

12 African-American Vanity Press Books

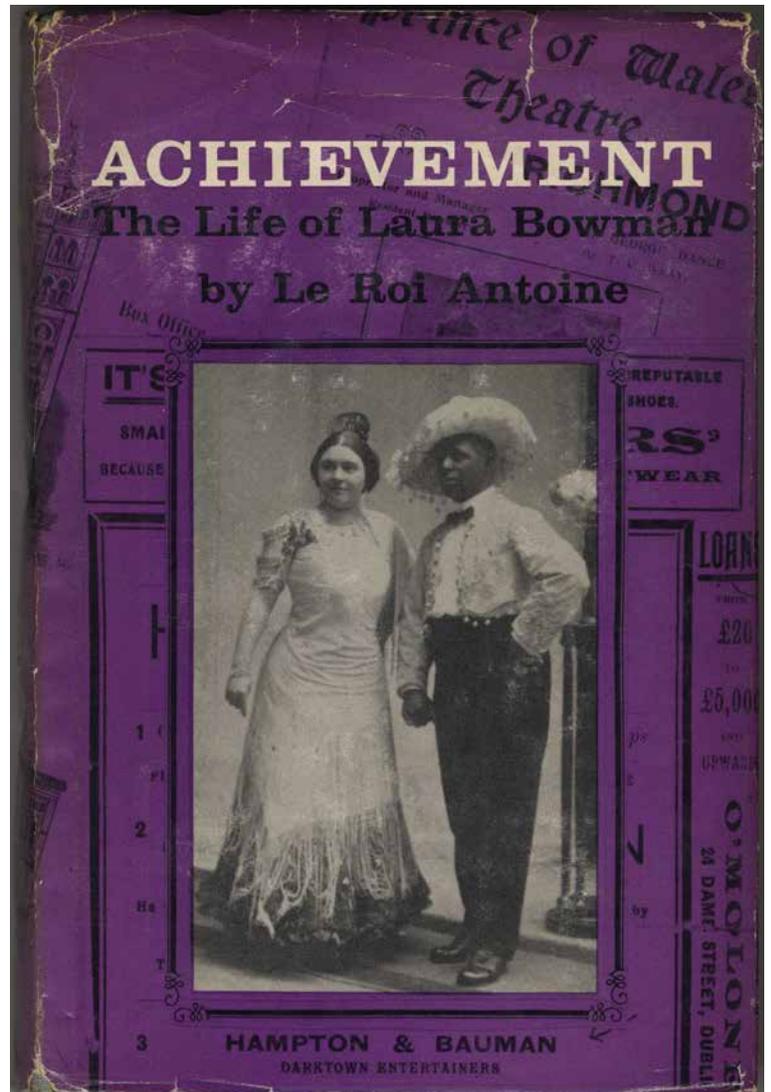
1945-1980

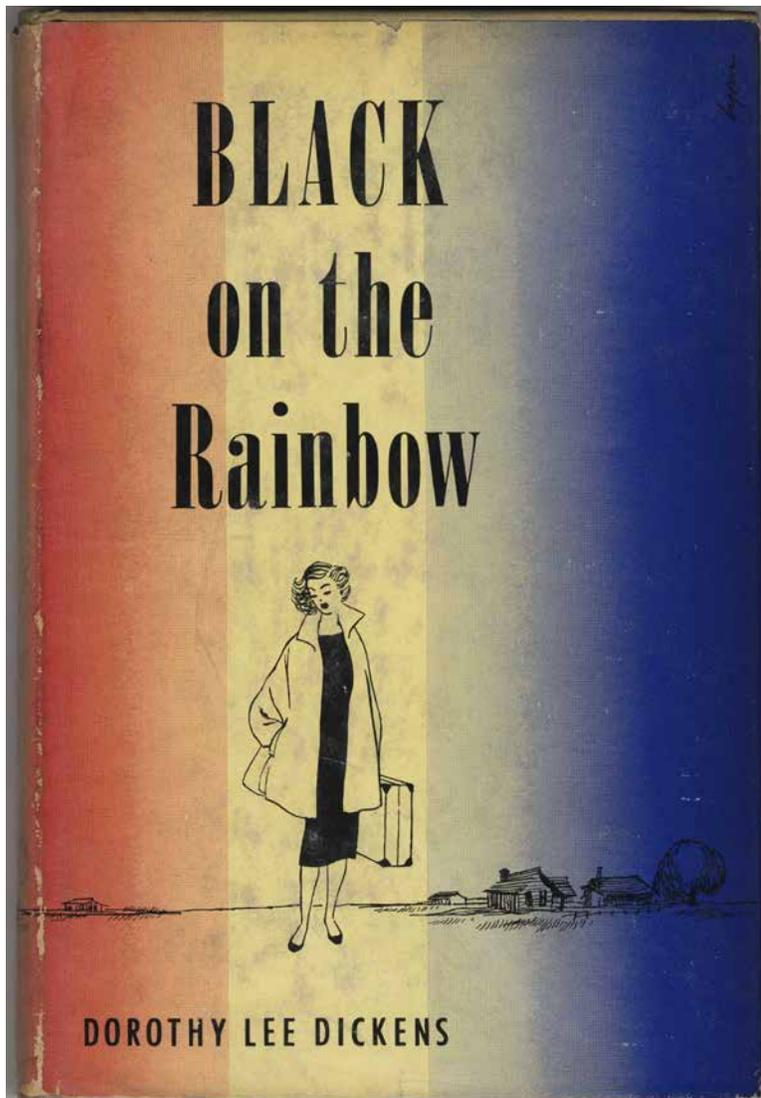
\$1800

A collection of 12 African-American vanity press books published between the 1945 and 1980, including poetry, biographies, and novels, most dealing with the issue of race (passing, integration, interracial relationships, etc). All were published in small quantities by various vanity press publishers and typically distributed by the authors themselves to family, friends and within small communities, such as church groups, civic organizations, academic institutions, and black-owned book stores. The books all have their original dustwrappers, which are particularly important due to the valuable biographical information they provide about these little-known or one-time authors. While all of the books in this group are uncommon, one book shows fewer than 10 copies in *OCLC* and another is unrecorded. Overall very good in very good dustwrappers.

A complete list of titles and a description of each book follows.

1. ANTOINE, Le Roi. *Achievement: The Life of Laura Bowman*. New York: Pageant Press (1961)
First edition. Octavo. 439pp. Fine with some toning to the cheap pages in very good rubbed dustwrapper with nicks and tears at the extremities and tape on the inside by the crown. Biography of the radio, stage, and film actress Laura Bowman.



