

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

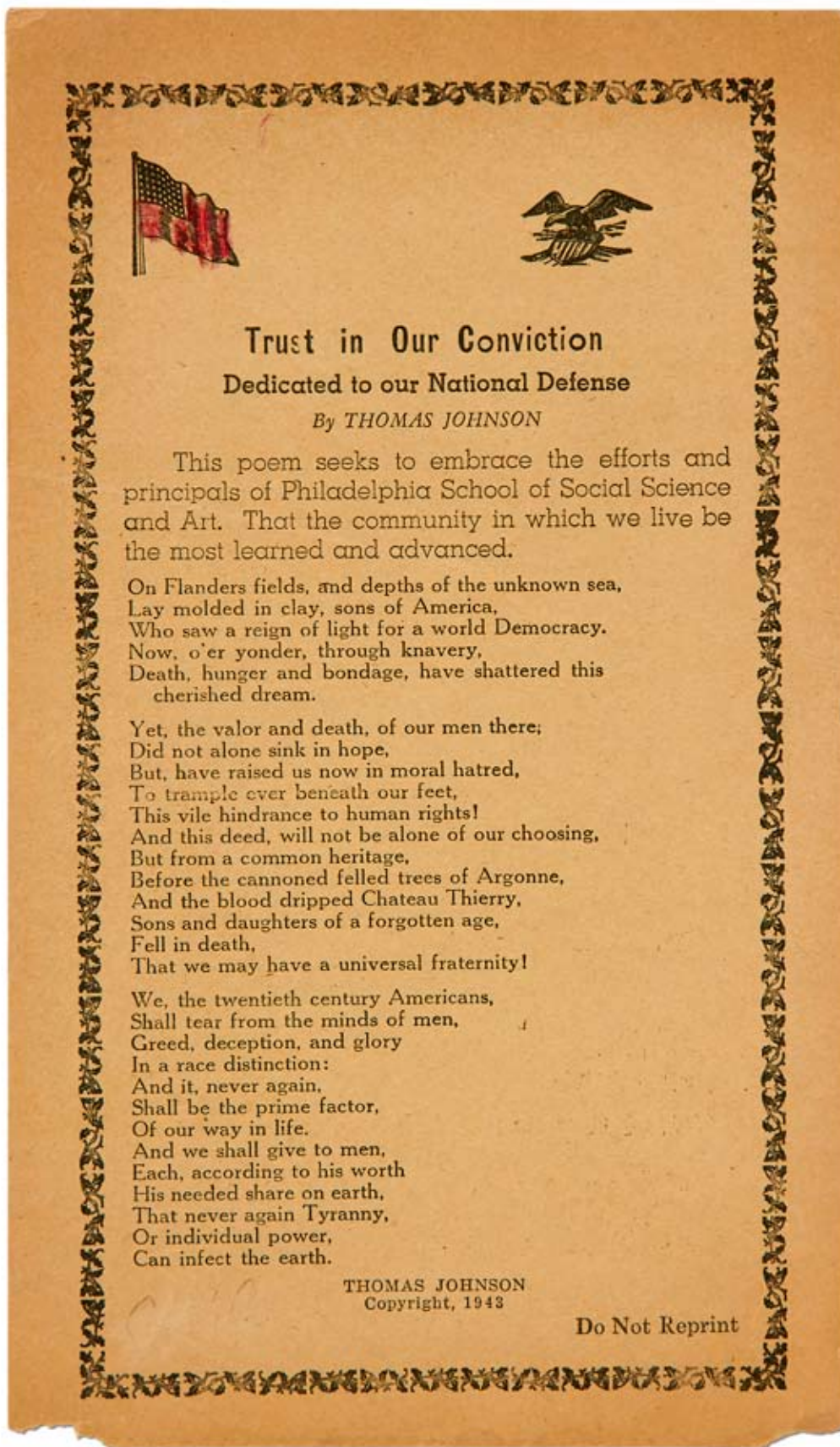
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Thomas Johnson

Trust in Our Conviction: Dedicated to our National Defense

Philadelphia: Philadelphia School of Social Science and Art 1943

\$475



Small broadside or flyer. 5½" x 9½". Printed in black with decorative border and vignettes of thin cardstock. Vignette of American Flag has been hand colored. Small chips at the bottom corners, overall age-toning, about very good. A 31-line poem by a 20 year old African-American man who attended the radical Philadelphia School of Social Science and Art (later characterized as a Communist Front organization).

Trust in Our Conviction
Dedicated to our National Defense

By *THOMAS JOHNSON*

This poem seeks to embrace the efforts and principals of Philadelphia School of Social Science and Art. That the community in which we live be the most learned and advanced.

On Flanders fields, and depths of the unknown sea,
Lay moulded in clay, sons of America

The poem is largely about the sacrifices that American troops made in WWI, the sacrifices being made in the then current War, and espousing that the results of this be racial equality: "We, the twentieth century Americans, Shall tear from the minds of men, Greed, deception and glory In a race distinction: And it, never again, Shall be the prime factor, Of our way of life..." Census records indicate that Johnson would have been about 20 years old at the time. While we could find a contemporary copyright record for this poem, *OCLC* locates no copies. [BTC#401911]

That we may have a universal fraternity!

We, the twentieth century Americans,
Shall tear from the minds of men,
Greed, deception, and glory

In a race distinction:
And it, never again,
Shall be the prime factor,
Of our way in life.

And we shall give to men,
Each, according to his worth
His needed share on earth,
That never again Tyranny,
Or individual power,
Can infect the earth.