Negro History and Literature: A Selected Annotated Bibliography.
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Approximately 175 books dealing with "the experience of black people" in America and produced by both black and white authors are listed in this bibliography. Entries include not only accounts of black personal experience—autobiography, poetry, and fiction—but also social and historical documents, anthologies, and specialized studies. A few items on African culture supply an anthropological cross-cultural viewpoint. The books are classified into four age groups (5-8, 9-12, 13-15, and high school-adult), brief annotations are provided, and paperback editions are noted. (LH)
NEGRO HISTORY and LITERATURE

A SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
INTRODUCTION

This selection of books dealing with what might be called "the Negro experience" or "the experience of black people" is comprehensive and well-balanced. An understanding of the experience of black people in the United States requires some familiarity with a solid body of factual knowledge provided by history and biography, as well as insights communicated through literature and autobiography. This list contains a wide range of all of these types of material. These books have been produced by both black authors and white, for the destiny of white men and black men has been so intertwined that the works of both are essential for a complete and rounded documentation of race relations. Careful consideration has been given, however, to the inclusion of accounts of personal experience—autobiography, poetry, and fiction—of Negroes, without which there can be no depth of understanding.

Misinformation and omitted information have made it very difficult for anyone to secure a clear picture of the history of the black people in the U.S.A. The work of scholars who have corrected the distortions and supplied the missing pages is well represented, both in the forms of integrated narratives as in Lerone Bennett's Before the Mayflower and through documents and specialized studies. A few well-chosen items on Africa supply the need for historical and anthropological cross-cultural perspective, and classification of items by suitability for various age groups is a particularly useful feature of this reading guide.

The material here includes some of the best of what is currently available. The task of fully correcting the distortions, and writing the missing pages of American history to include the black man in his honorable and rightful place will take time. This generation of young people cannot wait until new, accurate textbooks are written and published. Happily, many authors outside of the textbook field have been sensitized to the need for such material, and new books are appearing on publishers' current lists.

It is the job of all of us to continue to search for and demand more of such honest and accurate documentation so that it may be brought into the classroom, the settlement house, the scout troop, the library and the home. Only in this way will the real story of America's past become known.

-- St. Clair Drake  
Professor of Sociology,  
Roosevelt University, Chicago  
Member, Board of Directors,  
National Federation of Settlements  
and Neighborhood Centers
RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, YOUTH LEADERS AND HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS


A moving account of desperate efforts of Negroes to make their way to freedom.


A collection of hundreds of documents, speeches, and letters covering American Negro history through 1910.


Traces the development of Negro discontent from slavery to World War I.


Highly readable study of 131 Negro leaders since the American Revolution. The author treats briefly of the social origins of this group and sets forth his conclusions about the social climate that favored their rise.


Full history of the Negro from the great empires of the Nile Valley to the Negro revolt of the 1960's.


Documented records from 1619 to the present day provide essential background for understanding the crises that face our society today.


The stories of old former slaves recorded in their own words in this folk history of slavery.

* Paperback

A pamphlet discussing recent scholarship and views. Analyzes and lists source materials.


Vivid picture of Negro life, by a Pulitzer Prize winner. The poems are simple and direct, with a wide range of subject matter and occasional pleasant touches of humor.


This autobiography of a young man who grew up in Harlem tells of the realities of Harlem life in the 1940's and 1950's, describing both the tragedies and the occasional victories.


Explains the origins, development and goals of the Black Power movement. The authors claim that the Negro people have been misled by both white and black leaders who have fostered the "illusion" that America would allow equality for all peoples.


An elementary book of short selections about the Negro from the Revolutionary War to the 1960's.


Analyzes the political, religious, and economic life of the Negro ghetto and reveals the deterioration of human resources. Points up the importance of a power structure to promote Negro progress.


A collection of essays and open letters written from California's Folsom State Prison, revealing the forces that shape a man's life. There are sections on the Watts riots, on the black man's stake in the Vietnam War, Cleaver's religious conversion and other issues.

* Paperback

An easily read survey of highlights of Negro history from colonial times to the present.


