Our latest list features thirty fresh items in the field of African Americana. Highlights include a set of text books from the Jim Crow South; Chairman Mao’s statement of solidarity with the struggle of Black Americans; letters written by emigrants to all-Black towns in Oklahoma; a work on Omaha’s race riot; several business directories; numerous unrecorded or unique pieces, and more. Enjoy!

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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An apparently unrecorded advertising brochure for the products of Powell Industries for the Handicapped, owned and operated by Rev. Joseph E. Powell, an African-American “Poet, Inventor and Lecturer” in Montgomery, Alabama in the first half of the 20th century. Powell established his company to “erect an Industrial Center which will manufacture useful house-hold articles an create employment for the handicapped.” The company offered an array of household products including wash boards, porch chairs, dining room tables, lawn chairs, and many others. The inner two-page opening of the brochure includes the text of the song, “Do I Believe,” written by Powell, and a call for donations titled, “Personal Challenge to a Dying World” written by Powell, which also includes a portrait of him. Most of Powell’s language is steeped in Biblical language and references. We could locate no material of any kind for Powell Industries for the Handicapped in OCLC.

(McBRB5064) $550

A rare issue of an uncommon midcentury periodical devoted to African-American automobile ownership. The publisher, Joseph Varney Baker (1908-1993) was the first African American to own a public relations business when he started one in 1934. His client list included Chrysler and several other major corporations such as American Tobacco Company, DuPont, Gillette, NBC, Pennsylvania Railroad, Procter & Gamble, RCA, Scott Paper, U.S. Steel, and Western Union. All of the advertising in this magazine is for various cars manufactured by Chrysler (Imperial, Chrysler, Dodge and Plymouth). The Wayfarer was aimed at African-American car buyers or owners. It was apparently published quarterly, beginning in 1964, though institutional records are so rare and extant literature so scant on the publication that we don’t know when it ended (Danky indicates issues through 1969). According to Danky, each issue of the magazine covered the Black community in a different city; the present issue focuses on Boston. The racial situation in Boston is described vaguely and benignly even though Boston was then embroiled in epic controversy over demands to bus African-American public school children in an effort to solve de facto segregation of the city’s public schools. Louise Day Hicks, the vocal white leader of the city’s uncompromising opposition to busing, became so popular that she almost got elected mayor of Boston in 1967. OCLC records very few holdings institutionally, with no specific notation of the present issue held by anyone. An interesting and rarely encountered entry in the history of the mobility of African Americans in 20th-century America.

Danky 6322.

(McBRB5057) $550
OKLAHOMA AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR PRODUCTS


A rare advertising circular issued by Sun-Ray Hair Preparation, an African-American beauty supply company based in Oklahoma City. The circular features illustrations and brief descriptions for three main products -- a “Hair Dressing Comb,” a “Hair Straightening and Shampoo Comb” (available in both metal and wooden handles), and a “Curling Iron” aimed at African-American women (“Every woman has to have a curling iron and this one will give you service and satisfaction”). The verso of the broadsheet is an order form which is filled out in ink pen by a woman in Independence, Kansas who ordered a hair dressing comb and “hair pressers.” Both the circular and the original transmittal envelope include the name of the company agent, M.F. Luster. OCLC lists just a single copy of this circular, in a small collection of Sun-Ray material located at the Hagley Museum.

(McBRB5014) $650

“CONTAINS OVER 5,000 COMPETITIVE BLACK BUSINESSES IN OVER 250 CATEGORIES.”


A rare business directory intended for use by the African-American community of Los Angeles at the end of the outset of the 1970s. The cover touts the directory’s series motto: “Most Complete & First of Its Kind.” The directory itself contains listings for a wide variety of businesses, presented alphabetically by business type, ranging from “Abortion Counseling” to “Youth Organizations & Centers.” As with most other directories, the listings are interspersed with advertisements for a plethora of Black-owned or managed area businesses, including First City Savings, Washington Bakery, Bell’s Catering, Maury Wills Stolen Base Cleaners, Los Angeles Weekly Television Guide (“The first & ONLY Black TV Guide”), Operation Breadbasket (“The Economic Arm of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference”), KJLH FM Stereo 102.3 (“Now the 920,000 Negroes in Los Angeles County have their first and only Negro-Owned radio station”), Soul Courtesy Car, Willie Greene’s Travel Service, Soul Brothers Kitchen, Medallion Printers & Lithographers, and numerous others. The advertisements are often illustrated with portraits of the managers or proprietors of the businesses. A small section at the end of the directory is reserved for “white owned companies [who] through their support, have made it possible to print and distribute many additional copies of the Black Business Directory.” The last page of text is a full-page ad for the publication itself, which touts its advantages and purpose: “Black Business Directory -- Contains over 5,000 competitive Black Businesses in over 250 categories. Purpose -- to stimulate minority employment by exposing minority businesses, services, and products.”
All three of the directories that we know of in this series are rare. OCLC reports just three copies of the first volume published for the summer of 1969, at the New York Public Library, the Bancroft Library, and the University of Southern California; and just two copies of the second volume, published in the Winter of 1969-70, at NYPL and the Bancroft. No copies of a Summer 1970, Winter 1970-71, or Summer 1971 edition seem to be reported, if they were produced. For the present work, published in the Winter of 1971, we could locate just two copies in institutional holdings, at the University of Southern California and Yale.

