

African and African American Holdings at the Rosenbach: Literature and Culture October 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 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 *père* and *fils*, 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.

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

Items collected by Dr. Rosenbach are distinguished with an “*”. Objects acquired since 2016 are marked with a “+”. 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 <https://rosenbach.org/research/make-an-appointment/>.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by the name of the person who is the creator of the work. Anonymous works and anthologies are listed by title before those with named authors. For ease of finding, all African and African American creators and subjects are bolded.

MML 0101 *An anthology of West African verse*, compiled by **Olumbe Bassir**. Ibadan, Nigeria: Ibadan University Press, 1957.

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."

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."

AL2 .A2n +*The new Negro: an interpretation*. Edited by **Alain Locke**; book decoration and portraits by Winold Reiss. New York: Albert and Charles Boni, 1925. First edition.

Ali, Muhammad

see Plimpton, George

Wide World Photos

Alice

see Custis, John (1678–1749)

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

Incun 469a

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

Asfa Yilma, Princess (1875–1945)

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

MML 1505

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

A biography of **Haile Selassie**.

From the library of Marianne Moore.

Baldwin, James (1924–1987)

MMP

“*Sweet Lorraine,*” *Esquire* v. 72 no. 5 (Nov. 1969).

An article of Baldwin’s reminiscences of **Lorraine Hansberry**.

From the library of Marianne Moore.

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.

Bassir, Olumbe

see An anthology of West African verse

Belafonte, Harry (1927–)

Moore V:04:03

Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1968.

1 folder (11 leaves)

Belafonte was guest host of *The Tonight Show* when Moore was a guest on 7 February 1968.

see also E.O. Brody Co.

Berghaus, Albert (fl. 1869–1880), attributed artist

1981.0011

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)

EL3.B885 MS1

*"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

It's good to be alive. Boston: Little, Brown, 1959.

From the library of Marianne Moore.

Cepeda, Orlando.

MML 0245

My ups and downs in baseball, by Orlando Cepeda with Charles Einstein. New York: Putnam [1968].

From the library of Marianne Moore.

Custis, John (1678–1749)

Father of Martha Washington's first husband, Daniel Parke Custis.

AMs 788/12

*Document and autograph letter signed: Williamsburg, Va., 1747 Feb. 3.

Manumission papers for his son by an enslaved woman named **Alice, John "Jack" Custis**; also a letter to his son Daniel Parke Custis mentioning his concern at Jack's illness. Jack died in 1751.

Custis, John (Jack) (ca. 1733-1751)

see Custis, John (1678–1749)

Dumas, Alexandre (1802–1870)

- MS 807/23** *Blanche de Neige: autograph manuscript, [late 1850s].
Retelling of “Snow White,” first published in *Le Monte-Cristo* 44-45 (February 18 and 25, 1858).
- C4 .D886i MS** *“L’Invitation a la valse,” autograph manuscript, 1857.
A one-act play.
- Dumas, 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 .D899p 900** +*Poems of cabin and field*. New York: Dodd, Mead and company, 1900.
Second edition.
- AL1 .D899c 901** +*Candle-lightin' time*. New York: Dodd Mead, 1901. First edition.
- AL1 .D899o** *Oak and ivy*. Dayton, Ohio: Press of the United Brethren Publishing House, 1893.
Signed by the author.
- E.O. Brody Co.
- 2006.4460.001** Vase
Glass
Cleveland, Ohio, between 1958 and 1972
Given by **Harry Belafonte** to Marianne Moore
- Green, Shields (Emperor Shields)**

see Berghaus, Albert

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

RCo I:126:07 7 folders (506 leaves)

Includes 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.

Haile Selassie

see Asfa Yilma, Princess

Hansberry, Lorraine

see Baldwin, James, "Sweet Lorraine"

Hughes, Langston (1902–1967)

AL1 .D899o 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.

AL2 .H893no 930 +*Not without laughter*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1930.
Gift of Michiko Quinones.

AL2 .H893we 926 +*The weary blues*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1926. [1st edition, 1st printing]
see also The best short stories by Negro writers

Lewis, R. B. (Robert Benjamin) (1802–1858)

A 8491 **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 (1885–1954)**
Autograph note signed: Paris, 1929 July 2.
Included in **René Maran's** correspondence with the Rosenbach Company (see below).
see also The new Negro

Maran, René (1887–1960)

MS 1052/12 **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, 1929.
- 1 folder (4 leaves)
- Includes a note from **Alain Locke**, acting as Maran's agent to sell the *Batouala* manuscript.

Mays, Willie, 1931-

- MML 0919** *My secrets of playing baseball,* by Willie Mays with Howard Liss; photos by David Sutton. New York: Viking Press, c1967.
- From the library of Marianne Moore.

Morrison, Toni (1931–2019)

- MML 0960** *The bluest eye:* uncorrected proof, 1970.
- From the library of Marianne Moore.
- AL2 .M882bl 970** +*The bluest eye.* New York: Holt McDougal, 1970.

Negro Book Club

- Moore V:43:33** Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1962.
- 1 leaf

Patterson, Floyd (1935–2006)

Moore V:48:12 Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1962–1963
1 folder (3 leaves)

Plimpton, George (1927–2003)

Moore V:49:13 Correspondence with Marianne Moore, 1961–1969
1 folder (116 leaves)
Includes arrangements for a meeting with **Muhammad Ali**

Sancho, Ignatius (1729?–1780)

EL2 .S2111 +*Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho, an African*. In two volumes. To which are prefixed, memoirs of his life.
London: Printed for **William Sancho**, 1803.
Fifth, but first Sancho, edition.

Sancho, William

see Sancho, Ignatius

Terence

Incun 498t **Comoediae*. Barcelona: Johann Rosembach [sic], 17 Mar. 1498.

Walker, Alice

see *The best short stories by Negro writers*

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.