An Inscribed Copy

Francis E.W. HARPER

Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted

Philadelphia: Garrigues Brothers 1892

$35,000

First edition. Brown cloth gilt. Frontispiece portrait of the author (occasionally lacking). Introduction by William Still. A fine copy with just the slightest of bumping at the corners and hinge repaired, the gilt bright and unrubbed. Small stamp of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society on first blank, and beneath that Inscribed by Harper in pencil: “C. Impey. Street Somerset 1893 from the Author (and Publisher W. Still)”. The only novel by Harper, better known for her poetry and essays, this was long considered the first novel to be published by an African-American woman, until Henry Louis Gates, Jr. advanced the cause of Harriet E. Wilson’s Our Nig (1859).

Although this novel contains many conventional elements, it also concerns itself with the personal independence of women of color, and particularly of the race in general. The protagonist, the daughter of a wealthy white father, is unaware that her mother is not only mulatto, but also the property of the husband. When her father dies, her uncle claims them as slaves. After being liberated by the Union Army, she offers her services as a nurse, and attracts the attentions of a white doctor, who discovers she is of mixed race, and encourages her to “pass” for white, which she rejects, setting off to seek her parents accompanied by a light-skinned black doctor instead.

The inscription in this copy is to Catherine Impey (of Street Somerset) a British Quaker activist against racial discrimination who founded Britain’s first anti-racist journal, Anti-Caste, in 1888. The journal focused largely on issues in America. In 1893, she formed The Society for the Recognition of the Universal Brotherhood of Man, with the American Ida B. Wells, who visited her in Britain to campaign against lynching.

This is the first of only four 19th Century editions. OCLC locates 28 copies of the first edition, a surprisingly large number, all but a handful are found in the libraries of traditionally black colleges, where they would have been of particular interest, and more readily available at an early date. However, the list of institutions that do not have a copy of the first edition is impressive. A single inferior copy at auction in the past 25 years. We have occasionally, if infrequently, seen copies of the later printings, this is the third copy of the first edition we’ve seen in 30 years; in beautiful condition, the only signed copy of which we are aware, and a pleasing association. [BTC #384147]
2 Scipio AFRIKAANO

*Oasis One*

(Washington, DC: Scipio Afrikaano 1979)

$350


3 (Anthology)

James Weldon JOHNSON, edited by

*The Book of American Negro Poetry with an Essay on the Negro’s Creative Genius*

New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company (1922)

$2000

First edition. Foreedge somewhat foxed, else fine in a very attractive, near fine example of the very scarce dustwrapper with a small chip on the front panel, negligible wear at the spine ends and some small loss at the crown. Poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar, W.E.B. Du Bois, William Stanley Braithwaite, James Weldon Johnson, Leslie Pinckney Hill, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Claude McKay, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Jessie Fauset, Benjamin Brawley, and many others. Rare in dustwrapper, this is an unusually nice copy. [BTC #386346]

4 (Anthology)

Helen M. O’BRIEN, Lillian W. VOORHEES and Hugh M. GLOSTER

*The Brown Thrush: Anthology of Verse by Negro Students*

Memphis: Malcolm-Roberts Publishing Company (1935)

$200

First edition. Text stapled and bound into boards, fine. A compilation of poems by students from traditionally black Southern colleges. Mostly unknown authors although several poems by J. Henderson Brooks appear. Poorly manufactured, this is an unusually nice copy. [BTC #33900]
5  **Stereotypical Racist Watercolor**  
$650  
Small watercolor of an African-American boy in straw hat hungrily contemplating a watermelon. Matted, framed and glazed. Unsigned. Image matted to approximately 4” x 3”. Unexamined out of the frame, the mat has a light stain on one corner, the image appears fine. A stereotypical but finely rendered image. Undated, our guess would be circa 1870-80. [BTC #364055]  

6  **Paul WILBERT**  
[Painting]: Untitled (Wedding Reception)  
[Haiti]: 2000  
$975  
Oil or acrylic on canvas. Approximately 16” x 20”. Signed by the artist and dated in 2000. An untitled work by Haitian artist Paul Wilbert (b. 1958). Noted for his portraits and pictures of children, this work of two couples dancing at a wedding reception is a fine example of Wilbert’s “Haitian primitive” and mannerist style. [BTC #365258]  

7  **WEISZ**  
*Humorous Watercolor of a Seductively Clad Woman Gauging the Temperature of Her Suitor*  
$350  
Small watercolor cartoon. Image is matted to approximately 6” x 8¾”, and framed. We have not had it out of the frame, but every indication is that it is fine. Although obviously a professional work, we have not yet been able to identify the artist beyond their surname. [BTC #83764]
8 Amiri BARAKA
[Program]: Slave Ship [Cover title: Slaveship]
$850
Octavo. [8]pp. Stapled green self-wrappers. Rubbed along a vertical fold, faint bookstore stamp on rear wrap, very good or better, gives information including a glossary of Yoruba terms used in the play and notes on the players. Laid in is a yellow printed 8½” x 11” sheet (folded, very good) with basic information about the play. Two variant programs for the Off-Broadway performance. Rare. The run only lasted for four performances. Despite that, Gilbert Moses won the 1970 Obie Award for Distinguished Direction. [BTC #386055]

9 Amiri BARAKA (Carl VAN VECHTEN)
Portrait Photograph of LeRoi Jones
New York: Carl Van Vechten 1962
$3000

10 Amiri BARAKA (James Baldwin)
New York: (Pantane Press) 1987
$1250
One card leaf folded to make six pages. Illustrated. Small stain on first page, else near fine. Contains Baraka’s printed eulogy for Baldwin, “Jimmy.” Signed by Baraka, his own copy. Also delivering tributes at the service were Toni Morrison and Maya Angelou, with a performance by Odetta. [With] An issue of the tabloid newspaper Unity that contains the first public appearance of the eulogy; once again Baraka’s copy, and Signed by him. Folded as issued, slight wear, near fine. OCLC locates two copies of the program. [BTC #344268]
11 Amiri BARAKA and Amina Baraka

[Proof of the cover art for]: Confirmation: An Anthology of African American Women

$200

An unfolded proof of the cover for the Quill paperback of this anthology edited by Amiri and Amina Baraka. Tack holes at the upper corners, two pieces of tape near the spine ends, an about very good example. Signed by Amiri Baraka on the rear cover. Probably unique thus. [BTC #81465]

12 Anthony BENEZET

Some Historical Account of Guinea, Its Situation, Produce and the general Disposition of its Inhabitants. With An inquiry into the Rise and Progress of the Slave-Trade, its Nature and lamentable Effects Also A Re-publication of the Sentiments of several Authors of Note, on this interesting Subject; particularly an Extract of a Treatise, by Granville Sharp

Philadelphia: Printed by Joseph Crukshank 1771

$1500

First edition. 12mo. 144pp., 53pp., (6pp) index (the Sharp extract is appended at the end with its own pagination). Contemporary full calf. Old ex-library copy with bookplate, small label on the spine, an old pocket on the rear fly, and a perforated stamp on the title page; chips on the front free endpaper, else a very good copy. An important account of the African slave trade by Benezet, a Philadelphia Quaker whose writings and activities stood as a model for future abolitionists. Sabin 4689. [BTC #370065]

