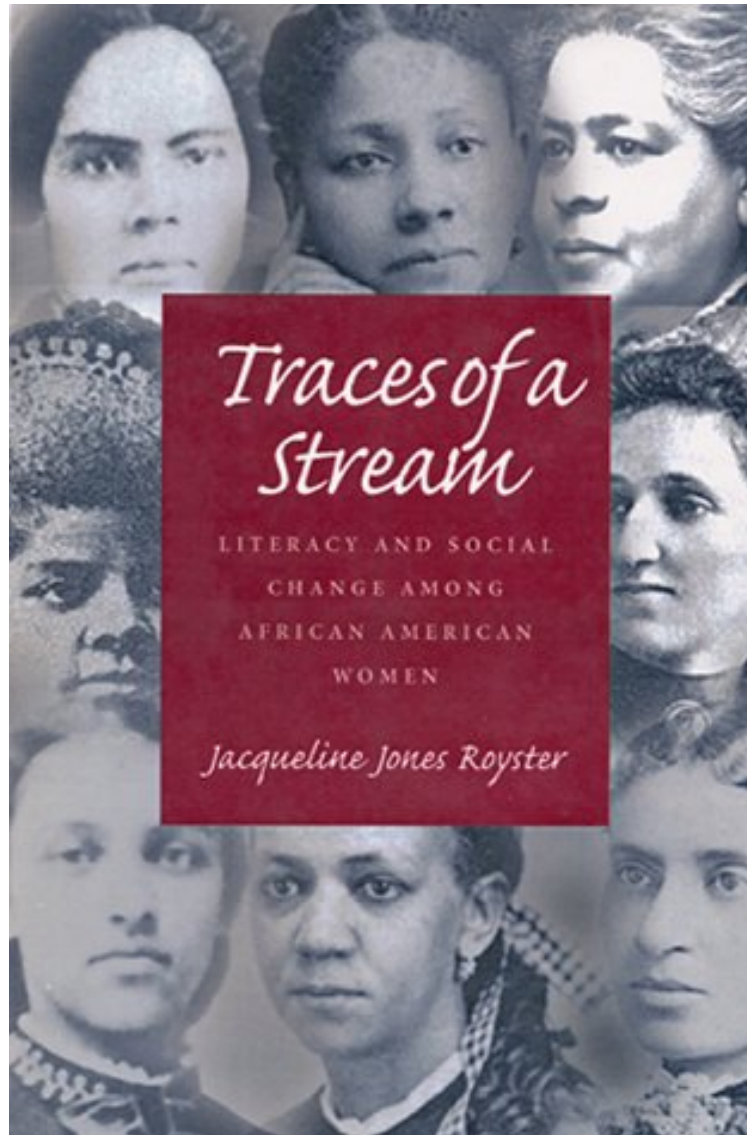


[Free pdf] *Traces of a Stream: Literacy and Social Change Among African-American Women* (Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy Culture)

Traces of a Stream: Literacy and Social Change Among African-American Women (Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy Culture)

Jacqueline Jones Royster

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Jacqueline Jones Royster : *Traces of a Stream: Literacy and Social Change Among African-American Women* (Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Traces of a Stream: Literacy and Social Change Among African-American Women*

(Pittsburgh Series in Composition, Literacy Culture):

Traces of a Stream offers a unique scholarly perspective that merges interests in rhetorical and literacy studies, United States social and political theory, and African American women writers. Focusing on elite nineteenth century African American women, who formed a new class of women well positioned to use language with consequence, Royster uses interdisciplinary perspectives (literature, history, feminist studies, African American studies) to present a well-textured rhetorical analysis of the literate practices of these women. With a shift in educational opportunity after the Civil War, African American women gained access to higher education and received formal training in rhetoric and writing. By the end of the nineteenth century, significant numbers of African American women operated actively in many public arenas. In her study, Royster acknowledges the persistence of disempowering forces in the lives of African American women and their equal perseverance against these forces. Amid these conditions, Royster views the acquisition of literacy as a dynamic moment for African American women in how they used written language not only to satisfy their general needs for agency and authority but also to fulfill sociopolitical purposes as well. Traces of a Stream is a showcase for nineteenth century African American women, and particularly elite women, as a group of writers who are currently underrepresented in rhetorical scholarship. Royster has formulated both an analytical theory and an ideological perspective that are useful in gaining a more generative understanding of literate practices as a whole and the practices of African American women in particular.

From Library Journal Struggling under the double burden of racial and sexual inequality, 19th-century African American women sought for ways to gain empowerment. In this engaging new work, Royster (English, Ohio State) shows how eloquent, well-educated black women used essay writing as an act of resistance against white oppression. The periodical press became an ally of these courageous women, publishing early civil rights and anti-lynching essays by Maria W. Stewart, Ida B. Wells, and other writers of sociopolitical import. According to Royster, literacy and knowledge were crucial for the success of the community, and she documents the history of African American schooling from antebellum times, when some slaves were taught to read despite legal sanctions, to the later rise of historically black colleges. She also profiles a number of prominent black women educators and discusses the Black Clubwomen's Movement, which provided a unique forum for public discourse. Highly recommended for most libraries. Ellen Sullivan, Ferguson Lib., Stamford, CT Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Traces of a Stream is stunning. I would recommend it with great enthusiasm to anyone interested in nineteenth-century studies, African American studies, women's studies, or composition and rhetoric. Royster brings to light writers whose work is simply not included in the current research on literacy. And the primary sources she draws on--especially those periodicals with which nineteenth-century African American women writers were associated--serve as a powerful reminder that scholars interested in literacy and social change have only begun to explore nineteenth-century archives." -- Lucille M. Schultz, University of Cincinnati About the Author Jacqueline Jones Royster, associate professor of English at the Ohio State University, has three complementary areas of interest: the rhetorical history of women of African descent, the development of literacy, and delivery systems for the teaching of writing. Royster was a member of the editorial collective of SAGE: A Scholarly Journal of Black Women (1983-1996), with whom she co-edited Double-Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters; she also edited Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Campaign of Ida B. Wells, 1892-1900, and served as the consulting author for composition of Writer's Choice, Grades 6-8.