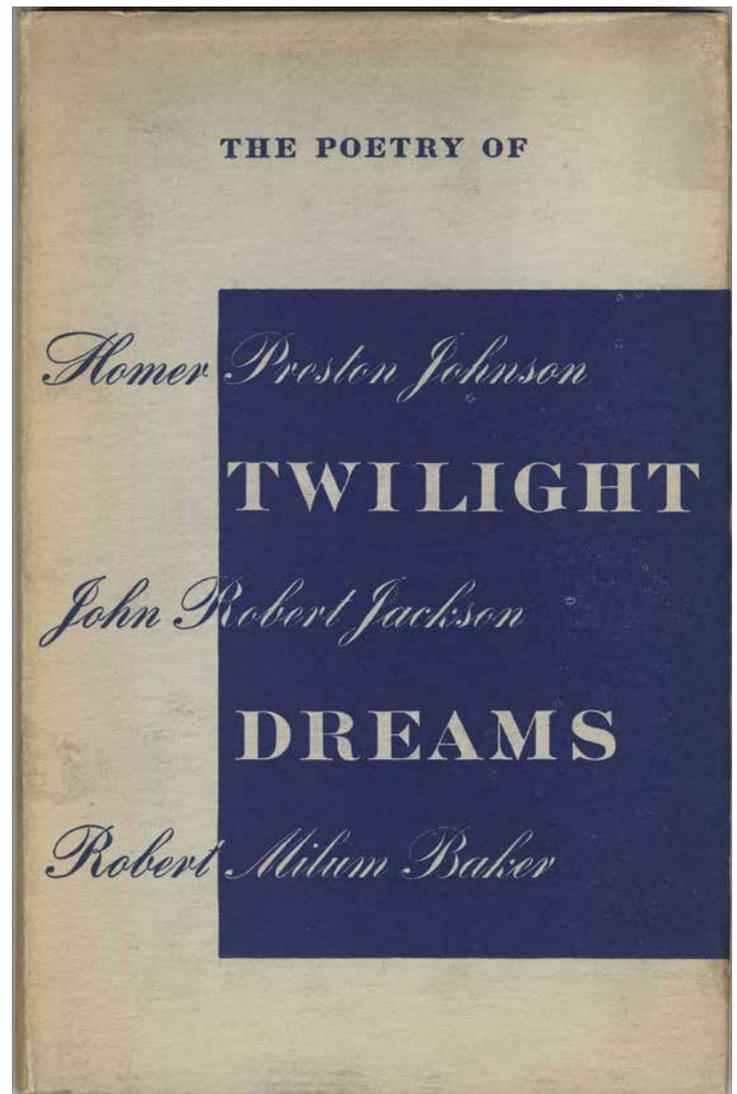


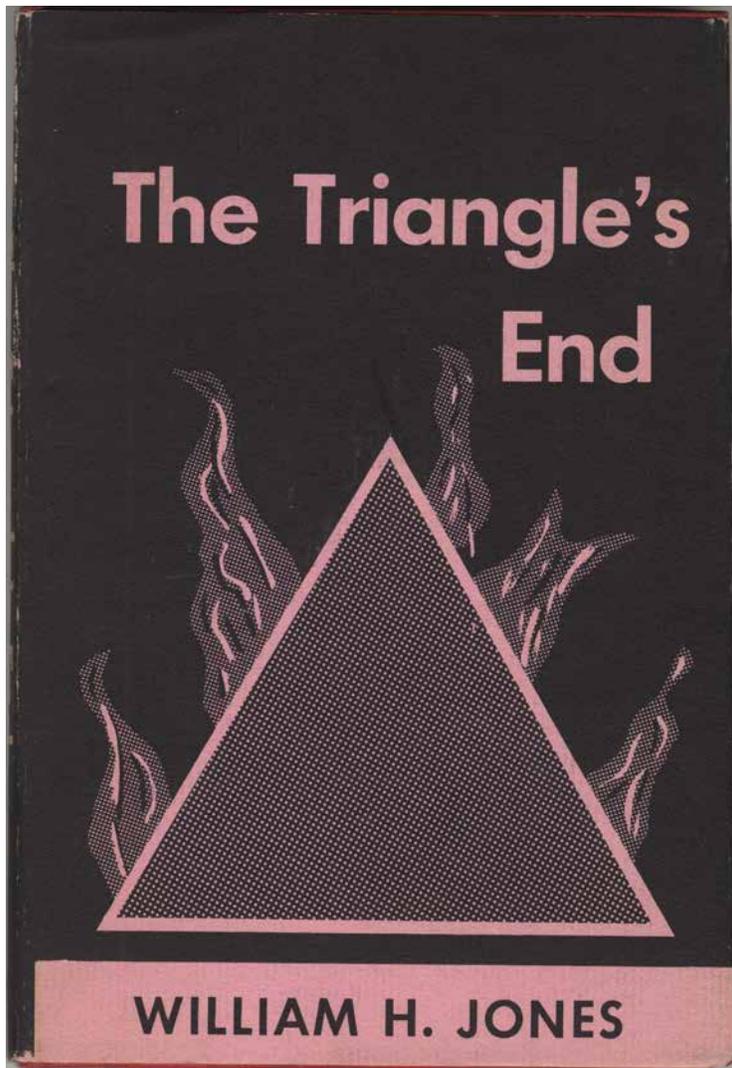
2. DICKENS, Dorothy Lee. *Black on the Rainbow*. New York: Pageant Press (1952)

First edition. Octavo. 254pp. Very good with some bumping at two corners and some dampstaining to the tops of the rear pages and rear board in about very good dustwrapper with corresponding dampstaining, rubbing and some sunning to the spine. Novel about a light-skinned actress who confronts the choice of “passing” as a white woman or enduring the difficulties of identifying as black.

3. JOHNSON, Homer Preston, John Robert Jackson and Robert Milum Baker. *Twilight Dreams*. New York: Exposition Press (1950).

