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Capitol Hill Books

E-List 88: New Arrivals in Black Studies

Dear friends and colleagues,

This week's list features twenty-five new arrivals in Black Studies, including a substantial run of the groundbreaking Jazz magazine *The Record Changer* (no. 1); an early (and possibly the first) Toni Morrison bibliography (no. 15); Carter Godwin Woodson's first book (no. 7); and a cache of cookbooks to close things out (nos. 20-25). Many thanks for taking a look.

Best,

The gang at Capitol Hill Books, ABAA/ILAB

P.S. Don't forget to check out our latest e-lists here:

E-List 85: 150 Years of Photography
E-List 86: Late Summer Miscellany
E-List 87: Secretaries, Stenographers & Personal Assistants
You can also book your browsing appointment at our Rare Book Department HERE

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1. Bill Grauer, Jr. [ed.]; Gene Deitch [illus.]

The Record Changer [Broken run of 29 issues]

New York: Changer Publications, Inc., 1950-1955. Broken run of 29 issues, majority from 1950 through 1952. Complete itemized list available upon request. Quartos (28cm); staple-bound pictorial paper wraps; black and white illustrations throughout; varying lengths but most roughly 50pp. Six magazines with Gene Deitch illustrated covers and nine with his "The Cat" cartoon inside. Covers toned and rubbed; occasional underlining, else clean and unmarked. Bindings largely sound though wrappers separated on two issues: Vol. 11, no. 10 and Vol. 14, no. 9. December 1952 issue is torn at bottom edge of first few leaves. Two 1955 issues ex-library with DC public library withdrawn stamps on the covers. Collection generally Very Good.

The Record Changer magazine appeared monthly with occasional gaps and special issues from 1942 to 1957. It is now considered "the pre-eminent publication for record collectors and those interested in historic jazz during the 1940s and 1950s," according to the H. R. Cohen Center, an online research organization specializing in music periodicals. The magazine began as a way for jazz enthusiasts to trade and sell music, but slowly grew to include music reviews and articles as well.

Illustrator Gene Deitch (1924-2020), now best known for his Tom and Jerry cartoons and his work on Popeye, contributed some of his first commercial work to *The Record Changer* from roughly 1945 to early 1951. His recurring cartoon series "The Cat" featured a white man (modeled after Deitch himself) with large glasses and a voracious appetite for jazz. Several of the magazines in this collection have a small advertisement inside for Deitch's Friday coffee and jazz gatherings at his Detroit home, complete with his phone number. A charming indicator of how intimate and small the jazz scene must have felt at the time.

References:

H. Robert Cohen Center for the Musical Press, accessed online.
The Unknown John Lee Hooker 1949 recordings, accessed online.
GeneDeitchCredits, Gene Deitch's personal website, "Gordon Gullickson: Carrying On Like A Mouse In A Bucket," accessed online.

Price: $750

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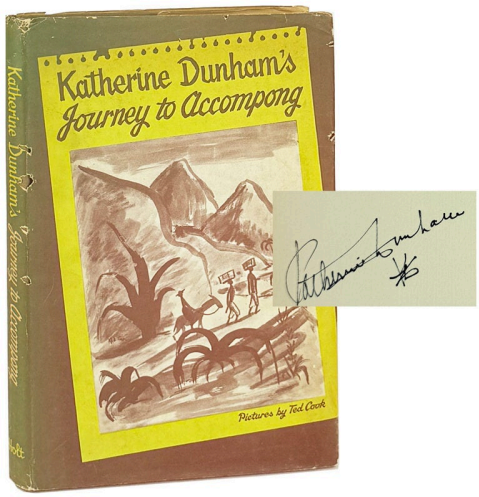
2. Bay Tone Records

[Postcard] Willie Mae [Big Mama] Thornton

San Francisco, CA: Bay Tone Records, ca. 1960. Photographic postcard (14x9cm) featuring blues and R&B singer Big Mama Thornton. Light curving with mild rubbing to edges; verso unmarked. Near Fine.

Best known for her rendition of "Hound Dog" this postcard comes from Thornton's days working for Bay Tone, during which she wrote and recorded "Ball and Chain." The label did not release the single however, and it wasn't until Big Brother and the Holding Company and Janis Joplin, with Thornton's blessing, recorded their version that it gained a wider audience.

Price: $50



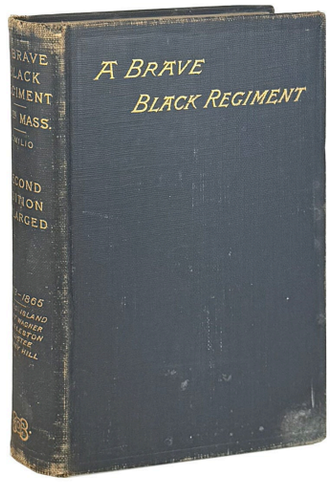
3. Katherine Dunham; Ted Cook [illus.]

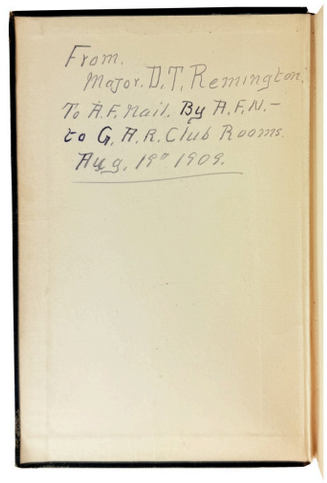
Journey to Accompong [Signed]

New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1946. First Edition. Octavo; brown cloth boards stamped in green; illustrated dust jacket; 162pp.; illus. Minor rubbing and bumping to boards; binding sound. Unclipped dust jacket sunned with chipping along edges and folds; a Very Good copy. Signed by Katherine Dunham without inscription at title page.

