

Voices of the African-
American Southwest:
Challenges and Successes of
Archival Representation

Radical and Revolutionary
Collections at Texas A&M
University

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Cushing Memorial Library & Archives

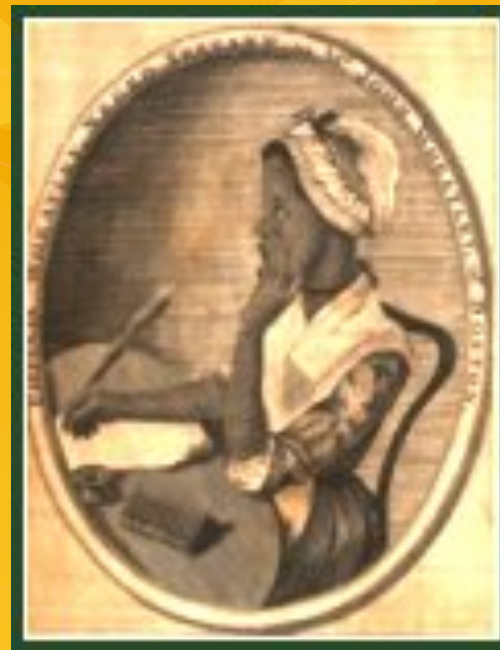


African Diaspora

Africa, America, Middle East, Europe, and Asia

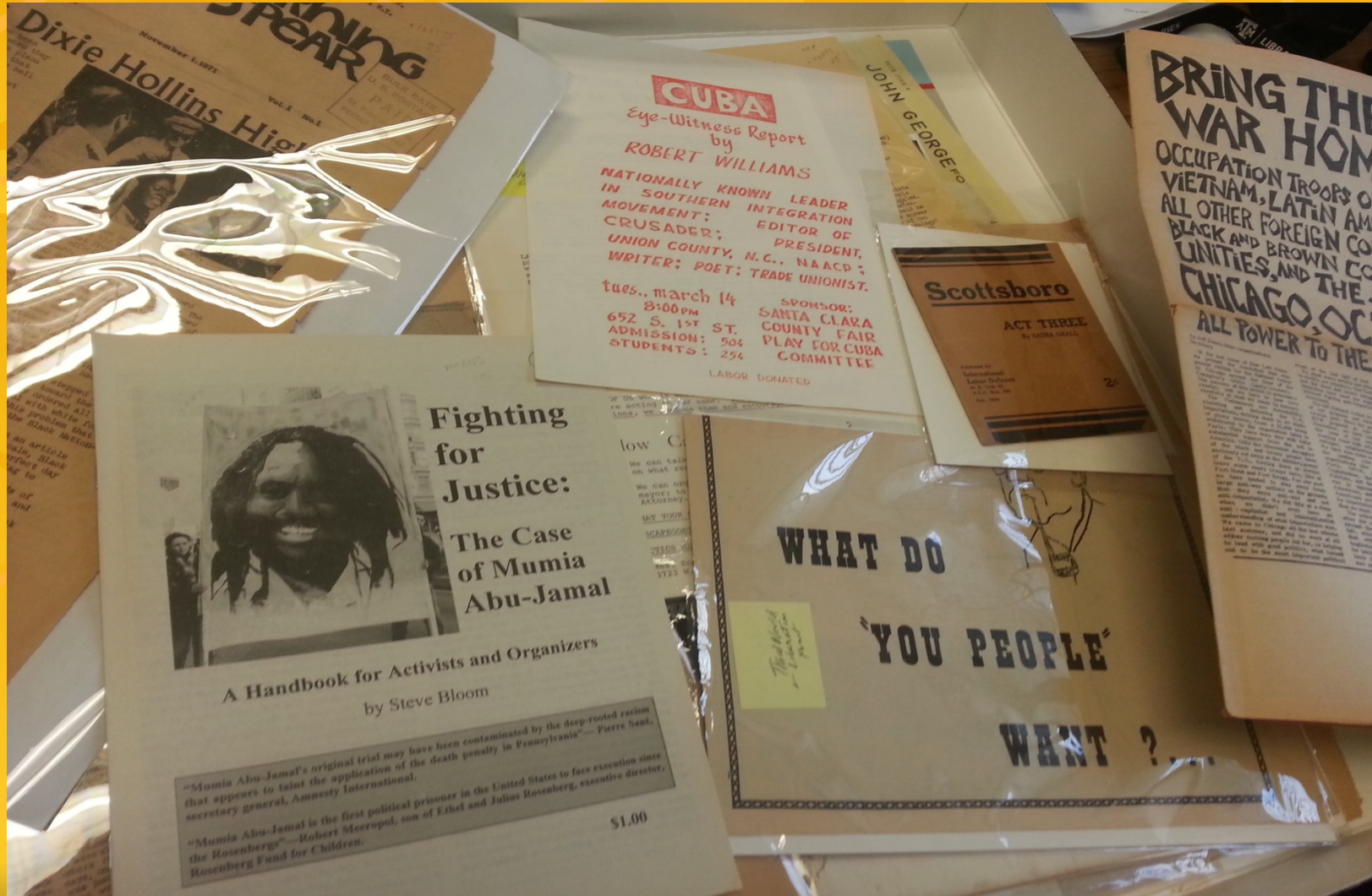
Primary Source Materials

- **Correspondence**
- **Diaries**
- **Manuscripts**
- **Video/audio**
- **CDs/DVDs**
- **Newspapers**



Cushing houses a first edition of Phillis Wheatley's "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral" (London, 1773)

Black Political and Radical activists and activities- 1900s- 1980s



Richard Wright

The American writer Richard Wright to free men.

My body was born in North America, my heart is in Russia today and I'm all confused between my two homelands. It was the U.S. state of Mississippi who forms my body was the Russian Revolution of October he gave me the heart. But today the two giant United USSR and the USA symbols of nationalist fury of our time rivaled in an effort to establish plans for the degradation of the spirit. *(in Italian)*

Lo scrittore americano Richard Wright AGLI UOMINI LIBERI

IL MIO corpo è nato nel Nordamerica, il mio cuore in Russia; ed eccomi oggi tutto confuso fra le mie due patrie. Fu lo stato nordamericano del Mississippi che formò il mio corpo: fu la rivoluzione russa di ottobre che mi diede il cuore. Ma oggi i due giganteschi Stati URSS e USA — simboli della furia nazionalista del nostro tempo — rivalizzano nello sforzo di stabilire piani per l'abbruttimento dello spirito.