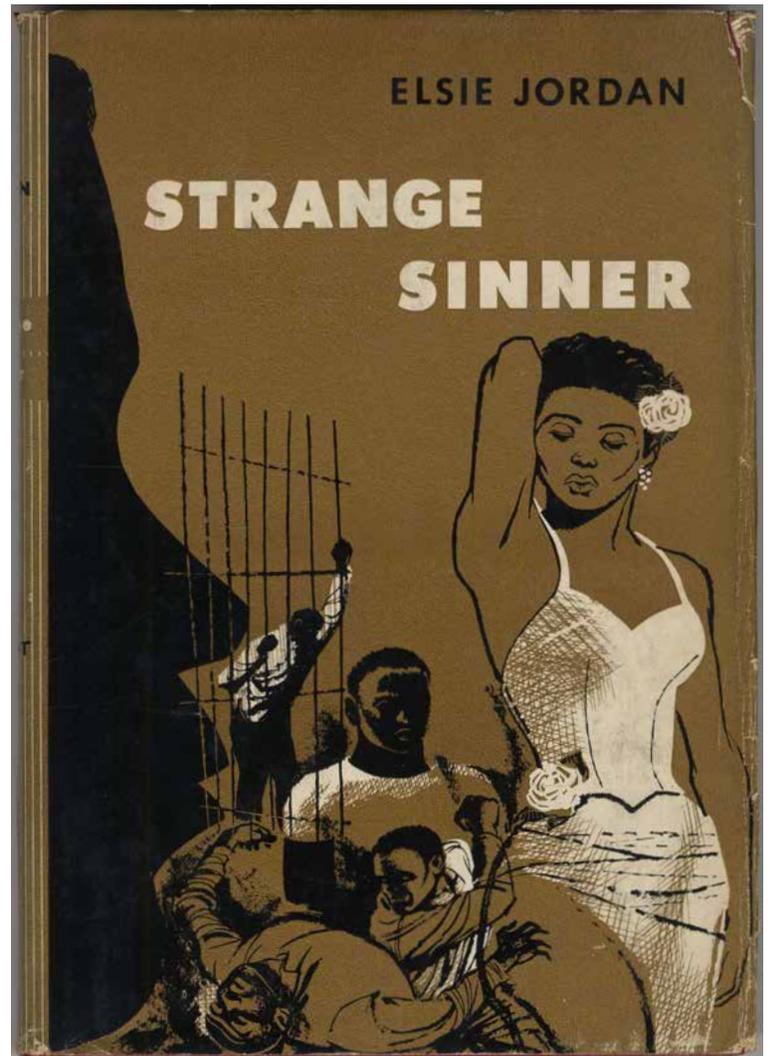
First edition. Octavo. 63pp. Fine in lightly rubbed near fine or better dustwrapper. An anthology of verse by three African-American poets.

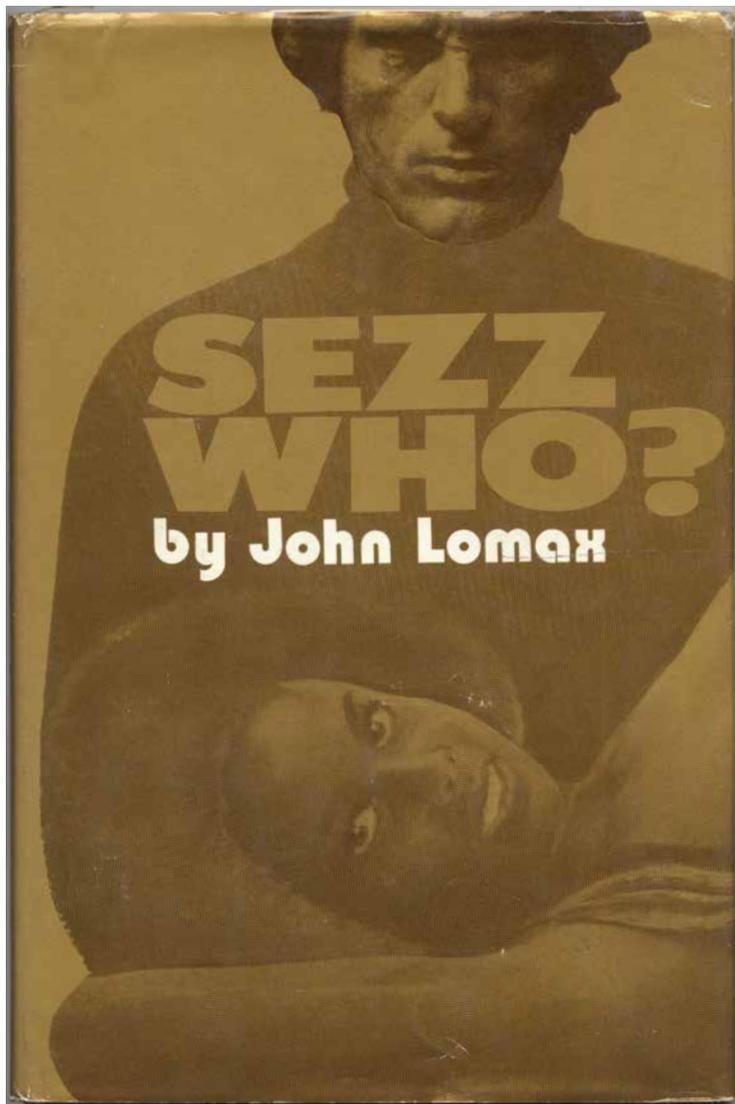




4. JONES, William H. *The Triangle's End*. New York: Exposition Press (1954).
First edition. Octavo. 79pp. Fine in near fine lightly rubbed and sunned dustwrapper. Novel of a black child adopted by white parents and his journey for identity as a jazz musician caught in an interracial love triangle.