Memoir and record of Dunham's experiences and fieldwork in Jamaica, in the remote Maroon community of Accompong. Much of the work centers around the dancer's goal to see the legendary and possibly forbidden Korymantee (or Kromanti) dance, rooted in the traditional music and religious practices of the Asante people of Ghana. Signed copies are uncommon; an important work in Dunham's career, as she stated that her work in anthropology was hugely important to her development as a dancer and choreographer.

Price: $350





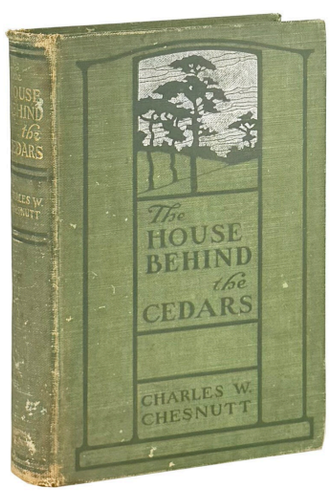
4. Luis F. Emilio

History of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1863-1865 [Cover title: A Brave Black Regiment]

Boston: The Boston Book Company, 1894. Second Edition, "Revised and Corrected, with Appendix upon Treatment of Colored Prisoners of War." Octavo; publisher's black cloth boards stamped in gilt; dark topstain; xvi, 452pp.; halftone frontispiece with tissue guard, photographs, nine maps (five single-page and two folding) all present though Charleston map on p. 224 detached. Ex-library though with minimal external markings: discard stamps to edges of text block and preliminaries and institutional bookplate to front free endpaper. Boards worn with chipping and minor fraying to edges; binding sound; gift inscription in pencil to front pastedown from a Major D.T. Remington dated 1909. Pages toned but unmarked; a Good to Very Good copy.

The expanded edition of an important regimental history of one of the first African American regiments raised after the Emancipation Proclamation--the unit's brave charge at Fort Wagner the same year was a Confederate victory, but the boldness and valor of the Union soldiers prompted wide-spread Black enlistment, a key tactical advantage for the North. The regiment inspired the 1989 film "Glory." Both the first and this expanded edition uncommon in retail.

Price: $2,000



5. Charles W. Chesnutt

The House Behind the Cedars

Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, 1900. First Edition. Octavo; green cloth boards stamped in silver and dark green; 294pp. Boards rather worn with brief exposure to extremities; soiling and spotting to cloth sizing. Binding gives a little but overall holding soundly; ownership label to ffep; mild spotting, overall Good to Very Good.

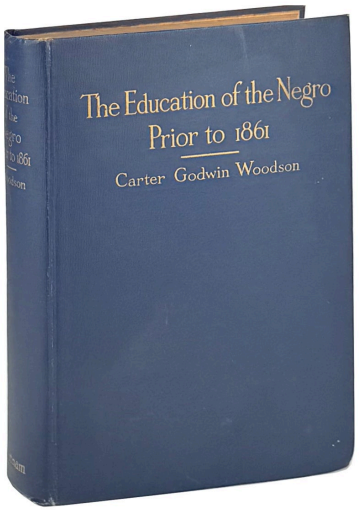
Chesnutt's first novel takes place in the Carolinas after the Civil War and centers around Rena Walden, who leaves home to follow her brother, who is passing as white in a new city. Rena begins passing as well, eventually marrying a white man before the story takes a grim turn. Years later Chesnutt called the novel his "favorite child" and clearly identified with the protagonist. Uncommon.

References:

Wright III 1018

Melissa Ryan, "Rena's Two Bodies: Gender and Whiteness in Chesnutt's *The House Behind the Cedars,*" published in *Studies in the Novel*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (spring 2011), pp. 38-54

Price: $400



6. C.G. [Carter Godwin] Woodson

The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861: A History of the Education of the Colored People of the United States from the Beginning of Slavery to the Civil War

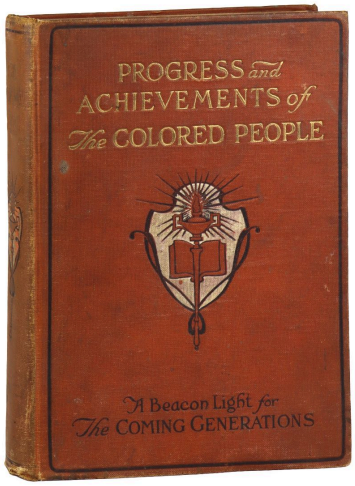
New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, the Knickerbocker Press, 1915. First Edition. Octavo; navy cloth boards stamped in gilt; dark topstain; 454pp. Very light edgewear; corners bumped with a couple stray scuffs; binding sound; occasional pencil markings and long closed tear to pp. 5-6, else unmarked and a Very Good copy.

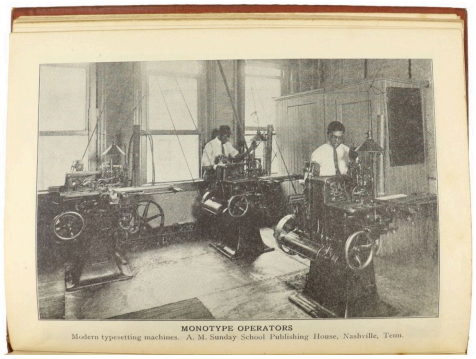
First published book from the "Father of Black History," exploring the history of Black education in the United States, dividing it into two periods, "from the time of introduction of slavery to the climax of the insurrectionary movement about 1835," when white power structures largely decided "it was prudent to educate their slaves" (from the Introduction).

Historian and scholar Michael R. Winston praises and places Woodson thus, "By disciplined application of an iron will he forged a career that was an amalgam of austere scholarship and energetic advocacy. He founded in 1915 a national movement for the study, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of black history that surpassed all earlier efforts." Winston continues, "His burning determination was the inspiration of a whole generation of historians, teachers, and a black community eager for a knowledge of its past hungry for pride, and for simple dignity in the face of doubt and denial." A landmark work and remarkably scarce in retail.

