

**Countee Cullen (1903-1946)**

***The Black Christ & Other Poems* by Countee Cullen,  
with decorations by Charles Cullen.**

**New York ; London : Harper & Brothers, 1929.**

**Rare PS3505.U287 B6 1929**

Countee Cullen was one of the leading poets and intellectuals of the Harlem Renaissance. This book of poetry, published at the height of his career, examines the relationships between faith and injustice. Cullen draws parallels between the suffering of the crucified Christ and the suffering of African Americans in the climate of racial violence that characterized the 1920s. The copy in Special Collections is inscribed by Cullen to Frank Luther Mott, who was Dean of the School of Journalism from 1942 to 1951.

To Frank Luther Gott,

Sincerely,

Frankie Fuller

Iowa City





**James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) and Aaron Douglas (1899-1979)**

***God's Trombones; Seven Negro Sermons in Verse* by James Weldon Johnson, drawings by Aaron Douglas, lettering by C.B. Falls.**

**New York : Viking Press, 1927.**

**Rare PS3519.02625 G6 1927**

This book brings together two greats of the Harlem Renaissance: James Weldon Johnson and Aaron Douglas. Johnson was multi-talented: an educator, writer, attorney and musician, he was the author of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," a leader of the NAACP, and the first African-American professor at New York University. *God's Trombones* is considered one of his most important works. Douglas was one of the leading artists of the Harlem Renaissance. He developed a distinctive style that blended modernism with African influences and was highly influential in the development of later African-American artists.









**Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) and Faith Ringgold (born 1930)**

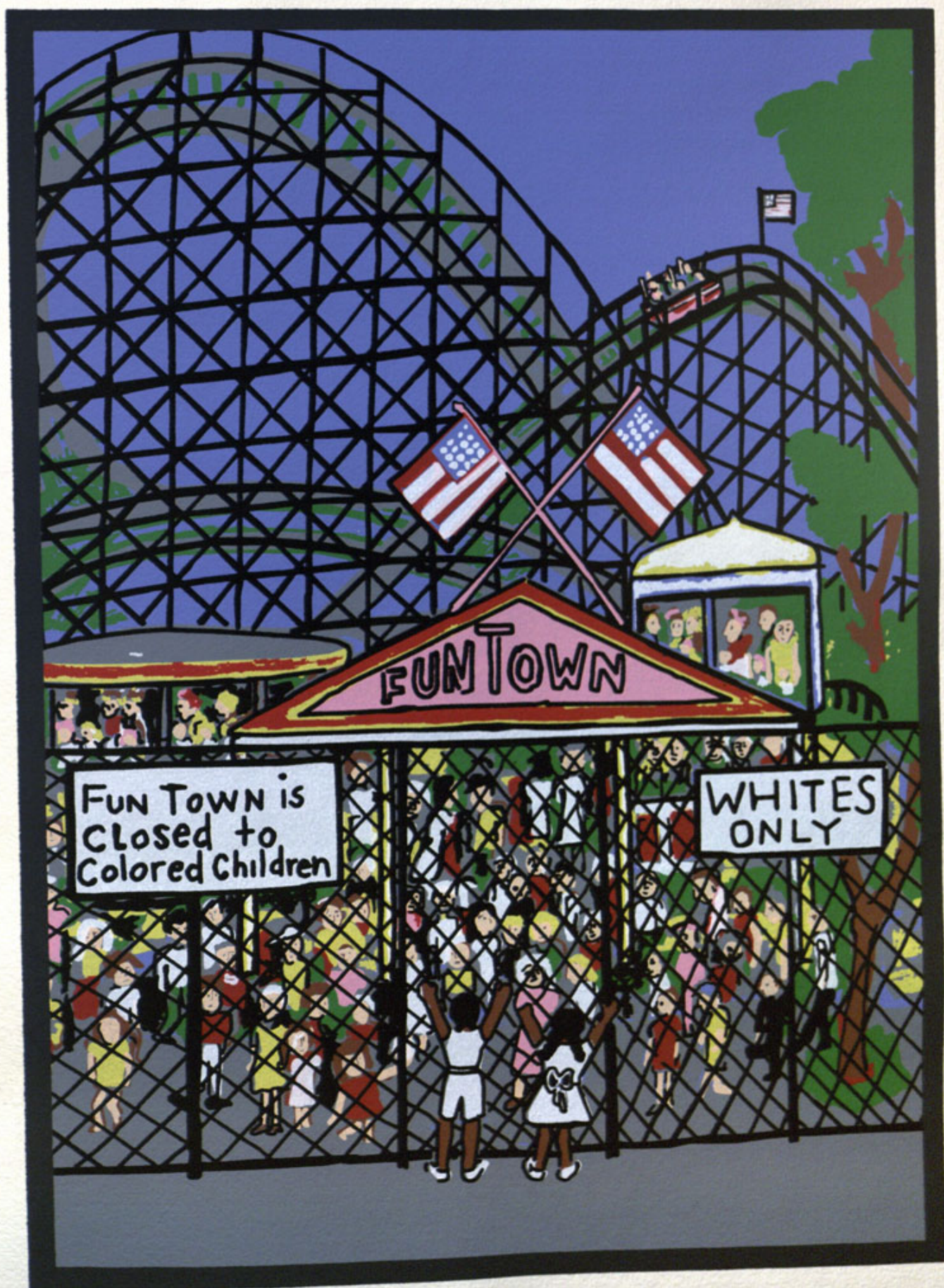
***Letter from Birmingham City Jail* by Martin Luther King, Jr.; eight serigraph prints by Faith Ringgold; afterword by Dr. C. T. Vivian.**

**New York : Limited Editions Club, ©2007.**

**Closed Folio F334.B69 N446 2007**

Faith Ringgold is an American artist and activist known primarily for her narrative quilts, which draw on a traditional art form to express her experience as an African American woman. In this work, she uses serigraphy to illustrate one of the foundational texts of the Civil Rights movement: Dr. Martin Luther King's *Letter from Birmingham City Jail*. Produced in 2007 for the Limited Editions Club, the book contains eight original serigraphs by Ringgold alongside a beautifully printed text by King. Special Collections has copies 119 and 132 from an edition of 400.







