For our fiftieth list we offer fifty recent acquisitions in African-Americana. It contains a variety of formats and price points, with highlights including an unrecorded exhibition pamphlet for an African-American woman sculptor working in Rome; a culinary rarity from Texas; numerous pieces on Black education including a Tuskegee student’s scrapbook; an original script for an NAACP television production, and more. We hope you enjoy this list which caps off our fifth year of business.

Cheers,
Teri, James, & Joe

Terms of Sale
All items are guaranteed as described. Any purchase may be returned for a full refund within 10 working days as long as it is returned in the same condition and is packed and shipped correctly. All items subject to prior sale. We accept payment by check, wire transfer, and all major credit cards. Payment by check or wire is preferred. Sales tax charged where applicable.

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1. [African Americana]. [Collection of Photographs Documenting an African-American Community in Western Massachusetts]. [Various locations, mostly in Massachusetts: 1898-1962]. Small vernacular photograph album, with [9] leaves, illustrated with thirty-eight photographs, from thumbnails to 5.75 x 3.5 inches, plus fifty-five loose photographs, mostly in studio mounts, ranging from 3.5 x 2.5 inches to 7.5 x 9.75 inches. Occasional wear and chipping to mounts, photographs generally in good shape with occasional creases, surface wear, or light soiling. Very good.

A substantial photographic record of members of the African-American community in western Massachusetts, specifically Springfield and Pittsfield, which may also constitute an extended family. The images are a combination of portraits and group shots of African-American men, women, children, and family groups, which are sometimes identified on the verso of the mounts by a later compiler, probably a family genealogist or certainly someone who knew the subjects personally.

Named subjects in the photographs come from the Adams, Persip, Daniels, Grant, Hamilton, and Tucker families of western Massachusetts. Through cross-referencing the names, this portion of the collection is comprised of the photo album and at least twenty-three of the mounted images, with most of the latter on photographer’s mounts from studios in Springfield or Pittsfield (and one from Dalton, Massachusetts). These names include Edward Rowland Persip, Alfred Kenneth Persip, Dewey Persip, John Persip, Harry Persip (also identified in the caption as “Grandma Minnie’s husband), Harry Daniels, Jessie Daniels, Mary Daniels, Edward L. Grant, Laura K. Grant, Eddie Grant, Minnie Grant, Louise Grant, Estella Grant, Eva L. Grant, Eva Grant Hamilton (same woman, likely after marriage), Arthur Hamilton, and Isabel Tucker. Three of the larger photographs were produced by studios in Springfield and show a family portrait, a wedding party, and a church choir. A few of the images indicate the collection centered around a woman named Lillian, though no last name is given. A couple of images are inscribed to her, a label in the album uses the name Lillian, and at least one photograph pictures a woman named Lillian.

The collection also includes thirty-two images of African-American men, women, and children from Philadelphia; Morristown, New Jersey; Springfield, Ohio; and others with no indication of place on the mounts or in the captions. These include the earliest image present here, a tintype of three African Americans (two women and one man) in an unspecified studio, as well as some images of identified subjects such as Daisy, Lottie, and Minnie Adams. The date range we suggest above is based on the earliest and latest dated photographs in the collection, but clearly there are images dating from before the earliest dated image and some slightly later images. One of the larger images pictures a crowded banquet scene at the Knights of Pythias Hill City Lodge No. 17 on June 8, 1928, though we are unsure where this lodge was located. It is logical to assume that some of these images relate to those from western Massachusetts, either extended family or friends of those living in Springfield or Pittsfield. An engrossing collection of almost a hundred photographs of African Americans in western Massachusetts and beyond, many from the late-19th century and early-20th century, and many identified by name.

(McBRB4405) $2,250
CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH AT THE SAN FRANCISCO RODEO


A visually-arresting poster created for a Juneteenth musical celebration and parade in San Francisco in 1984. The central visual of the poster is a reproduced portrait of a famous image of Isom Dart, described here as “Outlaw, Gunfighter, Gang Leader, Cattlerustler, Community Protector.” The eight bands playing the event were the Johnny Hartsman Blues Band, Demons of the Mind, Mystic Youth & I Skeeda, All the Kings Men, The Champion Band, Stellar, Imani, and the Galaxy Show Band. The event, touted as an “Emancipation Celebration,” took place over two weekend days in June at the San Francisco Rodeo. The bottom of the poster states that the event was “Partially funded by the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.”

Juneteenth celebrations have been going on since the end of the Civil War, when Union troops landed in Galveston, Texas and Major General Gordon Granger announced General Order No. 3. Since that moment, annual Juneteenth celebrations began in Black churches and through the Freedman's Bureau, and have been part of the fabric of many African-American communities in Texas and across the United States. Juneteenth has gained even wider awareness after becoming a federal holiday on June 17, 2021. Isom (or Isam) Dart (1858-1900) was a renowned Black cowboy of the American West, and was all the descriptors used on the present poster and more, including ranch hand, bronco buster, horse thief, and vigilante. Dart was born on his family's farm in Seguin, Texas, worked at the famous Goodnight Ranch, and drove cattle north to Wyoming. Dart was shot to death on October 3, 1900 by persons unknown outside his cabin near Browns Peak during the Colorado Range Wars; famed scout detective Tom Horn has long been suspected of pulling the trigger on Dart. We could locate no other examples of this eye-catching Juneteenth poster from California.

(McBRB4367) $950

FREE FERDINAND SMITH!


A rare leaflet issued by the Provisional Harlem Committee to Free Ferdinand C. Smith and the Council of Negro Trade Unionists. Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union, was instrumental in promoting Black membership in the Negro Trade Unionists. Attorney General Tom C. Clark, originally from Texas, sought to deport Smith back to Jamaica because of his Communist affiliations and work for civil rights. OCLC reports just a single copy of this work, at the University of Kansas.

(McBRB2875) $450
TUSKEEGEE STUDENT HANDBOOK


An unrecorded handbook issued to the student body of the Tuskegee Institute in Jim Crow Alabama. The handbook opens with a greeting by the college President F.D. Patterson, and includes sections on standards and regulations on student conduct, rules governing student activities and organizations, standards for sororities and fraternities, and a section of general information such as an historical sketch of the school, significant events in its history, the school's location, organization, and “Unique Things at Tuskegee Institute.” The first section includes standards for both men and women, with separate chapters for “Graduate Women,” “Married Women,” and “Women Students Not Enrolled in Four-Year Degree Programs.” An insightful look into the organization and operation of one of the most prominent HBCUs in the United States just after World War II but before the larger momentum of the Civil Rights Movement. We could locate no other copies of this student handbook in OCLC or elsewhere.

(C McBRR4626) $750

CELEBRATING THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF AN IMPORTANT AFRICAN-AMERICAN TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IN ALABAMA


An unrecorded souvenir program from the seventy-fifth annual convention of the Alabama State Teachers Association. The text includes extensive program notes, biographical sketches of guest speakers, lists of local association officers, reprinted letters of support from various officials, well wishes and congratulatory greetings from practically every Black school and college around Alabama, lyrics to selected songs (including James Weldon Johnson’s “Life Every Voice and Sing”), a handful of advertisements, and more. The program is profusely illustrated with portraits of the association’s officers, guest contributors, teachers of the year and recently retired members, photographs from schools around the state, line drawings. The cover title reads, “Official Souvenir-Convention Program of the Alabama State Teachers Association in its Seventy-Fifth Annual Session.” Just a single copy in OCLC, at the University of Alabama.

(McBRB4461) $450

QUAKER REPORT ON SEGREGATION


A rare summary report from the American Friends Service Committee after studying the “pattern of discrimination and segregation in the
nation’s capital” over the course of four years, before and after the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education. The report includes background on the methodology employed by the researchers, as well as sections on Washington school data, research on teacher integration, intercultural education, and much more. Perhaps the most interesting passage in the summary relates to the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., described here as “The Mote in the Quaker Eye” because the school did not admit African American students at the time. For a Quaker institution to employ systematic racist admissions policies was, at the very least, the height of hypocrisy, and is called out as such here. The American Friends Service Committee describes itself in the Foreword here as “a Quaker organization which attempts to relieve human suffering and to ease tensions between individuals, groups and nations” and “attempts to overcome prejudice, discrimination, and injustice based on race, religion, creed, or national origin.” The organization was very active during the Civil Rights Movement, and would go on to publish the first appearance of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham City Jail in 1963. OCLC records just four copies of the present work, at NYPL, Yale (currently missing), Howard University, and the D.C. Public Library.

An appealing copy of the expanded sixth edition of Reverend Robert Anderson’s narrative of emerging from slavery to serve as a prominent minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Reverend Anderson was born into slavery in Liberty County, Georgia in 1819, and later moved with his master, Dr. William J. Anderson, to Glynn County. Anderson hired himself out for various work until 1853, when he was able to purchase his own freedom for $1,000 and his wife’s freedom for $500. Shortly thereafter, he was ordained a Methodist minister by Bishop Daniel A. Payne, serving a number of congregations in Georgia throughout the remainder of his life.

