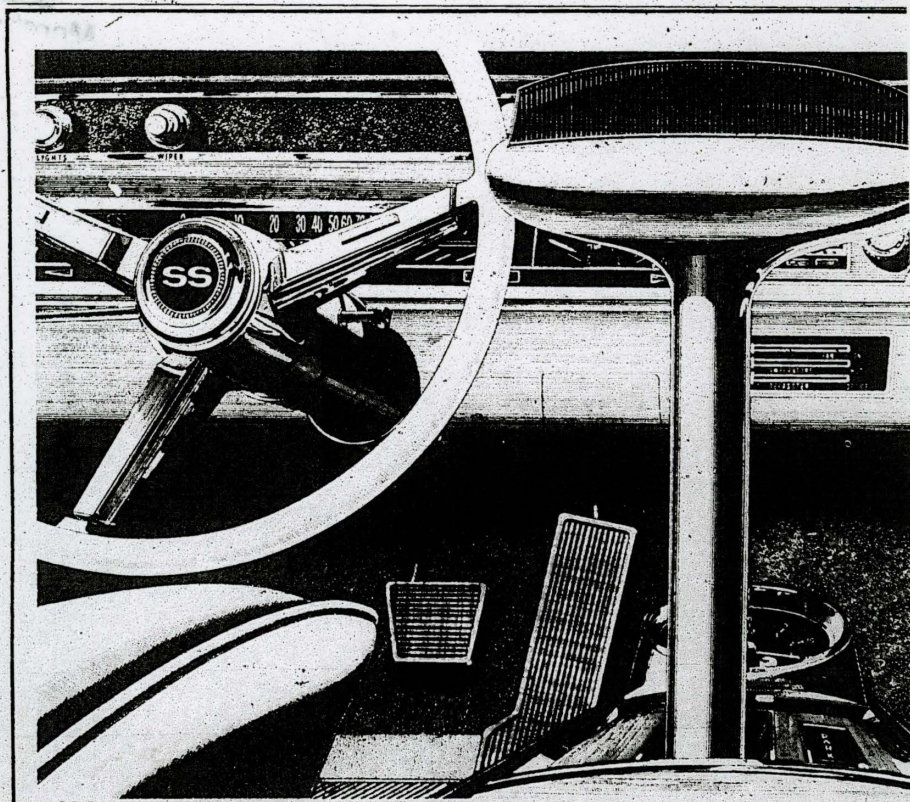
Still is at the present the only M.S.U. English teacher without a Ph. D. who teaches graduate courses.

He is still writing, although his time is now limited, and is widely recognized as a significant writer of this era. Last year he received the Alice Llyod College Poetry award.

At present, three writers are preparing a book about him and his writings. A section of this book will soon appear in the "Yale Review."



JAMES STILL ROOM in the Johnson Camden the mementos and works of author James Still and associate professor of English at Morehead.



SS 396 Sport Coupe

SS 396

Did You Know?

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Sergeant James Still's Gold Castings

by Jack D. Ellis

"Their builders perfected their beauty—they were craftsmen." (Ezekiel 27:4)

The James Still Room at Morehead State University houses many of the late author's manuscripts, photographs, documents, books, poems, and personal memorabilia. At one time, this collection included approximately one dozen small figurines. Cast in high-grade gold ore and standing no more than four inches tall, Still had brought them to Kentucky from an Ashanti village in Africa (now central Ghana). Each figurine represented one aspect of daily life in a small African village: women in colorful head gear cooking over an open fire; children playing in the dirt; and men sharpening their weapons, hunting, and carrying their freshly-killed game. Because of their cultural and monetary value, these African artifacts were securely locked in a glass display case, and very few people knew of their gold content.

Of course, the big question was how

James Still—a librarian, writer, and teacher from eastern Kentucky—had come into possession of those rare figurines. That is a story in itself.

James Still and I are both Army Air corps veterans of World War II, and we worked together at Morehead State University. I was the Library Director, and he was the writer-in-residence. We had many occasions to reminisce about our service and experiences during the war. In the 1970s, the university built a new library tower. During the construction, it became necessary to move the James Still Room from the first floor to the second floor. (Later it was moved to the fifth floor of the tower, where it is now located.) As Library Director, I supervised the move. Professor Still and I personally unlocked the case containing his Ashanti figurines and transported them to their new home

on the second floor, where they were safely placed in another case. It was then that he told me the following story about how he happened to become the owner of the tiny African statues.

Many people are not aware that this mild-mannered scholar served in North Africa during World War II, but he spent two-and-a-half years overseas. On one occasion, a B-17 crew flew a trial survival mission into the heart of Africa. When they spotted a large clearing in the jungle, they simulated a crash landing. On the ground and fully-armed, the soldiers began scouting out the terrain, planning how best to survive in those conditions. In the course of their exploration, they discovered a small, peaceful Ashanti village.

As GIs were wont to do during World War II, they bartered with the natives for souvenirs; it was called "scrounging."

That is how James Still acquired the valuable figurines from the Ashanti Kingdom. But it is certainly not the end of this story.

Young Sergeant Still shipped his souvenirs home safely. When the war ended in 1945, he headed for home himself. Like many soldiers, he returned by crossing the Pacific Ocean—so that he could say he had been around the world. As a former librarian, the first thing Still did when he landed in San Francisco was visit the public library. Entering the lobby, he saw a locked, well-lit display case attended by a guard. Upon further examination, he was shocked to see that it contained a single object: a small gold figurine, like the ones he had bartered for in the jungle.