Si sono resi colpevoli di umiliare la personalità umana, colpevoli di avvilitare la cultura del nostro tempo; colpevoli di sostituire ai lavori qualitativi i valori quantitativi; colpevoli di creare un universo che poco si rileva come una camera a gas per l'umanità intera.

Queste due nazioni, Russia e Nordamerica, pretendono di essere le rappresentanti ufficiali della libertà umana e, fra le due pretese ufficiali, fra le minacce che si fanno vicendevolmente, lo spirito umano è crocifisso. Gli uomini hanno paura. Non c'è scelta per essi. Non possono fare progetti. Non possono pensare all'avvenire. Tremano nel mezzo di una notte di timore e di spavento. Gli imperativi di una vita militarizzata hanno oscurato e indebolito a tal punto gli istinti umani che gli uomini nemmeno sanno che sono perduti.

Voi, intellettuali, sapete quanto ciò sia vero. Io ugualmente. Ma perchè allora non dichiararlo? Perchè non accordarci per farne il punto di partenza determinante del nostro pensiero e della nostra azione?

Senza dubbio, se siamo uomini coscienti, dobbiamo capire che la crisi che attraversiamo è di una specie ben più grave lotta fra gli Stati di Russia e di Nordamerica. In verità queste due nazioni, fanno la guerra al tuo spirito e al mio spirito, lo spirito contemporaneo che a me ed a te è stato legato dai libri, dalla storia, dalla nostra cultura, lo spirito che ci hanno trasmesso Dante, Shakespeare, Racine, Goethe. Ogni passo del Nordamerica, ogni passo della Russia ci stanno avvicinando al punto in cui il pensiero libero, il sentimento libero e l'azione libera più non saranno sospinti verso...

