

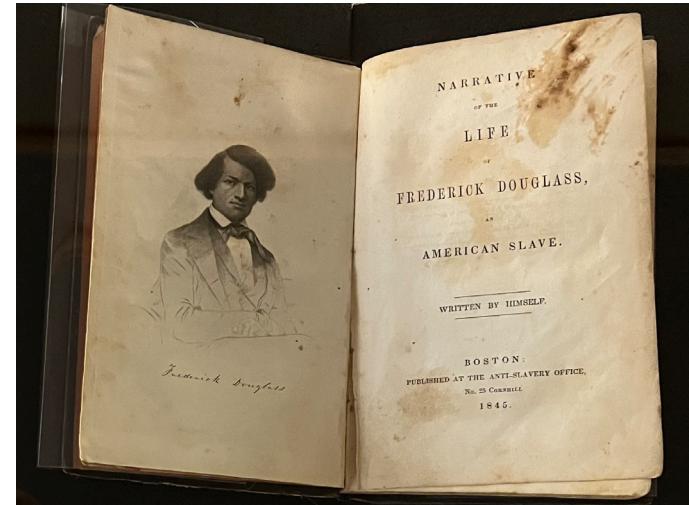
Exhibit In Special Collections Honors Black History Month

February 2026

In recognition of Black History Month, the TCU Library's Special Collections is showcasing a special exhibit featuring first editions and rare works by influential Black authors, poets, and artists whose voices shaped American history and culture. The exhibit highlights groundbreaking contributions to literature, social justice, and visual storytelling, inviting the TCU community to engage with these powerful works firsthand.

Among the featured items is **Frederick Douglass's** first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* (1845). A cornerstone of American literature, the work offers Douglass's compelling account of his journey from slavery to freedom and remains one of the most influential texts in the history of abolition.

The exhibit also celebrates **Calvin Littlejohn**, a renowned Fort Worth professional photographer known for documenting African American life during the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras. His photographs include images from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s only visit to Fort Worth, as well as portraits of civil rights activist Vada Phillips Felder, capturing pivotal moments in local and national history.



Literary works on display include a typescript of **Langston Hughes's** poem *The Purple Heart*, written on February 14, 1945, at Knoxville College and later published in the *Chicago Defender*. Hughes's legacy as a poet, novelist, playwright, and social activist continues to resonate through his exploration of Black identity and experience.

Also featured is **Etheridge Knight**, whose debut collection *Poems from Prison* (1968) established him as a powerful voice in Black expression, and **Phillis Wheatley**, the first published Black poet, whose work *On Reflection* appeared in 1773 and marked a milestone in American literary history.

These works, along with many other remarkable first-edition books, offer a rare opportunity to connect with the enduring legacy of Black authors and artists.

The TCU community is invited to stop by the Library to view these and other rare artifacts from Special Collections throughout Black History Month.

