BETWEEN THE Covers
RARE Books

CATALOG 245: AFRICAN-AMERICANA
Two Abolitionist Salt Cellars, or Toothpick Holders

[Abolition]
[Thomas CLARKSON]

Two small footed salt cellars or toothpick holders. Approximately 2¼” tall and 2¼” in diameter. White soft paste porcelain, each bearing the classic image of a kneeling chained female slave. On the opposite side of each is the printed phrase: “Take courage – go on – persevere to the last. Thomas Clarkson Age 84.” Clarkson actually uttered the phrase at age 80 in 1840, at the anti-slavery convention in Freemasons’ Hall, London. Presumably these vases would date from between 1840 and 1845, and were almost certainly either manufactured in England for the American export market (slavery having been abolished in England with the passage of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, after which time Clarkson focused his efforts on abolishing slavery in the U.S.), or manufactured in America itself. While we are somewhat out of our depths identifying porcelain, our consultations with others more expert lead us to believe the former. Fine condition, with no visible flaws. Rare – while we have seen other vintage abolitionist china – most notably the jasperware “Slave Medallion” depicting the famous and similar image of a kneeling male slave, made by Josiah Wedgwood, we have never encountered these, and can find no reference to them. [BTC#96124]
2  
Raoul ABDUL  
Famous Black Entertainers of Today  
New York: Dodd, Mead & Company (1974)  
$225

First edition. Illustrated with photographs. Fine in very lightly rubbed else fine dustwrapper. Warmly Inscribed by the author: “For Ida Cullen Cooper whose love of young writers has been most encouraging. Raoul Abdul.” Ida Cullen Cooper was the widow of Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen. [BTC#441564]

3  
(Africa)  
Colonel MACLEAN, compiled by  
A Compendium of Kafir Laws and Customs,  
including Genealogical Tables of Kafir Chiefs  
and Various Tribal Census Returns  
Mount Coke [South Africa]: Wesleyan Mission Press, Printed for the Government of British Kaffraria 1858  
$1200

First edition. Octavo. 168pp, plus three folding charts. Original brown cloth with printed paper spine label. Early owner name dated in 1865, thin partial split at the lower hinge but tight and stable, corners a little bumped and some rubbing on the spine label, else a handsome near fine copy of an uncommon title.

The Eastern Cape Mount Coke mission was established in 1825. A printing press was purchased in 1849 and used to print the first Xhosa Bible in 1853. Mount Coke was proclaimed a National Monument in 1959. “This volume, the results of the author’s efforts to form a compilation of facts concerning the native races, is regarded as one of the best on the subject, and contains many valuable papers by the Rev. H. H. Dugmore, and Messrs. Warner, Brownlee, and Ayliff. The geography, government, laws, and [marriage] customs of the natives are fully described.” Mendelsohn's South African Bibliography I, 960. [BTC#429754]
Romare BEARDEN

[Poster]: 8 Artistes Afro-Americains
11 Juin – 9 Septembre, 1971
Musee Rath, Geneve
Geneve: Musee Rath 1971
$1200

Large color offset poster. 25½” x 37½”. Small staple holes in the corners, a couple of rubbed spots, one tiny puncture on the black area, and tiny tears at the extremities, else near fine. The eight black artists represented were Romare Bearden (his first important European museum show), Frederick John Eversley, Marvin Harden, Wilbur Haynie, Senga Nengudi (Sue Irons), Alvin Smith, Bob Thompson, and Ruth Neal Tunstall-Grant. The poster art is unsigned but is by Bearden. [BTC#448256]
Giving the man his due

(Art)

Nathaniel K. GIBBS
(Clarence H. BURNS)

[Original Painting] Portrait of Clarence Henry “Du” Burns, Baltimore’s First Black Mayor
[Baltimore: 1988]

$3500

Oil pastel on paper, signed “N.K. Gibbs, ‘88” at the bottom right. Measures about 19” x 23” and mounted in a large frame measuring 30” x 36”. A fine portrait of Clarence “Du” Burns, who rose from being a high school locker room attendant to become Baltimore’s first black mayor in 1987. Burns founded the Eastside Democratic Organization in East Baltimore, and earned his nickname “Du” in the 1940s because he was always “doing things for people.” An impressive, large scale portrait by Nathaniel Kato Gibbs, one of Baltimore’s leading African-American artists best known for his commissioned portraits (which also include Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and Malcolm X), as well as his original images of African-American “Buffalo soldiers.” [BTC#448655]
George Edward Smith

[Original Paintings] A Suite of 13 Portraits of African-Americans from Harlem, late 1950s
(Harlem, New York): [circa 1957-1959]

$55,000

A collection of 13 remarkable portraits by a previously unknown African-American artist from Harlem in New York City. Most of the paintings are signed by the artist, George Edward Smith, including one with his address noted on the back as 10 West 135th Street in Harlem. The collection consists of various striking portraits of women and of the artist’s family, most likely including one or two portraits of the artist himself with his wife and other family members. Two paintings are dated: 1957 and 1959, indicating that they all likely date from the late 1950s.

All 13 paintings are notable for Smith's striking use of color and bold foregrounding of each person portrayed. Whether it be of a mother or grandmother, a young woman striding forth in heels or going off to church, or of the artist himself and his wife: all possess highly animated and distinctive facial expressions and gestures; and most are portrayed upon a background with whimsical and satirical references to motifs common in European Old Master paintings and still life paintings.

The collection consists of 10 color acrylic paintings on paper, and three in crayon and pastel on paper. Most are outlined with a hand painted black rectangular border. The outer blank margins of all but one painting are toned from having been reinforced with plain masking tape, most of which has been neatly removed, one painting is partly damaged at one corner, and about three other paintings have one or two partial tears on the background near a top or bottom edge, else very good overall, with some waviness from when the sheets were rolled.

An unusual and striking suite of paintings warranting further research regarding the identity of the artist and the circumstances of his life in Harlem during the 1950s. A detailed list of all 13 works follows, in two sections:
I. Color Acrylic Paintings on Paper

Note: the measurements are of the full sheet: eight works were painted within a black rectangular border with outer blank margins; two works fully painted to the edges of the sheet are noted below. Titles mostly supplied:

1. George Smith and Wife
Measuring 17" x 27". Portrait of the artist and his wife? Mounted on foam board.

2. Grandmother and Grandson
Measuring 17" x 24". Signed: “By Geo Smith, Sr. 1957.”

3. Wife
Measuring 16½" x 33". Signed: “By Geo Edw. Smith.” Condition note: there are two tears (about 2"-3" each) to the background at the top right and bottom right side; not affecting the foreground portrait.

4. Portrait of George Smith, Jr.

5. Mother and Son
Measuring 22" x 18". Painted on a full sheet, with masking tape removed from the edges of the sheet. Captioned on the back: “Completed 1959 in June / 10 W. 135th St. New York City, NY By G.E. Smith, Sr.” Condition note: there is one 3” tear to the background, not affecting either portrait.

7. Young Woman on a Balustrade in a Garden
Measuring 16" x 32 ½”.

8. Young Woman in a White Dress
Measuring 15¼" x 25¼”. The top left corner is partly damaged (a 3” piece is torn away), else very good with two small surface abrasions on the background of the left side.

9. Young Woman in a Purple Dress
Measuring 18½” x 33¾”. Signed: “Geo Smith.”

10. Woman in Green Dress
Measuring 17¾” x 27½”. Signed: “By Smith.”

II. Color Crayon/Pastel Paintings

1. Family Portrait: Mother, Son, and Father
Measuring 23” x 18”. Signed: “Smith, Geo.”

2. George Smith and Wife?
Measuring 17¾” x 23½”. Signed: “By Geo E. Smith.” Condition note: scattered short tears along the blank left margin of the sheet.

3. Baby
Measuring 17¾” x 23½”. Signed: “By Geo Edw. Smith.”

[BTC#442810]
Completely 1959 in June
10 W. 135 at New York City N.Y.

By [Signature]
7 (Aviation)  
**William J. POWELL**  
*Black Wings*  
Los Angeles: Ivan Deach, Jr. 1934  
$2000  

World War I veteran Powell was fascinated by flight, and soon became one of aviation’s most important advocates for black pilots. He organized the first African-American flight show, created a movie about a young aviator, started a flight school and a monthly aviation journal, and wrote this “novel” (really a thinly veiled memoir) about a young man learning to fly, all with the goal of encouraging African-Americans to participate in the new industry, which he believed had nearly limitless potential. The book is dedicated “To the memory of Bessie Coleman, the first Negro to fly an aeroplane successfully, who, although possessed of all the feminine charms that man admires in the opposite sex, also displayed courage equal to that of the most daring men.” A wonderful book of optimism and enthusiasm for aviation, well before the creation of the Tuskegee Airmen. Very uncommon. [BTC#449558]

8  
**James BALDWIN**  
*Noset of a Native Son*  
Boston: Beacon Press (1955)  
$800  
First edition. Near fine in a good or better price-clipped dustwrapper, with a chip and longish tear on the rear panel, and other modest overall wear but with none of the usual spine-fading. Author’s second book and an important book of essays. Chosen as a NYPL Book of the Century. An uncommon title. [BTC#443096]

9  
**Audrey BLACKFORD**  
*The Royal Queen*  
Elizabeth Miller: The Inspiring True Story of a Woman Who Built a Kingdom for Children Whom the World Had Cast Away  
$350  
First edition. Endpapers a trifle foxed, else fine in good plus dustwrapper with fading, light damp staining, and some tears along the edge of the spine. Inscribed by the author. Very scarce biography of a black woman from Virginia who headed North, eventually founding an orphanage for black children in East Orange, New Jersey. [BTC#78267]
(Josephine BAKER)

[Poster]: Bar Des Folies Africaines
[Circa 1950s]

$385

Poster. Measuring 18⅜” x 26”. Color lithographic poster mounted on linen featuring a dancing, topless, and barefoot Josephine Baker holding a tray of drinks while a man in monocle and cigarette dances behind her. Near fine with some slight toning at the edges. This appears to be a 1950s-era reprint of an attractive Baker image. [BTC#439293]
11 Arna BONTÉMPS
God Sends Sunday
New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company (1931)
$2000

First edition. 199pp. Pale brown cloth stamped on front board with illustration by Aaron Douglas. Near fine lacking the dustwrapper. **Inscribed** by the author to a pioneering black collector: “For Glenn Carrington with the best wishes of Arna Bontemps. 2-15-49.” The first novel by this important Harlem Renaissance author. Bontemps collaborated with Countee Cullen to adapt the novel for the stage, where it appeared as *St. Louis Woman*. Glenn Carrington, the recipient, was a gay black man, who socialized with writers of the Harlem Renaissance such as Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Alain Locke, and Countee Cullen, and was one of the first African-Americans to serve as a parole officer in New York State. [BTC#443119]

12 Arna BONTÉMPS
Black Thunder
New York: Macmillan Company 1936
$1000

First edition. Modest toning and faint spots on the boards, very light crease on front fly, a very good or better copy lacking the dustwrapper. Harlem Renaissance novel based on a Virginia slave revolt. **Signed** by the author, and very uncommon thus. [BTC#443874]

13 **(Arna BONTÉMPS)**

[Program]: In Memoriam Arna Wendell Bontemps 1902 - 1973
New York: Christ Chapel, The Riverside Church 1973
$200

One printed leaf folded to make four pages. Horizontal crease else near fine. Program for a memorial service for the African-American author, including a litany by Ruby Dee and several participants from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. [BTC#443919]
(Boy Scouts)