Angela Y. Davis Collection, 1971

Davis, Angela Collection-1971 (.5 linear ft)

This collection contains the correspondence, post cards, handmade cards, notes, and drawings in German sent to Angela Davis while she was imprisoned awaiting trial in California.



Amiri Baraka Collection

(over 100 items)

correspondence, writings, artwork, poetry, publications

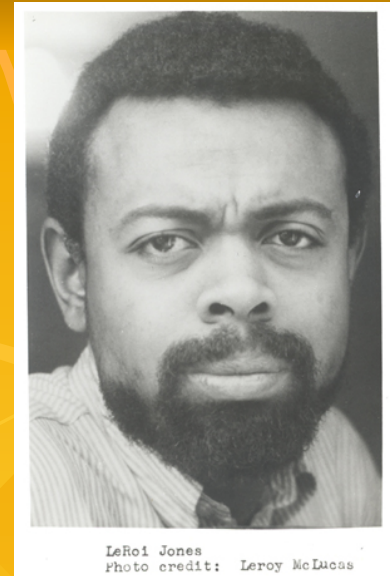
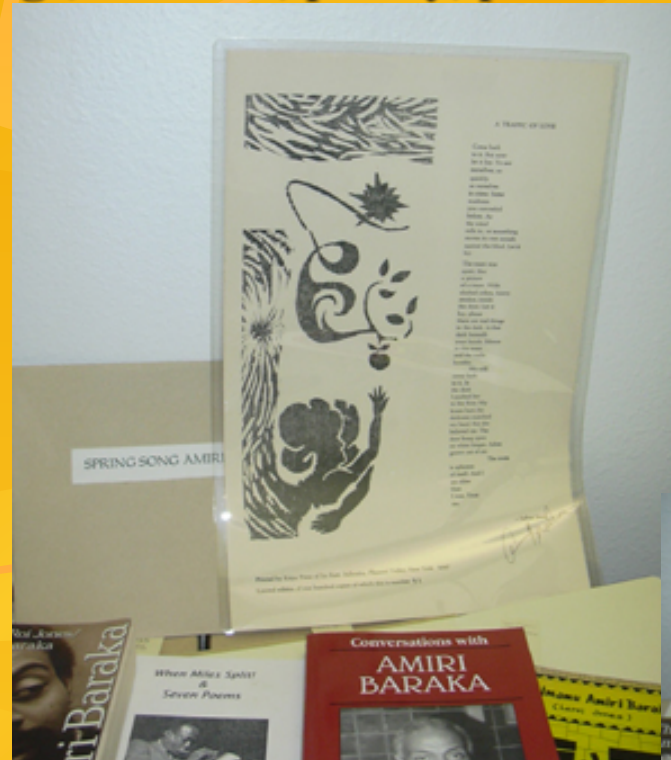