(McBRB5068) $950

OBSCURE CIVIL RIGHTS TRACT


A rare and impactful work created by Daniel W. Ford, a businessman from California, intended to educate “young Americans” on civil rights issues and explicitly published “to help raise funds for the establishment and maintenance of a National Radio Broadcast in the interest of the Civil Rights Program” of the obscure National Association for the Promotion of Civil Rights. Ford was born and raised in “a small Texas town” where he was subject to the vicissitudes of “the system of Jim Crow government.” At the tender age of twenty-three, just after he moved to California, Ford began examining racial inequality and other civil rights issues. The present work contains a short autobiography and pointed commentary through the lens of the author’s Introduction and Preface, but is mostly comprised of excerpts from the report of President Truman’s Committee on Civil Rights. In 1948, Truman advanced some of the report’s recommendations by issuing executive orders that desegregated the military as well as the federal workforce. Ford contributed the present work as an attempt to distill the Truman committee report to the layperson. The work’s impact is ultimately unknown, but its rarity and lack of appearance in notable bibliographies and institutions devoted to the history of African American culture suggests it was obscure and minimally disseminated even in its own time. An important but overlooked contribution to the developing struggle for civil rights in the United States in the mid-20th century, with just three copies in OCLC, at Oakland Public Library, the University of California, Irvine, and the Clements Library.

(McBRB4947) $1,250

“MEDICAL CARE AS APPLIED TO NEGROES.”


A typed document containing the text of a speech delivered by Dr. William Montague Cobb on July 3, 1947 before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, which was holding hearings on health-related bills. The first part of the title reads “Statement of Dr. W. Montague Cobb, Representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People” with the second half added in manuscript, presumably by Cobb, and reading: “in Opposition to the Taft Health Bill, S. 545, Sponsored by the American Medical Assn.” Dr. Cobb was at the time a professor of anatomy at the medical school at
Howard University. He appeared here on behalf of the NAACP as a member of that organization's National Medical Committee. Taft's bill, crafted by the American Medical Association, was part of the AMA's successful effort to prevent passage of National Medical Insurance which would cover most Americans. Understandably, Dr. Cobb argued in favor of "national health legislation" which would "work toward the elimination of the segregated principle as it is now entrenched in all arrangements for medical care as applied to Negroes." He also decries the Taft bill for leaving too much authority to the states which would result in discrimination, talks about the institutional racism within the AMA, speaks about traditional exclusion of "colored physicians" from membership in medical societies, and more. We could locate no other copies of this mimeographed item, which may have been Dr. Cobb's personal copy (as it was acquired from a fellow dealer who acquired a number of items belonging to Cobb).

"GOD COUNTS THE NEGRO'S TEARS..."


A scarce collection of poetry and prose by Frank B. Coffin of Little Rock, Arkansas. Coffin, an African-American pharmacist and poet, was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, earned his pharmacist's diploma at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, and spent the rest of his life as one of the first Black pharmacists in Little Rock. Two books of his poems were published during his life -- Coffin's Poems with Ajax' Ordeals published in 1897 and this book, published fifty years later. Both volumes are difficult to find, so we are not sure how much of the material in the present work appeared in some form in the earlier book. We notice that Ajaq, who shows up in the title of the first book, appears in the title of sixteen poems in this later book. Other intriguing titles in the present work include "Phyllis Wheatley," "Harriet Beecher Stowe," "Lincoln's Call," "Retribution," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Woman," "Racial Facts," "America's Needed Facts," "Hitler," and "Hell on Earth." Coffin is a forceful writer whose pieces often rail against racial injustice and other social ills in America; for example, in his short prose piece, "America's Disgrace," he lambasts the "shame" of the present Congress in not handling the current slate of "the worst disorders of our civilization," which he lists as "Lynching, race prejudice and hatred, sexual diseases, kidnapping, homicide, suicide, robbery and the rum traffic."

TEXTBOOKS DESIGNED TO UPLIFT "NEGRO AMERICAN" STUDENTS IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH

couple of volumes with mild fraying to spines. Occasional light foxing to text. One volume ex-library, with stamps to endpapers, inked call number to spine tail, and pocket on rear endpaper. Overall, a nice set. Very good.

A complete set of four titles published as part of the “Negro American Series” of textbooks intended for African-American primary school students in the American South. The books were written by a white teacher, Emma E. Akin, who was working at an African-American school in Dunbar, Oklahoma when she noticed a lack of textbooks focusing on Black history and achievements. The four titles are Negro Boys and Girls (designated as “Book One” on the spine); Gifts (“Book Two” on the spine); A Booker T. Washington School (“Book Three” on the spine); and Ideals and Adventures (“Book Four” on the spine).

The books contain biographies of prominent African Americans, as well as many short stories that follow the daily lives of Black students, in which they participate in daily lessons and learn about their heritage, along with reading and counting lessons, poetry, advice on how to make new friends, vocabulary lists, study questions for students, and more. An example of a couple of study questions, which follow a biography of Dr. Alphonso Mitchell, is stated as follows: “How many colored doctors do you know?” and “Why are there so few Negro dentists?” The text is enhanced with photographs taken in the Dunbar School in an effort to provide Black students with imagery with which they could identify. The acknowledgements section of the books gives thanks to fellow teachers, as well as parents and students at the Dunbar School for their contributions to the textbooks. Among those thanked by Akin is Mary McLeod Bethune (who is also profiled in the book) as well as other prominent African-American educators who contributed information and photographs or pictures. The dedication page in each volume reads simply: “This book is dedicated to America’s Negro Boys and Girls.”