Sponsored by Phelps-Stokes Fund. Tables, charts, and articles covering every major aspect of 300 years of Negro life and achievement.


Written primarily for use in an eighth-grade American history course, this book presents basic facts about the Negro. It can be read by the pupils.


A sociological study of the urban Negro community in all its aspects.

Duberman, Martin, IN WHITE AMERICA. New York, New American Library (Signet Books), 1965. 112 pp. 60¢.

Using quotations from historical documents, this two-act drama depicts the history of the Negro in America.


A history of the Negro's role in the Civil War and Reconstruction.


A reissue of the Negro classic. This book became the bible of the militant school of protest, an equal rights movement as opposed to the movement of conciliation represented by Booker T. Washington.

* Paperback
*Ellison, Ralph, INVISIBLE MAN. New York, New American Library (Signet Books), 1952. 439 pp. 95¢.

An intense, dramatic story of the progression of a simple, optimistic Southern Negro youth through various stages of trauma and disillusionment. One of the most distinguished works by an American Negro author.


The Nigerian-born author describes black nationalism in the United States, the Negro's struggle for identity and his efforts to advance materially and culturally.


A black Algerian psychiatrist presents the Algerian revolution from the viewpoint of the rebels, emphasizing the inevitable crimes and mental disorders that derive from a rule imposed by violence. A "bible" of many American Negro militants.


The saga of Negro slavery in America as expressed in the songs they sang.


Story of what it meant to be a free Negro in the days of slavery.


Two black psychiatrists discuss the inner conflicts and the desperation of the black man's life in America, and the roots of the anger that has sporadically erupted into violence.


Text and photographs provide a comprehensive and dramatic portrait of the civil rights movement.

* Paperback

The autobiography of an escaped Negro slave in pre-Civil War days, whose life served as an inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.


A discussion of the writings of American Negroes by various critics, black and white, together with a symposium on Richard Wright in exile.


A collection of essays, fiction, and poetry, including writings by James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, Dorothy West, and others.


The poems of 37 Negro poets divided into five sections: lyrical, protest, personal and general descriptions, and personal reflective statements.


Covers more than three centuries of Negro life in America, in text and pictures.


A stimulating cross section of imaginative writing. Includes work of Negroes in the U.S.A. and in the Caribbean, and tributes to Negro achievements and personalities by white poets.


A description of life in East Africa, including leadership, goals, education, and improved methods of nutrition.


Valuable reference guide to American Negro history, divided into chronologically arranged units with careful and pertinent annotations and bibliography listings.

* Paperback

The late civil rights leader discusses the "next steps to achieve equality." Dr. King felt that in trying to help the Negro people, he had to help all people. He saw a need for wide coalitions to influence candidates for political office.


Three papers by Hylan Lewis from The Child Rearing Study of Low Income District of Columbia Families sponsored by the Health and Welfare Council of the National Capital.


Attempts to "see the man as he sees himself, and compare what he says with what he does and to explain his behavior as a direct response to the conditions of lower-class Negro life."


A Negro sociologist's account of the Black Muslim movement in the U.S. describing its forerunners, doctrines, organization and leaders. The author believes the movement will grow as long as there is racial tension in the U.S.


A challenging history of the Negro in America.


A guide to the differences among Negro groups--the Urban League, the NAACP, CORE, SNCC, SCLC and the Black Muslims. Sympathizing with direct action, Lomax is nevertheless fair to the older leaders.


The remarkable change of a petty criminal and drug-pusher into a natural leader with a deep conviction that "no man has believed perfectly until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."

* Paperback

Through letters, diaries, journals, speeches, and the testimony of Negroes, the reader gains an authentic picture of a tragic and heroic phase of American history. In these expressions of hope and sorrow, present-day Americans find inspiration as they continue the civil rights struggle.


Games--active, quiet, and singing--from 64 countries. Clear, simple directions.

Mitchell, Hugh P., STUDIES OF THE CONCEPT "RACE": SOME APPLICATIONS TO THE EX-SLAVE NEGRO.


A brief account of the Negro's role in American history. Includes an eight-page bibliography.


