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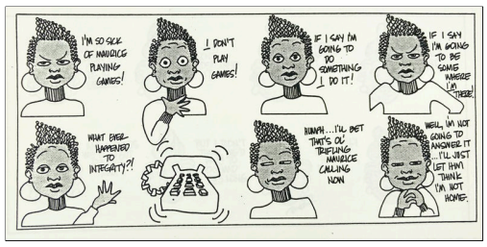
Capitol Hill Books

Capitol Hill Books E-List 29: African American History & Literature

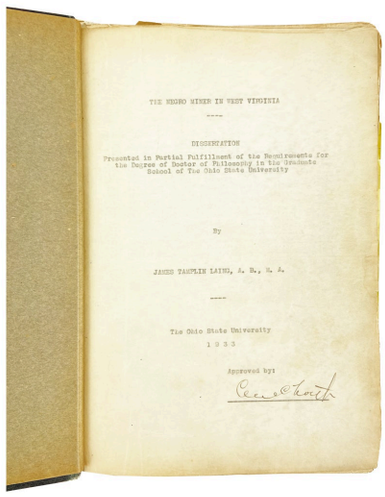


Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Please find below twenty-one newly-catalogued items relating to 20th-century African American history, social movements, and literature. As well as covering a wide range of topics from the Black Nationalist Movement (no. 10), obscure poets (nos. 4 & 6), and beauty culture (no. 5), this e-list also covers a wide range of formats from coloring books (no. 8) to mass market paperbacks (nos. 9, 11, 14) to the working draft of a doctoral dissertation (no. 1).

Thanks for looking!

Capitol Hill Books Rare Book Dept.



THE NEGRO MINER IN WEST VIRGINIA

DISSERTATION

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Graduate School of The Ohio State University

By

JAMES TAMPLIN LAING, A. B., M. A.

The Ohio State University

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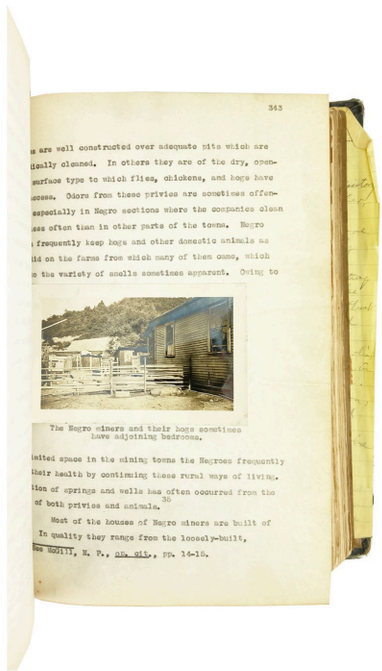
Approved by:



343

are well constructed over adequate pits which are
ically cleaned. In others they are of the dry, open-
surface type to which flies, chickens, and hogs have
access. Odors from these privies are sometimes offen-
especially in Negro sections where the companies clean
less often than in other parts of the towns. Negro
frequently keep hogs and other domestic animals as
id on the farms from which many of them came, which
the variety of smells sometimes apparent. Owing to

The Negro miners and their hogs sometimes
have adjoining bedrooms.

ited space in the mining towns the Negroes frequently
their health by continuing these rural ways of living.
ion of springs and wells has often occurred from the
of both privies and animals.

Most of the houses of Negro miners are built of
In quality they range from the loosely-built,

MOFFITT, W. P., op. cit., pp. 14-16.

1. James Tamplin Laing

[Doctoral Thesis Draft] The Negro Miner in West Virginia: Dissertation

[Columbus]: Ohio State University, 1933. Thick quarto (29cm.) postbound in original black textured cloth boards; [3],520,[4]ll. printed from typescript; five map illus., some with ink-drawn additions, two hand-drawn graphs in pencil or ink, one original snapshot photo mounted in. Cloth worn with large split along rear spine edge, losses at spine ends, margins threadbare with boards exposed underneath; contents meanwhile in excellent condition, early leaves with fairly extensive marginalia and ink corrections either in Laing's hand or his advisor's. Overall Very Good and sound despite cosmetic issues with the binding.