According to a seminal work on the societal impact of children’s literature, Defining Print Culture for Youth, the Cultural Work of Children’s Literature: “The Negro American Series cut against the prevailing stereotypes in textual theme and content as it did in its illustrations. Each volume includes information on the accomplishments of at least one notable African American, from Paul Laurence Dunbar to Roland Hayes to Phillis Wheatley, to lesser-known figures as well. Farm children and children who live in town are treated with equal respect. Families are described as loving and concerned. Class differences are never mentioned.... Neither children nor adults are depicted as menials or buffoons.... Race progress and uplift are constant themes.”

A rare opportunity to obtain the full four-volume set of these scarce publications intended to educate and uplift African American schoolchildren in the Jim Crow South. 
(McBRB5048) $7,500
RARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY


A rare biographical account of Dr. John H. Pinkard (1865-1934), a noted but controversial African American medical man in Virginia in the early 20th century. The present pamphlet reports that Pinkard was born in Franklin County, Virginia, worked for the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, and then received medical training at Pennsylvania Western University in Pittsburgh. Pinkard was also, according to the author, a born genius. In addition to his interests in “Physiology, Anatomy, Pathology, Chemistry, Botany, Materia Medica, etc.”, Pinkard also made and sold what seem like patent medicines (referred to here as “remedies” and “compounded medicines”), ten of which are listed, described, and priced here, and noted as available from the “Doctor’s Laboratory” at an address in Roanoke.

The text is enhanced by five photographs - a portrait of Dr. Pinkard, a shot of “Dr. Pinkard’s Residence,” a front view of Pinkard’s “Home, Laboratory and Office,” a portrait of Pinkard’s wife, Mrs. Mary Pinkard, and a “Row of Houses Owned by Dr. Pinkard.” OCLC records two editions of this pamphlet, one numbering twelve pages (like the present copy) and another numbering twenty pages; both of which are rare. It is likely that the shorter edition was issued first. OCLC reports just five copies of this twelve-page edition, at Duke, the Ohio History Connection, the Library of Virginia, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Historical Society Library.

DETROIT BUSINESS DIRECTORY


An unrecorded African-American business directory issued by the Booker T. Washington Business Association in Detroit. According to the introduction: “Booker T. Washington Business Association, Detroit’s oldest black business organization, is proud to present the first of a series of Directories geared to support and encourage the development of more businesses within the Detroit area.... This is your Directory, and we urge you to begin today patronizing these black-owned businesses.” The text of the directory is comprised of quarter-page advertisements for about forty said businesses, ranging from automobile dealers to supermarkets according to the alphabetical index on the second page. Some of the ads are illustrated with portraits of the proprietors. The text also includes a four-page section titled “Membership Roster” inserted in the middle, presumably listing the current members of the Booker T. Washington Business Association. We could locate no copies of this directory in OCLC or elsewhere.

(McBRB4967) $850
“JOHNNIE GILMORE -- NO LEGS”


An unrecorded, photographically-illustrated fundraising broadside featuring the handicapped African-American students of the Piney Woods School in Mississippi. A group photograph at the top of the broadside features nine Piney Woods students, each described with their particular handicap; i.e., “Wilmer Mulligan right arm off,” “Julius Polk hunchback,” “Dean Carter left arm gone, both legs paralyzed,” and so forth. The text states that this particular appeal for donations is designed to help the “Johnnie Gilmore Educational Fund” which has procured $1200 towards the necessary amount of $3000. In addition to the text calling for donations, the broadside includes some “recommendations” for the Piney Woods School itself and an image of Charles M. Shed, “who came to us looking like those nine boys above about ten years ago” and was now “A useful teacher and Assistant Treasurer of Piney Woods School.” We could locate no copies of this early Piney Woods broadside in OCLC or elsewhere.

$850

( McBRRB5009 )

“THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS LITERALLY SLAMMED THE DOOR OF HOPE IN THE FACES OF AMERICA’S COLORED CITIZENS.”


A small leaflet or political brochure issued by New Era Colored Democracy in support of the candidacy of William B. Brandon, an African American lawyer in Newark. Brandon was running for the New Jersey General Assembly as a Democrat. The leaflet begins with uplift language regarding the “honest, loyal, hard working, law abiding and faithful” nature of African Americans, then lambasts the Republican Party for “playing tricks on the colored voters.” The text then focuses on Brandon himself, described as “an able lawyer, a young man possessed of sterling qualities of leadership, loaded down with zeal and noble purpose” for the improvement of Newark. The brochure concludes with language in support of the Democratic Party, which is “opposed to the Ku Klux Klan and lynching,” and a call to action to vote for Brandon on November 4th, touting “Brandon and all Democracy for the Assembly! Boost Brandon and Democracy!” OCLC records just one publication by the New Era Colored Democracy - a printed card listing “Ten reasons why the Colored citizens of Essex County should support the Democratic Party,” held at UC-Davis. The present publication is not listed in OCLC.

