

# BETWEEN THE COVERS

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RARE BOOKS

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eCATALOG 5:  
AFRICAN-  
AMERICANA



# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS eCATALOG 5: AFRICAN-AMERICANA

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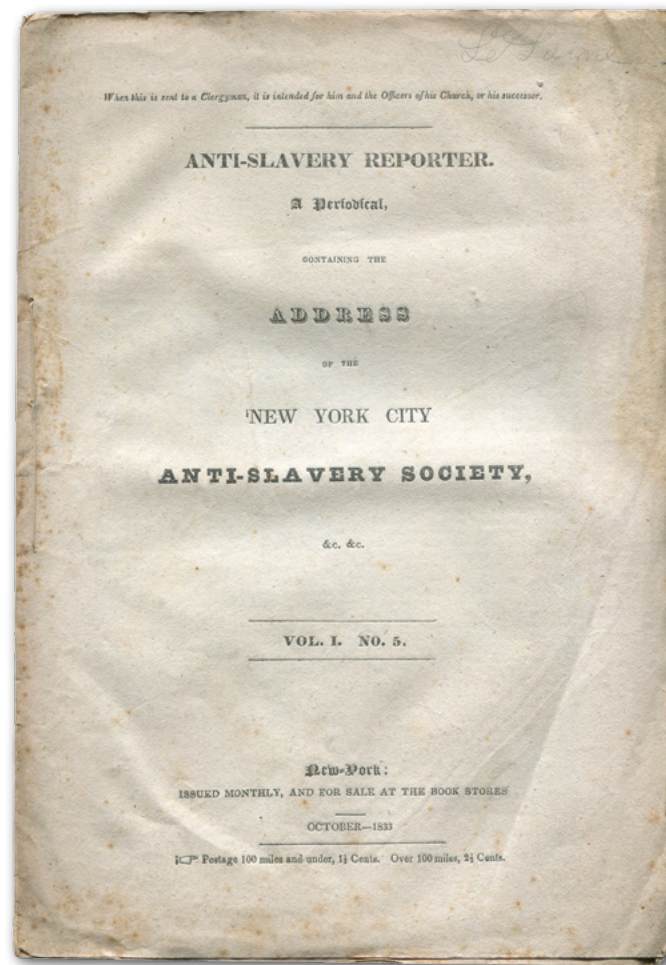
*Gift certificates available.*

Free domestic shipping on all items ordered from this catalog. Expedited and overseas orders will be sent at cost. All items insured. NJ residents will be charged current NJ sales tax. Member ABAA, ILAB. *Cover image from item 28.*

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## 1 (Abolition)

### *Anti-Slavery Reporter*

*A Periodical, Containing The Address of the New York City Anti-Slavery Society, &c. &c. Vol. I, No. 5. October, 1833*

New-York: [American Anti-Slavery Society] 1833

**\$750**

First edition. Octavo. [16] pages (paginated [65]-80). Sewn printed self-wrappers. Early owner name in pencil on front cover. Moderate foxing, corners lightly creased, else a very good copy. The first periodical published by the American Anti-Slavery Society. The *Anti-Slavery Reporter* was published from June, 1833 through November, 1833 (Vol. I, No. 1 through Vol. I, No. 6), when it was superseded by the *American Anti-Slavery Reporter*. The American Anti-Slavery Society was founded in 1833 by William Lloyd Garrison, John Greenleaf Whittier, Arthur Tappan, and others. The bulk of the text of this issue prints "The Address of the New York City Anti-Slavery Society," and also prints the "Constitution of the New York City Anti-Slavery Society," and an appendix printing "Immediate Compared with Gradual Emancipation."

[BTC#519384]

2 [Broadside]: *Marriage Certificate*

Chicago: P.P. & F. Co. [1910]

\$3000

Broadside. Measuring 16" x 20". Central image of an African-American couple in wedding attire with a minister between them holding a Bible. Below is a form with blanks to enter the names of the couple, date of the ceremony, and space for witness signatures, flanked by cherubs with two hands shaking with the sentiment "Good Luck" beneath. The central image is circled in a printed oval frame surrounded by a chain (the bond of marriage) and decorative ribbons, on a field of purple. Very good with nicks, creases and tiny tears at the edges. A cheerful broadside designed as a joyous recognition for a newly married couple to display in their home. While the publisher remains a mystery, this certificate was sold by the Consolidated Portrait & Frame Company in their 1910 catalog as "Good Luck Marriage Certificate" No. 1900. Rare. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC#538081]



**3 (Advertising)**  
**Robert E. PATTEN**

[Archive]: A Collection of Material Related to Iowan African-American Printer Robert E. Patten

[Des Moines, Iowa]: R.E. Patten and others [circa 1940s]

**\$2000**

Collection of 10 printed items and five branded pencils. Overall near fine. A modest but engaging group of material related to African-American printer and entrepreneur Robert E. Patten. Patten was born in rural Georgia of African-American and Native American lineage in 1883; he moved to Des Moines around 1910 and opened his print shop in the front of his home in the primarily African-American Center Street neighborhood. The Center Street neighborhood had the largest concentration of African-Americans in Iowa when it was leveled to make way for I-235 in 1960. Patten was also an entrepreneur as evidenced by three included circulars for the Nutri-Vac company, likely not printed by Patten but overprinted with ordering information featuring his name and that of his son, E. Hobart De Patten. (A Nutri-Vac envelope printed by him is also included.) Patten also marketed and sold items related to Black-owned businesses including Lucky Heart (cosmetics) Company and local Black entrepreneur Lawrence J. Chapman and his Uneedor Chemical Company. In addition to being a job printer and photographer, Patten was also an idealist. An earnest printed circular included in this archive strongly advises permanent disarmament by both Capitalists and Communists. Two printed anatomical “manikins” taken from a published book are stamped “R.E. Patten School of Co-operative Philosophy, Evangel of the New Age of Justice.” A modest but diverse and intriguing archive of material related to a eclectic African-American printer and entrepreneur, who for 50 years worked serving an African-American neighborhood in Des Moines. For more information on his life and work, see the Fall 1996 issue of *Iowa Heritage Illustrated*, published in conjunction with the exhibition “Patten’s Neighborhood: Memories of the Center Street Community” at the Iowa Historical Building. A list of items is below.

1. [Handbill Caption Title]: “The Schism Between Capitalism and Communism Has Caused World-Wide Irrationalism; headed for Nihilism and Annihilation if we fail to Disarm.” Measuring approximately 4½" x 8½". Illustrated with images of dogs chasing their tails, with a lengthy political message verso, both sides signed in type R. E. “Peace Patten.”

2. An ornamented envelope, printed by Patten, advertising “Nutri-Vac Circulars.” The devices in the upper-left corner over-print the name and address of one “Luther H. S. Brown” of Des Moines.

3. Three “Nutri-Vac” pamphlets or circulars, likely not printed by Patten, but all three overprinted with the names of R.E. and / or E. Hobart De Patten with their 823 14th St. address in red.

4. Six pencils advertising Patten’s print shop at 823 14th St. in Des Moines (two lacking their erasers).

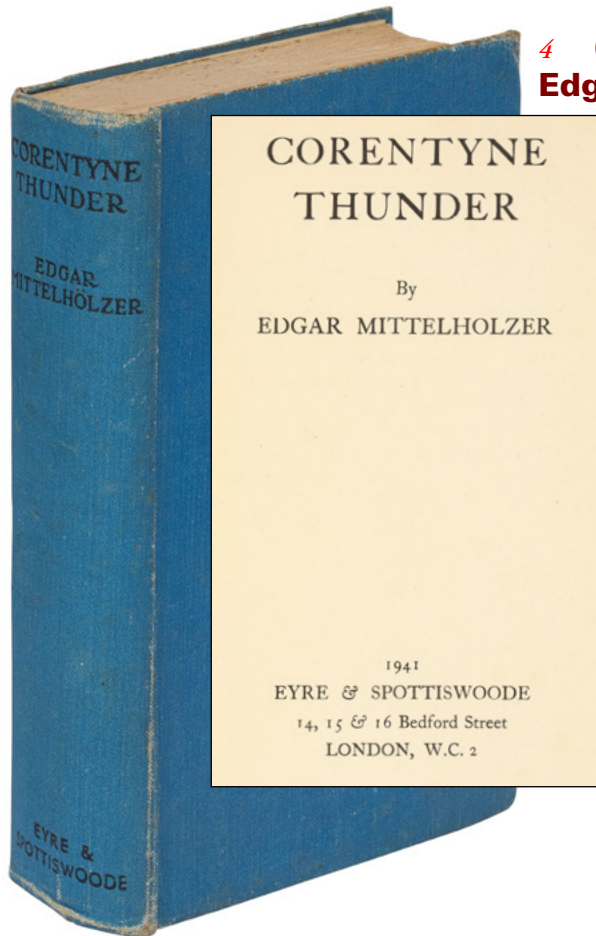
5. Engraver’s maquette, measuring approximately 8¼" x 4½", for a “U.B.C. Brick Building Fund,” with Patten’s “Disarm Down to Bare Hands” imagery on the left. Label of an Oklahoma City Engraving company on verso.

6. Male and female folding anatomical “manikins,” taken from *The Modern Home Physician: A New Encyclopedia of Medical Knowledge* (Wm. H. Wise, 1939), each “manikin” stamped “R.E. Patten School of Co-Operative Philosophy, Evangel of the New Age of Justice.” With the instruction sheet and envelope; the envelope is **Signed (?)** “R.E. Patten” and dated 1939. [BTC#461951]



## His Rare First Book

### 4 (Afro-Caribbean) Edgar MITTELHÖLZER



#### *Corentyne Thunder*

London: Eyre & Spottiswoode 1941

**\$4500**

First edition. Binding cocked and moderately worn with some spotting along the top edge and half-title, tiny inked note on front fly, very good, lacking the dust jacket. The Guyanese author's rare first book, and according to some, the birth of the novel in Guyana. According to Louis James in his introduction to a 1970 reprint, Mittelhölzer had an extremely difficult time getting his first novel published. The novel was finally accepted by Thornton Butterworth Ltd. in 1939; the actual contract was overweight and Mittelhölzer had to borrow 12 shillings for the postman. Butterworth then went into liquidation and it wasn't until 1941 that Eyre & Spottiswoode, their stock destroyed in the blitz, bought the rights to Butterworth's titles and *Corentyne Thunder*. The book was published in the spring of that year, with cancelled title pages on Butterworth sheets. However, "[i]t is asserted by those who knew Mittelhölzer that a further fire then destroyed all but the odd copy, and the extreme rarity of the book supports this." James does go on to say that Eyre & Spottiswoode have no record of such a fire and his own research turned up no evidence of one, but he also notes that a publisher on the verge of bankruptcy might well have printed a very small impression of a first work by a totally unknown Guyanese author. A questionably insensitive foreword states Mittelhölzer "is a half-caste of mixed English, French, German and Negro blood. All his principal characters are half-castes, and they are therefore presented with that intimacy of view which comes with self-revelation." A rare and important novel. [BTC#536770]

## Eslanda Robeson's Copy

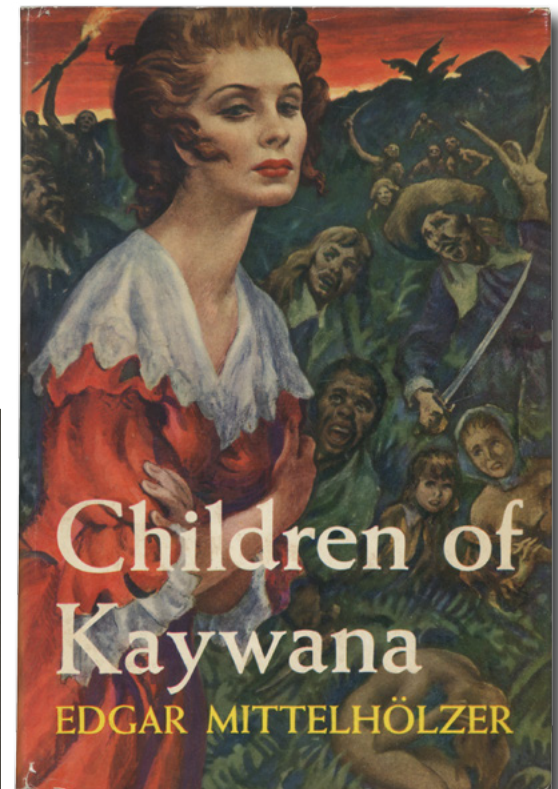
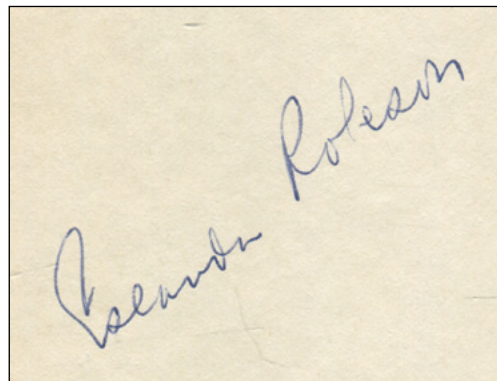
### 5 (Afro-Caribbean) Edgar MITTELHÖLZER

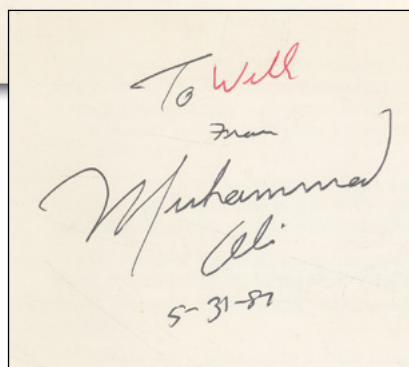
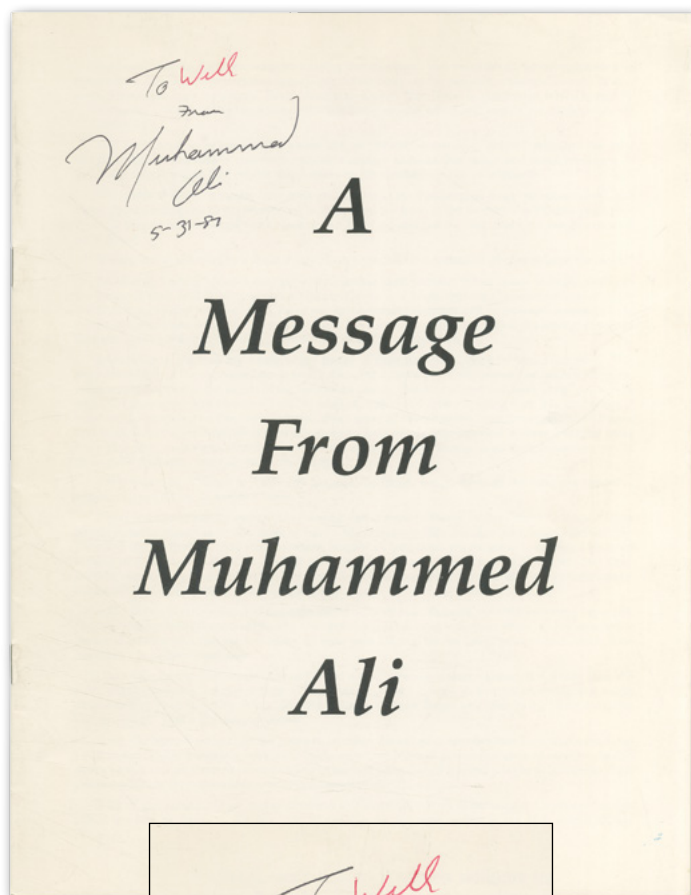
#### *Children of Kaywana*

New York: The John Day Company (1952)

**\$1000**

First American edition. Boards a bit sunned at the edges, near fine in a price-clipped, very good dust jacket with a hint of spine sunning, light internal foxing and a bit of edgewear. Eslanda Robeson's copy with her ownership Signature on the front pastedown and "Robeson" written again on the front fly. Robeson was an author, anthropologist, civil rights activist, and the wife and business manager of Paul Robeson. A novel set in British Guiana. [BTC#534661]





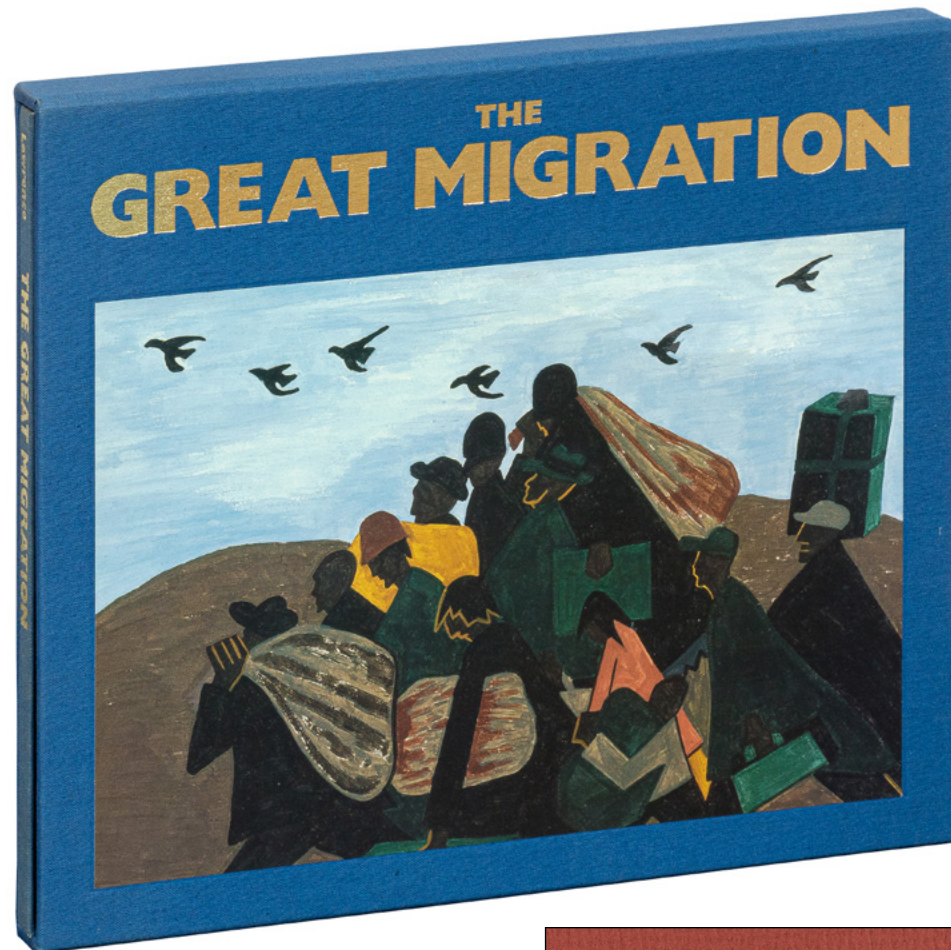
**6 Muhammed ALI**

*A Message from Muhammed Ali*

[No place: no publisher circa 1987]

**\$4500**

First edition. Quarto. 8pp. Stapled printed wrappers. Fine. Inscribed on the front cover: "To Will from Muhammed Ali. 5-31-87." The name "Will" is in different colored ink, but appears to be in Ali's hand, as is the rest of the (apparently pre-written) presentation. Ali on white supremacy, Christianity, and Islam. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC#541079]



**7 (Art)**

**Jacob LAWRENCE**

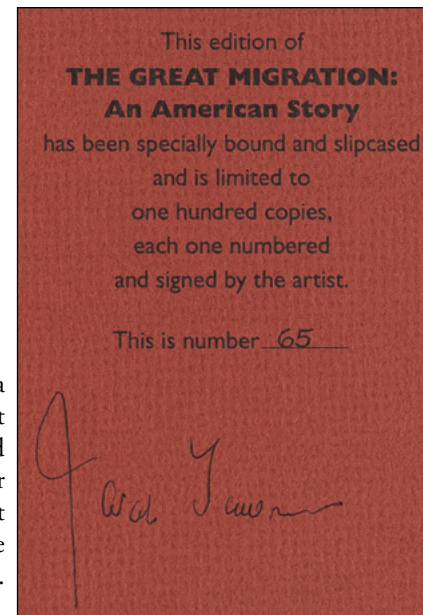
*The Great Migration:  
An American Story*

New York: Museum of Modern Art / The Phi  
(1993)

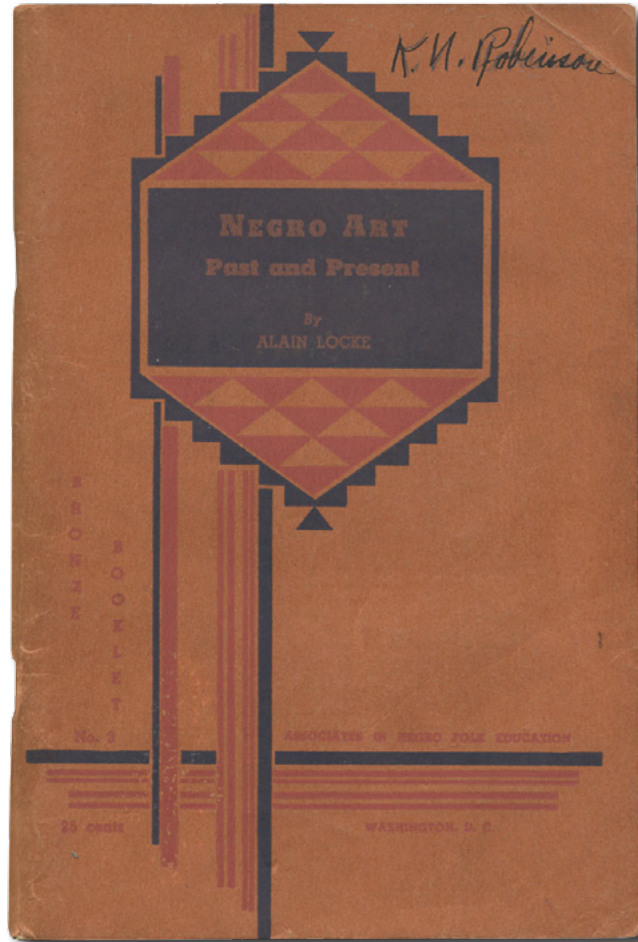
**\$3000**

First edition. Oblong quarto with slipcase. Spine a trifle toned else fine in about fine slipcase with a bit of sunning on the topedge. One of 100 numbered copies Signed by Lawrence, this is copy number 65. Prints a series of paintings depicting the great migration of Southern African-Americans to the North around the time of the first World War.