13 (Blind Verse Writer) Irvin W. UNDERHILL


$450

First edition. Modest wear at the edges of the boards, very faint offsetting on two facing pages, a very good plus copy. A rare volume of affirmative poetry written by a sometime canal boat pilot who lost his eyesight at age 37. Among the poems are “Elegy to Dr. Booker T. Washington,” “To the Colored Soldiers,” and “A Dream of Dunbar.” Catalogue of the Blockson Collection #5098. Not in French or Work. [BTC #40164]
14 Thomas Monroe CAMPBELL
_The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer_
Tuskegee Institute AL: Tuskegee Institute Press (1936)
$950

First edition. Illustrated with photographs. Fine in a modestly worn, very good pictorial dustwrapper with a couple of very small chips on the front panel, and a bit of age-toning, but which is attractive and intact. This copy nicely Inscribed by the author: “Dr. Arthur Roper, Best wishes from T.M. Campbell. Tuskegee Inst. Ala. March 16, ’37.” The story of the Tuskegee experiment to bring agricultural education to African-American working farmers, told by the man who ran the program and who was the first black Agricultural Extension Agent in the U.S. The recipient, Dr. Arthur Roper, was the author of three titles of interest to African-Americans, all published by the University of North Carolina Press, perhaps the most notable being _The Tragedy of Lynching_. An interesting title, seldom found either in jacket, or inscribed, and with a nice association. [BTC #72732]

15 (Cab CALLOWAY)
_[Program]: The Cotton Club_
New York: The Cotton Club [1936]
$300

Program. Quarto. Stapled photographically illustrated wrappers. Vertically creased, center gathering (the center four pages) loose and ready to detach, very good. Features Cab Calloway and Bill (“Mr. Bojangles”) Robinson, as well as several scantily clad “Copper Colored Gals.” Signed by Calloway on the front wrap. [BTC #384108]

16 G.W. CARVER
_Bulletin No. 2, 1898. Experiments with Sweet Potatoes_
Tuskegee, Ala.: Normal School Steam Press 1898
$850


17 (Children)
Beatrice J. FLEMING and Marion J. PRYDE
_Distinguished Negroes Abroad_
$250

First edition. 272pp. Fine in bright and fresh near fine dustwrapper with a short tear and tiny nicks at the crown. An especially nice copy. [BTC #348483]
18 Everett N. CONLEY
A Slice of Black Living
Berlin, New Jersey: Conlam Enterprises (1985)
$225

19 (Cuisine)
Ethiopian and American Cook Book
(Asmara): Published by the National Literacy Campaign Organization / (Il Poligrafico) [no date - circa 1960?]
$275
First edition(?). Illustrated by Afework Mengesha. Octavo. 159, [1] pp. Illustrated wrappers. Bi-lingual, text in English and Amharic. Slight age-toning, small old price stamp on first blank, near fine. “This Cook Book is a result of the combined interest and contribution of a group of American and Ethiopian women in Addis Ababa and is meant to be helpful to Ethiopian women interested in experimenting with American-style cooking as well as Americans and other foreigners interested in trying their hand at the exotic Ethiopian dishes.” [BTC #373282]

20 (Cuisine)
Bob JEFFRIES
Soul Food Cook Book
$250
First edition. A few easily erasable pencil notations in the text else fine in near fine dustwrapper with some rubbing and a couple of tears. Advance Review Copy with slip laid in. Cookbook by a notable African-American chef from Alabama who catered for various celebrities and cooked in New York City. [BTC #354008]

21 Frederick DOUGLAS
Addresses of the Hon. W.D. Kelley, Miss Anna E. Dickinson, and Mr. Frederick Douglass, at a Mass Meeting, Held at National Hall, Philadelphia, July 6, 1863, for the Promotion of Colored Enlistments
Philadelphia: [Headquarters of Commission for United States Colored Troops] 1863
$1200
First edition. 8pp. Removed. Ex-library copy with generic stamps and numbers on first leaf, else very good. Douglas's speech is on pages 5-7. After praising the eloquence of the previous two speakers and despairing to equal them, he proceeds to do so and exceed them. [BTC #370071]
Hayes Considers Du Bois for a Slater Fund Award

22 [W.E.B. DU BOIS]
Rutherford B. HAYES
[Autograph Letter Signed]: To Harvard President Charles W. Eliot (27 March 1891)
Fremont, Ohio: 1891
$4500

Octavo. One page dated 27 March 1891 from “Spiegel Grove,” Hayes summer home in Fremont, Ohio. Light crease at the top right corner, near fine. Housed in a custom quarter-leather clamshell slipcase. A letter to Harvard President Charles Eliot, written in reply to Eliot’s recommendation “in behalf of the application of Du Bois for aid from the Slater Fund in pursuing his education.” W.E.B. Du Bois had just earned his Masters degree in history and sociology at Harvard and was convinced that “a careful training in a European University,” would be “indispensable to my greatest usefulness.” Both Eliot and Du Bois appealed directly to former President Hayes, who was then serving as Chair of John F. Slater Fund. Established in 1882 for the education of Freedmen in the South, the fund was specifically intended for individual African-Americans and schools devoted to industrial education. Du Bois’s application was thus both unprecedented and daring. Hayes himself had openly questioned whether blacks, especially “historical students,” could be trained in Europe. Despite these concerns, which he alludes to at the end of the letter, Hayes actively worked to help Du Bois win a $750 Slater fellowship that allowed Du Bois to study at the University of Berlin from 1892 to 1894, a period critical to Du Bois’s intellectual awakening. Upon his return in 1895, Du Bois became the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. An important letter that documents the crucial role played by Hayes and Eliot in the life of Du Bois. [BTC #346559]

23 W.E.B. DU BOIS
The Quest of the Silver Fleece
Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co. 1911
$5500

First edition. Bookplate of “The Wrights” on the front pastedown, and a tiny bit of wear at the crown, but near fine with the spine lettering easily readable, lacking the rare dustwrapper. Signed by the author on the front fly. The author’s first novel, and exceptionally uncommon signed. [BTC #107658]

24 W.E.B. DU BOIS
The Negro
New York: Henry Holt (1915)
$4000

First edition. Bookplate of “The Wrights” on the front pastedown, a little soiling, and a stray ink line on the rear board, else a near fine copy lacking the rare dustwrapper. Signed by the author. An exceptionally uncommon title published as a volume in the Home University Library. Scarce signed. [BTC #107659]
25 Paul Laurence DUNBAR
*Candle-Lightin’ Time*
New York: Dodd, Mead & Company 1902
$2500


26 Paul Laurence DUNBAR
*A Plantation Portrait*
New York: Dodd, Mead & Company (1905)
$425

First edition. 16mo. 50pp. Self-wrappers printed in red and gold. A couple of tiny tears to the untrimmed page edges, else fine. A very uncommon and fragile little volume. [BTC #324625]

27 (Education)
[Partially printed booklet]: *Arkansas School Register*
Arkansas: Ark. P. & L. Co. 1936
$250