Photo by Leroy McLucas



Original Art by Baraka

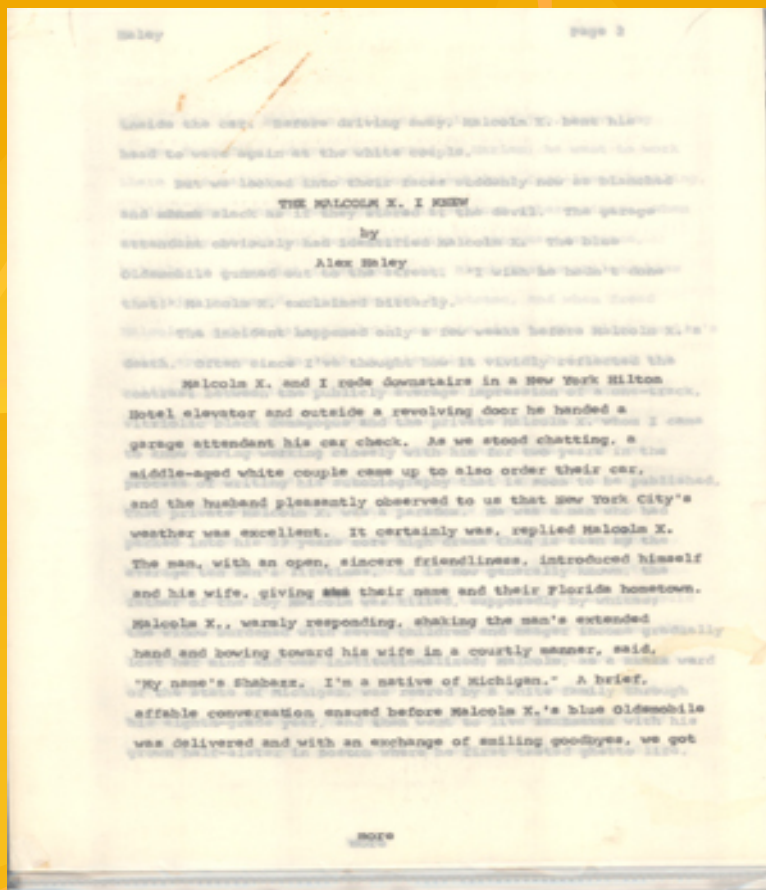


Poetry and limited editions

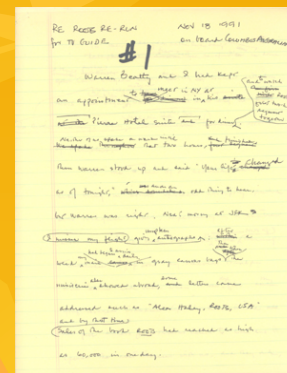


Publications by and about Baraka

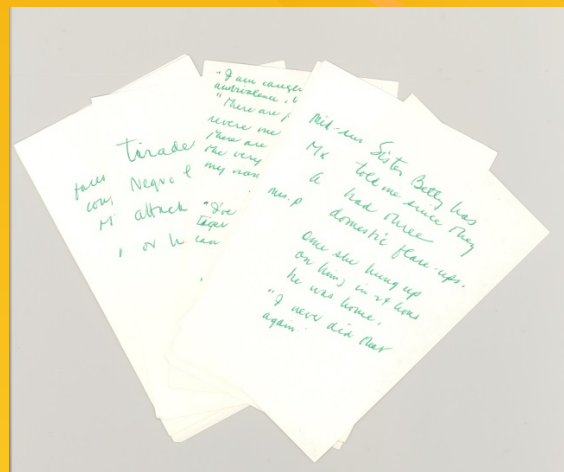
Alex Haley Archives Collection, 1960-61, 1991



(Left) Typewritten page of Alex Haley's article "The Malcolm X. I Knew." (29pp)