Michael R. Winston, "Carter Godwin Woodson: Prophet of a Black Tradition," *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 60, No. 4 (Oct., 1975), pp. 459-463

Price: $2,000





CAPABLE OFFICE STAFF
Bookkeeping Department, National Benefit Association, Washington, D. C.

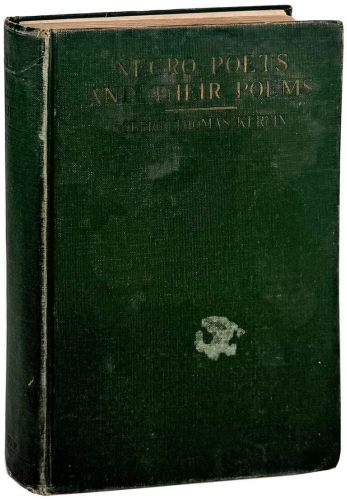
7. Kelly Miller and Joseph R. Gay

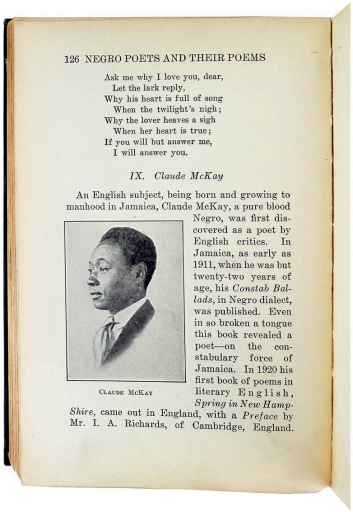
Progress and Achievements of the Colored People [Cover subtitle: A Beacon of Light for the Coming Generations]

Washington, DC: Austin Jenkins Co., [1917]. Later Edition. Octavo; original brown cloth boards stamped in black, white, and gilt; [vi], 17-434pp.; over 100 black and white photographs including frontis and four special themed photo spreads, not included in pagination, dedicated to business, sports, education, etc. Wear and soiling to boards; binding gives a little but overall holding; endpapers pasted down; ownership inscription dated 1922 to preliminaries; a couple chips and spotting; Good to Very Good.

Originally published in 1913, Miller and Gay's work is an extensive study of Black achievement through the World War I era, highlighted by a wonderful series of contemporary photographs. No copies in retail of either this or the 1913 First Edition at time of this writing.

Price: $500





126 NEGRO POETS AND THEIR POEMS

Ask me why I love you, dear,
Let the lark reply,
Why his heart is full of song
When the twilight's nigh;
Why the lover heaves a sigh
When her heart is true;
If you will but answer me,
I will answer you.

IX. Claude McKay

An English subject, being born and growing to manhood in Jamaica, Claude McKay, a pure blood Negro, was first discovered as a poet by English critics. In Jamaica, as early as 1911, when he was but twenty-two years of age, his *Constab Ballads*, in Negro dialect, was published. Even in so broken a tongue this book revealed a poet—on the constabulary force of Jamaica. In 1920 his first book of poems in literary English, *Spring in New Hampshire*, came out in England, with a *Preface* by Mr. I. A. Richards, of Cambridge, England.

CLAUDE McKAY

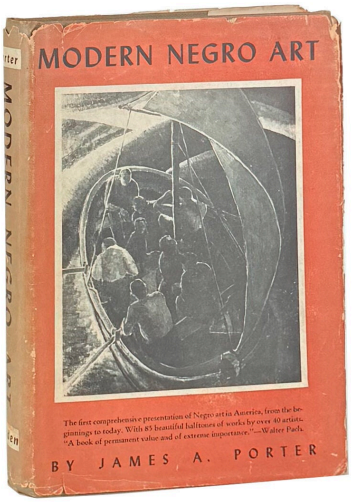
8. Robert T. Kerlin

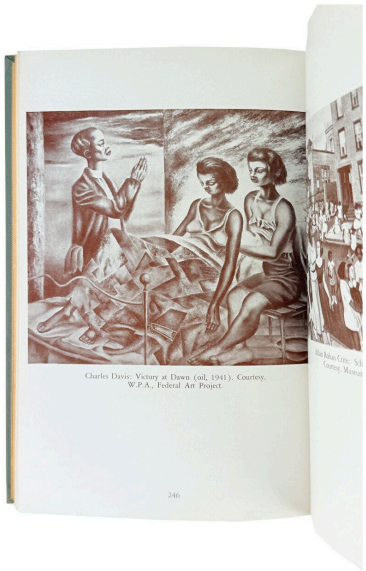
Negro Poets and Their Poems

Washington, DC: Associated Publishers, Inc., 1923. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's green cloth stamped in gilt; 285pp.; frontispiece and illus. throughout. Light wear to edges and joints; corners bumped; gilt dulled; stains to front and rear. Rear hinge starting but binding holding. Minor smudges to interior, else unmarked; a Good copy.

W.E.B. DuBois, Phillis Wheatley, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Claude McKay, and many others are featured in this wonderful compilation, dedicated "To the Black and Unknown Bards who gave to the world the priceless treasure of those 'canticles of love and woe,' the camp-meeting Spirituals."

Price: $200




Charles Davis: Victory at Dawn (oil, 1941). Courtesy, W.P.A., Federal Art Project.

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"Many whites come to Harlem to watch the Negroes dance"

Jacob Lawrence: From the "Harlem" series (gouache, 1942). Courtesy, The Downtown Gallery.