Late working draft of white anthropologist James T. Laing's doctoral thesis — a detailed account of Black miners and their families in the mining communities and company towns across the state of West Virginia, based in part on surveys, interviews, and first-hand sociological studies of the people, towns, and working conditions under which they often dangerously toiled. Evidently not the finished work, the first half of the text with fairly substantial ink corrections either in Laing's hand or that of his thesis advisor's.

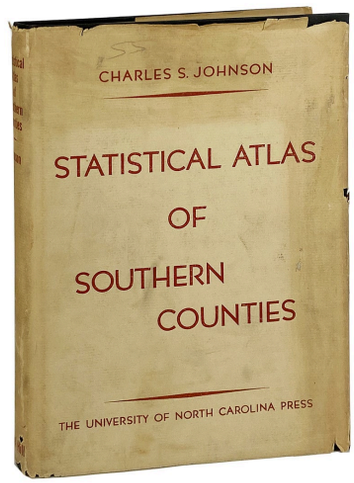
The text lay-out includes space for, and captions to, additional photographic illus. not present here with a single exception: a snapshot captioned "Negro miners and their hogs sometimes have adjoining bedrooms." The photo shows the exterior of a house's siding, which abuts a pen for hogs (not pictured). Other captions, while lacking images, are still evocative: "Wife of Negro miner and her 9 children living in three rooms"; "A checkers club"; "Negro and white miners working together making a baseball field."

Arguably almost no aspect of a Black coal miner's life goes unexamined in this exhaustive study. Charts provide statistical data on population members' birth place and last place of residence; church membership and attendance; and not just their education level but the education of their children.

In the chapter on religion and church-going, Laing observes the tension that had arisen within the Black mining community, a result of the early waves of the Great Migration: "Simple Negro peasants lately from the south, caught in the maelstrom of economic maladjustment, desiring the ecstasy which only a certain type of religion can give them, complain that they cannot 'understand' the preacher. Educated and race conscious Negro ministers, for whom the adoption of white standards is the most important desideratum complain because they must 'talk down' to their congregants. Both are dissatisfied" (p. 449).

The history and sociological study of Black Appalachia has recently begun to attract greater academic attention to counter the popular narrative of the inaccurate mythological whiteness of the area. Though this dissertation was written by a white man, it remains a rich eyewitness source, generous with its use of oral history in capturing a historically overlooked community.

Price: $850



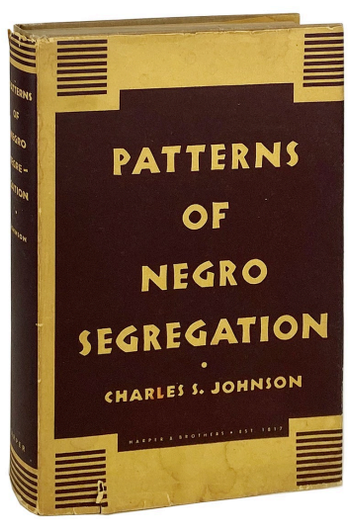
2. Charles S. Johnson

Statistical Atlas of Southern Counties: Listing and Analysis of Socio-Economic Indices of 1104 Southern Counties

Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941. First Edition. Large octavo; publisher's cloth in dust jacket; 355pp.; maps, charts, and graphs throughout. Dust jacket chipped with several tears along edges and folds; general rubbing and smudging. Boards show light shelfwear and bumping to corners. Binding sound and interior unmarked; Very Good.

Extensive report centering around Southern agricultural and educational statistics largely organized by race. Educator and sociologist Charles S. Johnson was a life-long advocate for African-American civil rights, though his preference to work with liberal white groups often put him at odds with his near-contemporary W.E.B. DuBois. Scarce in retail.

Price: $300



3. Charles S. Johnson

Patterns of Negro Segregation

New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1943. First Edition Stated. Octavo; publisher's boards in dust jacket retaining original price ($3.50); 332pp. Jacket chipped and worn along edges with a longer tear to bottom of rear fold; patchy dampstaining. Boards show light shelfwear with a bit of smudging and scuffing to spine ends. Binding sound and interior unmarked. Very Good overall.

Johnson is known for being the first Black president of Fisk University, and spent his whole life advocating for Black civil rights. This study examines the effects of segregation through the lens of politics, education, industry, recreation, and social life. The author analyzes, among other topics, the phenomenon of "passing" and ends with a discussion on race riots and organized aggression. Overall a nice copy of a wide-ranging study, scarce in dust jacket.

