

City Directories:

Directories of Localities for African American Communities

Directories are important reference tools for scholars as well as for genealogical researchers. They contain important guides to the communities they chronicle, often providing not only names and addresses of residents but also advertisements for local businesses and organizations as well as biographical sketches of prominent citizens. They provide location of buildings and residences and are useful for the study of trades and professions. The Rose Library houses more than three dozen African American directories provided by business leaders and community organizations.

The oldest and rarest in our collection is titled *Columbian Edition of Banket's Official Colored Society Directory*. It dates from 1891 and was compiled and published by Fred Banket at 7 West 25th Street in New York. As advertised, the volume contains "All Colored Societies, G.A.R. Posts, Churches, Lyceums, Sunday-Schools, Clubs, etc. for the cities of New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, Newark, Philadelphia, Richmond, Boston, Washington, and Chicago." The geographical scope is wide though the heaviest concentration is on institutions and organizations in New York City, and great attention is given to fraternal and sororal organizations as well as to churches and literary societies.

We can find no information on Banket himself, and in the directory of residents his name is not located. The 175-page volume is well illustrated, and at the cover price of 25 cents, it is not surprising that the promised 1895 directory apparently did not appear! Indeed, Emory's is the only copy of this directory reported in WorldCat, a comprehensive catalog of holdings in more than 50,000 libraries worldwide.

All Rose Library holdings can be found and requested by searching the Library's catalog, [discoverE](#).

The following is a checklist of city and business directories in Emory's Stuart A. Rose Library:

Akron, OH: A. Kingsberry, *Akron Negro Directory*, 1940

Atlanta, GA:: L. Marshall, *Official Negro Year Book* [1932-33]

Baltimore, MD: *The First Colored Professional, Clerical, Skilled and Business Directory of Baltimore City with Washington, D.C. and Annapolis Annex*: 6th ed. (1918/19); 8th ed. (1920/21); 10th ed. (1922/23); 11th ed. (1923/24); 14th ed. (1927/28); 18th ed. (1930/31); 20th ed. (1932/33); 21st ed. (1933/34); 23rd ed. (1935/36); 31st ed. (1943/44)

Baltimore, MD: National Housewives' League, *The "4-B": Baltimore's Bigger Better...Business Directory* 1947 [1947?]

Boston, MA: Elmira Williams, *Directory and Valuable Information of the Negro Business and Professional Men and Women of Boston and Vicinity* 1914

Buffalo, NY: *Negro Directory of the Niagara Frontier*, 1958-59

Cairo, IL et al., *Negro City Directory of Cairo, Illinois, Mounds and Mound City, Illinois* 1935-1936

Carbondale, IL: Herman Bailey (?), C. C. *Directory of Colored Professional Business Men and Woman [sic]*, 1935 (?)

Chicago, IL: Ford S. Black, comp. *Black's Blue Book: Business and Professional Directory: A Compilation of Names, Addresses and Telephones of All Chicago's Colored Business and Professional People* 1921

_____ : *Negro Neighborhood Business and Service Directory* 1962 Edition, 1962?

_____ : *Scott's Blue Book* [1947]

Cincinnati, OH: C. Lindell and Charles N. King, *The Negro Business Directory: Cincinnati, Ohio*, 1940

Columbus, OH: Wm. A. McWilliams, *Columbus Business & Professional Negro Directory*, 1929 (?)

_____ : *Negro Buyer's Guide and Directory Showing and Telling Who's Who* (Columbus, OH, 1944?)

Dallas, TX: Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce, *Dallas, Texas Negro City Directory*

_____ : Don Gilbert, *Negro City Directory of Dallas* [1947}

Denver, CO: *East Denver Directory of Business and Citizenry 1950-51, 2nd Edition*

_____ : *A Guide to Black Businesses and Organizations in Denver* [1954, 1974?]

Des Moines, IA: *Negro Business and Information Directory...Fiscal Period July 1st-June 31st [sic]*, 1940

Detroit, MI: C. C. D. *Directory of Colored Professional Business Men and Woman (sic)*, 1935?

Memphis, TN: T. J. Johnson, *Negro Year Book*, 1943 (?)

Muskogee, OK: T. P. Scott, ed., *Muskogee, Oklahoma Negro City Directory 1941-1942 Including the Town of Taft* [n.p.: Sponsored by the Commercial Club, 1941].

New York, NY: Fred Banket, *Columbian Edition of Banket's Official Colored Society Directory*, 1891

Oklahoma City, OK: T. P. Scott, ed., *Oklahoma City Oklahoma Negro City Directory, 1941-1942* [1941]

Pennsylvania: *Pennsylvania Negro Business Directory, 1910: Industrial and Material Growth of the Negroes of Pennsylvania* 1910

Philadelphia, PA: *Miller's Business Directory; A publication Devoted to the General Business Interest of Philadelphia, Camden and Vicinity*, ed. L. C. Franklin Miller, 1927 Edition

_____ : Napoleon N. Vaughan, *Who's Who in Greater Philadelphia in the Negro Community*, 1968

_____ : *The Philadelphia Negro Directory of Business and Professional Men and Women*, 1944

Philadelphia, PA: Richard R. Wright, *Philadelphia Colored Business Directory*, 1914

Pittsburgh, PA: *The "New Negro" Directory: Businesses, Churches, Organizations Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*, 1962

Saint Louis, MO: *Souvenir Program: Saint Louis Negro Business League, Inc.*, 1952

Washington, DC: *Howard Year Book*, 1916

Wisconsin: Mary Ellen Shadd, *Negro Business Directory, State of Wisconsin, 1950-51* (1950?).

Wisconsin: Mary Ellen Shadd, *Negro Business Directory of the State of Wisconsin*, 1959.