5. JORDAN, Elsie. *Strange Sinner*. New York: Pageant Press (1954)
First edition. Octavo. 172pp. Fine in very good dustwrapper with wear and tear at the front flap fold and general rubbing. Novel by an Arkansas women about a man obsessed with a femme fatale.



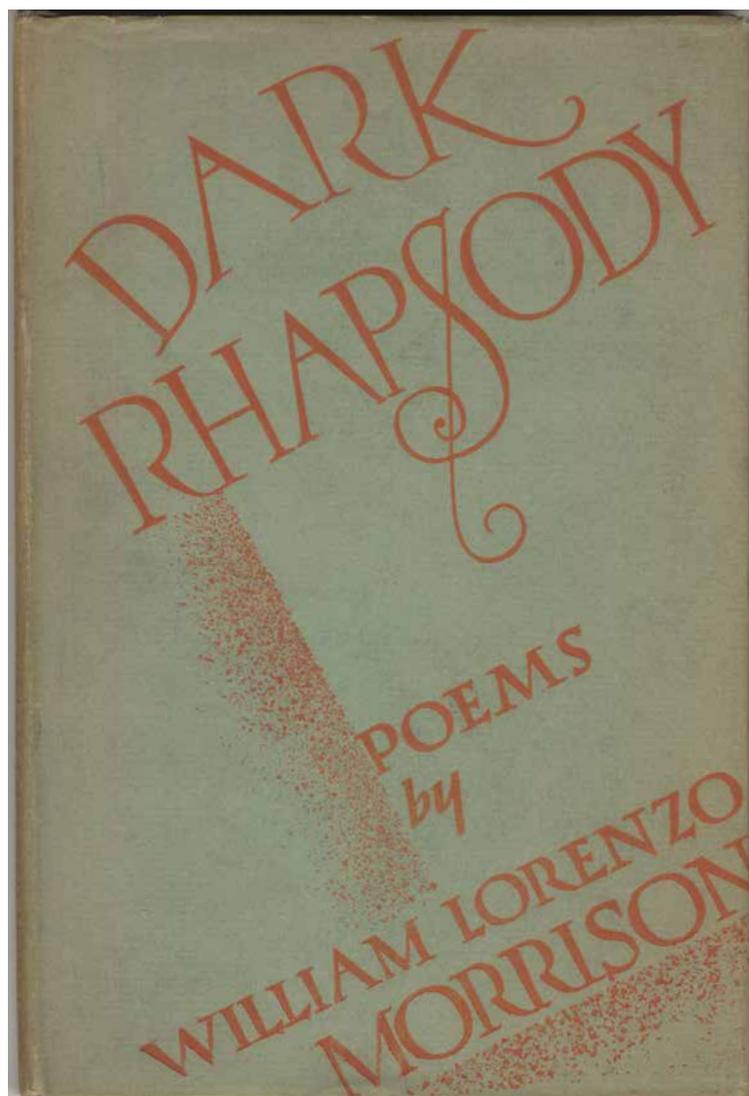


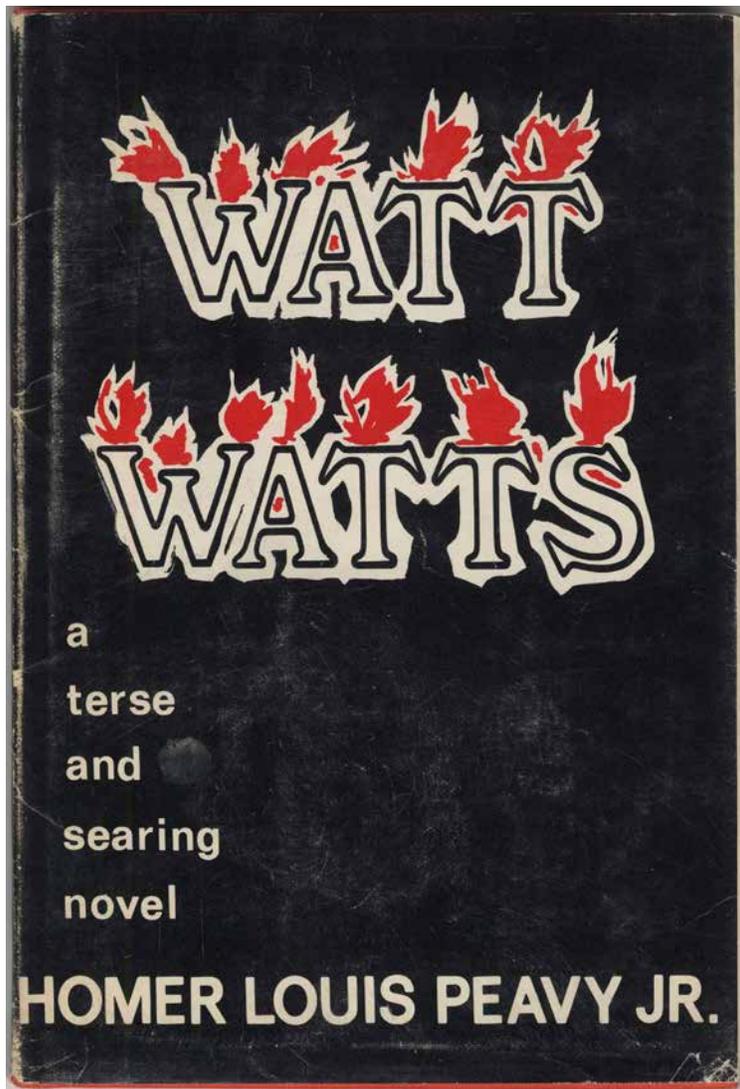
6. LOMAX, John. *Sezz Who?* Port Washington, New York: Ashley Books (1974)