[BTC#532739]



## Herbert Aptheker's Copy

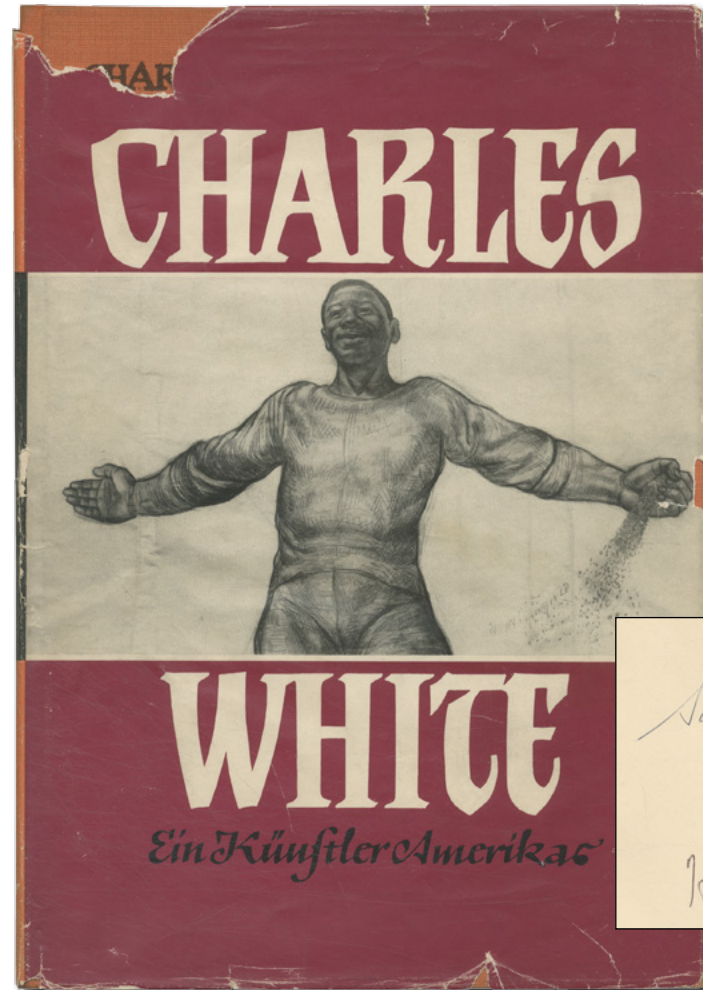


**8 (Art)**  
**Alain LOCKE**  
*Negro Art Past and Present*

Washington, D.C.: Associates in Negro Folk Education 1936

**\$850**

First edition, wrapped issue. Octavo. 122pp. Owner name on front cover and title page, small slice of the margin of one leaf cut away, a very good or better copy. One in the series of Bronze Booklets. Increasingly scarce. [BTC#532516]



**9 (Art)**  
**(Charles WHITE)**  
**Sidney FINKELSTEIN**

*Charles White: Ein Künstler Amerikas [An American Artist]*

Dresden: VEB Verlag der Kunst [1955]

**\$850**

First edition. Introduction by Sidney Finkelstein. Text in German. Slim quarto. Heavily illustrated, including one color plate. Orange cloth decorated in brown. Fine in a good only dust jacket with splits and tiny chips, a faint dampstain on the cover, and a few larger chips along the top edge. **Signed** by Finkelstein on the front fly. Historian and activist Herbert Aptheker's copy with his owner **Signature** ("H. Aptheker") below Finkelstein's signature. Also includes a biography of White. [BTC#532775]

**10 (Business)**

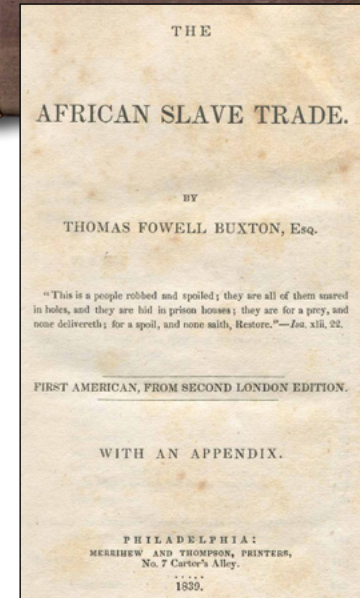
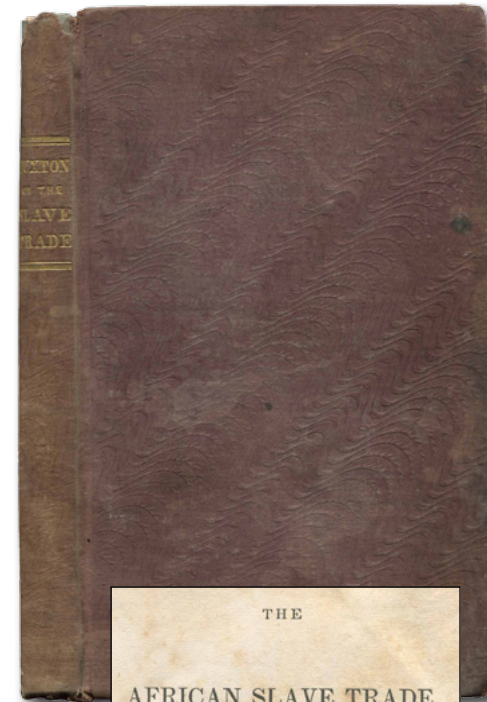
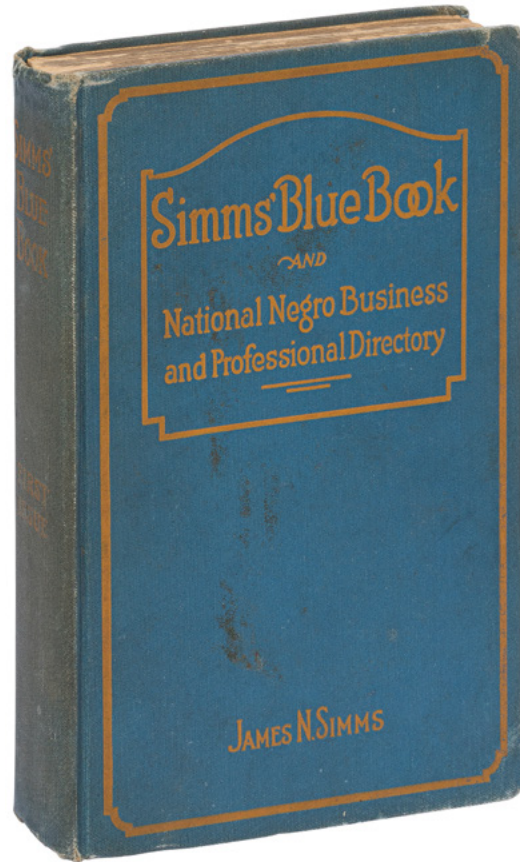
**James N. SIMMS**

*Simms' Blue Book and National Negro Business and Professional Directory*

Chicago: James N. Simms 1923

**\$3500**

First edition. Tall octavo. Blue cloth lettered in orange. 305pp. Many advertisements. Illustrated from photographs. Light stains on boards, top corners a little bumped, top edge soiled, a sound very good copy. An early attempt to compile a national directory of Black professionals and Black-owned businesses. Among the ads is one for the Micheaux Film Corporation picturing Oscar Micheaux with an actor, and a cameraman with his camera. Very uncommon. [BTC#542855]



**11 Thomas Fowell BUXTON**

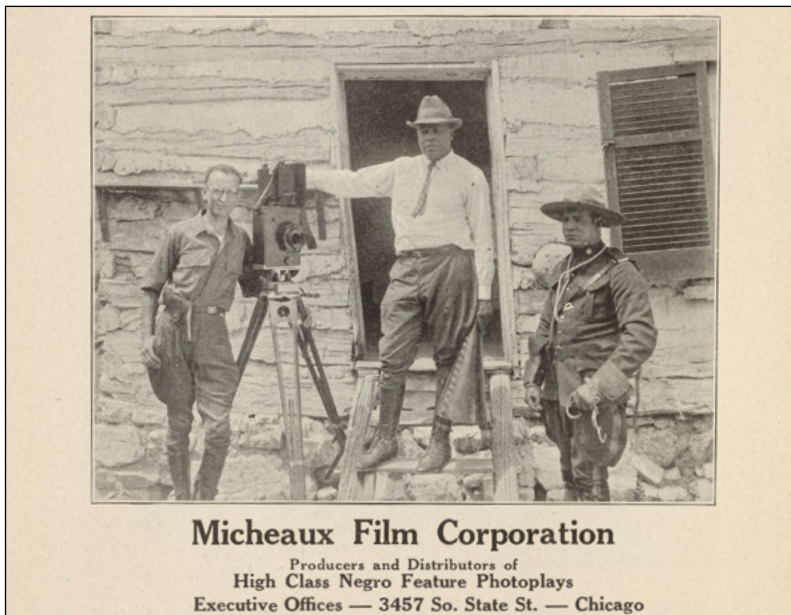
*The African Slave Trade*

Philadelphia: Merrihew and Thompson 1839

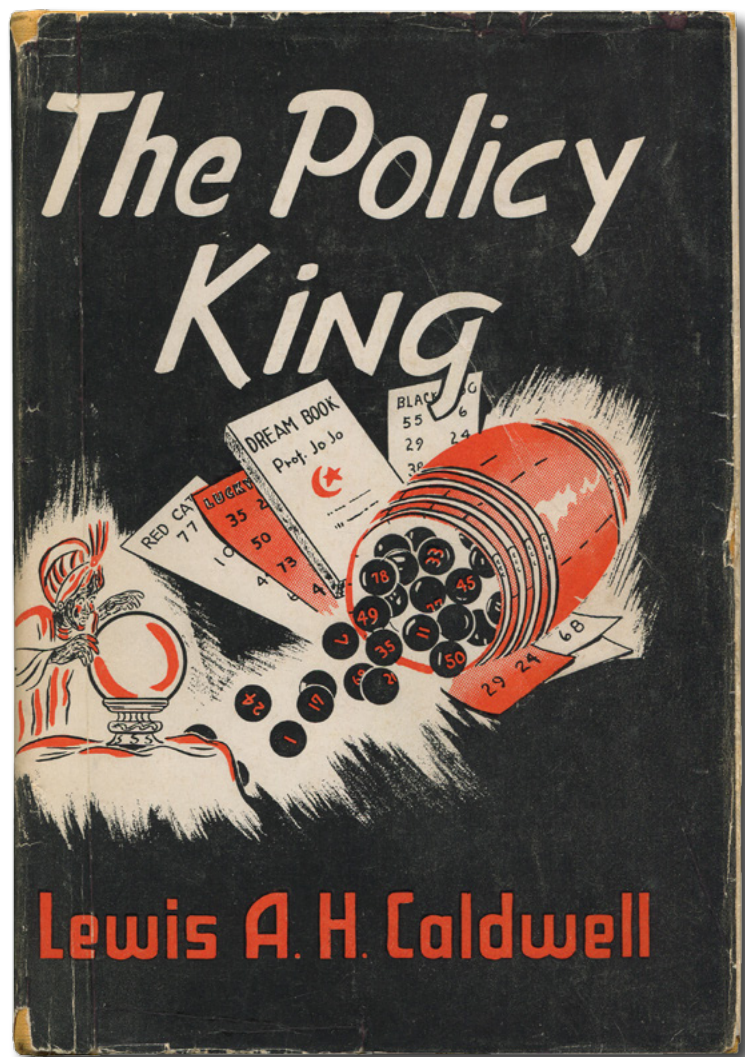
**\$1000**

First American edition, from the second London edition. 12mo. 188pp. Publisher's ribbon cloth gilt. Stain mostly confined to the foredge and faintly on the boards, a bit of foxing, a very good copy with slight loss on the cloth at the crown. The first American edition is very scarce.

[BTC#533352]







**12 Lewis A.H. CALDWELL**

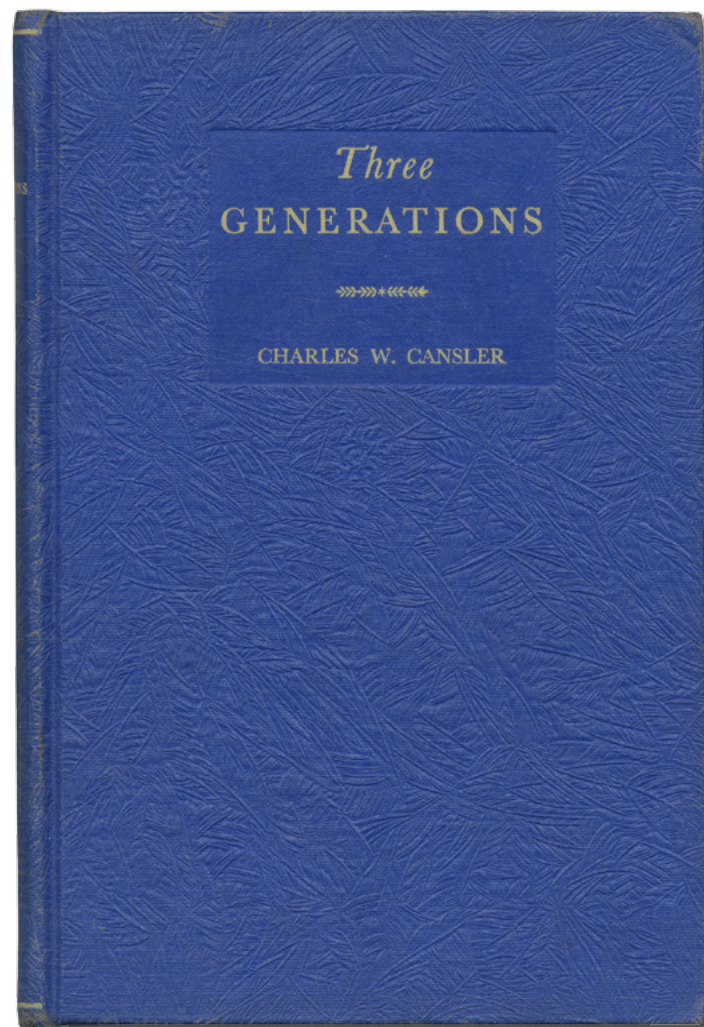
*The Policy King*

Chicago: New Vistas Publishing House (1945)

**\$2000**

First edition. About fine in attractive very good dust jacket with a few small chips and tears, mostly at the spine ends. The only novel by this African-American author examines the numbers racket and its affect on a Black family. A scarce book by an author who wrote his Master's thesis on the subject of "The Policy Game in Chicago," 10 years prior to publishing this, his only work of fiction. Laid in is a typed page about policy numbers. Very scarce.

[BTC#539148]



**13 Charles W. CANSLER**

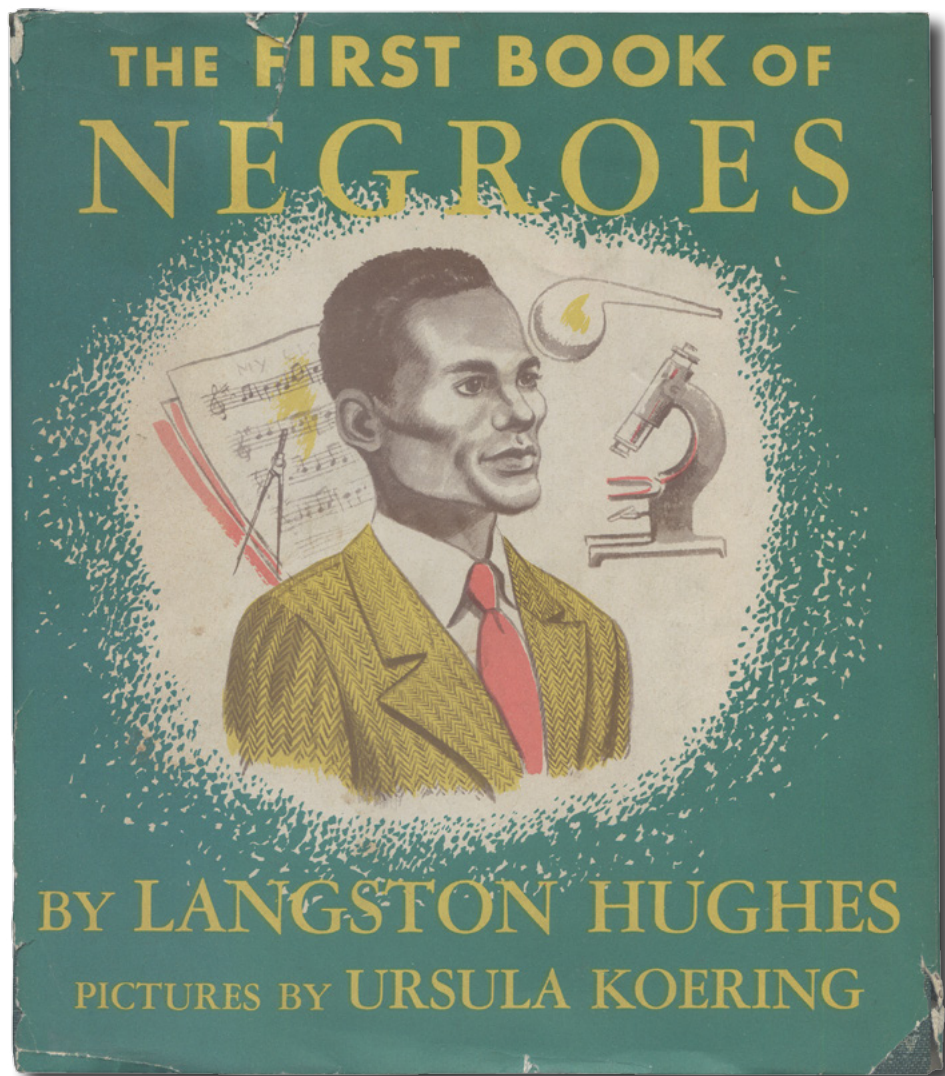
*Three Generations: The Story of a Colored Family in Eastern Tennessee*

[Kingsport, Tennessee]: Privately printed / [Kingsport Press] 1939

**\$1000**

First edition. Octavo. 173pp. Blue cloth with title in gilt. Light rubbing on the boards, a near fine copy. A very uncommon family history written by an African-American. Distribution was obviously very limited, and we haven't encountered another copy in a number of years.

[BTC#542857]



**14 (Children)**

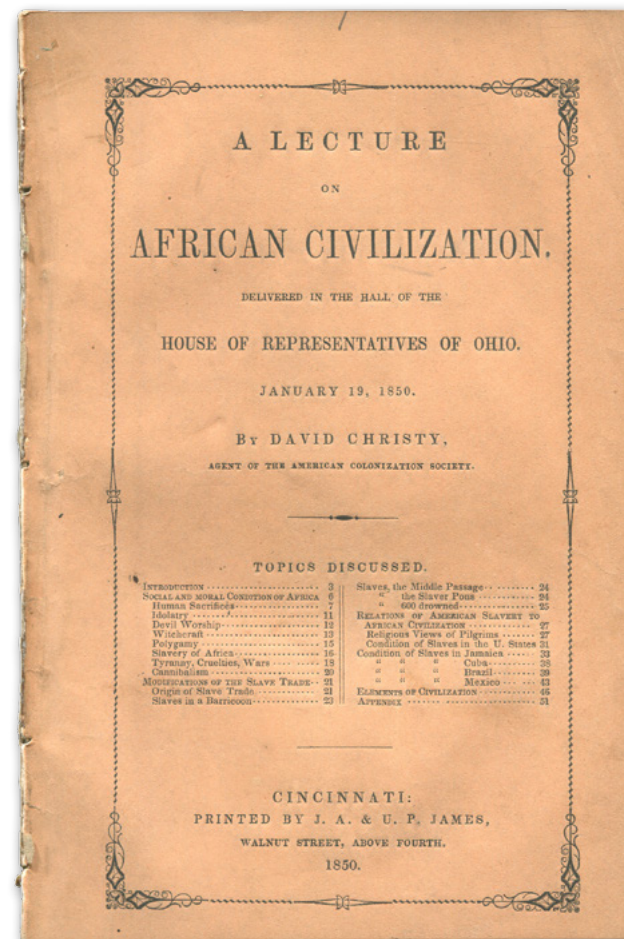
**Langston HUGHES**

*The First Book of Negroes*

New York: Franklin Watts 1952

**\$650**

First edition. Illustrated by Ursula Koering. Neat owner name, a little spotting on the boards, very good or better in good plus dust jacket with modest chips and tears. A surprisingly scarce children's book, much more so than the other books authored by Hughes in the "First Book" series. [BTC#540672]