The present work is both an autobiography of Anderson as well as a proselytizing work. This sixth edition is substantially different from the editions which precede it, or at least has additional material not seen in the earlier versions. The text begins with a Publisher’s note not included in previous editions, dated December 1900. The text is thereafter comprised of a list of his friends in various cities who bought his book, excerpts from newspaper notices about Anderson, a new 26pp. Preface, three versions of his “Life” (beginning with an undated version which is likely the most recent, followed by the accounts of his life from the first and fourth editions of the work), and concludes with a short passage on the “Origin of the White Man.” The brand new Preface gives an account of Reverend Anderson’s preaching, speaking tours, and his attempts at selling his own books between February and July of 1900. Reverend Anderson’s intentions for the work are stated on the title page in a rather cryptic passage: “Besides containing a history of the leading events in
the life of Rev. Robert Anderson, this book has a remedy for the cure of Smallpox, Millenium Story of Christ, the reason why God does not kill the Devil, and a series of questions alphabetically arranged.” The work also contains both a small engraved portrait frontispiece of Anderson and a photographic frontispiece showing Anderson and his family, both preceding the title page.

OCLC only records editions of Anderson’s autobiography beginning with the 1891 edition, but the text indicates he was hawking copies of his story as early as 1882; it is possible the full text of these earliest editions have not survived and are probably incorporated here. The preliminary matter in this edition might also differ from earlier editions. All of this leads to the inevitable conclusion that all editions of Anderson’s autobiography should be gathered and studied to determine the differing elements in each version. OCLC records just eight copies of the present edition, at NYPL, Birmingham-Southern College, the Huntington Library, UC-Davis, Middle Georgia Regional Library, Duke, North Carolina Central University, and the University of Virginia. An important slave narrative and African-American autobiography by a notable slave-born A.M.E. minister in Georgia.

(McBRB4575) $3,250

LARGE PHOTOGRAPHIC BROADSIDE ADVERTISING AFRICAN-AMERICAN BEAUTY SUPPLIES


A stunning large-format advertising broadside or point-of-sale sign touting the beauty products of the Peerless Beauty Supplies company of Richmond, Virginia. The text of the broadside is printed in tan on blue, with the title as stated above and the central text reading, “Peerless Beauty Supplies Richmond, Va. 525 N. 2nd St. Dial 3-5413 Everything for the Beauty Salon.” The remainder of the broadside is comprised of twenty oval- or rectangular-framed neck-up photographic portraits of African-American women and their fabulous hair styles. Some of the portraits feature the women facing the camera at a slight angle, while other portraits show the women in profile or with the back of their heads facing the camera. The photo credit reads: “Photos by ‘The Browns.’”

African-American advertising materials of this size are increasingly scarce on the market. OCLC records just two examples of this striking broadside, at Yale and the University of Virginia.

(McBRB4639) $1,500
UNRECORDED AFRICAN-AMERICAN RADIO SERMON


An unrecorded radio sermon given by Elder Charles Beck, an important African-American gospel musician based in Buffalo, New York. In addition to compiling a prolific gospel discography, Beck was an evangelist and minister at the Church of God in Christ in Buffalo, and later served as a missionary to Ghana, where he died in 1972. The present work begins with a biography of Beck that notes “He was born in Mobile, Ala....of native African parents.... Elder Beck is a militant preacher, who believes in the rights of all people.... Among the Elder’s personal friends are the Duke of Harrai, Emperor Haille Selassie’s oldest son...H Fireston, Jr., of Firestone Rubber Co., Philip Murray of the CIO and a thousand other celebrities.” Beck’s sermon is titled, “Meet the Negro As He Is,” in which he celebrates the ancestry and successes of the Black race, tracing its origins from the Biblical Ham. The conclusion notes: “The ancient Hamites, the progenitors of the modern Negro, led the world for centuries in all that related to civilization and human progress.... The story shows emphatically that the Negro has a rich ancestral background of which he need not be ashamed.” Beck delivered the address on Buffalo radio station WKBW on August 26, 1951. We could locate no copies of the sermon in OCLC or auction records.

(CivRiB3257) $450

CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE BRONX


A rare pamphlet on race relations published by the Bronx Conference for Racial and Religious Unity, a New York civil rights organization dedicated “to community action against racial and religious discrimination” and “promoting unity and understanding among Protestants, Catholic and Jew - between Negro and White.” Here, the organization prints a “Program of Action” to achieve this goal, reports on a recent conference they hosted, prints a financial report, includes a listing of officers and committee members, and prints excerpts from numerous notable public figures, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Fiorello LaGuardia, Wendell Willkie, and others, supportive of their mission. OCLC records just five institutional copies, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago Public Library, Miami University, UC-Davis, and one in Denmark.

(McBRB4608) $750

PAMPHLET FOR AN EARLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN PLANNED COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES


(McBRB3257) $450
A very rare, and until recently unrecorded, pamphlet touting the advantages of Eureka Villa, a new real estate development near Los Angeles aimed at African Americans. Sydney Dones was the developer, and head of the Eureka Villa Improvement Association with offices in Los Angeles and Chicago. Eureka Villa was founded on about a thousand acres purchased by Dones and his fellow investors in 1924 near the long-abandoned Mexican mining town of Val Verde. The planned community was envisioned as an affordable and welcoming home and vacation destination for Black folks in southern California, who were otherwise excluded from most public amenities and priced well out of home ownership anywhere near the city.

The present pamphlet or flyer includes a poem about the community by Dones himself, information on how to buy a lot, a short introduction by Dones, but is mostly comprised of a long series of detailed questions and answers about the development. An example of the latter: “Q. What work can we get near Eureka? A. Eureka is just one and a half hours’ ride from Hollywood, where a large number of our people are employed, and too, there will be a number of people needed to build Eureka Villa.” No copies in OCLC, but a fellow bookseller recently sold one from their African Americana catalogue.

An unrecorded souvenir program for the annual Usher Day celebration at Zion Hill Baptist Church in Los Angeles in 1948, printed by a local Black-owned print shop. The program includes a Foreword by the Zion Hill Usher Board President Wattie F. Moore, which provides a “Brief History of the Usher Board.” The program also prints the program for the day’s events, a list of the officers and members of the Zion Hill Usher Board, a list of church patrons, and photographs of prominent ushers, church officials, and church groups. The text is also interspersed throughout with well wishes from other usher boards and church groups and advertisements for local African-American-owned businesses such as Anna Mae’s Beauty Salon, Margaret Grace Rhodes’ Millinery Studio, and the E.W. Kyle Publishing Company (who also printed the present program). We could locate no material related to Los Angeles-area Usher Day celebrations in OCLC.

The second interim report from the South Carolina School Committee, comprised of five Senators, five Representatives, and five laymen, sent to the governor and the General Assembly, apprising them of “our findings and recommendations pending final action of the United States
Supreme Court and the development of the situation its decrees will create in the field of public education.” The committee is reacting, of course, to the Supreme Court’s decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, which effectively called for the integration of public schools in the United States. The committee’s findings are both alarming and unsurprising. In one passage, they state they have “no reason to change its views that the consensus [sic] of public opinion in this State favors better educational opportunity for all children - in separate schools.” Their first recommendation reads as follows:

“Your Committee will not recommend any course of action or legislative enactment which will force negro children to attend schools established for white children or require white children to attend schools established for negro children. If forced separation is wrong, then it must follow that forced intermingling is also wrong.” One passage in the introductory portion of the work mentions the disruption of integration in other communities “on the basis of the May 17th decision” (i.e., Brown v. Board of Education), which is resulting in the decrease of enrollment of white children in public schools and facilitating their move to private schools. This paragraph ends, presciently: “This experience indicates that, wherever integration is attempted, there will result a gradual migration of families who can afford homes elsewhere to neighborhoods where residential segregation by choice will produce educational segregation by necessity.” OCLC does not explicitly record this imprint, though there are likely copies of the report in serial runs of interim reports of the School Committee at one, two, or three institutions in South Carolina.

“THE DIVISION OF COLORED SCHOOLS WILL CEASE TO EXIST....”