First edition. Octavo. 139pp. Fine with “Not for Sale” stamp to top of text block (but no other markings) in very good rubbed dustwrapper with wear the edges and crease on rear flap. Workplace novel that explores the different relationship and communications between black and white co-workers. *OCLC* locates one records of this book but no locations.

7. MORRISON, William Lorenzo. *Dark Rhapsody*. New York: Henry Harrison (1945)

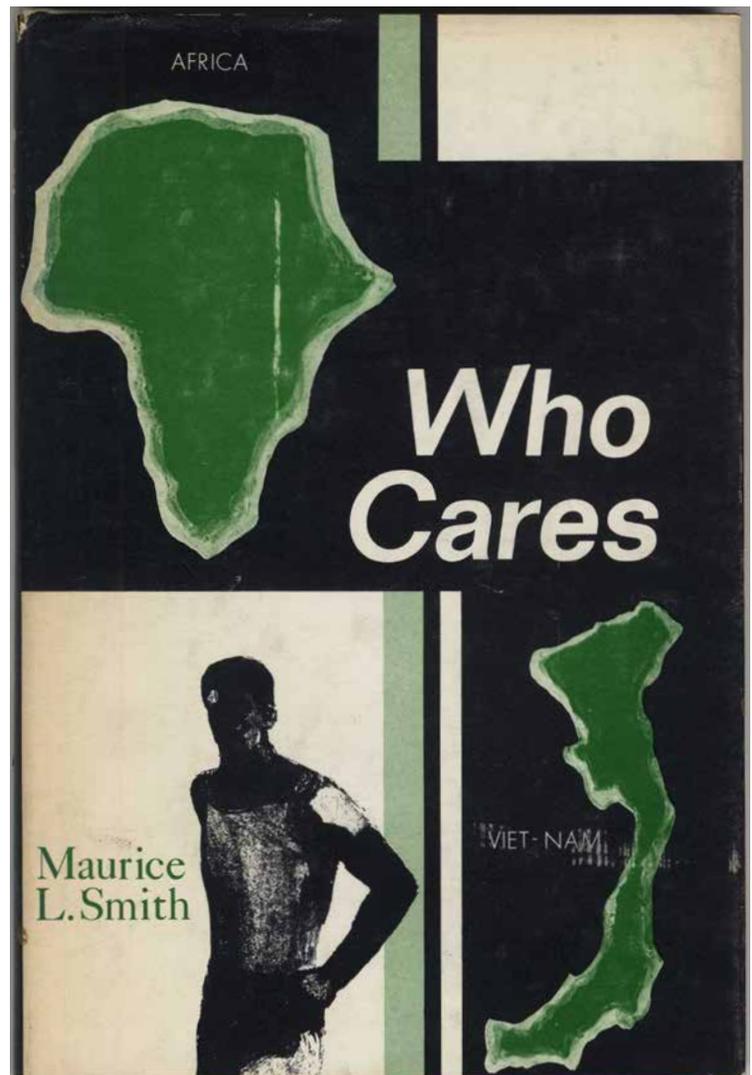
First edition. Octavo. 62pp. Fine in else fine dustwrapper with touch of toning to the spine. The author's first book of verse.