Influence of the Negro in the United States from pre-Revolutionary days to the 1960's.


Study of the development of teen-agers interviewed about five years previously by other authors. The emphasis is on psychodynamics and psychiatric evaluation.


Decolonization of American Literature.


* Paperback
A study of the Negro in selected junior and senior high school and college-level history textbooks.


An official summary reviewing the Presidential study of the riots that rocked American cities in the summer of 1967, and analyzing what happened, why it happened and what can be done to prevent future outbreaks.


An intriguing history of Africa, including a survey of the continent today, area by area.


Color pictures of outstanding Negroes in many professions.


A volume of epic poetry which traces the history of the Negro in America, focusing on Harlem, from its earliest days to modern times.

Trubowitz, Sidney, A HANDBOOK FOR TEACHING IN THE GHETTO SCHOOL. Chicago, Quadrangle Books, 1968. 175 pp. $4.95.

Examines the educational situation in a ghetto elementary school and suggests how beginning teachers might work effectively in this environment.


Three resource handbooks for teachers--a guide to integration of information on Negro history and contributions into other courses. For kindergarten to grade three; grades four, five and six; 12th grade Social Studies.


Story of a Negro boy's crimes, of what part society played in those crimes and of how the boy paid the penalty. This work has frequently been compared to "An American Tragedy" for its sustained narrative power and moral importance.

* Paperback
For ages 5-8


Young children are concerned about the sudden disappearance of Mrs. Meech's blueberry pie. After some sleuthing they find the culprit. Interracial illustrations.


One of a series of Step-Up Books for easy reading, this is a well-documented and attractively illustrated book about the life of the 16th President.


Full color pictures of an integrated kindergarten in an urban neighborhood depict a child going to school for the first time.


Miki's first-grade class gives a costume party at which he manages to be the center of the fun. Readers meet people living in a colorful New York neighborhood.


Here is a story about a family before and after the arrival of "the little good feeling."


A gentle book about a favorite folk hero who was born with a hammer in his hand and died after winning the battle with the machine. The drawings are exceptionally good.


Peter's problems, which stem from the arrival of a baby sister, are successfully solved. Illustrations show a delightful Negro family.

Interracial pictures and a narrative filled with humor, endear this book to beginning readers. It is about a boy on a day when "nothing went right."


Moving from city to suburb, Janice--a little Negro girl--discovers a valentine and a new friend, too.

Udry, Janice May, illus. by Eleanor Mill, WHAT MARY JO SHARED. Racine, Wis., Whitman Publishing Co., 1966. unp. $2.95.

Mary Jo, a little Negro girl, makes an original contribution when she thinks of something unique for show-and-tell time: her father! Realistic pictures.


Two boys named Henry--one Negro and one white--find fun and friendships in a supermarket.

Wilson, Julia, illus. by John Wilson, BECKY. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1967. 48 pp. $3.75.

Every child who has longed for a doll will be entranced with this story of Becky. While the drawings reveal that Becky has a brown skin, she might be any child.


Easily read sentences and well-chosen photographs introduce a younger child to a brilliant contemporary Negro leader.


Another in a series of books for young readers based on biographies of important Negroes. Describes Ralph Bunche's rise from a childhood of hardship to one of the most important jobs in the world. The greater part of the book deals with his work for the United Nations.
For ages 9-12


An 11-year-old boy gets in trouble with truant officers and steals in order to run away. Told from the child's point of view, the reader sees understanding law enforcement at work. Excellent reading and a happy ending.


The Ashanti way of life--government, family, religion, and crafts--is portrayed authentically. Statehood and industrialization are also described.


Masai life is sharply delineated in this timely book in which the author discusses changes in Africa affecting tribal ways.


An anthology of stories focusing on people who put their beliefs about brotherhood into practice.


Profiles of six American women of the 19th century who helped change course of events in many public arenas. Stories about the Quakers, Prudence Crandall who championed education for Negro girls and Harriet Tubman are especially relevant today.


Tempestuous Queenie Peavy, who lives in the backwoods of Georgia, likes school but often gets into trouble. After imminent danger is averted she begins to live in the real world, rather than her dream world.


