Capitol Hill Books

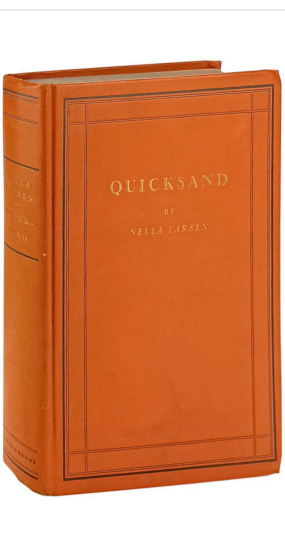
E-List 66: New Arrivals in Black Studies

Dear friends and colleagues,

This may be one of our most international e-lists to date, with authors hailing from the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, the Igbo and Yoruba cultures of Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, and The Gambia. The contents are just as diverse, including novels, short story and poetry collections, plays, speeches, the visual arts, memoirs, and cultural surveys.

As always thanks for having a look.

The gang at Capitol Hill Books, ABAA/ILAB



1. Nella Larsen

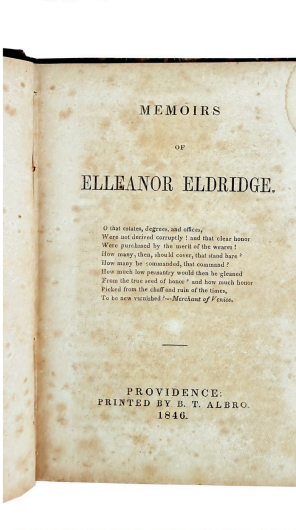
Quicksand

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1928. First Edition. Octavo; orange cloth boards stamped in dark gray and gilt; dark topstain; 301,[2]pp. Lacks dust jacket. Corners bumped; spine ends nudged; minor nick at center of front joint; binding sound and interior bright and unmarked; a Very Good or better copy of Larsen's debut novel.

The more autobiographical of Larsen's two novels (*Passing* was published the following year), *Quicksand* follows Helga Crane, born to a Danish mother and a West Indian father, as she navigates the race and gender dynamics of 1920s Harlem, Copenhagen, and a Southern school likely reflecting Larsen's experience at the Tuskegee Institute. W.E.B. Du Bois' review in *The Crisis* calls the novel "the best piece of fiction that Negro America has produced since the heyday of Chesnutt," and praises its "subtle comprehension of the curious cross currents that swirl about the Black American." An uncommonly nice copy.

W.E.B. Du Bois, "The Browsing Reader: Two Novels," *The Crisis*, June 1928: Volume 35, Issue 6, p. 202.

Price: $5,000



2. Elleanor Eldridge and Frances Harriet Whipple Green McDougall

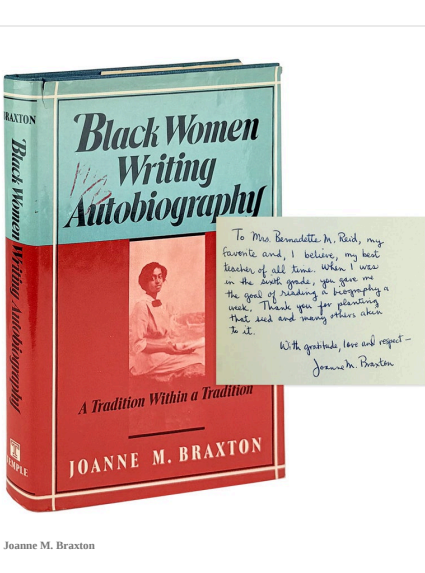
Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge

Providence, RI: Printed by B.T. Albro, 1846. Second Edition, later printing. 12mo; publisher's brown cloth over marbled paper-covered boards; 128pp., collated and complete; woodcut portrait frontispiece. Light wear to edges with exposure to corners; small remnant of spine label; binding sound; a couple tears to endpapers; toning to pages, else unmarked; Very Good.

Uncommon second edition of Eldridge's memoir with co-authorship commonly attributed to abolitionist and women's rights advocate Frances Harriet Whipple Green McDougall (1805-1878). Accompanied by an appendix of two poems, "The Supplication of Elleanor" and "The Emancipated," signed in text by F.H.W.

Elleanor Eldridge (ca. 1784/1785 – ca. 1845), a Native American and African American entrepreneur, was swindled out of her property and she, with the support of her local community, published her memoirs in 1838 to raise money to repurchase it. A subsequent memoir, *Elleanor's Second Book*, was published the following year and she was able to regain her property. All contemporary editions scarce in retail, the first memoir especially so.

Price: $750



3. Joanne M. Braxton

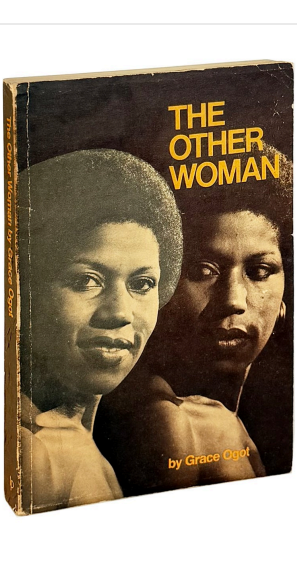
Black Women Writing Autobiography: A Tradition Within a Tradition [Inscribed and Signed]

Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989. First Edition. Octavo; cloth boards in photo-illustrated dust jacket; 242pp. Light wear to dust jacket with a couple short tears, smudging, and a few stray red marks to front panel. Shelfwear to boards; slight lean; binding sound; spotting to edges but interior unmarked; a Very Good copy.

