

African History and Culture, 1540-1921: Imprints from the Library Company of Philadelphia

A vital collection that illuminates Africa's past



Quick Facts

Includes primary source documents that highlight the history of Africa and its diverse peoples across nearly 400 years

More than 1,300 books, pamphlets, almanacs, broadsides and ephemera, both from and about the African continent

Expertly compiled by the curators of the *Afro-Americana Imprints* collection

“...offers new and exciting opportunities for uncovering the lives of Africans during the early era of European exploration and colonization.”

— Krystal Appiah, Curator of African American History, Library Company of Philadelphia

Overview

Created from the renowned holdings of the Library Company of Philadelphia, *African History and Culture, 1540-1921*, is the most comprehensive digital collection of historical documents related to the African continent. More than 1,300 cataloged and searchable books, pamphlets, almanacs, broadsides and ephemera cover the history, peoples, and social and economic changes across Africa from the 16th century to the early 20th century. All areas of Africa and related adjacent regions are covered.

Prismatic research and teaching opportunities

In the 18th century, the Library Company ambitiously attempted to gather every piece of printed information related to Africa and its history. This included historical narratives, social histories, maps, navigational logs, military reports, government documents, demographic studies, anthropological studies, natural histories, personal memoirs and much more. *African History and Culture, 1540-1921* is the only publicly available, digital archive of this seminal collection. Many items published prior to 1800 are included, but most of these 1,300-plus works imprints were published in the 19th century.

Although many documents were originally published in England and the United States, the collection also includes works published in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Haiti, India, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and other locations. Most were published in the English language. Students and scholars across a range of disciplines—from Africana studies to economics, gender studies, anthropology and beyond—will find perspectives and information that expand both the scope and specificity of their research.

About the Library Company of Philadelphia

The Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library specializing in American history and culture from the 17th through 19th centuries. Founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin, the Library Company is America's oldest cultural institution. It houses an extensive collection of rare books, manuscripts, broadsides, ephemera, prints, photographs and works of art, as well as the second largest holding of early American imprints.

A Readex Africana Studies Collection

Researchers interested in *African History and Culture, 1540-1921*, may also be interested in related collections from Readex. These include *African Newspapers, 1800-1922*; *Caribbean History and Culture, 1535-1920*; *Black Authors, 1556-1922*; and *Early American Imprints, 1639-1819*. All are seamlessly integrated and cross-searchable.



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