Price: $250

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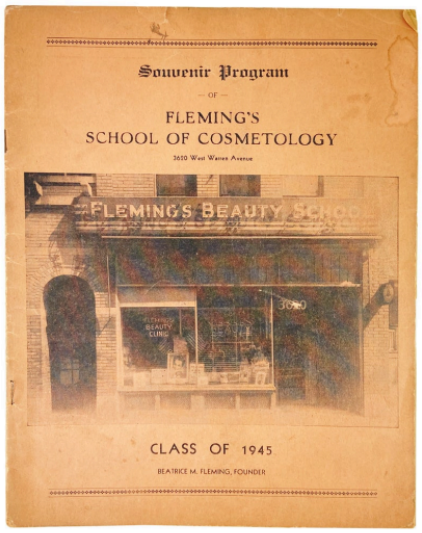
4. Helen C. Harris, Lucia Mae Pitts, and Tomi Carolyn Tinsley

Triad [Card Signed by Pitts Laid in]

Washington, DC: Privately Published / Plymouth Press, 1945. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's red printed card wrappers; 95pp.; text printed from typescript. Wraps worn along spine with split and curling to crown; general smudging. A bit shaky in binding but holding; interior unmarked; Very Good. Folded type-written "About the Authors of Triad" note laid in, beginning "All are Negroes; all are single" and giving brief bibliographic and career information of the poets. Decorated business card signed "Compliments of the Authors" and signed by Pitts also laid in.

Though no clue is given as to where the three poets met or why they ventured to publish together, we find evidence of each pursuing her creative pursuits in other stages of her life: Harris with three poems published in *Ebony Rhythm* (see item no. 6); Pitts' poetry featured in the journals *Challenge* and *Opportunity*; she was also posthumously featured in *Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance* (2006), while Tinsley served as Zora Neale Hurston's secretary on the houseboat Sun Tan in 1946. Scarce.

Price: $650

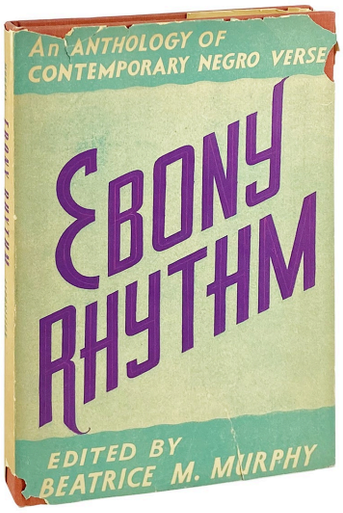


5. Barbara M. Fleming

Souvenir Program of Fleming's School of Cosmetology; Class of 1945

Detroit: s.i., 1945. First Edition. Quarto (28.25cm); original photo-illustrated staple bound wrappers; unpaginated; black and white photographs throughout. Wear and chipping to edges of wraps; general soiling and staining; ink annotation to rear. Text block detached from lower staple, hanging on to top. Light chipping to edges of pages; age-toned; a Good to Very Good copy of this scarce souvenir for the 1945 graduating class of the Black-owned Detroit-based cosmetology school.

Price: $150



6. [Langston Hughes, contr.] Beatrice M. Murphy

Ebony Rhythm: An Anthology of Contemporary Negro Verse

New York: Exposition Press, [1948]. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's cloth in decorative dust jacket retaining original price ($3); [14],162pp. Fragile dust jacket moderately chipped and rubbed with a few small losses and closed tears to margins briefly touching text, ownership signature to front free endpaper else a Near Fine copy in a Good to Very Good example of the rare dust jacket.

The second of three anthologies of African American poetry edited by Beatrice M. Murphy, the noted critic and founder of the Negro Bibliographic and Research Center. Most of the authors and poems chosen by Murphy were relatively obscure for the purposes of preserving "African American poetry that, for the most part did not make it into major journals and that appeared when few such collections were on the scene" (*Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance* (2006), p. 213). That being said, this collection includes three poems by Langston Hughes: "For Billie Holiday," "Wisdom and War," and "From Selma."

