

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Fruit of Islam Uniform

circa 1970s

\$1200



Complete dark blue complete uniform including pants, jacket, and cap from a Fruit of Islam member with "W.F.M." stitched on the jacket. Near fine with very slight fading on the shoulder patches and light wear at the collar.

A uniform, probably worn circa 1950-60s of a member of the Fruit of Islam, the paramilitary branch of the Nation of Islam. The all-male group was made up of the "fruit" of the larger "Nation" which was one of the original institutions in the community created before its founder, W.D. Fard, disappeared in 1933. They served as bodyguards for Elijah Mohammed until his death in 1975 when they were disbanded (they were later reconstituted by Louis Farrakhan in the 1980s). Seen as "brave fighters for Allah," the FOI's mission statement reads, "to teach civilization, and teach what they know to those who do not know." They are seen as "head of house: protection, provision, and maintenance of the Nation of Islam (all Original People). The F.O.I. are militant in the sense that our operations are done as a unit." According to their training manual: "The Fruit of Islam is the backbone of Islam, the militant part of Islam, the productive part of Islam, the men of Islam." They are trained to be "obedient, militant, humble, tolerant, courteous, honest, and dependable."

A unique item representing a branch of the African-American activist religious group. [\[BTC#399657\]](#)