A compilation of “four documents implementing at the local level the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States on racial segregation in public schools.” In the wake of the decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, local school districts throughout the country sought guidelines on how to desegregate their public schools. The present work pertains specifically to the Baltimore Public School District, and collects the “Opinion of the City Solicitor of Baltimore City,” the “Resolution of Board of School Commissioners,” the “Recommendation of the Board of Superintendents” in the city, and the Superintendents Address to the Baltimore teachers (which comprises most of the work. The documents were written or presented between June 1 and June 14, 1954, after the issuance of the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court on May 17. The City Solicitor’s letter of June 1 quotes the Baltimore City Code that allows segregated schools, and then offers his opinion on the effect of the recent decision: “It is the opinion of this Office that the Supreme Court, by its decision, has determined that segregation in education, as provided for by Article 32, section 22, of the Baltimore City Code, is in deprivation of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment, and is, consequently, unconstitutional and invalid.” More than half the work is comprised of Superintendent John H. Fischer’s “Our Duty and Our Opportunity,” an address presented to Baltimore teachers in the wake of the Brown decision. Fischer optimistically outlines the way forward for Baltimore schools, answers a series of five notable questions (beginning with “1. Will our school...
A profusely-illustrated historical treatment of African American industrial history intended as a textbook for teaching Black youth. The authors, Giles B. Jackson and D. Webster Davis (who are featured in the photographic frontispiece), write in their Preface that “Every race has its history written by its own members. This, to our mind, is a special reason why the Negro should have a history of himself, written by members of his own race, and that history should be taught in the schools of the youth of the race.” They argue that the history of African Americans “can be best gleaned from his industrial progress...showing the strides made by the race along industrial lines.” The work is comprised of chapters on the early history of African Americans, the introduction and proliferation of African slavery to the U.S., African Americans in military service, and much more. The work is interspersed throughout with monochrome photographs of prominent African American figures, historic and educational sites, products, technology, and other works of art produced by African Americans, and more.

(McBRB4612) $650

BLACK SHRINERS IN LOUISIANA


The official souvenir program for the 1948 national convention of the Imperial Council Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, an African-American shiner's organization. The program begins with a Foreword by the group's Imperial Potentate, Raymond E. Jackson, followed by photographic portraits of the Imperial Council, portraits of the women of the Imperial Court, greetings and notices (with photographic portraits) from dozens of chapters, and two pages of greetings from the Grand Chapter of Missouri. The two-page centerfold prints the schedule of events for the convention, which took place from August 15-20, and included dozens of sessions run by the Imperial Council and Court, as well as the Heroines of Jericho, Eastern Stars, and Royal Arch Masons. Among the more casual events held during the convention were a “Shriners Bathing Suit & Talent Pageant” held in Kiel Auditorium, a baseball game at Sportsman’s Park, and a tour of the Anheuser-Busch
brewery. The last half of the program, as well as the inside rear cover and back cover are comprised of advertisements from local Black-owned businesses and those who catered to the Black community. 

(McBRB4638) $650

CONCERT HOSTED BY ONE OF THE DIVINE NINE SORORITIES


An unrecorded program for a bass baritone performance by Reverend John D.V. Hamilton, Jr., hosted by the Shreveport chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. The program includes the schedule of events for the night of the performance, which took place at the Shreveport Convention Theatre on September 21, 1975, but also includes much more information on the African American community of the area. The program is profusely illustrated with photographs of sorority members, Hamilton himself, local Black political candidates, and more, and includes lists of the Blue Revue Committee, the chapter members, a biographical sketch of Hamilton, and much more. In addition, the work contains a great many well wishes from various parties and numerous advertisements for local businesses serving the Black community in Shreveport, such as the Shreveport Sun newspaper, the Benevolent Life Insurance Company, Armanda’s Beauty Salon, J.S. Williams & Son Funeral Home, and many others. Hamilton’s musical performances included pieces by Handel, Tchaikovsky, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Gershwin, and one of his own compositions as part of a section of songs called “God in the Black Experience.” We could locate no other copies of this program in OCLC or elsewhere.

(McBRB4636) $500

EPHEMERAL BLACK WOMENS’ HISTORY


An unrecorded pamphlet containing numerous “historical sketches” of the various groups within the 13th District Baptist Association Women’s Auxiliary in Shreveport, Louisiana. The work contains a history of the Antioch Baptist Church Missionary Society which began in 1889, and sketches on the women of the Broadway Missionary Church Mission Band, the Lakeside Baptist Church, the Little Union Missionary Baptist Church Mission Society and Woman’s Missionary Union, and many, many more groups from area churches. The text is illustrated throughout with dozens of photographs of notable officers, members, and other figures within the groups, various churches, and more. An excellent snapshot of Shreveport-area women’s church groups, with no copies in OCLC.

(McBRB4649) $650
**RARE HISTORY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIFE ALONG MISSISSIPPI’S PEARL RIVER**


The rare 1955 reprint of Etienne Maxson’s 1930 history of the progress of African Americans in several towns in Mississippi, including vital biographical information on African-American riverboat captains along the Pearl River. Maxson includes short histories of four Mississippi river towns - Pearlington, Logtown, Napoleon, and Gainesville - with details on the businesses and business men in the areas, mainly those working in the lumber industry. Further, Maxson states in his Preface that the work has “endeavored to show the progress of the colored people under the headings of Industrial Progress, Educational Progress, Business Progress, Political Progress, and Religious Progress.” In addition, Maxson states that “the names of eighty-nine colored captains on Pearl River are given, besides, colored engineers, carpenters, bricklayers, blacksmiths, etc., as well as what they owned, the kinds of businesses they carried on, and the schools and the churches that they built.” As such, this work is likely the only place some or all of these names are recorded for posterity. The author also includes a portrait of himself as a frontispiece. Finally, the Appendix includes short sections on such subjects as “Bill Asks to Adjust Claims for Slaves Freed by Lincoln,” “Why Are There Different Colors of the Human Race?” “Railroads and the Fugitive Slaves,” and more. Though a reprint twenty-five years after the original edition, both works are exceedingly rare in OCLC, with a total of six copies of the 1930 edition (Library of Congress, Emory, Tulane, University of Mississippi, Jefferson Parish Library, and Southern Mississippi) and three copies of this 1955 reprint (UC Santa Barbara, Mississippi State, and Southern Mississippi).

(McBRB3898) $850

**VERY RARE POETRY BROADSIDE CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY**

20. [Military]. Wells, Jack Calvert. *To the Negro Soldiers of the United States... [caption title]*. [N.p., perhaps Detroit: ca. 1944]. Broadside, 12 x 10 inches, printed in red and black ink with the text of a poem surrounded by patriotic and military graphics. Some wear and creasing, one-inch tear in upper margin, old paper remnants to verso likely from previous mounting in scrapbook. Inscribed by the author to a Mrs. Pooley, but about half of the inscription had faded. About very good.

A rare patriotic broadside celebrating the contributions of African American soldiers in the United States military written by Jack Calvert Wells, an African American author and poet. Jack Calvert Wells also worked as a judge in Detroit, Michigan, and was the nephew of famed journalist and activist Ida Wells Barnett. He was born in Memphis and graduated from the University of Michigan. During his writing career, Wells published one novel called Out of the Deep, and had a poem printed in the 1968 collection *Ebony Rhythm: An Anthology of Contemporary Negro Verse*. No copies of the broadside are reported in OCLC, though it was reprinted in the July 22, 1944 edition of the Michigan Chronicle. It was also pictured in the August 25, 1945 issue of the Jackson Advocate, an African American newspaper in Mississippi,
by a hair products company, which offered free promotional copies of
the broadside for framing. Though partially faded, Wells' inscription
can be deciphered in full, and reads: “To Mrs. Pooley from Jack C. Wells
March 23, '50.”
(McBR4091) $650

BLACK DEMOCRATS IN JIM CROW MISSISSIPPI

21. Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Brief Submitted by the
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party for the Consideration of
Credentials Subcommittee of the Democratic National Committee...
[wrapper title]. [N.p., probably either Jackson, Ms. or Washington,
soiling, some sunning and wear around the edges. Internally clean. Very
good.

A scarce pamphlet issued by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic
Party in a notable attempt to be recognized by the Democratic National
Committee ahead of the 1964 national nominating convention. The
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party submitted the present brief to
the Credentials Subcommittee of the Democratic National Committee,
asking to be seated at the convention instead of the all-white “traditional”
delegation of the Mississippi Democratic Party. The MFDP argued
that they were the only democratically-elected body of Democrats from
Mississippi since racist policies forbid them to participate in the
traditional state Democratic party; the MFDP's precinct and district
elections were open to all races. The MFDP garnered support from all
major civil rights groups, many of which worked in their favor during the
early days of the convention. Fannie Lou Hamer, vice-chairman of the
MFDP’s delegation, gave an impassioned, nationally-televised speech in
front of the Credentials Committee, in which she questioned the very
nature of America should the MFDP not be seated at the convention.

The present pamphlet was then submitted on behalf of the MFDP. The
argument is organized into two main sections. The first is the Statement
of Facts, comprised of three sections labeled “Why the Mississippi
Freedom Democratic Party was Formed,” “Operation and Operation
of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party,” and “Operation of the Mississippi
Democratic Party.” The second section is comprised of the “Legal Arguments
for Seating the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party” laid out in three main
subsections that basically stand on the illegality of the “traditional” Mississippi
Democratic Party. The lawyers then list the twenty-two precedents cited
in their arguments, and include a “Miscellaneous” section of supporting
addresses, articles, reports, and more also cited in the text. The root of the
issue at hand is stated near the beginning of the Introduction: “Whether the
National Democratic Party takes its place with the oppressed Negroes of
Mississippi or their white oppressors...”