A 10-year-old girl in a Louisiana town stands alone in her decision to attend an integrated school. Readers can identify with her and her associates.

A courageous Negro woman makes her way from cotton picker to college president; in the process she helps others achieve dignity and self-respect.


These ten stories, exploring aspects of city life, appeal to children of many different backgrounds.


A long-time friend and associate wrote this biography of Dr. King who, despite danger and opposition, continued his struggle to win equality for all Americans. The words and music of "We Shall Overcome" are included.


A young Harlem girl resents the responsibility of caring for a troublesome younger brother, Stevie. Through the interest of his teacher and a trip to the country to visit her, both children grow up a little.


The Agebashians are all musical except Sammy who feels left out. When he makes a poster and plays excellent baseball, the whole family cheers. Done with a light touch.


A useful adaptation of Douglass' Autobiography, which retains the quality and spirit of the original work.


One of the Discovery Books for above-average early readers, this is an engrossing biography of slave-born George Washington Carver, his great yearning for education and the eventual flowering of his genius.

The story of Ben, an immigrant boy and indentured servant, and his friendship with a slave who escapes to freedom. Ben's gradual realization of the horrors of slavery, and his determination to act in behalf of his friend will help young readers understand the role of the individual.


As a child reads about man's quest for freedom, he can understand the value of our democratic heritage and feel greater responsibility for the rights of others.


Ellen, who lives in a housing project, becomes an unwitting accomplice in newsstand thefts, but eventually regains her self-respect as she works with children in a playground program.


The simple beauty of African art (Nigeria, Congo, Cameroons, Guinea, Ghana) is effectively presented in this handsome volume.


Based on actual family experiences, this is an illuminating and perceptive story of a boyhood in northern New York State just before and during the Civil War.


"I want a chance to be lonely ... In my own way ... In my own corner." The speaker is Evan, a small boy in Harlem. After a time, when peace and quiet begin to pall he helps his little brother set up his own corner.


Photographs and a carefully documented text make this a fine introduction to modern Africa with its varied geography and customs.

The life of the woman who was called the "Moses of her people," whose dream of liberty for herself and for the oppressed Negro moved her to become the important leader in the Underground Railroad. Although many volumes have been written about this unusual woman, her life story bears retelling.


Stories which highlight the accomplishments of outstanding Negroes: Crispus Attucks, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Marian Anderson, Ralph Bunche, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and such lesser known figures as James Forten, Henry Brown, Robert Smalls, Matthew Henson.


A Negro boy in an all-white class works out his fears and gradually makes new friends. A book to help any child in a strange, frightening situation.


When Billy's father cannot finish his painting job because of an accident, the neighbors come to help. An appealing story of a Negro boy and his family as they find a new home and new friends in the suburbs.


The land and people of Kenya--their homes, food, clothes, work, religions, health and history.


The story of two lone children--one Negro and the other white--which begins with "witchcraft" and grows into friendship.


An American Negro who overcame obstacles to get an education, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace, and now serves on the staff of the United Nations.

Problems and activities of children in an integrated low-income housing project in a big city form the substance of this story.


The history of the American Negro between the two World Wars. Describes the migration of millions of Negroes from the South into the Northern cities and the development of protest movements within the Negro community. The final section deals with the growing militancy in the labor movement, the formation of civil rights organizations and the appointment by President Roosevelt of the first Fair Employment Practices Commission.


Part of a series, Childhood of Famous Americans, the volume deals with one of the first men killed in the colonial days by British troops stationed in Boston. Crispus Attucks' father had been brought to this country from West Africa and his mother was a native Natick Indian. The description of Crispus' boyhood presents a picture of slavery in New England (little has been written about slavery in the North).

Morsbach, Mabel, THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN LIFE. Cincinnati, Cincinnati Public Schools. 218 pp.

A much needed and highly successful social studies book setting forth the historical significance and achievement of Negroes both individually and as a group from the early age of exploration to modern times. Its style is simple and readable and the organization of the material interesting and logical. Useful for sixth to ninth grades.


