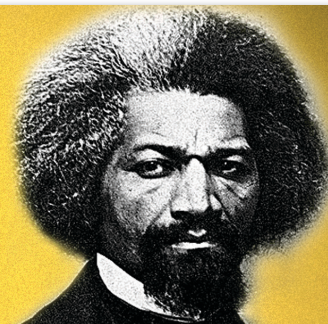


# Black Authors, 1556-1922: Imprints from the Library Company of Philadelphia

*The most complete and compelling collection  
of its kind*



## Quick Facts

More than 550 works by authors of African or African American descent

A glimpse into the creative efforts of Black authors over three centuries

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

**“Unparalleled chronological and geographical scope of the political, intellectual, and cultural writings of people of African descent in the Americas, Africa, and Europe.”**

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

## Overview

Created from the renowned holdings of the Library Company of Philadelphia, *Black Authors, 1556-1922* is the most complete and compelling collection of its kind. It offers more than 550 fully catalogued and searchable works by Black authors from the Americas, Europe and Africa, expertly compiled by the curators of *Afro-Americana Imprints* collection. Found within are wide-ranging genres, including personal narratives, autobiographies, histories, expedition reports, military reports, novels, essays, poems and musical compositions.

### New research and teaching opportunities

Major subject areas addressed in *Black Authors* include literature, history, colonialism, gender studies, the institution of slavery, diaspora studies and many other fields of research. As a whole, this collection reveals how the creative efforts of Black authors evolved over three centuries in response to broader social and cultural shifts.

The earliest published works are largely travel narratives and historical works treating the exploration of the African continent and the collision of European nations with the peoples of Africa. This is followed by a proliferation of personal narratives—first in Europe and then in America and the Caribbean—with the beginning of anti-slavery letters, speeches and literary works. Following the American Civil War, Black authors branched into almost all fields, resulting in a diverse collection containing works of history, science, philosophy, literature, music and drama.

Authors included are Leo Africanus, Ignatius Sancho, Benjamin Banneker, Phillis Wheatley, Olaudah Equiano, David Ruggles, William Wells Brown, Solomon Northrup, Harriet Wilson, Harriet Jacobs, Alexander Crummell, Martin Delany, Edward Wilmot Blyden, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Josiah Henson, Frederick Douglass, Bethany Veney, Paul Laurence Dunbar, W.E.B. Du Bois, Charles W. Chestnutt, Booker T. Washington, James Weldon Johnson and hundreds of others.

### 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 the 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.



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