**15 David CHRISTY**

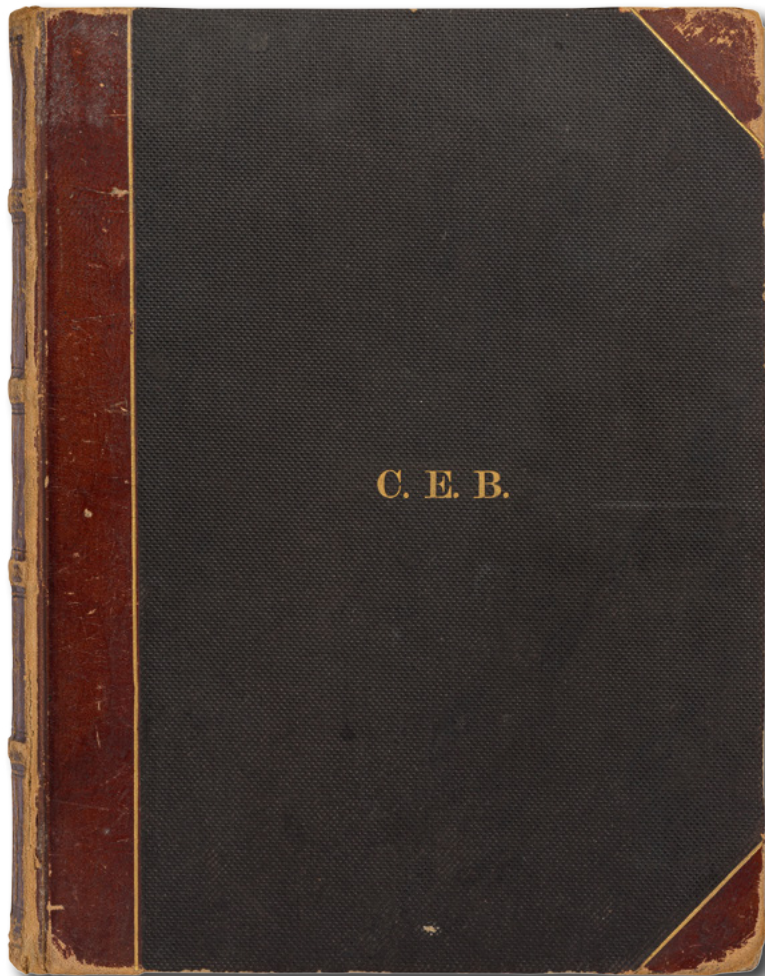
*A Lecture on African Civilization, Including a Brief Outline of the Social and Moral Condition of Africa; and the Relations of American Slavery to African Civilization. Delivered in the Hall of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, January 19, 1850*

*By David Christy, Agent of The American Colonization Society*

Cincinnati: Printed by J.A. & U.P. James 1850

**\$1000**

First edition. Octavo. 52pp. Original sewn tan printed wrappers. Spine of original wrappers eroded away with paper residue and notching on spine where once bound, otherwise a near fine copy. Uncommon. The American Colonization Society was founded in 1817, with the goal of returning freed slaves to Africa. In 1822, the Society established the colony of Liberia and by 1867 more than 13,000 of the formerly enslaved had emigrated to Liberia. The topics discussed in this lecture include: Social and Moral Condition of Africa (including Slavery within Africa), Modifications of the Slave Trade (including the Origin of the Slave Trade), Relations of American Slavery to African Civilization, etc. [BTC#520940]



C. E. B.

## 16 (Christy's Minstrels and Stephen C. Foster)

*Bound Volume of Vocal Sheet Music, including many Rare and Important Minstrel Songs with Illustrated Lithographic Covers, 1847-55*

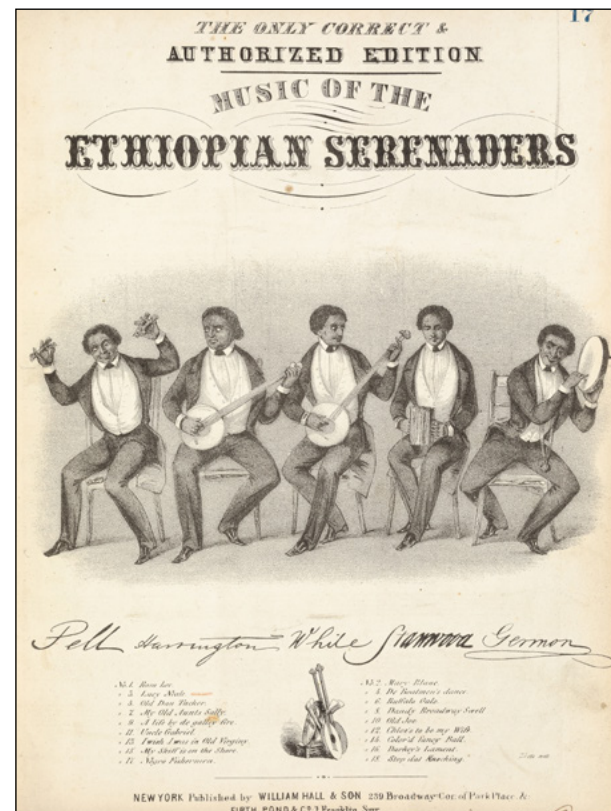
(1847-55)

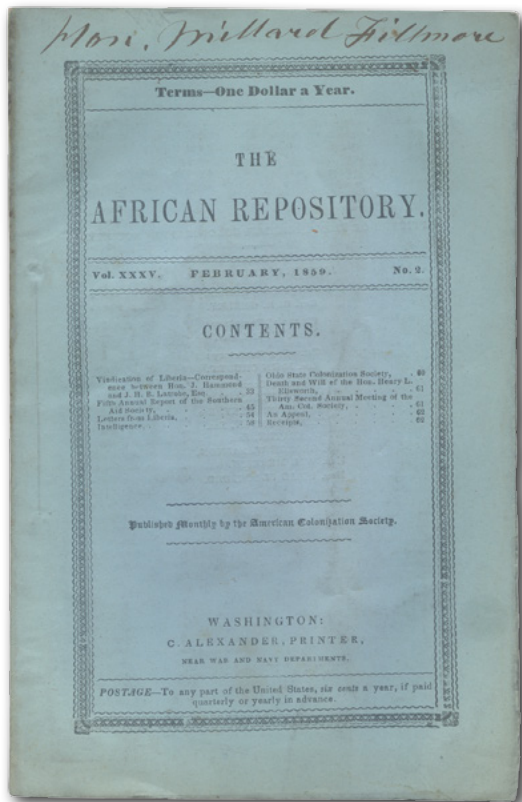
**\$4500**

Small folio. Measuring 9½" x 12¼". Contemporary half calf and pebbled cloth over boards, gilt spine with raised bands, owner's initials "C.E.B." stamped in gold on front cover, marbled endpapers and edges. Near contemporary ink owner name on front fly leaf ("J.F. Macdonald"). Contains 38 piano vocal sheet music scores, including 21 minstrel songs, a total of 227 pages, ink number stamped at the upper right corner (recto and verso) of each leaf. The joints and edges of the boards are worn, scattered foxing, good or better overall, with a few covers cropped as usual.

A unique, custom bound collection of sheet music scores all with original covers, over half of which (21) are minstrel songs by Edwin Christy, Stephen Foster, W.D. Corrister, among other lyricists and composers, including songs written and composed for various popular minstrel troupes. Among the 21 minstrel songs, 11 are illustrated with lithographic covers, and most are scarce: the volume contains one minstrel song with no copies in OCLC, two with only one holding, and five with only three holdings. Included among the other 17 scores are several popular songs and ballads, most with music composed by J.R. Thomas.

An uncommon volume with a significant number of minstrel songs. A detailed list of all 21 minstrel songs is available. [\[BTC#535427\]](#)





**17 (Colonization)  
(Millard FILLMORE)**

*The African Repository*  
Vol. XXXV. No. 2

Washington [DC]: Published by the American Colonization Society [by] C. Alexander, Printer February, 1859

**\$2400**

First edition. Octavo. P. 35-64. Pale blue printed wrappers. Very faint and narrow tidemark along the very edge of the pages, very good or better. Signature of former President Millard Fillmore at top of the front wrap. Fillmore stood for the Union but was also a Nativist who would likely have viewed the Colonization of Liberia by the freed slaves as a convenient fix for the vexing problem of the enslaved that he faced as president.

[BTC#540670]

**18 Marc CONNELLY**

*The Green Pastures*

New York: Farrar and Rinehart 1929

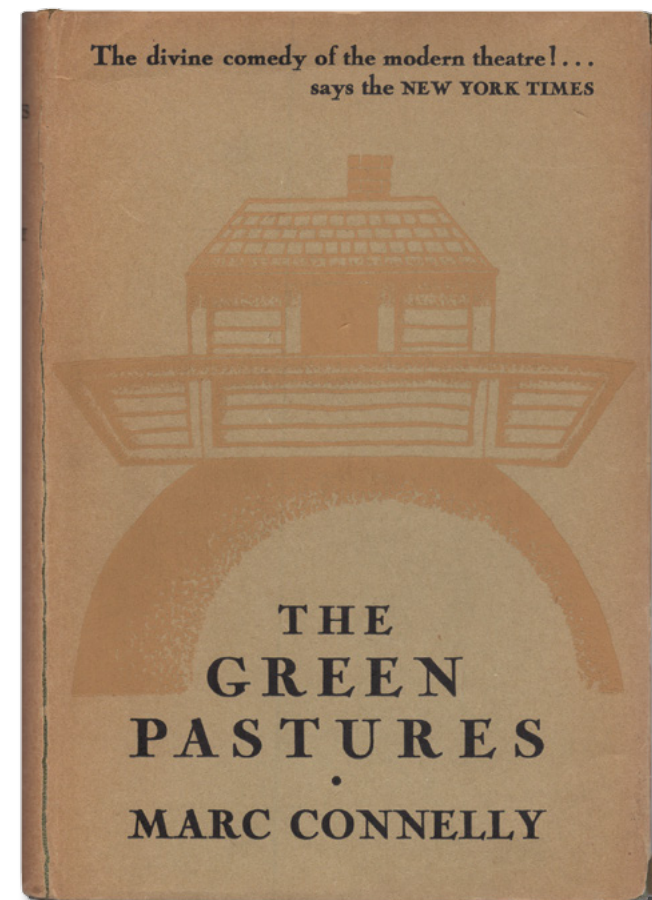
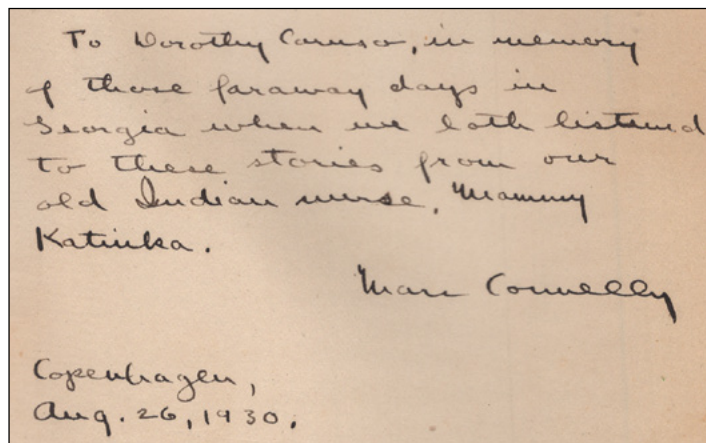
**\$800**

First edition, trade issue. Boards stained, with some tidemarks in the gutters of the first dozen leaves, externally fair only, internally about very

good in good dust jacket split along the front gutter and toned (possibly supplied to the book, but as we received it). Nicely Inscribed by the author: "To Dorothy Caruso, in memory of those faraway days in Georgia where we both listened to these stories from our old Indian nurse, Mammy Katinka. Marc Connelly. Copenhagen. Aug. 26, 1930." The recipient is likely the American socialite and wife of Enrico Caruso, and presumably is at least in part facetious, as neither Connolly or Caruso appear ever to have lived in Georgia.

An intriguing copy of the play, a musical comedy based on white novelist Roark Bradford's *Ol' Man Adam an' His Chillun*, a retelling of Old Testament stories based on the beliefs of Southern African-Americans, and which featured a large cast of African-Americans during its celebrated New York run. Described by Bruce Kellner in *The Harlem Renaissance: A Historical Dictionary* as "one white writer's version of another white writer's version of one black preacher's version of religion," it nevertheless was well-written and enjoyed enormous popularity, winning the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and running for several years. Despite opposition from Southern theatre owners, Warner Brothers produced an entertaining and successful 1936 film version directed by Connelly, with Rex Ingram as "De Lawd." *Blockson 101.*

[BTC#436624]



19 (Cuisine)

[Original Partially Printed Receipt]:

**Boarding House for Colored [sic] Cooks & Stewards**

**Littleton Williams. Quai Casimir Delavigne No. 9. Havre.**

**Ship George West. Feb 15th, 1858**

[Le Havre]: Imp. [H.] Bret 1858

**\$3500**

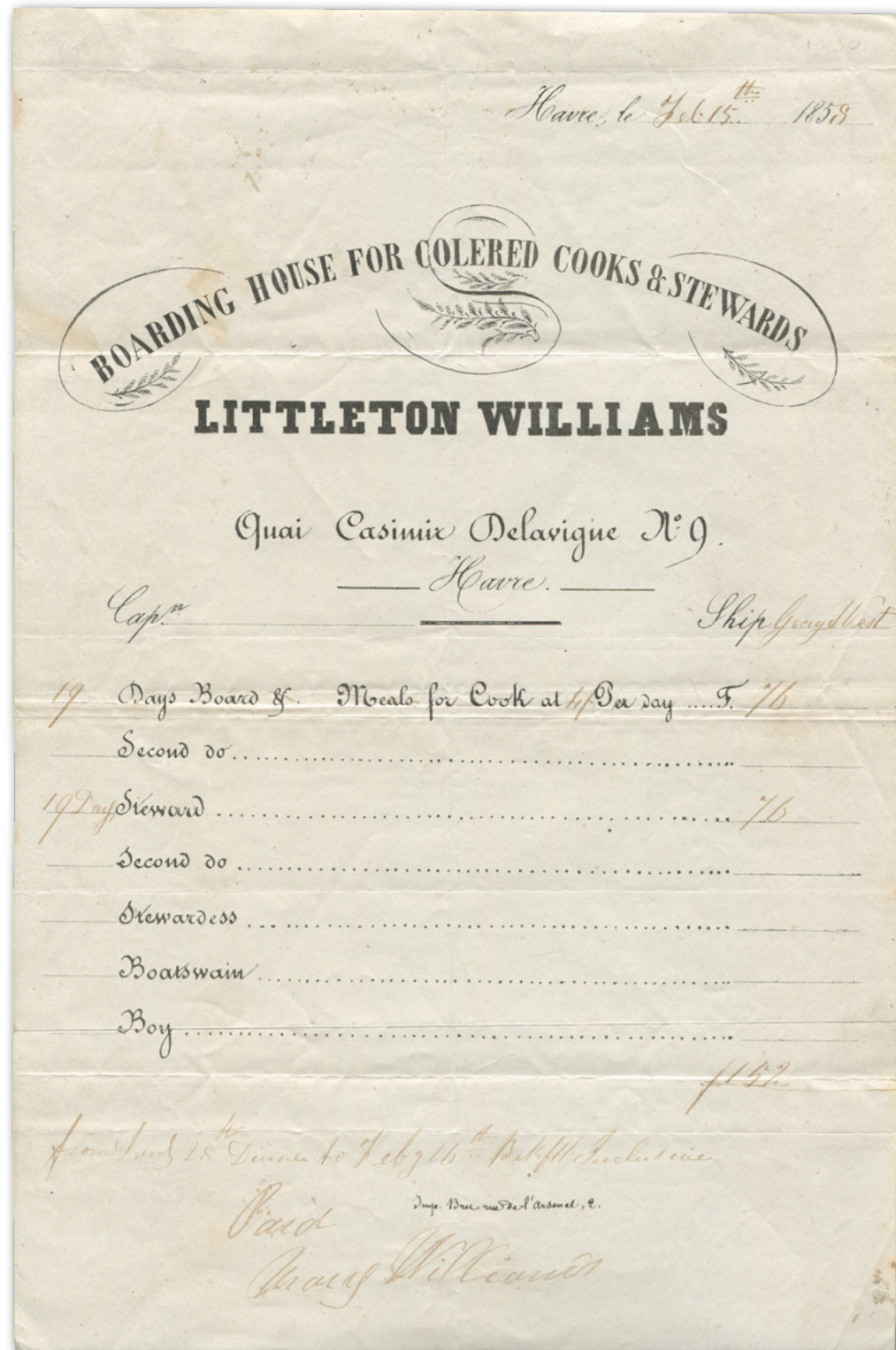
Original printed receipt. Dates, names, and fees completed in manuscript. Docketed on verso: "f 152 - Cook & Steward's Board." Measuring 7½" x 11½". Old folds, slight fading of manuscript portions, still easily readable and well-preserved, near fine.

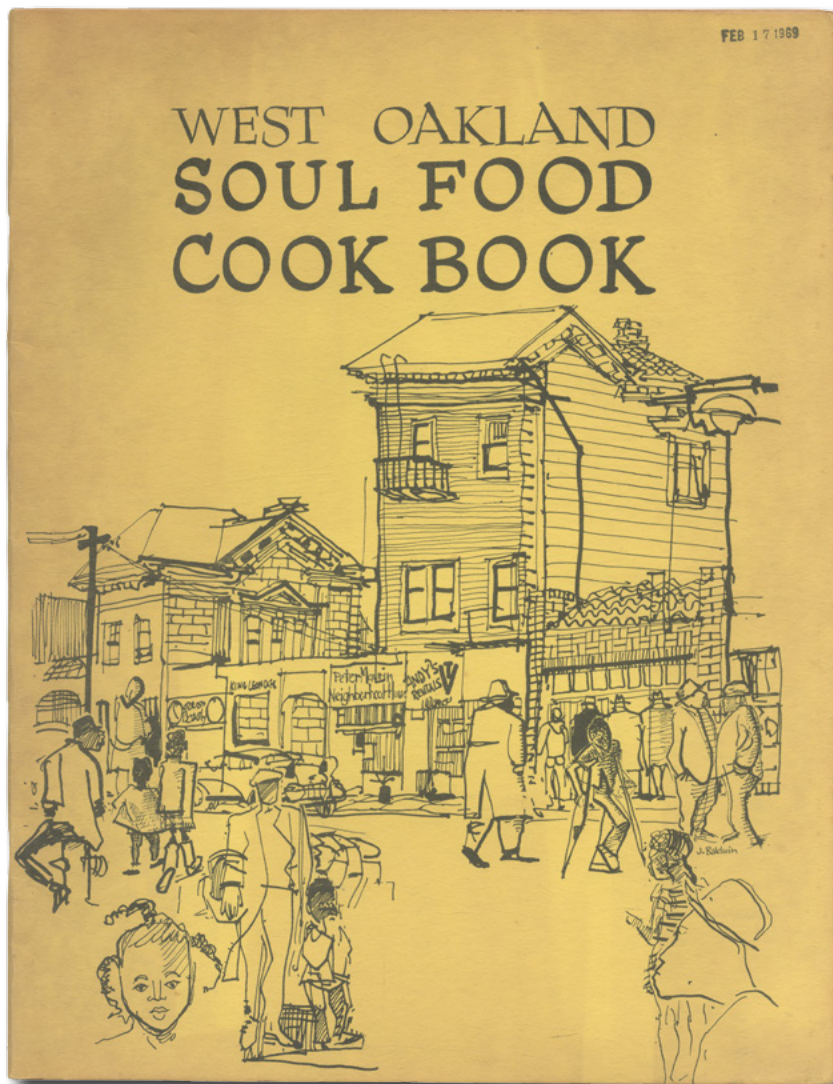
An unexpected record of African-American expatriate entrepreneurship, and direct documentation of the involvement of free Blacks in the antebellum maritime trades. We have been unable to trace the precise identity of either the Littleton Williams or the Mary Williams whose signature appears on this receipt, but from context we think it likely they were African-American entrepreneurs, free people of color or formerly enslaved individuals, who having found safe harbor in the port of Le Havre established one of the few independent livings available to them. That their boarding house catered exclusively to people of color suggests that France in 1858, though long free of slavery, retained the racist trappings of colonialism.

It would appear that at the time of this voyage, the ship *George West*, owned by George Graves, Jr. of Newburyport, was engaged in the cotton trade between New Orleans and Liverpool. We find brief narrative references to the ship in two early 20<sup>th</sup> Century works: "The ship *George West*, Capt. Robert Crouch...sailed from home port for New Orleans in 1855. They were detained a long time at New Orleans. Cotton speculation was active among ship-masters... finally the vessel sailed with a drunken crew for Liverpool...and returned to Philadelphia with a cargo of railroad iron and passengers..."

Five years later, we find her in the East India trade, returning to Falmouth in the Fall of 1862, at which point she sailed for Liverpool to avoid being attacked by Confederate cruisers. She was sold to British owners in 1862, probably for scrap (see: Cutter, *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts*, v.III, 1908; and Lindsey, *Old Marblehead Sea Captains and the Ships in Which They Sailed*, 1915, p.83).

