W.E.B. Du Bois

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DU BOIS, W. E. Burghardt (W.E.B. DuBois). *The Suppression of the African Slave-Trade to the United States of America 1638-1870.* New York: Longmans, Green & Company 1896. First edition. 335pp. A bookplate on the front pastedown, tiny tears at the spine ends, and the front hinge slightly cracked, still a tight and attractive, near fine copy of an exceptionally scarce title. Publisher's slip tipped in (about the price of the book). Du Bois’s first book, a commercially published version of his doctoral dissertation (Harvard at the time did not have an incorporated university press) which the scholar had taken great pains to transform from dry historical facts into readable prose. Du Bois went considerably further than any previous researcher to examine real data and document the exact rate of importation of enslaved Africans from 1619 onwards. Most importantly, Du Bois built a strong case for American complicity (both Southern and Northern) in the traffic of slaves well after the 1808 Constitutional ban on the maritime slave traffic. The book remains a model of historic research and writing, and demonstrated that even as a student Du Bois had a unique ability to focus public attention on critical issues by combining history, sociology and accessible morality. A rare keystone of African-American scholarship and literature. #109423 ...... $8,500

Philadelphia: Published for the University 1899. Quarto, 520, (viii)pp. Diagrams, two folding charts. Full green cloth with remnants of a leather spine label. Some erosion to the spine ends, a small label on the spine, and a small ownership marking (presumably library) removed from the titlepage, a very good copy, internally about fine. Bookplate of "The Wrights" on the front pastedown. Issued in both wrappers and cloth, this is almost certainly a publisher's binding, identical to another copy with which we are familiar. Signed by the author, one of several books from the same collection, most with the same bookplate, and all signed circa 1950, apparently for the Wrights. Du Bois' monumental study of the social conditions in which the Negroes of the Seventh Ward of Philadelphia lived, and one of the first scientific sociological studies ever conducted. Du Bois' method, a house-by-house canvass of the Ward, had a lasting impact on him, and revealed to him the true state of urban dwelling African-Americans. The effect of the study impressed Horace Bumstead, the President of Atlanta University, enough to offer Du Bois an appointment in Sociology and directorship of the newly formed conferences that resulted in the *Atlanta University Studies of the Negro Problem*, and which eventually resulted in his ascension to prominence. Copies of the first edition of *The Philadelphia Negro,* in any condition, are very scarce; this is the only signed copy we've seen. #283253 ....... $15,000