[Photographs]: African-American Boy Scouts in Pennsylvania

$1600

Approximately 62 loose black and white gelatin silver photographs, mostly of African-American Boy Scouts and their parents, sometimes in uniforms. Various sizes, perhaps an average of 3½” x 3½” with several both larger or smaller. A few with torn perforations as removed from a photo booklet, a few corners a little bumped, perhaps moved from album corners, one image stapled onto a thin card backer, but overall near fine. A substantial number are date stamped “May 1960,” none are captioned. A healthy majority are of African-American Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and/or their parents; a few are of troops of primarily white Scouts and their leaders, or groups of the two races together. A couple are of baseball games. Although uncaptioned, in one image a group photo is taken in front of the Faith Presbyterian Church (and could likely be identified). Two particular images depict a group of black Scouts performing a ritual Native American dance. A pleasing group of chronologically and subject specific images. [BTC#444565]
Richfield, 24th July 1848

Dear Son John,

I feel how to appreciate the feelings of a young person among strangers, at a distant from home. I am sure of good feeling towards you, or interest in you, has been the reason why I have not written you before. I have been careful, troubled with so much business that I have in a great neglect the one, needful, and pretty much stopped all correspondence with Heaven! My worldly business has borne heavily, it still does, but we prosper somewhat, have our griefs shared, and have done something at our living. Have our farming business going on in about the same proportion. But if we are pretty fairly sound in our business, I feel that I must notify or must give up one or other of the branches for want of regular banks on whom to depend. We should like to know how you expect to dispose of your time hereafter, how you get along, what your views have been, what difficulties you meet. I would send you some money, but I have not yet received a dollar from any source since you left. I should not be so far from you, if other means were not, but all is well. All is well. Will you come home or not this fall? I shall see there are some persons in Richfield who would welcome and enjoy you, and think of seeing your brother once more. Whenever you may be, I hope you may behave yourself wisely in all things.

From your father,

John Brown
John BROWN
Autograph Letter Signed to his eldest son, John Brown, Jr.
$7500

Single leaf. Measuring 8” x 12½”. Old folds from mailing, remnants of red wax seal, some splitting at the folds with a few old repairs on the reverse, small hole from where the wax seal was opened, about very good example. Letter sent from John Brown, Sr. in Richfield, Ohio to John Brown, Jr. in Austinburgh in Ashtabula County, Ohio on 24th July 1843.

In the letter Brown inquires of his son’s activities and offers an update of his business and life. He bemoans the state of their tanning business and is remorseful: “I would send you some money, but I have not received a Dollar from any source since you left. I should not be so dry of funds would I but overtake my work, but all is well. All is well.”

Of particular interest is Brown’s declaration to his son that: “I have in great measure neglected the one thing needful, & pretty much stopped all correspondence with Heaven.”

The verso is hand addressed by Brown, Sr., with the bottom third of the address leaf containing a signed statement from Jason Brown, another son of Brown, Sr. and brother of John Brown, Jr. dated in 1890 and certifying that he received this letter from his brother John, and that the letter is in his father’s hand. This is followed by a signed statement from Judge George Albion Gibbs of Pasadena, California confirming the truth of Jason Brown’s statement.

A fascinating insight into Brown’s state of mind and struggles, his life and religion.

The full text of John Brown’s letter as follows (spelling as in the original):
“Richfield 24th July 1843.
Dear Son John,
I well know how to appreciate the feelings of a young person among strangers & at a distance from home & no want of good feelings towards you, or interest in you, has been the reason why I have not written you before. I have been careful & troubled with so much serving, that I have in a great measure neglected the one thing needful, & pretty much stopped all correspondence with Heaven.
My worldly business has borne heavily & still does, but we progress some have our sheep sheared, & have done something at our Haying. Have our tanning business going on in about the same proportion, that is we are pretty fairly behind our business, & feel that I must nearly or quite give up one, or other of the branches for want of regular troops on whom to depend.
We should like to know how you expect to dispose of your time hereafter, & how you get along, what your studies have been, & what difficulties you meet. I would send you some money, but I have not yet received a Dollar from any source since you left. I should not be so dry of funds would I but overtake my work, but all is well. All is well. Will you come home or not this fall. I suppose there are some persons in Richfield who would be midling fond of seeing you back once more. Wherever you may be, I hope you may behave yourself wisely in all things.
From Your father,
John Brown.”

The address leaf on the verso reads:
“Richfield O Paid 10 July 27
Mr. John Brown Jr.
Austinburgh
Ashtabula Co
Ohio.”

The text of Jason Brown’s testament of authenticity:
“This is to certify that this letter was written by my father John Brown of ‘Harper’s Ferry’ fame, that I am familiar with his handwriting and know this to be his letter to my Brother who now resides at Put in Bay, Ottawa County Ohio; that my brother gave me this letter two years ago last March, When I visited him at his home in Put in Bay, and I have this day presented the same to George A. Gibbs of Said Pasadena. In presence of [signed] George A. Gibbs [signed] Jason Brown.”

The text of George A. Gibbs testament:
“Pasadena California December 22d 1890. This is to certify that I’m personally acquainted with Jason Brown and know what he says to be worthy of the highest credit, and I have this day presented this letter to my father Albion W. Gibbs [signed] George A. Gibbs.” [BTC#443349]
Youth Corps and possibly a performer in a soul band. The photos show family, friends, and classmates and include an interesting series of photo booth shots, class portraits, trips to the beach, and general hanging around the neighborhood.

Ephemera includes report cards, ticket stubs from her first date along with a detailed note regarding the date, ID cards, a couple of drawings, and more. Ephemera of interest consists of items from the San Francisco funk and soul music scene with business cards of Soul Productions (a promotions company run by Gangster Bob and Jerome "Poochie" Thomas) and the band Sisters from the Ghetto as well as two concert broadsides for The Mellowtations.

Certainly in need of preservation, but a splendid documentation of African-American youth at the end of the 1960s. [BTC#411881]
Check it Out!

THE MELLOWTATIONS BAND

SOUL REVIEW

FEATURING

The Provocative Malesease
The Luscious French Toast
The Tantalizing Four

Soul Sisters: ELAINE Grayson
CAROLYN Seals
AND OTHERS...

DOING IT IN A UNIQUE NIGHT SPOT SETTING

FOR TEENS & ADULTS ONLY

OTHER LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

REASONABLY SOLD.

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THE YOUNG BLACKS OF THE BAYVIEW

FRIDAY JUNE 26, 1970 8:30PM-1AM

PELTON JUNIOR HIGH CAFÉ
45 CONKLING ST., S.F.

DONATIONS:
$1.50/Single
$2.50/Couple

Printed by Neighborhood Arts Program/San Francisco Arts Commission
17 (Canada)
Songs Sung by The Canadian Colored Concert Co.
The Royal Paragon Male Quartette
and Imperial Orchestra
[cover title]: Canadian Colored Concert Co.
Plantation Lullabies: What We Have We’ll Hold
Hamilton, Ont[ario]: Duncan Lith, Co. [circa 1900]
$300
Small quarto. 51pp. Stapled illustrated wrappers. Small chip and scrape on front wrap else very good or better. An interesting cover image used by this group during its “five year’s tour of Great Britain and three years’ tour of the America,” featuring a view of the United States from Canada’s perspective with the American flag and bald eagle perched on the newly ceded island nations of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines following the Spanish-American War. The booklet features both music and lyrics. [BTC#441825]

18 (Children)
The History and Adventures of Jack Mansong, The Famous Negro Robber, and Terror of Jamaica
Otley [England]: Printed by William Walker
[circa 1835]
$1500
Edition unknown. 24mo. 24pp. Bound in later half cloth and papercovered boards. Fine. Book for juvenile audience about a ferocious black robber, leavened at the end by condemnation of the slave trade, with a final wood engraving of the iconic image of a kneeling slave and the caption “Am I Not a Man and a Brother” on a banner above the image. Publication information about this title is confusing and occasionally contradictory, with two Scottish and two English editions. OCLC seems to locate about a half dozen copies by this publisher over three records, attributing it to as late as 1860 (probably much too late) and as early as 1835, which seems more likely to us. A very uncommon title and edition. [BTC#441743]

19 (Children)
Arna BONTEMPS and Langston HUGHES
Popo and Fifina
New York: Macmillan Company 1932
$1000
First edition. Illustrations by E. Simms Campbell. Orange cloth. Modest edge wear on the cloth at the extremities, in good price-clipped dustwrapper with small chips, tears, and spine-toning. A co-authored children’s book. This copy Signed by Arna Bontemps. The first edition is very uncommon, especially in jacket. [BTC#443120]
First edition. 12mo. 370pp. 63 engraved plates, many of them folding. Publisher’s green cloth with blindstamped eagle and shield on each board, and gilt spine-lettering. Spine lettering a little dull but readable, else a handsome near fine copy.

The first and only infantry manual issued for the use of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) during the Civil War. Presumably because of demand, this edition was issued simultaneously with another edition published in New York by publisher David Van Nostrand. Prepared by General Silas Casey, the text and plates were prepared for his *Infantry Tactics…* for white troops in 1862. This edition was issued with a note by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton noting “This system of United States Infantry Tactics, prepared… for the use of the colored troops… having been approved by the President, is adopted for the instruction of such troops.” The book also features 48 pages of drum beats and bugle-calls.

The first copy of this manual we’ve seen or handled, a significant testament to the important role of the African-American soldier in the Civil War. [BTC#444280]

### 21 E.L. DAVIS

*The Story of Eliza*

[Waco, Texas: 1913]

$2400

First edition. 12mo. Photo-illustrated stapled wrappers. 8[pp. Very good, front wrap detached and nicked at the corners and with some faint spotting on the rear wrap. Brief memoir of Eliza L. Davis, an American missionary born to former slave parents in Bastrop County, Texas published shortly before her journey to Africa, and likely as a fundraiser for her travel. Davis was a graduate of Guadalupe College in Seguin, Texas, earning a teaching certificate before going on to Central Texas College in Waco in 1905. The pamphlet charts her early life, conversion, her family’s decision to help her pursue higher education, the various challenges she faced, the vision she witnessed at church, and a concluding a 12-stanza poem, “A Call to Duty.” Davis fulfilled her destiny the same year as this pamphlet when she, along with eight others, boarded a ship bound for Monrovia, Liberia in December. She would spend nearly six decades there, marrying a British missionary doctor in 1919 and together adopting three children. When her husband died in 1939 she continued to do the Lord’s work, opening schools for children, founding churches, and serving as an evangelist and teacher. Davis only returned to the U.S. in 1972 due to poor health, settling in Tyler, Texas where she died in 1980. A rare memoir. OCLC locates no copies; not in *The Catalog of the Blockson Collection* or *Work*. [BTC#440440]
22  **(Frederick Douglass)**  
Julia GRIFFITHS, edited by  

**Autographs For Freedom**  
Boston: John P. Jewett and Company 1853  
$2750

First edition. Octavo. 263pp. Frontispiece and two additional plates. Gray cloth gilt. A bit of fraying at the spine ends and corners, heavy foxing in the text, else a nice, about very good copy. The scarce true first edition, followed by a more common expanded edition in 1854. A collection of anti-slavery essays and contributions written in response to the Rochester Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society’s solicitation for this compilation. Each contribution features the author’s signature in facsimile. Among the contributors are Harriet Beecher Stowe, Dr. James McCune Smith, Horace Greeley, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Steward, Horace Mann, Lewis Tappan, Charles Sumner, Gerit Smith, and Annie Parker. However, perhaps the most important contribution, and by far the longest (nearly 70 pages) is the first appearance of Frederick Douglass’s previously unpublished novella *The Heroic Slave*, his only attempt at fiction, and heavily influenced by the revolt lead by Madison Washington on the slave ship *Creole*. Very uncommon.  

