For immediate release October 29, 2011

Pitt Press collaborates with art museum for tribute to legendary photographer

PITTSBURGH—Charles “Teenie” Harris (1908–1998) captured the essence of African American life in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, surpassing all other photographers in his breadth and rich portrayal of black urban America. The archive of Harris’ photography, in the permanent collection of Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, represents one of the most important documentations of twentieth-century African Americans and their communities.

The University of Pittsburgh Press joined with the Carnegie to produce the new book *Teenie Harris, Photographer: Image, Memory, History* in connection with a major exhibition of Harris’ work, which runs from October 29 through April 8, 2012. For more info on the exhibit, visit the Carnegie’s website at [http://web.cmoa.org/?page_id=327](http://web.cmoa.org/?page_id=327)

*Teenie Harris, Photographer* was written by Cheryl Finley, Laurence Glasco, and Joe W. Trotter, with an introduction by Deborah Willis. Finley is assistant professor of art history at Cornell University; Glasco is associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh; Trotter is professor of history and social justice at Carnegie Mellon University, also in Pittsburgh.

Harris’ career began as America emerged from the Great Depression and ended after the civil rights movement. As a photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, one of the nation’s most influential black newspapers, Teenie hit the streets to record historic events and the people who lived them.

The famous faces of Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, Josephine Baker, Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, and John F. Kennedy appear among Harris’ nearly 80,000 photographs. But it’s in the images of other, ordinary people and neighborhoods that Harris shows us a city and an era teeming with energy, culture, friendship, and family. In jazz clubs, Little League games, beauty contests, church functions, boxing matches, political events and protest marches, we see everyday scenes that are truly special.

“A lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, Harris showed us how people and place mattered. His creative eye chronicled a vibrant black community, from its early days as a destination for migrants to its crucial civil rights and black power activism,” said Kellie Jones at Columbia University. “Harris’ recovers the cultural effluence and influence of industrial life in the Steel City and joins artist Romare Bearden and playwright August Wilson in shedding light on the unexpected, significant, and joyous details of our urban beauty.”

# # #

*Teenie Harris, Photographer: Image, Memory, History* by Cheryl Finley, Laurence Glasco, and Joe W. Trotter, is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in cooperation with Carnegie Museum of Art.

208 pp  •  11 x 10.5  •  98 b&w photos  •  100 plates  •  ISBN 978-0-8229-6174-1  •  Paper $24.95

ISBN 978-0-8229 4414-0  •  Cloth $55.00