$450

( McBRRB4771 )
A unique assemblage of materials pasted over the pages of a printed pamphlet and relating to Henry A. Spencer, President of the International Conference of Knights Templar in Rochester, New York and the first African American to be accepted to the University of Rochester. Spencer was brought to western New York as a child, when his father was stationed there with Sickles’ 17th New York Light Independent Infantry after the conclusion of the Civil War. Spencer attended boarding school in Philadelphia and the Brockport Normal School (SUNY Brockport), graduating as the Gamma Sigma orator in 1880, which earned for Spencer a full scholarship to the University of Rochester. After college, Spencer studied law and was later appointed to a position in the speaker’s room in Albany. When Fred Nixon was appointed speaker of the State Assembly, Spencer served as his confidential clerk, a position he held for over thirty years. During his time in Albany, Spencer was also a grand master of the New York State Colored Masons. Spencer’s experiences with the Masons is the subject of the items in the present scrapbook. Pasted into the first thirty pages here are an assortment of newspaper extracts, articles, bylaws, programs, and rosters memorializing Spencer’s experiences with the Knights Templar of New York. Many of the items have handwritten notes written on or around them, providing additional information and context. For example, a photograph extract showing a Knights Templar commandery is annotated, “Sir Henry A. Spencer 33 degree. Grand Commander with cap on at the right. Taken 1914.”

Possibly a unique survival, this postcard is addressed “To the Stockholders of the Negro Bank” in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in the late-summer of 1906. This “Important Notice” calls for all stockholders to meet on September 4 at the town’s Knights of Pythias Hall. The officers of the bank encourage stockholders to “Come and hear the report of the Steering Committee. We have perfected plans whereby the bank may be opened at once. Come and bring what money you can on your stock.” The postcard is signed at the bottom by John Blum, secretary, and the treasurer F.M. Kennedy, who have sent it to Rev. J.F. Curry of Winston-Salem “c/o Miss Addie Morris.” We could locate no information on Kennedy or the recipient, Reverend Curry. The bank’s treasurer, F.M. Kennedy was involved in trying to build an early hospital for African Americans and served as the principal of the Slater School some years later, but we could locate no mentions of his involvement in creating an African-American bank in Winston-Salem. In fact, we could locate no evidence that a “Negro Bank” was ever founded in the town; the Mechanics and Farmers Bank was established in Raleigh around this time, but was not apparently affiliated with a similar effort in Winston-Salem. The present postcard remains a curious link to establishing a proposed but perhaps never-realized African-American bank in the Jim Crow South.
“THE TOWN OF BOLEY IS NEW AND SETTLED LARGELY BY COLORED PEOPLE....”


A unique collection of correspondence from Elijah H. “Lige” Holmes, presumably written to William Baxter Mathews, consisting of a typed letter, signed, and two manuscript letters, signed over a three-year period. Holmes was born around 1868 in Georgia, attended Atlanta University, became an assistant in the mechanical department there, married Clara E. Davenport in 1890, secured a patent for gauges in Prairie View, Texas in 1895, and served as a professor of drawing in the mechanical department of Prairie View State Normal College in Texas through at least 1906. The first letter in the present grouping was written on July 2, 1902 while Holmes was studying engineering for the summer at the University of Wisconsin. This typed letter, signed reads, in part: “No Negroes here except myself. That is, in the school.... Nearly all the people are German or are of German descent. They do not know color. They do know a dollar. My wife does not take kindly to having white servants. She loves to see her people and one sees very few of them here.”

The remaining two manuscript letters are both written on departmental stationery from Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College of Texas. These include a partial one-page letter dated December 23, 1905. In this letter, Holmes reports on his wife’s health, and discusses plans to quit teaching and open a blacksmithing and woodwork shop in “Creek Nation, a section in the northwestern part of the Indian Territory.” Holmes elaborates on the latter in his third and final letter, dated two months later, on February 24, 1906. He also offers advice on the best locations for teaching positions in Texas. This letter reads, in part: “Do you mean to continue in the school work or try something else? If you want to go west, try Kansas City and St. Louis, they pay well.... I do not believe that you would like school teaching in Texas unless it was in some one of the large cities. I would not advise to attempt work in any of the towns.... I do not recommend this (P.V.) place to you. It is a hard place to live, and it would be harder for you and your family coming from Atlanta.... If you want to open up a business such as dry goods and shoes, I would recommend my little town in the Ind. Ter. The town of Boley is new and settled largely by colored people.... I hope to leave Texas this fall and embark in a business in the Territory. We hope to start a variety shop doing general blacksmithing, wood work, building and a hardware business.”

We have been unable to trace the remainder of Professor Holmes’s life or career after 1906. Whether he remained a professor or became a small-town blacksmith is a delicious mystery, as we were unable to locate Holmes in later censuses. He may have returned to Georgia. In any case, the present letters provide a provocative entry point for studying the migration of an educated African-American man in the Jim Crow South in the early-20th century, and includes early discussion of the Oklahoma African-American town of Boley just three years after its founding.

(McBRB4971) $1,500
“THE NATION’S FIRST STAMP TO HONOR
AN AFRICAN AMERICAN, IT HOLDS A UNIQUE PLACE
IN AMERICAN HISTORY.”

16. [African Americana]. [The National Alliance of Postal Employees].
[Booker T. Washington]. [Framed Commemorative Display of an Uncut
Quarter Sheet of Booker T. Washington Stamps Presented to Booker T.
Washington III by an Important African-American Postal Trade Union].
New York: April 8, 1940. Framed display, 19 x 13 inches, comprised of
an uncut sheet of stamps above calligraphic text. Minor wear and some
toning. Very good.

