Civic Classics Collection

A collection of great works that have shaped our republic.
The School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership curates the Civic Classics Collection in collaboration with ASU’s Hayden Library. Many of the original items in the collection were purchased through an appropriation of funds from the state legislature. The collection now also includes items already owned by the Hayden Library. We continue to expand the collection by incorporating additional items currently possessed by the library and by purchasing new items through library and SCETL funds and private donations.

The collection is comprised of historically and culturally significant rare books and manuscripts intended to support the school’s civic education mission through their use in classroom environments and public programming. These items are historical artifacts that represent significant moments in American history and culture. Each item in the collection has its own story to tell. The Hayden Library Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts welcomes students, faculty and community members interested in learning more about this collection to investigate their provenance, inscriptions and other features that make the items in the collection distinctive.

In order to make the collection more accessible, we have developed a virtual guide that includes videos, commentary and other resources about many of the items in the collection. We will continue to expand the virtual guide to feature additional items in the collection and expand the resources available for items already featured.

To access the virtual guide, schedule an appointment to view the collection or find out how you can support the collection, visit cplt.asu.edu/civic-classics-collection
The Civic Classics Collection is comprised of two dozen manuscripts, original first editions and excerpts from the speeches and writing that have shaped our democracy today. Here’s a look at some of the books in the collection:

**The American Founding**

**The Federalist (1788). First Edition.**

**Thomas Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia (1787).**

**George Washington’s First Inaugural Address (1789). Printed in The American Museum.**
“Inaugural Address of His Excellency the President [Washington] of the United States, to Congress, April 30, 1789”. In The American Museum for May, 1789.

**George Washington’s Farewell Address (1796). Two copies, printed in the Boston Independent Chronicle and The London Times.**
President’s Declination to the People of the United States Delivered by George Washington, September 17, 1796”. In the Independent Chronicle: Universal Advertiser. Boston, Massachusetts. Volume 28, Number 1620, Monday, September 26, 1796.*

Address of President Washington on His Resignation to the People of the United States. In The London Times, Wednesday, November 9, 1796, Number 3735. Includes the first 26 paragraphs of this speech.

**Alexander Hamilton’s “Reynolds Pamphlet” (1797).**
James Thomson Callender’s Sketches of the History of America (1798).

Facts and Documents Relative to the Death of Hamilton (1804).
A Collection of the Facts and Documents Relative to the Death of Major General Alexander Hamilton with Comments: Together with the Various Orations, Sermons, and Eulogies, That Have Been Published or Written on His Life and Character. New York: Hopkins and Seymour, 1804.

Daniel Webster’s Discourse in Commemoration of Adams and Jefferson (1826).*

Political Economy
Adam Smith’s The Wealth of Nations (1776). First Edition.*


Race and America
Frederick Douglass’s Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (1845). First Edition.*
F.H. Green’s The Slave-Wife and Frederick Douglass’s Speech in Belfast, Ireland (1846). First Edition.*
The Slave-Wife, by F.H. Green, Also, Speech of Frederick Douglass (A Fugitive Slave from Maryland), in Belfast, Ireland, on the Presentation of a Beautiful Copy of the Holy Bible, by the Citizens of that Place. First Edition. Cortlandville: Stedman & Goodwin, 1846.

Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin (1852). With a handwritten sheet in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s handwriting.*


Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address (1866). Printed in The Tribune Almanac and Political Register, 1866.*

Martin Luther King, Jr’s Stride toward Freedom (1958). Inscribed by King.*

Civil Rights History and Activism
Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Seneca Falls Declaration (1848). Printed in The North Star.*


Peter Matthiessen’s Sal Si Puedes (1969). With a typed letter signed by Chavez.*

First Peoples
Zitkala-Sa’s Old Indian Legends (1901). First Edition.*

Chief Joseph’s Own Story (1925).
Chief Joseph’s Own Story, by Joseph (Nez Percé Chief). [St. Paul, 1925.]

The Civics Classics Collection is available for viewing at no cost. To schedule an appointment to view the books, email CivicClassics@asu.edu.
The Center for Political Thought and Leadership, the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership and Hayden Library seek to make the Civic Classics Collection accessible and available to the community. Collection items are regularly shown at the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership’s speaker series events, as well as Arizona State University’s larger community events such as Open Door.

Additionally, all of the Civic Classics Collection is available for viewing and research.

To learn more about how you can see the Civic Classics Collection at an upcoming event or for a private viewing, email us at CivicClassics@asu.edu or visit our website to view the digital guide.

cptl.asu.edu/civic-classics-collection