Partially printed booklet for teachers in Arkansas. Tall quarto. Canvas and printed stiff card covers. [32]pp. An attendance and grade book for teachers, the front wrap records the handwritten notes of the teacher, F.D. Rollins. This particular copy is mostly filled out, used for a class of “Colored” primary school students in Luxora, Arkansas. Mostly used for attendance, the book records the names of the students and their guardians, their dates of birth, and their attendance records. [BTC #85274]

28 Luis F. EMILIO
*A Brave Black Regiment: History of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1863-65*
Boston: The Boston Book Company 1891
$650

First edition. Octavo. Blue cloth gilt. 410pp., 9 maps, plates, and extensive photographic illustrations. Owner’s embossed stamp, lacking the front fly, and frontispiece, and has some small loss of cloth along the top edge of the front gutter, and a little other wear to the cloth extremities, an about very good copy. Possibly the best book about black soldiers in the Civil War, and certainly the best account of the 54th Regiment (which was featured in the film *Glory*). An especially desirable title, the first edition is scarce. *Negro History: 1553-1903* #136. [BTC #25478]
29 **(Fashion)**

[Broadside]: Slick Black Colors Gray Hair Black in 1 Minute. Straightens Temporarily, Dresses and Imparts Black Color to the Hair
Chicago: Valmor Products Co. [circa 1920]

$350

Illustrated broadside on cardstock printed in black, orange, yellow, and halftones. Measuring 16” x 11”. Just about fine. Accompanied by a small sticker (3” in diameter) for the company's Sweet Georgia Brown Lucky Hair Fix. Although the drawing of the woman in the illustration appears white, Valmor aimed their beauty supplies at the African-American market and were consistent advertisers in magazines such as *Ebony*.

[BTC #365624]

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30 **Arthur Huff FAUSET**

*Black Gods of the Metropolis: Negro Religious Cults of the Urban North*
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania 1944

$475

First edition. 126pp., photographs. Ownership signature of Ruby Hulett Manly, modest fraying at the spine ends and corners, a slight stain on the edge of the title page, about very good. **Inscribed** by Fauset to Manly. Issued as Volume III in the Publications of the Philadelphia Anthropological Society, this is a study of black urban religious cults, with some emphasis on the United House of Prayer of Bishop Grace and Father Divine’s Peace Mission Movement. Fauset was the half-brother of Jessie Fauset and an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance in his own right. He contributed to *Opportunity, Fire!!* and Alain Locke's *The New Negro*. [BTC #363630]

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31 **(Fraternal Organization)**

*Constitution and By-Laws of the Young Men’s Industrial and Beneficial Association, Inc.*
Petersburg, Virginia: Young Men's Industrial and Beneficial Association, Inc. / (Owen Printing Company) 1946

$275

32  **Jessie FAUSET**  
*Comedy American Style*  
New York: Frederick A. Stokes 1933  
**$2000**  
First edition. Tiny spot on the spine, a just about fine copy lacking the rare dustwrapper. Fauset, one of the first female African-American graduates of Cornell, was a very influential critic and the most prolific novelist of the Harlem Renaissance. While her formal, proper writing derived from her old-style Philadelphia upbringing, she was a champion of the radical black novelists. As editor of *The Crisis* she published and encouraged George Schuyler, Jean Toomer, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Claude McKay. The last of the author’s four novels, her first, *There Is Confusion*, followed Toomer’s *Cane* as the second book of the Harlem Renaissance. [BTC #273252]

33  **Mercedes GILBERT**  
*Aunt Sara’s Wooden God*  
Boston: Christopher Publishing House (1938)  
**$3000**  
First edition. Foreword by Langston Hughes. 271 pp., frontispiece portrait of the author. Fine in a just about fine dustwrapper with a couple of tiny tears. A novel by a leading African-American actress who played the wife of Moses in the play *Green Pastures*, starred with Paul Robeson in the important Oscar Michaeux film *Body and Soul*, and starred in the play *Mulatto* for a year on Broadway. For those with more modern tastes, Gilbert can be heard singing on the soundtrack of David Lynch’s classic cult film *Eraserhead*. The author, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, set the novel in the rural South from whence she came. Hughes, in his introduction, compares this novel to Hurston’s *Jonah’s Gourd Vine* and George Henderson’s *Ollie Miss*. Gilbert’s collected works were recently compiled and edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Not in the *Catalogue of the Blockson Collection*. Rare in jacket, only the second copy we’ve seen thus. [BTC #364595]

34  **Dalton GILKES, Jr.**  
*Autograph Letter Signed from an African-American Factory Worker*  
**$275**  
Two pages. Quarto. Written on two sheets of United Wire and Supply Corp. of Providence, Rhode Island letterhead. Dated 12 June 1934. Addressed to “Nonnie,” apparently the writer’s fiancée. Folded as mailed, some modest age-toning and spots, else near fine. An upbeat letter almost entirely about the surprisingly good conditions in the factory where he worked building ice boxes and coolers. Most of what he worked on were ice boxes for Montgomery Ward, but he also spent a considerable amount of his working time building large industrial coolers for dairies, movie theaters, and restaurants. He mentions his bosses: “They are by far the nicest people I have ever worked for. The plant is small and well kept, nice washroom, soap, towels, hot water, clean toilets, ice water bubbles, and the men in charge are nice considerate fellows.” His salary: “I get 55¢ an hour and will get 60 after these 6 weeks and 5¢ after another six weeks.” [BTC #365192]
First Play by an African-American Woman

35 Angelina W. GRIMKÉ
Rachel: A Play in Three Acts
Boston: The Cornhill Company (1920)

First edition. Cloth and papercovered boards gilt. Slight erosion to a couple of spots along the edge of the fragile papercovered boards, and nominal foxing to the endpapers, else a fine, square copy, with the gilt spine-lettering faded but readable. Angelina Weld Grimké was named for her white great-aunt, Angelina Grimké Weld. As a young woman the latter, along with her sister, Sarah Grimké, left South Carolina for the North in the early 19th Century to avoid participating directly in the ownership of slaves. There they became well-known abolitionists and advocates of women’s rights. Angelina Grimké was the granddaughter of the sisters’ slave-owning brother, Henry, and his slave Nancy Weston. Rachel is generally considered the first published and produced play by an African-American woman, presented by the NAACP at the Myrtill Miner Normal School in Washington, DC in 1916, where Grimké was a gym and English teacher. It was also produced at the Neighborhood Theater in New York City and in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1917, and was first published in this edition in 1920. Alain Locke, in Plays of Negro Life (1927), said of Rachel, “Apparently the first successful drama written by a Negro and interpreted by Negro actors.” The NAACP production program said of the play, “This is the first attempt to use the stage for race propaganda in order to enlighten the American people relating to the lamentable condition of ten millions of Colored citizens in this free republic.” Exceptionally uncommon. [BTC #76226]