Signed by Braxton on half title to a former teacher with inscription, "To Mrs. Bernadette M. Reid, my favorite and, I believe, my best teacher of all time. When I was in the sixth grade, you gave me the goal of reading a biography a week. Thank you for planting that seed and many others akin to it. With gratitude, love and respect - Joanne M. Braxton."

A thorough and highly acclaimed analysis from the Maryland-born teacher and literary critic with a blurb by Maya Angelou, "This is the work of a diligent mind. The material is mountainous, yet the book sings. Braxton is a poet. Thank goodness." (from rear flap). Uncommon signed and here with a lovely association.

Price: $100



4. Grace Ogot

The Other Woman: Selected Short Stories

Nairobi, Kenya: Transafrica Publishers, 1976. First Edition. Octavo; photo-illustrated wraps; 250pp. Light wear to edges and joints; bookseller sticker to rear; binding sound; pages unmarked; Very Good.

Early collection from the Kenyan writer, "filled with deliberately macabre details, images and conversations, carefully arranged to unveil the pain, unhappiness and pervading horror that lie beneath the apparently ordinary and banal" (publisher's quote from rear wrap). Uncommon in retail.

Price: $100

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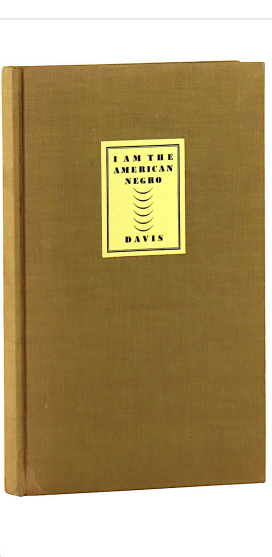
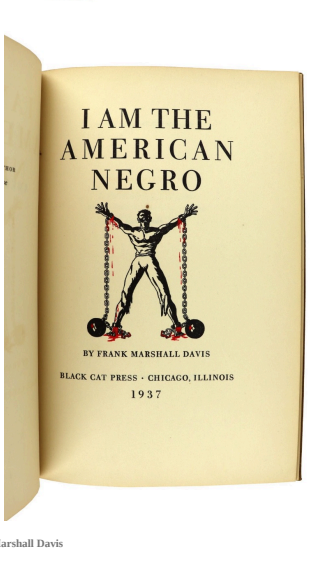
5. [Gwendolyn Brooks] Joyce A. Joyce [ed.]

WarpLand: A Journal for Black Literature and Ideas, Vol. 1, no. 1, 1995 [Inscribed and Signed by Gwendolyn Brooks]

Chicago, IL: Chicago State University / Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing, 1995. First Edition. Quarto (25cm); publisher's photo-illustrated card wrappers; 168pp.; illus. throughout. Wrappers a bit rubbed and worn with long crease across upper cover, contents clean and sound. Very Good overall. Inscribed and signed by Brooks on title page. Inaugural issue of this literary journal which ran from 1995 through 2004.

Price: $150





6. Frank Marshall Davis

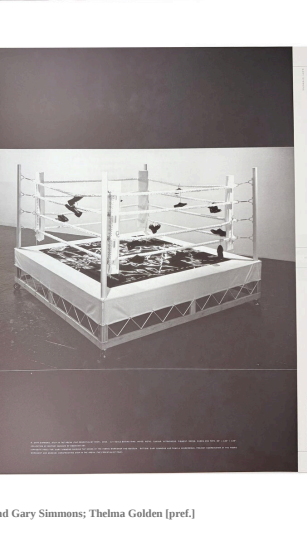
I Am the American Negro

Chicago, IL: Black Cat Press, 1937. First Edition Stated. Slim octavo; publisher's brown cloth, printed paper paste-on to upper cover; 69pp.; title page vignette by Rex Cleveland. Shallow damp stain along bottom edge of rear cover slightly affecting upper cover, corners bumped, contemporary ex libris to front pastedown, else a Very Good, straight and sound copy, contents clean and unmarked. Typography and design by the Black Cat Press's owner and founder Norman W. Forgue.

"In Chicago between 1934 and 1948, Frank Marshall Davis embodied a Renaissance figure...a poet, newspaper reporter, editor, columnist, labor and Civil Rights activist, photographer, radio personality, humanist, and often unacknowledged leader of the Chicago progressive community" (Tracy, p. [161]). *I Am the American Negro* was Davis's second poetry collection, preceded by *Black Man's Verse*, published by the Black Cat Press in 1935.

Reference: Steven C. Tracy [ed.], *Writers of the Black Chicago Renaissance* (2011).

Price: $500



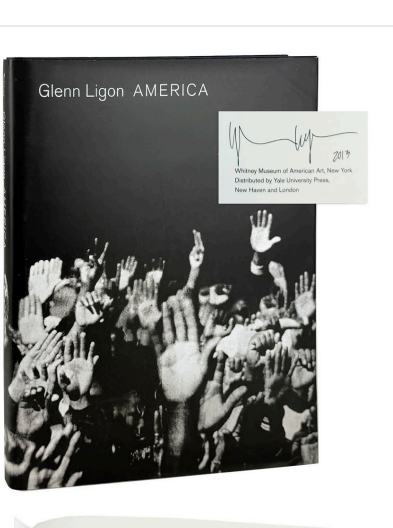
7. Glenn Ligon and Gary Simmons; Thelma Golden [pref.]