Susan B. Anthony, Jane Addams, Mary McLeod Bethune, Margaret Mead and Amelia Earhart are among the "women of courage" whose pioneering efforts have opened doors to other men and women of all races and creeds.


City readers identify easily with the children in this story. Other readers learn about city life.

* Paperback

Jehudi Ashmun, almost unknown to most Americans, was a white college student, just after the War of 1812, who joined an anti-slavery society and was given a job of taking a shipload of Negro emigrants to a new colony in the jungles of Africa. He helped to establish the new nation of Liberia and was appointed governor there in 1825. Because of his courage and skill, African chiefs named him "the white lion."

Patterson, Lillie, FREDERICK DOUGLASS. Champaign, Ill., Garrard Publishing Co., 1965. 80 pp. $1.98.

The story of a former slave who became a leader in the abolition movement, a friend of Lincoln's and an adviser to presidents who followed. An important book for young readers.


Artistic and technical skills of African people living over 6,000 years ago.


The New York Times cites this as a book through which "... a white child might change his sensitivity to his Negro friends and a Negro child might enrich his expectations of himself."


Vivid sketches of people and organizations working to build a peaceful world.


A history of Negro life from Africa to America. Includes biographical sketches of outstanding Negroes, as well as discussion of Negro contributions to various fields.


After his parents are killed in a plane crash in Oklahoma, Adam visits his cousins in Brooklyn where he gets acquainted with other children. Authenticity of setting and an understanding of life in a mixed urban neighborhood distinguish this novel.

The experiences of a nine-year-old Negro boy and his migrant family, who long for and finally secure a "stay-put-place."


A factual presentation of the Negro from early colonial days to the present. Stresses individual achievement and efforts toward integration and generally takes optimistic view that full equality is not far off.


Taking its title from Dr. Martin Luther King's historic speech in Washington in August 1963, the book details the lives and activities of ten Negro leaders, discussing the Negro in the arts, in the armed forces, in the labor movement, and in the organized civil rights movement. Includes biographies of Marian Anderson, Rosa Lee Parks, Thurgood Marshall, A. Philip Randolph, Hugh Mulzac.


Sent off to an integrated summer camp, two little Negro girls react in opposite ways; one loves the camp and the other hates it.


Crippled Zeke, who lives on the fifth floor of a Harlem house, loves the music made by a jazz man across the street.


"... gains made by the American Negro have not only helped him, but have also made our country a better place in which to live," says the author of this short but useful book.
For ages 13-15


Negro men and women who have contributed to the welfare and culture of our nation from the American Revolution to the present day. Brief text illustrated with photographs.


This story of a wartime merchant ship with a Negro captain and a mixed crew illustrates how effectively men of different creeds, colors and countries can live and work together for a common goal. Of particular interest to boys because of some exciting adventures on high seas.


Sojourner Truth, born a slave in 1797, in Ulster County, New York, lived for half of her life as a domestic servant. At the age of 46 she set forth to preach her religious faith and to teach against slavery. She became a champion of women's rights, and of prison reform, and fought to improve conditions for working people. The book describes the life of this remarkable woman in the developing history of the country. It is illustrated with some striking photographs taken by Mathew Brady, and by prints from newspapers and magazines of the period.


An updating of a remarkable earlier book called They Seek a City—an effort to understand the migration of Negroes from the rural South to the large urban centers. This edition includes interesting material on Detroit, Chicago and Watts. Recommended for older teen-agers and adults.


The author sees the "struggle of white and Negro people simply to see each other clearly" as the major problem of race relations in the United States today.

A factual account of the Underground Railroad beginning just prior to the Civil War and running through to the Reconstruction period. In a dramatic retelling of the events leading to the defeat of slavery, the author skillfully relates these happenings to other important stirrings of the time—the rising consciousness of the poor-white wage earner and the struggle for political emancipation of women. The book is a tribute to America's still-incomplete "flight to freedom" and to the many Americans, rich and poor, who have led the way.


Those who know little about the great history of Negro Africa will discover many interesting facts about important explorers, traders, scholars and leaders who feature in this continent's exciting past.