36 Harry Washington GREENE
Holders of Doctorates Among American Negroes
Boston: Meador (1946)

First edition. 275pp. Rear hinge repaired and some very faint dampstaining on the rear board else near fine in a bright and attractive dustwrapper, with a large though very faint dampstain on the rear panel. A group study and a listing of all of the (then) living African-Americans with doctoral degrees, cross-indexed by category of degrees and institution that awarded them. A nice copy of a unique resource. [BTC #25131]

37 Blaine GRAY
The Siren Trophies
Chicago: Celerity Print 1905

First edition. Full decorative stamped leather. 29pp., photographic portrait frontispiece, illustrated with attractive wood block prints by the author, printed in different colors throughout. Wear to the crown of the thin spine and a couple rings at the bottom of the front board, some light rubbing, sound and very good, internally fine. Nicely Inscribed by the author under his photograph: “With fond reflections of the pleasant moments spent over those siren trophies while in W.H.S.” Author’s letter press calling card laid in. Poetry, some sophisticated verse, others in dialect. Beyond his photograph (which portrays a handsome young man) we can find no biographical information on the author. As far as we can determine, the only known copy. Not in National Union Catalogue, French, Porter, Catalogue of the Blockson Collection, Work, OCLC, or any other standard reference. An attractive and intriguing little volume. [BTC #25267]
Bronze of an African Figure. [Circa 1925]

**$3500**

Bronze figure of a dancing African warrior, armed with shield and spear, unsigned and without obvious foundry information. Approximately 28” high by about 12” at the widest point, and basically two-dimensional, that is, about ½” at its deepest point. The dore bronze is finished on both sides, indicating that it was meant to be viewed from either side, thus it was probably intended as an architectural element in a frieze or as a room divider, and is not currently free standing (and would probably best be mounted on granite or marble). Weight is about 24 lbs. The muscular, stylized art deco vintage warrior is reminiscent of the portrayal of African natives generally associated with the Cotton Club, that is, both caricaturized and idealized simultaneously, and is possibly an original architectural feature of that or a similarly themed establishment. The expensive casting process almost certainly indicates that few of these were done, and they are commensurately scarce. Shipping at cost. [BTC #15386]
39 **Robert HAYDEN**  
(Aaron Douglas)  
*Figure of Time: Poems*  
Nashville, Tennessee: The Hemphill Press (1955)  
$2000

First edition. Modest age-toning at the extremities, else near fine in stapled wrappers as issued. Nicely *inscribed* by the author to a noted French scholar who specialized in African-American poetry: “To Jean Wagner with all good wishes – Robert Hayden, Nashville Sept. 25, 1958.” Additionally, Hayden has altered three lines of one of the printed poems, including changing one word. The art on the front wrapper is credited to “Aaron Douglas, artist-in-residence, Fisk University.” An exceptionally uncommon volume of poetry, many times scarcer than his first book, with a nice inscription, and a little known example of Douglas’s art. [BTC #88617]

40 **(Lorraine HANSBERRY)**  
*Program*: Freedom Associates of Philadelphia presents “Fiesta Del Negro”  
A Joint Observance of Negro History Week and The First Anniversary of the Newspaper “Freedom”  
$450

Stapled mimeographed wrappers. Four leaves printed rectos only. Some old folds, modest stain on last leaf, a nice, very good copy of a cheaply produced program. Among the participants were Hal Johnson, R. Nathaniel Dett, and Lorraine Hansberry, associate editor of *Freedom*. In the program notes biographies it is mentioned that Hansberry “… is an author and poet and has written extensively on the Colonial question. She also wrote a skit on the History of the Negro Newspaper.” Issued well before Hansberry became famous for her 1959 play *A Raisin in the Sun*. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC #362528]

41 **Charles F. HEARTMAN**  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi: Charles F. Heartman 1945  
$750

Three Newsletters from Heartman. Number One (January, 1945), Number Three (March, 1945), and Number Four (April, 1945). Each is one leaf folded to make four pages. Slight age-toning, else fine. Heartman was a sometimes prescient and always idiosyncratic bookseller who specialized in African-American material. The first issue of his News Sheet is almost solely taken up with his fascinating statement of purpose, titled “The Story”; the other two are largely lists of rare books from his collection. Very uncommon. [BTC #371394]
Signed by the Ultramagnetic MCs!

42 (Hip Hop)
David Levering LEWIS
_W.E.B. Du Bois: Biography of a Race, 1868-1919_
$650

First edition. Corners bumped, overall wear, very good in about very good, internally repaired dustwrapper. Monumental biography of the premiere architect of the American Civil Rights Movement. Warmly Inscribed by David Levering Lewis to Philadelphia African-American journalist James Spady. Additionally Inscribed to Spady by Du Bois's stepson David G. Du Bois. Additionally Inscribed to Spady (in the appropriate style) by members of the important pioneer hip-hop group the Ultramagnetic MCs, including all of the primary members: Kool Keith, Ced Gee, T.R. Love, and Moe Love. Additionally Inscribed by two or three others that are less easy to decipher, but one that may be the hip hop star Rahzel a.k.a. Rahzel M. Brown (here signed, we think, as "Rahzel M. X.") who was associated with the group in the early 1990s. The band is known for their hits _Funk Your Head Up_ (1992), _Pimp Fiction_ (1997), and _Smack My Bitch Up_ (1998). An unlikely confluence of signatures. [BTC #343340]

43 Adolphus JOHNSON
_The Silver Chord_
Philadelphia: (The Author) [no date - circa 1915]
$1500

First edition. 48pp., frontispiece portrait. Hinges reinforced, front board stained, a fair only copy. Signed by the author beneath the frontispiece. Laid in is a brief two-page autograph note Signed ("Adolphus Johnson") dated 23 August 1921 from a hotel in Long Branch, NJ to a female correspondent in Point Pleasant, NJ excusing himself from not visiting her, but asking her to write, "because I want to be with you." Little is known about the author; this is his only volume of poetry. Exceptionally uncommon. OCLC lists only eight copies of this title in American libraries. [BTC #48343]
44 (Eliza HOLLOWAY)
[Cover title]: Alliance Rescue Club Inc.
Alliance, Ohio: Alliance Rescue Club, Inc. [1944?]
$275
First edition. 16mo. 16pp., vignette frontispiece portrait of Holloway. Printed gold wrappers. Name inside front cover, paint stain on the front wrap, some rubbing and wear, a good copy. Constitution of an African-American women’s social club. Scarce. [BTC #348960]

45 Luther Porter JACKSON
Free Negro Labor and Property Holding in Virginia, 1830-1860
New York: [Published for the American Historical Association] Appleton-Century (1942)
$350
First edition. 270pp. Fine in an attractive, very good dustwrapper with a modest hole on the spine and a faint dampstain at the foot. An exceptionally uncommon title, a heavily documented study by an African-American historian, very seldom found and almost never in jacket. [BTC #38571]

46 Charles KENYATTA
Death: “A Rumor in our Communities” [cover title]: Harlem’s Free Press: “Revolt! Buy Shotguns! Declare All-Out War!”
New York: (Charles Kenyatta) 1971
$275
Presumed first, and probably only edition. Quarto. Mimeographed and stapled self-wrappers. [6]pp. Fairly sizable but faint stain, an about near fine copy of this essay by Kenyatta, a body guard and protégé of Malcolm X who became a Harlem street orator after the latter’s death. He and his Mau Mau Society were investigated byHUAC for his supposed threats to kill moderate civil rights leaders. Scarce and ephemeral, probably handed out in the streets. The wrappers feature inflammatory headlines and photos from two New York newspapers from May, 1971. No copies in OCLC. [BTC #336054]