Price: $200

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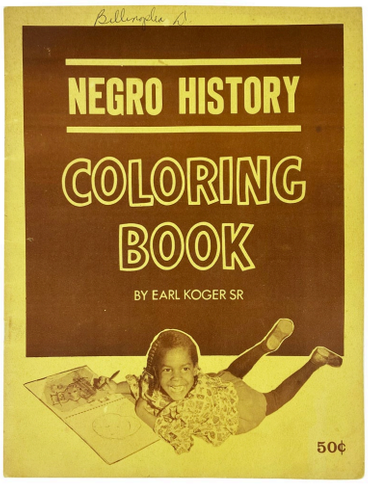
7. Nannie Helen Burroughs

Think on These Things

Washington, DC: Published by Nannie H. Burroughs Publications, The National Trade and Professional School For Women and Girls, Inc., 1963. Third Edition. Octavo; original photo-illustrated wrappers; 157pp. Spine slightly cocked; covers worn and scuffed with curling to corners. Binding sound. Pages dog-eared with some underlining. A Very Good but well-used copy of an uncommon title laying out the Washington, DC activist and educator's philosophy towards race relations, education, and religion. Chapters include "The Best Way to Resent the White Man's Insults," "How to Hitch Your Old Time Religion up to New Conditions," and "The Negro Woman Is a Mighty Big Woman." Scarce in retail; OCLC only shows later printings.

Price: $100



8. Earl Koger Sr.

Negro History Coloring Book

Baltimore, MD: Published by Earl Koger Co., 1964. First Edition. Quarto; publisher's photo-illustrated staple-bound wrappers; 24pp.; black and white illustrations throughout. Light rubbing, staining and soiling to wraps; ownership signature to front and facing title. Binding sound and interior unmarked; Very Good. Begins with "A is for Marian Anderson" and ends with the Limerick,

"Hickory, Dickory, dock!
Daisy Bates in Little Rock,
Braved mobsters line
To enroll nine.
Hickory Dickory, dock!"

A delightful and educational coloring book emphasizing African American contributions to the arts, sciences, and American and World History. None in retail and only one copy found in OCLC as of September, 2024, at the University of Mississippi.

Price: $500

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9. Russ Trainer; Gene Bilbrew [cover art]

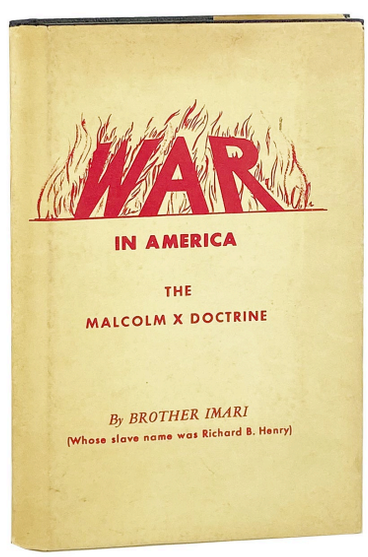
His Brother Love

[Detroit]: Satan Press Book / Foremost Publishers, [1965]. First Edition. 12mo (17cm.); publisher's pictorial card wrappers by Gene Bilbrew; 158pp. A hint of wear to wrapper margins, textblock uniformly toned due to inferior paper quality, else a Very Good, sound and evidently unread copy.

Gay fetish novel set in the fashion industry where butch business consultant Brad Stewart finds himself courted three ways: by young dress designer John Dallance; "queen bee" Ronnie Grimes; and luscious Pam Vincent.

Forms part of the Satan Press fetish series which also put out titles like *Black Water Nympho*, *Whatever Wanda Wants*, and *Coed for Hire*. All Satan Press books are adorned with the vibrant cover art of Gene Bilbrew (1923-1974), "the first black career fetish artist in history" (Richard Perez-Seven, *Gene Bilbrew Revealed* (2019)). See also John Harrison's *Hip Pocket Sleaze* (2012).

Price: $125



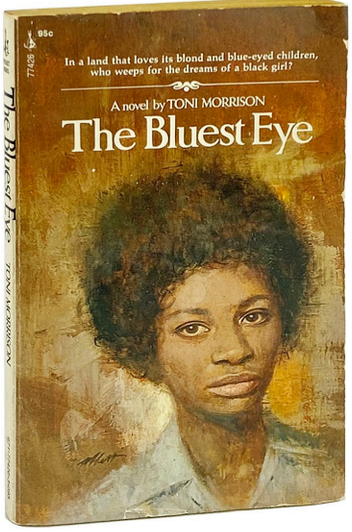
10. [Malcolm X] Brother Imari [Obadele] (Whose slave name was Richard B. Henry)

War in America: The Malcolm X Doctrine

Detroit, MI: Published by the Malcolm X Society, 1968. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's leatherette in white pictorial dust jacket printed in red; 64pp.; frontis photo. Dust jacket lightly chipped and rubbed; long diagonal tear to rear flap. Boards edgeworn with mild dust soiling. Text block separated from boards though gatherings secure; interior unmarked. Good to Very Good.