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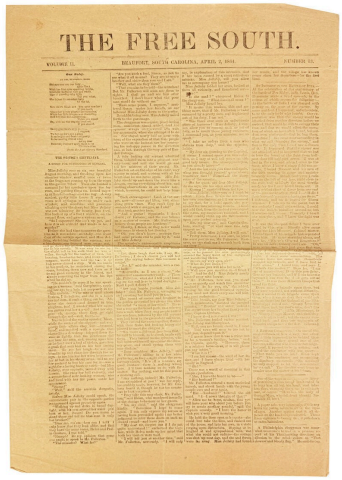
9. James A. Porter

Modern Negro Art

New York: The Dryden Press, 1943. First Edition. Octavo; gray cloth stamped in black; photo-illustrated dust jacket; 272pp.; eighty-five halftone plates, collated and complete. Rubbing and light soiling to boards; binding sound and pages unmarked. Dust jacket chipped along edges and folds with front flap nearly detached; a Very Good copy in a Good only dust jacket.

A landmark work from the Father of African American Art History, *Modern Negro Art* was one of the first comprehensive studies of Black art in America. Porter begins by discussing Black craftsmen and gives an example of three printers, an unnamed man and his two sons, Caesar and Pompey, in Thomas Fleet's Boston printing shop in the 1720s. He continues through the transition to freedom before discussing painting, sculpture, and the graphic arts, noting the Black artist's resourcefulness: "The Negro artist uses the etching needle, the graver's burin, and the lithographic stone as an electoral candidate would use the public address system to reach the masses of people directly and effectively" (p. 166). An important work of Black art; jacketed copies are rather uncommon.

Price: $850



THE FREE SOUTH.

VOLUME II. BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, APRIL 2, 1864. NUMBER 13.

10. James G. Thompson

The Free South: Volume II, Number 13 - April 2, 1864

Beaufort, SC: Wilkes & Thompson, Proprietors, 1864. First Edition. Folio bifolium (40x28cm). Rubbing and creasing to edges; horizontal fold; overall Very Good and sound.

Later single issue of Thompson's newspaper, which ran from January 1863 through June of 1864 and documented and existed in the Port Royal Experiment, a project which began soon after Union soldiers took Port Royal and the surrounding areas early in the Civil War. The white residents and plantation owners fled, the enslaved people there freed, and an experiment in Reconstruction was begun, with freed slaves farming for wages, owning their own property, and finding myriad ways to support the war effort.

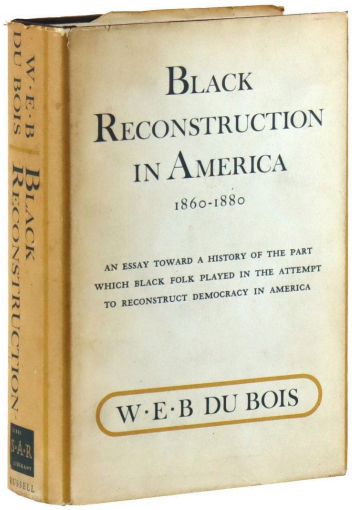
Along with the usual news of the war and sales notices, this issue includes a one paragraph story of a free Black man named Sandy who was captured by a Rebel scouting party and carried to Charleston. Luckily, he escaped, hid in the swamp by day and traveled at night, stole a dug-out and made it to the coast, eventually making his way to the Union gunboat Kingfisher. After his return from his "severe journey" Sandy counted "all his suffering as nothing since he escaped from 'de secesh.'" No issues in retail at time of this writing.

References:

Library Company of Philadelphia. Afro-Americana, 1553-1906 (2nd ed.), 3812

Danky 2486

Price: $750



11. W.E.B. Du Bois

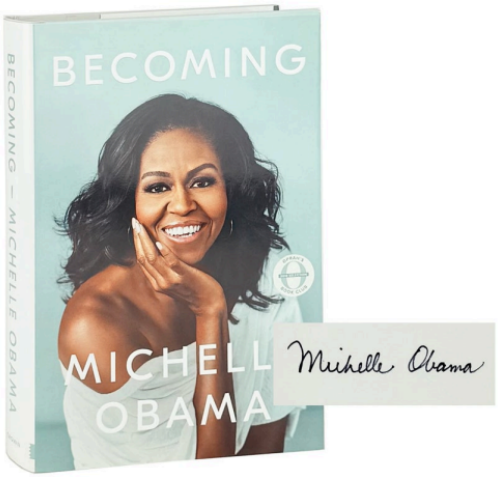
Black Reconstruction: An Essay Toward a History of the Part Which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880

New York: Russell & Russell, ca. 1960. Reprint. Thick octavo; black boards stamped in white in price-clipped dust jacket; 746pp. Dust jacket lightly edgeworn with brief chipping; general rubbing; toning to spine. Mild shelfwear and smudging to boards; heavy foxing to top edge of text block; binding sound and pages unmarked; a Very Good copy, uncommon in dust jacket.

Originally published by Harcourt in 1935, *Black Reconstruction in America* is widely regarded as Du Bois' magnum opus. Praised upon its publication but subsequently ignored by scholars, the work was eventually re-evaluated as was the history of Reconstruction. Professor Marina Bilbija of Wesleyan University points out that the work is now regarded as the foundational text of revisionist African American historiography, but furthermore, "it also interrogated the very limits of historiography—what it can communicate, and what and who its 'appropriate' subjects should be."

