

*“The Story of Triumph and Endurance: A Celebration of African American Life and Culture”*

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A book is a jewel to the past and present. It captures the breadth and depth of the human spirit. My collection displays the reason for the story, for the celebration of what has been, and is that the journey continues. The journey of African Americans can also be seen as a powerful journey.

I started collecting books in 1992, after taking an Integrative Arts & Humanities course with Professor Darlene Clark Hine. The course's focus was on "Modern Black America." Not realizing what I had encountered, I found myself wandering into an array of bookstores searching for books on Black people. Professor Hine told the students that it was important to collect works on the lives of Black people. Hine stated that it was rare to have Black books on the shelves of mainstream bookstores; if they existed, the selection tended to be very slim. Therefore, it is crucial to buy and collect books on the lives of Black people. In this, we can pass our knowledge to future generations and to other cultures.

My collection extends from the 18th century to the present. The collection presented is a small selection which comprises three hundred plus books. From history to hair, this collection covers a wide spectrum of areas in the lives of Black people. I thank Professor Hine for showing me the way.