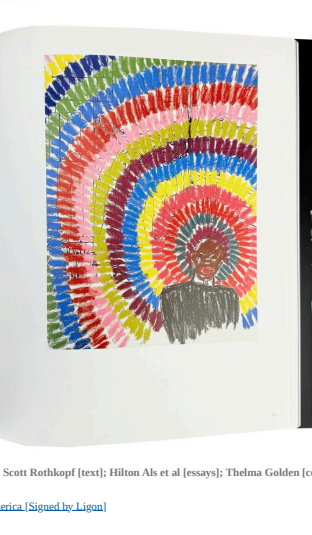
Glenn Ligon and Gary Simmons

New York: Fabric Workshop and Museum, 2000. First Edition. Elephant folio (53.5x43.5cm); pictorial staplebound self-wrappers; 16pp.; halftone illus. throughout. Just a hint of wear, else Fine.

Oversized exhibition catalog featuring works by two of the leading Black conceptual artists of the turn of the 21st century, here exploring race and the world of boxing. The installations include Ligon's "Skin Tight" (1995) and Simmons' "Step in the Arena (The Essentialist Trap)" (1994). Catalog contents also include interviews with both artists.

Price: $250





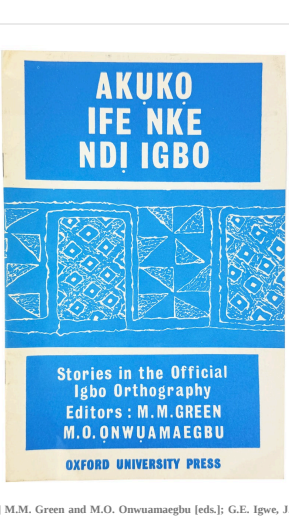
8. [Glenn Ligon] Scott Rothkopf [text]; Hilton Als et al [essays]; Thelma Golden [conversation]

Glenn Ligon: America [Signed by Ligon]

New York / New Haven, CT: Whitney Museum of American Art, Distributed by Yale University Press, [2011]. First Edition with full number line. Quarto (32cm); publisher's cloth in black photo-illustrated dust jacket; 303pp.; illus. throughout. Some shelf wear to cloth and jacket margins including small bump at bottom fore-edge corner of upper cover and panel, spine very slightly cocked, else a Very Good, internally clean and sound example. Signed and dated 2013 by the artist on title page.

Gorgeous survey of the work of conceptual artist Glenn Ligon (b. 1960), accompanied by essays by Okwui Enwezor, Saidiya Hartman, Bennett Simpson, Franklin Sirmans, and Hilton Als on the influence of James Baldwin on Ligon's art.

Price: $450



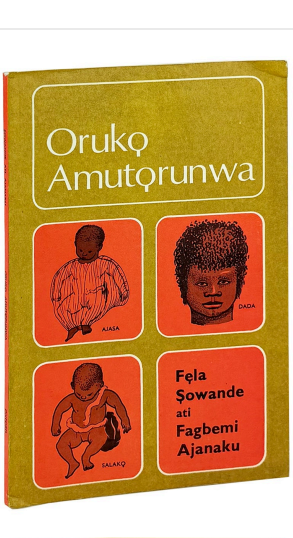
9. [Igbo Culture] M.M. Green and M.O. Onwuamaegbu [eds.]; G.E. Igwe, J.A. Dureke et al. [contrs.]

Akuko Ife Nke Ndi Igbo [Wrapper subtitle: Stories in the Official Igbo Orthography]

Ibadan, Nigeria: Oxford University Press, 1970. Second printing. Octavo; illustrated wraps; 16pp. Light wear and soiling to wraps with curling to corners; binding sound; pages unmarked; Very Good.

Collection of six stories printed in the official Igbo Orthography, as was recommended by the Onwu Committee of 1961. No copies in retail of either printing at time of this writing.

Price: $100



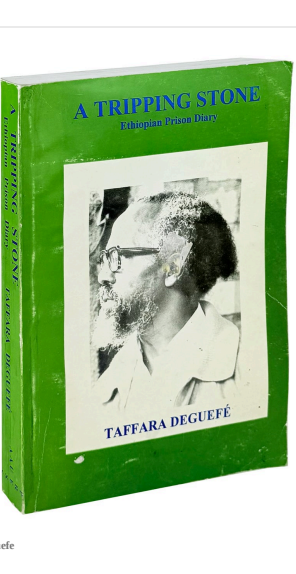
10. [Yoruba Culture] Fela Sowande and Fagbemi Ajanaku

Oruko Amutorunwa

Ibadan, Nigeria: Oxford University Press, 1969. First Edition. Octavo; illustrated wraps; 72pp.; text in Yoruba. Black and white illustrations. Wraps creased and rubbed along edges and corners rather bumped; binding sound and pages unmarked; a Good copy.

Study of Yoruba language and culture, with particular emphasis to the names given to and poems read to children. Co-authored by Sowande, the famous and prolific Nigerian composer; no other copies in retail at time of this writing.

Price: $150



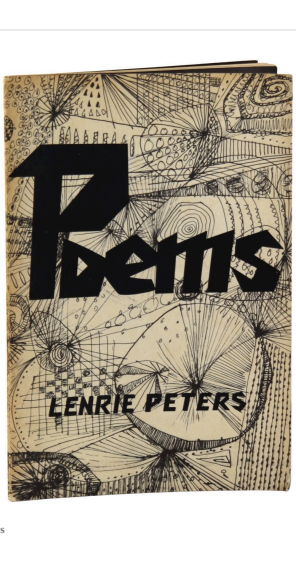
11. Taffara Deguefe

A Tripping Stone: Ethiopian Prison Diary (1976-1981)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University Press, [2003]. First Edition. Octavo (24cm); publisher's green photo-illustrated card wrappers; xxxii,471pp.; halftone photographic illus. Moderate wear to wrapper margins, remnants of old price sticker to upper cover, textblock margins a bit finger-soiled; overall very Good and sound.