Marina Bilbija. "Democracy's New Song: Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880 and the Melodramatic Imagination," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 637, Issue 1

Price: $750

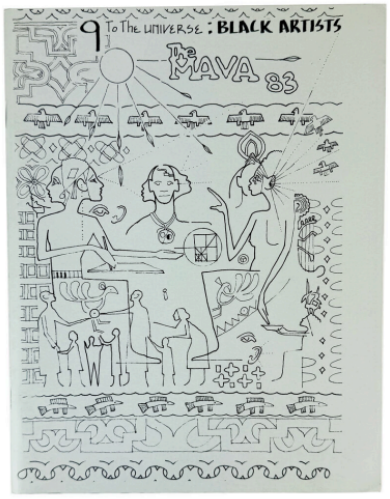


12. Michelle Obama

Becoming [Signed]

New York: Crown, 2018. Stated First Edition. Octavo (24cm); publisher's boards with unclipped pictorial dust jacket; [xviii],226pp. Minor shelfwear to jacket; corners crisp; pages clean and unmarked; binding sound. Overall, a Very Good copy in like jacket. Signed without inscription on leaf tipped in at head of volume.

Price: $250



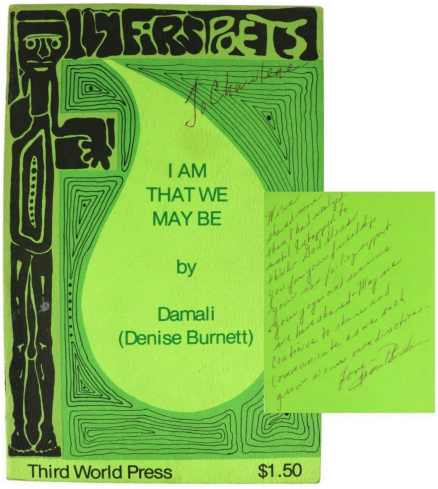
13. Black History Museum Committee [ed.]; Selma Burke, Roy DeCarava, Elton Fax, Tom Feelings, Isaac Foy, Milton M. James, Charles S. Johnson, Virginia J. Kiah, Ansel Adams, Freida Jones, Skunder [Alexander] Boghassian, Laura Wheeler Waring et al. [subjects and contributors]

9 to the Universe, Black Artists [Wrapper subtitle: The MAVA 83]

Philadelphia, PA: Black History Museum UMUM Publishers, 1983. First Edition. Quarto (27.5cm); illustrated wraps featuring cover design by Isaac Foy; 89pp.; black and white photographs and illustrations. Touch of rubbing to wraps; museum store sticker to rear; Near Fine.

A group festschrift to support and celebrate Black artists divided into three panels, the first celebrating Selma Burke, Roy DeCarava, and Tom Feelings, the second dedicated to Art Institutions, Collections, Patrons, and Galleries, and concluding with "New Voices in the Tradition - Historians, Critics."

Price: $250



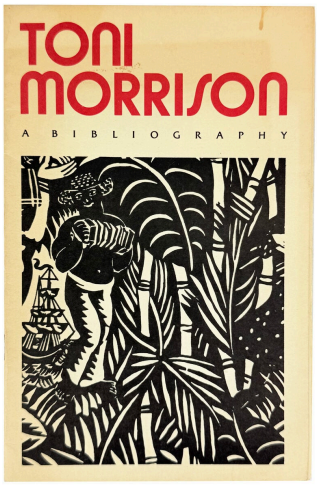
14. Damali Bashira (a.k.a. Denise Burnett); Mike Davis [cover art]

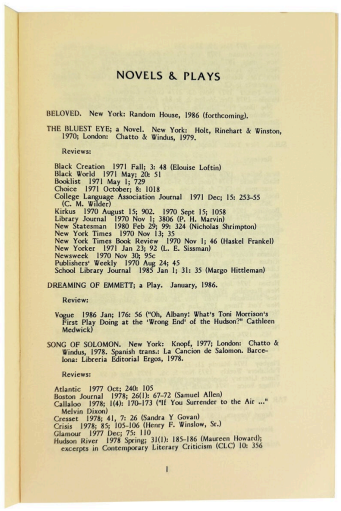
I Am That We May Be [Signed and Inscribed by Bashira]

Chicago: Third World Press, 1974. First Edition. Octavo (22cm); original staplebound illustrated card wrappers; 21pp. Covers gently rubbed and lightly soiled at margins with mild toning overall. Interior clean. A Very Good or better copy of the author's only published work of poetry under this name.

Lengthily signed and inscribed by Bashira, now known as Skywalker Storyteller Payne, to a friend named Charlene on both the recto and verso of the front cover. A small but powerful collection of deeply feminist Black American poetry.

Price: $175





NOVELS & PLAYS

BELOVED. New York: Random House, 1986 (forthcoming).

THE BLUEST EYE: a Novel. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1970; London: Chatto & Windus, 1979.

Reviews:

Black Creation 1971 Fall; 3: 48 (Elouise Loftin)
Black World 1971 May; 20: 51
Booklist 1971 May 1; 729
Choice 1971 October; 8: 1018
College Language Association Journal 1971 Dec; 15: 253-55 (C. M. Wilder)
Kirkus 1970 August 15; 902. 1970 Sept 15; 1058
Library Journal 1970 Nov 1; 3806 (F. H. Marvin)
New Statesman 1980 Feb 29; 99: 324 (Nicholas Shrimpton)
New York Times 1970 Nov 13: 35
New York Times Book Review 1970 Nov 1; 46 (Haskel Frankel)
New Yorker 1971 Jan 23; 92 (L. E. Sissman)
Newsweek 1970 Nov 30; 95c
Publishers' Weekly 1970 Aug 24; 45
School Library Journal 1985 Jan 1; 31: 35 (Margo Hittleman)

DREAMING OF EMMETT; a Play. January, 1986.

Review:

Vogue 1986 Jan; 176: 56 ("Oh, Albany: What's Toni Morrison's First Play Doing at the 'Wrong End' of the Hudson?" Cathleen Medwick)

SONG OF SOLOMON. New York: Knopf, 1977; London: Chatto & Windus, 1978. Spanish trans: La Cancion de Salomon. Barcelona: Libreria Editorial Argos, 1978.