47 John Mercer LANGSTON
From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol: or, The First and Only Negro Representative in Congress from the Old Dominion
Hartford Connecticut: American Publishing Company (1894)
$1200
First edition. 534pp., photographs and illustrations. Contemporary owner name, top corners bumped, and the paper over the front hinge neatly repaired, else a nice, near fine copy of this heavy volume, the autobiography of Langston, born a slave, emancipated upon the death of his plantation owner father, later graduating from Oberlin College. He served as Minister Resident in Haiti and was for a time President of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute before being voted to the House of Representatives, the first black man to represent Virginia. The author Langston Hughes was named in his honor. [BTC #50847]
Boston: Dexter S. King 1842-1843; 1838  
$6500  
Elephant folio. Measuring 18½” x 24¾”. 46 complete issues bound in one volume: Volume 6, no. 41 - Volume 8, no. 4; April 7, 1842 through May 25, 1843; Whole no. 309 - 368. (Lacks 13 issues: volume 7: nos. 14, 22, 26-28, 34-37, 40, 47, 50, and Volume 8, no. 3). With four additional titles (five single issues) bound in at the rear. Small owner’s signature “F. Bailey” in neat ink on most numbers at the top edge. In reference to the first missing issue (no. 14), a manuscript note (presumably by Bailey) on the preceding number reads in part, “must have been miscarried.” Contemporary quarter calf, marbled boards, with clear tape on the spine and corners, very good with scattered spotting. A very scarce run of the anti-slavery newspaper of the Massachusetts Abolition Society. Published weekly (every Thursday), each issue consists of four large pages of letterpress. First published simultaneously in New York City and Boston, from December, 1841 - March 1842, and thereafter in Boston only. Bound in at the rear are four related newspapers: National Anti-Slavery Standard (one issue: volume 3, number 1. June 9, 1842); The Liberator (two issues: volume 8, numbers 37 and 42. September 14, 1838 and October 19, 1838); Herald of Freedom (one issue: volume 8, number 45. December 30, 1842); and Christian Investigator (one issue: volume 1, number 1. June 1, 1842). [BTC #348033]

**49 John W. LEWIS**  
*The Life, Labors and Travels of Elder Charles Bowles, of the Free Will Baptist Denomination*  
Watertown (New York): Ingalls & Stowell’s Steam Press 1852  
$400  
50  **Claude McKAY**  
*Home to Harlem*  
New York: Harper and Brothers 1928  
**$2500**  
First edition. Contemporary pencil name front fly, light wear at the spine ends, but the lilac spine lettering brighter than usual, near fine in just about fine Aaron Douglas-illustrated dustwrapper. A very nice copy of this novel about a soldier returning to the temptation of Harlem night life after the horrors of the Great War. [BTC #378948]

51  **George Marion McCLELLAN**  
*Old Greenbottom Inn and Other Stories*  
(Lexington, Kentucky: The Author 1906)  
**$800**  

52  **(Military)**  
**William CHENERY**  
*The Fourteenth Regiment Rhode Island Heavy Artillery (Colored) in the War to Preserve the Union, 1861-1865*  
Providence: Snow and Farnham 1898  
**$500**  
First edition. 343pp., frontispiece, one engraving and many portraits (of white officers). Later owner name on the first blank page, a couple of small bumps on the front board, and some very faint spotting, a nice, very good plus copy. The unit was redesignated the 11th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery and saw action mostly around New Orleans. A bright copy of an uncommon book. [BTC #73138]
**53** Francis JOHNSON  
(Varincenzo BELLINI)  
**[Sheet Music Score]: Philadelphia Gray’s Quick Step; From Bellini’s Opera I Puritani; as Performed by Johnson’s Brass Band**  
Philadelphia: Fiot, Meignen & Co. [circa 1837]  
**$2750**  
First edition. Piano score. Folio. [4]pp., with a lithographic illustration of Captain Cadwalader in front of his troops on the front cover. Disbound, with creasing and tiny sewing holes at the spine, moderate foxing mostly to the rear blank cover, about very good. Composed and arranged for piano by Francis “Frank” Johnson, an internationally renowned African-American musician and composer from Philadelphia. Johnson was a virtuoso of the keyed Kent bugle and the violin, the first black musician to publish sheet music (over 200 scores), and the first American musician to tour Europe with a band. Johnson’s Brass Band, initially composed entirely of African-Americans, was also the first to integrate with white players. In 1837 Queen Victoria gave Johnson a silver bugle as a present for his band’s performance celebrating her ascension to the throne. The “Philadelphia Gray’s Quick Step,” a patriotic march dedicated to Captain George Cadwalader, was an immediate sensation that “took the city and nation by storm.” Johnson used the Aria “Suoni La Tromba,” from Bellini’s I Puritani di Scozia [The Puritans of Scotland] as its thematic basis. Scarce. OCLC locates only six copies. [BTC #364465]

**54** (Marian ANDERSEN)  
**[Program]: Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra 1937-38 Fifth Season [with Broadsheet]: S. Hurok Presents the Sensation of the Century Marian Anderson: American Negro Contralto**  
Dayton: (Blum Printing Company) 1937  
**$300**  
Octavo. 14pp. Stapled printed wrappers. Tiny tear, very near fine. A program for the Orchestra’s season and specifically for a performance by them with the Inland Children’s Chorus on December 21, 1937, and advertising the following concert featuring Andersen, the rear cover is a full picture of her. Laid in is an attractive broadsheet, measuring 6” x 9”, promoting Andersen with glowing reviews on the verso. The broadsheet is fine. [BTC #386012]

**55** (Ruby Pickens TARTT, Harold COURLANDER, and Emma COURLANDER)  
**[Vinyl record]: Ring Games: Line Games and Play Party Songs of Alabama**  
New York: Folkways Records 1953  
**$450**  
Original 10” vinyl 33 1/3 RPM record with wraparound illustrated paper label, interior sleeve, booklet and cardboard divider. Overall near fine or better with a three-inch split along the bottom of the outer sleeve and the owner label of the musician, author, and storytelling coach Douglas Lipman on the front wrap of the booklet. A collection of recordings of African-American children in Alabama singing various “game songs.” According to the accompanying eight-page booklet, which includes six additional photos: “These games are found only in the rural sections of Alabama -- most frequently in the one-room school houses where the mid-morning recess play is held out-of-doors.” The lyrics and directions to perform each song are included in the booklet, along with the location of each recording: Lilly’s Chapel School in York; East York School in East York; and Brown’s Chapel School and Pilgrim Church School in Livingston. The recording were made by Harold and Emma Courlander with help from Ruby Pickens Tartt. A wonderful collection of field recordings of African-American children of Alabama during the early 1950s. [BTC #375990]
56 (Billy TAYLOR)
Liber Anni 1938. Dunbar High School
Washington, DC: Dunbar High School 1938
$2500