DU BOIS, W.E.B. (DuBois). America's Race Problem. NY: McClure, Phillips & Co. for the American Academy of Political and Social Science 1901. First edition. 187pp. Blue cloth gilt. Ex-library copy with library bookplate marked over and "withdrawn stamps" on the front and rear endpaper, and a small spine number. Some moderate rubbing to the spinal extremities else very good. A collection of essays on race including one by DuBois: "The Relation of the Negroes to the Whites in the South," a 20-page essay written while he was a professor at Atlanta University. Also includes an essay by George T. Winston. Very scarce. #21097 $300
DU BOIS, W.E. Burghardt (W.E.B. DuBois), edited by. (Broadside): The Negro Artisan. Atlanta University has just issued the seventh number of her studies of the Negro problem. It is a book of 200 pages on “The Negro Artisan,”.... Atlanta: Atlanta University Press (1902). Small broadside. Measures approximately 4” x 12”. Folded twice horizontally, else fine. In 1896, W.E.B. Du Bois was asked by Atlanta University President Horace Bumstead to head an annual conference series to produce "the first ... thoroughly scientific study of the conditions of Negro life, covering all its most important phases, ... resulting in a score of annual Atlanta University publications." The studies, Bumstead hoped, would result in an authoritative statement about the lives of black Americans. Du Bois was not only the editor of the series, but also the author of virtually all (and perhaps literally all) of the resulting works, and we strongly suspect he wrote the text of this broadside as well. Rare. #81969 ....... $1,200
DU BOIS, W.E.B. (DuBois). *The Souls of Black Folk*. Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Company 1903. First edition. Pencil ownership signature and Brookline address of Horace Bumstead on the front fly, hinges neatly restored, a nice, near fine copy, with the gilt lettering on the spine and front board unrubbed and easily readable. Affixed to the front pastedown is the text portion of the front panel of the prohibitively rare dustwrapper, and on the blank page facing the title page is a "real photo" postcard photographic portrait of Du Bois dated in 1904 from a Boston photographer named Purdy. A much sought-after classic of American literature, and almost certainly the most important book by one of the most historically important African-Americans. The original owner of this volume, Horace Bumstead, was a white Bostonian who Du Bois referred to as the "Apostle of Higher Education of the Negro." Bumstead was born in 1841 and was educated at the Boston Latin School and Yale College (Class of 1863). He was commissioned as a Major for the 43rd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops in 1864. After the war he joined the faculty of Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) as an instructor in Natural Science, and went on to become the second President of the University from 1886-1907. During his tenure there, he brought Du Bois to Atlanta University, where Du Bois founded the Department of Sociology, and did some of his most significant scholarly work, much of it published in the series *Atlanta University Studies of the Negro Problem*. The historically black university had a great deal of trouble getting appropriations from the state, and subsequently Bumstead almost single-handedly raised the funds necessary to keep the university functioning. *The Souls of Black Folk* has remained in print since its original publication, but has become rare in the first edition and in this condition. The inclusion of the portrait, jacket remnant, and the significance of the association is just a bonus. *Blockson 101* #52. #280726 ...... $9,500

DU BOIS, W.E.B. (DuBois), editor. *Five issues of the magazine The Crisis: A Record of the Darker Races* (September 1911; November 1911; December 1911, January 1912; and April 1912). New York: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (various dates): 1911 and 1912. Five issues (Volumes 2, number 5; Volumes 3, numbers 1-3, 5). Quartos. Stapled wrappers. A pretty much uniform dampstain to the bottom edge of each issue, some other modest wear including a couple of tears, but about very good copies. W.E.B. Du Bois arrived in New York City in midsummer of 1910 to assume his position as director of publicity and research of the recently organized NAACP and as editor of the new organization's proposed publication. It was named by Mary White Ovington, one of the co-founders, with Du Bois, of the NAACP, after James Russell Lowell's poem, *The Present Crisis*. Dr. Du Bois did everything possible to nurture the publication, and made it a powerful vehicle in the crusade for human freedom. The first issue of *The Crisis* was published November, 1910, as "a record of the darker races." According to Du Bois' autobiography he had printed 1,000 copies of the first issue, and thereafter it went up a thousand a month until by 1918 it reached a circulation of 100,000 (the most recent of the issue present here claim a circulation of 22,500). Du Bois wrote much of the content of the magazine including articles on lynching, the color line, racial congresses, colored women's clubs, columns on "men of the month," and so forth, but these issues also contain photographs, and stories, articles, or poems by Jessie Fauset, William Pickens, Mary W. Ovington, Leslie Pinckney Hill, William Stanley Braithwaite, and Charles W. Chesnutt. Early issues of *The Crisis* are rare, any accumulation of them more so. #74673 $3,500