Scarce publication from the Black Nationalist, analyzing the state of the Civil Rights Movement and the role of violence in the ongoing struggle. Brother Imari calls for the "lost black tribe in America" to be called "Malcolmites" and to follow the Malcolmite Doctrine. No copies in retail at time of this writing.

Price: $850



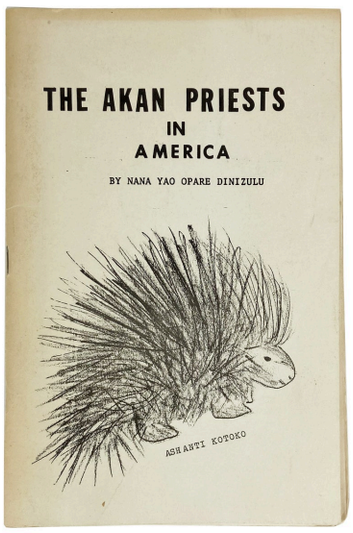
11. Toni Morrison

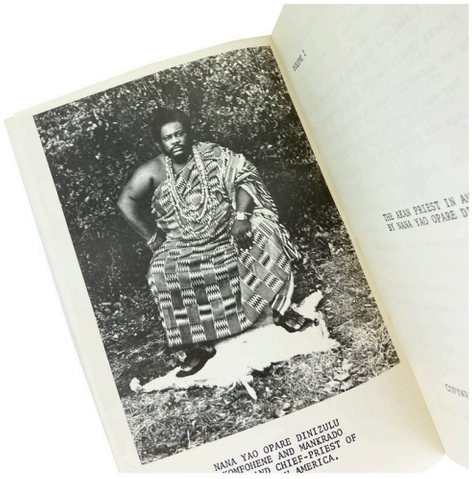
The Bluest Eye: A Novel

New York: Pocket Books, [1972]. First Pocket Books Edition. 12mo (17.5cm.); publisher's pictorial card wrappers; 160pp.; pictorial Kent cigarette advertisement bound in middle of volume. Wrappers a bit rubbed at margins, textblock uniformly toned due to inferior paper quality, ballpoint pen ownership signature and notes on title page and marginalia throughout. A Good to Very Good copy.

Scarce first printing of the mass market edition of Toni Morrison's first book, originally published in 1970 to quiet acclaim. Morrison went on to write ten more novels and in 1993 became the first African-American woman awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. However, at the time of publication of this edition, *The Bluest Eye* was still Morrison's only book and the first mass market printing remains elusive, especially in sound condition.

Price: $50





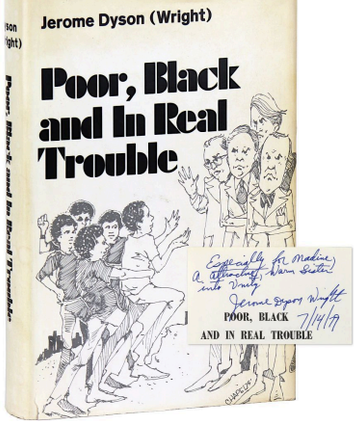
12. Nana Yao Opare Dinizulu

The Akan Priests in America

Long Island City, NY: Aims of Modzawe, 1974. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's white pictorial staple bound card wrappers; 29pp.; black and white photographs throughout. Light rubbing and toning to edges of wraps. Binding sound and pages unmarked.

A discussion of the Akan religion and its history and role in both African and African-American society. For 40 years Dinizulu presided over the critically acclaimed troupe Dinizulu and His African Dancers, Drummers, and Singers, promoting the Akan religion and African customs throughout his career. This pamphlet scarce with no copies in retail and one holding in OCLC as of September, 2024, at New York Public Library.

