What’s a poet with a large circle of friends, rich in words if limited in financial resources, to do when checking the names off his holiday list? For Langston Hughes, during the holiday season of 1950, the answer was to share some of his wit in homemade Christmas postcards.

In one, Hughes wrote:

IF TIMES WERE NOT SO DOGGONE HARD
I MIGHT SEND YOU A GIFT
BUT SINCE I’M BROKE AS CAN BE,
HERE’S JUST A CHRISTMAS LIFT:

MERRY,

MERRY,

CHRISTMAS!

To see more of Langston’s wit visit this exhibition at the Beinecke [1] website.

External link: http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/about/news/langston-hughes-holiday-display-thought-counts [1]