The Credentials Committee offered an unsatisfactory compromise, in
which the MDFP would be granted two at-large seats at the convention
while also offering to seat all of the “traditional” Mississippi Democratic
Party delegates as long as they promised to support all of the Democratic
National Committee’s candidates in the general election. The Credentials
Committee also decided that segregated delegations would be barred
from the 1968 convention. Martin Luther King, Jr., supported the
compromise. The Mississippi insurgents rejected the offer of two at-large
seats. All but three members of the regular Party slate withdrew from the
Convention rather than promise blanket support of DNC candidates.
With their state delegation all but absent, members of the MFDP occupied
passes to the convention floor, occupied the empty seats in protest, then
sang freedom songs once the chairs were removed. The MFDP made
quite an impact at the convention and beyond; former members of the
MFDP participated in the 1968 Democratic National Convention as the
sole delegates from Mississippi, calling themselves the Loyal Democrats
of Mississippi. One of the assistant counselors who helped author the
present pamphlet, Eleanor K. Holmes (now Eleanor Holmes Norton),
an African American and a new graduate of Yale Law School in 1964, was a participant in the 1964 Freedom Summer effort in Mississippi. She has also been the Democratic Congresswoman representing the District of Columbia since 1991. OCLC records seven copies, at NYPL, UC-Santa Barbara, Michigan State, University of Mississippi, University of Southern Mississippi, Baylor, and Wisconsin Historical Society. 

(McBRB4514) $950

“THEY DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT THE BRAND OF HATE-INSPIRED HOODLUMISM THAT SPELLS THE STORY OF GROVELAND, FLORIDA.”


A familiar tale of racist woe and deep injustice from the swamps of central Florida in 1949, when four African American youths were falsely accused of raping a young white woman, and “the torch of violence was ignited.” When a mob of white men and KKK members from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida showed up to lynch the three men arrested for the alleged crime (a fourth suspect fled the town), local law enforcement informed them that the accused men were taken to an “undisclosed jail.” Naturally, these petulant racists took umbrage with such a slight and “Groveland became a town of nightmare, as the marauders began shooting, yelling and swarming through the Negro sections of town. Three homes...were burned to the ground. Four hundred terrorized Negroes fled from the little sawmill-farming community.” The NAACP went to Groveland to gather evidence “indicating the three youths are entirely innocent of the crime with which they were charged.” The present pamphlet was issued by the NAACP to raise funds for the legal fight “to bring freedom to the three victims of bigotry and the ‘master race’ theory in Florida.”

Sadly, the fight for justice in Florida’s own version of the Scottsboro Boys was lost at a tragic scale. The suspect who fled, Ernest Thomas, was caught within a month and shot over 400 times by a sheriff’s mob composed of a thousand white men. The other three accused men were put on trial; Samuel Shepherd and Walter Irvin were sentenced to the death penalty and Charles Greenlee got life in prison (only because he was sixteen years old at the time of the “crime”). Over the course of the ensuing decades, serious questions arose (of course they did) about the treatment of the accused with regard to coerced confessions, ill treatment while in custody, and the severity of their sentences, among other issues. In a long, tragic, ridiculously unfair story made pedantically short, all four men were posthumously exonerated by the state of Florida in 2021. OCLC records eight institutional copies of the present work, at Howard, UC-Davis, Chicago Public, Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, Texas A&M, Wisconsin Historical Society, and the British Library.

(McBRB4314) $850

“A COLORED SOCIETY”


Very likely a unique surviving letterpress broadside advertising a fundraising social event and membership drive for the National Fraternal Brothers and Sisters of America (NFBSA), a “charitable organization” and mutual aid society based in Shreveport, Louisiana in the first half of the 20th century. The text invites members and friends along for a hay ride leaving from the Shreveport neighborhood of Stoner Hill and bound for
Sand Beach, at a cost of twenty-five cents for adults and fifteen cents per child. The event promises “Plenty Fun for Young and Old - Old Time Ring Plays.” The bottom half of the broadside provides details of the NFBSA, listing its headquarters at 1600 Royal Street, referring to the group as a “Charitable Organization” with “Joining Fees” of $3.50 (or “Join now for $1.00”), open to both men and women between the ages of 15 and 50. The final portion of the broadside prints the “Official [sic] Roll” with the names of the ten men and women who served as officers of the NFBSA, including the Honorable W.H. Howard, the National Grand Master of the organization. Just to the right of the roll is an ink stamp belonging to Howard, listing his name, position, and address in Shreveport.

In addition to its content, the broadside is interesting for its typography and design. The printer employed different sizes and types of fonts, sometimes mixing types within words or numbers, using numbers for letters and vice versa, and using random italic letters throughout. The broadside was quite obviously produced on a press with very limited supplies of type, but the printer made it work despite the challenges. The National Fraternal Brothers and Sisters of America incorporated in the state of Louisiana on January 25, 1926. We could locate no other information about the organization. According to the 1930 census, the organization’s National Grand Master W.H. Howard was born in Texas in 1904 and was working as a trained nurse. Howard was also living near the NFBSA’s headquarters on Royal Street. We could locate no items relating to the NFBSA in OCLC or elsewhere.

$1,750

UNRECORDED WORK ON NEGRO HISTORY WEEK, WITH THE FIRST SEPARATE PRINTING OF A LANGSTON HUGHES POEM


An unrecorded pamphlet pertaining to the precursor of Black History Month, Negro History Week, this edition containing the first separate printing of Langston Hughes’s poem, “Ballad of Negro History.” The poem is a celebration of Black historical figures going back to the “Ancient Pharaohs” and mentions numerous prominent African Americans such as Crispus Attucks, Denmark Vesey, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, James Weldon Johnson, Paul Laurence Dunbar, W.E.B. Du Bois, Carter Woodson, Countee Cullen, Ralph Bunche, and Josephine Baker. Hughes’s “Ballad” previously made its very first appearance in the February 1952 edition of The Negro History Bulletin; the typescript of the poem at UMass-Amherst states that the poem was written in June 1951. In addition to Hughes’s poem, the work contains a detailed suggested daily schedule for a Negro History Week celebration, with each day involving some combination of prayer, songs, readings, lessons on prominent African American historical figures, and so forth. Following the schedule are “Suggested Recitations” that might be used during the week, such as Paul Laurence Dunbar’s poems “The Seedling” and “The Lesson,” Mavis B. Mixon’s “I Am a Negro,” a short play by Nerissa Long Milton, two songs by James Weldon Johnson, and the aforementioned poem by Langston Hughes.
Launched in 1926 by Carter Woodson (“The Father of Black History”), Negro History Week was the precursor to Black History Month, renamed to the latter in 1970. Black History Month was officially recognized by President Gerald Ford in 1976, and has grown steadily in celebration and prominence since then. A small pamphlet of 8 pages was published in the early 1940s titled, Bibliographical Suggestions for Negro History Week. The present pamphlet of “Suggestions” for observing Negro History Week was first issued in the 1940s in an edition of 14 pages (OCLC reports a single copy at the Wisconsin Historical Society); the present edition is slightly expanded to 16 pages and adds the Hughes poem (we could locate no copies in OCLC). Further expanded editions followed later in the 1950s and beyond, and all are rare.

“ANTI-COMMUNISM TURNS INTO ANTI-SEMITISM, ANTI-NEGRO; SUPER-PATRIOTISM BECOMES MASS VIOLENCE, MASS HATE”


A scarce pamphlet issued by a concerned citizens’ group called the Westchester Committee for a Fair Inquiry Into the Peekskill Violence, after white mob violence erupted following not one but two Paul Robeson concerts in Peekskill in the late summer of 1949. Compared to the Deep South, racial violence in the North was relatively rare in the mid-20th century, but it was not unheard of. The present pamphlet stands as an “eyewitness” to the white mob violence that resulted from two Paul Robeson concerts (one thwarted, the other happened), motivated by racial violence and virulent anti-Communist sentiment around the country. The Westchester Committee details the events preceding the first Robeson concert, which was never held; Robeson “could not enter the grounds” due to “a mob that blocked the entrance.” After much public debate, a second concert was announced for September 4. The second concert went off peacefully, until it was over. When trying to leave, the crowds inside the Hollow Brook County Club were greeted at the exit by an angry mob of over a thousand white men. Violence broke out inside and outside the concert grounds, which is captured in stark photographs over the course of eight pages here; the first photograph features “Eugene Ballard, first Negro aviator in World War I and holder of the Croix de Guerre, being clubbed to the ground by uniformed State and local police.”