Quarto. Black leather-grained cloth embossed in red. Tear to the cloth along the spine has been professionally repaired, else very good. Yearbook for the important traditionally and predominantly African-American high school in Washington, DC that has numbered among its graduates Jean Toomer, Carter G. Woodson, Kelly Milly, Mary Church Terrell, Sterling Brown, and Benjamin O. Davis. This is the senior class yearbook for Jazz legend Billy Taylor. The book is Signed by much of the faculty, and most of the senior class, including Taylor (“Bill Taylor”), at his senior picture. In a contemporary hand, the recipient has written “piano artist” by his picture. Taylor was also picture in group shots of the orchestra and orchestra club. Taylor was a towering figure in jazz history as well as influential jazz pianist and composer. As the house pianist at Birdland, he played with most of the jazz greats of his era. [BTC #386134]

57 The New Regime
Chicago: Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians [circa 1969]
$450

First edition. Quarto. (56)pp. Mimeographed sheets of various colors side-stapled with stiff paper wrappers. About near fine with some wear at the extremities, a few scattered tears, and a spot of dampstaining on the front wrap. A magazine published by the Chicago-based African-American non-profit group the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) founded in 1965 for “nurturing, performing, and recording serious, original music.” The writings here relate the group’s philosophy, the state of jazz music, and a list of members, along with a mix of poetry and artwork. The contributors include Lester Bowie and Joseph Jarman, both members of the celebrated avant-garde jazz band Art Ensemble of Chicago from the late 1960s to the 1990s. Other contributors include Maurice B. McIntyre, Leo Smith, Henry Threadgill, Anthony Braxton, Bruce Rutlin, Claude Delcloo, and John E. Powell. [BTC #364746]

58 John A. LOMAX and Alan LOMAX
(Leadbelly)
Negro Folk Songs as Sung by Lead Belly
New York: The Macmillan Company 1936
$250

First edition. Small quarto. Tan cloth lettered in red. Modest age-toning on the spine, some foxing on the title page and frontispiece, else near fine lacking the dustwrapper. Uncommon title. [BTC #382796]

59 S. COLERIDGE-TAYLOR
Twenty-Four Negro Melodies: Transcribed for the Piano
Boston: Oliver Ditson (1905)
$450

The Musgrave Report

60 [Richard MUSGRAVE]
A Progress Report Standing Committee to Develop The Afro-American Studies Department 22 September 1969
[Cambridge]: Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University 1969
$2500
First edition. Quarto. 32pp. Stapled wrappers. Soiling on front wrap, note to a prominent African-American editor from an unidentified person on front wrap: “PWP - Did I send you this already? DJ.” Very good or better. An important report also known as The Musgrave Report (after committee chair Ralph Musgrave) that presented and finally established the Afro-American Studies Program at Harvard, and announced the seven new courses to be offered, as well as the first nine faculty members of the Department (Dr. Ewart Guiney, Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Mr. Fred Clifton, Dr. Azinna Nwafor, Dr. Orlando Patterson, Professor Richard A. Long, Professor J. Newton Hill, Mr. Hayward Henry, and Mr. Harold R. Washington). The committee also proposed the establishment of a W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research. Rare. OCLC locates a single copy, in the Archives of Harvard University. [BTC #384575]

61 Albert MURRAY
The Spyglass Tree
New York: Pantheon (1991)
$750
First edition. Fine in fine dustwrapper. The author’s own copy, Signed by him, as well as noted on the front fly in his hand: “Author’s Corrections. File Copy. Please return to Author.” Additionally marked in his hand on the half-title: “Author’s 1st Copy.” Murray has marked up the text of the book in numerous places. Semi-autobiographical novel of a young black boy growing up in the South. [BTC #346494]

62 Rev. C.W. MOSSELL, A.M., B.D.
Toussaint L’Ouverture, The Hero of Saint Domingo, Soldier, Statesman, Martyr; or, Hayti’s Struggle, Triumph, Independence, and Achievements
Lockport, NY: Ward & Cobb 1896
$1200
First edition. 484, x pp., folding map. Contemporary owner name of William H. Beckett, former Grand Master of the Pennsylvania Prince Hall Mason Grand Lodge, and gift inscription from his sister to Beckett, hinges neatly and minimally repaired, spine lettering dull, and slight wear to the spine ends, a solid, very good or a little better copy of a now very uncommon title. The biography of L’Ouverture by a noted African-American clergyman and missionary. [BTC #71859]
63  (North Dakota)

[Broadsheet]: Larimore! The Greatest Railroad Center of Northern Dakota! The Only Point Having Two Competing Lines of Railroads in Northern Dakota, Except Fargo...

[No place - St. Louis?]: A. Gast & Co. 1882

$7500

Broadsheet. Measuring 10¾” x 14”. Slight irregular folds, tiny splits, a small and light stain, still about near fine. One side is text in various interesting typefaces to promote the newly founded city, the verso displays a map of Larimore and a caricature of a black schoolmaster pointing to the city, while a half dozen young black boys carry on happily and mischievously. An unusual western promotional broadsheet with blunt black caricatures. The map is displayed as a wall map in a school, the schoolmaster holds a book that reads “Look here, look there, look way over yonder at the rising young city of Larimore.” The books that the children are brandishing also contain praise for Larimore. OCLC locates a single copy, at the Denver Public Library; not in American Memory. [BTC #349225]
64  **Gloria NAYLOR**  
*The Women of Brewster Place*  
$550

First edition. Fine in fine, price-clipped dustwrapper. Advance Review Copy with slip and publisher’s material laid in. A very nice copy of the author’s elusive first book. [BTC #1613]

65  **Elinor White NEELEY**  
*A Book of Wisdom and Knowledge: Religious and Secular Knowledge*  
Chicago: Binns & Binns Printing Company 1956  
$400

First edition. Octavo. 42pp. Stapled textured wrappers. The wraps lightly toned and rubbed with two tiny stray ink marks, near fine. A compilation of religious and motivational texts designed to “bring the Negro people out of utter darkness into the light.” Scriptural quotations are liberally peppered with the author’s own, occasionally eccentric observations; includes a section on “The Future of the Negro” in which the author quotes Marcus Garvey. With a frontispiece portrait of the author who ran for mayor of Robbins, Illinois on an all-woman ticket in 1953. Rare. OCLC locates only one copy. [BTC #354843]

66  **S.P. ORLANDO**  
*The “Great Society” Fiasco – A Strident Protest – Plus An Envisioned, Basically Humane Confrontation*  
Port Jefferson Station, NY: S.P. Orlando 1967  
$350

First edition. Quarto. Canvas backed mimeographed sheets in printed stiff wrappers. 82pp. A little soiling and wear, a very good or better example of this self-published, radical political manifesto by an African-American about race and society, including some corresponding poetry. Exceptionally scarce, presumably this enjoyed little distribution beyond the author’s own efforts. [BTC #79946]

67  **G.K. OSEI**  
*The Truth about Rastafarians*  
Jamaica, Queens, NY: Tastee Pattie Corp. / The House of a Million Earrings [circa 1979]  
$380