Prison diary kept by the leading Ethiopian banker and financier while imprisoned under the Derg military junta from 1976 to 1981.

Price: $75

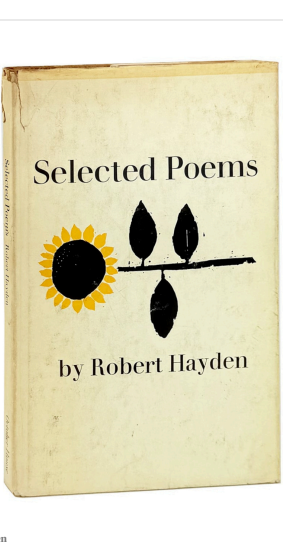


12. Lenrie Peters

Poems

Ibadan, Nigeria: Mbari Publications Ibadan, 1964. First edition. Octavo (20cm); illustrated card wraps; 44pp. Cover spine and edges toned, corners rubbed. Rippling from damp on interior bottom corner of pages, text unaffected. Previous owner's name written in green ink on dedication page. Small red checkmark to upper corner of same page. Some foxing to pages, but overall clean and unmarked. A Very Good copy of the Gambian author and surgeon Lenrie Peters' first published work.

Price: $150



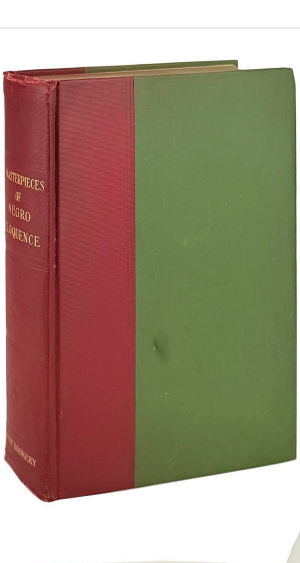
13. Robert Hayden

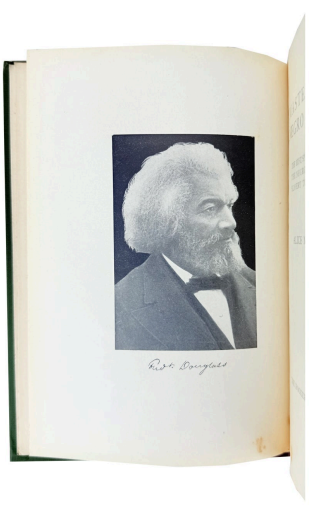
Selected Poems

New York: October House Inc., 1966. First Edition Stated. Slim octavo; publisher's boards in white pictorial dust jacket retaining original price ($4.50); 79pp. Jacket uniformly dust-soiled and margins rather rubbed and worn with a few closed tears not approaching text, old tape repair to verso, light soil spots to boards and textblock fore edge, else a Very Good example in an About Very Good jacket.

Quite scarce poetry collection by the first Black consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress, a post Hayden held from 1976 to 1978. The position was eventually renamed the U.S. Poet Laureate.

Price: $150





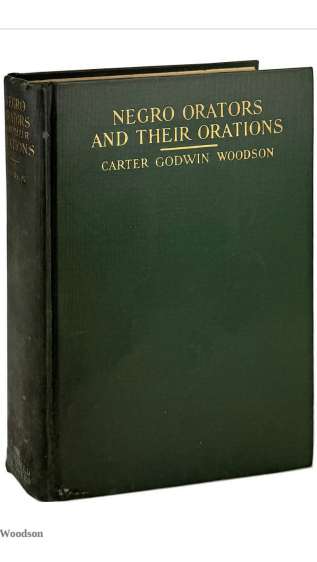
14. Alice Moore Dunbar [Nelson] [ed.]; Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, Fanny Jackson Coppin, Frederick Douglass, Prince Saunders et al. [contrs.]

Masterpieces of Negro Eloquence: The Best Speeches Delivered by the Negro from the Days of Slavery to the Present Time

New York: The Bookery Publishing Company, 1914. First Edition. Large octavo; publisher's red over green cloth, gilt-lettered spine, top edge gilt; 512pp.; portrait frontispiece of Frederick Douglass with tissue guard. Light wear to edges; a few scuffs and smudges; binding sound; contemporary ownership inscription (Dr. S.S. Thompson) to front pastedown, else unmarked; Very Good or better.

Quite substantial collection of Black speeches from Prince Saunders to W.E.B. Du Bois compiled by noted Louisiana essayist, poet, suffragist and activist Alice Dunbar Nelson (1875-1935). Published in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the editor notes the "grim eloquence" of the earlier entries and the difficulty of procuring speeches from the living, either due to their modesty, desire not to appear in print, or simply having lost them. She thanks John E. Bruce and Arthur A. Schomburg for lending priceless books and manuscripts for her to copy from. Notable for its inclusion of slightly lesser known figures such as Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and Fanny Jackson Coppin. Uncommon in retail.

