

A Narrative of the Interesting Origins and (Somewhat) Surprising Developments of African-American Print Culture.

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# A Narrative of the Interesting Origins and (Somewhat) Surprising Developments of African-American Print Culture

Frances Smith Foster

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I titled my essay “A Narrative ... ” because I do not propose to offer a

definitive or comprehensive survey of origins or of development. I am contributing a story designed to complement others that are often unacknowledged as incomplete but are, nonetheless, merely versions or portions of a much larger and longer story, one that may not ever be entirely recounted. As a matter of principle, I am leery of claims to “comprehensive” or “definitive” narratives. Stories—especially, histories—require facts or observations and conclusions that are then selected, organized, and emphasized. If, as is generally the case, two participants in the same event have differing details and interpretations of something which transpired less than a day or even an hour before, why should we think that one narrative is “the truth” and the...

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