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Afro-American Studies

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AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

by Daryl Dance

Virginia Commonwealth University

REFERENCE WORKS

McPherson, James M. et al. *Blacks in America: Bibliographical Essays*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1971.

Extensive bibliographical essays on all areas of the black American historical and cultural experience.

Matney, William C., ed. *Who's Who among Black Americans: 1980-81*. 3d ed. Northbrook, Ill.: Who's Who among Black Americans, Inc., Publishing Co., 1981. ISBN: 0-915130-33-5. \$59.95.

The third edition of this biographical dictionary, published previously in 1976 and 1978, provides limited biographical data about more blacks than any other source.

Ploski, Harry A., Otto J. Lindenmeyer, and Ernest Kaiser, eds. and comps. *Reference Library of Black America*. New York: Bellwether Publishing Co., 1971.

A five-volume work providing general discussions, biographical data, and statistical data for a variety of areas, including the mass media, the press, sports, entertainment, writers, musicians, politics, history, and sociology.

Rywell, Martin et al., eds. and comps. *Afro-American Encyclopedia*. North Miami, Fla.: Educational Books Publishers, 1974.

A comprehensive 10-volume encyclopedia of the history, great personalities, literature, art, music, dance, and various accomplishments of blacks from ancient to modern times.

Williams, James D., ed. *The State of Black America, 1984*. New York: National Urban League, 1984. ISBN: 0-87855-973-6. \$15.00 (paper).

An annual series of essays on the state

of black America, including discussions of economics, health, military endeavors, politics, education, and demographics, plus a chronology of events of significance during the year.

INTERPRETIVE WORKS

Baker, Houston A., Jr. *The Journey Back: Issues in Black Literature and Criticism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. ISBN: 0-226-03534-4. \$12.95. ISBN: 0-226-03535-2. \$7.50 (paper).

Arguing that any valid insights into Afro-American literature must stem from an understanding of black American cultural codes, Baker offers an interpretation of black literature from Wheatley to Baraka, involving what he terms "the anthropology of art."

Bell, Roseann P., Bettye J. Parker, and Beverly Guy-Sheftall, eds. *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature*. Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books, 1979.

This extensive and diversified collection of critical essays, original creative works, and interviews focusing on images of black women in literature includes a useful bibliography.

Blassingame, John. *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979. ISBN: 0-19-502562-8. \$22.50. ISBN: 0-19-502563-6. \$9.95 (paper).

The most extensive study of the African's cultural resistance to slavery.

Bogle, Donald. *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks: An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films*. New York: Viking Press, 1973.

A history of blacks in American films from the 1903 *Uncle Tom's Cabin* through 1971, focusing on the various

stereotypical roles to which blacks were restricted and noting the manner in which talented black actors have transcended and often transformed those stereotypes. Includes numerous illustrations from major films.

Dance, Daryl Cumber. *Shuckin' and Jivin': Folklore from Contemporary Black Americans.* Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1978. ISBN: 0-253-35220-7. \$27.50. ISBN: 0-253-20265-5. \$12.50 (paper).

This general and comprehensive collection of folklore includes brief discussions of the historical, political, psychological, and sociological implications of the materials.

Franklin, John Hope. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans.* 5th ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1980. ISBN: 0-394-37013-9, KnopfC. No price.

Popular as a textbook, this study presents a general review of the history of black Americans, beginning with a consideration of their African origins. Includes illustrations and bibliographical notes.

Gutman, Herbert G. *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom: 1750-1925.* New York: Pantheon, 1976. ISBN: 0-394-72451-8, Vin. \$12.95 (paper).

Carefully reconstructing the family and kinship structure of slaves, Gutman demonstrates that they developed distinctive domestic arrangements and kin networks that fostered a new Afro-American culture.

Hull, Gloria T., Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith, eds. *All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, but Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies.* Old Westbury, N.Y.: The Feminist Press, 1982. ISBN: 0-912670-95-9. \$12.95 (paper).

A wide-ranging collection of critical and bibliographical essays on issues regarding black women, focusing on feminism, history, sociology, health, education, religion, literature, and music.

Jones, Reginald L., ed. *Black Psychology.* 2d ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1980. ISBN: 0-06-043435-X, HarpC. \$17.50.

This collection of 37 articles provides an updated treatment of the subject of black psychology that focuses on theory as well as application in areas such as personality, counseling, education, and racism.

Karenga, Maulana. *Introduction to Black Studies.* Los Angeles, Cal.: Kawaida Publications, 1982. ISBN: 0-943412-00-5. \$12.95 (paper).

A comprehensive introduction to all areas of the discipline of black studies, including history, religion, sociology, politics, economics, the arts, and psychology, with extended bibliographies and study questions for each section.

Lee, Robert A., ed. *Black Fiction: New Studies in the Afro-American Novel since 1945.* London: Vision Press, 1980.

A series of essays on the major black prose writers, with Richard Wright serving as the "point of departure," offering the most extensive study of black fiction since Robert Bone's now dated *Negro Novel in America*.

Levine, Lawrence W. *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1977. ISBN: 0-19-502374-9. \$9.95 (paper).

An extensive exploration of black folk expression from the antebellum era to the end of the 1940s, designed to enhance our understanding of black history and culture.

Lewis, Samella. *Art: African American.* New York: Harcourt Brace, 1978. ISBN: 0-15-503410-3, HC. \$20.95 (paper).

A historical review of black art in America from the colonial period, including crafts, painting, sculpture, and printmaking, with extensive illustrations.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Lincoln, C. Eric. *The Black Muslims in America*. Rev. ed. Boston: Beacon Press, 1973.