Price: $600

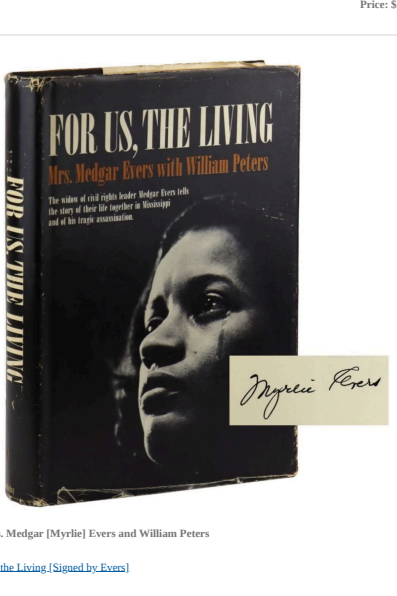


15. Carter G. Woodson

Negro Orators and Their Orations

Washington, DC: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1925. First Edition. Large octavo; publisher's green cloth boards stamped in gilt; 711pp. Boards worn with patchy staining as well as a larger area (12x9cm) of discoloration to rear board. Binding sound; dust soiling to top edge; pages unmarked. A Good to Very Good copy of an early title from Woodson's DC-based publishing company dedicated to Black scholarship. Includes selections from Prince Saunders, Frederick Douglass, and Emmett T. Scott, among many others.

Price: $350



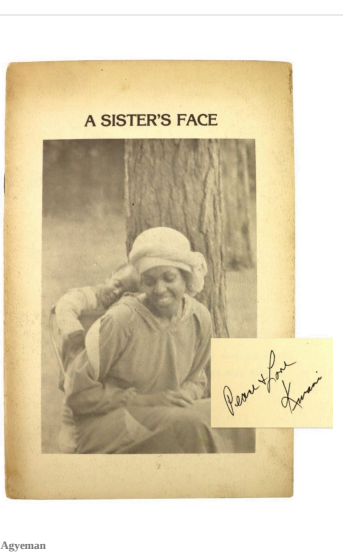
16. Mrs. Medgar [Myrlie] Evers and William Peters

For Us, the Living [Signed by Evers]

Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1967. First Edition Stated. Octavo (21.5cm); publisher's cloth in black photo-illustrated dust jacket retaining original price ($5.95); 378pp. Jacket margins rubbed with a number of small closed tears and creasing, faint damp stain to spine panel not affecting cloth; Very Good and sound overall. Signed by Myrlie Evers on title page.

Memoir of the author's late husband, the Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers (1925-1963) who served as the NAACP's first field secretary in Mississippi. Medgar Evers was fatally shot in the back outside his home in 1963 at the age of thirty-seven. Thanks to Myrlie's efforts a local Klansman was finally convicted of murder in 1994.

Price: $300



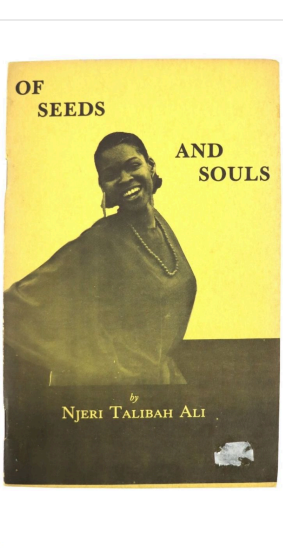
17. Akwasi O. Agyeman

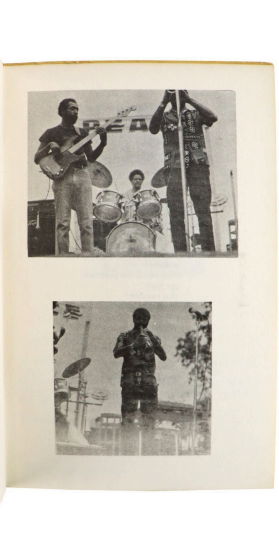
A Sister's Face [Inscribed and Signed]

Washington, DC: Akwasi O. Agyeman, 1977. First Edition, First Printing. Octavo (23cm); publisher's photo-illustrated staplebound card wrappers; [2],22pp. Wrappers significantly toned and rather dust-soiled, shallow dog-earing to bottom fore-edge corner of textblock; About Very Good. Inscribed and signed on title page, "Peace • Love / Kwasi."

Uncommon poetry collection dedicated to "the brothers who thought they understood and believed they tried."

Price: $50





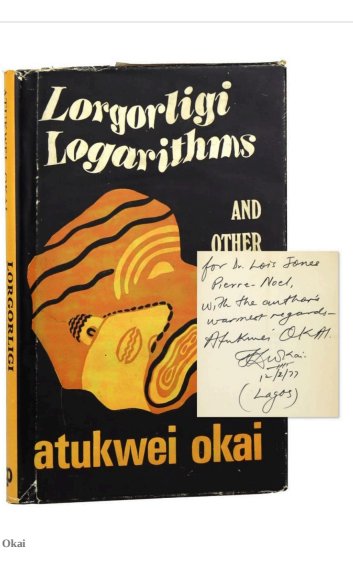
18. Njeri Talibah Ali

Of Seeds and Souls

Chicago: Njeri Talibah Ali, 1983. First Edition. Octavo (21cm); publisher's yellow photo-illustrated staplebound card wrappers; [36]pp.; halftone photographic illus. throughout. Wrappers a bit rubbed and dust-soiled, old residue from partly-removed price sticker to upper cover, else Very Good and sound.

The Black Chicago-based author's first poetry collection, adorned with family photographs. OCLC locates two copies only as of November, 2025, at the Library of Congress and the Chicago Public Library.

