

Book Reviews

Afro-Americana 1553–1906: Author Catalog of the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, 2008. 890p. alk. paper, \$125.00 (ISBN 9781584562368). LC2008-028647.

Today, many scholars and librarians have more than passing knowledge of the impressive Africana and African Americana materials housed in the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded in 1731, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1824. Forty years ago, these materials were largely unexplored by the scholarly community and unknown to the general public until the two institutions began to reevaluate their collections in response to new scholarship on African Americans. The potential positive impact of these holdings to stimulate new scholarly research placed the Library Company and the Historical Society center-stage as major gatekeepers of rare black materials.

A few select items first garnered attention when the two organizations mounted a joint exhibition entitled “Negro History: 1553–1903,” which opened in Philadelphia on April 17, 1969, with a mere 238 documents on display. The exhibition helped inform the public and scholarly community about rare items amassed decades earlier through accessions, gifts, and purchases and attracted greater scholarly use of other works essential to the study of black history. Publicity surrounding the event generated critical acclaim for the institutions as major repositories having “what is one of the largest and finest accumulations of materials which exists on the American Negro up to 1900.”¹

The documents on exhibit covered a range of topics from a 16th-century treatise on the African homeland to the only known copy of a 1794 German antislavery broadside expounding the horrors of slavery, both of which are detailed in the an-

notated catalog published at the time of the exhibition. The critical success of the show, as well as growing intellectual discourse on black history and social commentary on race relations and ethnicity, affirmed the need to publish a comprehensive listing of the two organizations’ respective holdings. After the exhibition closed on July 17, 1969, the Library Company and the Historical Society applied for and received grants from the Ford Foundation and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society to compile for publication a complete catalog of all books, pamphlets, broadsides, and manuscripts pertaining to Africa and African Americans.

The 1973 publication of the first edition of *Afro-Americana 1553–1906*² represented a significant achievement and catalyst to research in the fields of African studies and African American studies by identifying and facilitating access to over 11,000 printed works and almost 5,000 manuscripts amassed decades earlier by curators at the Library Company and the Historical Society. The first edition is all the more remarkable because it involved “retrospective analysis of already cataloged material and the identification and cataloging of previously uncataloged material.” Furthermore, selection criteria stipulated the inclusion of items written by African Americans denoted by asterisks or works in which Africa or African Americans were “substantively and significantly discussed.” Users unfamiliar with the first edition of *Afro-Americana* may be interested to know the layout is based on the alphabetic scheme used in the *Dictionary Catalog of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature and History in the New York Public Library*, while the organization of material format follows that of Monroe Work’s classic reference source, *A Bibliography of the Negro in Af-*



rica and America. The main divisions are books and pamphlets, which is followed by a broad topical subject index, with sub-headings such as "Protest and Rebellion" and "The Negro in Arms" and includes a few cross-references. Two additional sections treat manuscripts and broadsides separately, although neither section is indexed. Within sections, entries are numbered consecutively in an alphabetical sequence and consist of author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, and pagination. Physical location of books transferred to the Library Company from the Historical Society use the designation (HSP in LCP), while Library Company manuscripts, all of which were transferred to the Historical Society, are denoted (LCP in HSP).

The long-awaited second edition of *Afro-Americana 1553–1906* reprints the 16,000 entries of the first edition and appends an additional 2,500 printed works, preceded by a brief introduction, in a supplement at the end of the catalog. The printed works, with the exception of manuscripts, which are not represented in the second edition, consist of books, pamphlets, and broadsides added to the Library Company under Phillip Lapsansky, Curator of Afro-Americana, since the publication of the first edition. Entries are numbered consecutively and alphabetized. The majority of titles are published between 1553 and 1906, with some important later items listed; a good example is Booker T. Washington's *The Story of the Negro: The Rise from Slavery*, published in 1909 [suppl. no. 2450].

Additions made to the Historical Society since 1973 are not represented in the supplement. However, users are advised to consult the prologue to the second edition for a description of the Historical Society's efforts to augment existing holdings of African Americana by way of merger with the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in 2002. Other ongoing efforts include acquisition of post-1900 collections, the introduction of online finding aids to enhance access to manuscript collections,

the creation of topical research guides available on the Web, and digitization of Underground Railroad documents.

The second edition also reprints the original introduction and prologue prepared by the Library Company and the Historical Society for the first edition. No corrections, revisions, or changes are made to the first edition entries; and, unfortunately, no index exists for the newly added supplement. Still, the catalog will interest specialists in the field and is suitable for large research libraries.—*Emily M. Belcher, Princeton University.*

1. *Philadelphia. Library Company. Negro History, 1553–1903: An Exhibition of Books, Prints, and Manuscripts from the Shelves of the Library Company of Philadelphia and The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300–14 Locust Street, April 17 to July 17, 1969. Philadelphia, 1969.*

2. *Afro-Americana 1553–1906: Author Catalog of the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.* 2nd ed. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, 2008.

Case Studies in Library and Information Science Ethics. Eds. Elizabeth A. Buchanan and Kathrine A. Henderson. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 2009. 165p. alk. paper, \$49.95 (ISBN 9780786433674). LC2009-034606.

"Nothing is more important than the way we treat each other," writes Robert Hauptman in the foreword to this slim yet useful volume of case studies in professional ethics. Although the text is peppered with more and less opaque explorations of what ethics mean—moving from Plato to Heidegger to a particularly dense discussion of intercultural ethics by Rafael Capurro—the essential questions boil down to this quite simple formulation by Hauptman: What does the call to be good to each other mean for libraries? Buchanan and Henderson encourage readers to grapple critically with this question through an exploration of five general themes relevant to librarians: intellectual freedom, privacy, intellectual property, professional ethics, and inter-