

The Nova Scotian Black Press Exhibit

Acadia Art Gallery

Resisting Through Print

April 5th – 12th 2018

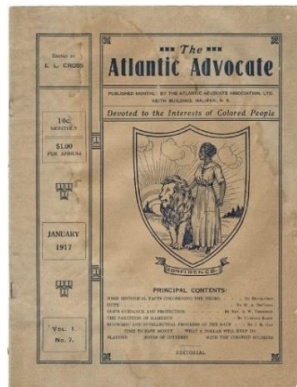
The Black Press Tradition

WOLFVILLE, NS - The tradition of the Black Press in Nova Scotia is a long and fruitful one. For many decades African Nova Scotians have written and published their own newspapers focusing on information they deemed important to the African Nova Scotian population. Often, these newspapers focused on advocacy, racial justice and offered a counter-narrative to the mainstream white media. This gallery show, which is part of a larger SSHRC-funded project titled “Canada’s 19th Century Black Press: Roots & Trajectories of Exceptional Communication & Intellectual Activism,” is but a small glimpse into the tradition of the Black Press, to celebrate its existence, its resistance, and its legacy.

The Atlantic Advocate

HALIFAX, NS - Published by The Atlantic Advocate Association LTD, “The Atlantic Advocate” was the first African Nova Scotian newspaper that was completely created by and for African Nova Scotians. Starting after World War 1 and being “Devoted to the Interested of Colored People,” the paper covered everything from how to save money to “Famous Men of the Race,” with a special focus on Black soldiers of the Great War. “The Atlantic Advocate” was the beginning of a flourishing Black Press tradition in the province that continued for generations.

(Acadia University Archives)



The Nova Scotia Gleaner

SYDNEY, NS - “The Nova Scotia Gleaner” was a monthly newspaper edited by F.A. Hamilton in Sydney. The paper focused on news and events deemed relevant to the Black community and provided a platform for racial activism. This is the only surviving copy of “The Nova Scotia Gleaner.”

(Beaton Institute Digital Archives)

The Clarion

NEW GLASGOW, NS - “The Clarion” was started and edited by Carrie Best in 1946 as a newspaper that focused on Second Baptist Church in New Glasgow. After the Viola Desmond incident in November 1946, the newspaper relaunched to follow the Desmond case. This relaunch shifted the paper’s content to focus on racial equality across the nation, like “The Nova Scotia Gleaner.” This shift can be noticed in the content on the front page of the December 1947 edition.

(Nova Scotia Archives, Historical Papers)



Special thanks to Saint Mary’s University and Lynn Jones for many of the newspapers featured in this show and, thank you to the Acadia Art Gallery and the Acadia Archives for their assistance.

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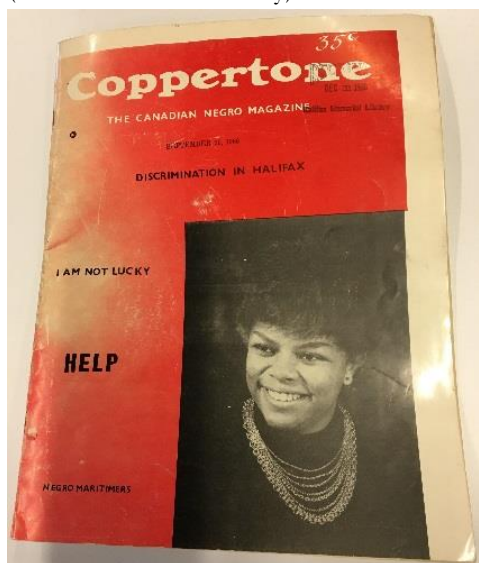
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Coppertone: The Canadian Negro Magazine

HALIFAX, NS - “Coppertone: The Canadian Negro Magazine” was a magazine distributed by Grant Print Publishers in Halifax, starting in September 1966.

Though not much is known about this magazine, it is clear from this one surviving issue that content was focused on educating African Nova Scotians about their rights and promoting racial equality.

(Halifax Central Library)



Continuation of the Black Press Tradition

CANADA - These newspapers are only a snapshot in time of the Black Press tradition. Many Black newspapers flourished after this time period in Nova Scotia and across the nation such as: “Ebony Express,” “Contrast,” “The Rap,” “Atlantic Black Journal,” “Grasp,” “Afro News,” and “The Monitor.” If you are interested in any of these publications be sure to check out in The Lynn Jones African-Canadian & Diaspora Heritage Collection located in the Saint Mary’s University Archives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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