Price: $300



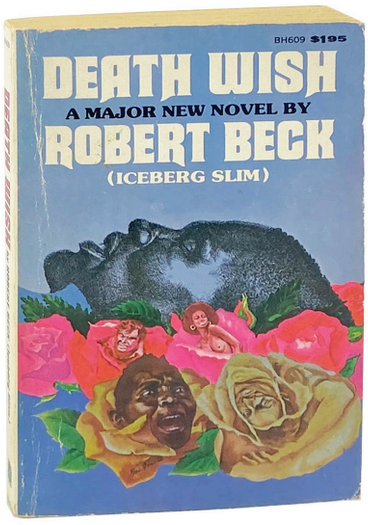
13. Jerome Dyson (Wright)

Poor, Black and in Real Trouble: A Novel [Inscribed and Signed]

Baltimore, MD: Community Residence Center, [1976]. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's boards in white pictorial dust jacket retaining original price ($7.95); [10],308pp. Light toning and a few chips and closed tears to dust jacket margins, corners nudged, else a Very Good and sound copy overall. Warmly inscribed and signed by the author on title page.

First novel by the African-American educator who "completed school, attended college, and became a teacher0 — all while serving a thirty-year sentence in the Maryland penitentiary" (from the author bio on rear jacket panel). Dyson Wright was released after serving nine years of his sentence and attended Morgan State College where he studied under the esteemed literary historian of the Harlem Renaissance Waters Turpin, whom Dyson Wright credits on the title page of this work as his educator.

Price: $250



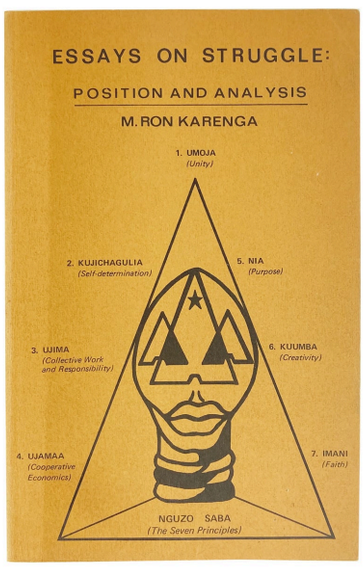
14. Robert Beck (Iceberg Slim)

Death Wish: A Major New Novel

Los Angeles: Holloway House Publishing Co., [1977]. First Edition Stated. 12mo; publisher's pictorial card wrappers; 288pp. Moderate rubbing to wrapper margins, faint crease to spine edge of upper wrapper, textblock a bit toned, else a Very Good, sound copy overall.

Iceberg Slim's Mafia novel following the exploits of Don Jimmy Collucci and his crime family that "Black Warrior" Jessie Taylor's plans to take down.

Price: $75



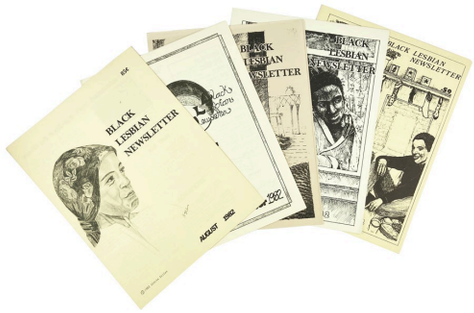
15. M. Ron Karenga [Maulana Ndabezitha Karenga]

Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis

San Diego, CA: Kawaida Publications, 1978. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's pictorial wrappers; 102pp. A touch of fading along spine; mild rubbing to edges; corners slightly curled. Binding sound. Ownership inscription to front free endpaper, else interior unmarked; Very Good or better.

Activist and Professor Karenga is best-known as the creator of the Pan-African holiday Kwanzaa, and these essays reflect on his work in the Black Power Movement in the '60s, serving as an analysis and critique of the Black Liberation Movement from both a race and class perspective. Written while Karenga was incarcerated and originally published by Black Scholar, *Essays on Struggle* traces the development of Karenga's philosophy, which he would continue to develop in *Kawaida Theory*, published in 1980. This publication scarce with no copies in retail as of August 2024.