**BTC#443915**

23  **Frederick DOUGLASS and others**  

“What the Black Man Wants” [in]: *The Equality of All Men Before the Law Claimed and Defended*  
Boston: Press of Geo. C. Rand & Avery 1865  
$2000

First edition. Octavo. 43, [1]pp., printed in two columns. Gathered and stitched self-wrappers. Front of wrapper presents as a printed letter from George L. Stearns; the rear wrap is an advertisement for a “Radical Republican Journal.” Light creases from handling with very faint foxing, near fine. Pages 36–39 contains an important Frederick Douglass speech, given before the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society in 1865. Douglass argued that the work of the Abolitionists was not yet done. He demanded the “immediate, unconditional and universal” enfranchisement for all black men in the Republic. Voting power, he argued, was what the freedmen needed, for their protection, to truly abolish slavery; to keep its bloody stain from spreading past the end of the Civil War, into the future. Douglass also bridled against the practices of compelling freed slaves to work on plantations to earn their bread and shelter or forcing them to do hard labor by conning and false legal pretenses. He emphatically announced that blacks had proven they could work. Whites should let them either make it on their own or fall on their own. The concluding portion of Frederick Douglass’s speech is powerful:

“What shall we do with the Negro? I have had but one answer from the beginning. Do nothing with us! Your doing with us has already played the mischief with us… All I ask is, give him a chance to stand on his own legs! Let him alone! If you see him on his way to school, let him alone, —don’t disturb him! If you see him going to the dinner-table at a hotel, let him go! If you see him going to the ballot-box, let him alone, don’t disturb him!”

Douglass’s speech is followed by “Suffrage for the Blacks Sound Political Economy” by Elizur Wright. George L. Stearns, the publisher, was one of the “Secret Six” who financed and worked with John Brown in his failed attempt to raid Harper’s Ferry. An important
24  **W.E.B. DU BOIS**  
*The Gift of Black Folk: The Negroes in the Making of America*  
Boston: Stratford Co. 1924  
$550  
First edition. Small octavo. Blue cloth gilt. Small tear on the edge of title page and on the two following leaves, slight discoloration on front board, else near fine lacking the rare dustwrapper. One of Du Bois's scarcest books, a title in the Knights of Columbus Racial Contribution Series. A nicer copy than is usually found. [BTC#449826]

25  **Paul Laurence DUNBAR**  
*Folks From Dixie*  
New York: Dodd, Mead & Company 1898  
$450  
First edition. Decorative brown cloth stamped in gilt and black attributed to George Wharton Edwards with pictorial paper illustration mounted on front, top edge gilt. Color frontispiece and drawings by E.W. Kemble. An especially fine and bright copy with the gilt lettering and decoration bright. The usually well-worn pictorial paper label on the front board is bright and unrubbed. An exceptional copy of this collection of dialect tales. [BTC#448306]

26  **Paul Laurence DUNBAR**  
*The Heart of Happy Hollow*  
New York: Log Cabin Press (1921)  
$400  
Pulp reprint edition. 12mo. 272pp. Illustrated wrappers. Cheap paper toned but supple, tiny tears and small creases on the front wrap, about very good. A curiosity: a pulp reprint of one of the author's less common titles published 17 years after the original publication and with the cover art making no attempt at all to represent African-American content. OCLC locates a single copy of this edition. [BTC#408961]
Bryan EDWARDS

The History, Civil and Commercial, of The British Colonies in the West Indies

Three Volumes: 1794-1801

London: Printed for John Stockdale, Piccadilly (1794; 1801)

$5000

The first two volumes are the second edition, the third volume is the first edition. Quartos. Illustrated with 22 engraved maps and plates, including three large folded maps of the West Indies (in two sheets), Jamaica, and St. Domingo. Bound in contemporary tree calf, gilt spines with leather title labels. All three volumes neatly re-jointed, institutional bookplates on the pastedowns. One leaf in vol. 1 (pp. 179/180) is partly damaged: the lower right corner was torn away and replaced with a surrogate facsimile of affected letterpress text, else a good or better set with wear on the spine backs and edges of the boards, corners a little bumped, some toning, and scattered foxing.

Described by abolitionist William Wilberforce as a “powerful opponent” who supported the slave trade, Bryan Edwards was an English historian and politician, and the owner of several plantations in Jamaica. A representative of the moderate planter position, Edwards’ groundbreaking History … of The British Colonies in the West Indies secured his election as Fellow of the Royal Society in 1794. In this wide-ranging work, he summarized his aim as: “to describe the manners and dispositions of the present inhabitants … [and provide] an account of the African slave trade, some observations on the negro character and genius, and reflections on the system of slavery established in our colonies”. Edwards also wrote a History of Haiti in 1795, and as Secretary of the African Association, he edited the African travel journals of Mungo Park.

A scarce complete set, with all of the maps and illustrated plates in very good condition. Pagination statements for all three volumes are available. [BTC#443123]
28  Arthur Huff FAUSET
Typed Letter Signed
Philadelphia: 1954

$500

One-page Typed Letter Signed (“Arthur H. Fauset”) dated 19 January 1954 on his Arthur H. Fauset Real Estate letterhead. Folded as mailed, else fine. Addressed to “Dear Pastor” who is not otherwise identified, Fauset begins: “Recently I came across a church edifice in a strategic West Philadelphia section which might be of interest to you and your congregation.” Fauset was the half-brother of Jessie Fauset and an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance in his own right. He contributed to Opportunity, Fire!! and Alain Locke’s The New Negro, and wrote several books including Black Gods of the Metropolis: Negro Religious Cults of the Urban North, Sojourner Truth: God’s Faithful Pilgrim, and For Freedom: A Biographical Story of the American Negro. Curiously, we were not aware that Fauset also conducted a real estate career.

[BTC#400192]

29  Jessie Redmon FAUSET
There is Confusion
New York: Boni & Liveright (1928)

$6000

First edition. A bit of soiling at the crown, else near fine in a worn and chipped fair only dustwrapper with chips (the largest claiming the top half of the rear panel) and internally repaired tears. Fauset, one of the first female African-American graduates of Cornell, was a very influential critic and the most prolific novelist of the Harlem Renaissance. While her formal, proper writing derived from her old-style Philadelphia upbringing, she was a champion of radical black novelists. As editor of The Crisis she published and encouraged George Schuyler, Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Claude McKay. This, the first of her four novels, followed Toomer’s Cane as the second novel of the Harlem Renaissance. There Is Confusion was the first work of fiction to portray the educated black middle class as a legitimate and productive portion of a racially mixed society. We’ve never seen another copy in jacket. [BTC#443983]
Early Race Film

Film Poster: “The Green Eyed Monster”
Arlington, Florida: Norman Film Mfg. Co. [1919 or 1920]
$2000

Poster. Measuring 28" x 42". Very good or better with loss at the bottom left margin, a few nicks and tears at the extremities, and a few light horizontal creases; the paper is surprising bright and supple. A poster advertising Norman Studios first feature-length, all-black film *The Green Eyed Monster* directed by Richard Norman, who believed there was an untapped market for films featuring African-Americans in non-stereotypical roles. Taking the stock footage and script he had used for dozens of short films that he produced using local talent around the Midwest, Norman expanded the story into a full-length film filmed at his studio in Arlington, Florida. The original version of the film was released in 1919 to a tepid response, but a re-edited version with its comedic elements removed proved a success with African-American audiences. Sadly, like many other films of the silent era, the film has been lost. Rare. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC#403351]
(Fraternal Organizations)

[Photograph]: Large Format Photograph of the Eureka Chapter of the Prince Hall Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S.)
[Circa 1905]

$3500

Large format gelatin silver image. Image size is approximately 17” x 12½” mounted on 20” x 16” cardstock. Image is fine but with three cracks on the right-hand side of the mount with mends on the verso, not affecting the image. Circa 1905 image of 11 African-Americans with 10 of the women uniformly dressed in white (nine of them with dark colored fezzes and one with a white fez) and one tuxedoed man, holding an elaborate banner that reads: “Eureka Grand Chapter O.E.S. Contest Banner for Most Perfect Work Year.”

The Order of the Eastern Star is an appendage to Freemasonry, originally founded for women but was quickly integrated with men. This particular group was affiliated with the Prince Hall Freemasons, the African-American version of Freemasonry founded when Prince Hall, a free black man, and 15 other blacks were denied induction into the all-white Boston Lodge before the Revolutionary War. Hall and his fellows received a charter from an English Lodge and became the African Lodge No. 1. Although the Prince Hall Order of the Eastern Star was open to women of any race, it had overwhelmingly African-American membership. In 1895, the first several Lodges combined to become the Eureka Grand Chapter of the jurisdiction of New York. This is a rare and early image of the group. [BTC#443249]
(Georgia) Welborn Victor JENKINS

We Also Serve (Apologies to O. Henry):
The Story of a Colored Boy who stood single-handed against the world and played the part of a Hero

[Atlanta]: Gate City Free Kindergarten Association
[circa 1934]

$225


Prof. and Mrs. J.W. GIBSON

Assisted by W.J. Truitt, M.D.

Golden Thoughts on Chastity and Procreation Including Heredity, Prenatal Influences, etc., etc., Sensible Hints and Wholesome Advice for Maiden and Young Man, Wife and Husband, Mother and Father

Washington, D.C.: Austin Jenkins Co. (1914)

$400

Second edition with inserted title page. Octavo. 438pp. Illustrations, likely all by African-American artists. Yellow cloth stamped in silver, red, and white. The title page, printed on cheaper paperstock than the rest of the book, has been reinforced at the hinge, light evidence of a label removed from the spine, and a card pocket from the Harlem Center of the Rosicrucian Fellowship on front pastedown, else a very good copy, and better than usual. The book was intended to provide advice, particularly on sexuality, to African-Americans. [BTC#443908]

F. Grant GILMORE

“The Problem”: A Military Novel


$700

First edition. 12mo. 99pp. Frontispiece portrait of the author. Red cloth gilt. Spine sympathetically rebacked with red cloth, some spotting on the boards, a bit of foxing in the text, a good or better copy. Inscribed by the author: “To Mrs. Kathryn Minor from F. Grant Gilmore. 4/27/18.” Autobiographical novel about a sergeant who serves in the Spanish-American War and comes home to find that his pale-skinned girlfriend, who is “passing,” is hesitant to marry him. Three poems by the author are appended at the end of the text of the novel. Reissued a number of times, the first edition is very scarce, especially signed. [BTC#443985]
with photographic advertisements featuring local businesses and business people, most of them full-page efforts touting restaurants, schools, banks, insurance companies, beauty shops, hotels, theaters (“Star Theatre - South's Finest New Colored Movie House”), mortuaries, a local baseball team, the Dallas Rebels who thanks their “Colored Fans who deserve the best in sports entertainment” and “Negro Achievement Days” at the Texas State Fair. Also includes advertisements from national and regional companies such as Pepsi, 7-Eleven, Oak Farms Dairy, and Mobil Oil, and features local business owners, pastors, policemen, attorneys, college officials. Also includes a national roster of “Negro Chambers of Congress” and a city-by-city listing of all the municipal branches in Texas.