In the aftermath of this “bloody ambush,” like so many times before and since, local authorities blamed the violence on the victims and no charges were brought against the mob (which the committee calls a “Whitewash”). The committee also prints reactions to the violence from a variety of sources including Eleanor Roosevelt, Joe Louis, the American Jewish Congress, the NAACP, and various clergy, notable legal groups, newspapers, and more. The rear wrapper contains a fiery full-page response to the incident by Paul Robeson himself, entitled “My Answer.” Robeson decries the mob violence, encourages African Americans to be “part of the progressive forces,” calls out racists of the “cracker breed,” and vows to continue to “make the supreme fight for my people” against those who “revile me... scandalize me, and try to holler down on all sides.” Robeson concludes, promising that his voice “will be heard above the screams of the intolerant. My weapons are peaceful for it is only by peace that peace can be attained. The song of freedom must prevail.”
A fundraising form letter sent by Charlotte E. Hawkins, later Charlotte Hawkins Brown, informing the recipient of the progress of her school and ostensibly soliciting donations for its continued support. Hawkins writes to Mrs. George Rolfe of Cambridge, but the letter was forwarded to Mrs. Rolfe on Martha’s Vineyard. The letterhead includes the officers of the school, the Advisory Board, and the three courses of study available to students - Agriculture, Manual Training, and Domestic Science. In the present letter, aimed specifically at benefactors in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Hawkins describes the school, its student body of 125 students, and offers her plans for future work needed at the school.

A native of Henderson, North Carolina, Charlotte Hawkins Brown (1883-1961) was raised in Cambridge, where she met Alice Freeman Palmer by chance. The two struck up a friendship, with Mrs. Palmer encouraging Hawkins to attend the state normal school in Salem, for which Mrs. Palmer paid the tuition. After graduation, Palmer spurred Hawkins to return to North Carolina to educate other young African American men and women. Inspired by her own education, Hawkins did just that - moving to the Greensboro area and establishing her own school in Sedalia in 1902 (at the tender age of nineteen). The Palmer Memorial Institute eventually earned a national reputation as a boarding preparatory school for African Americans, providing educational opportunities for Black youth until the 1970s. Hawkins also wrote an influential guide on etiquette under her married name titled, The Correct Thing to Do to Say to Wear.

OHIO CHURCH DIRECTORY


A very rare directory listing the members of the St. John A.M.E. Church in Cleveland, edited by Josephus F. Hicks. The editor’s preface states that the work was produced “to present the individual groups of this church; the composition of each, a roster of the membership of those who have registered in the 1951 census and others who have submitted their names to be registered in this booklet.” The text includes a portrait of the church minister, a “Historical Sketch” of the church, a group portrait of the work’s “Sponsoring Group,” rosters of church officials, committees, clubs, choirs, and other groups, a portrait of the editor, and an alphabetical listing of about a thousand members of the church with their addresses and telephone numbers (when they have a phone). As such, the work is tantamount to a directory of the African American community in the neighborhood around the St. John A.M.E. Church. The text is interspersed with advertisements for businesses owned by or sympathetic to the members of the Black community in Cleveland. OCLC records just one copy, at Emory.
BEN HOOKS AT A MEMPHIS REVIVAL


A rare handbill advertising a revival at Greater Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, led by famous Civil Rights leader, Ben Hooks, with a portrait of Hooks within the text. Benjamin L. Hooks returned home to Memphis after World War II in order to practice law. In 1956, he became a minister at Greater Middle and began his involvement with both the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the NAACP. At the time the present flyer was printed, Hooks was actively involved with sit-ins and boycotts in Memphis. He would later become the president of the NAACP in the 1970s. The present document shows Hooks early in his Civil Rights career, preaching to a Baptist church in Memphis; the flyer encourages parishioners to “Come Out - Have Your Soul Revived.” A rare handbill featuring a very important Civil Rights leader.

(McBRB3488) $550

UNRECORDED CHURCH TEXT


A seemingly-unrecorded, posthumously-published work of church educational scholarship by an African-American Baptist preacher in Jim Crow Tennessee. Rev. E.W.D. Isaac is identified underneath his frontispiece portrait as “The Late Rev. E.W.D. Isaac, D.D. Founder and Corresponding Secretary, National B.Y.P.U. [Baptist Young People's Union] Board, Nashville, Tenn.” According to the half title, the present work was intended “For use as Text Book in Study Courses either with the individual, with the Church, B.T.U., or as Supplemental Studies in the Church Sunday School.” The text is presented in six
chapters, focusing on the Excellency, Definition, Ownership, Function, Custody, and Stability of the Church. The great majority of the text is obviously concerned with Biblical issues related to the Church, but in one particularly interesting passage, Reverend Isaac offers his view on how various “theories of government have proven to be futile; these forms of government include Individualism, Nihilism, Communism, Militarism, Altruism, Democracy, and Fraternalism. Along with the present work, Reverend Isaac is also noted as the author of two others, titled “The Four Gospels” and “Sunday Morning Reflection.” We could locate none of these in OCLC.

(McBRB4426) $850

TEXAS HBCU YEAR BOOK

31. [Texas]. The Texan 1937 [cover title]. [Tyler, Tx.: 1937]. 64pp. Original brown textured cloth with blindstamped longhorn and date below a central oval raised title device printed in gilt. Minor rubbing and edge wear, long split to rear joint, shorter split to front joint, corners worn. Hinges mostly detached but holding, moderate foxing, dampstain along bottom margin throughout. Good.

A rare yearbook for the year 1937 from Texas College, an Historically Black College and University in Tyler, Texas. The book contains the requisite sections in most yearbooks: photographic campus views, photos of administration and college staff, images and information on the student body divided by classes, and sections featuring scenes of the school’s athletics (including a two-page spread on the Texas Steers football team), group shots of fraternity, student council, and other club activities, with the final page devoted to a group portrait of the yearbook’s editorial staff. The final seven pages are comprised of advertisements for local businesses and organizations, including the Palace Theatre (“Exclusive Colored”), the local Grand Lodge of Colored Knights of Pythias, and The Dallas Informer (an African-American newspaper). Logos blindstamped on the rear cover indicate the binding was produced in Dallas and the text was printed in Shreveport. Just a single copy of any Texas College Texan yearbook appears in OCLC, a copy of the 1942 edition at the Dallas Public Library. A rare surviving record of African-American educational life in Jim Crow East Texas.

(McBRB4628) $950

TUSKEGEE STUDENT SCRAPBOOK


A unique record of a young Arkansas man’s experiences during his time at Tuskegee Institute in the late-1930s. According to a slightly later letter here from his father, William J. Bryant was the son of a Little Rock physician named J.B. Bryant. In another letter present here, a retained copy of a letter sent by Bryant to the principal of Cobb Avenue High School in Anniston, Alabama, in seeking a teaching position, Bryant writes that he graduated from Tuskegee in May 1939 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. In yet another retained copy of an undated letter sent to the Registrar of Tuskegee, after graduation Bryant attended graduate school at the University of Arizona where he “put in one semester working toward a Masters in education with special interest on the retarded child.”

The material in the present album amounts to an autograph book and scrapbook retained by Bryant over the course of his time at Tuskegee and
assembled by him during his final year there. The five pages of inscriptions at the beginning of the book are typically friendly and humorous, written by a variety of Bryant’s friends and classmates from a number of states throughout the South, including Texas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, the Carolinas, and Alabama. A handful of classmates also hail from Illinois, West Virginia, Ohio, and Connecticut. The theater and school programs pertain mostly to events which took place at Tuskegee, such as theater productions, commencements, fraternity events, and more. The more notable events include a performance by famed singer Etta Moten, a concert by the Tuskegee Institute Band, the 1938 Founder’s Day Exercises, and a March 1939 visit by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In addition to the aforementioned letters, four photographs are also laid into the album, though they are not captioned; they feature a young Black man in military uniform (possibly Bryant himself), a young Black woman, a trio of African Americans outside the “Hotel Reeves,” and an image of a house. The binding itself adds an extra flair to the album, with the front board reading “TUSKEGEE INST. 39” (with “TUSKEGEE” running diagonal from top left to bottom right). Each of these letters and numbers were carved out with a knife or similar tool and then the inner portions of most of the letters were colored or stained. A wonderful record of Bryant’s student life at Tuskegee, with some hint of his future activities as a teacher, and unique materiality in its binding.

(McBRB4595) $2,250
SOUVENIR PROGRAM FOR AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN USHER CONVENTION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST


An unrecorded souvenir program for the national convention of the National United Church Ushers Association of America (NUCUAA), held in Seattle between July 26 and 31, 1970. The NUCUAA was formed in 1910 by uniting several usher groups in five eastern states and spread across the country over the ensuing decades. The present work provides a short history of the organization and its founder, welcome messages from various prominent state officials in Washington, several pages with a detailed schedule of events for the convention, dozens of pages containing well wishes and greetings from various sectional usher boards and individuals, and several pages of commercial advertisements for local Pacific Northwest businesses sympathetic to the African American community in and around Seattle. The text concludes with four pages of lists of the ushers from nearby churches in Seattle, Tacoma, and Bremerton. The text is illustrated throughout with photographs of leaders, attendees, well wishers, and so forth, amounting to at least 200 hundred portraits of African American ushers and groups in Washington State and throughout the country. OCLC records just a single copy of one other souvenir program for the Ushers’ annual convention, for the 33rd convention in 1952, held by Emory.

