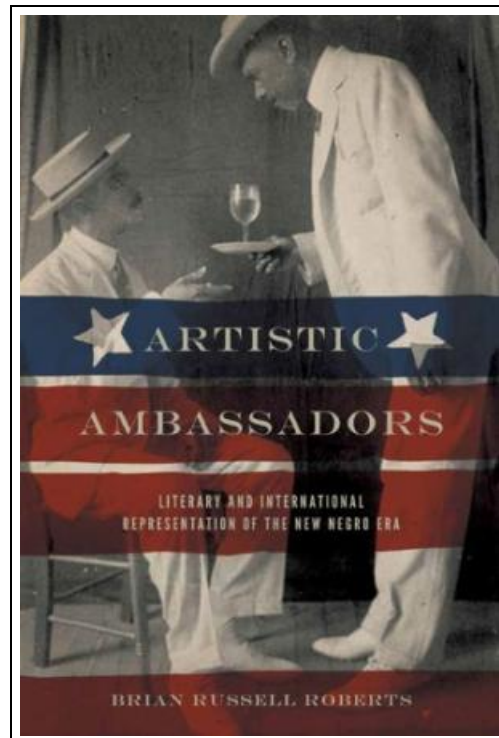


Artistic Ambassadors: Literary and International Representation of the New Negro Era



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ARTISTIC AMBASSADORS: LITERARY AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION OF THE NEW NEGRO ERA



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University of Virginia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, **Artistic Ambassadors: Literary and International Representation of the New Negro Era**, Brian Russell Roberts, During the first generation of black participation in U.S. diplomacy in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a vibrant community of African American writers and cultural figures worked as U.S. representatives abroad. Through the literary and diplomatic dossiers of figures such as Frederick Douglass, James Weldon Johnson, Archibald and Angelina Grimke, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida Gibbs Hunt, and Richard Wright, Brian Roberts shows how the intersection of black aesthetic trends and U.S. political culture both Americanised and internationalised the trope of the New Negro. This decades-long relationship began during the days of Reconstruction, and it flourished as U.S. presidents courted and rewarded their black voting constituencies by appointing black men as consuls and ministers to such locales as Liberia, Haiti, Madagascar and Venezuela. These appointments changed the complexion of U.S. interactions with nations and colonies of colour; in turn, state-sponsored black travel gave rise to literary works that imported international representation into New Negro discourse on aesthetics, race and African American culture. Beyond offering a narrative of the formative dialogue between black transnationalism and U.S. international diplomacy, **Artistic Ambassadors** also illuminates a broader literary culture that reached both black and white America as well as the black diaspora and the wider world of people of colour. In light of the U.S. appointments of its first two black secretaries of state and the election of its first black president, this complex representational legacy has continued relevance to our understanding of current American internationalism.



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