Price: $400



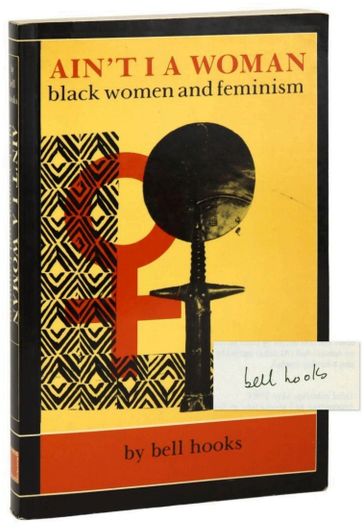
16. Black Lesbian Newsletter

Black Lesbian Newsletter - Vol. 1, Issues 2 - 6 [Five-issue run]

San Francisco, CA: Black Lesbian Newsletter, 1982. First Editions. Five quarto issues; publisher's pictorial staple bound wrappers; 8pp. apiece; black and white illustrations throughout. Very light rubbing to edges; smudge to front wrap of issue #2. Bindings sound and pages unmarked. Near Fine.

Early issues of this uncommon newsletter which included articles, poetry, illustrations, and advertisements. In 1983 the publication changed its name to *Onyx*. Articles, among several others, include "The Need for a Black Lesbian Front," by Eileen Gaines, "A Vessel to Continue the Line," a poem from Audrey Ewart, and an article describing an incident at the bar Ollies during which the Black women were asked for identification while the white women were not. The author of the article Marlene Bonner offers analysis and demands for an apology from the establishment. Very early issues scarce in retail.

Price: $200



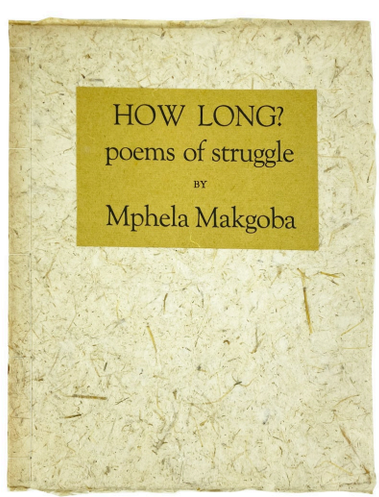
17. bell hooks

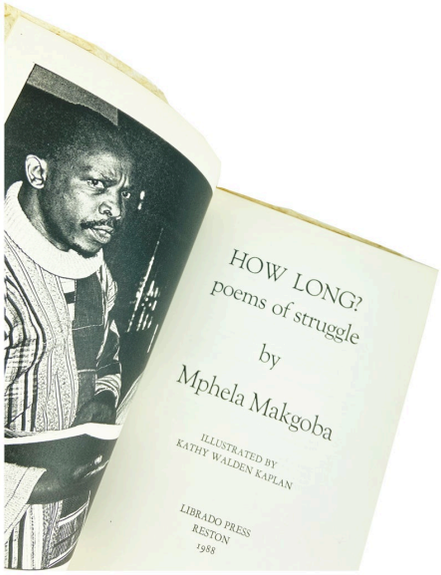
Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism [Signed]

Boston, MA: South End Press, 1983. Third Printing. Octavo (21cm); publisher's pictorial card wrappers; 205pp. Creasing and light edgewear to wraps with mild curling to corners. Binding sound. Underlining and marginalia to introduction though rest of text unmarked; Very Good. Signed by bell hooks on title page.

Scarce signed copy of hooks' landmark work on the effects of racism and sexism on Black women throughout American history, with critiques of the Abolitionist, Suffragist, Civil Rights, and Feminist movements.

Price: $450





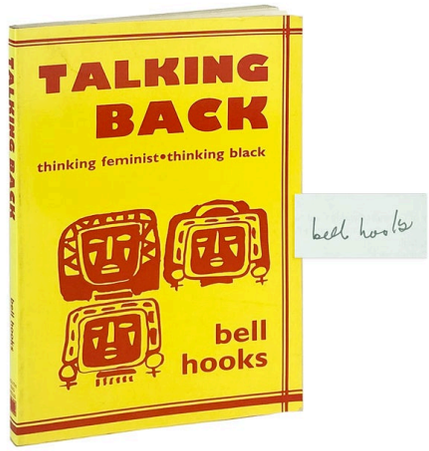
18. Mphela Makgoba; Kathy Walden Kaplan [illustration and design]

How Long?: Poems of Struggle

Reston, VA: Librado Press, 1988. First Edition. Quarto; original hand-stitched wrappers of handmade paper made from mitsuma, abaca, and native Virginia grasses, with printed paper paste-on to upper cover; 48pp.; frontispiece photo and black and white illustrations throughout. A few splits along spine. Binding else sound and interior unmarked. Near Fine.