A most unusual document, and a potential portal into multiple avenues of research, not least the question of the extent of African-American entrepreneurship on the Continent prior to the Civil War. Based on our cursory research, this appears to be a mostly unexplored topic; but given the known extensive participation of free Blacks in the antebellum maritime trades it is reasonable to conclude that Littleton Williams, whoever he may have been, was not the first nor the only African-American to seek self-determination in the relatively tolerant atmosphere of continental Europe. [BTC#534277]





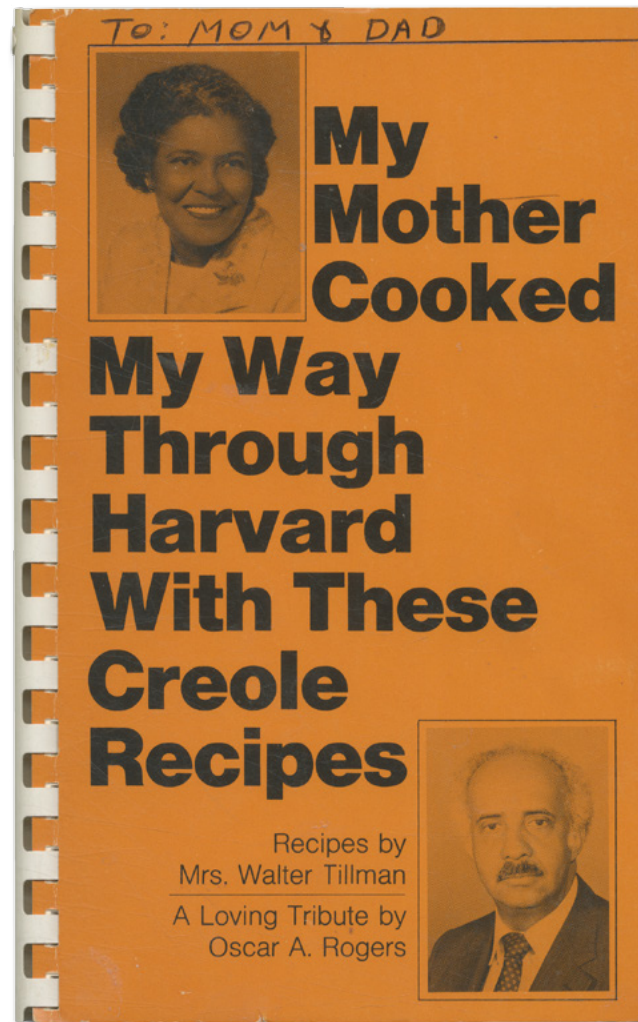
**20 (Cuisine)**

**Dorothy KUFFMAN, edited by**  
*West Oakland Soul Food Cook Book*

West Oakland, (California): Peter Maurin Neighborhood House (1963)

**\$1200**

First edition. Quarto. 47pp. Illustrated by John Baldwin and Audrey DeJournette. Stapled illustrated yellow wrappers. Oakland area library stamp, tape remnant inside front wrap, tiny date stamp on front wrap, the cheap paper of the text modestly toned but supple and stable, very good or better. An attractively illustrated self-published community cook book, packed with soul food recipes from local folk. Scarce. *The Jemima Code*, p. 98 [BTC#548108]



**21 (Cuisine)**

**Mrs. Walter TILLMAN and Oscar A. ROGERS**

*My Mother Cooked My Way Through Harvard With These Creole Recipes*

(Orangeburg, South Carolina): The Author 1977

**\$1000**

Second edition. Illustrated chapter titles by Anne Marie Kolb. Introduction by Oscar A. Rogers, Jr. Comb-bound card covers. 102pp. Light wear, gift inscription on cover and one brief inked note next to a recipe, near fine. Over 200 recipes published as a tribute to Rogers' mother; Rogers was President of Claflin College, Orangeburg, South Carolina, at the time. *OCLC* notes a first edition published in 1972 by the University College and Press of Mississippi. We note only four copies of this second edition in *OCLC*. *The Jemima Code* p.135. [BTC#534775]

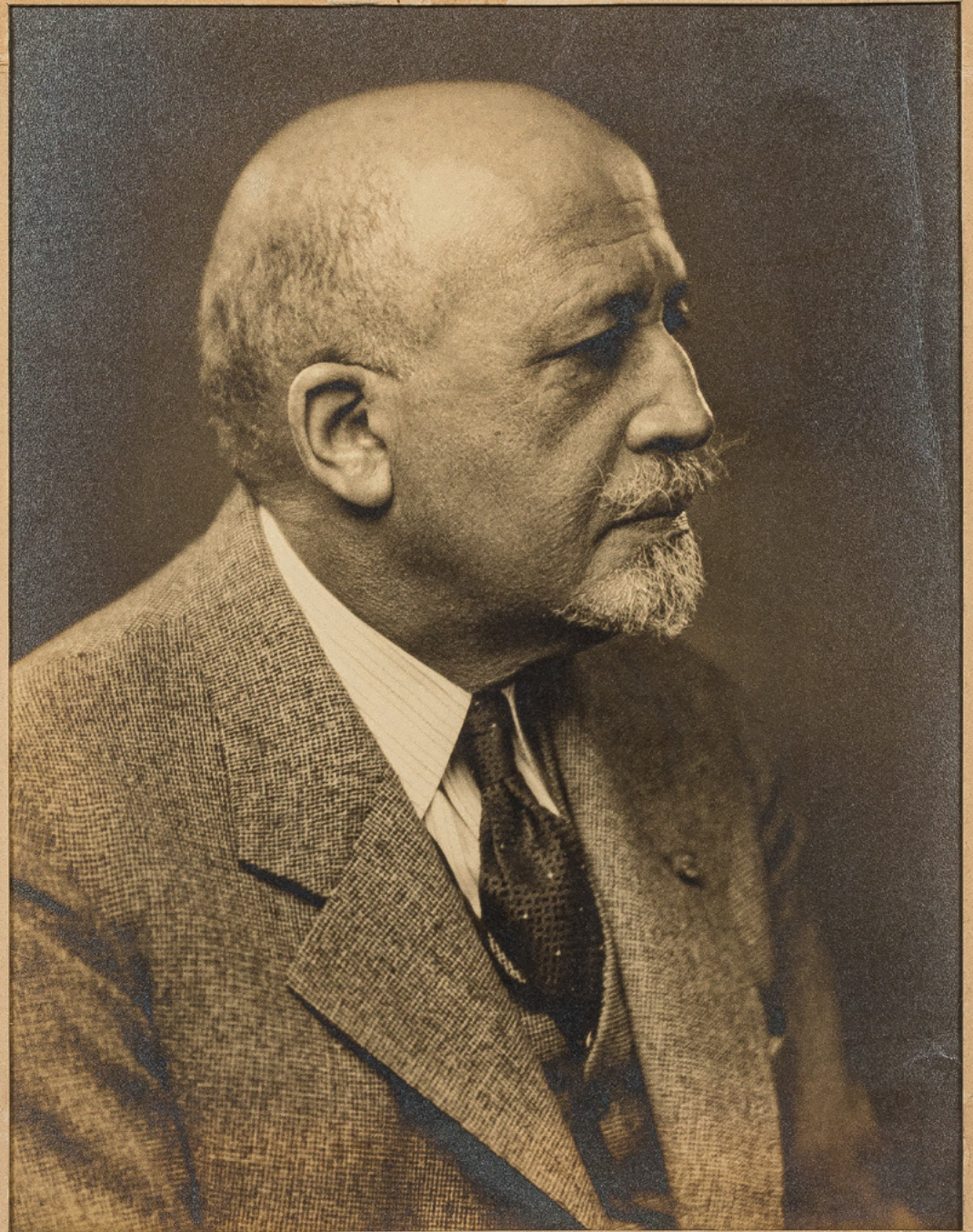
**22 W.E.B. Du BOIS*****Inscribed Portrait Photograph***

[1944]

**\$9500**

Large portrait photograph of W.E.B. Du Bois. Image is matted to approximately 10" x 13". The image shows a touch of oxidation at the edges but is otherwise both striking and fine. The mat has some age-toning and light creases. Photographer's pencil mark "Gach Bros. N.Y." on the mat. Du Bois has Inscribed on the mat below the image: "For George A. Towns & Family. 1897 - 1944. W.E.B. Du Bois." Framed in a modern, but period style frame, with a sleeve on the verso that holds the original photographer's cardboard mount.

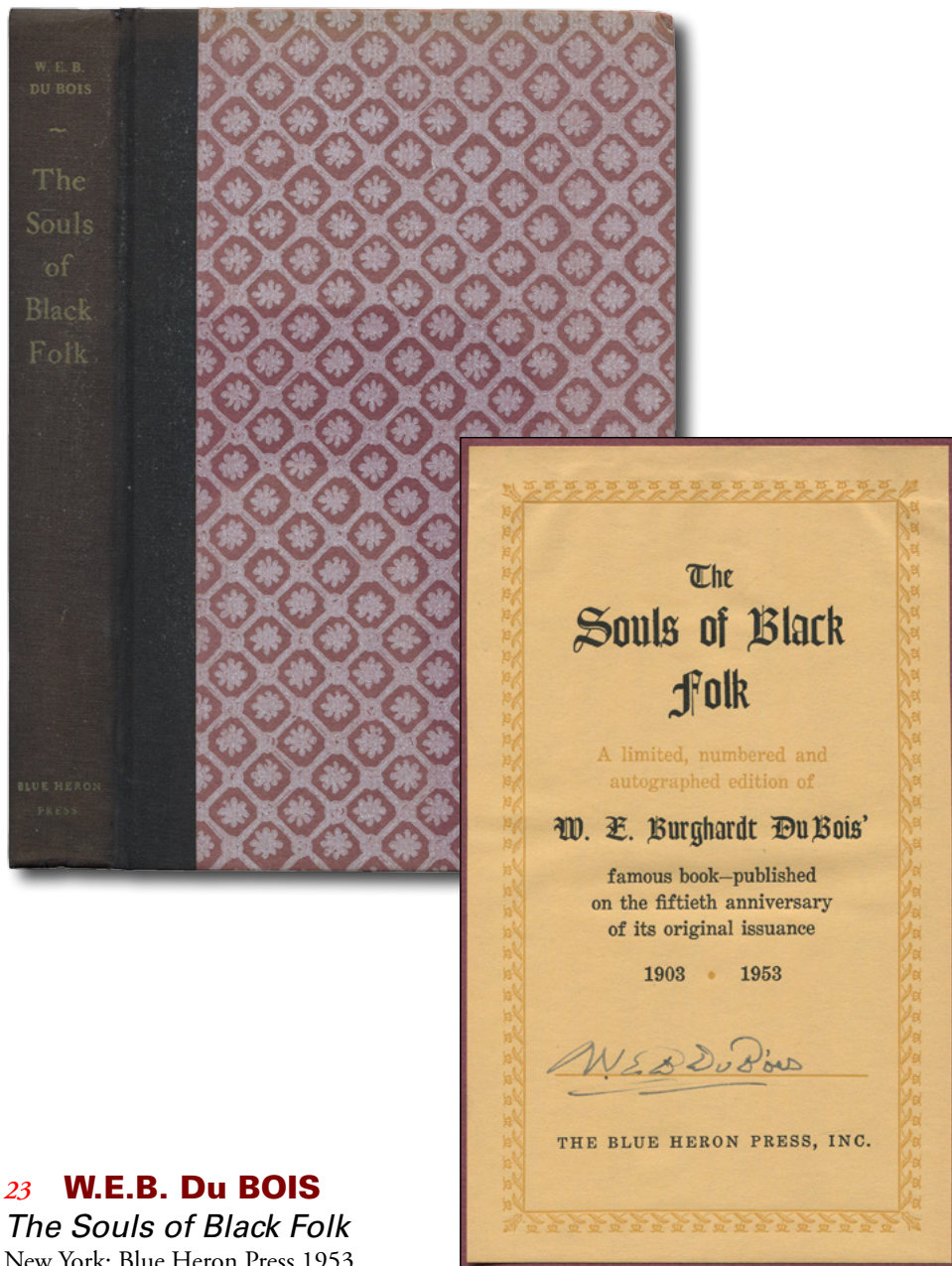
Towns (1870-1960) was an educator, author, and community activist. A member of the Harvard University Class of 1900, Towns was later affiliated with Atlanta University, first as a student, then professor and finally as an active alumnus. One of his most notable contributions was as founder and editor of the *Crimson and Gray*, the Atlanta University Alumni Association monthly newsletter. He was a member of the class of 1894 which also included his close friend James Weldon Johnson, with whom he corresponded until Johnson's death. He was active in the community as a member of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, the Citizen's League, the Boulé of Atlanta (Sigma Pi Phi), and the Community Chest. Most of his archive now resides at the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University, including extensive correspondence with Du Bois. [BTC#89783]



For George A. Towns & Family  
1897 - 1944

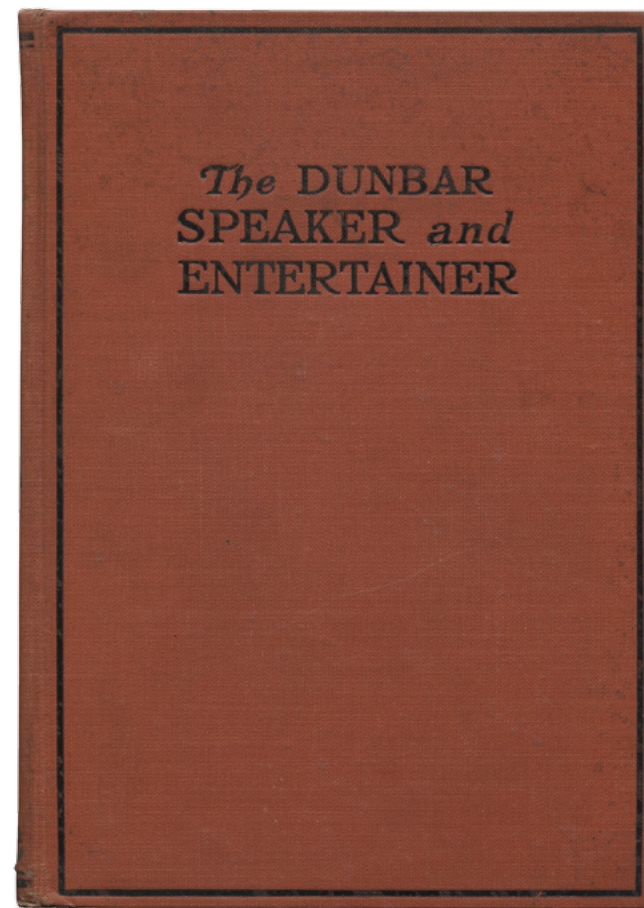
W.E.B. Du Bois

Gach Bros  
N.Y.



**23 W.E.B. Du BOIS**  
*The Souls of Black Folk*  
 New York: Blue Heron Press 1953  
**\$2500**

Fiftieth Anniversary edition. New foreword by Du Bois, and with comments by Shirley Graham. Cloth and decorated papercovered boards. Top corners very slightly bumped, about fine, lacking the unprinted tissue dust jacket. Signed by Du Bois on a slip, as issued, that indicates this is a signed and limited fiftieth anniversary edition. Order form laid in from the publisher advertising this and three other titles. An attractive volume, and becoming very scarce. [BTC#536921]



**24 Alice Moore DUNBAR-NELSON**

*The Dunbar Speaker and Entertainer*  
 Containing The Best Prose and Poetic Selections by and about The Negro Race. With Programs arranged for Special Entertainments  
 Naperville, Ill.: Published by J. L. Nichols & Co. (1920)

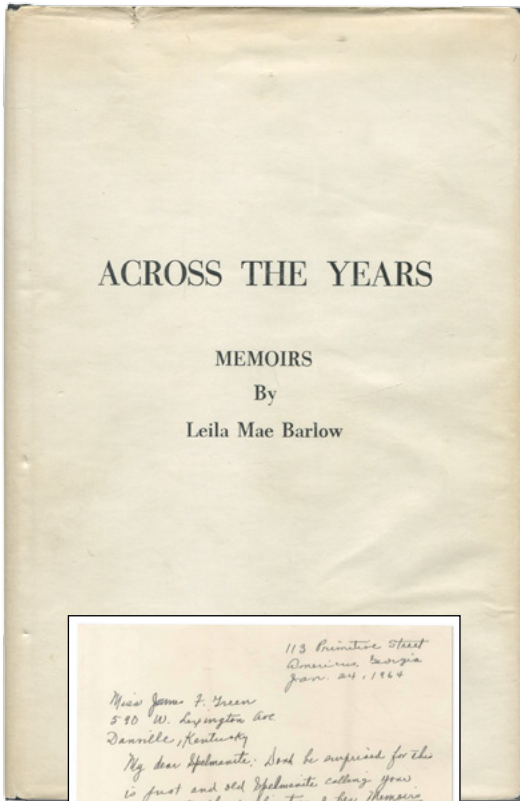
**\$650**

First edition. Edited by Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson. Introduction by Leslie Pinckney Hill. Large octavo. 288pp. Illustrated reproducing photographs and drawings. Reddish-brown cloth stamped in black. Owner bookplate on front pastedown; binding is lightly soiled, one page of text has an archivally mended short tear in the lower blank margin, else a very good or better, bright and fresh copy, lacking the rare dust jacket. A compilation of oratorical, poetic, dramatic, and humorous pieces compiled from many sources including the work of Dunbar-Nelson, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Charlotte Grimké, W.S. Braithwaite, James Weldon Johnson, Charles Chesnutt, Phillis Wheatley, W.E.B. Du Bois, and many others. The New Orleans-born Dunbar-Nelson was for a time the wife of Paul Laurence Dunbar, and was in her own right an author, feminist, suffragist, public speaker, and educator. [BTC#519064]



**25 (Education)**  
**Leila Mae BARLOW**

**Across the Years: Memoirs**  
 Montgomery, Alabama: The Paragon Press (1959)  
**\$750**



*Many Thanks  
 To  
 James F. Green  
 from  
 Leila M. Barlow*

113 Primitive Street  
 Americus, Georgia  
 Jan. 24, 1964

Miss James F. Green  
 590 W. Lexington Ave.  
 Danville, Kentucky

My dear Spelmanite: I don't be surprised for this to just and old Spelmanite calling your attention to the publication of her Memoirs and hoping very much that you will purchase a copy and that you will interest other Spelman grads in doing so.

The book came off press three years ago but after one year of sale pressure I became ill and am now under doctor try to recuperate from surgery. The original price was \$3.50 each but because I have quite a few I have reduced price to \$1.50 plus .15 for mailing. An order of 5 or more will be accepted at \$1.00 each plus mailing fee of .15 ea.

Please give me your order. I certainly would appreciate a 5 or more book order from student or clubs a good project for Negro History Week.

Sincerely, Leila M. Barlow

First edition. Octavo. 84pp. Frontispiece portrait of Alabama State College President H. Council Trenholm. Black cloth gilt. Two small areas of tape residue on the front pastedown and a small inked "loaned" note on the rear fly, else fine in a near fine, lightly toned and worn dust jacket with the author's half-tone portrait on the rear panel.

**Inscribed** by the author on Jan. 30, 1964: "Many Thanks to James F. Green from Leila M. Barlow." With an Autograph Letter **Signed** from Barlow to Miss James Frances Greene laid in, in the original envelope, as well as a small promotional card for the book, with one manuscript correction and an additional **Signature**. The letter, from one "Spelmanite" to another, offers her book for sale.

113 Primitive Street  
 Americus, Georgia  
 Jan. 24, 1964

Miss James F. Green  
 590 W. Lexington Ave.  
 Danville, Kentucky

My dear Spelmanite: I don't be surprised for this to just and old Spelmanite calling your attention to the publication of her Memoirs and hoping very much that you will purchase a copy and that you will interest other Spelman grads in doing so.

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Please give me your order. I certainly would appreciate a 5 or more book order from student or clubs a good project for Negro History Week.

Sincerely, Leila M. Barlow

**I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE A**  
*Autobiograph*  
**COPY OF MY AUTOGRAPHY . . . because**  
**of its insight into the life and**  
**philosophy of my people as I have**  
**found it from THIRTY-TWO YEARS of**  
**college teaching.**

The author, a native of Americus, Georgia, retired in 1958 as a professor in the English Department at Alabama State College in Montgomery (an HBCU), after 28 years as the department head. Barlow attended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s church in Montgomery and upon the occasion of her retirement he sent a letter congratulating her on her "great and noble career." He also wrote: "Hundreds and thousands of students have been inspired by your wise and challenging teaching and they have been sent forth into the world to keep the light of truth and goodness shining. As your pastor, I can truly say that it has been a deep joy working with you. By all standards of measurements, you have proven to be one of the most devoted and loyal members of our church (...) Your love for Alabama State and Dexter Avenue Baptist Church will be an inspiration to generations yet unborn." Barlow discusses the effect of Dr. King's teaching on her life and outlook on pp.53-54.

113 Primitive Street  
 Americus, Georgia  
*Leila M. Barlow*

An uncommon memoir by a dedicated African-American educator. [BTC#462145]



26 (Film)

Oscar MICHEAUX

[Poster]: Avon Pictures Presents Oscar Micheaux's Thrilling Motion Picture Epic: *The Betrayal*

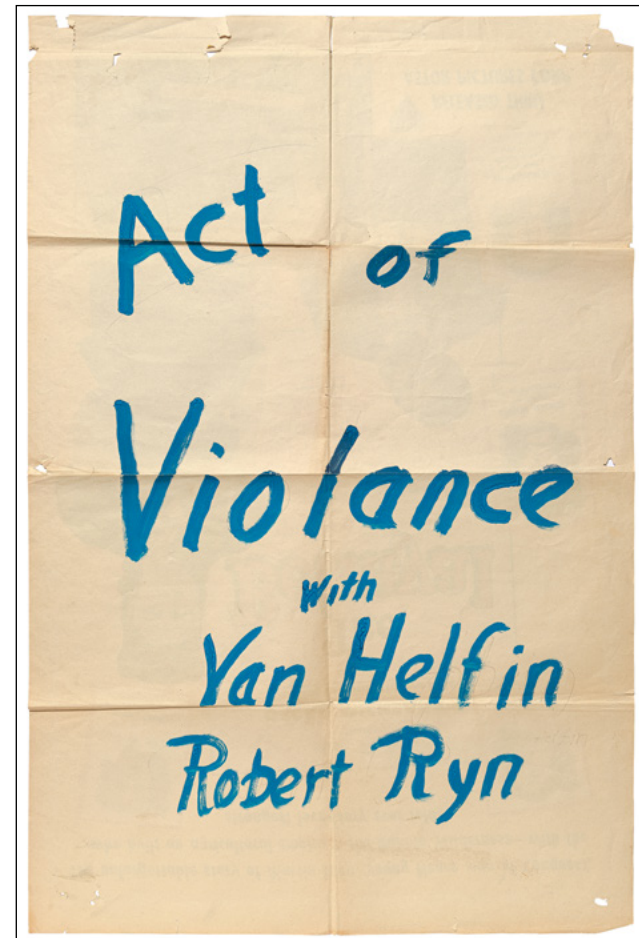
*The Strangest Love Story Ever Told!*

Based on the immortal novel "The Wind From Nowhere"

[No place]: Astor Film Corp. [1948]

\$2000

Full color poster. Measuring 27" x 41". Old folds and tack holes, with some small chips and tears at some of the folds. Additionally, someone has used the verso of the poster to paint a contemporary advertisement for the film *Act of Violence* with Van Heflin (the painting is not visible on the front of the poster), overall a good example of a very uncommon poster for this film, directed and produced by Micheaux from his own novel, and the final film he created in his lifetime. Micheaux was the first, and at least for the first half of the past century, the most important Black film producer and director. [BTC#449186]



**27 Zora Neale HURSTON**

*Typed Letter Signed ("Zora Neale Hurston")  
to Radio Personality Mary Margaret McBride*  
**\$8500**

Typed Letter Signed. Measuring 8½" x 11". Dated 10 February 1943 with return address from her Daytona Beach post office box. Old folds from mailing with a couple of tiny tears in the margin and a small nick in the lower corner, else near fine. A genuinely warm and appreciative letter of about 230 words addressed to "Dear Miss McBride," thanking her for hosting her on McBride's radio show to promote her autobiography *Dust Tracks on a Road*, and where McBride referred to Hurston's life as "a great American success story."