DUNBAR-NELSON, Alice Moore, editor. *The Dunbar Speaker and Entertainer, Containing The Best Prose and Poetic Selections by and about the Negro Race, With Programs Arranged for Special Entertainments.* Napierville IL: J.L. Nichols (1920). First edition. 288pp, frontispiece portrait, illustrations. Introduction by Leslie Pinckney Hill. Fine in very good plus dustwrapper with a little fading at the spine and a couple of modest chips at the corners of the crown. Oratorical, poetic, dramatic and humorous pieces compiled from many sources including the work of Dunbar-Nelson, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Charlotte Grimké, W.S. Braithwaite, James Weldon Johnson, Charles Chesnutt, Phillis Wheatley, W.E.B. Du Bois and many others. The New Orleans-born Dunbar-Nelson was for a time the wife of Paul Laurence Dunbar, and was in her own right an author, feminist, suffragist, public speaker, and educator. The only copy we have seen or heard of for sale in the very rare dustwrapper. #72736 ...... $5,000
JOHNSON, Georgia Douglas. *Bronze.* Boston: B.J. Brimmer Company 1922. First edition. Introduction by Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois. Boards slightly splayed, slight offsetting to the endpapers from the jacket flaps, a very near fine copy in a lightly foxed, very good plus dustwrapper with a few very small chips at the extremities. Housed in a custom cloth clamshell case with morocco spine label. For many years Johnson, an African-American woman comfortably married to a prominent Washington attorney, read voraciously, pursued a serious interest in music, and hosted the capital's only African-American literary salon, "The Saturday Nighter's Club." At 41 she published her first book of poetry, *The Heart of a Woman*, which was well-received but criticized in some quarters for not specifically addressing race. At the dawn of the Harlem Renaissance she published this influential collection in response. Of particular note were her poems concerning alienation and mixed race (Cedric Dover called her "the first to give peoples of mixed origin the pride in themselves that they so badly needed"). A notable rarity of African-Americana, rarely found with the flimsy jacket intact. We have handled this copy once before, but have never seen another jacketed copy. #72735 ....... $9,500

ROWLAND, Mabel, editor. *Bert Williams; Son of Laughter: A Symposium of Tribute to the Man and to His Work, by His Friends and Associates with a Preface by David Belasco.* New York: The English Crafters (1923). First edition. Neat, contemporary gift inscription, fine in a very attractive, very good dustwrapper that is chipped at the crown, affecting about one-half of the title. An appreciation gathered from reviews, memoirs and correspondence of the legendary performer, much-admired both on and off the stage, who bridged the period between minstrel performers and vaudeville. Among those represented are Ring Lardner, W.C. Fields, George M. Cohan, Jessie Fauset, W.E.B. Du Bois, Nat Wills, Leon Errol, and others. An exceptionally rare volume, never found in jacket; the text was subsequently printed in 1969 by the Negro Universities Press. #47581 ....... $1,500
**LOCKE, Alain. *The New Negro: An Interpretation.*** New York: Albert & Charles Boni 1925. First edition. 446pp. Color portraits by Winold Reiss. Quarter cloth and papercovered boards. Some sunning on the front board, and the corners are a little rubbed, else a near fine copy without the exceptionally rare dustwrapper. This copy Inscribed by Locke on the half-title to important Fugitive author Donald Davidson: "For Donald Davidson, one of the 'New South,' with appreciation, Alain Locke. March 8, 1928." Drawing from works that Locke had compiled for the special issue of *Survey Graphic*, and greatly expanding it for this anthology, this book basically announced the Harlem Renaissance to the outside world. It would be hard to overemphasize the importance that this book played in the development and popularization of that movement. Includes articles, essays, poetry and fiction by Locke, Rudolph Fisher, Jean Toomer, James Weldon Johnson, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Jessie Fauser, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Eric Walrond, Bruce Nugent, William Stanley Braithwaite, Angelina Grimke, W.E.B. Du Bois, Walter White, and many others. The portraits by Reiss, a German expressionist and teacher of Aaron Douglas, are particularly striking. Certain illustrations within the book bear the initials of Aaron Douglas; the endpaper designs are not signed and have sometimes been attributed to Reiss, but at that point the styles of Reiss and Douglas had converged to the extent that they are difficult to distinguish. A splendid association copy of one of the towering high spots of the Harlem Renaissance. #273760 ...... $8,500