Sergeant Still asked the guard if he could speak with the library director. He wanted to know if it really was from

"I have more than a dozen of these things at home in eastern Kentucky."

the same tribe. "I have more than a dozen of these things at home in eastern Kentucky," he told the astounded and skeptical director. After they had spoken at some length about the figurines and the Ashanti, the director decided that the young soldier knew what he was talking about. In fact, he wanted to visit Hindman, Kentucky, and see the collection for himself. "Of course," the young sergeant graciously answered. "Come any time."

A few weeks later, the San Francisco Library director came to the remote Hindman Settlement School to examine the figurines. To protect the collection, should it ever be stolen, he authenticated each piece, catalogued it, photographed it, and registered it at the National Museum of Art.

James Still—the humble librarian, teacher, author, and, now, African art

collector—would later become a giant in the literary world of Appalachia, hence his appointment as a professor and writer-in-residence at Morehead State University. The figurines remained in the James Still Room of the Camden-Carroll Library until his retirement, when Still donated them to Tuskegee Institute in his native Alabama in honor of the now-famous Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

Thanks to the efficient staff of MSU's Camden-Carroll Library for their help in preparing this article, which will be included in a forthcoming book edited by Ted Olsen and published by McFarland Press, James Still: Critical Essays by the Dean of Appalachian Literature. For more information about James Still, visit his room at the Camden-Carroll Library. ■



CONCERNING JAMES STILL

Together with Elizabeth Madox Roberts, Harriette Simpson Arnow, and Wendell Berry, James Still represents the very best in Kentucky Literature. He evidently recognized Miss Roberts' greatness as a very young man. He visited her and they exchanged letters during those last few years left to Miss Roberts who was dying of multiple illness. Mr. Still must rank as one of the wisest, most unselfish, most level-headed writers of any age. As I once said of Dr. Thomas D. Clark, "I'm most thankful God has permitted him to be with us so long." His River of Earth, Pattern of a Man, Run for the Elbertas, Sporty Creek, Wolfpen Poems, and From the Mountain, From the Valley are excellent.

James Still died April 28, 2001, just three months before his 96th birthday. Among so much else, he had attended Lincoln Memorial University with Jesse Stuart, and like Stuart, was taught by Harry Harrison Kroll, himself a great writer. I recently had a good conversation with Miss Leanne Garland, librarian and archivist at L.M.U. I had called for information on Don West, writer and long-time activist on many fronts, and also friend and fellow student with James Still and Jesse Stuart. She referred to the three of them as the Triumvirate of L.M.U. Along with Harry Harrison Kroll, that was lots of talent at a small Tennessee college in 1927-30.

Taken from an earlier letter
written in 2002.

B.R. Oney, April 18, 2007

Report of Separation

from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

James Still

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION - HONORABLE DISCHARGE

15 28 GT/20

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL STILL JAMES		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 35 133 320	3. GRADE T SGT	4. ARM OR SERVICE AC	5. COMPONENT AUS
6. ORGANIZATION 1000th AAF BU		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 3 Sep 45	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION Sep Cen Camp Atterbury Ind		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES Bath Kentucky			10. DATE OF BIRTH 16 Jul 1906	11. PLACE OF BIRTH LaLayette Alabama	
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT See # 9			13. COLOR EYES Brown	14. COLOR HAIR Black	15. HEIGHT 5'8 1/2"
16. RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify)	19. MARITAL STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify)		20. U.S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO. Literary Writer 0-06 04

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION 10 Mar 42	23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 10 Mar 42	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Fort Thomas Kentucky
SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	26. REGISTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	27. LOCAL S.S. BOARD NO. #94	28. COUNTY AND STATE Knott Co KY
29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Litticarr Kentucky		30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. Administrative N. C. O. 502	
31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., Infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.) Not Available		32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS Not Available	
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS Not Available			
34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION None			

35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES			36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN		
SMALLPOX Not Available	TYPHOID Not Available	TETANUS Not Available	OTHER (specify)	DATE OF DEPARTURE 21 Sep 42	DESTINATION NATO
37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE			38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD T SGT	DATE OF ARRIVAL 3 Nov 42	
CONTINENTAL SERVICE		FOREIGN SERVICE		DATE OF DEPARTURE 3 Apr 45	DESTINATION USA
YEARS 0	MONTHS 11	DAYS 9	YEARS 2	MONTHS 6	DAYS 15
39. PRIOR SERVICE None					

40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION AR 615-365 WD Cir 250-1945 (Conv'n of Govt)			42. EDUCATION (Years)		
41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED None			Grammar 8	High School 4	College 6


PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES		44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS 859.98	46. TRAVEL PAY \$ 16.25	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER 988.20 H F GILLIE Capt WD
YEARS 3	MONTHS 5	DAYS 24	TOTAL \$ 300	THIS PAYMENT \$ 100		

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS DIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

48. KIND OF INSURANCE		49. HOW PAID		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance 31 Aug 45	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50) 30 Sep 45	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH \$ 11.34	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO		
Nat. Serv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	U.S. Govt. <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>	Allotment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Direct to V. A. <input type="checkbox"/>			Continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue Only <input type="checkbox"/>	Discontinue <input type="checkbox"/>

54.  RIGHT THUMB PRINT	55. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) No days lost under AW 107; Lapel button issued ASR (12 May 45) 68	
	56. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED James Still	57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature) P D KISTER 2nd Lt MAC

WD AGO FORM 53-55 1 November 1944 This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 55 for enlisted persons entitled to an Honorable Discharge, which will not be used after receipt of this revision.

mail & article to

TEN OLSON
E. TENN ST
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FOR INCLUSION

IN BOOK
ABOUT STIL

8-23-07