Hurston notes in this letter: "First thing, out of thousands of people that you could have had on your program, you came with peace in one hand and pardon in the other and pick me out for, well to give me joy and glory." Hurston goes on to compliment McBride's on-air voice: "Well, Miss Mary Margaret, it is so soothing, it makes a person wish that his (or her) whole body was made out of ear-meat so you could just listen more." She concludes the letter with expressions of gratitude and warmth: "People like you --- and I am not just grateful for the great honor you did me --- make it so much easier for a person to be human. I can open up and let the sunlight touch all my sensitive parts. I am not a coward at all but something in me shrinks away from these smart, clever people who spend all their lives swapping things without being able to even give God an honest prayer without snatching back 'amen!' With the most faithful feelings, Zora Neale Hurston."

McBride was a highly successful white radio interviewer from the 1930s to the 1960s, and who, despite her grandmotherly demeanor was indomitable. She was particularly singular in breaking the color barrier by interviewing notable Black guests, as was the case with Hurston. Additionally, McBride's business and life partner Stella Karn, maintained her show as a consistent outlet to showcase work by fellow lesbian creatives. Later McBride sought out Hurston when others abandoned her after she was falsely accused of child sexual abuse in 1948, a charge that was obviously false and which was dismissed when her accuser admitted his lie, but not soon enough to salvage her reputation from ruin, and caused many supposed friends and colleagues to abandon her.

A warm and pleasing letter with excellent insight into Hurston and her reaction to the kindness she was shown. [BTC#541684]

P.O. Box 1502  
Daytona Beach, Fla.  
February 10, 1943.

Dear Miss McBride:

I am so glad that I know you. Honest, if you just keep on acting like you do, you're going straight to Heaven without a prayer.

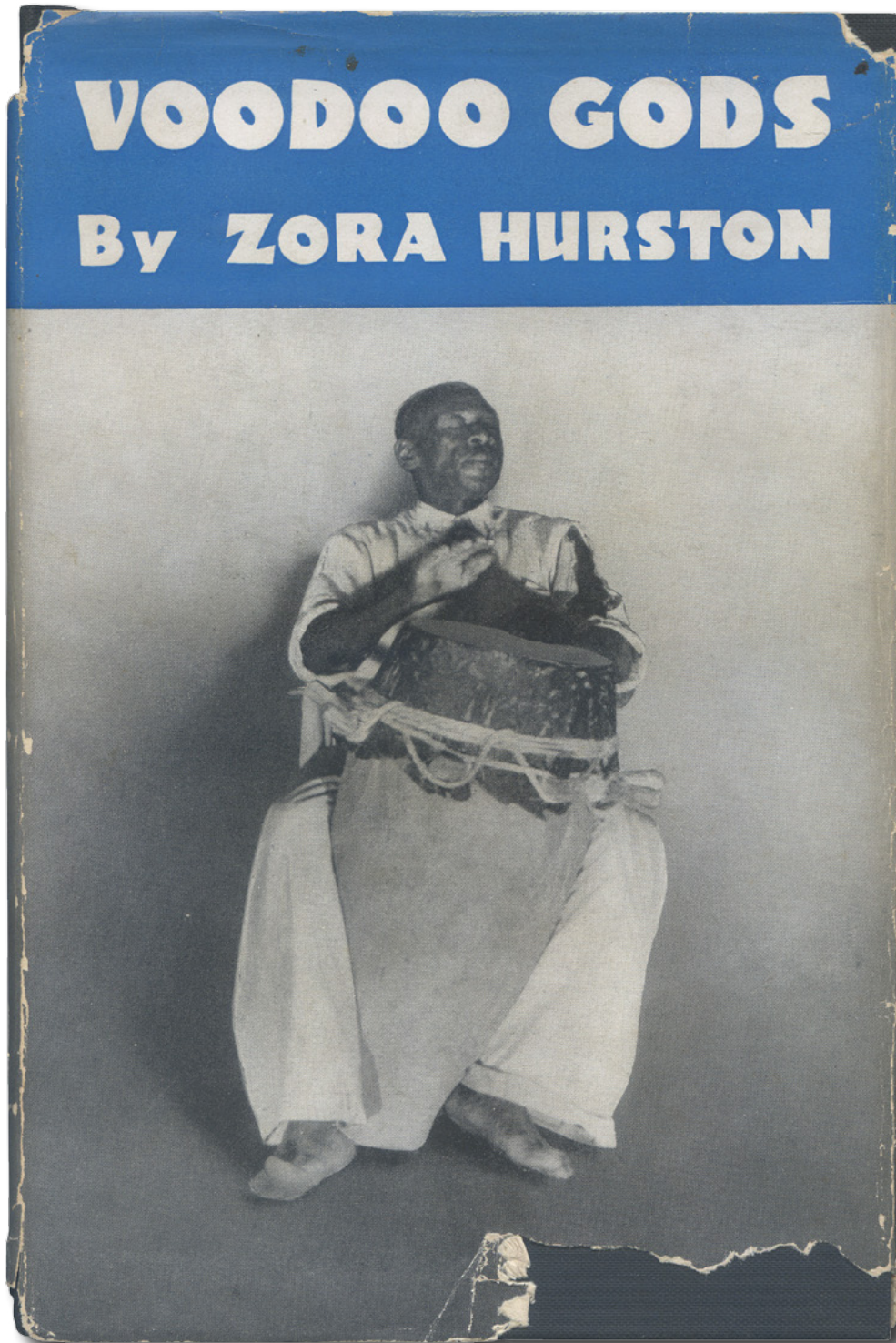
First thing, out of thousands of people that you could have had on your program, you came with peace in one hand and pardon in the other and picked me out for, well to give me joy and glory. Then that wasn't enough, you wrote me a personal card before I had time to fit words to the feelings I meant to send you. Really. Miss Mary Margaret McBride, you are a giving person!

Did anybody ever tell you how your voice comes over the air? Well, Miss Mary Margaret, it is so soothing, it makes a person wish that his (or her) whole body was made out of ear-meat so you could just listen more.

People like you---and I am not just grateful for the great honor you did me--- make it so much easier for a person to be human. I can open up and let the sunlight touch all my sensitive parts. I am not a coward at all, but something in me shrinks away from these smart, clever people who spend all their lives swapping things without being able to even give God an honest prayer without snatching back 'amen!'

With the most faithful feelings,

*Zora Neale Hurston*



**28 Zora Neale HURSTON**

*Voodoo Gods: An Inquiry into Native Myths and Magic in Jamaica and Haiti*

London: J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd. (1939)

**\$4000**

First English edition. Octavo. 290pp. Illustrated from 24 photographs and two maps. About fine in striking, good dust jacket with chips at the bottom of the front panel, some loss at the spine ends affecting the lettering, and the rear panel split at the spine fold. Exceptionally uncommon English edition of the book published in the U.S. as *Tell My Horse*, Hurston's desirable book on Voodoo in Haiti and Jamaica. The only jacketed copy we've seen. [\[BTC#541478\]](#)



**29 Dr. Martin Luther KING and Rev. Ralph ABERNATHY**  
*Birmingham in 1963: Mass Meeting, 16th Street Baptist Church*

[Birmingham, Alabama]: Rev. C.H. Oliver 1963

**\$10,000**

Original 33½ rpm vinyl record album. Off-white outer sleeve printed in black with six paragraph liner notes by Rev. C.H. Oliver on rear. The album itself has a red label printed in silver on both sides crediting Oliver for the recording and listing a code (“BIRM-1963 A/B”) on each side. Outer sleeve with some corner creasing, some edgewear including a touch of splitting at the top edge and small scrape at the lower right front corner from a removed price sticker, about very good with the record fine and bright; the inner sleeve is new and supplied.

Oliver recorded this mass meeting at the 16th Street Baptist Church on May 3, 1963, the second day of the historic Children’s Crusade. What began with children being arrested for staging a school walk-out was quickly escalated by police the next day through the use of fire hoses and police dogs. The result were unforgettable images and video of police cruelty that galvanized national support for the Civil Rights movement and allowed President Kennedy to mobilize the National Guard.

This recording captures the raw emotional responses of Dr. King and Rev. Abernathy as they addressed parishioners on what proved to be the most substantial day of the Birmingham Campaign, as Oliver explains in the liner notes: “There were nightly mass meetings for some 75 days straight, attended by hundreds and sometimes thousands of people, many coming from all parts of the country. Of all the meetings, none reached the height of enthusiasm as did the one on this recording. Had it not been for one tape recorder in operation, a great moment in history would have passed without posterity having the benefit of hearing it as it was.”

While later editions of this were made, this first pressing is exceedingly rare with *OCLC* locating just two copies of this historical recording. [\[BTC#542535\]](#)

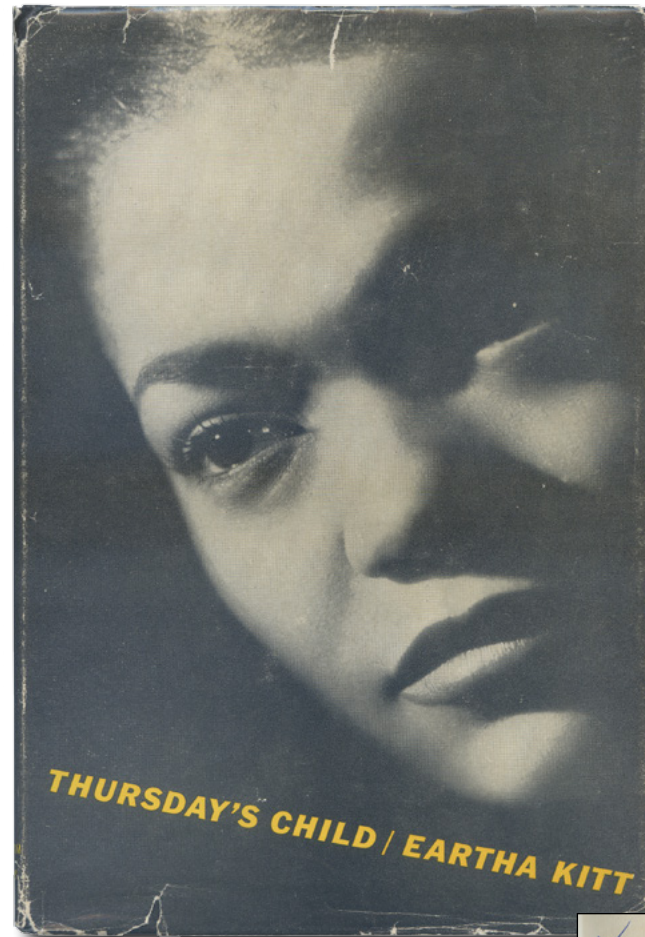


**30 Martin Luther KING, Jr.**  
*Conscience for Change*  
*Massey Lectures*

(Toronto): Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (1967)

**\$950**

First edition. Small octavo. 46pp. Pictorial wrappers. A trifle rubbed, else fine. Five radio broadcasts heard during November and December of 1967 as the seventh annual series of Massey Lectures. Very scarce. [BTC#542662]

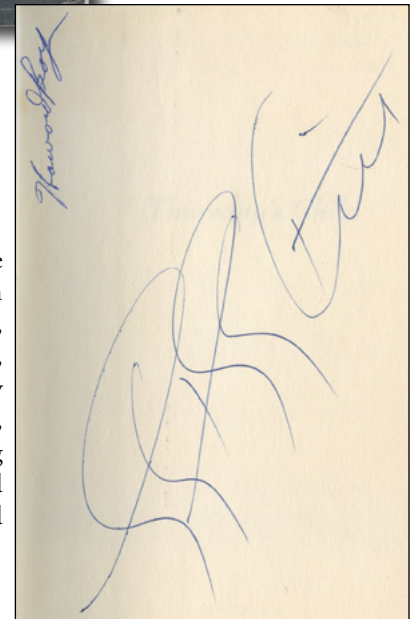


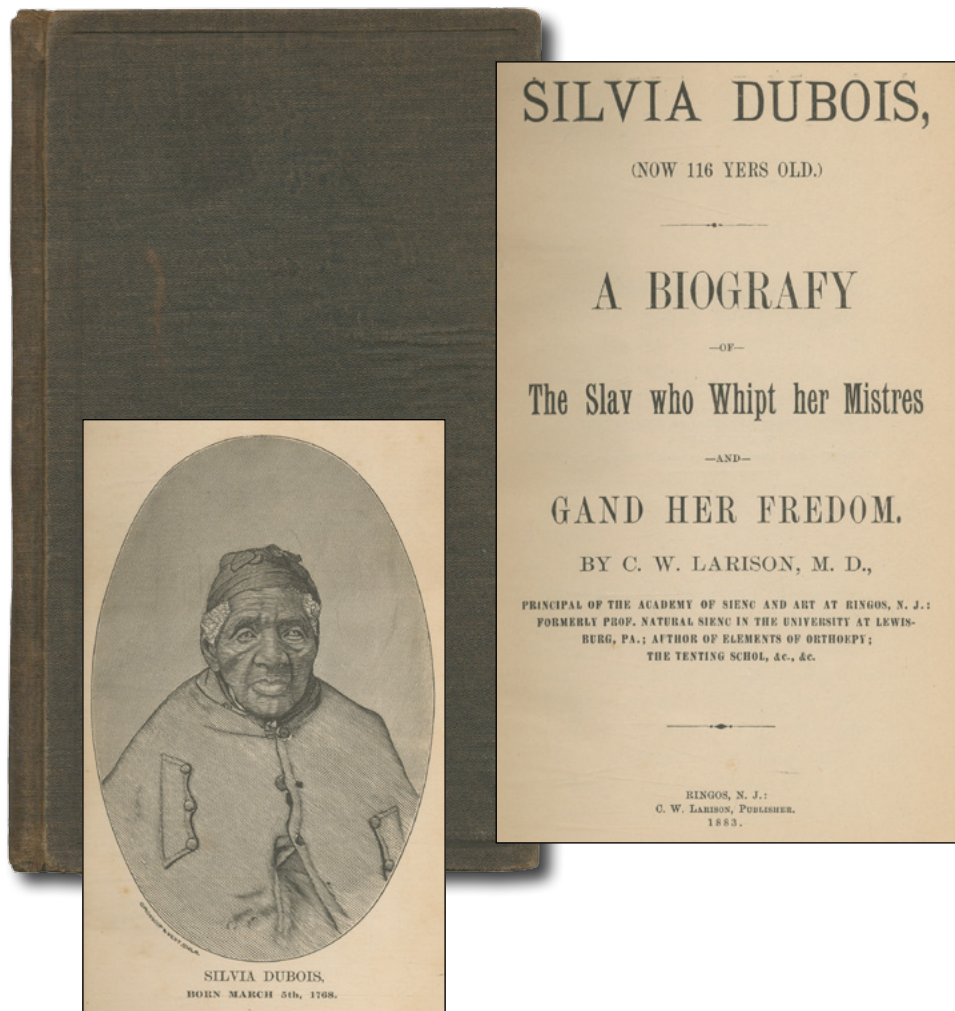
**31 Eartha KITT**  
*Thursday's Child*

New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce (1956)

**\$575**

First edition. Octavo. 250pp. Near fine with some bumping at the spine ends and ink owner name in about very good dust jacket with sunning to the spine, internal tape reinforcement, and moderate edgewear, including tears, creases and small chips. Signed by Kitt. While known for her singing and performing, Kitt had a long history of activism from helping underprivileged Black youth during the 1950s and 1960s to her protests against the Vietnam War, and longtime support for LGBT rights. [BTC#539878]





**32 C.W. LARISON**

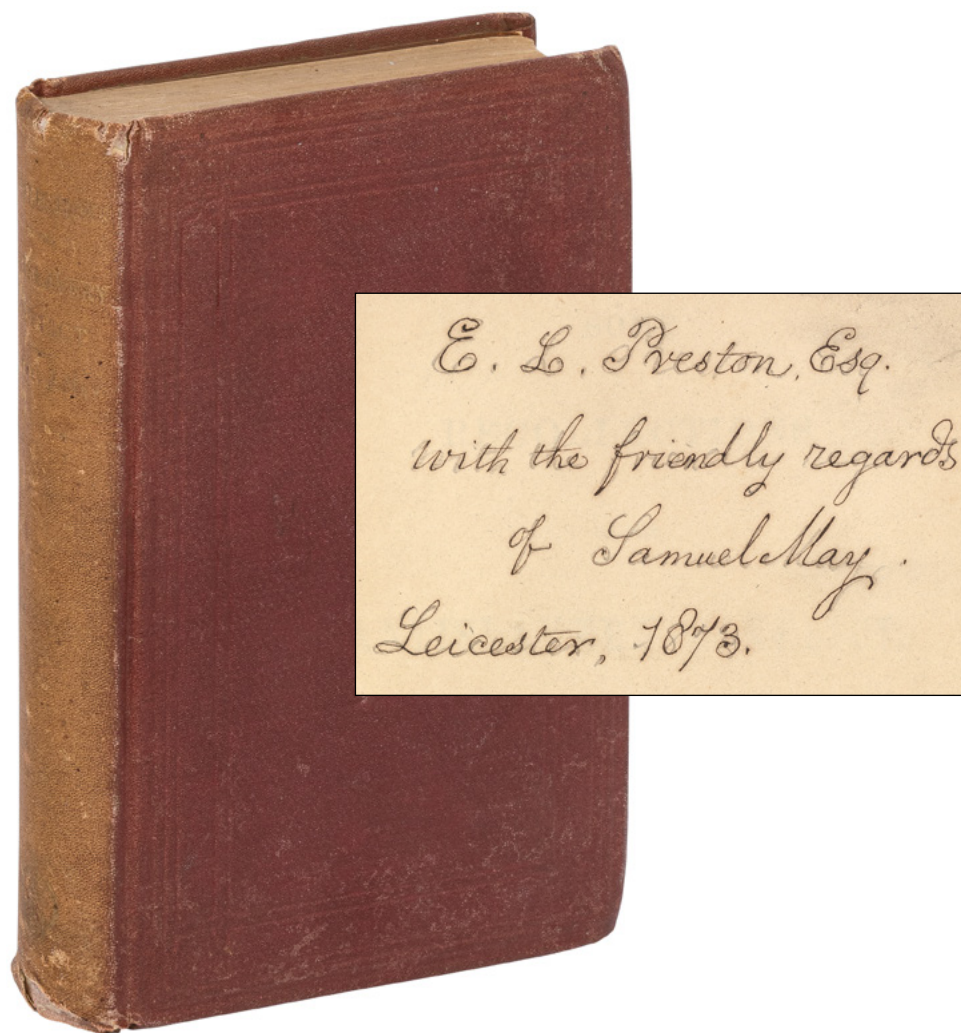
*Silvia DuBois, (Now 116 Years Old): A Biografy of The Slav who Whipt her Mistres and Gand her Fredom*

Ringoes, N.J.: C.W. Larison 1883

**\$10,000**

First edition. Original brown cloth. 124, [6] ads pp., two plates. Small owner label front pastedown, hinges neatly strengthened, modest wear at the extremities of the boards, very good. In effect a narrative, Dr. Larison visited the reportedly 116-year-old formerly enslaved woman in her hut in the mountains of Hunterdon County, New Jersey and took down her extraordinary life story in her own words (and in his own phonetic spelling). The plates picture Sylvia and her primitive hut. Sylvia, incidentally, lasted several more years. Larison was an eccentric who printed his own idiosyncratic books in an outbuilding on his property, using phonetic spelling, and distributed the books himself. A splendid and uncommon narrative.

[BTC#541181]



**33 Samuel J. May**

*Some Recollections of our Antislavery Conflict*

Boston: Fields, Osgood & Co. 1869

**\$950**

First edition. Small octavo. 408pp. Cloth gilt. Gilt on spine a bit dull, edge wear at the spine ends, mostly at the foot, early (and erasable) price on the dark brown front pastedown, near very good. Inscribed by the author, a noted abolitionist: "E. L. Preston, Esq. with the friendly regards of Samuel May. Leicester, 1873." May was the uncle of Louisa May Alcott and championed education and women's right, along with the abolition of slavery. [BTC#541507]

34 (Malcolm X)

**Magnus O. BASSEY***[Unpublished Manuscript]:**Malcolm X the Philosopher: His Untold Story*

Oneonta, New York [?]: The Author (1996)

**\$1500**

Typescript. Quarto. [4], 2-221 pp. Unbound sheets printed or photomechanically reproduced on rectos only. Light wear, just about fine save for some creasing and two short marginal tears on the final leaf. Typescript by Dr. Magnus O. Bassey, at the time assistant professor in the education department at SUNY Oneonta. Bassey writes in the introduction: "The contribution of African Americans to philosophy is hardly ever acknowledged. Hence, although much has been written about Malcolm X, most of the writings are historical narratives and a barrage of his speeches." Bassey's stated goal is to "delineate and compare some of the significant theoretical constructs between existentialism and Malcolm X's work."