(McBRB4645) $550

AN ALTERNATIVE NEGRO HISTORY WEEK


An early and seemingly unique handbill advertising the activities of “Negro Advancement Week” in Charles Town, West Virginia in 1931. The event called for sermons, discussions, lectures, a parade, a “Fraternal Night” speech, and more during the week of September 20 to 27. The entertainment included a “Beautiful Carnival” that ran the whole week, plus a shooting gallery, fishing pond, a drawing stand, a wheel of fortune, and more. The speakers included clergymen, professors, and doctors from West Virginia, as well as from Baltimore and Frederick, Maryland and Washington, D.C. The titles of some of the talks are instructive: “The Negro Religious Life,” “The Negroes Economic Life,” and “Race Relations.”

Negro Advancement Week appears to have been started by Carter Woodson’s own fraternity, Omega Psi Phi two years before Woodson started Negro History Week. In 1924, Omega Psi Phi initiated Negro History and Literature Week (later renamed Negro Achievement Week or Negro Advancement Week) in order to celebrate and distribute works by notable African-American authors. Woodson wanted to create a larger platform for celebrating Black History, so he started Black History Week in 1926, in concert with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. This later effort eventually evolved into Black History Month. Still, Negro Advancement Week remains an important early attempt to celebrate African-American history and culture, with some connection to Carter Woodson, in the first half of the 20th century. We could locate no holdings of any material relating to Negro Advancement Week in OCLC.

(McBRB4592) $1,250
CELEBRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WWI

36. [World War I]. True Sons of Freedom [caption title]. Chicago: Charles Gustrine, 1918. Chromolithographed poster, approximately 20 x 16 inches. Minor creasing, a few small chips to edges, one small chip to image area. Framed under tinted glass, not examined outside the frame. Very good.

A notable uplift poster honoring the brave contributions of African-American soldiers who fought during World War I. The preponderance of the poster depicts a fierce battle between a group of African-American infantry soldiers and bearded German troops in spiked helmets; one German soldier lies dead at bottom left and another German soldier raises his hands in surrender. Abraham Lincoln looks down on the fight from above (presumably from Heaven). A short quote from Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address” and a facsimile of his signature appear just beneath his image. Lincoln’s appearance here effectively juxtaposes the struggle of the Civil War with new struggle for African-American veterans of the “war to end all wars.” A “news item” is quoted at bottom left, reading “Colored Men, The First Americans who Planted the Flag on the Firing Line.”

Approximately 200,000 African American troops fought in the First World War, in segregated units, and were often assigned to the more dangerous jobs on the front. This poster is one of several commissioned by the Committee on Public Information, and is one of the most uncommon uplift posters celebrating African Americans to Europe. The Library of Virginia states that the poster “specifically references the success of the 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the Harlem Hellfighters, an all-black unit from New York and the first Allied soldiers to engage the Germans...The unit served a total of 191 days in combat, more than any other company. Corporal Henry Johnson and Private Needham Roberts were the first Americans to receive the Croix de Guerre, awarded by the French in recognition of heroism during wartime. They were 2 of 171 members of the 369th Infantry to receive the award. The musicians in this unit, including James Reese Europe and Noble Sissle, were credited with introducing European audiences to jazz music. After being excluded from the regular parade of troops leaving New York City when they left for Europe, soldiers of the 369th Infantry were given a hero’s welcome when they returned home on February 2, 1919.” OCLC records just two copies, at the Library of Congress and Texas A&M.

$1,750

OWNED BY A BUFFALO SOLDIER SERVING IN WORLD WAR II


An informative and profusely illustrated historical treatment and yearbook documenting the Second Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army, based at Camp Funston, Kansas and including numerous segregated African American troop units of the 9th Cavalry - Buffalo Soldiers. The present book was owned by Private Nolen W. Winfrey of the 9th Cavalry’s Troop C; Winfrey is pictured on page 86 among his fellow soldiers in Troop C. Winfrey has also filled out the partially-printed certificates at the beginning of the
book, noting that he was a member of the 9th Cavalry as of February 27, 1942. The work itself is a slick production which includes a history of the division, letters of introduction by the commanding officers, portraits of all the officers and enlisted men in the division organized in yearbook fashion, photographs of the men in training and in the field, a long history of the 9th Cavalry - Buffalo Soldiers (and their service fighting Native Americans, the Spanish-American War, and during the Mexican Border War), and more. Nolen Winfrey was born in Mississippi and worked as a farm laborer in Wynne, Arkansas before joining the service. (McBRB4214) $950

EXTREMELY RARE IN DUST JACKET


A notable work of Texas African-American history by the state's trailblazing African-American historian. J. Mason Brewer was the first African-American member of the Texas Folklore Society and the first Black author elected to the Texas Institute of Letters. The present work is his second book of history, in which Brewer details the background of political participation by African American Texans from Reconstruction through the “Disenfranchisement of the Negro in Texas,” and tracing the rise and fall of African American voting rights in the process. The individual biographies of the legislators provide invaluable background information on a generation of Black men attempting to participate in the government in Jim Crow Texas. The photographic plates picture several of the legislators, some of their descendants, Rev. R.T. Andrews (identified as the grandson of Richard Allen), and a group portrait of the Ladies Reading Circle of Dallas, Texas (to whom the work is dedicated). The present copy is notable for retaining the original dust jacket, which we had never seen before. (McBRB3888) $4,250

“JIM CROW MUST GO IF AMERICA IS TO STAND.”


A collection of four articles by important African American authors and white Communists “based on the authors’ contributions to a Round-Table Symposium on the question: ‘Have the Communists Quit the Fight for Negro Rights,’ recently organized under the auspices of the Negro Digest.” The four articles here are “Communists in the Fight for Negro Rights” by James W. Ford (who also wrote the Foreword here), “Reply to a Loaded Question” by Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., “Communists and the Scottsboro Case” by William L. Patterson, and “On the Negroes and the Right of Self-Determination” by...
Earl Browder. Ford succinctly answers the question posed here, by also employing the words of another author represented here in writing: “The real question has been how to strengthen our war effort by securing equal rights for the Negro people and that is how the Communists have placed this question. Earl Browder has repeatedly declared in behalf of the Communist movement: “The Jim-Crow system is the outgrowth of the ideology of “white supremacy” which is just as shameful and dangerous for America as Hitler’s identical racialism proved to be for Germany and the world. JIM CROW MUST GO IF AMERICA IS TO STAND.”

Wallace’s pamphlet also includes a compendium of segregation laws of various southern states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Interestingly, Wallace also calls for political action in which “Negroes and whites who participate in such direct action either as individuals or groups must discipline themselves to non-violence in word and deed. They must not resort to disorder under any circumstance and if arrested must submit themselves peacefully, then contact some reliable attorney familiar segregation laws and practices for their defense.” This adherence to non-violent protest would continue throughout the Civil Rights Movement in the ensuing decades. OCLC reports just five institutional holdings, at Yale Law School, the Henry Ford Museum, the University of North Carolina Law School, the University of Pennsylvania, and Duke.

An informative pamphlet on the history and legal realities of segregated transportation in the United States, while calling for an end to the practice in the South. The text was written by James Wallace of the Christian Fellowship Commission of the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen, an organization of southern religious leaders dedicated to social justice during the Jim Crow years. Wallace discusses the advent of “discriminatory” Jim Crow laws which “insured that prejudice would continue” set against more recent legislation such as Interstate Commerce Clause and the Fair Labor Standards Act which are working to satisfy “an ever increasing demand for equality.” The text then discusses the court cases of Yolanda Barnett Wilkerson and Irene Morgan, the latter of which concluded the year before the present pamphlet was published and invalidated a Virginia law on segregated seating. Morgan v. Virginia was affirmed by the Supreme Court and became an important landmark in the struggle against Jim Crow laws in the South.
The exceedingly rare fourth edition of Lucille E. Smith’s legendary box of recipe cards, produced in Fort Worth in 1960, after editions in 1941, 1945, and 1947. On 400 printed cards, Smith details recipes for breads, cakes, egg dishes, meats, poultry, “meat substitutes,” salads, pies, breads, sauces, vegetables, “sea foods,” and more, arranged by type inside the original box. The original label pasted on the inside of the box top contains the title, as well as a couple of paragraphs in which Smith details her background. The bottom is signed in type by Smith along with her address and the original price of $3.95; the right side of the label contains a delightful photographic portrait of Smith herself. On the Acknowledgement card, Smith touts the recipes as “tested in modernly equipped laboratories and tried sufficiently in homes and Institutions before being released to you.” Smith issued six editions of the present work, in 1941, 1945, 1947, 1960, 1969, and 1972, all of which are rare; the differences among these various editions is as yet unstudied.