First American edition. Octavo. 28pp., illustrated. Stapled illustrated yellow wrappers. General overall soiling to the wrappers, very good. OCLC seems to locate only the London edition of the same year. [BTC #347517]
68 William L. PATTERSON
Ben Davis: Crusader for Negro Freedom & Socialism. With a chronology and bibliography of the life and writings of Benjamin J. Davis prepared by Dr. Oakley C. Johnson
$200
First edition. Stapled wrappers. 48pp. Fine. A superb association copy, with a nearly full-page Inscription from Patterson before the date of publication to Oakley and Mary-Lee Johnson. Johnson prepared the chronology and bibliography in this book. One small correction to the bibliography, almost certainly made by Johnson. [BTC #85224]

69 John H. PAYNTER
Fugitives of the Pearl
Washington, DC: Associated Publishers (1930)
$700
First edition. Foreword by E.D.W. Jones. A couple of tiny spots to the boards else fine in an attractive, very good or better dustwrapper with two modest chips towards the center of the spine and some slight wear at the extremities. Author's second book, and first novel, a depiction of character and tenacity in slavery days. Very scarce in jacket. [BTC #25251]

70 Anna Deveare SMITH
[Broadside collage]: You are Invited to the Culminating Event of an Acting Workshop Conceived and Directed by Anna DeVeare Smith: Let's Go to Market or: With the Intent to Perform
New York: Anna Deveare Smith (1981)
$350
Printed collage. Approximately 8¼" x 10½". Folded for mailing, near fine. Accompanied by original envelope postmarked in 1981 and addressed to poet Michael Benedikt. A college incorporating two images and cursive lettering, presumably all by Smith. Handwritten note by Smith to Benedikt: “Hi Michael, I hope ambition isn’t a hallucinogen. Come to this, I’d love to see you. Anna.” Smith is a playwright, actress, and author. She has been nominated for Tony Awards as both an actress and a playwright, as well as for a Pulitzer Prize, and she won the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding One-Person Show two years in a row. An attractive and ephemeral collage from relatively early in the career of the MacArthur Genius Award winner. We were unable to locate other copies. [BTC #361756]

71 J. Farley RAGLAND
A Little Slice of Living
(Richmond, VA: The Author 1953)
$200
First edition. Stapled wrappers. Introduction by Dr. Robert C. Daniel, President of Virginia State University. Light chipping at the extremities of the wraps, a very good copy of this fragile pamphlet. Fourth of the five books of poetry by a South Boston, Virginia pharmacist who attended V.S.U., Hampton Institute, and Howard University. Signed by the author. Scarce. [BTC #36644]
One octavo leaf, reportedly removed from a 16th Century Bible (we received it in its current state), with a handwritten moral anecdote about a slave and his master. Edges a bit rough, removed from the Bible, still a good example of an anecdote we are not familiar with. Despite the provenance of the anecdote, it appears to be in a mid-18th Century hand, perhaps circa 1750. In full: “The Tyrant reproved by his Slave — A poor West Indian Negro, employed as a domestic in the house of his Master who had purchased him, have bought a trifling Article of a fellow-Negro, who had procured it by Clandestine means, was detected with the property about him & therefore, ordered by his Master to be very severely whipped. After he had received the punishment, he said to the Officer who inflicted it: Why you no flog White man? So we do; answered the Officer, when they buy Stolen goods knowing them to be Stolen. The Negro replied: — There stand my Massa: why you no flog him as you flog poor me: he buy me – he know me Stole — An Anecdote communicated by a Sailor.” [BTC #96570]
75  An Inventory & Appraisal of the personal property of Allen McWalker ... of Upson County, [Georgia]  
$550  
One legal size journal leaf, handwritten on both sides. Just about fine. A contemporary recorded copy of an appraisal done in 1851 of McWalker’s property including 18 slaves. The descriptions are interesting in themselves and enlightening on the value of slaves, including: “Clarissa a young Negro woman and her infant $800, Taylor a boy Clarissa’s child – sick $100, Eliza a Negro woman $600, Jim a badly diseased boy Eliza’s Child $0.” Legible and in fine condition. [BTC #386127]

76  [Broadside or sign]:  
For Colored Shoes Only  
[No place: no publisher no date]  
$1500  
Approximately 11” x 12½”. Black lettering on orange cardstock. Slight wear at the corners and a little rubbing, else about fine. Printed in deep black probably from wooden display type. No publication information of any kind but probably circa 1940 - 1950. We’ve never seen another example of this particular sign, presumably it was printed for a local shoe shine (as opposed to mass produced). [BTC #362657]
77 (Solidarity)  
(Poster): National March at the U.N. Black Solidarity Day  
November 5, 1979 Black people charge genocide  
$550  
Poster. Measuring 18¾” x 24¼”. Shrink wrapped on cardboard. Some modest light stains, creases and a phone number and ticket price handwritten on the poster, about very good. A call for a general strike featuring images of Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., cops, klansmen, and a photo of the shackled Republic of New Africa 11.  
[BTC #335432]

78 (Tennessee)  
(S.M. CLARK)  
(Poster): For  
Councilman City At  
Large. Dr. S.M. Clark  
Candidate for Councilman... Elections Nov. 13-27, 1937  
[Knoxville, Tennessee]: 1937  
$300  
Poster on stiff card stock, printed in brown. Approximately 10¼” x 12½”. Faint creases at the corners, and very slight soiling, near fine. Text of the poster surrounds a portrait of Dr. Clark, who headed the effort to create the Negro Wing at Knoxville General Hospital in 1933. Scarce.  
[BTC #83642]

79 Mary Church TERRELL  
A Colored Woman in a White World  
Washington, DC: Ransdell, Inc. - Publishers (1940)  
$500  
First edition. Cloth boards. 437pp., frontispiece portrait. Corners a little bumped and rubbed, some light spotting on the spine, a very good or a bit better copy of the very uncommon first edition of the author’s autobiography. Terrell graduated from Oberlin College in 1884, one of the first African-American women awarded a college degree. She became a high school teacher and principal, and was later appointed to the District of Columbia Board of Education, the first black woman to hold such a position. She was nationally known both for her support of women’s suffrage and her opposition to racial segregation. She was also one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.  
[BTC #73131]

80 Walter E. TODD  
Gathered Treasures  
Washington, DC: Murray Bros. Printing Co. 1912  
$750  
[BTC #339000]
Inscribed to the model for the heroine of the book

82 Carl VAN VECHTEN

Nigger Heaven
New York: Alfred A. Knopf 1926
$4000

First edition. Some chipping to the cloth at the crown, front hinge neatly restored, still a sound, very good copy lacking the rare dustwrapper.

