

**Multitudes: A Celebration of the Yale Collection of American Literature, 1911–2011**  
*On view at Beinecke Library, Yale University, July 8 through October 1, 2011*

Checklist and Descriptions: Nineteenth-Century American Print Culture

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*Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Nineteenth-Century American Print Culture

The bestselling book of the nineteenth century, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential abolitionist novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) provides an example of the rapidly changing print culture of the period. Advancements in printing technologies and increasing literacy rates resulted in a revolution in American book culture. First appearing serially in 1851 in *The National Era*, an abolitionist newspaper, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published as an illustrated two-volume book in 1852. The initial print run of five thousand copies sold out within a week. To meet the tremendous demand for copies, the book was reprinted several times in quick succession; more than 300,000 copies were sold within a year. Without benefit of strict copyright laws, the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was immediately followed by a proliferation of related publications and reproductions in various formats—sheet music and children's books, stage adaptations and so-called “anti-Tom” novels defending Southern slavery, card games and porcelain figures. The Collection contains an expansive range of books, pamphlets, broadsides, sheet music, cards, memorabilia, and other materials documenting more than 150 years of this still-significant novel's publication history, readership, and cultural evolution.

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Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or, Life among the Lowly* (Boston: J. P. Jewett, 1852).

Robert Alexander, *I Ain't Yo' Uncle: The New Jack Revisionist “Uncle Tom's Cabin”* (Woodstock: Dramatic Publishing, 1996).

Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (London, 1853). Extra illustrated by Eugene Bauer. *Little Eva: The Flower of the South* (New York: Vincent L. Dill, [between 1853 and 1855?]).

Advertising cards featuring scenes and characters from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

*The Game of Uncle Tom* ([Providence, R.I.]: V.S.W. Parkhurst, [ca. 1852]).

Topsy & Eva porcelain figures ([Staffordshire, England, ca. 1852–1860?]).

Eva Howard, *Eva to Her Papa*, as sung by Little Cordelia Howard (Boston: G.P. Reed & Co, 1852).

*Classics Illustrated: Uncle Tom's Cabin*, [illustrated by Rolland H. Livingstone; story adaptation by Evelyn Goodman] (New York: Gilberton Co., ca. 1944).

Sugar packet advertising "A la case de l'oncle Tom" (Geneva, Switzerland, 1986).