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## Claude McKay, Code Name Sasha: Queer Black Marxism and the Harlem Renaissance

By Gary Edward Holcomb

University Press of Florida. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 288 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.9in. Sasha was the code name adopted by Harlem Renaissance writer Claude McKay (1889-1948) to foil investigations of his life and work. Over a period of two decades, the FBI, U. S. State Department, British police and intelligence, and French law enforcement and colonial authorities took turns harassing McKay, an openly gay, Marxist, Jamaican expatriate who had left the United States and was living in Europe. In this study of four of McKays texts--the first literary, cultural, and historical analysis to address the multilayered queer black anarchism in McKays writings--Holcomb argues that McKays fringe perspective not only targeted him for investigation but also contributed to a declining literary reputation. Perceived as mystifying and unacceptable because of his dedication to communism, McKay is perplexing and difficult to classify within the traditional constructs of the Harlem Renaissance. The problem that McKays transnational, aesthetically itinerant writing inevitably has posed is where to locate him. In recent years, access into McKays work has been transformed by new methods of interpreting the politics of literary texts, the growing significance of transnationality in literary and cultural analysis, and the impact of...



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