Handwritten notes for "Roots" rerun with updates

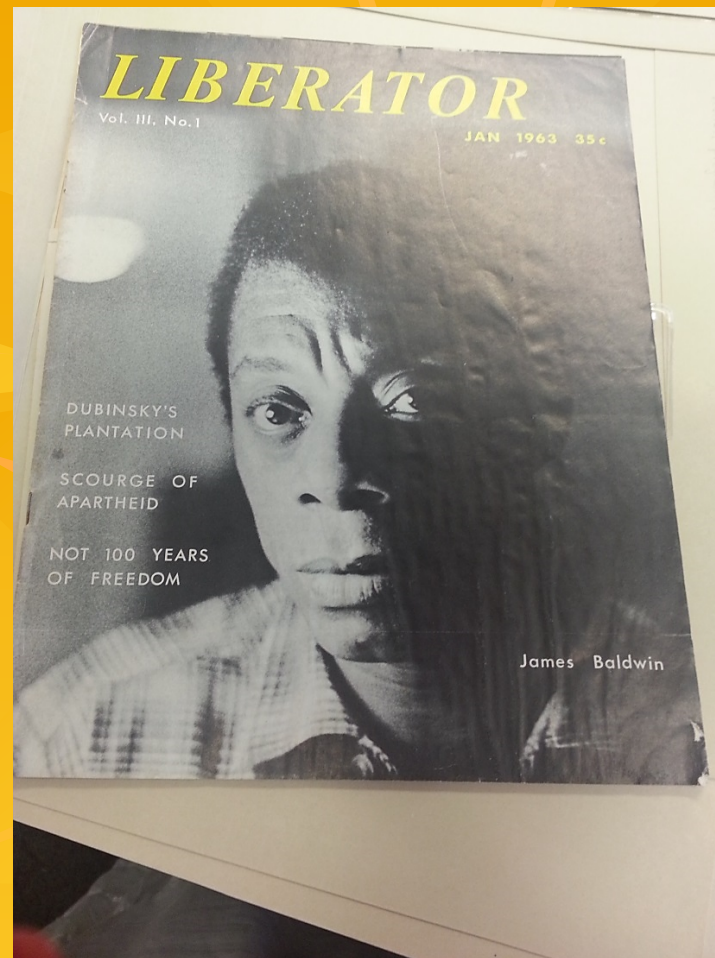


Handwritten notes from the "Autobiography of Malcolm X"

Newspapers and Magazines



Black Liberation Month News
Martin and Malcolm meeting



Liberator
James Baldwin interview

Poll Tax and Anti-Lynching literature-ca. 1930s



MEET *The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax*

THE POLL TAX CAN BE ABOLISHED IN THIS CONGRESS

We in Washington are convinced it is possible—with your help. For that reason, in the months ahead we shall be calling on you more and more often.

When you get our letters, we want you to know who is sending them, why we are writing to you—and who pays the postage.

Who started the fight to free the ballot? And where? And when? And how?

The Anti-Poll Tax Fight Began in the South

The Southern people themselves, who saw the consequences of disfranchisement at close range, were the first to roll up their sleeves and tackle the job of freeing the ballot in their own states.

In 1938, under the leadership of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, Southerners began to explore all the ways and means to abolish the poll tax. They studied the ways this tax was imbedded in their state constitutions. They petitioned their state legislatures. Traditionally reforms are won through the people's use of the ballot; the vast majority of the people in the poll tax states, however, faced the job of winning this reform without that weapon.

The Southern people soon found they could not do the job by themselves in their separate states. Recognizing that democracy is indivisible, they appealed to the nation. They stood on their Constitutional rights as Americans. They turned to Congress.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: "The right to vote must be open to all citizens irrespective of race, color, or creed—without tax or artificial restriction of any kind. The sooner we get to that basis of political equality, the better it will be for the country as a whole."

Anti-Lynching ... A Crusade For Democracy

Statement of the National Committee Of the Communist Party

The Communist Party of the United States supports S-8415 (Wagner-Capen-Yan Naps Anti-Lynching Bill). We urge its immediate enactment into law.

It is the plain duty of the United States Senate to enact as a law this bill which aims to "assure persons of every state the process of law and equal protection of the laws, and to end the crime of lynching."

It is the plain duty of the Senate Judiciary Committee to put an end to the reactionary efforts being made to emasculate and stifle this bill; to immediately favorably report it to the Senate.

The continued barbarism of lynching remains a disgraceful blot upon the whole of American democracy. Lynching is the most brutal expression of a whole system of Jim-Crowism, discrimination, segregation and

persecution which has been imposed upon fifteen million Americans.

While lynching and Jim-Crowism smother, persecute and deny the American rights to the Negro people they are not its only victims because the lynch mob attacks and weakens the democratic and constitutional rights of all Americans. It is a threat to and an instrument against the whole labor and progressive movement of the country.