A collection of outstanding short stories by Negro writers depicting the richness of Negro creative efforts. Includes examples ranging from Paul Laurence Dunbar to LeRoi Jones. Highly recommended for older teen-agers and adults.


Talent and careful research produced this graphic volume about Africa's emerging nations.


Another one in the Zenith Books series presenting the history of minority groups in America. Includes short biographical sketches of six little-known Negroes of the Revolutionary period: Benjamin Banneker, Paul Cuffe, Phillis Wheatley, Peter Salem, Jean Baptiste, and John Chavis. Well researched and well written.


An interesting biography of Paul Laurence Dunbar, great Negro poet. The son of former slaves, Paul grew up in Dayton, Ohio,
with an understanding mother and fine teachers who encouraged his interest in writing. Not until he was 19 and job-hunting was Paul first confronted with the difficulties of being Negro. Throughout his career he devoted his talents to showing the Negro as "more human than African." An enlightening glimpse into the little-known Negro intellectual life at the turn of the century.


This great Negro leader's inspiring progress from slave to founder of Tuskegee Institute is related movingly. One of the better historical novels.


Set in a Midwest farming community, this novel conveys a young Negro girl's first steps toward maturity as she learns to separate daydreams from reality.


A Negro scientist and authority on the storage and preservation of human blood exemplified dedication and integrity under frustrating circumstances.


Negroes and Caucasians in the civil rights movement are changing the hearts and minds of Americans as they help to make full citizenship a reality for all. Case histories and anecdotes add interest. In concise fashion, the writers outline the legal and economic advancement of American Negroes since World War I.


Many young readers have heard about Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass, but few know about Matthew A. Henson, explorer; Gabriel Prosser, leader of a revolt in Richmond in 1800; and James Beckwourth, colorful frontiersman who went west with the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. These and other Negroes who have contributed to American life are included in this collection of vignettes by an outstanding Negro writer.

Another well-documented book about Negro and white contributions to the development of America, somewhat uneven in its choice of material, but valuable in clarifying the interrelationships between the races throughout our history.


This simple historical statement about the causes and the developments during the Civil War, illustrated with photographs taken during the Civil War and by drawings and sketches made at the time is an effort to set history straight. Of particular interest is the section on the role of the Negroes during the Civil War, pointing out that despite Abraham Lincoln's statement that he was fighting the war to save the Union, Negroes saw the war as a war of liberation. At first, free Negroes wanting to join the army found that they were not wanted, but in 1862, Negroes were finally allowed to enlist and they did so enthusiastically.

McCarthy, Agnes and Reddick, Lawrence, WORTH FIGHTING FOR. New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc. (Zenith Books), 1965. 118 pp. $2.95.

One of a new series, concentrating on the history of minority groups in the United States and their contribution to the development of the country. The record of Negro achievements during the Civil War and the Reconstruction, and the setbacks which followed Rutherford B. Hayes' election to the Presidency, have not been very frequently--or very accurately--discussed in the past.


An account recreated through letters, official papers, diaries and speeches of the period of the involvement of the Negro during the Civil War years. Documents the high level of performance by Negroes struggling for equal rights.


Despite poverty, educational barriers, and the stigma of having been born a slave, Carver attained world renown as a scientist and educator.

An important compilation of contemporary letters, newspapers and diaries that tells the story of the American Negro from his arrival on these shores to the Emancipation Proclamation. Highly recommended for all libraries and schools.


An interesting biography of a controversial character, hated by many and respected by some. As a legislator in Pennsylvania, and a Congressman from before the Civil War to the turbulent years of the Reconstruction, Stevens led the fight for public education, for the freedom of fugitive slaves and later for the abolition of all slavery. He led the fight for the adoption of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. The book adds much information about a little-known and often distorted period of American history.


Short biographies of men and institutions that have been in the forefront of the struggle for freedom including such men as George Washington Carver and Martin Luther King, Jr., and such groups as the United Nations and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The author points out that even today freedom of speech still needs its champions.


The story of an outstanding musician and a warm human being who shattered walls of prejudice to achieve a musical career.