Also includes an “Introduction to Dallas” and a history of race relations in the city, and extensive illustrated ads for traditionally black colleges: Jarvis Christian College, Prairie View A&M, Wiley College, Paul Quinn College, and Langston University. The majority of the directory is a listing of black citizens of the city with home addresses, occupations, and phone numbers where applicable.

One of the best-executed African-American city guides of the 20th Century, composed in a southern municipality known for its history of racial division. Exceptionally uncommon. [BTC#443192]
The American Waiter: Instructions in American and European Plan Service, Banquet and Private Party Work
Chicago: The Hotel Monthly Press 1914
$2200

Third Edition, revised and enlarged. Narrow 12mo. 225, [2], 8 ads pp. Illustrated. Flexible black leatherette covers, with titles stamped in gilt. Owner's label front fly, obscuring original owner's holograph name, with an additional name and address on rear fly, very light wear else clean and near fine.

The third edition of John B. Goins's 1902 manual, the first edition was entitled The American Colored Waiter. Goins was an African-American headwaiter with 18 years experience serving in Chicago's upscale dining rooms, who also ran a school for black waiters. The waiters' job in these dining establishments was complex, demanding, and competitive - especially for black men. “By reacting immediately and cheerfully to the client's wishes and all the clients in the expensive restaurants were white - the black waiter could be seen as assimilating the enforced obsequiousness and racial subordination that had been, and still was, the norm for all blacks in the South” (Alexandrov. “A Black Waiter in Gilded Age Chicago.” The Black Russian Blog, 2012).

As a seasoned man, Goins's instructions to prospective waiters extended "to the entire man," dealing with everything from dress, demeanor and hygiene, to detailed diagrams on place settings and the handling of various dishes. In an effort to train waiters - particularly blacks - to become as harmonious with their surroundings as possible, Goins provides a list of "don'ts" ranging from the innocuous to the critical:

DON'T pull your mustache
DON'T fail to report for duty without permission
DON'T play or get familiar with female help
DON'T complain about your work
DON'T dictate to guests
DON'T play in the kitchen
DON'T use tobacco or gum in the dining room,
and above all - "DON'T strike."

The manual went through several incarnations, beginning with the first edition titled The American Colored Waiter (1902, 94pp.); by the time the second edition was published, with additional content, the title was modified to The American Waiter (1908, 152pp.). This final edition, considered the most complete, is substantially expanded from the previous two, retaining the modified title and issued with an additional 73 pages of content. Uncommon in commerce. [BTC#443978]
Frances E.W. HARPER  
*Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted*  
Boston: James H. Earle (1892)  
$3000

Stated third edition. Blue decorated cloth stamped in black and gilt. Frontispiece portrait of the author. Introduction by William Still. Later bookplate of George and Wilma Edwards, front hinge very neatly strengthened, small nick on front fly, a very near fine copy with just the slightest of rubbing and with the gilt bright and unrubbed.

The only novel by Harper, better known for her poetry and essays, this was long considered the first novel to be published by an African-American woman, until Henry Louis Gates, Jr. advanced the cause of Harriet E. Wilson’s *Our Nig* (1859).

Although this novel contains many conventional elements, it also concerns itself with the personal independence of women of color, and particularly of the race in general. The protagonist, the daughter of a wealthy white father, is unaware that her mother is not only of mixed race, but also the property of her husband. Iola and her brother and sister lead lives of privilege in North Carolina and at an expensive boarding school until her father dies, when her uncle claims them as slaves. Soon liberated by the Union Army, she offers her services as a nurse, and attracts the attentions of a white doctor, who discovers she is of mixed race, and encourages her to “pass” for white, which she refuses to do, instead setting off to seek her surviving family accompanied by a light-skinned black doctor.

Iola commits herself to the education and furtherance of her race, and particularly of the freed slave, but is especially adamant about maintaining her status as an employed woman, saying at one point: “I think that every woman should have some skill or art which would insure her at least a comfortable support. I believe there would be less unhappy marriages if labor were more honored among women.” Iola is also strongly in support of the temperance movement and in the principles of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union in particular. While the novel has a conventional ending – Iola marries the black doctor – she continues her educational endeavors and social work as a married woman.

This is the third of only four 19th Century editions. The first two editions published by Garrigue Brothers in 1893; this third edition, published by James H. Earle, which is dated 1892 (but is stated third edition, and was probably published after 1893); and a fourth edition, also published by Earle, in 1895. [BTC#443859]
38  **(Harlem)**  
[Archive]: The Christmas Tree in Harlem Committee  
$1500  
Eight small broadsides or flyers and one two-page letter. Mix of white and various colored quarto and folio sheets, some printed on both sides. Overall very good or better with some creases, wear at the edges and a few stains. The archive contains announcements, donation forms, printed and typed letters, ticket information, meeting agenda, and a press release relating to the “Jingle Bells” Disco and other fundraising events to benefit The Mammoth Christmas Tree in Harlem Committee. The annual event sought to raise money for an oversized tree in Harlem similar to the one raised each year in Rockefeller Center. The annual event, first tried in 1978, attracted support from a large number of Harlem residents and the attention of Count Basie and his Orchestra, Charles “Honi” Coles, Irene Reed, and future New York Mayor David Dinkins who all either performed or otherwise helped fundraise. This material comes from Doris E. Chambers, a former model, beauty queen, and Harlem celebrity, who in addition to appearing several times on the cover of *Jet* magazine, was the winner of the First Miss Beaux Arts Pageant in 1961, one of black high society’s premiere events. Chambers was an active member of the committee helping with the Jingle Bells Disco and later served as Corresponding Secretary. Her notes included the names and numbers of a dozen volunteers, a receipt from a tree farm and a list of party expenses. A nice collection of material from a community effort to improve Christmas for Harlem residents and its children. [BTC#444176]

39  **(Kamala HARRIS)**  
[Yearbook]: 1986 Bison  
Howard University  
$950  
First edition. Large quarto. 352pp. Heavily illustrated with photographs. Corners a little bumped, a few small marginal checkmarks by some pictures, but overall near fine. The annual yearbook for the Senior Year of the first African-American Vice President. Harris is seen smiling brightly in her Senior photograph. [BTC#448553]
Melville J. HERSKOVITS

Race Relations in the United States, 1928
[No place]: American Journal of Sociology 1929
$350


Melville J. HERSKOVITS

Social Selection and the Formation of Human Types
Reprint from Human Biology: A Record of Research:
Vol. I, No. 2
Baltimore: Warwick & York 1929
$350


(Holiday Cards)

[Christmas Cards]: Christmas is a Time of Brotherly Love
$300

Group of 20 unused Christmas cards. Fine with fine accompanying envelopes in a lightly worn cardboard box. Cards depict an African-American boy with his arm draped over the shoulder of a blonde boy; inside has a brief, uplifting holiday message. The cards were created by an African-American sports figure from North Brunswick, New Jersey and received almost no distribution, thus very uncommon. [BTC#431830]
43 **Langston HUGHES**
*Simple Stakes a Claim*
New York: Rinehart (1957)
$400
First edition. Neat contemporary owner’s name, the poor-quality paper much less toned than usual, and thus fine in fine dustwrapper with a couple of short and barely visible tears. A superior copy. [BTC#432010]

44 **Langston HUGHES**
[Promotional Brochure]:
*Langston Hughes: One of America’s Most Distinguished Writers*
New York: Folkways Records [circa 1960]
$300
Single leaf folded to make six pages. Near fine. Pamphlet promoting books and records by Hughes. A printed statement on the first page of the brochure reads: “The World of Langston Hughes is just a little larger and a little livelier than any world we lesser mortals know. Ted Poston, N.Y. Post.” Beside this Hughes has written (but not signed): “Don’t you believe it! Nothing but a literary sharecropper.” [BTC#439057]

45 **Langston HUGHES, edited by**
*An African Treasury: Articles / Essays / Stories / Poems by Black Africans*
$2000
First edition. Octavo. About fine in price-clipped very good or better dustwrapper with a little sunning at the spine and nicks at the spine ends. *Inscribed* by Hughes: “Happy Holidays to the Lloyd K. Garrisons - Sincerely, Langston Hughes. New York, Christmas, 1960.” Garrison was a successful Wall Street lawyer who worked for several U.S. Presidents including Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. As the great-grandson of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, he was a strong supporter of African-Americans, serving as a member of the National Urban League for more than 30 years including a term as its president. In 1953 he acted as counsel to Hughes when he was called by Senator Joseph McCarthy to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee. An important anthology of writing from the “New Africa,” and a very personal work to Hughes, who gathered selections “from several thousands of pages of writing by Africans of color that I have read during the past six years” (p.ix). Hughes contributed a six-page introduction to the volume, which included contributions by Peter Abrahams, Kwame Nkrumah, J. Benibengor Blay, Cyprian Ekwensi, Ezekiel [Es’kia] Mphahlele, Léopold Sédar Senghor, Wole Soyinka, Amos Tutuola, and others. A nice association. [BTC#444277]
46  Lena HORNE and Richard SCHICKEL

*Lena*
Garden City: Doubleday 1965
$125

First edition. Octavo. 300pp. Illustrated from photographs. Former owner’s bookplate else near fine in attractive very good dustwrapper with a small stain and nicking at the crown. *Inscribed* by Lena Horne. [BTC#443009]

47  Lillie Muse HUMPHREY

*Aggie*
New York: Vantage (1955)
$300

First edition. Small bookstore stamp on the front fly else about fine, lightly soiled dustwrapper with a couple of very small chips and a modest scrape on the front panel. Scarce, presumably autobiographical, vanity press novel by this Florida-born African-American schoolteacher. [BTC#1568]

48  Leonard B. IRWIN

*Minorities in the United States*
New York: Oxford Book Company (1951)
$300

First edition? Small octavo. 60pp. Stapled illustrated wrappers. About fine. No. 4 in Oxford Social Studies Pamphlets, written by the Superintendent of Public Schools in Haddon Heights, New Jersey, a white historian. An enlightened approach to the subject. Irwin also wrote *Black Studies: A Bibliography* (1973). The rear cover lists 28 pamphlets in the series, so this could be a later printing, if indeed there were any later printings, which doesn’t seem likely. OCLC locates a single copy of this title (in Spain!) [BTC#413343]
49  Randolph JACKMAN
Is There a Generation Gap?
Port of Spain, Trinidad: Allied Printers 1973
$250
First edition. Octavo. 37, [1]pp. Stapled decorated wrappers. A bit rubbed, very good or better. Essay disguised as a short novel by a black native of Trinidad. OCLC locates five copies over two records. [BTC#432191]

50  (Jamaica)
Matthew Gregory LEWIS
Journal of a West India Proprietor, Kept During a Residence in the Island of Jamaica
London: John Murray 1834
$400
First edition. 408pp. Original cloth with gilt spine lettering. Scattered foxing, especially to the first and last few leaves, a couple of tiny tears at the spinal extremities, else an especially nice, about fine copy and scarce thus. Posthumously published journal by “Monk” Lewis, the white author of the “scandalous,” but now-classic gothic horror novel, The Monk. Lewis, a contemporary and associate of Byron, the Shelleys, and Polidori, was a sensational writer of morbid, ghostly, and sensual tales, the arch-priest of gothic romance, whose novels caused both sensation and censure. Despite his propensity for the macabre he was a man of gentle nature and his concern for the welfare of the slaves on the Jamaican plantations he inherited prompted two visits to Jamaica, where he attempted to improve conditions. He died on shipboard returning from the last of these trips at the age of 43. This journal has extensive passages on the lives and condition of the population of his plantations. Rebound copies are relatively common, copies in original cloth in this condition are scarce. [BTC#2965]