Bassey received his Ed.D in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education at Rutgers, where he wrote his dissertation on politics and education in Nigeria. OCLC locates several titles by Dr. Bassey: *Western Education and Political Domination in Africa: A Study in Critical and Dialogical Pedagogy* (Bergin & Garvey, 1999); *Missionary Rivalry and Educational Expansion in Nigeria, 1885-1945* (Edward Mellon Press, 1999); *Malcolm X: The Seeker of Justice* (Xlibris, 2003); and *Malcolm X and African American Self-Consciousness* (Edwin Mellon Press, 2005). According to his biography on the Edwin Mellon Press website, Bassey's work has also appeared in *The Journal of Negro Education*, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, *Educational Foundations*, *The Educational Forum*, *Dialogue*, and *Alliance and Educational Change*. An interesting and likely unpublished work on the intersection of philosophy and Malcolm X's life and work. OCLC locates no copies with this title. [BTC#539165]

*Malcolm X: The Philosopher**His Untold Story***DR. MAGNUS O. BASSEY***Assistant Professor, Education Department**State University of New York**College at Oneonta**Oneonta, New York 13820*





**35 (Michigan)**

*[Photo Album]: The Black American Center for Social Changes, Inc. Rev. Lawrence Franklin. Founder & C.E.O.*

[Detroit]: The Black American Center for Social Changes, Inc. [circa 1993-1996]

**\$1200**

Small photo album with 42 color images. Each measuring 4" x 6". Wallet-sized album. Images are fine, album has small tears, overall about fine. The album features a meeting or event sponsored by The Black American Center for Social Changes, Inc., consisting mostly of well-dressed African-Americans at a lectern, speaking or being sworn in, posed in front of a backdrop, or in group shots. Documentation of a short-lived social justice organization incorporated in Milwaukee in 1993 and dissolved in 1996. [BTC#455878]



Netcong Fire Company, No. 1  
2ND ANNUAL MINSTREL  
PALACE THEATRE, NETCONG **MARCH 20**  
ADMISSION 25c - 50c CURTAIN 8:15



**36 (Minstrel)**

*[Color Lithograph]: Two Minstrel Performers: Netcong Fire Company, No. 1, 2nd Annual Minstrel, Palace Theatre, Netcong, March 20*

Newport, Ky: Donaldson Litho. Co. [circa 1920s]

**\$2500**

Offset color lithograph. Measuring 20" x 28". Slight horizontal crease, a few small closed tears at the edges, one small spot in background, two small tape mends on the back of topedge, very good or better. A bright advertising poster of two minstrel performers in colorful clothes playing dice. The image was designed and printed by the Donaldson Lithographing Company for the Palace Theatre in Netcong, New Jersey. The company, which relocated from Cincinnati to Newport, Kentucky in 1898, specialized in lithographic posters and art signs for circuses, vaudeville, and associated traveling theatrical troupes.

[BTC#538573]



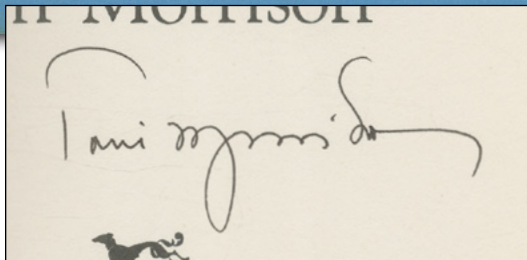
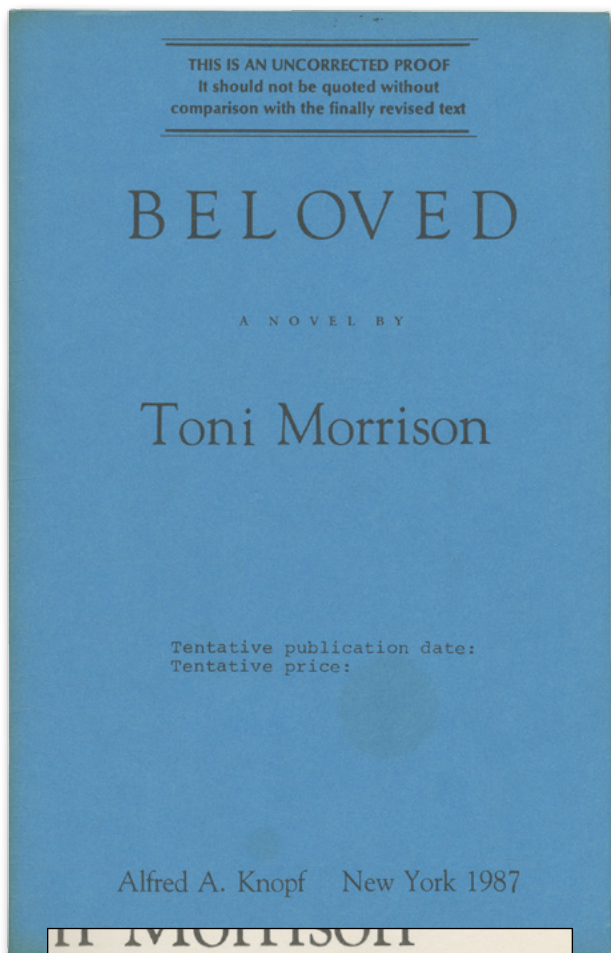
**37 (Mississippi)**  
**C.J. BURNELL**

*[Panoramic Photograph]: "Faculty and Students of Tougaloo College"*

Jackson, Mississippi: 1924

**\$3500**

Sepia-toned gelatin silver panoramic photograph. Approximately 44" x 8". Captioned in white in the negative. Rolled with creasing and small tears, else very good. A panoramic photograph taken by C.J. Burnell of the "Faculty and Students of Tougaloo College" dated April 1924. The members of the college are seen on a lawn at the college posed in dress clothes. Tougaloo was founded in 1869 by Christian missionaries to provide basic education for the formerly enslaved, and functioned for its earliest decades as a teachers' training school. In 1897 the school began awarding bachelor of arts degrees, and has remained a prominent HBCU. [\[BTC#449492\]](#)



**38 Toni MORRISON**

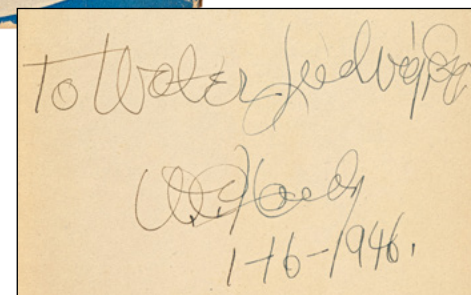
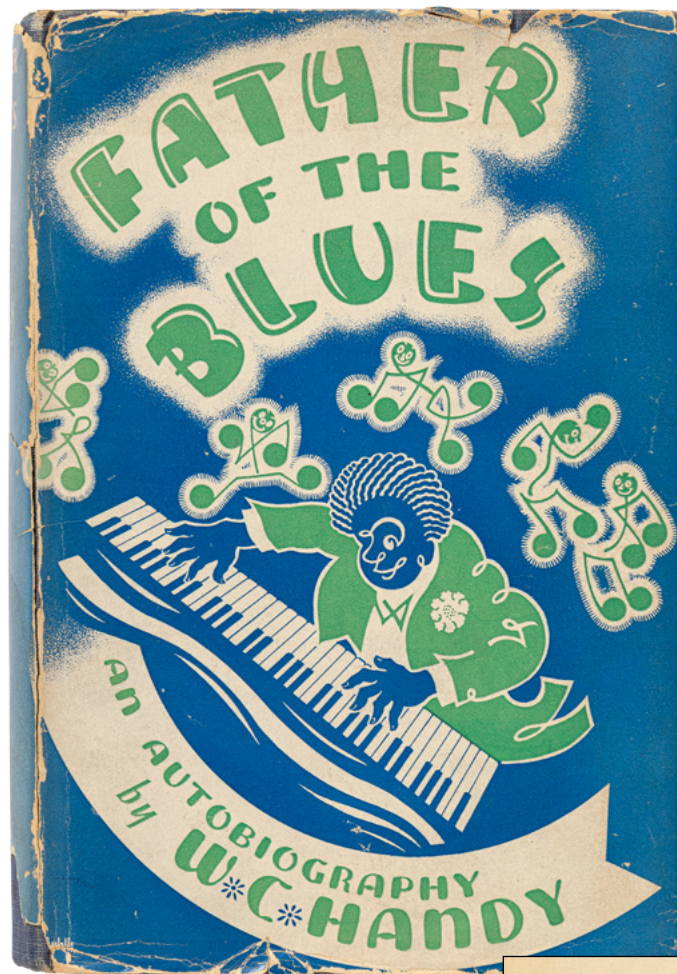
*Beloved*

New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1987

**\$1200**

Uncorrected Proof. Printed blue wrappers. A couple of barely visible, faint spots on the front wrap, else fine. Signed by the author. We are aware of two variants of this proof, this seems to be the first issue, bulking slightly smaller than the other variant. Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

[BTC#540966]



**39 (Music)  
W.C. HANDY**

*Father of the Blues: An Autobiography*

New York: Macmillan Company 1944

**\$750**

Fourth printing. Edited by Anna Bontemps. Foreword by Anne Niles. Octavo. 317pp. Frontispiece, printed music in the text. Slight rubbing at some edges, very good or better in very good dust jacket with several small chips, and front panel partially split at spine fold. Inscribed by Handy and dated in 1946 on the front free endpaper, the recipient's name is a little difficult to read ("Walter Leedvogel?") [BTC#542575]

## 40 (New York)

*[Broadside]: History of Harlem*

Harlem, New York: From the Local Reporter (1881)

\$1500

Broadside. Measuring 6" x 12½". Printed in two columns. Titled *History of Harlem* in ornate capitals at top. Old neat folds and a light crease at the lower corner, a couple of tiny spots, else near fine. Summary and review of the book *Harlem (in New York City) its Origin and Early Annals* (1881) by James Riker. The summary is attributed at the bottom to "The Local Reporter, Harlem." OCLC locates two copies of this broadside, attributing it, we think incorrectly, as 1904, which seems to more likely correlate with a later printing of the book. The text however indicates that this is soliciting subscribers for the privately printed first edition of 1881. [BTC#460603]

## HISTORY OF HARLEM,

"HARLEM,(in New York City,) its origin and early annals: prefaced by Home Scenes in the Fatherlands; or notices of its founders previous to emigration. Also sketches of over one hundred families and the history of the land titles from their origin. Illustrated. By JAMES RIKER, author of the Annals of Newtown; Life Member of the N. Y. Historical Society; Corresponding Member of the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society, etc."

Our citizens will be glad to learn that the above work, so long expected, and embracing the researches of twenty-five years is completed and will be put to press as soon as warranted by a sufficient number of subscribers. The work, owing to the wide dispersion of the many respectable families named in it, as well as to its generally interesting character, must ultimately find a demand far beyond the locality of which it treats, but as a local work, it appeals most strongly to the people of Harlem and New York City, for the encouragement necessary to its present success, and to which its extraordinary merits entitle it. We therefore bespeak it a generous reception, assuring those who subscribe for it, that they will more than realize their five dollars'

priation of lands, the Nicolls and Dongan patents, manners and customs and episodes of daily life, Indian and other excitements law suits, and a thousand and one incidents pass before us like a panorama of the most pleasing character. Full lists of inhabitants are given, with memoranda of their landed possessions; and biographical sketches crowd the foot notes. In the account of the Dongan Patentees of 1687, and their families, (these patentees comprising all the freeholders who drew of the common lands,) we have a history of all the old Harlem families, through which the land titles have descended; an invaluable aid in the tracing of those titles. The appendix supplies matter of much interest including notices of the De Forest, Swits and Montanye descendants; and what is of great inherent value, copious memoranda and tables, completing the history of all the lands, including the several divisions made under the Dongan patent in 1691 and 1712. On this point we have a special word to say, and which we think its importance demands.

### ORIGIN OF THE LAND TITLES.

It is no disparagement to the modern conveyancer to say that he will now for the first time understand the subject of the original

## HISTORY OF HARLEM,

"HARLEM,(in New York City,) its origin and early annals: prefaced by Home Scenes in the Fatherlands; or notices of its founders previous to emigration. Also sketches of over one hundred families and the history of the land titles from their origin. Illustrated. By JAMES RIKER, author of the Annals of Newtown; Life Member of the N. Y. Historical Society; Corresponding Member of the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society, etc."

Our citizens will be glad to learn that the above work, so long expected, and embracing the researches of twenty-five years is completed and will be put to press as soon as warranted by a sufficient number of subscribers. The work, owing to the wide dispersion of the many respectable families named in it, as well as to its generally interesting character, must ultimately find a demand far beyond the locality of which it treats, but as a local work, it appeals most strongly to the people of Harlem and New York City, for the encouragement necessary to its present success, and to which its extraordinary merits entitle it. We therefore bespeak it a generous reception, assuring those who subscribe for it, that they will more than realize their five dollars' worth of very entertaining and valuable reading.

The history is introduced by a graphic description of the coasts of Holland, Belgium and France, in a voyage from Dunkirk to St. Malo. The reader is gradually led on to a familiar acquaintance with those fatherlands, (so essential to a full grasp of the career and character of the colonists,) as those lands appeared in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with their peculiar topography, antiquities, institutions, customs and peoples; among the latter the Walloons and Picards, both well represented at Harlem, soon after. The story of the religious struggle in the Netherlands, brings us to a chapter on "Avenues and its Exiles," the latter including some of the De Forest family, who, having espoused the reformed faith, fled to Sedan on the Meuse and thence to Leyden, in Holland. Here Jesse de Forest, a man of influence among the Walloon refugees, becomes identified with the first movements toward American colonization from that country, respecting which many new facts are presented. His history is pathetic; his sons realize in a manner the object of his ambition, and become the pioneer settlers at Harlem in 1636. Previous to this the story has been well told of other colonists in Holland, (but later of Harlem,) many of them also fugitives from oppression in France and other countries; with an account of Hudson's voyage and its results, the settlement of New Amsterdam, and the aboriginal condition of the section now known as Harlem. From the date given, the settlement of this district is traced with equal minuteness, first the efforts to establish boweries or farms, all which were rendered futile by the hostilities of the Indians, who killed many of the settlers; secondly the founding of the village of New Harlem, in 1658, with numbers strong enough to defy the efforts of their wily foes to dislodge them. Matters pertaining to the civil courts, the church, the school, town regulations, appro-

priation of lands, the Nicolls and Dongan patents, manners and customs and episodes of daily life, Indian and other excitements law suits, and a thousand and one incidents pass before us like a panorama of the most pleasing character. Full lists of inhabitants are given, with memoranda of their landed possessions; and biographical sketches crowd the foot notes. In the account of the Dongan Patentees of 1687, and their families, (these patentees comprising all the freeholders who drew of the common lands,) we have a history of all the old Harlem families, through which the land titles have descended; an invaluable aid in the tracing of those titles. The appendix supplies matter of much interest including notices of the De Forest, Swits and Montanye descendants; and what is of great inherent value, copious memoranda and tables, completing the history of all the lands, including the several divisions made under the Dongan patent in 1691 and 1712. On this point we have a special word to say, and which we think its importance demands.

### ORIGIN OF THE LAND TITLES.

It is no disparagement to the modern conveyancer to say that he will now for the first time understand the subject of the original allotments and divisions of the lands within the limits of the old patent of Harlem, extending from the foot of 74th street, East River, to Kingsbridge. No one living has hitherto taken the time to unravel the intricacies of this subject; no one has had at command the rare and abundant material necessary to do so, and which it has been the privilege of this author to make use of. Any one may see the great advantage which this knowledge must give in the illustration of the modern title. Until within little more than a generation, the Harlem lands consisted still of original plots, laid out in part as early as 1658; others in 1662, 1665, 1677, 1691, 1712, &c. To these original plots nearly all the present titles run back. Hence it needs no argument to show how helpful in the tracing of these titles, must be a full understanding of the several allotments and divisions referred to, making plain the obscure references, often found in the old title deeds, to these lots, by local names which had become obsolete, or simply by the number of the lot, and of the division in which it lay; as for example, on "Jochem Pieters' Flats," or "Jochem Pieters' Hill," or "Van Keulen's Hook," or in the "New Lots;" or otherwise, in one of the "Divisions" numbered one to four. It has been the work of the author to present this whole matter in a clear light, after a vast deal of labor in arriving at a full and accurate knowledge of it. This will undoubtedly give his work a permanent value. Not the owner of a lot of ground scarcely, over all this large section of Manhattan Island, but may know how and when originated the title under which he holds, and who were the original and subsequent occupants, with their often unique and touching history as traced in these ample and entertaining pages.

From this meagre outline the reader may see that a rare treat awaits him in the perusal of the five to six hundred octavo pages which the work is designed to contain. It will be neatly printed, and the embellishments of an original character.

(From the Local Reporter, Harlem.)

# Black Debutantes of New York



## 41 (New York)

*Le Bal Des Fleurs*

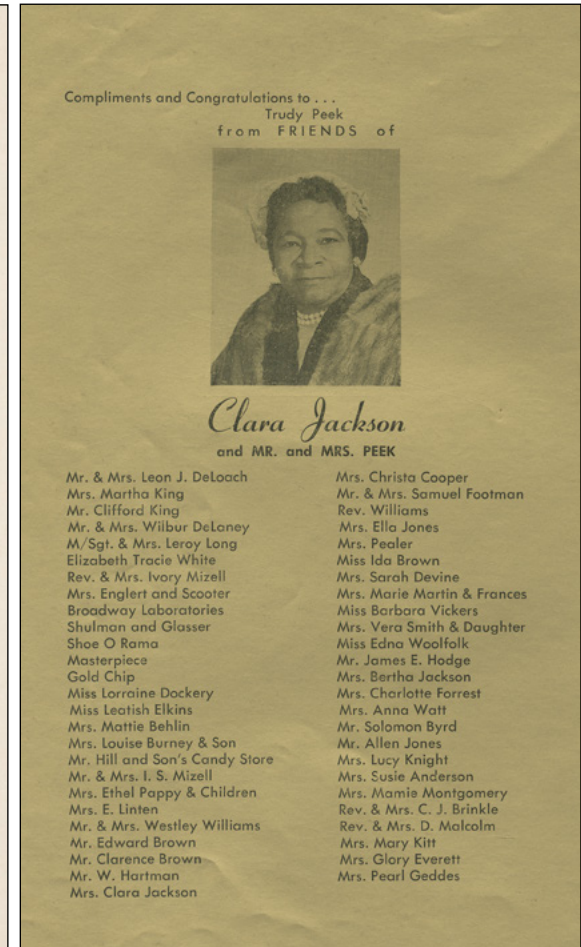
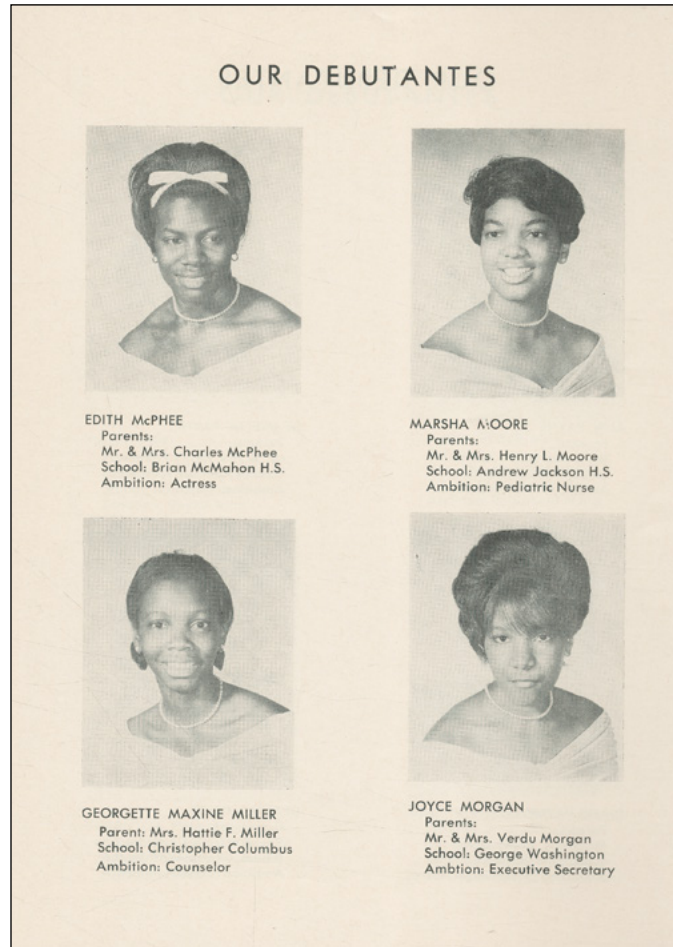
*St. Mark's Methodist Church*

*Third Annual Debutante Cotillion*

New York: St. Mark's Methodist Church 1967

**\$450**

Quarto. Unpaginated [172pp.] Photographic illustrations. Stapled illustrated wrappers. Several light spots on the front wrap, light thumbing at the edges of the pages, near very good. Elaborate program or souvenir for a debutante cotillion for young African-American women, all illustrated, with extensive advertisements from the Black business community, and a central section of tribute pages for individual debutantes printed for sponsors on expensive-looking silver and gold pages. OCLC appears to locate no copies. [BTC#463093]



**42 (Photography)**  
**Arthur E. GROBES**

*A Collection of Portraits of Black Women by African-American Photographer Arthur Grobes*

[Philadelphia: 1970s]

