American history through the Civil War and British literature through early Modernism are particular strengths of The Rosenbach’s rare book and manuscript collection. The purchase of the manuscripts and correspondence of the modernist poet Marianne Moore in the late 1960s brought many 20th century writers and artists into the collection. Although African and African American books and manuscripts were not a focus of the Rosenbach brothers' collecting, or of the Rosenbach until recently, many writers, poets, and notable figures of African and African American heritage can be found here. This Collections Guide includes all manuscripts, books, documents, artwork, and photographs with Black authorship or that depict specific, named Black individuals. Figures of mixed ancestry whose background includes African heritage such as William Apess, Alexandre Dumas, and Robert and Elizabeth Barret Browning (whose Black ancestry is posited in the joint biography *Dared and Done* by Julia Markus, 1995) are also included. For ease of finding all African and African American creators and subjects are bolded.

Multiple areas in Rosenbach collections cover other subjects in which Africans and African Americans appear and which also may be of interest to researchers. These are particularly our historical collections and Abolitionist literature. A Collections Guide for those materials is forthcoming.

This collections guide will be updated periodically to reflect new acquisitions and further cataloging of the Rosenbach collections. For more information on any item listed on this guide, please contact us at https://rosenbach.org/research/make-an-inquiry/. For information about on-site research, or to request an appointment to see specific materials, visit http://rosenbach.org/research/make-anappointment/

**A 831s**

**Apess, William (1798–1839)**

*A son of the forest: the experience of William Apes [sic], a native of the forest, written by himself.* 2nd ed., revised and corrected. New York: Published by the author, 1831.

**Incun 469a**

**Apuleius (Lucius Apuleius Madaurensis) (c. 124 – c. 170 CE)**

*Opera.* Rome: In domo Petri de Maximis [Conradus Sweynheym and Arnoldus Pannartz], [28 Feb. 1469].

**MML 1505**

**Asfa Yilma, Princess (1875–1945)**


From the library of Marianne Moore.
Baldwin, James (1924–1987)
“Sweet Lorraine,” Esquire v. 72 no. 5 (Nov. 1969).
An article of Baldwin’s reminiscences of Lorraine Hansberry.

MML 0618
From the library of Marianne Moore.

Olumbe Bassir (1919–2001)
MML 0101
From the library of Marianne Moore.

Belafonte, Harry (1927-)
V:04:03
Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1968.
1 folder (3 leaves and 2 press clippings)
Belafonte was guest host of The Tonight Show when Moore was a guest on 7 February 1968.

2006.4460.001
Vase, glass: Cleveland, Ohio: E.O. Brody Co.
between 1958 and 1972
Given by Harry Belafonte to Marianne Moore.

Berghaus, Albert, fl. 1869–1880, attributed artist
81.6-81.12
Emperor Shields & Lieutenant Coppick
Pencil and grey wash drawing on brown wove paper.
Scene from the trial of the participants in John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry, showing Shields Green (Emperor Shields), one of the five African Americans in the group, with co-defendant Edwin Coppoc. Published in Frank Leslie's illustrated newspaper, 5 Nov. 1859.

Browning, Elizabeth Barret (1806 – 1861)
2006.4460.001
“Only a Curl”: Autograph manuscript, signed, 1847.
Fair copy of a poem on the death of a child, written at the request of a mother who sent a lock of his hair.

Browning, Robert (1812 – 1889)
EL3.B8851 MS1
“Helen’s Tower”: autograph manuscript, London, 1870.
Manuscript poem accompanied by an autograph letter signed to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava.