Price: $50



19. Atukwei Okai

Lorgorligi Logarithms and Other Poems [Signed and Inscribed to Lois Mailou Jones]

Tema, Ghana: Ghana Publishing Corporation, 1974. First Edition. Octavo (22.5cm); black faux leather boards with gilt lettering to spine, pictorial dust jacket; xxxiii,146pp. Jacket shelfworn with rubbing and shallow tears at corners and spine ends, a few scuffs to surface and toning to rear. Slight twist to boards, with some surface dust-soiling and dampstaining. Binding is sound and pages unmarked. Very Good overall.

Signed by the author on front free endpaper to Harlem Renaissance artist and illustrator Lois Mailou Jones with inscription "For Dr. Lois Jones Pierre-Noel, with the author's warmest regards — Atukwei Okai / 12/2/27 (Lagos)." Additional smaller signature in blue pen at bottom "Atukwei Okai, Legon, Ghana." Business card from Jones' Pierre-Noel Studios laid in.

Price: $200

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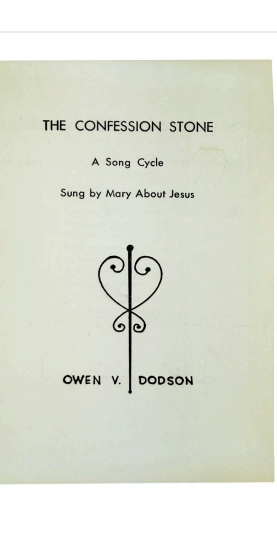
20. Mary Schmidt Campbell; Lois Mailou Jones et al [contrs.]

Tradition and Conflict: Images of a Turbulent Decade, 1963 - 1973 [Signed by Lois Mailou Jones]

New York: Studio Museum in Harlem, 1985. First Edition. Slim quarto (28cm); publisher's black pictorial card wrappers; 99pp.; illus. throughout. Moderate shelf wear to wrapper margins, else Very Good and sound.

Signed by Black artist and illustrator Lois Mailou Jones on title page. Two of Jones's paintings were featured in the exhibition alongside an incredible roster of 20th century artists: Betye Saar, Elizabeth Catlett, Faith Ringgold, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Gordon Parks among many, many others.

Price: $150



21. Owen V. Dodson

The Confession Stone: A Song Cycle Sung by Mary About Jesus

Washington, DC: Owen Dodson, 1960. First Edition. Octavo (22.5cm); staplebound self-wrappers; [12]pp. Light soil and toning, else Very Good to Near Fine.

Quite scarce cycle of religious poems by the Black poet, novelist, and playwright. The songs were set to music by Robert Fleming in 1968 and an expanded edition was published by Paul Bremen's Heritage series in 1970.

Price: $200

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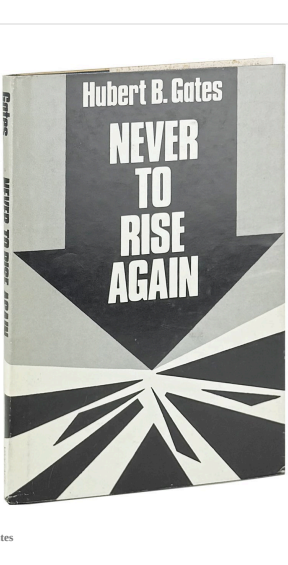
22. Paul Keens-Douglas

Tell Me Again: Dialect Poetry and Short Stories [Inscribed and Signed to Rita Cox]

Trinidad, West Indies: Keensdee Productions Ltd, 1979. First Edition. Octavo (21cm); publisher's photo-illustrated wraps; 122pp.; halftone photographic illus. Moderate wear to wrapper margins and spine edge, else Very Good and sound.

Poetry and story collection by the Trinidad and Tobago storyteller and performer, inscribed and signed by the author to fellow Trinidad and Tobago storyteller Rita Cox, "To Rita Cox, With thanks & best wishes / Keep up the good work!"

Price: $125



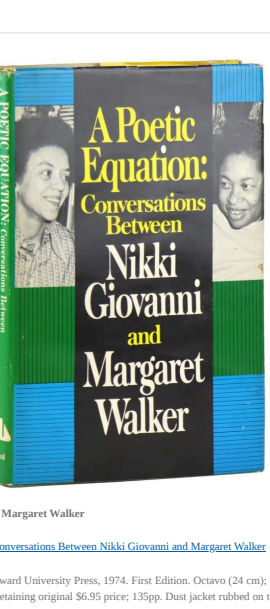
23. Hubert B. Gates

Never To Rise Again

New York: Vantage Press, 1983. First Edition. Slim octavo; publisher's cloth in pictorial dust jacket; vi,122pp. Light edge wear to jacket margins, top textblock edge quite foxed, "Withdrawn" rubber-stamps to endpapers, otherwise free of library markings; Very Good and sound.

Scarce self-published novel of racial violence in a small town in Georgia. OCLC locates one physical copy as of December, 2025, at Hampton University in Virginia.

Price: $150



24. Nikki Giovanni; Margaret Walker

A Poetic Equation: Conversations Between Nikki Giovanni and Margaret Walker

Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1974. First Edition. Octavo (24 cm); publisher's cloth in pictorial dust jacket retaining original $6.95 price; 135pp. Dust jacket rubbed on top edge with small tears and creasing. Cloth binding faded on bottom edge, edges foxed. Faint dampstain to top interior corner of first few pages, text unaffected. Very Good and sound overall. Errata slip laid in.

Very scarce first edition of this series of interviews between the two leading poets of their generation. The collection was revised and reissued in 1983.