The contributors to this book call attention to the unique art, music, education, customs, and political ambitions of African people today.


New photographs, a map, and an index are helpful features of the 1964 edition of a book long regarded as basic in the field of African studies.
Pei, Mario Andrew, illus. with photographs, OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1964. 184 pp. $2.95.

This graphic history of the United States shows the ways in which many races and nations contributed to the country's growth.


A simple girl, born into slavery, grew to be a legendary figure--a "Moses" who brought hundreds of her people to freedom. In this beautifully written book, Harriet Tubman's story takes its rightful place as one of the high points in America's march toward full freedom.


Branch Rickey, determined to batter down prejudices excluding Negroes from major league baseball, hired Jackie Robinson in 1945. The young player's humiliations and triumphs are related with accuracy and sensitivity.


The editor has gathered Christmas poems, spirituals, and stories--traditional and contemporary--written by and about Negroes. Excellent reading for all ages, every year.


Henry David Thoreau, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King are introduced as leading exponents of the idea of nonviolent resistance to injustice.


Robert Smalls, born a slave, piloted a steamer to freedom in the North for himself and others, and joined the Union forces. After the Civil War, Smalls played a leading role in the Reconstruction and was finally sent to Congress as a representative of his district. The tragedy of the post-Civil War period, in which the seeds of today's Southern problems were sown, is movingly told. Excellently researched.

This is a deeply moving review of America's treatment of her Negro citizens, utilizing diaries and other original sources of the 19th century. It should be required reading for all young people.


One of the Zenith Book series published in an effort to present the history of minority groups in the United States and their participation in the growth and development of the country. This volume presents short biographical sketches of W. E. B. DuBois, Mary Church Terrell, Booker T. Washington, and James Weldon Johnson.


When Lucretia Mott died at the age of 87, she had won victories in her struggles for the rights of Negroes, women, and others denied full citizenship. A fascinating biography of an effective woman crusader.


The biography of an outstanding Negro woman, born on a Southern cotton plantation, who rose to a position of leadership in education and social service. Presents a dynamic view of social conditions during the past century. Highly recommended.


A poetic presentation of the Negro's gifts to America, from early slave days through today. In swift-moving and dramatic language, the author characterizes individual Negroes through various periods in American history, emphasizing throughout the unity of purpose of the American Negro and of America as a whole. "We have become a mighty race ... Dreaming your dreams ... Your pride has become our pride." Beautifully illustrated by Lynd Ward.


The story of Harriet Tubman, a slave girl, who escaped by way of the Underground Railroad and then helped others to do the same thing.

* Paperback

One of America's greatest Negro poets overcame adversity by a combination of genuine ability and unremitting effort. Knowledge of his boyhood years sheds light on a brilliant adult career.


Here is an excellent introduction to the diversity of culture, environment, and values among Africa's people. Chronological Chart of African and World Events.


This definitive work about African tribal cultures gives the reader insight into the life of a changing continent. Reading list and index.


Interesting historical chronical of the African slave boy, At-mum, who was brought to Boston in 1725 and sold to a Quaker, Caleb Copeland. Given the Christian name of Amos, taught to speak and to work, he refuses an offer of freedom until he feels he is ready for it. Amos eventually buys his freedom, and that of other Negroes too. In a life devoted to hard work, he learns to enjoy as well the responsibilities of his newly earned liberty. Presents a good picture of the period.


A courageous Connecticut schoolmistress in pre-Civil War days. Despite the prejudices of the townspeople, she opens her small school to a Negro girl, continuing to teach through physical persecution and a trial. Actual records, lectures and early newspaper reports unearthed by the author are the makings of a poignant historical novel with real current significance.
For Additional Information

The New York Public Library's Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History, 103 West 135 Street, New York City is considered one of the most important centers in the world for the study of the Negro. Materials must be used within the library, but telephone and mail inquiries are answered by a staff of professionally trained librarians.

Publication catalogs listing additional materials in the fields of race, civil rights and intergroup relations are available on request from each of the co-publishers of this bibliography.
The publishers acknowledge with thanks the help of the American Friends Service Committee in suggesting a number of the titles included in this listing.