Reviews:

Atlantic 1977 Oct; 240: 105
Boston Journal 1978; 26(1): 67-72 (Samuel Allen)
Callaloo 1978; 1(4): 170-173 ("If You Surrender to the Air ..." Melvin Dixon)
Cresset 1978; 41, 7: 26 (Sandra Y Govan)
Crisis 1978; 85: 105-106 (Henry F. Winslow, Sr.)
Glamour 1977 Dec; 75: 110
Hudson River 1978 Spring; 31(1): 185-186 (Maureen Howard); excerpts in Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC) 10: 356

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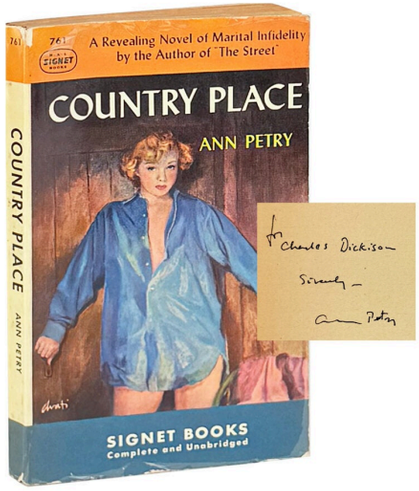
15. [Toni Morrison] Mod Mekkawi; Judith Michael [woodcut]

Toni Morrison: A Bibliography

Washington, DC: Founders Graduate Library, Howard University Libraries, 1986. First Edition. Octavo; illustrated wraps; [ii], 9, [1]pp. Rubbing and brief staining to front; Very Good or better.

Bibliography of Morrison's work put together by the Howard University Librarian on the occasion of her presentation in the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel on campus Friday May 2, 1986. Includes bibliographic data on all of her novels published up until that point followed by reviews of each. Includes media, interviews, biography and criticism, and other works, such as "Cooking Out" from the *New York Times Book Review* in 1973. A rather uncommon Morrison item, we locate no copies in retail and just ten in OCLC, though notably absent from several major universities.

Price: $500



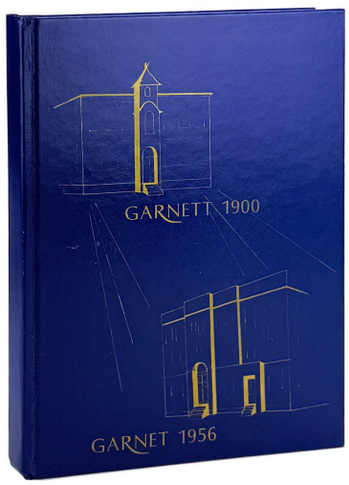
16. Ann Petry

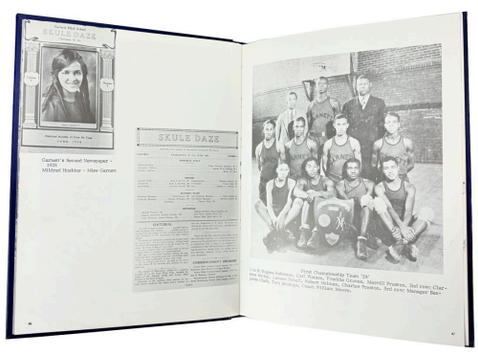
Country Place [Inscribed and Signed]

New York: Signet Book / New American Library, 1950. First Signet Edition, Stated First Printing. 12mo (18cm); publisher's pictorial card wrappers; 190pp. Wrappers a bit worn and lamination starting to peel, spine cocked, textblock toned and final few leaves dampstained. Good to Very Good only. Inscribed and signed on title page, "For Charles Dickison / Sincerely / Ann Petry."

First mass market edition of Ann Petry's second novel, a psychological examination of a marriage plagued by smalltown gossip in the wake of World War II.

Price: $250





17. Garnet High School

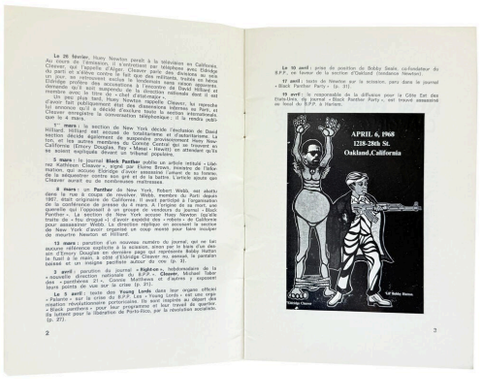
The Way We Were: Garnet High School, 1900-1956

Charleston, WV: Garnet High School, 1956. First Edition. Quarto (27cm); publisher's blue pictorial leatherette stamped in gilt; 251pp.; halftone illus. throughout. Light shelf wear, spine a bit cocked and corners nudged, else Very Good and sound.

Commemorative volume issued to celebrate the first fifty-six years of this all-Black high school in Charleston, West Virginia, published two years after the Supreme Court's decision Brown v. Board of Education. The school was first founded and led by C.W. Boyd, the son of formerly enslaved parents, after twelve pupils "qualified and passed the entrance test for high school work." The school went on to graduate 2,438 students in the following 56 years. The volume commemorates graduates from all those years, as well as its current student body and staff.

Quite scarce. We find no other copies in the trade or OCLC as of September 2026.

Price: $150



18. Black Panther Party; Emory Douglas [illus.]

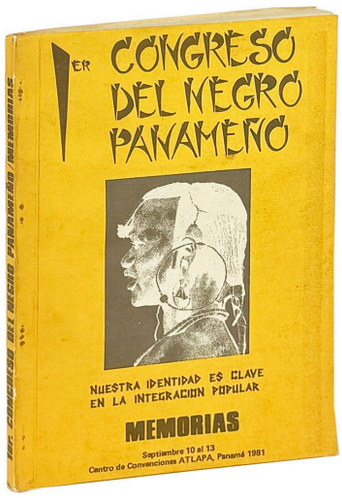
Sur la Scission du Black Panther Party: Textes Theoriques

[Paris]: Editions Git-le-Coeur, 1971. First Edition. Octavo (21.5cm); publisher's white staplebound wrappers illustrated by Emory Douglas; 38pp.; halftone photographs and illus. Wrappers lightly worn and a bit toned at extremities, else Very Good and sound.