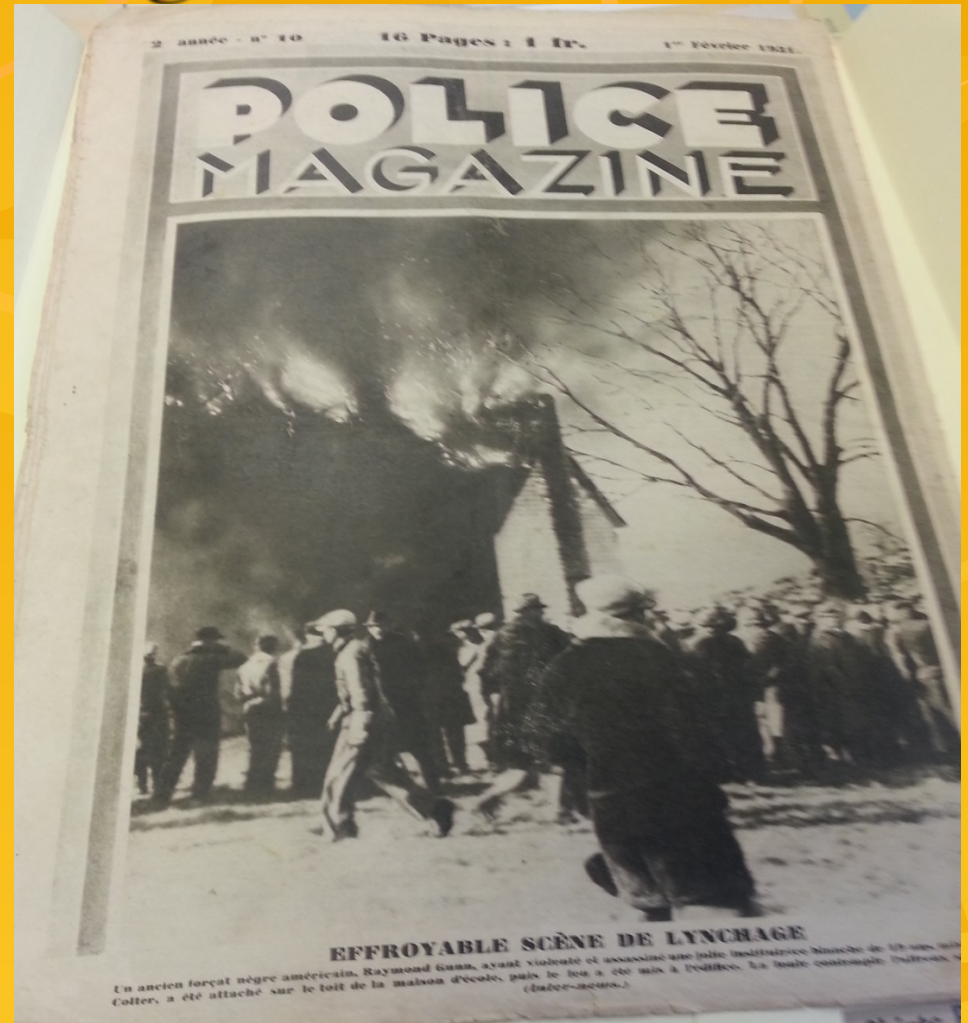
Rights Denied

Can anyone deny that fifteen million Americans are cynically denied "due process of law and equal protection of the laws"; that their Constitutional rights are disregarded and denied; that they are subject to a most horrible passage and denial of human rights; that they are victims of a continued brutal lynch rule of terrorist landlords and sweatshop employers?