A handsome and unique commemorative display piece honoring famed
educator Booker T. Washington, given to his grandson as a keepsake by
an important African-American trade union. The display is comprised
of an uncut quarter sheet of seventy 1940 Booker T. Washington ten-cent
stamps, inscribed at the bottom right by New York Postmaster Albert
Goldman on April 8, 1940 (the stamp’s second day of issue), which
was then mounted above a calligraphic inscription at bottom reading as follows: “Booker T. Washington Commemorative Stamps -- Famous
American Series Presented to Booker T. Washington, 3d Grandson of the
educator by The National Alliance of Postal Employees On the occasion
of the ceremonies honoring that great educator Booker T. Washington
and incident to placing this commemorative stamp on sale for the first
time at New York, New York April 8, 1940.” The ten-cent stamp features
a distinctive portrait of Booker T. Washington, and was the first stamp
issued in the United States to feature an African American subject.

“On April 7, 1940, the Post Office Department (POD) issued a stamp
honoring African-American educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)
as part of its Famous Americans Series. The nation’s first stamp to honor
an African-American, it holds a unique place in American history.... In
1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, responding to numerous petitions
from African-American supporters, recognized the timeliness of such a
stamp and directed that Washington be considered for this important
stamp series. Major Robert Richard Wright, Sr., among others, had
aggressively lobbied for a stamp honoring Booker T. Washington since
Roosevelt took office in 1933. When Wright read the POD’s decision
to feature Washington on the 10¢ stamp, announced in 1939, he reflected
with gratification, [the stamp] ‘comes pretty nearly within the limit of seventy-five years of Negro Emancipation.’ He objected, however, to
its high denomination, preferring to see it as one of the lower-priced, more
affordable denominations used by the public daily. He worried that the cost of the
10¢ stamp ‘will not induce a large first day sale... among colored people.’
Echoing Wright’s concerns, The Washington Tribune recommended that its
readers buy the stamp for special delivery and parcel post mailings....
Numerous institutions, all important in the lives of African-Americans,
clamored to host the stamp’s first day of issue ceremony. The POD selected
Tuskegee Institute, founded by Washington in 1881, for this watershed
ceremony’s location. Guests gathered in the Institute Chapel. Postmaster
General James A. Farley attended the ceremony and afterwards, joined
by the Tuskegee Club of Montgomery, Alabama, placed a wreath
at Washington’s tomb.... Enthusiasm for the Booker T. Washington
stamp and its momentous significance for the African-American
population prompted two official second day of issue ceremonies, events
unprecedented in philatelic history -- one in New York City and the
other in Philadelphia....” - Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

The entity presenting the present display, the National Alliance of
Postal Employees was an important African American trade union,
and the perfect organization to honor Booker T. Washington with
such a philatelic display. According to the Department of Labor’s 1926 Handbook of American Trade-Unions: “In 1913 the National Alliance of Postal Employees was organized by the colored postal men. It is composed chiefly of men in the Railway Mail Service, but its jurisdiction is not restricted to any one branch, its aim being one organization for all colored workers in the Postal Service.” The government’s handbook did not reveal the reason the NAPE had to be founded at all: African American workers were not allowed to join the all-white Railway Mail Association in 1913. So African American postal employees started their own union, founded in Chattanooga, Tennessee on October 6, 1913. By 1923, the union admitted all African Americans in the U.S. Postal Service and numbered about 1,700 members two years later. The union would continue to grow and expand its representation outside the postal service, eventually changing its name to the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, under which it still operates today. A wonderful display item honoring one of the most important African-American figures in American history and celebrating the first appearance of an African American figure on a United States postage stamp.

(McBRB4978) $2,500

ORGANIZED LABOR SPEAKS OUT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION DURING WORLD WAR II


A rare pamphlet printing an impassioned plea by organized labor against the “ancient weapon” of discrimination. In his Foreword, UAW-CIO Education Director William H. Levitt writes that “Discrimination through the years has been the greatest obstacle to workers’ solidarity.... It is a cancerous growth on the labor movement that can eventually destroy us in the years to come if it is not eradicated.” Similarly passionate sections follow suggesting ways “To Stamp Out Discrimination,” including “Increase LOCAL UNION DEMOCRACY,” “Form an INTERRACIAL or ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE in each local union,” “Make known and enforce the UNION’S POLICY,” “Insist Upon a fair HIRING policy,” “Examine the PUBLIC SCHOOLS,” and many more. An interesting labor publication, emblematic of increasing calls for anti-discriminatory business practices following the faithful service of African-American men in yet another American world war. OCLC lists just two institutional holdings of this pamphlet, both in larger collections of UAW-CIO material, at the U.S. Department of Labor and the University of Illinois-Chicago.

(McBRB5015) $650

A CHINESE SONG ABOUT AFRICAN-AMERICAN STRUGGLES


A militant song about “centuries of hatred” seething in the awakening hearts of an oppressed minority, and the eighteen levels of imperialist hell echoing with the sounds of the coming liberation forces. Lyrics include, “The Negro’s American oppressors are the common enemy of all races.” Lyricist Guang Weiran (1913-2002) was a prominent poet, author of some revolutionary China’s most well-known songs including the Yellow River Cantata. The present work falls in line with contemporary efforts by Mao himself to
express support for the struggles of African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

$550

**UNRECORDED YEARBOOK FROM THE FIRST BLACK-OWNED BUSINESS SCHOOL IN THE U.S.A.**


A seemingly-unrecorded yearbook from the Washington D.C. branch of the Cortez W. Peters Business School, the first African-American-owned business school in the United States. The co-educational school was founded in 1834 in the Nation's Capital, followed in the next few years by branches in Chicago and Baltimore. The founder, Cortez W. Peters, taught himself to type as a child and went on to become the first African-American champion of the World's Amateur Typing Contest. Peters’ school was one of the first to teach typing to Black students while also offering instruction in shorthand and other clerical skills.