French-language compilation of texts documenting the split of the Black Panther Party, opening with a chronology of events beginning in December 1970. Includes communications from the Weathermen, the Panther 21, and the Young Lords Organization, as well as Eldridge Cleaver and Huey Newton.

OCLC locates five copies in the US as of August 2026, at NYPL, Northwestern, U. Kansas, Harvard, and TAMU.

Price: $150



19. Congreso del Negro Panameno

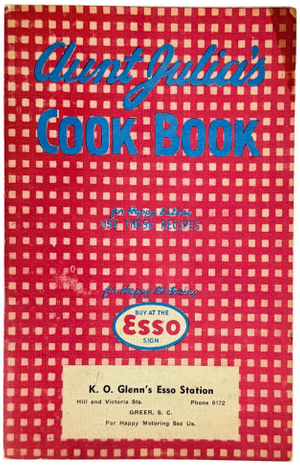
1er Congreso del Negro Panameno: Nuestra Identidad es Clave en la Integracion Popular. Memorias - Septiembre 10 al 13 Centro de Convenciones ATLAPA, Panama 1981

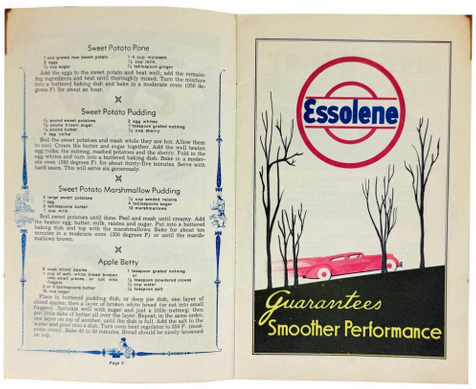
Panama: Impresora de La Nacion, 1982. First Edition. Octavo; illustrated wraps; 173, [3]pp.; black and white photographs. Light wear and soiling to wraps; binding sound; gift inscription to preliminaries; pages else unmarked; a Very Good copy. Text entirely in Spanish.

Uncommon record of the First Congress of the Black Panamanian, which was followed by the Second and Third in 1983 and 1988. As Alberto Barrow put it in a follow-up two decades later, the congress came from "sustained struggles by different organized sectors of the Afro-Panamanian population, who in one way or another tried to provide some kind of response to the varied expressions of the ethnic and racial question in the country, with the understanding that, in effect, this was (and undoubtedly still is) a transcendent issue for men and women whose full citizenship, historically, has had to overcome a sea of difficulties, because of their African genealogy" (our translation). No copies in retail at time of this writing.

Alberto S. Barrow, "Así fue el 1er. Congreso del Negro Panameño." Opinion page of *Panama America*, September 15, 2016. Retrieved online

Price: $100





20. [Esso] Aunt Julia and Aunt Leola

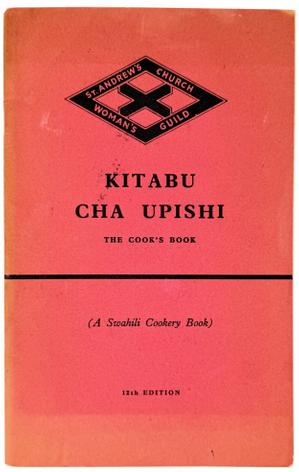
Aunt Julia's Cook Book

Pennsylvania / Greer, SC: Esso, n.d. [ca. 1934]. Octavo (21.5cm); publisher's decorative staplebound wrappers; 32pp.; color ads throughout. Light wear and a bit of toning to wrapper margins, else Very Good and sound.

Popular gas station give-away cookbook exploiting Black southern cookery--the two Aunts Julia and Leola are pictured inside the upper wrapper comparing notes in the kitchen. Otherwise, no other information is provided about the authors. Instead, recipes for southern fare like sweet potato biscuits and Hopping John (cow peas, rice, and bacon drippings) are intermixed with ads for Esso products and road trip tips. This volume evidently comes from K. O Glenn's Esso Station in Greer, South Carolina, with their information at bottom edge of upper cover.

Tipton-Martin, p. 48

Price: $250



21. Mrs. A.L. McDonald

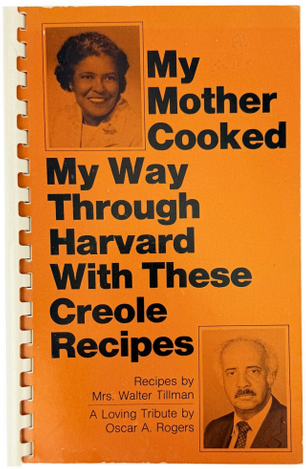
Kitabu Cha Upishi: The Cook's Book (A Swahili Cookery Book)

Nairobi: East African Standard Limited, 1962. Twelfth Edition. Octavo (21.5cm); publisher's red printed staplebound wrappers; 63pp. Wrapper margins a bit worn and sunned, contemporary Dar es Salaam ownership inscription inside upper cover, else Very Good and sound. At head of upper cover: "St. Andrew's Church Woman's Guild."

Popular and oft-reprinted bilingual Swahili-English cookbook first published in 1935, "for all African cooks and kitchen boys who wish to improve the standard of their work and for the mutual benefit of employer and employee." The volume opens with notes on "Cleanliness in the kitchen," followed by sections on soup, fish, stuffings, frying, grilling, eggs, vegetables, reheating cold meat, and all manner of large cakes and puddings.

