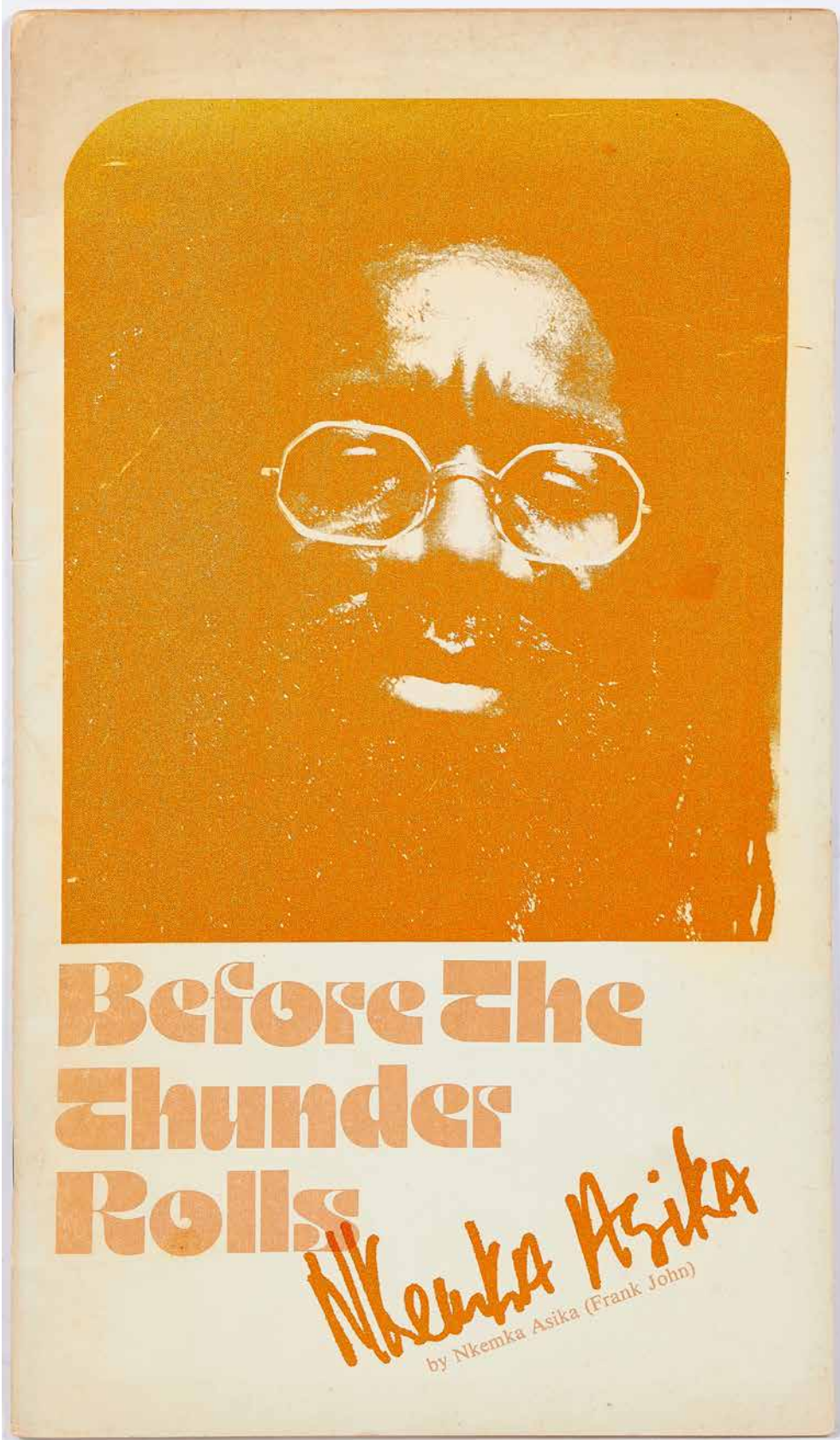


Nkemka Asika (aka Frank John)

Before the Thunder Rolls

New York: Nkemka Asika (Frank John) 1980

\$300



First edition. Tall octavo. [24]pp. Illustrated. Stapled photographically illustrated wrappers. Modest wear on the wrappers, very good or better. Warm, full page Inscription by the author on the last page. Self-published poetry chapbook by Trinidadian street poet John. John spent much of the 1970s and 80s in London and New York, where, along with figures such as Linton Kwesi Johnson, Carlton Lindsay Barrett, and Ted Joans, he was active in the diverse literary scenes of the black diaspora.

The Dutch publisher Paul Breman, who published John in his influential Heritage series of black poets, recalls that John was "probably the gentlest creature I have ever known...He would go around town reading his poems on street corners, selling broadsides and small booklets of them, printed and illustrated by friends... it was great when you heard it, in his very fetching voice" (*The Heritage Series of Black Poetry, 1962-1975: A Research Compendium*). [BTC#423217]

To my Brother Thomas
Next to see you man
Keep beautiful and your
New family, Haj, Ayoka
Peace Love and
happiness
Out Love
Thanks & Ayoka
4/25/80