Price: $350

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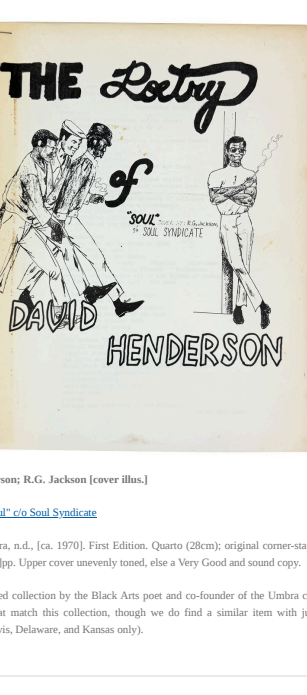
25. Nikki Giovanni

Blues: For All the Changes, New Poems [Signed]

New York: William Morrow and Company, 1999. First Edition Stated with full number line. Octavo; publisher's two-toned boards in unclipped photo-illustrated dust jacket; viii,[2],99pp. Light dust-soil to dust jacket, else a Very Good or better example. Signed by the author on title page.

Price: $150



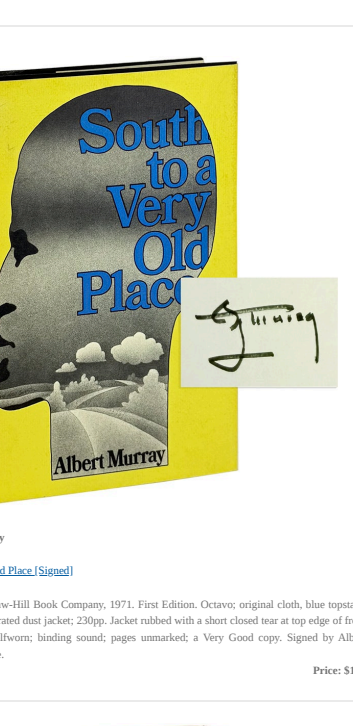
26. David Henderson; R.G. Jackson [cover illus.]

The Poetry of "Soul" c/o Soul Syndicate

[New York]: Umbra, n.d., [ca. 1970]. First Edition. Quarto (28cm); original corner-stapled pictorial self-wrappers; [15]pp. Upper cover unevenly toned, else a Very Good and sound copy.

Possibly unrecorded collection by the Black Arts poet and co-founder of the Umbra collective. We find no copies that match this collection, though we do find a similar item with just 12 leaves (Berkeley, UC Davis, Delaware, and Kansas only).

Price: $350

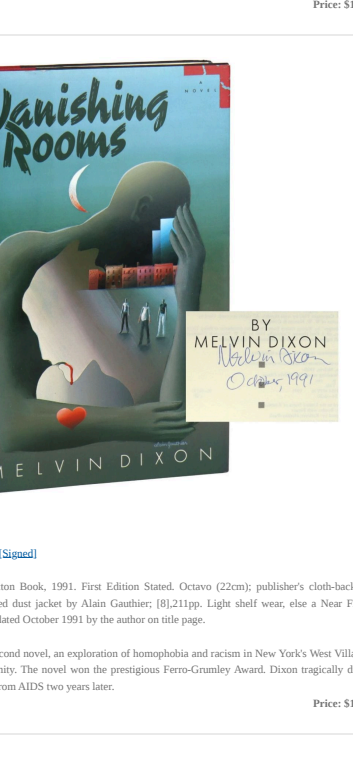


27. Albert Murray

South to a Very Old Place [Signed]

New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1971. First Edition. Octavo; original cloth, blue topstain, in unclipped illustrated dust jacket; 230pp. Jacket rubbed with a short closed tear at top edge of front panel. Boards shelfworn; binding sound; pages unmarked; a Very Good copy. Signed by Albert Murray at half title.

Price: $100



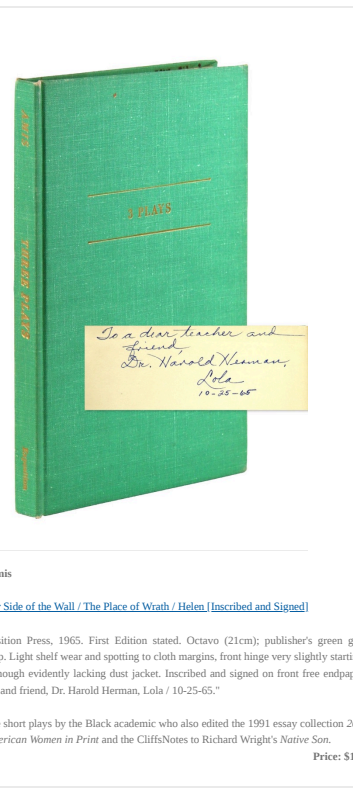
28. Melvin Dixon

Vanishing Rooms [Signed]

New York: A Dutton Book, 1991. First Edition Stated. Octavo (22cm); publisher's cloth-backed boards in unclipped illustrated dust jacket; [8],211pp. Jacket a bit rubbed, else a Near Fine copy. Signed and dated October 1991 by the author on title page.

Melvin Dixon's second novel, an exploration of homophobia and racism in New York's West Village LGBTQ+ community. The novel won the prestigious Ferro-Grumley Award. Dixon tragically died of complications from AIDS two years later.

