



Black Stereotypes in Popular Series Fiction, 1851-1955: Jim Crow Era Authors and Their Characters (Paperback)

By Bernard A. Drew

McFarland Co Inc, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Even well-meaning fiction writers of the late Jim Crow era (1900-1955) perpetuated racial stereotypes in their depiction of black characters. From 1918 to 1952, Octavus Roy Cohen turned out a remarkable 360 short stories featuring Florian Slappey and the schemers, romancers and ditzes of Birmingham s Darktown for The Saturday Evening Post and other publications. Cohen said, I received a great deal of mail from Negroes and I have never found any resentment from a one of them. The black readership had to be satisfied with any black presence in the popular literature of the day. The best known white writers of black characters included Booth Tarkington (Herman and Verma in the Penrod books), Irvin S. Cobb (Judge Priest s houseman and Jeff Poindexter), Roark Bradford (Widow Duck, the plantation matriarch), Hugh Wiley (Wildcat Marsden, the war veteran who travelled the country in the company of his goat) and Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden (radio s Amos n Andy). These writers deservedly declined in the civil rights era, but left a curious legacy that deserves examination.



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