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Bone, Robert. **The muse in Bronzeville: African American creative expression in Chicago, 1932-1950**, by Robert Bone and Richard A. Courage. Rutgers, 2011. 302p bibl index afp ISBN 9780813550442, \$75.00; ISBN 9780813550435 pbk, \$29.95

What was the relationship between radical politics and black art, artists, and aesthetics in Chicago from 1932 to 1950? What accounts for the proliferation of literature, creative writing, visual arts, music, and dance in "Bronzeville," i.e., black Chicago, during this era? And how does this trans-art, cross-disciplinary movement intersect with the Harlem Renaissance? Bone (Columbia Univ. Teachers College until his death in 2007) and Courage (Westchester Community College, SUNY) answer these and other critical questions in this book. They offer not only an impressively astute and comprehensive explication of the historical, cultural, ideological, and foundational contours of the Chicago Renaissance, but also a discussion of the prominent figures (Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, Margaret Walker, Gordon Parks, Mahalia Jackson, Katherine Dunham) and institutions that contributed to this black artistic flourishing in Chicago's South Side during the period from the "great migration" through the post-WW II moment. Foregrounding the renaissance in Chicago, which has been largely neglected and overshadowed by the Harlem Renaissance, this study delineates continuities and discontinuities and significantly expands understanding of black artistic renaissances (generally as well as area specific) and of cultural and expressive traditions collectively in 20th-century America. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers. -- *T. C. Melancon, Loyola University*