Price: $150



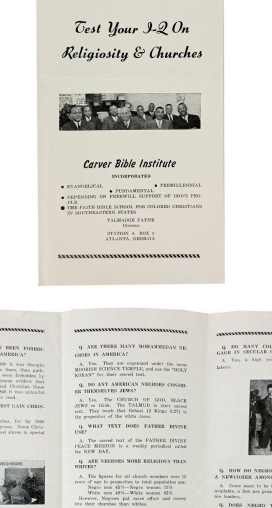
29. Lola Jones Amis

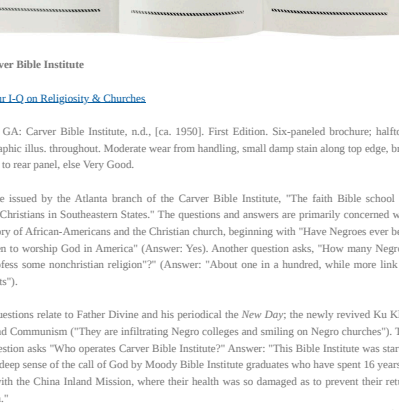
3 Plays: The Other Side of the Wall / The Place of Wrath / Helen [Inscribed and Signed]

New York: Exposition Press, 1965. First Edition stated. Octavo (21cm); publisher's green gilt-lettered cloth; 88pp. Light shelf wear and spotting to cloth margins, front hinge very slightly starting, else Very Good, though evidently lacking dust jacket. Inscribed and signed on front free endpaper, "To a dear teacher and friend, Dr. Harold Herman, Lola / 10-25-65."

Collection of three short plays by the Black academic who also edited the 1991 essay collection *20th Century Black American Women in Print* and the CliffsNotes to Richard Wright's *Native Son*.

Price: $125





30. Carver Bible Institute

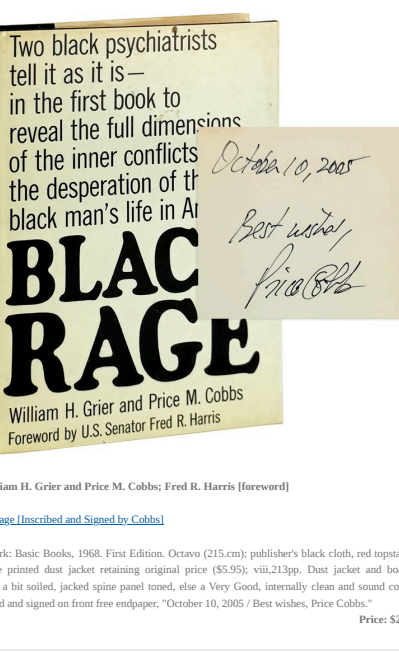
Test Your I-Q on Religiosity & Churches

Atlanta, GA: Carver Bible Institute, n.d., [ca. 1950]. First Edition. Six-paneled brochure; halftone photographic illus. throughout. Moderate wear from handling, small damp stain along top edge, brief ink note to rear panel, else Very Good.

Brochure issued by the Atlanta branch of the Carver Bible Institute, "The faith Bible school for colored Christians in Southeastern States." The questions and answers are primarily concerned with the history of African-Americans and the Christian church, beginning with "Have Negroes ever been forbidden to worship God in America" (Answer: Yes). Another question asks, "How many Negroes now profess some nonchristian religion"?" (Answer: "About one in a hundred, while more link up with cults").

Other questions relate to Father Divine and his periodical the *New Day*; the newly revived Ku Klux Klan; and Communism ("They are infiltrating Negro colleges and smiling on Negro churches"). The final question asks "Who operates Carver Bible Institute?" Answer: "This Bible Institute was started under a deep sense of the call of God by Moody Bible Institute graduates who have spent 16 years in China with the China Inland Mission, where their health was so damaged as to prevent their return to China."

Price: $200

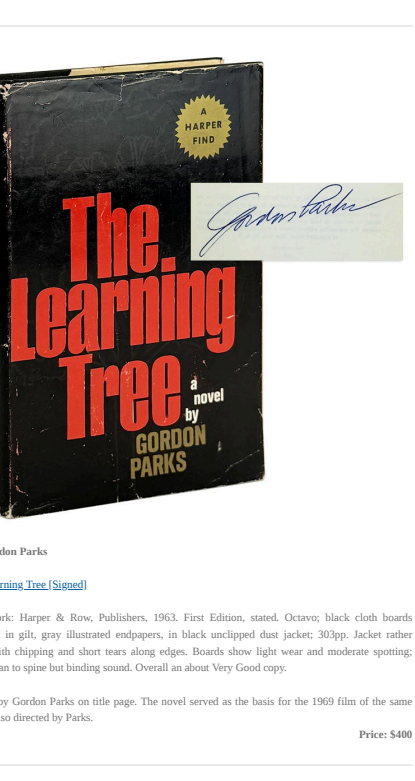


31. William H. Grier and Price M. Cobbs; Fred R. Harris [foreword]

Black Rage [Inscribed and Signed by Cobbs]

New York: Basic Books, 1968. First Edition. Octavo (215.cm); publisher's black cloth, red topstain, in white printed dust jacket retaining original price ($5.95); viii,213pp. Dust jacket and board margins a bit soiled, jacket spine panel toned, else a Very Good, internally clean and sound copy. Inscribed and signed on front free endpaper, "October 10, 2005 / Best wishes, Price Cobbs."

Price: $200



32. Gordon Parks

The Learning Tree [Signed]

New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1963. First Edition, stated. Octavo; black cloth boards stamped in gilt, gray illustrated endpapers, in black unclipped dust jacket; 303pp. Jacket rather worn with chipping and short tears along edges. Boards show light wear and moderate spotting; slight lean to spine but binding sound. Overall an about Very Good copy.

Signed by Gordon Parks on title page. The novel served as the basis for the 1969 film of the same name, also directed by Parks.

Price: $400

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