Quick Facts

One of the most foundational and wide-ranging topics in American history
More than 3,600 printed works about the institution of slavery, all digitized in full color
Diverse materials include books, pamphlets, graphic materials, and ephemera

Winner of the 2017 Outstanding Academic Title Award from the Association of College & Research Libraries' Choice magazine!

“Now any scholar or student…can easily access this vast and invaluable collection….a windfall for historians of 19th-century American history.”
—Manisha Sinha, Draper Chair in American History, University of Connecticut

Overview

This digital edition of the American Antiquarian Society’s extraordinary holdings of materials related to the enslavement of African peoples in America delivers more than 3,600 works published over more than 100 years. The American Slavery Collection addresses every facet of one of the most foundational and wide-ranging topics in U.S. history. These fully-searchable, full-color materials include books, pamphlets, graphic materials, and ephemera; among them are a significant number of invaluable Southern imprints.

Expanded research and teaching opportunities
Coverage includes the Missouri Compromise, the founding of Liberia as a colony for Blacks fleeing America, the rise and suppression of abolitionist activities, the first National Anti-Slavery Society Convention in 1837, the Compromise of 1850, the Emancipation Proclamation, the establishment of “Redeemer” state governments, the birth of Jim Crow, and the expansion of segregation through the early 1920s. Subjects covered include religion, suffrage, insurrections, the slave trade, the lives of Black men and women during and after enslavement, and many others. Genres range from personal narratives to children’s literature, and include many African American authors, including Denmark Vesey, Olaudah Equiano, W.E.B. Du Bois, Charles Ball and dozens more.

The American Slavery Collection is cross-searchable with all other collections on Readex AllSearch for seamless searching to jumpstart research and quickly navigate results.

About the American Antiquarian Society
The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) is both a learned society and a major independent research library. The AAS library houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, sheet music and graphic arts material printed from the beginning of European colonization through 1876 in what is now the United States, Canada and the West Indies. The Society’s holdings of American printed materials dating from 1821 through 1876 are among the strongest anywhere.

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