51  (Jamaica)
John Jarrett WOOD
Jamaica: Its History, Constitution, and Topographical Description: With Geological and Meteorological Notes. Compiled for the use of Schools
Kingston, [Jamaica]: McCartney & Wood 1884
$600
First edition. 12mo. 163pp. Publisher’s diced brown cloth titled in blind. Early gift inscription on the front fly, rebacked with the original spine laid down, hinges strengthened, some small pencil check marks in the margins, else a sound and tight very good copy. [BTC#443989]
Preceding publication of the book

52 Charles JOHNSON
[Offprint]: From Rutherford’s Travels
[first chapter of The Middle Passage]
[No place]: Callaloo [circa 1988]
$1200

First separate edition. Offprint. 10pp. (paginated p.109-119). Stapled self-wrappers. Horizontal crease else about fine. The first published appearance of any part of Johnson's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Middle Passage*, from the literary magazine *Callaloo* which published this first chapter when the book's tentative title was *Rutherford's Travels*. From the library of Johnson's close friend, the author Nicholas Delbanco. These offprints were usually prepared in very limited numbers for the use of the author. While OCLC locates the article in the magazine, it makes no mention of this offprint. [BTC#419993]

53 Hawke JARRY
Black Schoolmaster
$225

First edition. Neat owner name on front pastedown else fine in near fine dustwrapper with very slight sunning at the spine and a tiny nick. Presumably autobiographical novel, issued by a vanity press publisher, written by a St. Louis-born black teacher who was arrested over 20 times and, disillusioned with teaching, became a community activist. [BTC#418506]

54 (Georgia Douglas JOHNSON)
Frank SHAY
Fifty More Contemporary One-Act Plays
New York: D. Appleton and Company 1928
$400

55  
James Weldon JOHNSON  
*Black Manhattan*  
New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1930  
$250  
First edition. Illustrated from photographs, and maps. Neat owner's name on the front pastedown, slight erosion of the cloth at the base of the spine, a very good copy lacking the dustwrapper. Johnson's important history of African-Americans in New York. [BTC#418701]

56  
James Weldon JOHNSON  
*Along This Way:*  
The Autobiography of James Weldon Johnson  
New York: Viking Press 1935  
$250  
Fourth printing. Rear bottom corner bumped, thus very good lacking the dustwrapper. Inscribed by the author to Goddard Lieberson, President of CBS Records. [BTC#74958]

57  
[Leroi JONES]  
Information: Black Revolutionary Newspaper  
Jan. 1965. Pre-Publication [All published?]  
New York: Totem Press 1965  
$950  
Four leaves mimeographed both sides to make eight pages, stapled in one corner. Some offsetting on the last leaf, else near fine. Printed notice as "Pre-Publication" this seems to be the only issue that was published by Jones at his Totem Press, seemingly it was issued as a prospectus to gather subscribers. Includes excerpts from an article by Robert F. Williams for *The Crusader*, from a speech by the Tanzanian Revolutionary Mohammad Babu (delivered on the same stage with Jones and Malcolm X), "America: The Sick Giant" by Paul Johnson, "Uncle Charlie" by A.B. Spellman, "The Year Behind and Year Ahead" by Larry Neal, and others. LeRoi Jones is listed on the staff, but there are no articles attributed to him. Rare. OCLC locates seven copies; missing from several important collections. [BTC#386058]
An early Haitian Creole - English Dictionary?

58  (Language, Imperialism)

Gendarmerie d’Haiti, arranged and compiled by Lessons in Haitian Creole, with Some Information Regarding
The Republic of Haiti
Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Edmond Chenet 1923

$1500

Second edition. 24mo, measuring approximately 4½” x 6”. 93pp. Printed teal wrappers. Owner name (“Boyden”) on the front wrap, modest loss at the spine, and light general wear, a just about very good copy of an ephemeral survivor.

Published after an edition of 1921, in Haiti during the American occupation (1915-1934). In addition to 45 pages of vocabulary, including anglicized pronunciation guides, chapters include a brief history of Haiti and of the Gendarmerie d’Haiti, grammar, useful phrases, and Haitian proverbs. Full of the printing peccadilloes one is charmed to find in pre-Industrial job printing: floating and upside-down letters, pages off-kilter, wandering columns, etc.

Most of the contributors seem to be American. The preface, written in 1921 by then-Director of the Gendarmerie d’Haiti, W.L. Mann (U.S. Navy), begins: “This little volume is intended to serve as an aid to the English-speaking persons who are endeavoring to learn the first principles of the Creole language as it is spoken in Haiti.” He disputes that any other book on the subject is currently in publication.

The preface soon takes a more ominous tone: “Our prime motive in the publication of this matter is to facilitate and expedite the adaptation of the American military personnel to the conditions of Haiti. In order for the American Occupation to accomplish the best results in Haiti, it is considered desirable that members of the above organization arriving in Haiti acquire, as soon as possible, some knowledge of the country in which they are serving.”

OCLC locates eight copies of the 1921 edition, and no copies of this 1923 second edition. Seemingly early Haitian Creole - English dictionary. [BTC#450316]

59  John Mercer LANGSTON

From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol: or, The First and Only Negro Representative in Congress from the Old Dominion
Hartford, Connecticut: American Publishing Company (1894)

$1500

First edition. Thick octavo. 534pp., photographs and illustrations. Paper over the front hinge neatly repaired, as almost always on this heavy volume, rubbing and a tiny hole at the extremities of the boards else a nice, near fine copy of the autobiography of Langston, born a slave, emancipated upon the death of his plantation owner father, and later graduated from Oberlin College. He served as Minister Resident in Haiti and was for a time president of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute before being voted into the House of Representatives as the first black man to represent Virginia. The author Langston Hughes was named in his honor. [BTC#443863]
(Music)
[Poster or Broadside]: Connie’s Hot Chocolates of 1937. Direct from Connie’s Inn, N.Y. World’s Greatest Sepia Attraction Featuring Hy Clark and his Swing Band and the Famous Connie’s Inn Chorus 35 - Copper Colored Stars - 35. Don’t Miss This Show!
[Harlem]: Connie’s Inn [1936]
$3500

Illustrated poster printed in orange, blue, and black on beige cardstock. Measuring 14” x 18”. Slightly age-toned but overall fine with sharp corners. The poster features images of a string of “sepia” chorus girls and a tuxedoed comedian in blackface. Apparently the Inn’s advertising and reviews from 1936 feature Connie’s Hot Chocolates of 1937, thus our attribution of the date.

According to Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance, Connie’s Inn was a Harlem nightclub established in 1923 by white bootlegger Connie Immerman and his two brothers, George and Louie. The club was located at 2221 Seventh Avenue at 131st Street in a basement from 1923 until 1934. Connie’s Inn featured African-American performers, but like its rival The Cotton Club, restricted its audience to whites only. Among their featured performers were Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bill (Bojangles) Robinson, and Fats Waller. Early in her career Lena Horne danced in the chorus and Cab Calloway’s singing of “Ain’t Misbehaving” in the “Chocolate” revue helped make him famous.

A striking and stylish poster for a famous nightclub featuring black performers. [BTC#449663]
61  (Music)
(Catalog): *Newest Latest Race Records: Blues Singing, Blues Dance, Spirituals*
Chicago: Crown Music Company [circa 1940]
$1800
Small octavo. [14]pp. Stapled illustrated wrappers. Small spot of loss at the upper left corner of front wrap, modest age-toning on the newsprint paper, very good. Catalog from the distributor Crown Music Company containing discs from popular labels of the time including Vocation, Decca, ARC, and others, with each fully illustrated in the novelty catalog style of the time. Highlights include “Heavy Hip Mama,” “Reefer Hound Blues,” and “Don’t Tear My Clothes No. 2,” among others. *OCLC* locates no copies. [BTC#444543]

62  (Music)
(The Mills Brothers)
*Early Photograph Inscribed by Herbert Mills of The Mills Brothers*
1929
$500
Sepia toned gelatin silver photograph. Approximately 8” x 10”. Image of the three brothers admiring their father John Mills, Sr. playing the guitar. Faint crease in bottom corner, very good or better. Ink note indicating that the photograph is from 1929, and the inscription from 1941. *Inscribed* by Herbert Mills: “To our true Hartford friend Pete Grasso Success to you always. Sincerely, Mills Bros.” Herbert Mills has also signed the names of each of the band members on their pant legs. We think the date of 1929 is likely incorrect, as John Mills, Sr. didn’t officially join the group until 1936, upon the sudden death of John Mills, Jr. A nice, relatively early image. [BTC#442184]
Robert Younger NORMAN

[Archive]: African-American Baptist Church Gospel Singer's Ephemera from Virginia

[Virginia: 1955-1969]

$950


A small archive of documents of Robert Younger Norman, an African-American gospel singer. The material is contained in a ledger book that holds numerous programs, letters, banking statements, and pieces of ephemera that pertain to Norman personally, but also the Pilgrim Gospel Singers of the Promise Land Baptist Church in Moneta, Virginia. Norman was in the Army during World War II and after coming home worked as a chauffeur and for a taxi service on the side while singing with his Gospel group. The included letters are mix of personal (banking statements, bills, money orders, letter from his wife) and music-related correspondence (group meetings, performance schedules, invitations to sing with other groups and churches). Notable ephemera includes several church pamphlets promoting various choir events and gospel groups (Starlight Gospel Singers, Spiritual Four, Harmonizing Five, Mt. Zion Chorus, and others) and broadsides for two consecutive anniversary shows by the Pilgrim Gospel Singers in 1957 and 1958.

A Virginia gospel singer's archive from the mid- to late-1960s. [BTC#426126]
A small archive of material from the 1960s New York non-profit Foundation for Change. All items near fine with slight edgewear and creases from mailing. The ephemera includes pamphlets, reprinted articles, and printed letters detailing the foundation’s mission statement and education material to promote their group all housed in an envelope of a presumed potential member, with the name blacked out. One letter explains that Foundation for Change is “a new, privately-funded, non-profit, tax-exempt, educational foundation designed to develop public understanding and support for minority needs and aspirations in the New York Metropolitan area.” It continues, “poverty and racism are two ugly aspects of a society which has not chosen to use its wealth and resources to meet the pressing needs of all its citizens.” The foundation’s goal was to garner white support for “Black and Puerto Rican” minorities to combat economic hardship and bigotry. Throughout this material are educational tools to be used to understand the problems faced by these groups and to ultimately work to “eradicate poverty and racism.” This includes quizzes, book lists, and scholarly essays on welfare, African-American education, and school reform.

A modest but interesting collection of literature detailing the work of a New York non-profit advocating for African-Americans and other minorities in the 1960s.


4. VORSPAN, Albert. Ten Ways Out for Tired Liberals. New York: Foundation for Change, [no date]. Two yellow quarto sheets printed both sides and stapled at one corner.

5. COHEN, S. Alan. Local Control and the Cultural Deprivation Fallacy. New York: Foundation for Change / Phi Delta Kappa, 1969. Two green folio sheets printed both sides and stapled at one corner. Creased at the bottom from mailing.