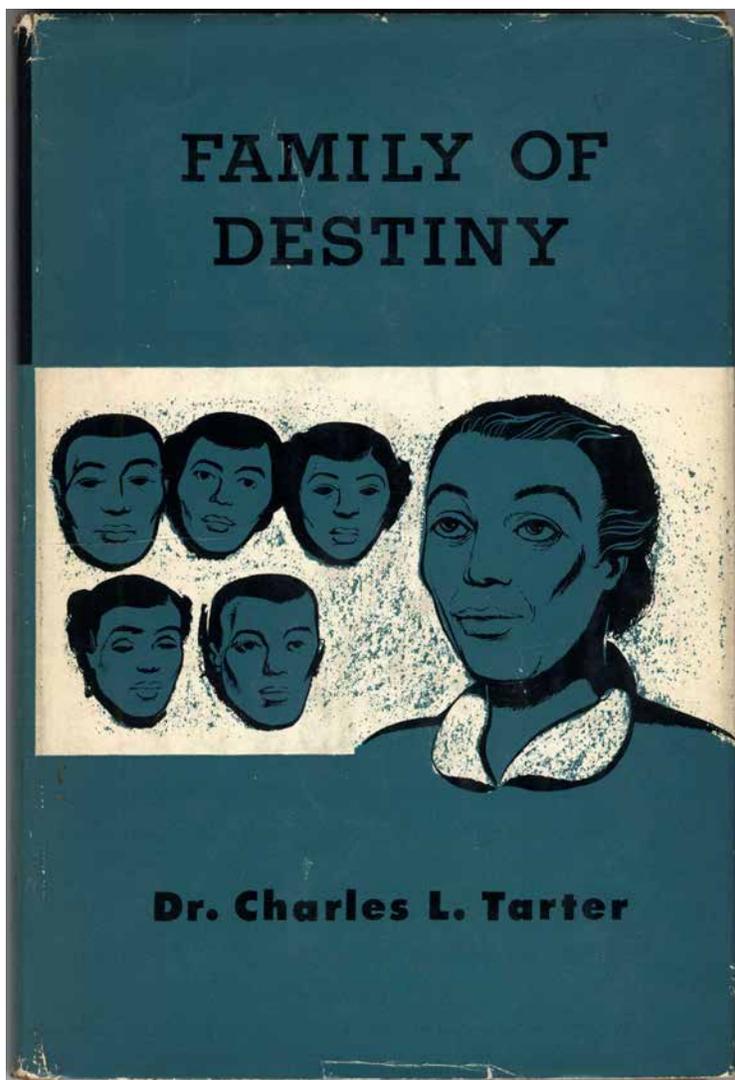




8. PEAVY, Homer Louis, Jr. *Watt Watts*. New York: Carlton Press (1969)
First edition. Octavo. 34pp. Fine in very good dustwrapper moderately rubbed and with edgewear. Slim novel about a violent schizophrenic named Watt Watts, who see himself as a black Jesus Christ, and “skillfully employs the difficult story device of the alternating time-track.”

9. SMITH, Maurice L. *Who Cares*. New York: Carlton Press (1968)
First edition. Octavo. 61pp. Fine in else fine dustwrapper with tiny spot on the spine. A novel about a black man in Vietnam who goes on to fight against the white police of South Africa. Published by the author while he was in Vietnam. Very scarce.