A thorough study of the history, ideology, and organization of the Black Muslims in the United States, with a consideration of the role of the Muslims in and their impact upon American life.

Redmond, Eugene B. *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry*. Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Books/Doubleday, 1976.

A critical and historical study of black American poetry from its beginnings through the 1970s, with an emphasis on the impact of the folk tradition, particularly music, on that poetry.

Smitherman, Geneva. *Talkin' and Testifyin': The Language of Black America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977. ISBN: 0-8143-1805-3. \$9.95 (paper).

A study of the sound system, grammar, vocabulary, style, and history of black English, with numerous illustrations from literature and folklore.

Southern, Eileen. *The Music of Black Americans: A History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1971. ISBN (2d ed.): 0-393-01807-5. \$25.00. ISBN: 0-393-95279-7. \$12.95 (paper).

A general review and analysis of varied aspects of black music in America, including a discussion of African roots.

Van Sertima, Ivan. *They Came before Columbus*. New York: Random House, 1976. ISBN: 0-394-40245-6. \$16.50.

A highly controversial development of the thesis that Africans not only came to the Americas before Columbus, but that they also made substantial contributions to the building of the Olmec civilization. Dismissed by some critics as foolishness and acclaimed by others as a seminal and definitive study.

Wilmore, Gayraud S. *Black Religion and Black Radicalism*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1970. ISBN: 0-88344-032-6. \$9.95 (paper).

A historical study of the black church as a radical and reactionary institution from slavery through the black power movement.

Wilson, William J. *The Declining Significance of Race*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978. ISBN: 0-226-90129-7, P900, Phoen. \$9.00 (paper).

A cogent and convincing though controversial argument that the changing political and economic structure of the United States has created a situation in which social class has more of an impact upon black social disadvantages than racial discrimination.

LITERATURE

Barksdale, Richard, and Keneth Kinamon. *Black Writers of America*. New York: Macmillan, 1972. ISBN: 0-02-306080-8, 30608. No price.

One of the most comprehensive anthologies of black American literature, including folklore, from the 18th century beginnings to the 1970s, with helpful introductions to each period and each figure and useful bibliographies for each entry.

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. Reprint. New York: New American Library, 1968. ISBN: 0-14-039012-X. \$3.95 (paper).

One of the most eloquent of the popular slave narratives, this account by the famous abolitionist, orator, and U.S. Minister to Haiti is regarded as a classic of its genre.

DuBois, W. E. B. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Reprint. New York: New American Library, 1969.

This powerful and influential exploration of what it means to be a black man in white America includes sociological and historical essays, one of the earliest commentaries on black music, personal anecdotes, and a short story.

Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. New York: Random House, 1952. ISBN: 0-394-71715-5, V715, Vin. \$3.95 (paper).

Winner of a National Book Award, this highly acclaimed novel treats the black American's journey in quest of identity.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. New York: Random House, 1961. ISBN (1969): 0-394-40688-5. \$14.95. ISBN (04/87): 0-452-25942-8, Plume. \$12.95 (paper). ISBN (06/87): 0-452-25942-8, Plume. \$8.95 (paper).

The best-known drama by a black American, this New York Drama Critics Circle Award winner focuses on the struggle against racism and the quest for a black identity.

Malcolm X, with Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. New York: Grove Press, 1965. ISBN: 0-345-29420-3. \$2.75 (paper).

The noted activist and Black Muslim leader's story of his life has become a classic of black autobiography.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. ISBN: 0-8161-4142-8. \$11.95. ISBN: 0-671-61702-8. \$3.95 (paper).

The first black novel to win a Pulitzer Prize (it also won the American Book Award), this is a powerful representation of the new feminist literature that is receiving increasing recognition and acclaim.

Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery: An Autobiography*. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1901. ISBN: 0-89190-799-8, Am. Repr. \$13.95. ISBN: 0-14-039051-0. ISBN: 0-8049-0157-0, CL-157. \$1.95 (paper).

The popular and frequently reprinted autobiography of the most influential black American leader to be prominently identified with the philosophy of accommodation.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. Reprint. New York: Harper & Row, 1966. ISBN: 1-55546-055-0. \$19.95. ISBN: 0-06-014762-8, HarpT. \$18.45. ISBN: 0-06-080855-1, P855, PL. \$4.95 (paper). ISBN: 0-8120-3529-1. \$2.50 (paper).

The best known of all black American novels shocked the literary community and revolutionized black protest literature.

JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS

Black Scholar. Bimonthly. 1969- . Black World Foundation, 300 Brannon Street, San Francisco, CA 94120.

This journal publishes a wide range of articles on politics, economics, history, and the arts as well as poetry and book reviews. Also includes a classified section, which features employment opportunities, mainly academic.

CLA (College Language Association) Journal. Quarterly. 1957- . Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA 30314.

Articles on language and literature with a focus on Afro-American, African, and Caribbean topics.

Ebony. Monthly. 1945- . Johnson Publications, 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605.

This popular magazine is noted for its pictorial representation of black life and for its survey essays on politics, sociology, entertainment, economics, and history. A special annual issue focuses on an area of major concern, such as black women, black crime, black teenagers, the Bicentennial, or Africa.

The Journal of Negro History. Quarterly. 1916- . Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., 1401 Fourteenth Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

Founded by noted historian Carter G. Woodson, *The Journal of Negro History* continues to publish a variety of scholarly essays on black American life and history.

Phylon. Quarterly. 1940- . Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA 30314.

Founded by W. E. B. DuBois, *Phylon* treats a broad range of issues central to black American life and culture.