The present yearbook begins with a message from Peters, which strikes a conciliatory tone in the wake of racial tensions that followed the conclusion of the Second World War: “We naturally resent discrimination, lack of opportunities, oppression...But on the other hand there are many other values to be considered which should make us tolerant and willing to work out these traditional handicaps generally.” This is followed by messages from the dean and class president Eva Itene Brown, then portraits of students and faculty, a class history, a class prophecy, class will, class poem, and twelve pages of group photographs, including shots of the men's and women’s basketball teams, the coronation ball, and images featuring students in the classroom. Many of the students, both men and women, have included words of advice or stated their personal goals, which are printed beside their portraits (“To be a good typist,” “To be a stenographer,” and so forth). OCLC lists a single copy of three similar yearbooks, all under different titles, from other years and branches of the school (Washington D.C. and Chicago in 1948, and an undated yearbook from Baltimore), but not this particular year at the school’s home base.

$1,250

**UNRECORDED, ADVERTISING A LECTURE BY A PROMINENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN**

20. [African-Americana]. [Education]. [Green, John Patterson]. Elocutionary Entertainment...at the Wylie Street Methodist Church (Colored)...To Procure Money to Assist Mr. Green in Completing His Education, Preparatory to Entering the Field As a Teacher to the Freedmen [caption title & further text]. [Pittsburgh]: Bakewell & Marthens, [ca.1880]. Broadside, 12 x 6.25 inches. Old folds, some rough wear to edges, minor dust-soiling. Very good.

An unrecorded broadside advertising “interesting and instructive elocutionary entertainments” by “the author of ‘Essays on Miscellaneous Subjects,’ ‘Hints to Youth on the Pursuit of Knowledge,’ &c.” The presenter is only referred to as “Mr. Green,” but through contextual clues is most certainly John Patterson Green, a prominent African-American lawyer and businessman in Ohio, originally from North Carolina. The first work by Green referenced in the text of this broadside, Essays on Miscellaneous Subjects by a Self-Educated Colored Youth was first published in 1866. Green later earned a law degree from Ohio State and Union Law College in 1870 and served as a judge in Cuyahoga County (the first Black person elected to public office in Cleveland) before being elected to the Ohio State House of Representatives in 1881 and then the State Senate a decade later.
Green’s presentation touted in the present broadside was given at the Wylie Street Methodist Church (Colored) in Pittsburgh in the late-19th century as a fundraiser “to procure money to assist Mr. Green in completing his education, preparatory to entering the field as a TEACHER TO THE FREEDMEN.” The program includes sections including “A very important reason why we should labor to identify the interests of both White and Colored Races in this country,” “The Smack in School,” “Prejudice,” “Union is Strength.” The latter section is echoed in a chapter of Green’s Essays on Miscellaneous Subjects by a Self-Educated Colored Youth, entitled “Union is Our Strength.”

“In 1892 Green was elected to the Ohio senate, that body’s first black member. During the 1890s he became closely acquainted with leading Ohio Republicans Marcus A. Hanna and George A. Myers, and his campaigning for the national Republican ticket earned him appointment in 1897 to the newly created position of U.S. postage stamp agent (1897–1905). He served briefly as the acting superintendent of finance in the Post Office Dept. before leaving government service in 1906 and resuming his law practice in Cleveland. Green published several books and articles: Recollections of the Carolinas (1881); his autobiography, Fact Stranger Than Fiction (1920); and articles for Afro-American News Syndicate” - Encyclopedia of Cleveland History.


An intriguing and scarce business directory aimed at the African-Canadian and Afro-Caribbean community in Canada, mainly in and around Toronto. The directory was issued by the East-West Business Agency whose president, Iyamah Joseph edited the work; he also touts himself as the founder of the Black Trade and Business Directory. According to Joseph’s introduction, the work was compiled as “an Economic guide which projects the black thoughts, black concern and a direction on black spending, buying, and Black community progress.” The publication is also intended as “a guide to Black Better Business community relationships” and touted as “the first founded, owned, operated, compiled, published, circulated and distributed directory which was designed with dual endeavors for your convenience.” The directory includes listings for many dozens of African-American-owned or operated businesses in and around Toronto, arranged alphabetically from “Accounting and Bookkeeping” to “Used Furniture.” The text also prints a listing of associations and fraternal organizations such as the Afro American Progressive Association, the Black Liberation Front of Canada, The Canadian Negro Women’s Association, Trinidad and Tobago Association of Toronto, and many others. The latter listing highlights an interesting feature of the directory, namely that it includes numerous references and business listings or ads that pertain to the
Caribbean; these include Ken and Tony of Jamaica (a beauty salon previously located in Kingston), West Indian Golden Beauty Supply Shoppe, an advertisement for a wig called the “Kingston Afro,” and the West Indian Food Fair, among others. Interestingly, one of the full-page advertisements features a few paragraphs about the editor of the book, Joseph Iyamah, who was at that time a student at the University of Toronto and “the only Black in Toronto engaged in the business of Tax Consulting and other related business matters.” Another full page is taken up with a memorial of Martin Luther King, Jr. It appears that the publication ran for three years from 1970-72. OCLC lists eight institutional copies of this first entry in the series, at Howard, Yale, the Wilson Library, Library and Archives Canada, York University, McGill University, and two at the University of Toronto.