The South African poet, actor, and activist Mphela Makgoba left his country for the United States as part of a theater company in 1964 and refused to return, spending decades in the United States writing and speaking out against the horrors of apartheid. "Soweto" here stands for "Sons of Women Enslaved, Terrorized, Offended" acting as both refrain and a call to action for African warriors to join the struggle. Makgoba braids together the situation in his home country with the Civil Rights struggle in the U.S., invoking Malcolm X, Winnie and Nelson Mandela, and Angela Davis as allies in the struggle and stressing its urgency: "the racists aren't going to stop killing... We're very, very close to war." Scarce with two holdings (NYPL and Northwestern) in OCLC as of September, 2024.

Price: $350



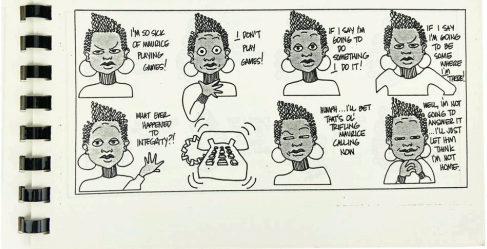
19. bell hooks

Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black [Signed]

Boston: South End Press, 1989. Reprint. Octavo; publisher's pictorial card wrappers; 185pp. Rubbing to edges, curling to corners, and general smudging and spotting, principally to rear. Binding sound. Marginal line markings throughout, though text unaffected. Signed by hooks on title page.

A Very Good copy of hooks' exploration of the power of language to fight bigotry, racism, and misogyny. Scarce signed.

Price: $300



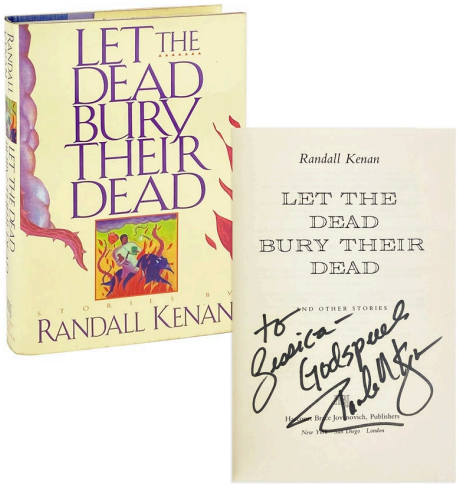
20. Barbara Brandon

Where I'm Coming From [Signed]

New York: Barbara Brandon, 1990. Stated Fourth Printing. Oblong octavo. spiral-bound clear acetate cover over pictorial wrappers; 64pp.; leaves printed on rectos only. Wraps worn along edges; minor scuffing. Binding sound. Inscribed and signed by Brandon with brief additional gift inscription to title page; Very Good.

Scarce self-published collection from the first nationally syndicated African-American female cartoonist. *Where I'm Coming From* first appeared in the *Detroit Free Press* the year prior and focuses on characters based on Brandon's friends. We surmise that Brandon put this collection together for a pitch to gain a wider audience, and, the mention of this being a "fourth printing" notwithstanding, we find no copies of any printing in OCLC. In 1991 her strip achieved national syndication, appearing in over 60 newspapers through 2004.

Price: $450



21. Randall Kenan

Let the Dead Bury Their Dead and Other Stories [Signed]

New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1992. First Edition Stated, with full letter line. Octavo; publisher's boards in unclipped pictorial dust jacket; 334pp. Dust jacket lightly soiled and foxed along edges. Boards show mild wear to edges and spine slightly collapsed. Binding sound. A touch of foxing to edges of text block; faint stain to endpapers; interior else unmarked; Very Good. Inscribed and signed by the author on title page.

Kenan's second work of fiction is a series of interconnected, sometimes fantastical tales following the lives of residents of Tims Creek, a small town in North Carolina. Legions of the dead, escaped slaves, and a Yoruba chieftain fill out the cast of what the *New York Times* called "nothing short of a wonder-book: one of those striking literary anomalies, in the tradition of *Raintree County* and *The Country of the Pointed Firs*, that are nearly as difficult to classify as they are enjoyable to read and reread."

Price: $300

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