**Derek Walcott (born 1930) and Romare Bearden  
(1911-1988)**

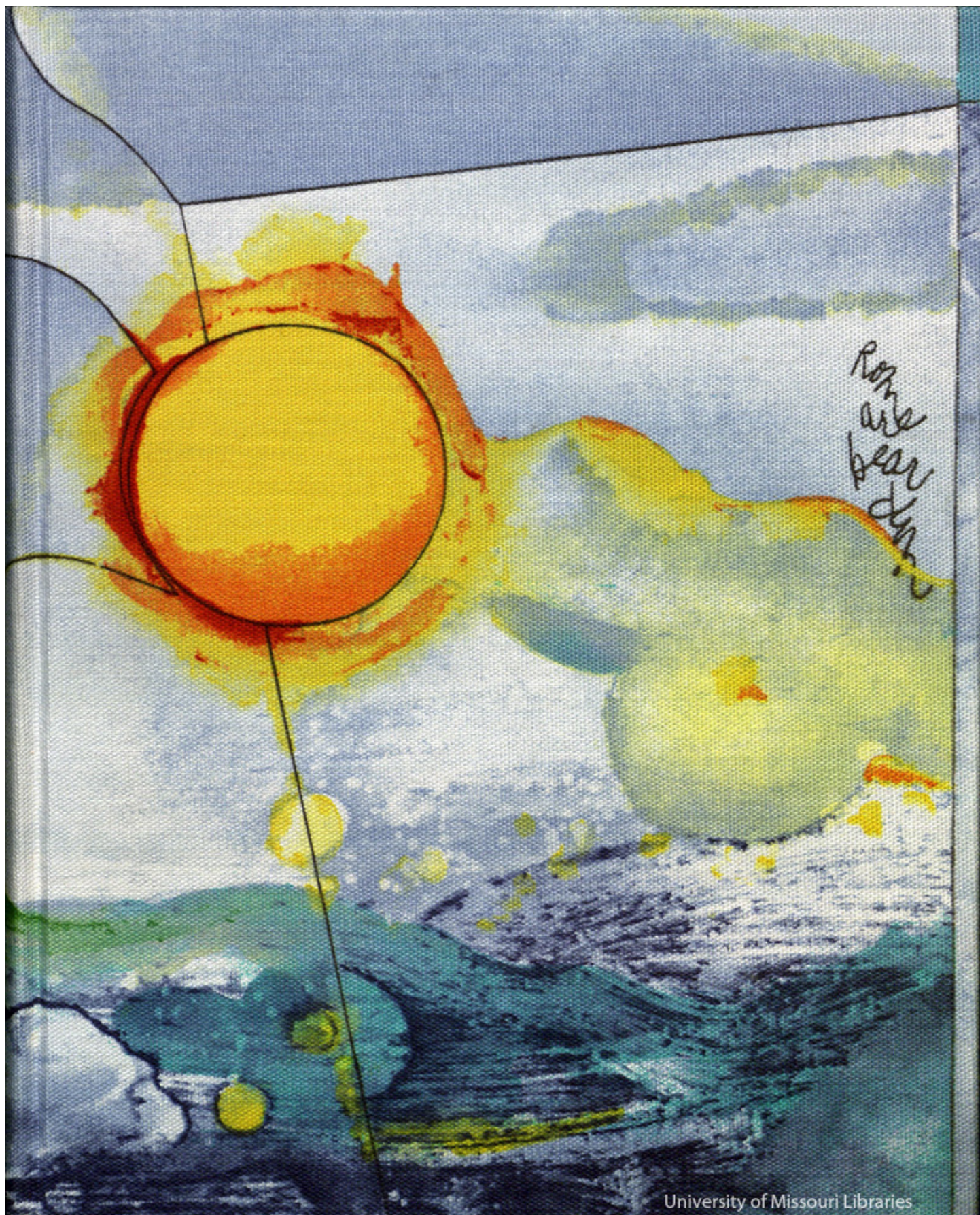
***The Caribbean Poetry of Derek Walcott, and the Art of  
Romare Bearden.***

**New York: Limited Editions Club, ©1983.**

**Rare Folio PR9272.9.W3 A6 1983**

Derek Walcott is a Caribbean poet who received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature. Romare Bearden was an American artist who worked primarily in collage and mixed media, and was known for his depictions of African American life. Bearden selected and illustrated these poems and designed the decorated binding for the Limited Editions Club in 1983.







**Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)**

***Up from Slavery: An Autobiography.***

**New York : Doubleday, Page & Co., 1901.**

**Rare E185.97.W4 A3 1901**

This book is by Booker T. Washington, an educator, orator, and founder of the Tuskegee Institute. Washington built the Tuskegee Institute into a nationally recognized school, raised funds to start thousands of elementary schools for black children, and established the National Negro Business League, among many other accomplishments.

This book's previous owner seems to have esteemed it and its author highly; a large portrait, carefully cut from a magazine, is pasted onto the inside of the front board. Opposite, an inscription in Washington's handwriting reads, "With kind wishes of Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Alabama Jan. 17, 1902."