Printed Letters:


65  
(Name York)  
(Gerald F. NORMAN)  
The Class Book of 1905  
New York: Published at the College of the City of New York by the Class of 1905, with the Co-Operation of Clionix and the Orchestra 1905  
$1500  
First edition. Octavo. 72pp. Illustrated from drawings and photographs. Paper over the hinges reinforced, light loss at the spine ends, soiling and smudging on the boards, about very good. Yearbook of College of the City of New York, the oldest public college in New York. Signed by the President John Huston Finley, and many of the students. A relatively small class of about 80 students. Despite the fact that the vast majority of the class were Jewish, with a few Irish thrown in, the Class of 1905 also graduated Gerald F. Norman, the first African-American to teach in a public high school in the State of New York. A correspondent of W.E.B. DuBois, Norman was also the founder of the American Tennis Association, formed as an alternative to the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association which barred blacks. He was also instrumental in shepherding the young Althea Gibson into previously segregated tournaments. Norman is among the students who signed the book, and he is pictured in the class picture. [BTC#441415]

66  
Annie Greene NELSON  
The Dawn Appears: A Novel  
Columbia, South Carolina: Hampton Publishing Company 1944  
$1500  
First edition. Foreword by H.W. Baumgardner, Professor of Psychology at Allen University in South Carolina. Small octavo. 135pp. Reddish-brown cloth stamped in brown. Some slight spotting on the boards, very good or better in near very good dustwrapper with a portrait of the author and a modest chip on the front panel, and some small stains on the rear panel. Rare novel by a South Carolina teacher and librarian. [BTC#443984]

67  
(Ohio, Women)  
Ohio State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs: Minutes, List of Officers, Constitution and By-Laws. State Convention, Toledo, Ohio  
Toledo, Ohio / (Oberlin, Ohio): Ohio State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs / (Press of the Oberlin Printing Co.) 1938  
$400  
First edition. Tall octavo. 110pp. Printed buff wrappers. Crease on the bottom corner of the front wrap, very faint and barely visible tidemark at the top of most of the pages, small tears on the paper spine, an at least very good copy. Extensive report of the Convention of the Club founded in 1935, filled with reports, finances, and remarks by the various officers and committee chairs, etc. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC#437559]
Class Photograph: “Class of 1935” Booker T. Washington High School
Tulsa [Oklahoma]: Randle Studio 1935

$400

Gelatin silver photograph. Measuring 9¾” x 8”. Each student identified by full name in the negative. Photographer’s imprint in the negative at the lower right corner. Small nicks and tears mostly in the margins, but with one on the right-hand side that bisects or touches three images but removes nothing, over all very good. The all African-American senior class consisted of 116 students each pictured in cap and gown. The images are small but easily viewable and are identified. Oklahoma had a troubled racial history and was one of the slowest states to desegregate. Booker T. Washington High School was traditionally all black but was spared during the Tulsa Race Massacre, when the city’s Greenwood District, known as “Black Wall Street,” and the nation’s wealthiest black neighborhood was burned. [BTC#435128]
The Last Record of the People, Homes, and Businesses Lost During the Tulsa Race Massacre

69  (Oklahoma, Tulsa Riot)
Polk-Hoffhine Directory Co’s Tulsa City Directory 1921
Tulsa: Polk-Hoffhine Directory Co. 1921
$8500

Tall, thick octavo. [10], 11-830pp., plus three advertisement leaves. Original half black leather and printed gray cloth boards, title and advertisements printed in silver on the leather. Minor edge wear, spine ends and corners lightly rubbed. Ex-Sutro Library, with bookplate on front pastedown and ink stamp on first three leaves, minor toning to some gatherings. Overall very good, and a fresh copy, better than usually seen for directories of this kind.

A rare and historically important directory which includes the residents and businesses affected by the Tulsa Race Massacre which erupted in the city around Memorial Day, 1921. Most of the directory is comprised of an alphabetical listing of residents and businesses, followed by a street and avenue directory, and a “Classified Business Directory and Buyer’s Guide” organized alphabetically by business type. The businesses included here range from “Abstracts of Department Leases” to “Zinc Engineers,” with a substantial section on oil producers.

Most importantly, the directory records the names and locations of the businesses located in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, the most heavily-damaged area of the city during the Tulsa Race Riot (also known as the Tulsa Race Massacre and the “Black Wall Street Massacre”). About 11,000 African Americans lived in Tulsa in 1921, and they owned almost 200 businesses, mostly in northern Tulsa. The African-American section of north Tulsa was so prosperous it earned the nickname “Black Wall Street” and “the Negro Wall Street,” the latter moniker bestowed on the area by no less than Booker T. Washington himself.

Numerous residents and businesses of the Greenwood section of Tulsa are recorded here, most no doubt affected by the conflagration in 1921. The directory includes three pages listing businesses and residents along Greenwood Avenue alone, with most entries followed by “(c)” indicating presumably that a “colored” person lives or works there. Dr. Andrew C. Jackson is listed here. He lived at 503 Greenwood Avenue until he ran out of his burning house with his hands in the air and was gunned down in his front yard. The Greenwood businesses include grocers, restaurants, barber shops, tailors, pharmacists, and more. Most, if not all of the businesses listed here were burned down on or shortly after June 1, 1921, including the Williams Building, the Elliott & Hooker laundry, and two African-American-owned newspapers the Oklahoma Sun and Tulsa Star. The latter newspaper was owned and published by Andrew Jackson Smitherman (whose residence is also listed here on Greenwood Avenue), who was forced to flee Tulsa after the race riots. Some white residents blamed Smitherman and the Tulsa Star for helping to incite the riots, and destroyed both Smitherman’s home and the Star building at 126 Greenwood Avenue. The Dixie Theatre, a white-owned venue at 120 Greenwood is listed here; it was burned to the ground during the Black Wall Street Massacre. The Dreamland Theater, where many African-American residents of Tulsa gathered during the riots to develop an action plan, is listed here at 127 Greenwood; it was also destroyed on June 1, 1921, presumably along with all or most other businesses and houses listed in this section.

Exactly how many African Americans were killed in the Tulsa Race Riots is unknown, but modern projections estimate around 300 people. Many were buried in mass graves, loaded onto trains, or unceremoniously dumped in to the Arkansas River. Additionally, hundreds of black-owned businesses and homes were destroyed by fire, and Tulsa was never the same again. The tragedy in Tulsa in 1921 is still a radically under-acknowledged, under-reported, and under-studied event in American history. The present directory helps to preserve the history of Tulsa, most notably of its African-American community, from just before the most tragic event in its history. For many of those involved in the Tulsa Race Riots, this directory is likely the last record of their presence in the city. [BTC#444569]
Enlistment form for a black regiment

Partly printed document, completed in manuscript. 2pp. (both sides of one leaf). Small vignette of an eagle and an American flag appears below “Volunteer Enlistment.” Faint old fold lines, near fine. The volunteer, John Parks, born in Franklin County, Arkansas, was age 27, and by occupation a “laborer” when he affixed his mark to this document at Ft. Smith, Arkansas on October 1, 1863. Parks was described as having black eyes, black hair, a yellow complexion, and being 5’8” tall. John Hayes Jr., 2nd Lieut., co-signed the Enlistment as recruiting officer for the 2nd Regiment of Kansas Colored Volunteers. Parks also signed, with his mark, on the verso of the document, volunteering to serve three years in the Army of the United States.

Following President Abraham Lincoln’s issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the Union Army began actively recruiting black military units. The state of Kansas created two volunteer regiments of black recruits in 1863. The Second Kansas (Colored) Volunteer Infantry was authorized to organize in June 1863. According to the Military History of Kansas Regiments (Leavenworth: 1870, p. 256): “Recruiting officers were appointed in different parts of the State and enlistments carried on with all possible energy and promptness. Gen. Blunt was appointed by the Secretary of War as Recruiting Commissioner, but the work devolved, from necessity, almost wholly upon Col. T.J. Anderson, then Major and Assistant Adjutant General, Army of the Frontier. Fort Scott was the designated rendezvous.” Hayes, a lawyer from Corydon, Iowa when he joined the Union Army, was appointed as the recruiting officer for the Second Kansas (Colored) Volunteers, formed at Fort Scott, Kansas. The regiments were detailed to escort a supply train to Fort Smith, and more recruits were enlisted in Arkansas, as evidenced by this document.

Dudley Cornish notes in his article, “Kansas Negro Regiments in the Civil War” (published in the Kansas Historical Quarterly in May 1953, p.426-7), that: “[r]ecruiting for the Second Kansas Colored Volunteers began under good auspices in June, 1863, and by the middle of October ten companies were full, officered by battle-hardened enlisted men from various white regiments. Samuel J. Crawford, afterward governor of Kansas, was appointed colonel of this new regiment, and he played a vital role in making it what the Kansas historian William E. Connelley has called ‘a famous regiment.’”

In November 1863, the 2nd Kansas regiment became part of the regular army, and was renamed the 11th U.S. Infantry, Colored. Hayes received his appointment as a Lieutenant, and continued to raise recruits for the new 11th U.S. Colored Regiment on December 1. [Service records for John Hayes indicate he was appointed a Captain with the newly formed 11th U.S. Colored Regiment in February or March 1864, and was mustered out of the service at the end of the war at the same rank]. The fate of John Parks is not known, although we have some reason to believe that he was killed in an Indian ambush in Kansas in 1867, after putting up a gallant fight. [BTC#443823]
Small lot of three items connected to the 55th Anniversary Convention of The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., held in Philadelphia in 1970. As follows:


2. **[Program]:** *The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History Fifty-Fifth Annual Meeting.* Octavo. 32pp. Stapled printed gray wrappers. Very faint sticker shadow on rear wrap, still fine. Program for the event with schedules, lists of participants, and commercial exhibitors. Among the participants were Herbert Aptheker, John Blassingame, St. Clair Drake, Philip S. Foner, C.L.R. James, and other noted historians.


A small example of the ephemeral printed material generated for the convention of the organization founded by Carter G. Woodson and four others in 1915. [BTC#443388]
72 (Photography) Carl VAN VECHTEN
Portrait photograph of Ethel Waters
New York: Carl Van Vechten [circa 1940]
$950

73 William PICKENS
Bursting Bonds: Heir of Slaves
Boston: Jordan & More 1923
$450
Stated third printing, and “Enlarged edition” on the jacket. 12mo. 222pp. Frontispiece portrait. Fine in a moderately soiled very good dustwrapper with a tiny tear. Signed by Pickens beneath his frontispiece portrait and dated in 1930. Autobiography of a South Carolina son of slaves who became an Arkansas River ferryman while completing high school, later became a teacher and went to Talledga State College and eventually put himself through Yale with the encouragement of Booker T. Washington and Paul Laurence Dunbar, and where he won the Henry James Ten Eyck Oratorical contest and was named to Phi Beta Kappa. He later taught at both Wiley College and Morgan State. An interesting and well-written autobiography. Very scarce in jacket. [BTC#443121]
74  (Poetry)  
**Beulah Harth BRADFORD**  
*Gems of Wisdom*  
New York: Vantage (1986)  
* $300  
First edition. Possible ex-library copy with modest glue remnant and marker stroke on the half-title, probably from a card being removed else near fine in rubbed, very good dustwrapper. Brief volume of vanity press poetry by an African-American Virginia native. *OCLC* locates no copies. [BTC#1498]

75  (Poetry)  
**Helen Morgan BROOKS**  
*Against Whatever Sky*  
(Provincetown, Massachusetts: The Advocate Press 1955)  
* $275  
First edition. 30pp., frontispiece portrait tipped in. Owner name stamp on front pastedown and front fly, and light soiling to the decorated papercovered boards, else fine without dustwrapper, almost certainly as issued. Briefly *inscribed* by the author. A very scarce collection of poetry by an African-American Delaware resident. Not in *French*. [BTC#18751]

76  (Poetry)  
**Genethel HARRIS**  
*Thoughts to Share*  
(Bronx, N.Y.): Genethel Harris 1972  
* $500  
First edition. Octavo. 31pp. Stapled yellow wrappers with photographic portrait of the author. Modest soiling or age-toning on the wrappers, modest crease on rear wrap, overall very good. *inscribed* by the author to African-American author and critic Albert Murray and his family: “9-72. To the ‘Wonderful Murrays’ and their open hearts of love, warmth and care, please accept my little book containing a few… ‘thoughts to share,’ Love, Genethel Harris.” Rare little volume of poetry by an African-American woman from the Bronx. *OCLC* locates eight copies of a “2nd ed[ition],” with a slightly different imprint, also dated 1972, but apparently no copies of the first. [BTC#420281]
African-Americana • 49

(Poetry)
Blossom Powe

[Manuscripts Archive]: 30 Poems from Watts Writers Workshop Member
Los Angeles: 1970
$3500

A group of 52 assorted typed, carbon, and photomechanically reproduced loose quarto sheets. Near fine with light edgewear, some age-toning, and a couple of sheets with foxing. A collection of 30 poems written by Watts Writers Workshop member Blossom Powe. The poems here are housed in an envelope with Powe's address and are accompanied by a one-page biography and a typed letter dated 2/27/70 to a "Mr. Laning" requesting he pass along her poetry to the actress Paulene Myers for her consideration.