Lucille Elizabeth Bishop Smith (1892-1985) has a well-earned and increasingly-well-documented role in Texas food history and in the history of African-American entrepreneurship. Along with Lena Richard, Helen T. Mahammitt, and a handful of others, she was a trailblazer in her independent and confident rise to professional status in the field of cookery, culinary knowledge, and teaching. After graduation from Huston-Tillotson University and marriage, she moved to Fort Worth and started a catering business. Throughout the years Lucille advocated for the urban poor and organized numerous fundraisers. She was honored with several awards including being named to the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women. Lucille’s legacy continues to this day in the teaching of her work and culinary contributions in college courses. At her namesake restaurant in Houston, Lucille’s, her great-grandson, the chef Chris Williams, continues cooking in her honor and also extends her legacy by performing civic work, such as the donating of meals during the Covid-16 pandemic. Interestingly, in early June 2020, Lucille’s hosted George Floyd’s family and then-candidate Joe Biden in a private dining room that doubles as a shrine to Smith.

“Lucille E. Smith lived productively, embracing a job that was one of the few trades considered ‘appropriate’ for a woman of color - perfecting her craft for more than forty years before the first edition of this compilation was assembled. During that time, she raised funds for service projects, fought to raise standards in slums, developed culinary vocational programs in Texas, conducted itinerant teacher-training classes, established the Commercial Cooking and Baking Department at Prairie View A&M University (a historically black college near Houston), compiled five manuals for the state Department of Industrial Education, served as food editor for Sepia magazine, and brought the first packaged Hot Roll Mix to market” - Toni Tipton-Martin, The Jemima Code, p.57.

OCLC records just three copies of this 1960 fourth edition, at Harvard, SMU, and UT-Arlington.

(McBRB4576) $4,250

FROM THE LIBRARY OF W.E.B. DU BOIS

Presentation copy of the first edition of Merriam's history of African American political life, inscribed on the front free endpaper, “W.E.B. Du Bois with the cordial regards of The Author March 10, 1906.” Additionally, Du Bois’s library ink stamp, which reproduces his signature, appears on the front pastedown, and Du Bois’s occasional check marks, marginal brackets, and underlining appear on several pages of the text. George Merriam’s 1906 work would certainly have been of interest to W.E.B. Du Bois. According to contemporary reviews, the work was substantially similar to Merriam’s previous work, Life and Times of Samuel Bowles, but with critical new additions including a dozen detailed sketches of prominent abolitionists and anti-slavery leaders, a new approach to the “underlying forces” that drove the issue of slavery, a fresh look at Reconstruction, and the present state of life in the South. At the time of the book’s publication, Du Bois was working with the Niagara Movement, publishing his short-lived periodical, Moon Illustrated Weekly, and working to help African Americans in Georgia recover from the Atlanta Riot of late-September 1906.


A rare study of African-American education in the nation’s capital, and a plea for the United States Congress to increase the segregated district’s school budget. The text includes detailed reports directly comparing the “dual system” of African-American high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools to their whites-only counterparts. The resources of the two school systems were decidedly unequal, and the author of this report calls them “odious.” The report was produced by the Inter-Racial Committee of the District of Columbia, which concludes that they “cannot refrain from uttering a protest against the nefarious segregation engendered by our dual system of education.” OCLC records just four copies, at Yale, Howard, Indiana University, and New York Public Library.


An unrecorded pamphlet extolling the artistry of a famous sculpture by African American / Afro-Caribbean / Native American sculptor Edmonia Lewis, likely produced at her behest as a promotional pamphlet for an American exhibition. Born to an Ojibway mother and a Haitian father, Edmonia Lewis was the first multiracial American woman artist to achieve national and international fame. Lewis was raised among her
Ojibway family members and later attended art classes at Oberlin College, where she was expelled for allegedly secretly administering Spanish fly to her classmates. Lewis established herself in the expat American artists community in Rome, and her studio there became a regular stop on the Grand Tour. In Rome, Lewis was one of the few American sculptors who did her own stone carving. Race, sex, and religion permeate her work (she was a practicing Catholic most of her life). Initially funded by a brother who had been a successful gold miner in Gold Rush California, Lewis kept her Rome studio operating through commissions and self-promoted American tours and exhibitions.

The present pamphlet likely emanates from one of her American tours, specifically her 1870 Chicago exhibition and sale of one of her best-known works, “Hagar.” Although printed in Rome that year, with no attribution to Lewis as publisher, the sole focus of the pamphlet being “Hagar,” the only work Lewis brought on her 1870 tour suggests the direct connection. The title of the pamphlet, “Hagar as She Appeared in the Desert,” is the exact wording Lewis used in her Chicago Tribune advertisement of the exhibition. Lewis would also employ the same Roman printer, Enrico Sinimberghi, to print the pamphlet she distributed to promote her sculpture Death of Cleopatra in 1878. That later pamphlet contains five newspaper reviews of Cleopatra which was Lewis showed at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, an event that first brought Lewis attention from the broader American public. The present pamphlet takes a similar approach: the entire text is an excerpt of a review of Hagar from the Boston Irish-Catholic newspaper The Pilot.

Two ownership inscriptions on the front wrapper provide further interest to the pamphlet. Written separately but apparently in the same hand, they read: “Mrs. PJ DeF. Griffin Rome 1878” and then “to me Dec 24 1888 Geo Butler Griffin.” Pastora Jacoba DeForest Griffin (1815-1894) was the daughter of David Curtis DeForest, American adventurer in Argentina. Her son George Butler Griffin (1840-1893) spent his young adulthood in Central and South America, wrote most of the Central American history published under H.H. Bancroft’s name, and translated the California documents that Adolph Sutro acquired from the Royal Spanish archives in Seville. It is not hard to imagine that the Griffins, people of means and world travelers, likely acquired the present pamphlet from Edmonia Lewis's studio in Rome.

“Her studio, listed with those of other artists in the best guidebooks, was a fashionable stop for Americans on the Grand Tour, many of whom ordered busts of literary or historical figures to adorn their mantels or front parlors.... Even in her depictions of Hiawatha and Minne-Ha-Ha, however, the public saw themes from African-American life. Following the Civil War, the two Indian lovers from warring tribes were thought to represent hope for reconciliation between North and South. Similarly, one of her masterworks, Hagar, an 1875 depiction of the biblical
bondwoman and outcast, was understood as an allegory of the black race...” - ANB online.

We could locate no other copies of the present pamphlet in OCLC or auction records, nor any mention of it in any literature we could locate about Lewis.

(Orig.Scrip.4599) $4,500

ORIGINAL SCRIPT FOR A LEGENDARY NAACP TELEVISION PRODUCTION


A very rare script for a famous stage and television program produced by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the heat of the Civil Rights Movement. The program, Freedom is the Word was presented at Madison Square Garden and other live venues on May 14, 1964, incorporating some pre-taped segments with live performances and broadcast via closed-circuit to auditoriums and theaters in forty-eight cities around the country. The program was created in order to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, which outlawed segregation in public schools. The event was promoted in the New York Times and other newspapers as the “NAACP Freedom Spectacular.” According to an advertisement in the May 10, 1964 edition of the Times, the event was happening “in the midst of the Senate filibuster on the Civil Rights Bill” and was aiming to rival “last year’s March on Washington” in attendance nationwide. The money raised through ticket sales was “earmarked to provide cash bail and other assistance for our active workers, particularly in the South, whom we are called upon to help in their often dangerous work for civil rights.”

The present script includes a two-page rundown, a listing of the production staff, detailed schedules for the pre-taped segments (which were recorded in ABC’s Studio I on May 11-12), pages indicating when the production would switch to the pre-taped segments, and the end credits for the production. The preponderance of the text is comprised of the dialogue and action for the live portions of the program. The script begins with Frederic March’s introduction, followed by the song “Freedom is the Word,” a back-and-forth between Preston and Sidney Poitier, Poitier’s introduction to Gloria Foster and Foster’s speech in which she plays the role of a fifteen-year-old girl trying to attend Little Rock High School in 1957, and much more, ending with Sammy Davis, Jr.’s heartfelt salutation for the evening and the presentation of the Freedom Bell Award to Thurgood Marshall by the Executive Secretary of the NAACP, Roy Wilkins.

