

African and African American Collections at the Rosenbach; Literature and Culture June 2020

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 Barrett 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/>

Apess, William (1798–1839)

A 831s

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.

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

Incun 469a

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

Asfa Yilma, Princess (1875–1945)

MML 1505

Haile Selassie: Emperor of Ethiopia. New York: Appleton-Century, 1936.

Born Hannah Waldmeier in Ethiopia, granddaughter of an Ethiopian noblewoman and an Englishman whose whose daughter married a Swiss missionary.

A biography of **Haile Selassie**.

From the library of Marianne Moore.

- MMP** **Baldwin, James (1924–1987)**
“*Sweet Lorraine*,” *Esquire* v. 72 no. 5 (Nov. 1969).
An article of Baldwin's reminiscences of **Lorraine Hansberry**.
- MML 0618** “Fifth Avenue, Uptown, The Black boy looks at the white boy,” James Baldwin interviewed by G. Astor, *Smiling Through the Apocalypse; Esquire's History of the Sixties*, edited by Harold Hayes. New York: McCall, 1970.
From the library of Marianne Moore.
- MML 0101** **Olumbe Bassir (1919–2001)**
An anthology of West African verse, compiled by Olumbe Bassir. Ibadan, Nigeria: Ibadan University Press, 1957.
From the library of Marianne Moore.
- V:04:03** **Belafonte, Harry (1927-)**
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
- 81.6-81.12** Berghaus, Albert, fl. 1869–1880, attributed artist
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.
- 2006.4460.001** **Browning, Elizabeth Barret (1806 – 1861)**
“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.
- EL3 .B8851 MS1** **Browning, Robert (1812 – 1889)**
“Helen's Tower”: autograph manuscript, London, 1870.
Manuscript poem accompanied by an autograph letter signed to the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava.
- MML F3.24** **Campanella, Roy (1921 – 1993)**
It's good to be alive. Boston: Little, Brown, 1959.
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

AMs 788/12

Custis, John (1678-1749)

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.

MS 807/23

Dumas père, Alexandre (1802 – 1870)

Blanche de Neige: autograph manuscript, [late 1850s].

Retelling of "Snow White" from *Contes pour les grands et les petits enfants*; 1838.

C4 .D886i MS

"L'Invitation a la valse," autograph manuscript, 1857.

A one-act play.

CMs 196/25.2

Dumas fils, Alexandre (1824 – 1895)

Autograph letter signed: to an unidentified correspondent, no date.

Letter to "mon cher maître," about a young woman.

AL1 .D899o

Dunbar, Paul Laurence (1872 – 1906)

Oak and Ivy. Dayton, Ohio: Press of the United Brethren Publishing House, 1893.

Signed by the author.

AN .E78

The Essex gazette (Salem, Mass.), 16-30 Oct. 1770

Contains an advertisement for **Phillis Wheatley's** first published work, "An elegiac poem written on the death of the Rev. George Whitefield."

(see also Wheatley, Phillis).

- RCo I:077:21** **Belle da Costa Greene (1883 – 1950)**
Correspondence with the Rosenbach Company, 1950.
1 folder (4 leaves)
- RCo I:126:01**
– I:126:07 Morgan (Pierpont) Library
Correspondence with the Rosenbach Company, 1910-1953
7 folders (506 leaves)
Greene's dealings with the Company in her capacity as the Morgan's Librarian.
- 2006.2218** Unknown artist
Portrait of Belle da Costa Greene
engraving
1914
Inscribed to A.S.W. Rosenbach.
- AL1 .D899o** **Hughes, Langston (1902-1967)**
Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1962-1966.
1 folder (12 leaves)
- MML 0668** *The Big Sea: an Autobiography.* New York, Hill and Wang 1963, c1940
From the library of Marianne Moore.
- MML 0667** *The best short stories by Negro writers: an anthology from 1899 to the present.* Edited
and with an introduction by Langston Hughes. Boston: Little, Brown, 1967.
(Accompanying autograph letter praises a story by **Alice Walker**)
From the library of Marianne Moore.
Inscribed, "Happy Holidays to Marianne--from one Missourian to another--Langston.
New York, Christmas, 1966."
- A 849I** **Lewis, R. B. (Robert Benjamin) (1802 - 1858)**
*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)**
Autograph letter signed: Paris, France, 1929 July 2.
Included in **René Maran's** correspondence with the Rosenbach Company (see below).

- MS 1052/12** **Maran, Rene (1887 – 1960)**
Batouala: autograph manuscript, no date.
- C4 .M311b 921** *Batouala: véritable roman nègre*. Paris: Albin Michel Editeur, 1926.
- C4 .M311b 928** *Batouala*. Illustré de dix-huit gouaches de P.-E. Bécât, gravées par Louis Maccard. Paris: Editions Mornay, 1928.
- C4 .M311b.En** *Batouala: a novel by René Maran; translated by Alvah C. Bessie and illustrated by Miguel Covarrubias*. New York: Limited Editions Club, 1932.
- 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.
- MML 0960** **Morrison, Toni (1931 – 2019)**
The Bluest Eye uncorrected proof, 1970.
From the library of Marianne Moore.
- AL2 .M882bl 970** *The Bluest Eye* New York, NY.: Holt McDougal, 1970.
- Moore V:48:12** **Patterson, Floyd (1935 – 2006)**
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).
- EL2 .S2111** **Sancho, Ignatius (1729? – 1780)**
Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho, an African. In two volumes. To which are prefixed, memoirs of his life.
London, **William Sancho**, 1803.
Fifth, but first Sancho, edition.
- Incun 498t** **Terence (Publius Terentius Afer) (ca. 195/185 – ca. 159 B.C.E.)**
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

Poems on various subjects, religious and moral. London: Printed; Philadelphia: reprinted and sold by Joseph Crukshank, 1786. 1st American ed.

(see also *The Essex gazette*).

Wide World Photos

2006.7589

Photograph of Marianne Moore writing with **Muhammed Ali** at Toots Shor Restaurant, 1966.

(see also Plimpton, George).