The Workshop was founded in 1965 by author and screenwriter Budd Schulberg as a way to help the South Los Angeles neighborhood after nearly a week of rioting following an altercation with police. The writing program garnered national television coverage and resulted in the publication of two anthologies, From the Ashes: Voices of Watts and Watts Poets: A Book of New Poetry & Essays.

This group totals 30 poems, that vary in length from one to five pages, with all largely clean versions with few if any edits or notations. Included are the three poems that appear in the anthology From the Ashes: Voices of Watts: "Black Phoenix," "What Can I Say?" and "Tomorrow"; the complete five-page version of the poem "Black Ivory," which was included in the 1967 issue of The Antioch Review that featured work by the Watts Writers Workshop, but only in excerpt form; and the poem "To A Young Blood," which was read by Powe in the 1968 NBC television documentary, Tell It Like It Is. Many of the remaining 24 poems, with titles like "Ache!", "The Price," "Each Day," "Like What Americans?", "A Thousand Candles," and "Now That Famous Incident," which address the difficult life and everyday struggles of the resident of Watts during the late Sixties, could not be located in print.

According to From the Ashes, Powe was born in St. Louis, Missouri, worked as a chorus girl at the Club Riviera jazz club as a teenager, and was the valedictorian of her high school before moving to Los Angeles where she married and had six children. Powe seems not to have published anything aside from what appeared in the two anthologies and a few contemporary publications related to the Workshop. In fact, the only other appearance of Powe we could find was in the much later 2008 Kerner Plus 40 Report, issued by the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, which includes her comments about life in Watts during the 1960s and makes only a passing reference to the Workshop.

A notable collection of poetry including a number of unpublished works written during the immediate aftermath of the tragic Watts Riots. [BTC#448119]
78  (Poetry)
Leslie Pinckney HILL
The Wings of Oppression
Boston: The Stratford Company 1921
$225
First edition. Small hole on front hinge, a couple of very modest stains on the boards, and some wear at the corners, a near very good copy lacking the rare dustwrapper. Hill was an important African-American educator, teaching first at Tuskegee and later was the head of the Cheyney Training School. This is his first book, and only volume of poetry. [BTC#73296]

79  (Poetry)
Rita DOVE
The Yellow House on the Corner
$2500
First edition, clothbound issue. Fine in fine dustwrapper. The very uncommon clothbound edition of the poet’s first regularly published book preceded only by a small chapbook. It was the publisher’s practice to issue only a small number of hardcover copies, and a much larger issue of paperbound copies. This copy Inscribed by Dove, noting that fact: “To Charles - Who has one of the few hardbacks of this book! With best wishes - Rita Dove 15 Oct 89.” Very uncommon. [BTC#443773]

80  (Poetry)
Harry B.A. JOHN
Collected Poems
$300
82  Sanford Bell POWELL  
*Colored American Biography Mile Post Register*  
The first complete state record and qualified register of the religious, business [sic], professional and social achievement of the colored American citizens.  
Compiled by and published by a colored man...  
Sanford Bell Powell. 76 miles posts  
Newark, N.J.: John M. Stoute Printer (1941)  
$1500

First edition. Thin octavo. 27pp. Illustrated with half-tone photographs. Illustrated brown cloth. Slight rubbing at the edges of the upper board, else near fine. Directory of prominent African-American citizens mostly from Essex County, New Jersey. The volume includes addresses, brief biographies, and portraits of 30 business owners, merchants, craftspersons, clergypersons, teachers, physicians, educators, etc.

Compiled by Sanford Bell Powell of Montclair in Essex County. A native of Virginia, Powell was educated at Hampton Institute and worked as a tailor and a Pullman porter before embarking on a successful career in insurance and as a traveling representative for a tailoring company. The “76 mile posts” in the title is a reference to the passing of 76 years since the passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. In the introduction, Powell writes:

“we have spent the greater part of our last seventy six years of freedom thinking of the past. let us spend the next seventy six years thinking and preparing for the future. where have we come from since 1865? we have starred in the five major walks of life: – religious, industrial, professional, social and military. yet, the world has been made poorer because there has not been available in book form an authentic biography of the 12 or more millions of colored citizens of the United States of America. this group of travelers found the elevator to success crowded and are using the stairway—the hard way. we have not been properly informed of the majority of our leading characters.”

Powell addresses the problem by creating a directory of prominent black citizens. Powell describes his efforts in this way: “We shall attempt to turn the searchlight on all the worthy people of our race. If they be lifted up, may they draw all future generations upward to the highest goal that any race of people can attain.” Appropriately, the front cover of the book depicts an illustration of a young woman and man ascending a stairway, guided by a flashlight from above.

Powell, who was well-traveled in the United States, may have had ambitions to create other local directories of leading African-American citizens. Beneath the cover illustration, within a box, are the words “Compiled by | Sanford Bell Powell | The State of [blank space] | Blue Book,” perhaps he was hoping to finish a directory of the entire state of New Jersey. Black directories, especially those with a focus on business and professional people, are scarce from before the Second World War. OCLC locates seven copies (under the title “Colored American biography post register” [sic]), all, for some reason, located in Alabama and North Carolina. [BTC#443786]
83  Benjamin QUARLES
Frederick Douglass
$300
First edition. Fine in fine dustwrapper with a couple of tiny nicks and tears. Warmly Inscribed by the author. A beautiful copy of the important historian's landmark study of the great activist. Scarce in dustwrapper. [BTC#429822]

84  C.P. RAMSDELL
Autograph Note Signed Recommending a Colored Man for Jury Duty in Virginia
Petersburg, Virginia: 1872
$600
Autograph Note dated Oct. 1, 1872 on the letterhead of the United States Internal Revenue Collector's Office in Petersburg, Virginia from Charles P. Ramsdell to U.S. Marshall D.B. Parker: “Sir: John Evans of Prince George Co. is an intelligent Colored man & I should much like to have placed on your jury list for Oct. 7.” Marshall Charles P. Ramsdell received mention in the official Papers of Ulysses S. Grant, when Grant nominated him to succeeded Parker as U.S. Marshall in 1874. An unusual request for the time. [BTC#442162]
85 Hazel B. Smith

[Manuscript]: Address of Welcome on Behalf of the Springfield Colored Women’s Club to Welcome the Eureka Chapter, O.E.S. of the State of Illinois

$800

Three leaves typed and hand corrected on the rectos only. Measuring 8½” x 11”. Affixed in upper corner with an old clip. Old folds, with tears at a few of the folds, overall very good. Numerous hand corrections, which seem to indicate that this speech was repurposed by Smith from a previous speech that she had given to the Illinois State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs. The speech gives a modest introduction and a history of the Club. [BTC#443288]

86 Rev. St. Elmo Means

Rev. St. Elmo Means’ Poems, Essays, Musings, and Quotations

Columbia, South Carolina: The Author (1920)

$800

First edition. 16mo. 97pp. Frontispiece portrait of the author. Original tan cloth. 1920 ownership signature of Rev. R.W. Kennedy, (by the early 1930s, the President of the Spartanburg County, South Carolina Baptist Association), a good only copy of a rare book, with the cloth very worn and soiled. Not in Work or Catalogue of the Blockson Collection. OCLC locates seven copies (Yale, Library of Congress, Howard, Emory, Duke, Brown, South Carolina). [BTC#449664]

87 Charles Stuart

A Memoir of Granville Sharp, To Which is Added Sharp’s “Law of Passive Obedience,” and An Extract from His Law of Retribution

New York: Published by the American Anti-Slavery Society, No. 144 Nassau Street. William S. Dorr, Printer 1836

$1000

First edition. 12mo. 156pp. Frontispiece engraved portrait of Sharp by E. Patrick Reason. Publisher’s figured green cloth stamped in blind and titled in gilt. Modest erosion of the cloth at the spine ends, light tidemark at the bottom margin of the last several leaves, some foxing on the engraving and overall light wear, else a near very good copy. Laid in (and probably formerly tipped-in) is a printed slip with “Mr. Spingarn’s Compliments.” Arthur Spingarn and his brother Joel Spingarn were white Civil Rights Activists and early and important members of the NAACP; we are not sure which of the brothers this is. Ink note on front fly that the frontispiece is by E. Patrick Reason, “the earliest Negro American engraver; it is probably his first engraving on metal.” [BTC#443990]
“Average Value” Compensation Awarded to the Owner of Four Slaves Freed by the Abolition Act of 1835

88 (Slavery)

[Partially Printed Broadside Document]:
Mauritius Office of Auxiliary Commissions of Compensation Report on claim...

Port-Louis, Island of Mauritius:
Office of Auxiliary Commissions of Compensation 1837

$1500

Broadside document. Approximately 8” x 12½”. Partially printed and executed in holograph. Old fold lines, else about fine. A form intended expressly to address compensation for slaves freed by the Emancipation Act.

William Harrison Hollier Griffiths, trader in Port-Louis, claims compensation for the loss of his four slaves lost to abolition. The printed form reads: “The amount of Compensation which appears to us to be due to the said... according to the average value of every Negro in each class, is [followed in manuscript]: “95 Pounds 12 shillings eight pence three farthings - 92 Sterling.” Signed in manuscript by five Assistant Commissioners. Griffiths created the Mauritius Commercial Bank in 1838, before being named commercial agent for the United States. The bank is the oldest bank south of the Sahara and one of the oldest banks in the British Commonwealth to have preserved its original name.

Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Southeast Africa. Colonized first by the Dutch and then the French, it was ceded to the British after the Napoleonic Wars in 1814, and as such was subject to the abolition of slavery in the Empire in 1835.

An interesting insight into the oddly specific and business-like administration of legal emancipation and compensation, and a rare Mauritius imprint. [BTC#443350]

Liverpool and Slavery: An Historical Account of the Liverpool-African Slave Trade. Was it the Cause of the Prosperity of the Town?