This copy Inscribed to Dorothy Peterson: “Carl Van Vechten to his friend Dorothy Peterson. July 25, 1926.” A novel about a young couple in Harlem, set amid the cabarets and soirees of the Harlem Renaissance, which has been controversial ever since it was published because of its title. However, Van Vechten, who was white, was tireless in his support of African-American artists and writers even after the glamour of the Renaissance, which had drawn so many white intellectuals to Harlem, had waned. The recipient, Dorothy Peterson, was the model for the book’s female heroine. Peterson co-founded both the Harlem Experimental Theatre and the Harlem Suitcase Theatre, and her home was one of Harlem’s most important and well-attended literary salons. She also devoted herself to collecting manuscripts of Harlem Renaissance notables, and eventually helped Van Vechten donate the material that was the basis for the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters at Yale University. She was a sponsor of the short-lived but influential periodical Fire!!, and was also reputed to be “the one Afro-American woman [Jean] Toomer [who soon after married a white woman] was once thought to care about” (Berry, p.214). A spectacular association copy. [BTC #73295]

Inscribed by Vaux to Prince Saunders

83 Roberts VAUX

Memoirs of the Life of Anthony Benezet
Philadelphia: Published by James P. Parke / Merritt, Printer 1817
$6500

First edition. 12mo. [8], 136pp. Lacking the front board and frontispiece, rear board detached but present, pages toned but uncut, wear along the spine, good plus. Housed in a half morocco clamshell case. A marvelous association copy, Inscribed by the author on the title page: “Prince Saunders with the Author’s respects.” The Library Company of Philadelphia has six works by Prince Saunders, some inscribed by him to Philadelphia abolitionists, but we have not found a single copy of any book presented to him or known to have been in his library. Born in New England, Saunders was an African-American scholar who went to England. There he met William Wilberforce, who encouraged him to go to Haiti. Saunders became the confidant of Haitian Emperor Christophe, and wrote The Haytian Papers. The following year he came to Philadelphia, where he met several anti-slavery leaders including Roberts Vaux, a noted Philadelphia-born jurist and abolitionist. “Polished and witty, he became a confidant of Christophe, vaccinated his children, and was entrusted by him with an embassy to England. Saunders was impressed with the black king and his black kingdom. To express this feeling he edited the Haytian Papers, a translation and commentary of the Code Henri… In 1818 Saunders came to Philadelphia … and made the acquaintance of the Philadelphia anti-slavery leaders. One of the most important of these was William Rawle … Another was Roberts Vaux, a tireless Quaker man-of-good-works, to whom Saunders wrote…” LCP, Negro History 1553-1903 #74 (being an 1822 ALS to Vaux). [BTC #362074]
“Cast Your Buckets”

84  Booker T. WASHINGTON

Autograph Notes for his Emancipation Day Address, January 1, 1895

$35,000

Four leaves of notes in the hand of Booker T. Washington, unsigned, written on the rectos of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute stationery, and headed in his hand: “Emancipation Address Montgomery, Ala.” and dated “Jan. 1 ’95.” The pages are of irregular sizes, apparently culled from scrap paper around his office, and are pinned together with an old straight pin.

Washington was a talented improvisational speaker, and rarely wrote his speeches out whole, delivering them from notes and talking points such as these – usually a list of phrases that would presumably trigger an idea or anecdote. This particular speech however, was an important precursor to Washington’s landmark “Atlanta Compromise Speech.” On page four of these notes, appears the phrase “Cast down bucket,” wording that nine months later would become the essence of the catch phrase that symbolized one of the most important speeches ever delivered by an African-American. An exceptionally important artifact presaging a pivotal moment, not only in black history, but in the history of America. [BTC #84697]
85 Richard Wright
(Printed title): 1. A hitherto unpublished manuscript by Richard Wright being a continuation of ‘Black Boy’
2. Notes preliminary to a full study of the work of Richard Wright by Constance Webb
[No place]: (Constance Webb 1947)
$3750

First edition. Unprinted stapled wrappers, mimeographed sheets. 150pp. The staples have pulled through, and the wraps and the first and last couple of pages have become detached but are still present. Some old tape repairs on the first and last page are unsightly, but have little effect on the text. The first 125 pages are devoted to the Wright novel, the final 25 pages to Constance Webb’s notes. On the title page is the printed note: “Strictly private circulation. Each copy is numbered and is not to be sold or exchanged. Copy No. [handwritten] 500.” In pencil at the top of the page is a note in the hand of bibliographer Bill French: “It is doubtful that 500 copies were made.” Wright gave one of his eventual biographers, Constance Webb, permission to publish the second part of his autobiography Black Boy, which had been dropped from the original by the publisher, in a limited, mimeographed edition. (Webb’s biography of Wright was not begun in earnest until 1962, and not published until 1968.) A rarity – copies used to occasionally surface in the rare book trade, but we have not seen another for many years now. [BTC #68958]

86 Richard Wright
[Facsimile Letter]: June 20th 1946. My dear Friend: One way of describing what is happening in the world today…
[No place - Paris?]: (Les Nouvelles Epitres) 1946
$2000

First edition. One leaf folded to make four quarto pages. Printed in blue ink, in a facsimile of Wright’s hand, and signed in facsimile at the conclusion. On this copy Wright has Signed his name below his facsimile signature as well. The cheap paper is very slightly browned, else fine. A letter exploring the living conditions and struggles of American Negroes faced with the increased mechanization of labor. Rare. OCLC records no copies. The only copy we have seen. [BTC #83671]

87 Richard Wright
Puissance Noire [Black Power]
Paris: Correa Buchet & Chastel (1955)
$2000

First French edition, issued a year after the American. Pages a little browned else fine in wrappers as issued. Inscribed by the author to important photographer and author Giselle Freund: “To Giselle with all my very best wishes. Sincerely yours, Dick. March 21, 1956 Paris.” Wright’s observations of the African Gold Coast, seldom found inscribed. [BTC #67676]
Previously Unknown African-American Confederate Imprint

[Broadside]: Rules, Regulations & By Laws for the better management of the Sabbath School of the State Street M.E. Church
Mobile, [Alabama]: (State Street M.E. Church)
March 17, 1865
$15,000

Broadside. Approximately 6” x 13”. Text printed within decorative rules. Old folds, several small tears, chip on the upper right hand corner confined to the margin, about very good. Pencil signature at the bottom of “W P Scott Esq.” and on the rear is the pencil signature of “Mrs. Julia W.P. Scott.” A list of eight articles of rules and regulations for an African-American church in Mobile during the Civil War, signed in print at the bottom by the “Committee and Framers”: Thomas H. Raymond, Samuel Wilson, Fenton Jackson, Chas. Blackledge, John W. Henderson, and Emile Henry. Mobile surrendered on April 12th of 1865 three days after the surrender of Lee at Appomattox Courthouse and a little less than a month after this broadside was printed.

The State Street A.M.E. Zion Church, still in existence, is the oldest documented Methodist church building in Alabama. It is also one of two African-American churches founded in the Methodist tradition in Mobile prior to the American Civil War. Founded in 1829 as the African Church of the City of Mobile, the original building burned and the current building was erected in 1854. By 1855 the church had a congregation of 550 members, making it one of the most successful African American churches in Alabama. We are aware of only one other Confederate African-American imprint, an 1862 defense of slavery by a slave published in Atlanta in 1862 which seems dubious. Not in Parrish & Willingham. Confederate Imprints. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC #370198]