International Coverage of Black Lives



French Newspaper covering the KKK-1963

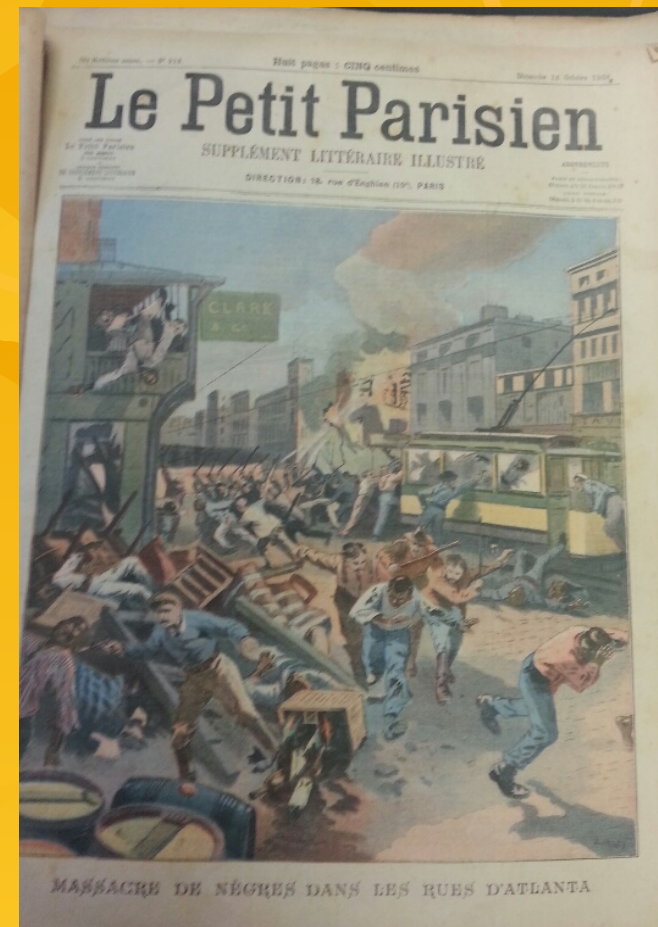


French Magazine cover "Lynching in America-1931"

International Coverage of Black Lives



Lynching-1902

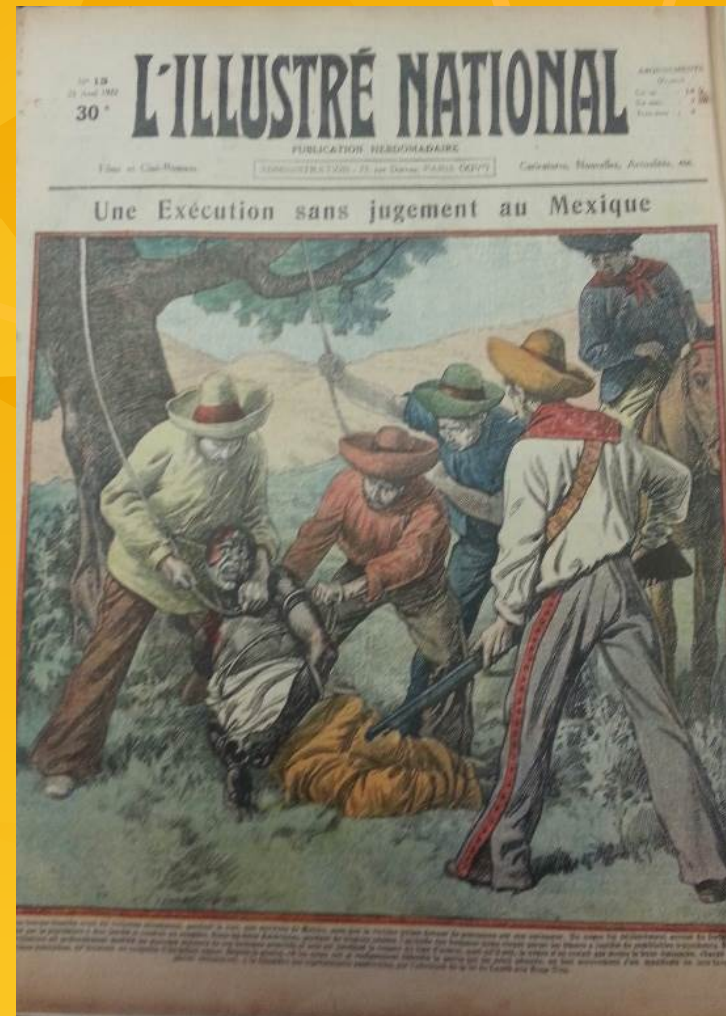


Massacre of Blacks in Atlanta-1906

contd. European coverage



Boxing (Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries)-1910



Lynching in Mexico-1922

Select Listing of Additional Collections related to radical subjects

- **Samuel R. Delaney Manuscripts-Science Fiction**
- **Jeff Stumpo-Java Shock Collection-Slam poetry**
- **Gwendolyn Fortune, Ed. D..-African American educator**
- **Eldridge Cleaver Collection-Black Panthers Collection**
- **Radical/Revolutionary Ephemera (writings/publications)**
- **Charles Levy Civil Rights Collection**
- **Black Superheroes, Sidekicks, and Characters Collection**

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