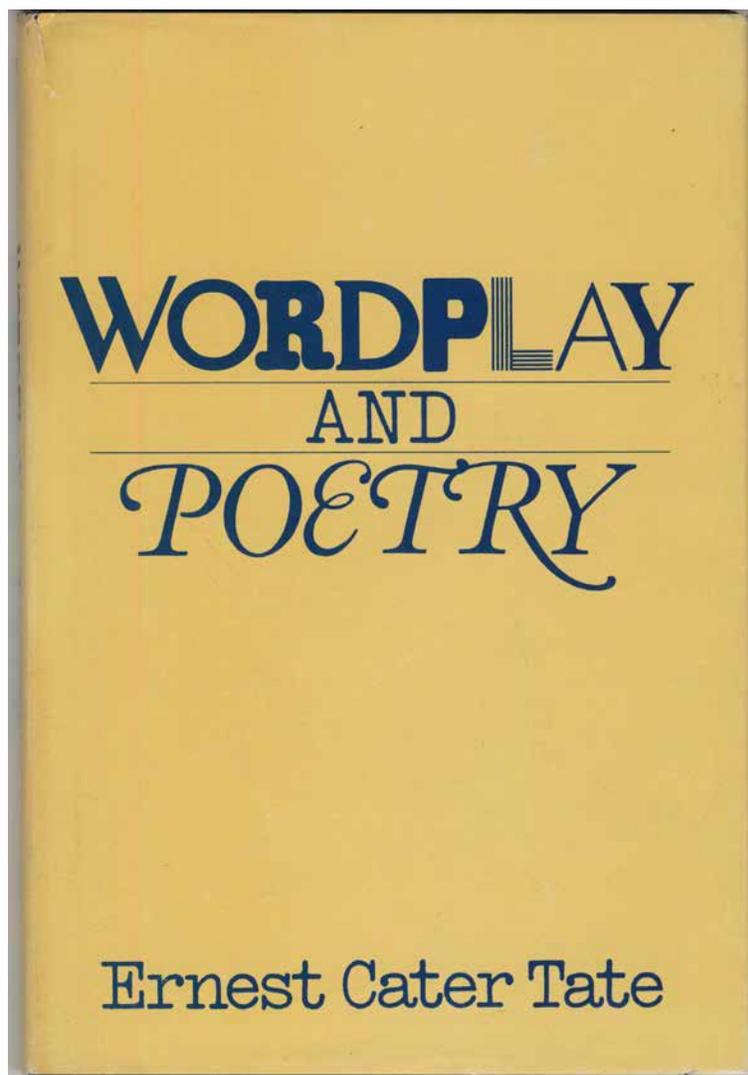


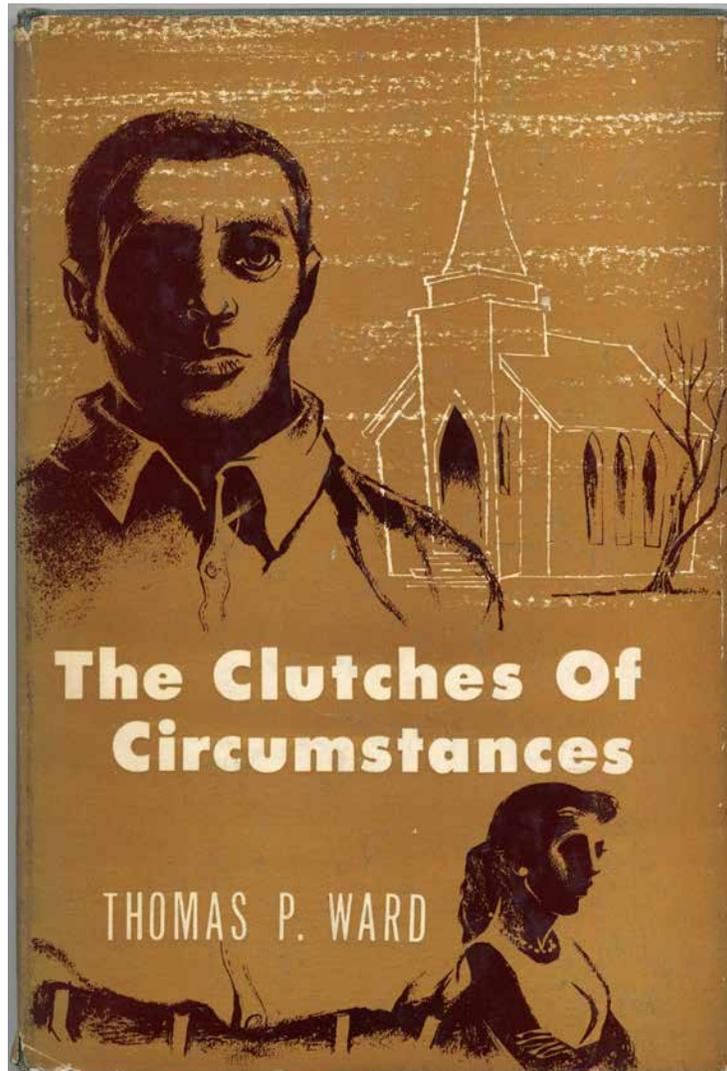
10. TARTER, Dr. Charles L. *Family of Destiny*. New York: Pageant Press (1954)

First edition. Octavo. 277pp. Fine in very good or better dustwrapper with tiny chips to the rear panel, light rubbing and wear at the edges. Novel by a New Jersey minister about a black family living along the Mason-Dixon line at the turn of the century.

11. TATE, Ernest Cater. *Wordplay and Poetry*. New York: Vantage Press (1980)

First edition. Octavo. 51pp. Fine in near fine dustwrapper with a couple tiny tears and wear spots at the edges. Inscribed by the author. Collection of poetry by an Atlanta University graduate who taught at Morris Brown College. *OCLC* locates seven copies.





12. WARD, Thomas P. *The Clutches of Circumstances*. New York: Pageant Press Inc.(1954)
First edition. Octavo. 164pp. Near fine with bumping at the spine ends in very good or better
dustwrapper rubbed and wear at the spine ends. Novel by a minister about a black man living in the South
fighting for his dignity despite a disastrous marriage. [BTC#425873]