DUSK OF DAWN: AN ESSAY TOWARDS AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A RACE CONCEPT. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company (1940). First edition. A bookplate on the front pastedown, else near fine in a price-clipped and moderately worn, very good dustwrapper with several small chips, and old internal tape repairs. Signed by Du Bois. A very uncommon book, especially in jacket, and signed. #110229 ....... $6,000
JOHNSON, John H.. *Negro Digest: A Magazine of Negro Comment [Volumes 1-3; November, 1942 – October, 1944].* Chicago: Negro Digest Publishing Company 1942-1944. Three volumes. Thick octavos. Bound with all wrappers in green buckrum titled in gilt. Boards a trifle rubbed, some wrappers a bit soiled, edges of a few wrappers a little closely trimmed with negligible loss, still near fine. The first three years of this influential and important digest, which was the foundation of the Johnson Publishing empire. As well as excerpting articles by and about African-Americans from other publications, there was also much original content written expressly for the magazine. The contributors read like a who's who of black writers of the time: Langston Hughes, Walter White, George S. Schuyler, Roland Hayes, Horace Mann Bond, Roi Ottley, and that's just the first issue. Also included are W.E.B. Du Bois, J. Saunders Redding, Mary McLeod Bethune, Zora Neale Hurston, Charles S. Johnson, A. Philip Randolph, Richard Wright, Melville Herskovits, Rayford Logan, Louis Armstrong, Ann Petry, E. Franklin Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. William Grant Still ("Does Interracial Marriage Succeed?"); W.C. Handy, Roy Wilkins, Benjamin E. Mays, Satchel Paige, Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Benjamin Quarles, Paul Robeson, Eslande Goode Robeson, Duke Ellington, Arna Bontemps, E. Simms Campbell, Frank Yerby, Mercer Cook, Charles H. Wesley, Edwin R. Embree, and many lesser lights. Among the white writers who contribute (usually, but not always, writing on subjects of interest to African-Americans) are Shirley Jackson (preceding her first book by a few years), Carl Sandburg, Joseph Mitchell, Earl Conrad, Bucklin Moon, Barney Nagler, Ernie Pyle, Eleanor Roosevelt, Dalton Trumbo, Dorothy Parker, John R. Tunis, Pearl S. Buck, Orson Welles, Woody Guthrie (a condensation of *Bound for Glory*), Ernie Harwell, Frank Sinatra, Edward G. Robinson, Humphrey Bogart, A fascinating line-up of notables, and an interesting look into the psyche of the race during wartime. Presumably not that many copies of this digest would have been printed during wartime; reportedly the first issue was printed in a run of only 3,000 copies. Early issues are very uncommon. #299786 ....... $3,000
DU BOIS, W.E.B. (DuBois). *Inscribed Portrait Photograph of W.E.B. Du Bois.* [1944]. Large portrait photograph of W.E.B. Du Bois, Inscribed on the matte below the portrait. Image is matted to approximately 10" x 13". The image shows a touch of oxidation at the edges but is otherwise both striking and fine. The matte has some age-toning, and light creases. Photographer's pencil mark "Gach Bros. N. Y." on the matte. Du Bois has Inscribed on the matte below the image: "For George A. Towns & Family. 1897 - 1944. W.E.B. Du Bois." Framed in a modern, but period style frame, with a sleeve on the verso that holds the original photographer's cardboard mount.

George Alexander Towns (1870-1960) was an educator, author, and community activist. A member of the Harvard University Class of 1900, Towns was later affiliated with Atlanta University, first as a student, then professor and finally as an active alumnus. One of his most notable contributions is as founder and editor of the *Crimson and Gray*, the Atlanta University Alumni Association monthly newsletter. He was a member of the class of 1894 which also included his close friend James Weldon Johnson, with whom he corresponded until Johnson's death. He was active in the community as a member of the Atlanta branch of the NAACP, the Citizen's League, the Boule of Atlanta (Sigma Pi Phi), and the Community Chest. Most of his archive now resides at the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University, including extensive correspondence with Du Bois. 