OCLC locates just three copies of this edition as of August 2026, at MSU and two in the UC system.

Price: $125



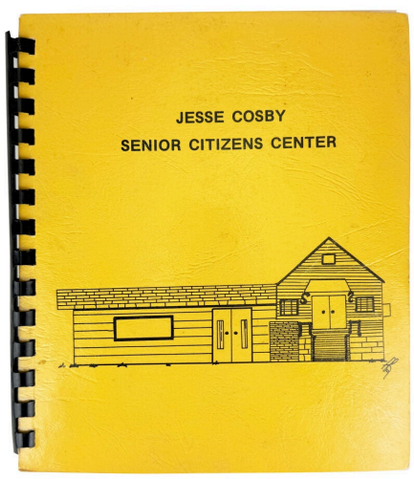
22. Mrs. Walter [Maria "Pinkie"] Tillman [recipes]; Oscar. A. Rogers, Jr. [tribute]

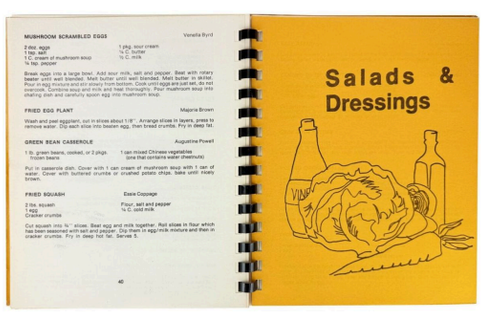
My Mother Cooked My Way Through Harvard with These Creole Recipes [Inscribed and Signed by Rogers]

[Jackson, MS]: [Oscar A. Rogers], 1977. First Edition. Octavo (22cm); publisher's photo-illustrated plastic comb-bound wrappers; [6],102pp. Very light edge wear, else a Very Good or better example.

Rogers' wonderful tribute to his mother Pinkie Tillman, who worked as a cook for white well-to-do families of New Orleans when he was growing up. "[Rogers'] memories reflect the seasonal eating that defined poor folks back then...A few Creole flourishes bring life to otherwise standard southern fare" (Tipton-Martin, p. 135).

Price: $450





23. Jesse Cosby Senior Citizens Center

Jesse Cosby Senior Citizens Center [cover title]

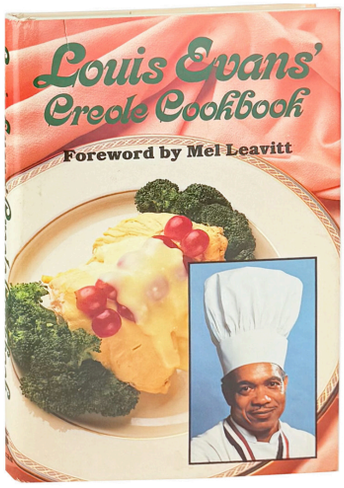
Waverly, IA: G & R Publishing Co., n.d. [but ca. 1980]. First Edition. Small quarto (22cm); comb-bound yellow pictorial card wrappers; [16],58,[30]pp.; illus. Moderate wear and soil from handling, gift inscription inside rear wrapper, brief ink annotations to a few recipes; Very Good and sound.

Scarce Black Iowan community cookbook published by the Jesse Cosby Neighborhood Center and Senior Citizen Center in Waterloo, Iowa, following a $50,000 kitchen addition. According to the short introduction, the Center "was started by a group of concerned Black citizens who saw the need for a community center which would upgrade their area. This area had a high degree of segregation. This ran to 78% of the Black population."

The cookbook opens with different butcher charts (beef, pork, veal, lamb), the recipes divided by types (unorthodoxly, cakes and desserts lead, followed by main dish meals and salads). The final thirty pages provide an index and 427 household hints (peeling onions underwater will not irritate the eyes; soup boiled is soup spoiled; wash piano keys with alcohol; freeze leftover juice for flavored ice cubes).

No copies located in OCLC as of September 2026

Price: $200



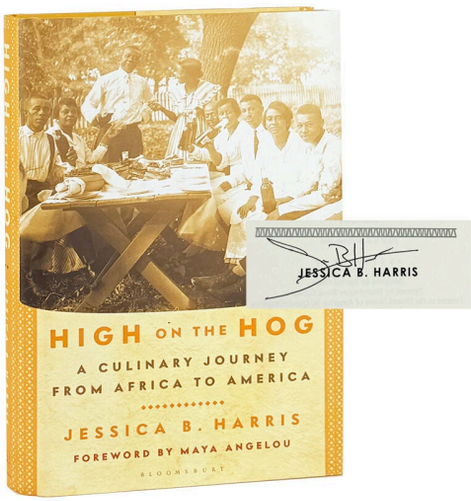
24. Louis Evans; Mel Leavitt [foreword]

Louis Evans' Creole Cookbook

Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Company, 1991. Presumed First Edition. Octavo (23.5cm); publisher's boards in photo-illustrated dust jacket; 239pp. Light shelf wear and very brief soil to dust jacket, else a Very Good and sound example.

Scarce cookbook by the renowned New Orleans chef Louis Evans, who served as executive chef at the Pontchartrain Hotel's Caribbean Room for eighteen years.

Price: $150



25. Jessica B. Harris; Maya Angelou [foreword]

High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America [Signed by Harris]

New York: Bloomsbury, 2011. Stated First Edition. Octavo (24cm); publisher's boards in unclipped pictorial dust jacket; ix,[1],291pp.; halftone photographs throughout. Light shelf wear, corners and spine ends a bit bumped, else Very Good and sound. Signed by the author on title page.

Rather scarce signed first edition of the author's modern classic of Black American food history, adapted into the Netflix docuseries in 2021.

Price: $250

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