**\$2950**

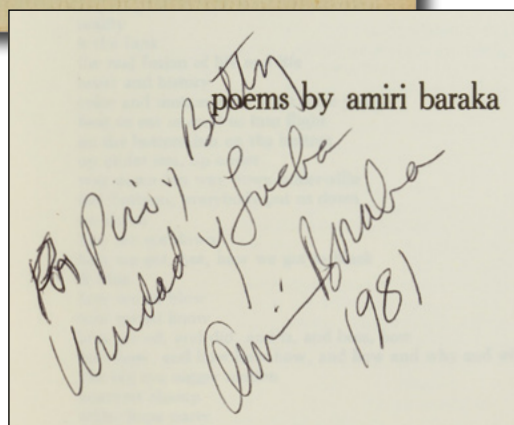
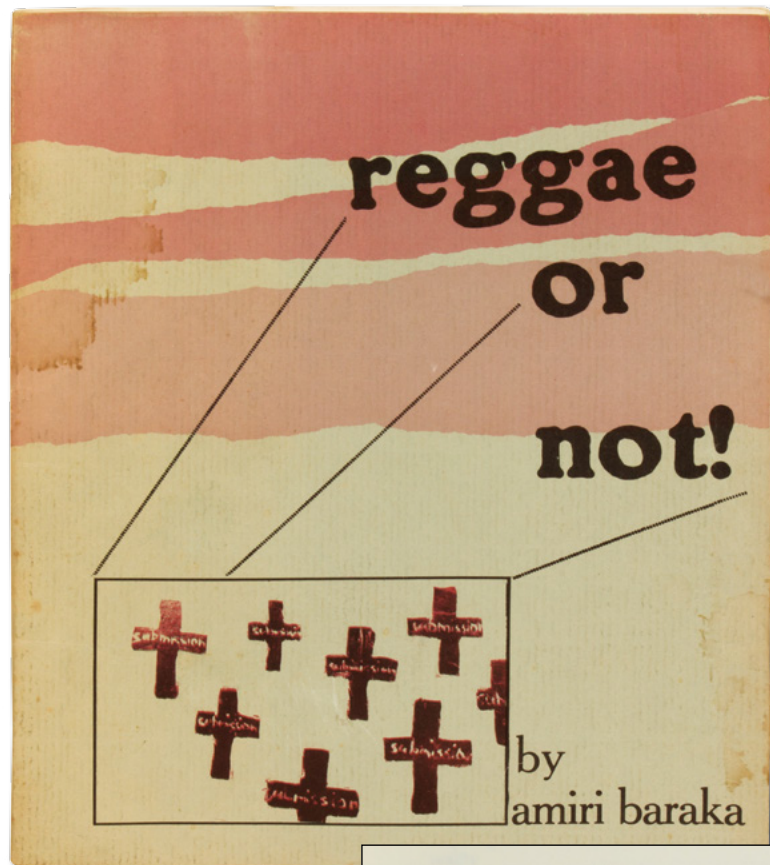
A group of 47 loose gelatin silver prints (5" x 7"), four of which have the photographer's small ink name stamp on the verso: "Arthur E. Grobes, 1510 N. Alden Street." All but two or three are images of Black women modeling negligees, swimsuits, and a few dresses in various artful poses. A few prints are lightly rubbed at the edges, near fine. A scarce collection of portraits by African-American photographer Arthur Elmer Grobes of Philadelphia. Born in 1931, Grobes was noted both for his community service and photography. According to his obituary: "He enjoyed professional photography before the era of digital cameras and was deeply committed to neighborhood youth; providing leadership training ... In the community, young ladies knew him as 'The Photographer' and young men called him 'Captain Art'." A nice cohesive gathering of glamor images. [BTC#537432]

Arthur E. Grobes  
1510 N. Alden Street  
GR 3-6742









**43 (Poetry)**  
**Amiri BARAKA**  
*Reggae or Not*

New York: Contact II Publications 1981

**\$950**

First edition. Small quarto. Stapled illustrated wrappers. Dampstain along the edges of the wrappers, about very good. Inscribed by the author to Piri Thomas and his wife Betty Elder Thomas, an activist attorney who fought for women's rights: "Por Piri y Betty, Unidad y Lucha. Amiri Baraka 1981" ["For Piri and Betty. Unity and Struggle"]. Piri Thomas was of Afro-Latino descent, born in New York to a Puerto Rican mother and Cuban father, and lived in Spanish Harlem. His autobiography of that experience, *Down These Mean Streets* was a bestseller. A nice association. [BTC#412817]



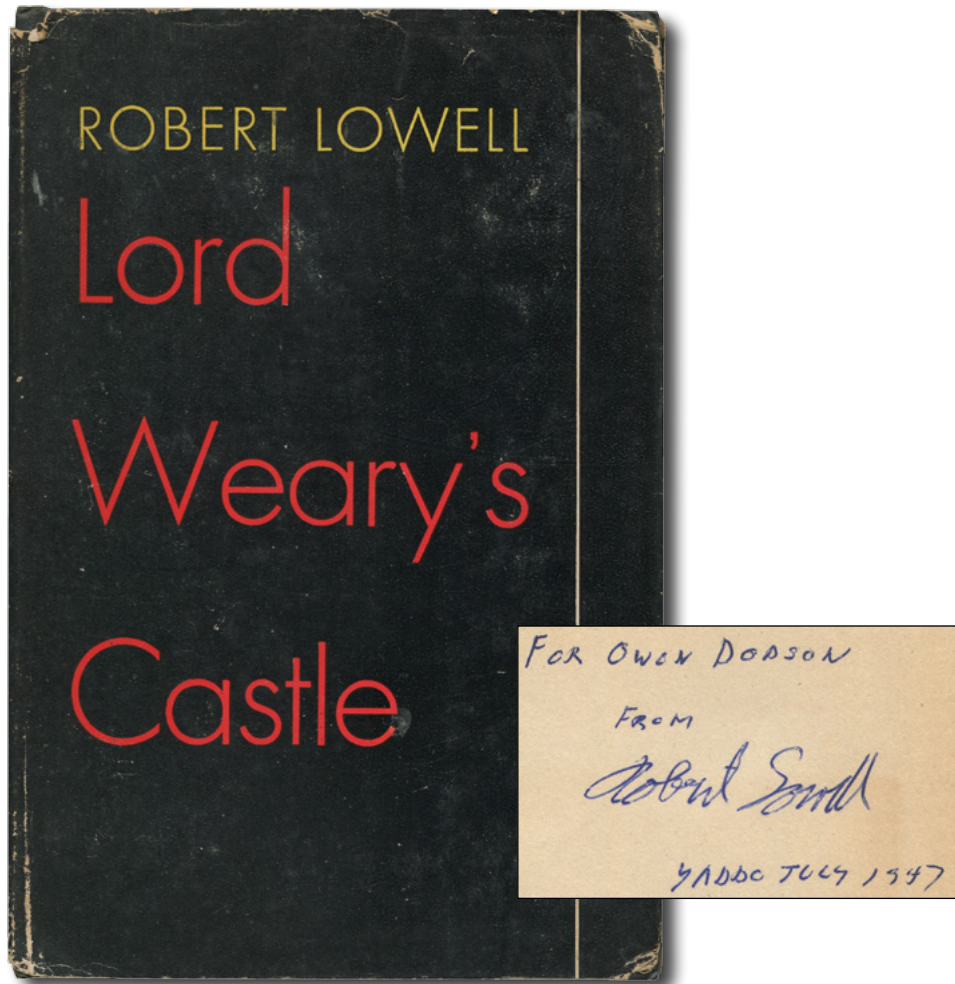
**44 (Poetry)**  
**Countee CULLEN**  
*Copper Sun*

New York: Harper & Brothers 1927

**\$550**

First edition, trade issue. Decorations by Charles Cullen. Spine label toned, boards a bit rubbed, very good in very good spine-toned and price-clipped dust jacket. A nice copy. [BTC#532953]

## Inscribed to Owen Dodson

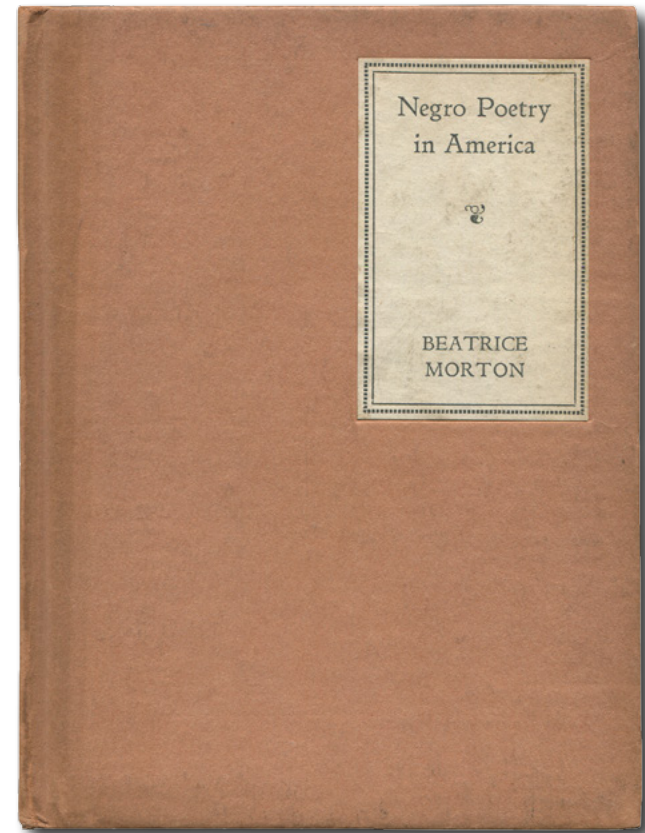


**45 (Poetry)**  
**Robert LOWELL**  
*Lord Weary's Castle*

New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company (1946)

**\$1500**

Third printing. Faint offsetting on title and facing page, slight stains on the boards, a good copy in good third printing dust jacket with light staining on the rear panel, and small chips and tears. Inscribed by Lowell to African-American poet Owen Dodson: "For Owen Dodson from Robert Lowell. Yaddo. July 1947." Yaddo is a writers' community located in Saratoga Springs, New York that has been host to scores of notable writers since its founding in 1926, and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2013. Lowell's first commercial publication, and winner of the Pulitzer Prize. [BTC#533514]

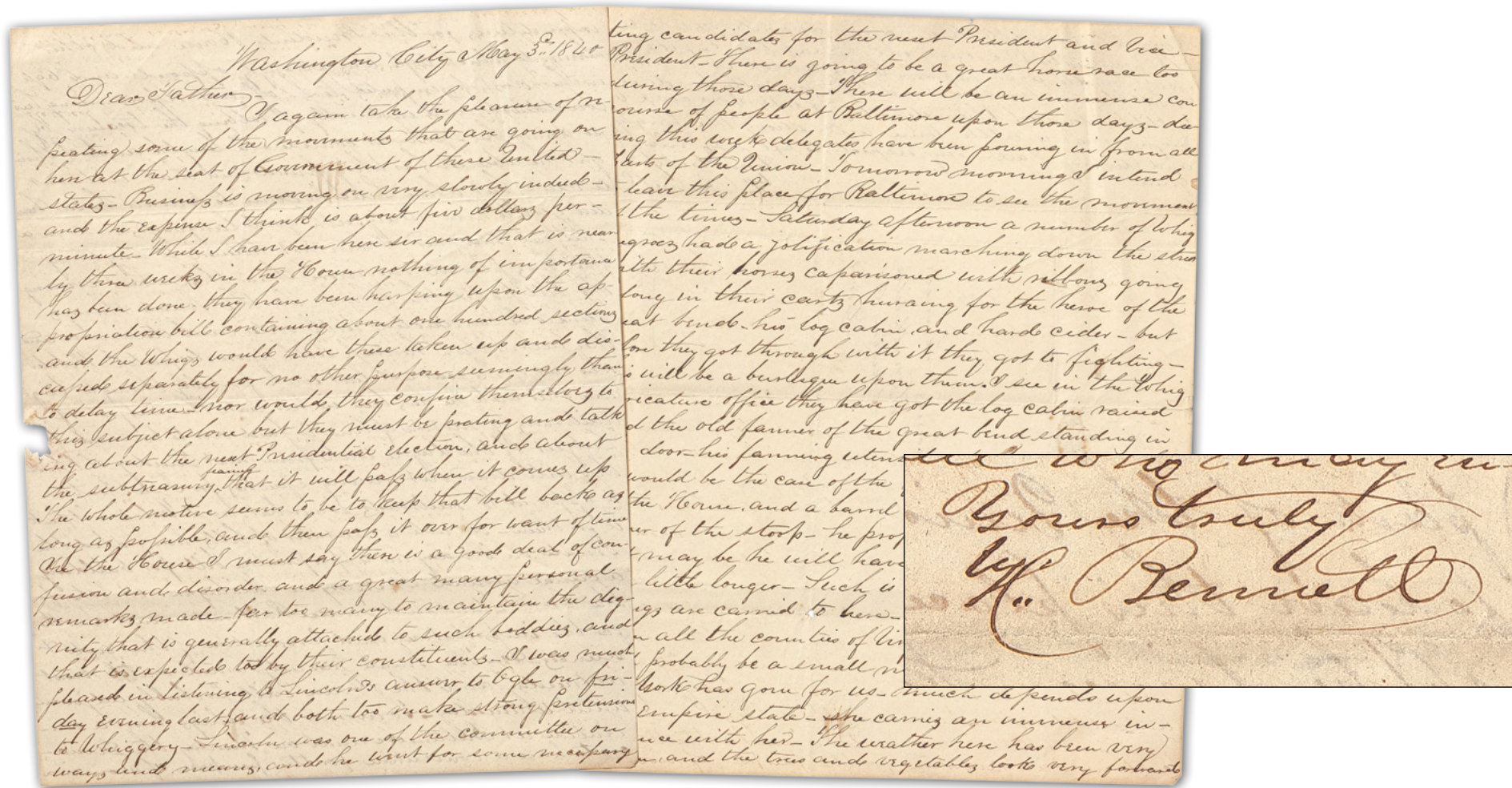


**46 (Poetry)**  
**Lena Beatrice MORTON**  
*Negro Poetry in America*

Boston, Massachusetts: The Stratford Company, Publishers 1925

**\$650**

First edition. 16mo. 71pp. Papercovered boards with printed label on the front board and spine. Some toning on the spine and label else near fine. A relatively early book devoted entirely to the study of African-American poetry by an African-American woman scholar and educator. Morton was born in Kentucky and attended the University of Cincinnati, where she was a founding member of the school's first African-American Greek organization, Zeta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. This is her first book, an overview of Black poetry meant to provide readers "a greater knowledge and a deeper appreciation of the literary genius of the Negro," with excerpts of works by Joseph Cotter, Jr., Claude McKay, William Stanley Braithwaite, Lucian B. Watkins, George M. Horton, and Paul Laurence Dunbar, among others. A fragile and uncommon volume. [BTC#543747]



## 47 (Politics)

**Henry BENNETT**

Autograph Letter Signed from Member of Congress Henry Bennett, to his Father with mention and details of a Parade of "Negro Whigs"

\$2500

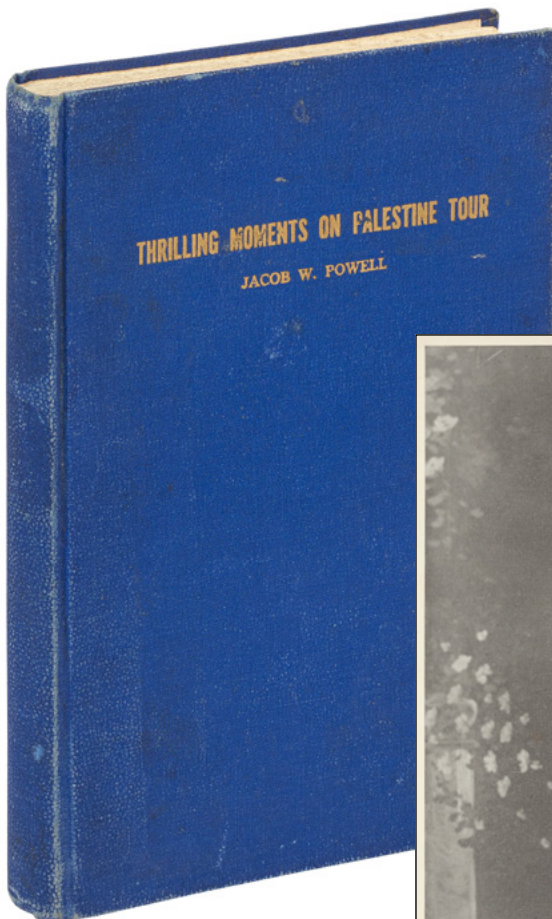
Letter from Henry Bennett, later a member of Congress, to his father dated May 3, 1840 from Washington, DC. Four pages. Measuring 7¾" x 9¾". Old folds from mailing, near fine. A marvelously descriptive letter reporting on political goings-on in Washington, DC and at the Whig Convention in Baltimore. Bennett was a Whig and Republican member of Congress from New York from 1849-1859.

The first page is an informed review of votes, motives, what may be, and debates about railroad issues. Bennett then begins to report on the events preceding the Democratic Convention in Baltimore (set for May 5) for the selection of the presidential candidate. There is a description of a parade held by the "Whig negroes": "Saturday afternoon a number of Whig negroes had a jolification [sic] marching down the street with their horses caparisoned with ribbons going along in their carts hurraing [sic] for the hero of the great bend, his log cabin, and hard cider - but before

they got through with it they got to fighting - this will be a burlesque upon them."

Bennett was referring to William Henry Harrison, the presidential candidate of the Whigs, who did indeed defeat Van Buren. The campaign of 1840 is generally regarded as the first modern election campaign in that the Whigs successfully used every sort of political device to influence voters. Harrison was presented to the electorate as the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" candidate (the letter contains a detailed description of something Bennett identifies as the 'Whig caricature office'). The campaign was unique at that time for its popular and emotional appeal and disregard of a political platform for Harrison who simply ran against Jackson's record. Bennett closes with a brief statement concerning the loss of the Virginia state elections. A most informative letter, with an early description of the participation of free Blacks in Presidential electoral politics.

[BTC#463824]



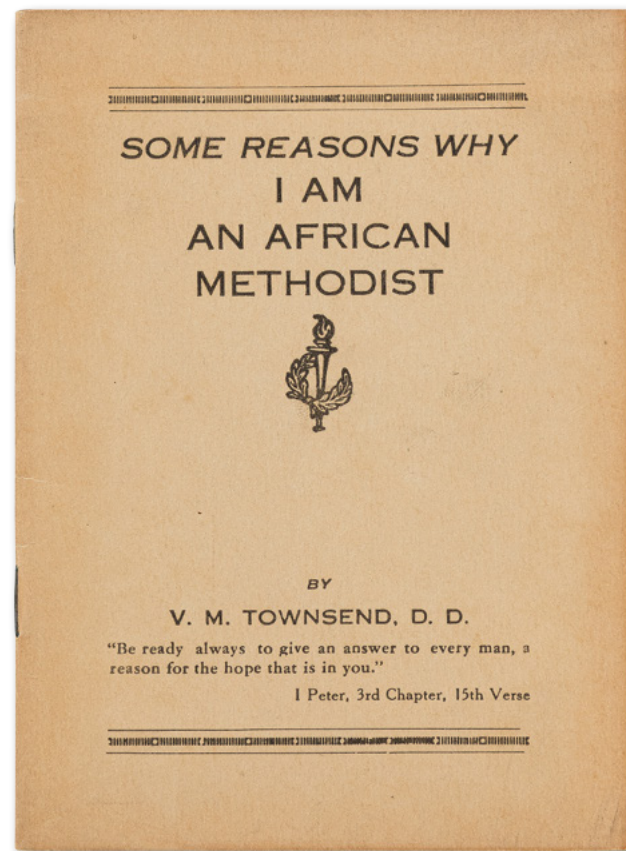
1. JACOB W. POWELL (Author and Publisher)

**48 Jacob W. POWELL*****Thrilling Moments on Palestine Tour***

Malden, Mass.: [Privately Printed for the Author] 1937

**\$2000**

First edition. Octavo. 136pp. Frontispiece portrait of the author. Illustrated reproducing photographs, maps, etc. Blue cloth stamped in gold. Binding is rubbed at extremities, front and rear blank flyleaves neatly excised, else a very good or better copy, with text and plates quite fresh and clean. African-American Jacob Wesley Powell was born in Boston in 1866, "baptized in the Charles River" in 1881 when he converted and joined the A.M.E. Zion Church in Boston. In 1888 he became city editor for the *Boston Advocate* and a correspondent for *Star of Zion*. Active in the A.M.E. Zion church, he was ordained a Deacon, and later an Elder. A scarce publication. OCLC lists five copies. [BTC#518923]

**49 (Religion)  
V.M. TOWNSEND*****Some Reasons Why I Am an African Methodist***

[Little Rock, Arkansas?: Privately Printed for the Author circa 1940]

**\$1400**

First edition. 24mo. 20pp. Illustrated with a frontispiece portrait of the author, the Presiding Elder of the Little Rock District, Arkansas Annual Conference. Stapled cream-colored printed wrappers. A little toning on the wrappers, else near fine. Author's first (and only?) book: "This little pamphlet coming from me at this time is the result of a few words to me by Mr. S.M. Ballard... I decided then to answer the question in this little pamphlet, and let everyone who desires to know just why I am an African Methodist..." (from author's introductory statement). Sections of text are devoted to scriptural foundation, the origin of the A.M.E. Church, "our women," baptism, etc. The final two leaves of text print an untitled 28-line poem by the author, under the heading: "The Following Poem Bespeaks My Sentiments." Townsend was a native of Arkadelphia, Arkansas. OCLC locates two copies. Not in *Blockson*. Wright, *Centennial Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, p.228. [BTC#469773]



**50 (Virginia)**  
**(William H. PEGRAM, Charles FOLLEN)**

*Journal of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia, begun and held at the Capitol, in the City of Richmond, on Monday, the Second Day of December, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three*

Richmond: Printed by Thomas Ritchie, Printer to the Commonwealth 1833

**\$3000**

First edition. Thick quarto. Contemporary quarter calf and marbled paper over boards, red morocco spine label. Contemporary owner name in faint pencil on front free endpaper: "William H. Pegram, Sussex County, Virginia." The boards are rubbed and worn at the joints and edges of the boards, intermittent toning and light scattered foxing, lower right corner of front free endpaper is torn away, good or better. The front pastedown is inscribed (February 1840) in memoriam to Charles Follen, a Harvard professor and radical abolitionist who had perished on board the steamship *Lexington* when it burst into flames off of Long Island on January 13, 1840.

A curious and compelling association copy between William H. Pegram, a pro-slavery Virginia delegate for the Session of 1833-34 (in 1832 he advertised a \$30 reward for a runaway "negro fellow named Willis"); and Charles Follen, a leading abolitionist fired by Harvard for his abolitionist statements. Follen was a close friend and associate of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison and the prominent Unitarian minister William Ellery Channing.

This volume, of which there are no recorded copies in *OCLC*, includes a Document (No. 53) relating to the "Removal of Free Persons of Colour ... willing to emigrate to the western coast of Africa ..." and a Bill (No. 7, "To alter and amend the law concerning Slaves, Free Negroes and Mulattoes") making it illegal "for any free negro or mulatto to migrate or come into this commonwealth, from any state of this Union, or from any foreign country ... whether for the purpose of permanent settlement or temporary residence ... ." Also included is a Proclamation by Andrew Jackson and numerous other documents and bills. A scarce copy with an intriguing association.

