

Caribbean History and Culture, 1535-1920: Imprints from the Library Company of Philadelphia

The largest and most significant collection of its kind



Quick Facts

Covers the diverse history of Caribbean islands over a span of nearly 400 years
More than 1,200 books, pamphlets, almanacs, broadsides and ephemera, both from and about this region
Expertly compiled by the curators of the extraordinary *Afro-Americana Imprints* collection

“A one-of-a-kind resource for students and scholars of Caribbean studies.... Atlantic World, hemispheric studies, and print culture are just a few of the fields that will be enriched by this collection.”

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

Overview

Created from the renowned holdings of the Library Company of Philadelphia, *Caribbean History and Culture, 1535-1920* is the largest and most significant digital collection of its kind. More than 1,200 fully cataloged and searchable books, pamphlets, almanacs, broadsides and ephemera cover the history of this broad region from the 16th century to the early 20th century.

New research and teaching opportunities

This digital collection is based on the Library Company archive that itself was an ambitious attempt to gather all printed information about the Caribbean and its history. Works of all kinds are included: multi-volume histories of the region, letters, diaries, trial records, confessions, ship logs, military reports, government documents, and much more. Major subject areas covered include Atlantic studies, diaspora studies, economic studies, history of medicine, ethnicity and gender studies, Latin America, the institution of slavery, and others.

The geographical focus of these materials is the islands of the Caribbean Sea, often referred to as the West Indies, though many works also deal with nearby islands technically not part of the Caribbean chain. Also included are rare works that cover both Caribbean islands and neighboring areas such as Florida, Mexico and Brazil. In addition, due to the nature of the Atlantic slave trade, some works also cover Africa, especially the West African coastal nations that played a key role in the transportation of enslaved peoples to the Americas.

The places of publication of these 1,200-plus works include the United States; England, France, Spain, the Netherlands and other European countries; and the Caribbean itself. Most of the works are in English, approximately 250 are in French, and a small number are in the other languages of other Colonial powers that controlled parts of the Caribbean.

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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