







*The Dark Tower*, circa 1929

The Studio Museum in Harlem Archives, James VanDerZee Photographic Collection.

In 1928, A'Lelia Walker established a literary salon, which she named after Countee Cullen's column in *Opportunity* magazine: "The Dark Tower." She dedicated a floor of her Harlem mansion at 108 West 136th Street—one of the townhouses purchased by her mother, Madame C. J. Walker, in 1914—to Harlem's artists and writers. Painted on the walls of one of the large rooms were poems: Countee Cullen's "The Dark Tower" and Langston Hughes's "The Weary Blues." Walker is not in this photograph.