[BTC#468160]

*"The Summons"*

*Dr. Charles Follen, a gentleman & Scholar who perished in the "Lexington", in one of his late lectures before the Mercantile Library Association of Boston, made the following translation from Schiller, which was to be applied to himself, and then who was embarked with him in that Steamboat*

*"With noiseless tread death comes a man  
 No plea - no prayer - de livers him -  
 From midst of life, unfinished plan  
 With sudden hand it severs him  
 And ready - or not ready - we delay  
 Hark to his Judge's ban he must away!"*

*Feb. 1840*

[DOC. No. 53.]

**REMOVAL OF FREE PERSONS OF COLOUR.**

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, }  
 March 6, 1834. }

SIR,

Enclosed is a communication to the house of delegates, which you will please lay before it.

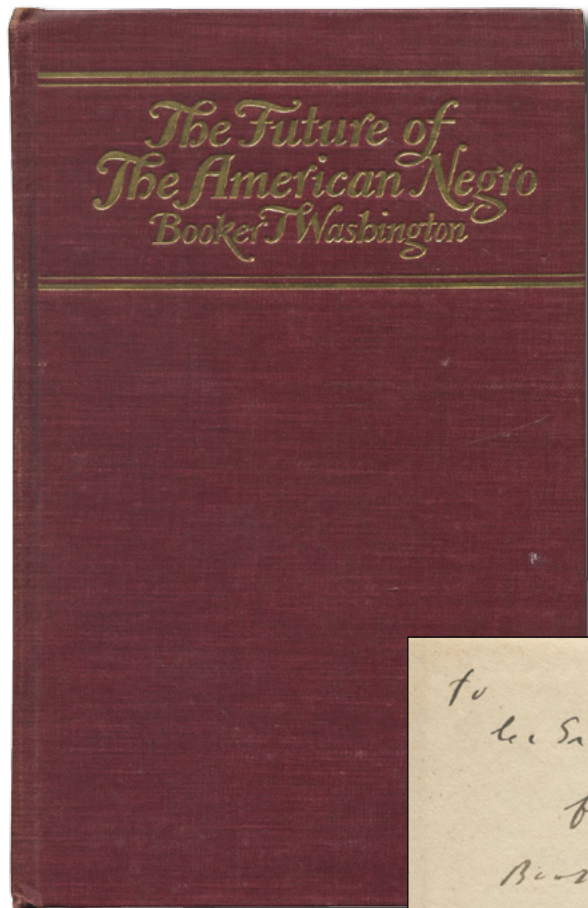
JOHN FLOYD.

To the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

[BILL No. 7.]

**A BILL,**

*To alter and amend the law concerning Slaves, Free Negroes and Mulattoes.*



To  
 Mr. Sidney Shephard  
 from  
 Booker T. Washington  
 June 14, 1901

**51 Booker T. WASHINGTON**

*The Future of the American Negro*

Boston: Small, Maynard 1900

**\$3000**

Second edition, published three months after the first. Octavo. 244pp. Frontispiece portrait. Red cloth gilt. Very slight rubbing, else a bright, just about fine copy. Boldly Inscribed by the author on the front pastedown: "To C. Sidney Shephard from Booker T. Washington. Jan. 14, 1901" and underscored with a flourish. Shephard was a railroad man from New Haven and a member of the Cornell University Board of Trustees. Washington's first major title, preceded by two small volumes of inspirational prose. Seldom found in this condition or inscribed, and almost never both. [BTC#539420]



**52 Booker T. WASHINGTON**

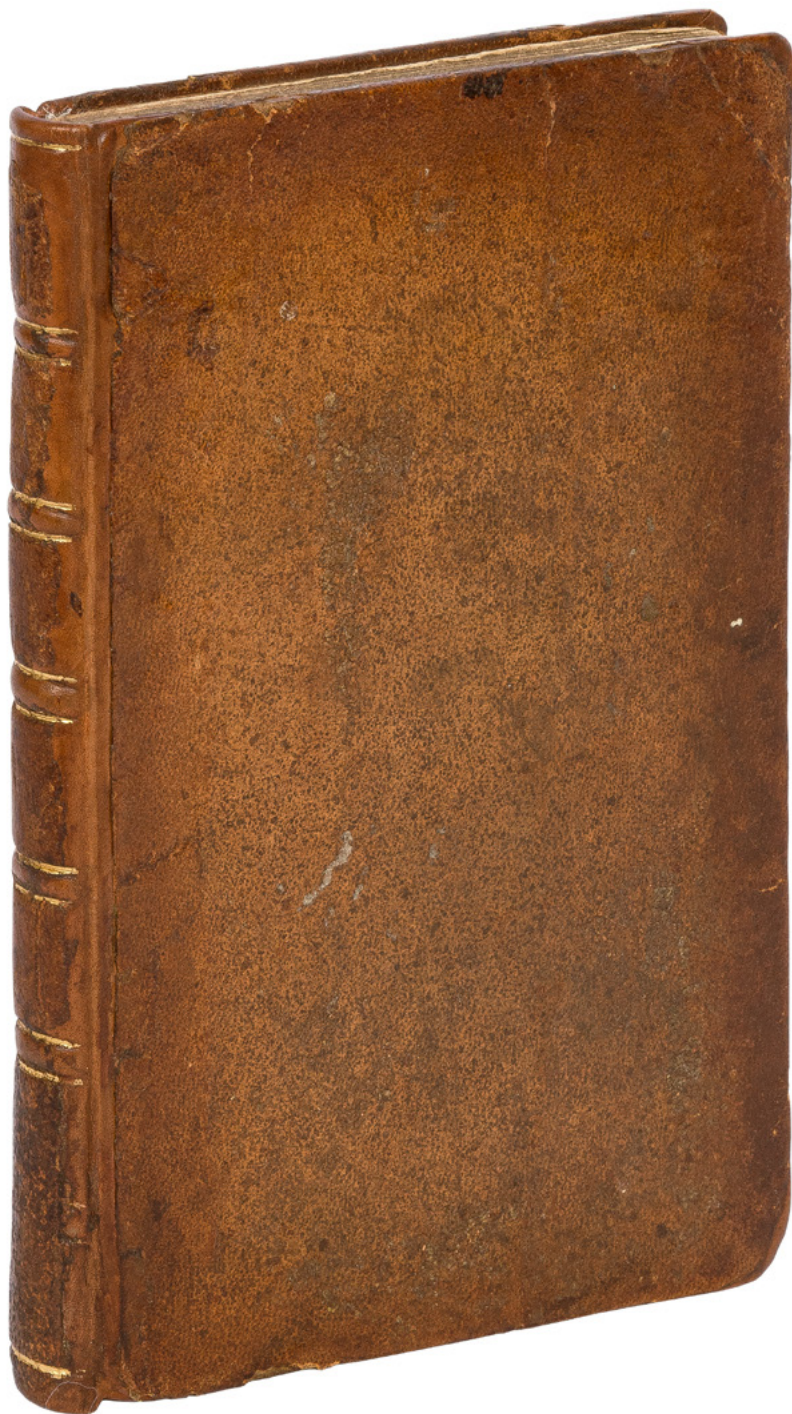
[Photograph]: *Vintage Portrait of Booker T. Washington*

[circa 1915]

**\$1800**

Gelatin silver portrait photograph. Measuring 8" x 10". Bust portrait of Booker T. Washington. A bit of solarization at the darker portions of the image, still a clear and near fine portrait photograph. No photographer's mark or other evidence. Undated, but an obviously vintage image. The Tuskegee Institute features this portrait on their website. Uncommon. [BTC#534509]

# First Published Book by an African-American



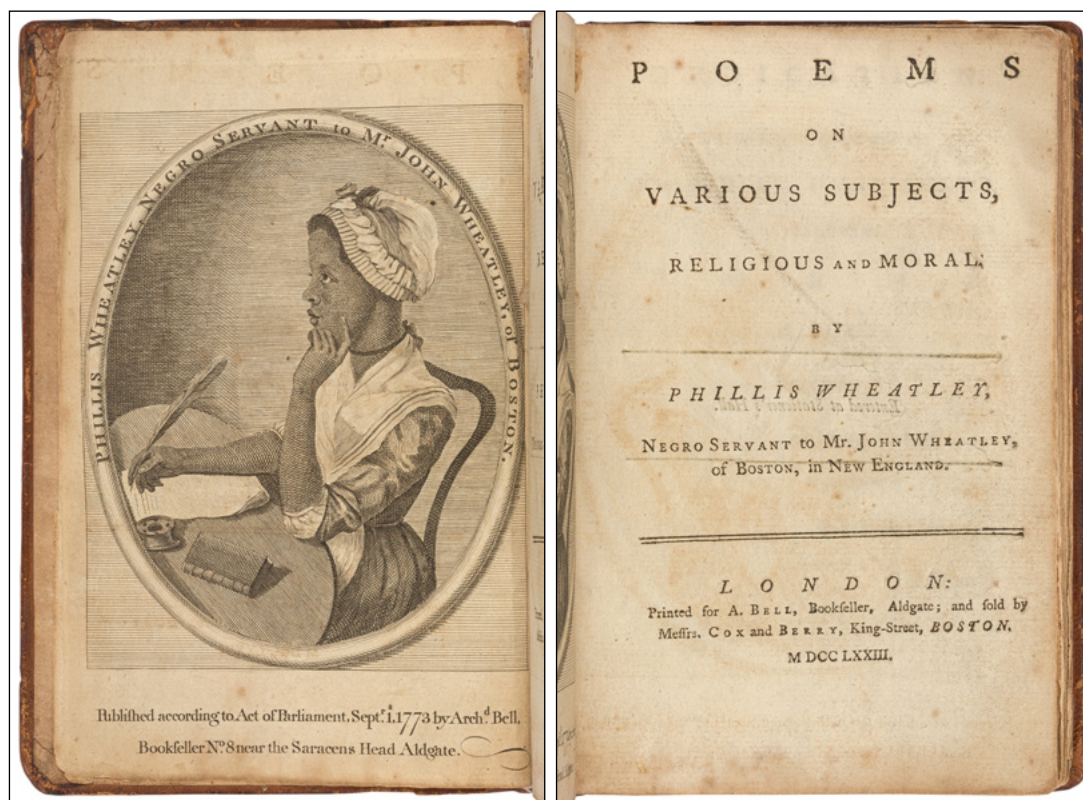
## 53 Phillis WHEATLEY

*Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral by Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley, of Boston, in New England*

London: Printed for A. Bell, Bookseller, Aldgate; and sold by Messrs. Cox and Berry, King-Street, Boston 1773

**\$85,000**

First edition. Octavo. 124, [4]pp. In the original speckled calf, re-backed with most of the original spine back laid down and the corner tips mended; lacking only the front free endpaper, else complete with the oft-missing engraved frontispiece portrait. Contemporary owner initials in ink on front pastedown. Modest toning at the edges of the endpapers and frontispiece, light scattered foxing; a very nice copy. The first book written by an African-American to be published. Wheatley was captured by slavers in Senegal and sold in Boston in 1761 to John and Susanna Wheatley, who named her for the ship that transported her, the *Phillis*. The Wheatleys educated her and encouraged her to write. Accompanied by the Wheatley's son she traveled to London to look for a publisher. The Countess of Huntingdon, a family friend, took an interest in her work and financed this publication. Phillis was freed later that year, and in 1776, during the siege of Boston, appeared before General Washington. The death of the Wheatleys led to an unfortunate marriage with a free Black man who went bankrupt, and she died in childbirth in 1784. The famous frontispiece portrait of Wheatley is the only surviving work by the enslaved African-American artist Scipio Moorehead. A very attractive copy, housed in a handsome quarter cloth clamshell box. *Blockson 101; ESTCT153734*. An exceptionally important title and an iconic volume of American poetry. [BTC#540795]



54 **Phillis WHEATLEY**  
**(George Moses Horton; Margaretta Matilda Odell)**

*Memoir and Poems of Phillis Wheatley, A Native African and a Slave*

*Also, Poems by a Slave*

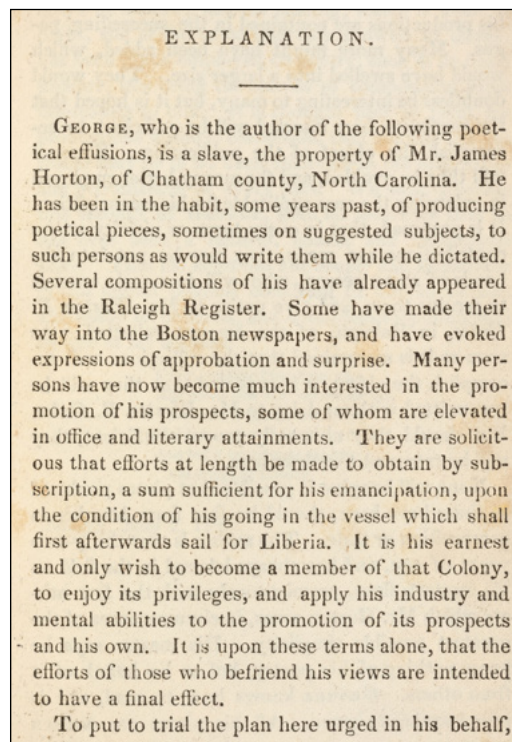
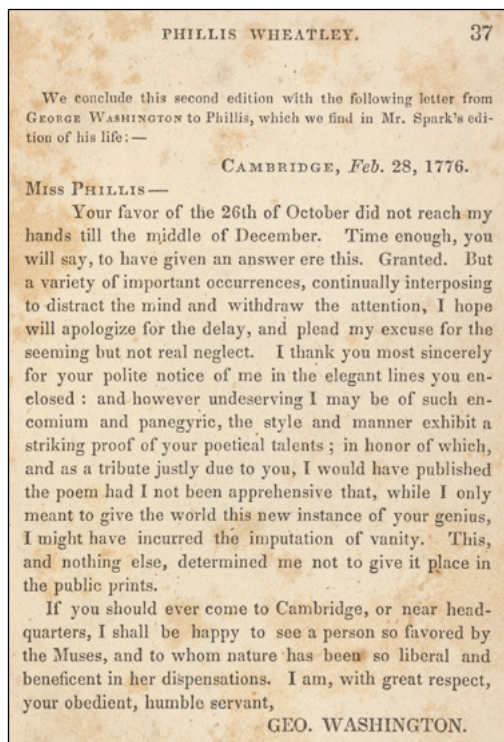
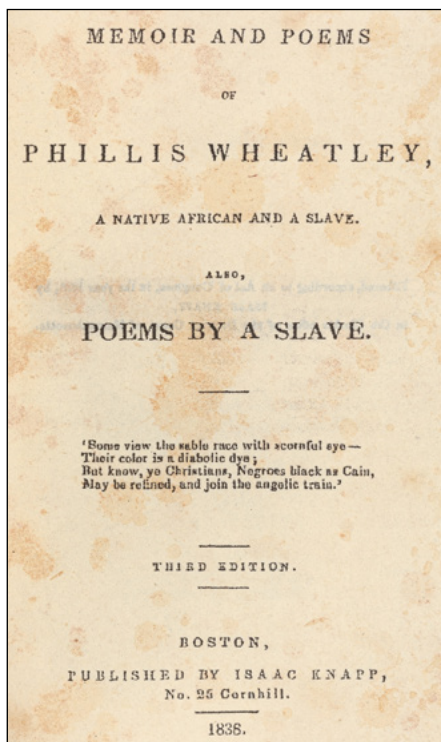
Boston: Isaac Knapp 1838

**\$18,500**

Third edition, first issue. Published with the letter from George Washington to Wheatley, and with the work of the noted Southern slave poet George Moses Horton. 12mo. 155pp., illustrated with a frontispiece portrait of Wheatley. In the original publisher's cloth with a printed paper spine label. The boards are a trifle faded and lightly soiled, head and tail of spine a little frayed, lacking about half of the spine label and two leaves: the title leaf and one text leaf (pp.11-12), both expertly replaced with facsimile reproductions made from the copy at the American Antiquarian Society. Very good.

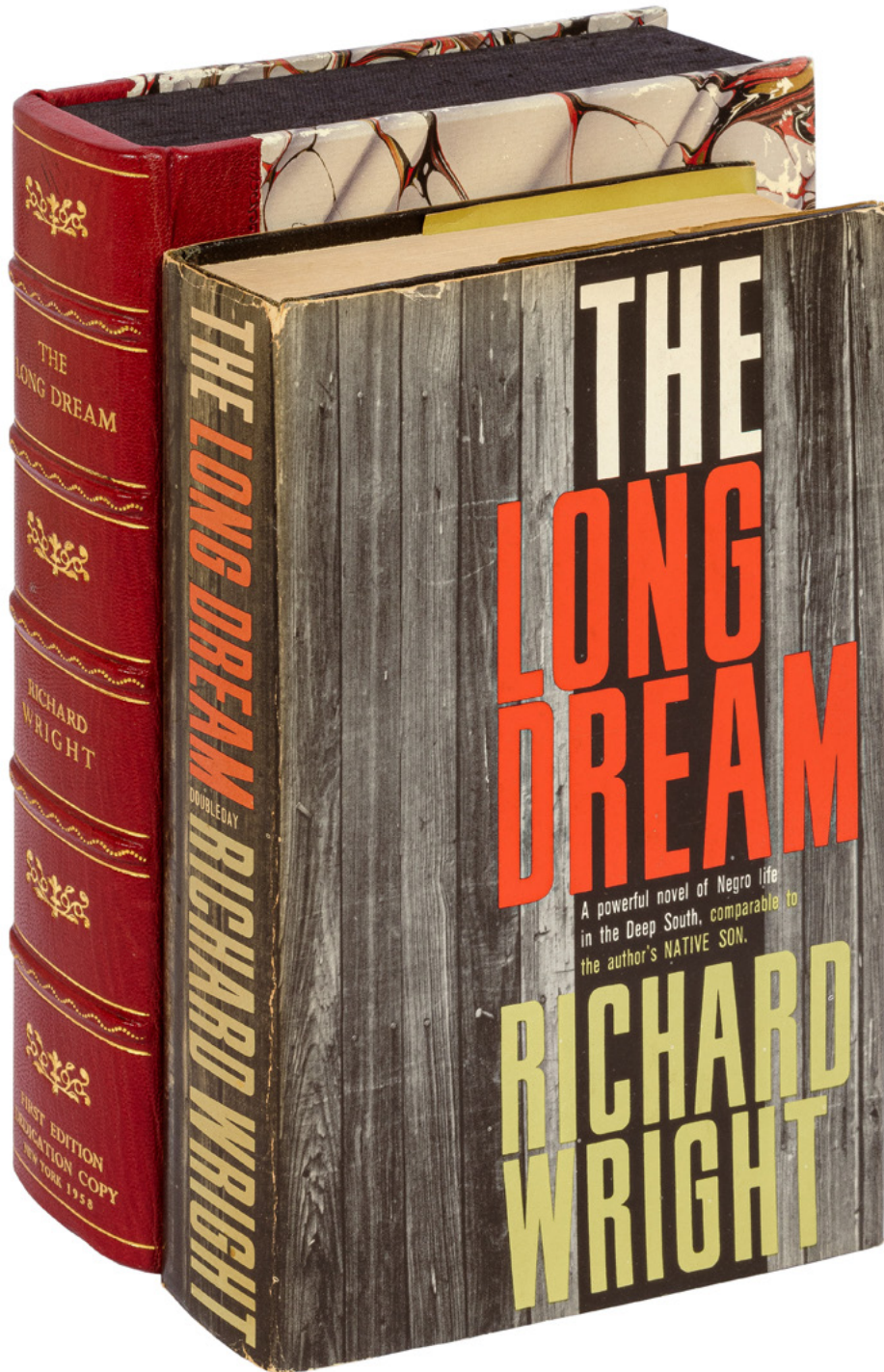
The scarce first issue of the third edition (with p.36 blank). In 1834, George W. Light published a new edition of Wheatley's *Poems* which included for the first time a memoir of Wheatley by Margaretta Matilda Odell. In 1837 a second edition was published by Light and Horton, and a third edition was published by Isaac Knapp in 1838. In addition to Odell's Memoir, Knapp's edition also includes two important new additions: George Washington's letter to Wheatley, as well as poems by George Moses Horton, introduced in the book as "a slave, the property of Mr. James Horton, of Chatham County, North Carolina."

Wheatley's landmark collection of poems was the first book written by an African-American to be published (1773). An attractive copy of the third new edition. [BTC#542599]





## The Dedication Copy



### 55 Richard WRIGHT

#### *The Long Dream*

Garden City: Doubleday & Company  
1958

**\$25,000**

First edition. Rubbing at the extremities of the boards and a couple of light smudges or faint stains in the text, else near fine in a nice, near fine dust jacket with a little nominal rubbing at the extremities. Housed in a custom red quarter morocco and marbled paper covered chamshell case. The Dedication Copy (one of two possible) **Inscribed** by the author using the whole front fly: "To Paul Reynolds, who has been my friend and agent for twenty years and whose faith and sense of security in life were strong enough to make him unafraid of my wanderings and seeking after answers - Sincerely Dick Wright. Oct. 26, 1958. Paris." The printed dedication reads: "To my friends Edward C. Aswell and Paul R. Reynolds whose aid and counsel made this book possible." Reynolds' small book label is laid into the book. A very nice copy of a seldom encountered novel of Black life in the deep south, successful in France but largely ignored upon publication in America. [BTC#540791]

To my friends  
EDWARD C. ASWELL and PAUL R. REYNOLDS  
whose aid and counsel made  
this book possible

To—  
Paul Reynolds, who  
has been my friend  
and agent for twenty  
years and whose  
faith and sense of  
security in life were  
strong enough to make  
him unafraid of my  
wanderings and seeking  
after answers —

Sincerely,  
Dick Wright  
Oct. 26, 1958  
Paris

# BETWEEN THE COVERS

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