A cavalcade of stars participated in the event, and the cast of luminaries included Nat King Cole, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Eartha Kitt, Richard Widmark, Godfrey Cambridge, Robert Preston, Duke Ellington, Gloria Foster, Harry Belafonte, Camilla Williams, Dick Gregory (who was apparently replaced at the last minute by Bill Cosby), Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Lena Horne, Sammy Davis, Jr., Sidney Poitier, and the NAACP’s own Roy Wilkins. The show was apparently a great success, raising several hundred thousand dollars for the NAACP; according to one of their officials, the program was also the first closed-circuit production created by and for African Americans. The present script was owned by Bella Tillis (1913-2013), with her name stamped in gilt on the front cover. Tillis was director of Brooklyn’s Midwood High School...
Chorus which accompanied Robert Preston in singing, “Freedom is the Word” during the program; she is listed in the end credits for the production, on page 50.

An original script for a vital production by the NAACP intended to raise funds for its civil rights work and celebrate the tenth anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision that desegregated American public schools. We could locate no other copies of the script, with no listings in OCLC, and as far as we know, the closed-circuit production was not recorded for posterity (though it is listed in the Internet Movie Database). A script for a portion of the program is held by UCLA as part of the papers of Steve Binder, who produced and directed the “Some People” (oddly not part of the present script, but likely a different part of the show produced live in Los Angeles). In any case, the present script is likely the most complete record of the overall program to be found anywhere.

(McBRR4571) $4,000

CONFERENCE ON RACE


Fourth edition of a scarce pamphlet printing extracts from reports of an Atlanta race relations conference, distributed “for class in state teacher’s colleges,” according to the typed notice on the front cover. The authors of the various extracts include N.C. Newbold, R.B. Eleazer, and Dr. Edwin L. Clarke. The pieces are focused on education, specifically for African Americans in the South. The Nashville conference from which these pieces were taken was convened “to consider the obligation of Southern educational institutions -- colleges and public schools -- to make a constructive contribution to the South’s peculiar problems of race relations.”

(McBRR3258) $250


A decidedly rare and early book of poetry and prose written by Letty M. Shaw, an African-American professional writer & secretary who was the coordinator of the Kuntu Writers’ Workshop in Pittsburgh in the late 1970s, where she worked with Rob Penny and others in tutoring and coaching young Black writers. The present copy is the author’s own, with her ownership inscription reading, “Letty Shaw’s personal copy, received 11/14/56.” Shaw has also laid in one of her business cards, which touts her as “Professional Member of the National Writers Club.”

The present work prints eighteen poems by Shaw with titles such as “April’s Fool,” “Prelude to Thought,” and “States of Being,” plus three prose works, as well as three poems by Roberta Louise Lee, Shaw’s eight-year-old daughter. The book was printed by Triangle Publishing Company of Dallas, Texas. OCLC records just two institutional holdings, at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Stanford.

(McBRR4676) $550

TUSKEGEE TEACHING MATERIALS

A unique and informative collection of materials from the teachers and some of their students involved in a Basic Skills Workshop in the summer of 1965 to assist Black seniors at Tuskegee’s high school planning on attending Tuskegee Institute as collegians. The material is housed in a Tuskegee Institute two-pocket folder with the seal of the school on the front cover and a photographic campus scene on the rear cover. According to some of the forms, the class took place from June 14 to July 16, and was taught by Dr. Charles Shapiro, a Professor of English at Briarcliff College in New York and Mrs. Grace Hooks of Tuskegee. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Cultural Enrichment Committee of the East Alabama Chapter of the Council on Human Relations and the Commission on Race and Equality of the American Ethical Union. The date of 1965 is supplied through some of the coursework, which is dated in that year, and many of the students are identified by name through the coursework and forms here.

Chief among the material are thirty pages of handwritten student essays and creative writing (much on the black experience as a youngster in the south), four partially-printed application forms completed by students (all 16 years of age) with some basic demographic information and the answers to two questions about their motivation for going to Tuskegee Institute, and five carbon copies of “Basic Skills Workshop - Diagnostic Test 1,” where students had to correct errors on a short essay, with numerous ink edits and emendations. In addition to the coursework and related documents, the folder also houses the May 1965 issue of Tribune: A Magazine of Report, Opinion, and Interpretation, published in Los Angeles by Almena Lomax, a Black civil rights activist (six records in OCLC, with only one explicitly reporting this issue); The Activist, vol. I, no. 1 (June 1965) published by the Tuskegee Institute’s Advancement League and including work by Samuel Younge (no copies in OCLC); The Southern Courier newspaper, vol. I, no. 1, Friday, July 16, 1965 (a Black newspaper published by the Southern Educational Conference in Montgomery, Alabama but with business offices in Atlanta until 1968, with OCLC recording no actual copies); and Carter, Doner and Green’s The Writing Laboratory, 25 Lessons in Basic Grammar -- a quarto softcover textbook. These latter materials were very likely used in class as part of the workshop. A wonderful assortment of teaching materials and original classwork produced by eager Tuskegee students during the heat of the Civil Rights Movement, with much to explore for further research.

(REFORM SCHOOL IN VIRGINIA


The first report on the operation of the Negro Reformatory Association of Virginia (NRAV), presented to the governor and General Assembly of the state in 1901. The work pertains specifically to the Virginia Manual Labor School of the Negro Reformatory Association, which began with the pardoning of seven “delinquent Negro minors” who were given the chance to serve their sentence as “inmates of the school.” The report opens with a detailed letter by the African-American President of the
NRAV, John H. Smyth, informing officials in Virginia of the history of the school, its buildings, its challenges, and more, with specific sections on Recommendations and Farming. This is followed by a financial report and a two-page Appendix detailing the ages of the 141 inmates at the time of their admission, their offenses, the various agencies who committed the young men to the school, and the cities from where the young men came. One short paragraph from President Smyth’s opening letter is particularly telling: “The work of reformation of delinquent Negro minors is one with which the men and women of the race here engaged have not had previous experience sufficient to enable them fully to appreciate its needs, importance and gravity. A reform school in reality for Negro minors in the South is an experiment.”

“John Henry Smyth was an influential national and international figure during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Armed with excellent credentials in education, he taught school, was one of the nation’s first African American civil service employees, worked at Freedmen’s Savings and Trust, practiced law, was a diplomat, edited an African American newspaper, and founded a reformatory school for African American youth” -- encyclopedia.com.

From an address by Smyth entitled On Negro Delinquent Children of Virginia, given in May 1898: “Through the influence of a few earnest negro men, moved by humane and Christian sentiments, the Negro Reformatory Association of Virginia came into corporate existence June 11, 1897, with a negro board of directors and an advisory board of seven white Virginians, with the purpose of rescuing and reforming this class through a reformatory.... The institution shall not be an annual pensioner upon its friends and the public, farming in all its branches, blacksmithing, carpentry, and instruction in the domesticities of the home, are designed to be taught, that the institution from the start shall be self-supporting, with the State’s aid in food and clothing of the inmates. The rudiments of English learning will be taught, and moral training will be the object.” OCLC records just three copies of this first report, at the University of Virginia, NYPL, and the University of Chicago. (McBRB4509) $550


A rare amicus brief intended for submission to the United States Supreme Court relating to the decision in Dennis v. United States, which upheld convictions against eleven Communist Party leaders for advocating the forceful overthrow of the U.S. government under the Smith Act. The Alien Registration Act (or Smith Act) of 1940 required all adult non-citizens in the U.S. to register with the federal government and also set penalties for advocating for the overthrow of said government. The 1951 Dennis decision had a chilling effect on the rights of protest guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, particularly for marginalized groups such as African Americans.

The authors of the present brief, Richard E. Westbrooks and Earl B. Dickerson, describe themselves as “Negro citizens, each a member of the bar of the State of Illinois and also of this Court,” who filed this document as an amicus curiae in support of the pending petition for a rehearing of the Smith Act case (Dennis v. United States) or for its reversal altogether. The authors felt the Dennis decision had “a disastrous impact upon the century-old struggle of the Negro people for complete emancipation.” As they argue, the right to protest is of vital concern to African Americans (“a specially persecuted minority group in our body
The authors wrap their argument in patriotic language as well as they can: “Negro citizens are vitally concerned over the Court’s decision, both because they regard the right of political expression as a basic democratic right and because history has taught them that liberty is indivisible. The constitutional rights of the Negroes under the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments cannot be divorced from the free enjoyment by all of our people of the protections of the Bill of Rights. The decision in weakening a basic liberty places in jeopardy the special rights written into the Constitution to assure democratic protections of Negroes.”

Sadly, the Dennis case was never scheduled for a rehearing, but was effectively overturned by the 1969 decision in Brandenburg v. Ohio, though obviously much too late for those involved in the original case. The Brandenburg decision limited the scope of protest to speech “directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.” The present brief stands as a signpost in the continuing struggle for free expression for Communists, African Americans, and other marginalized groups seeking to exercise First Amendment rights under their own Constitution. OCLC records nine copies, at San Francisco State, Stanford, the Bancroft, UC-Davis, Yale Law School, the University of Illinois, Frostburg State University, the University of Michigan, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

(McBRB4061) $850