Eyewitness: The Negro In American History

William Loren Katz

The fountainhead of the historian Bill Katz’s immersion in African-American culture was his father’s passion for jazz. Ben Katz had derived more pleasure from the music and its historical roots than from his day job as an art director for an advertising agency. Bill also inherited his father’s lust for learning and political consciousness. Before he was 10 he marched in a May Day rally to support the Scottsboro Boys, nine young African-Americans falsely charged with rape in the early 1930s. Mr. Katz’s first book, *Eyewitness: The Negro in American History* (1967), broke ground by introducing a generation of students to black historical figures who had been neglected in most textbooks. Image. Mr. Katz explored the contributions of African-Americans in books like *The Black West* (1973).