$650

“FLORIDA’S FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY”


An interesting group of documents issued from the Afro-American Life Insurance Company’s Atlanta District during the Jim Crow period. The collection includes a Member’s Receipt Book issued by an agent of the company in La Grange, Georgia, with twenty manuscript entries in pencil collecting weekly insurance dues for a policy holder named Minnie B. Reed over the course of a few months in 1949; a small folder issued to Reed, presumably to hold her receipt book; four loose, partially-printed receipts for premiums paid by a man named Paul Ealy (also in 1949), completed in manuscript (weekly payments for life insurance for both of these policy holders was twenty-five cents); and two blank application forms for the company’s insurance service. The application forms include the company’s home office address in Jacksonville, Florida, and indicates the company’s expansion through the use of several ink stamps applied to most of the documents indicating the material emanated from the company’s Atlanta office. The present grouping provides an interesting snapshot of insight into the company’s activities, costs, and reach during the period just after World War II.

“Florida’s First African-American Insurance Company -1901-2001. The Afro-American Insurance Company, formerly the Afro-American Industrial and Benefits Association, was founded in 1901 to provide affordable health insurance and death benefits to the state’s African-Americans. Founded by the Reverend E.J. Gregg, E.W. Latson, Abraham Lincoln Lewis, A.W. Price, Dr. Arthur W. Smith, J.F. Valentine, and the Reverend J. Melton Waldron, the Afro’s first office at 14 Ocean Street was destroyed by the great Jacksonville Fire two months after it opened on May 3, 1901. It then moved to 621 Florida Avenue, the home of treasurer and future president, Abraham Lincoln Lewis (1865-1947). From their next home office at 105 E. Union Street, the company wrote millions of dollars of insurance policies and started district offices in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas...” - Historical marker at the site of the company’s original location in Jacksonville.

$850
MAO DEFENDS AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS


A rare pocket-sized pamphlet in which Mao Zedong, President of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, expresses his support for the American Civil Rights Movement against the “repression of violence” by the United States government. The work was issued in several languages about twelve days after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., which is referenced in the first sentence: “Some days ago, Martin Luther King, the African-American clergyman, was suddenly assassinated by the U.S. imperialists”. African Americans, especially those with experience in labor unions, had a long history with the Communist Party in the United States; the two groups often found themselves on the same side of various issues related to workplace discrimination, and often worked and protested together.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST


A wonderful collection of evocative candid photographs picturing an African-American family in Washington State in the mid-20th century. The images begin with the only reprint photograph in the album, showing the ancestors of the compiler in Richmond, Virginia in the 1860s; the remainder of the images are originals, and feature various members of an African American family in portraits, posed in groups, at parties, on driving excursions, and more. The photographs stand as a photographic record of the Great Migration, showing a family that started in the mid-19th century in Virginia, and settled in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska by the middle of the 20th century.

Some of the images picture certain members of the family in their U.S. military uniforms. A few of the images are captioned on the verso, documenting a young couple and another family member on a vacation trip to Canada. One image of a young child is captioned in pencil, “Lester, Jr.” Another group of images show the family in swimwear, posed in various groups around a car. The latter photographs largely capture the family partying and enjoying adult beverages, specifically Rocking Chair whiskey, and also camping and taking driving excursions. A couple of these later images were produced by photographer Al Smith in Seattle, evidenced by his studio stamps on the verso. A group of about six photographs on two of the final three pages picture a young African-
American couple presumably visiting family in the Pacific Northwest, as their car sports Alaskan license plates. Some of the photographs appear to emanate from earlier than the 1940s, including a single photograph with a manuscript caption on the verso, written to “Dad” from Helen and Edward McDaniel of Detroit. The final, and largest image pictures about twenty members of the family in formal wear, perhaps a family reunion or milestone birthday party for one of the elders.

(McBRB3760) $850

ILLUSTRATED ACCOUNT OF THE LYNCHING OF WILL BROWN IN NEBRASKA DURING THE “RED SUMMER” OF 1919


A rare and sympathetic account of one of the worst moments in Nebraska history - the 1919 lynching of an African-American man named Will Brown and the riot that broke out after his murder. The tragedy also took place during the “Red Summer” of 1919 when dozens of race riots broke out across the United States. As with the Tulsa Race Riots two years later, the incident in Omaha began when Brown was accused of improper relations with a white woman (an all-too-common lie which often resulted in race riots in the Jim Crow era). Brown was arrested and held at the Douglas County Courthouse. Soon enough, an angry mob of about 10,000 people gathered outside the building and demanded Brown be handed over to them. The city's newly-elected progressive mayor, Ed P. Smith, and his police force refused to hand over Brown for quite some time, barricading themselves and Brown inside the fourth floor of the courthouse. The “rioters” referenced in the title refers to the mob that eventually overcame the city officials, dragged Brown outside, hanged him from a light pole, and riddled him with bullets as he suffocated to death.

After they murdered Brown, the mob tied his corpse to a car, dragged him four blocks, burned the body using lamp oil from the streetlights, then “hailed the charred remains through the business district for several hours.” The mob thereafter engaged in a gun battle with the police, set fire to the courthouse, and hanged Mayor Smith within an inch of his life before he was cut down and rescued by his own police force. Two members of the white lynch mob were killed (one of whom was a young boy), and as the crowd swelled to about 20,000 people, the ensuing riot left significant parts of Omaha looted or burned. Following this series of tragic events, 120 rioters were indicted, though none of them was ever convicted or served any prison time for anything.