Liverpool: A. Bowker & Son, Booksellers 1884

$1500

First edition. Tall octavo. 137pp. Folding illustration of a slave ship. Publisher’s green cloth gilt. Engraved armorial bookplate of Andrew Wyllie on front pastedown, a bit of modest foxing, and some trifling puckering of the cloth, a near fine copy. The first edition is uncommon especially in original cloth. [BTC#443992]
(Slavery)

[Abolitionist Plaque]: How Sweet Is Liberty
[No place: circa 1825?]
$3500

Small embossed paper mache (?) or embossed card illustration plaque of the figure of a kneeling slave painted in black, white, and blue, which is surrounded by an oval metal frame that is hand painted in gold and lavender with the sentiment “How Sweet Is Liberty” surrounding the image which is in turn mounted in a round marble frame. Unexamined out of the frame (the figure and surround are partially sealed into the frame with plaster), the figure appears near fine, the metal surround has some rubbing and is very good, the marble is moderately chipped and worn.

One of many keepsakes featuring this kneeling figure which were popular with abolitionists starting around 1800 until the outright abolition of slavery in that country and its colonies in 1834. The image, sometimes called “Hercules Subdued,” was designed as the seal of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and was widely distributed as a cameo by abolitionist and manufacturer Josiah Wedgwood. [BTC#440422]
91  (Theater)
Athol FUGARD
[Broadside]: James Earl Jones / Ruby Dee in Boesman & Lena
A New Play by Athol Fugard
$300
Poster or broadside. Approximately 14” x 22”. Printed in orange, red, and black on thin white cardstock. Slight wear at the extremities, near fine. Poster for the original New York production of the play that appeared at Circle in the Square in 1970 and ran for 205 performances. The play won three Obie Awards: for Fugard (Best Foreign Play), Dee (Best Actress), and director John Berry. OCLC appears to locate no copies. [BTC#443173]
George TRUMAN, John JACKSON and T.B. LONGSTRETH
Narrative of a Visit to the West Indies in 1840 and 1841
Philadelphia: Merrihew and Thompson 1844
$350
First edition. 16mo. 130pp. Publisher's brown cloth stamped in blind and gilt. A little rubbing at the corners else a bright, near fine copy. Quaker observations of freed slaves in the British colonies in the West Indies. [BTC#443862]

(Tuskegee)
[Press Photograph]: Printing Shop Tuskegee
New York: Culver Pictures, Inc. [circa 1920]
$450
Sepia-toned gelatin silver press photograph. Measuring 7” x 5”. Culver Pictures stamp on verso, along with tape remnant and one spot a bit skinned, likely from the removal of a snipe or caption, very good; image is near fine. Captioned in the negative at the top of the image “Printing Shop Tuskegee.” The image shows about a dozen neatly dressed young men and a young woman setting type, printing, and performing other tasks in the Alabama school's print shop. [BTC#444563]
Booker T. Washington
Address of Booker T. Washington,
Delivered at the Alumni Dinner of Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass. June 24, 1896
After Receiving the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts
Tuskegee, Ala.: Tuskegee Institute Steam Print 1901
$2000
First edition. Small quarto (5¾” x 6½”). 7pp. Stapled printed glossy white self-wrappers. Slight toning at the spine, else fine. Washington’s remarks preceded by an introductory essay by Thos. J. Calloway of The Washington Colored American, noting that this was the first time a major university had bestowed an honorary degree on a colored man. OCLC locates nine copies over three records. [BTC#448922]

(Virginia)
[Photograph]: Students of Piney Pond School,
La Crosse, Virginia 1914
$250
Gelatin silver photograph on thick card mount. Labeled on verso: “La Crosse, Va. / Piney Pond School / April 3, 1914.” Approximately 9½” x 5½”. Mount has been trimmed down, slightly irregularly, to the edges of the image, crack on verso on the card which has only a modest effect on the image, and a few very small spots, near very good. The image shows about 50 African-Americans in front of a rustic schoolhouse, about two-thirds of them students with the rest either faculty or parents. One woman holds a baby. La Crosse, which was called Piney Pond until around 1890, is right next to South Hill in southeastern Virginia. [BTC#439010]
John G. WHITTIER

[Small Broadside]: Song of the Negro Boatman
[No place]: Published by the Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments [1863]

$3000

First separate edition. Approximately 5 5/8” x 9 7/16”. One printed leaf. A few old insignificant folds and creases that could likely be easily flattened, 1863 date in pencil at bottom, else near fine, with a pleasing bite to the type. Enclosed in cloth protected chemise with the title and date printed on the front cover in gilt. Steven H. Wakeman’s copy, and later belonging to William Harris Arnold, with Wakeman’s and Arnold’s small, neat labels, and an old catalog description pasted inside the front of the chemise. Both Wakeman and Arnold collected 19th Century American authors of fiction and poetry in rare first editions; their collections were dispersed at separate auctions in 1924.

Four stanzas written in dialect. Whittier wrote this inspirational piece after Commodore Dupont and General Sherman captured Port Royal, South Carolina. With the Confederates in retreat, the remaining slaves were effectively emancipated, and they regarded this result as biblical. Whittier captures this feeling in his dialect lyrics. BAL 21829, Variant F with no established priority, this is the first broadside printing (it also appeared as sheet music), and the only edition by this publisher. More importantly, it was the only issue actively used to recruit colored regiments. Rare. OCLC locates six copies over two records. [BTC#443329]
A collection of material used by actress Paulene Myers in her one-woman stage performances and lectures, including her CBS special *The World of My America*. Assorted handwritten, typed, and photomechanically reproduced quarto sheets with some stapled. Overall very good or better, with age-toning and typical edgewear including nicks, tears and creases.

Myers was a pioneering African-American actress who made her Broadway debut in 1933 in *Growin' Pains* and appeared alongside Gregory Peck in *The Willow and I*, Joan Blondell in *The Naked Genius*, and toured the Straw Hat circuit with Ruth Gordon's theatre company during the 1940s. Myers appeared in small film roles throughout the 1950s and 1960s, before transitioning to television in the 1970s, where she was a series regular in *Room 222* and *Good Times*, and appeared in numerous guest spots on many of the most popular shows of the decade, such as *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *All in the Family*, *The Jeffersons*, *Ironside*, and *CBS Playhouse*.

Included here are: several dozen typed and photocopied poems and writings by Paul Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth, among others, that Myers selected and prepared for her shows with her corrections, notations, and performance notes; typescripts of promotional copy for several of her shows (“Great Americans of African Descent,” “Negro Poets,” and “Paulene Myers Reading from Modern Negro Authors”), as well as the three-page manuscript for another: “A Presentation of Negro Voices in American Literature”; four drafts of Myers' handwritten letters seeking endorsements of her for use in promotional material, including one addressed to actor Dennis O’Keefe and another to television producer Albert McCleery (the latter of whom provided her a testimonial); lists of her stage and film credits; a program from the Kim Dawson Agency that features Myers as performer; and other assorted ephemera.

An interesting collection of material of a notable actress who made the contributions of important African-Americans the focus of her personal work. [BTC#448112]
100  **Monroe N. Work, edited by**

**Negro Year Book**

*An Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro, 1918-1919*

Tuskegee, Alabama: Monroe Work 1919

$600


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99  **Lillian E. WOOD**

*Let My People Go*

(Philadelphia: A.M.E. Book Concern Printers) [1922]

$2000

First edition. Introduction by Bishop Robert T. Jones. Octavo. 152pp. Blue cloth gilt. Rubbing and some scuffs mostly on the front board, else very good. Novel about the struggle of freed black people in the face of prejudice and mob violence by Wood, who was long thought to be African-American until revealed to be white in Carla Kaplan’s book, *Miss Anne in Harlem*. Kaplan calls out Wood but casts her deception in a sympathetic light given Wood’s genuine concern for and dedication to her students at the historically black Morristown College in East Tennessee where she taught for more than 45 years. An important title and exceptionally uncommon.  [BTC#443126]

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101  **(World War I)**

*First Anniversary. Company C. 536th Engineers A.E.F. May 24 - 1919*

Bordeaux: Imprimerie Moderne 1919

$1200

First edition. Octavo. 11, [1]pp. Stapled printed rose colored wrappers. Staples rusted, a bit soiled and toned, about very good. Ownership signature and several notes on the rear leaves by Earnest L. Dean of Flat Creek, Tennessee. Program for an event, with a two-page history, a seven-page roster of the members of this African-American unit, a dinner menu, comments from the captain, and a memorial to a deceased company member. The unit was formed at Camp Custer, Michigan, with 168 men of the “Colored Provisional Battalions” with white officers added from other units later. Most of the soldiers list Southern hometowns. Rare and possibly unrecorded. OCLC lists no copies, not in Work or *Catalogue of the Blockson Collection*.  [BTC#426144]
between the covers rare books

102  (World War II)
[Photo Album]:
African-American Marine during World War II
1943-1945
$16,000

Oblong quarto. Measuring 13” x 10¼”. Original green textured commercial screw-bound album. Contains 326 sepia-toned or black and white gelatin silver photographs, a combination of commercial and snapshot images measuring between 2½” x 3” and 4” x 5” with captions. Additionally included are souvenir photographs, postcards, and other ephemera. The album is good only with chips, tears, and some mustiness with very good photographs with some staining and fading.

An unusually comprehensive and unified World War II service album of African-American Marine from Richmond, Virginia. While African-Americans had served in the Navy for more than a century, almost exclusively in menial roles, it wasn’t until 1942 that the U.S. Marines accepted their first Black recruits. This young man enlisted in July of 1943 and after training at Camp Pendleton served in the Pacific Theater, including in some of the worst fighting of the war. A member of the 11th Marine Depot Company attached to the 16th Field Depot, he served on the Palau Islands for some of “the most fiercely fought battles of the Pacific war” according to historian Melton Alonza McLaurin. The Marine’s unvarnished appraisals of the combat he saw — primarily in his captions to 63 original photos taken on Peleliu Island on “dog-day” 15 September 1944 and its aftermath — reflect none of the patriotic pride almost universally seen on similar service albums. A photo of a bomb-pocked hillside is captioned “Have you ever tried to run up such a trail?” Another of a fellow African-American Marine standing among six corpses is captioned “Sure no plaything.” Under another nearby image showing two Japanese casualties, is written “Surrender would have spared this,” while below another similar image asks “Why must so many die?” In this regard, the contrast between these images and captions and the official Marine Corps souvenir images that later dominate the album could not be clearer. Most striking is the Marine’s stark judgment of his place as an African-American fighting in the U.S. military. In a page-long preface early in the album, he writes (in part):

Burning is an sure cure.
“While looking through this book you may find yourself in the position to be disappointed because all or most of the pictures are of white boys. I am sorry this has to be so if I had my wish there would not be a single white fellow in this book. The reason I do have them is because myself as a Negro Marine, and the other thousands of Negro Marines shared the same hardships of war and island invasions. To be perfectly frank we endured greater hardships because we had to assume the great discrimination among officers and enlisted men alike. We were always given the most menial tasks to do being last in everything if it were possible to place in that position […] With this short statement I hope you will understand how I feel toward the whole set up. I suffered overseas for two years and two invasions. Even without any praise which I do not want for there is nothing to make me proud I was in the Marine Corp.”

The overall effect is that of a man grappling with what his service meant not only to him, but to a country who refused to fully recognize him. A revealing firsthand record of an African-American Marine’s experiences in World War II, told from a rare point of view. An uncommonly frank primary account of race relations in the military and an uncharacteristically unromantic view of World War II service from an early African-American Marine. [BTC#443838]