Campanella, Roy (1921 – 1993)
MML F3.24
From the library of Marianne Moore.
Cary, Lorene (1956 -)
Papers,
5 boxes
Research materials, notes, manuscripts, typescripts, and proofs for Cary’s memoir *Black ice*; her novels *The price of a child* and *Pride*; and her young adult book about the Underground Railroad, *FREE!* Also includes newspaper clippings about *The price of a child.*
On deposit

Custis, John (1678-1749)
**AMs 788/12**
Document and autograph letter signed: Williamsburg, Va., 1747 Feb. 3.
Father of Martha Washington’s first husband, Daniel Parke Custis.
Manumission papers for his son by an enslaved woman, John “Jack” Custis; also a letter to his son Daniel Parke Custis mentioning his concern at Jack’s illness. Jack died in 1751.

Dumas père, Alexandre (1802 – 1870)
**MS 807/23**
Blanche de Neige: autograph manuscript, [late 1850s].
Retelling of “Snow White” from Contes pour les grands et les petits enfants; 1838.

Dumas fils, Alexandre (1824 – 1895)
**CMs 196/25.2**
Autograph letter signed: to an unidentified correspondent, no date.
Letter to "mon cher maître," about a young woman.

Dunbar, Paul Laurence (1872 – 1906)
**AL1 .D899o**
Signed by the author.

The Essex gazette (Salem, Mass.), 16-30 Oct. 1770
(see also Wheatley, Phillis).
**Belle da Costa Greene (1883 – 1950)**

**RCo I:077:21**
Correspondence with the Rosenbach Company, 1950.
1 folder (4 leaves)

Morgan (Pierpont) Library

**RCo I:126:01**
Correspondence with the Rosenbach Company, 1910-1953
- I:126:07
7 folders (506 leaves)
Greene’s dealings with the Company in her capacity as the Morgan’s Librarian.

Unknown artist

**2006.2218**
Portrait of Belle da Costa Greene
engraving
1914
Inscribed to A.S.W. Rosenbach.

**Hughes, Langston (1902-1967)**

**AL1 .D899o**
Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1962-1966.
1 folder (12 leaves)

**MML 0668**
From the library of Marianne Moore.

**MML 0667**
(Accompanying autograph letter praises a story by Alice Walker)
From the library of Marianne Moore.

**Lewis, R. B. (Robert Benjamin) (1802 - 1858)**

**A 849l**
_Light and truth: collected from the Bible and ancient and modern history, containing the universal history of the colored and the Indian race, from the creation of the world to the present time_. By R.B. Lewis.
Boston: Published by a Committee of Colored Men, 1849.

**RCo I:119:06**
Locke, Alain Leroy (1885 – 1954)
Included in René Maran’s correspondence with the Rosenbach Company (see below).
Maran, Rene (1887 – 1960)

MS 1052/12

Batouala: autograph manuscript, no date.

C4 .M311b 921


C4 .M311b 928


C4 .M311b.En


RCo I :119 :06

Correspondence with the Rosenbach Company, [dates]
1 folder (4 leaves)
Includes a note from Alain Leroy Locke, acting as Maran’s agent to sell the Batouala manuscript.

Morrison, Toni (1931 – 2019)

MML 0960

The Bluest Eye uncorrected proof, 1970.
From the library of Marianne Moore.

AL2 .M882bl 970


Patterson, Floyd (1935 – 2006)

Moore V:48:12

Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1962-1963
1 folder (3 leaves)

Moore V:49:13

Plimpton, George (1927 – 2003)

Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1961-1969
1 folder (116 leaves)
Includes arrangements for a meeting with Muhammad Ali
(see also Wide World Photos).

Sancho, Ignatius (1729? – 1780)

EL2 .S211l

Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho, an African. In two volumes. To which are prefixed, memoirs of his life.
Fifth, but first Sancho, edition.

Terence (Publius Terentius Afer) (ca. 195/185 – ca. 159 B.C.E.)

Incun 498t

Comoediae. Barcelona: Johann Rosembach [sic], 17 Mar. 1498.
Wheatley, Phillis (1753 – 1784)

A 773p

*Poems on various subjects, religious and moral.*  London: printed by A. Bell, 1773.

A 786po


(see also The Essex gazette).

Wide World Photos

2006.7589


(see also Plimpton, George).