The photographs illustrating the text include shots of the mob outside the courthouse, members of the mob climbing the courthouse to get to Brown, a portrait of Will Brown himself, the pole from which he was hanged, “part of crowd surrounding the burning body of Will Brown,” the courthouse in flames, and several scenes of vandalized buildings. The foreword states that “the purpose of this book is educational” and that the “story of the riot has its lessons for all thinking citizens.” The text positions the events, rightfully, as a tragedy, and properly describes Brown as a sympathetic victim. A rare and important account of a Nebraska lynching and the resultant Omaha Race Riot of 1919. Not in Work, nor in the Library Company’s African-Americana Collection. OCLC lists just six copies, at Yale, Duke, NYPL, Northwestern, Clements Library, and the Lincoln City Libraries.

(McBRB4972) $2,750
A ephemeral and seemingly-unrecorded program for a theatrical production of Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin presented at the Salt Lake Theatre on February 3, 1908. The Press Club of Salt Lake City was a social club founded by the city's newspaper reporters in 1902. The club hosted public events such as plays, banquets, and lectures. According to the introduction in the present work, "while this presentation gives the first authentic and unexpurgated idea of the horrors which have resulted from racial servitude, the drama has limitations which forbid a complete delineation of the system of which 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' was a part." This is followed by a brief history of slavery in the United States. The work also pictures some of the actors who performed in the drama, some of whom appear in blackface, all-too-typical for theatrical productions of the time. In addition, the program includes a summary of the play itself and numerous advertisements for local businesses. We could locate no copies of this program in OCLC or auction history.

A scarce work celebrating prominent African American professionals in Texas in the early 1970s, issued by the never-realized National Black Heritage Museum which was proposed for construction in Fort Worth at the time. According to the Foreword, the present work was intended as the first of a series of such publications "documenting and rediscovering the black contribution to the American heritage and to increase the awareness and appreciation of the American Black's heritage." The work was also designed to raise funds for the National Black Heritage Museum, which sadly never came to fruition. Though planned to be "revised and reissued biennially" (every two years), the present work is the only volume ever issued. The work itself features information on the National Black Heritage Museum project, a detailed, two-page biographical account of legendary Fort Worth educator and chef Lucille Bishop Smith (here celebrated as "First Merit Mother of Texas"), a long section, arranged alphabetically, containing substantial biographical accounts of over 125 prominent African Americans across the Lone Star State, almost twenty pages listing a "Who's Who [of] Churches Businesses Clubs [and] Other Organizations," and concludes with a Table of Contents. The cover title for the work reads, "Who's Who of Black Men & Women in Texas Volume I 1973." OCLC records eleven copies, at the Albuquerque (NM) County Library, Knox County (TN) Library, with the remainder in Texas, at the Rosenberg Library, Baylor, Prairie View A&M, UTSA, and the public libraries in Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and Midland. A wonderful celebration of Black
men and women in Texas during a noble attempt to create an African-American museum in Fort Worth.  

(McBRB4894)  

$1,250

UNRECORDED BLACK CHURCH PROGRAM FROM THE GULF REGION OF TEXAS


A seemingly unrecorded commemorative program celebrating the fortieth anniversary of an African-American church in Beaumont, on the Gulf Coast of Texas. The work includes an introduction by Rev. G.W. Daniels, a short church history, dozens of group photographs of church groups, a patrons list, and dozens of well wishes and congratulatory advertisements from local citizens, churches, and commercial entities. In addition, a program celebrating Reverend Daniels recognition as “Texas Minister of the Year” is laid in; the ceremony took place in Beaumont on October 27, 1989.

(McBRB4907)  

$450

RARE PHILLIS WHEATLEY PERIODICAL APPEARANCE


A notable American periodical appearance by the first African American poet, Phillis Wheatley, in an issue of the first sectarian magazine published in the United States. Page 403 of the present volume includes Wheatley’s poem, “On the Death of a Child, Five Years of Age. (By Phillis Wheatly, a Negro),” first collected in 1773. Published five years after the poet’s death and hinting at her literary connection to the Methodists, the poem here has a variant title (changed from the original “On the Death of a Young Lady of Five Years of Age,” and inextricably cuts the final sixteen lines. Sadly, Wheatley’s literary reputation cooled in America in the last decade of her life though the Methodists in America and England did much to keep her verses in front of the public in those later years. The Arminian Magazine was founded by John Wesley in 1778 and published under the same title until 1798, and in some form until 1969. The present 18th-century American magazine appearance of Wheatley’s poetry is among the less frequently encountered in the present market; her periodical appearances are more commonly seen in publications such as The Gentleman’s Magazine and The Annual Register. 

(McBRB5051)  

$1,750
A trio of works recording the minutes of three separate annual sessions of the North Ohio Conference Branch Women's Mite Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church between 1924 and 1927. The meetings were held in Youngstown, Cleveland, and Alliance, Ohio, respectively. Each work prints the officers and members of the N.O.C.B.W.M.M. Society, as well as each conference's daily activities, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting, various officer and committee reports, and more. One of the more interesting features of the works is the two-page table which concludes each work, listing the various societies throughout Ohio, their president and corresponding secretary, and detailed financial data. All three pamphlets also contain the text of the President's Report or Annual Address, providing details on the leadership activities of the group. The first two pamphlets have an ownership signature on the front wrapper belonging to Miss Veetta Jackson of Alliance, who almost certainly attended all three annual sessions and is listed in the Conference Branch Roll of the third year when the event took place in her hometown. OCLC records microfilm or digital records for a couple of years (apparently 1922 and 1926) at a handful of institutions, but does not report any copies for any of the annual reports present here in any format.

(McBR4616) $950

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