

16 GET HARMON AWARDS: MEDALS AND CASH GIVEN CANDIDATES FEB. 12 SET AS DATE FOR PRESENTATION

The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967); Jan 14, 1928;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender

pg. 1

16 GET HARMON AWARDS

MEDALS AND CASH GIVEN CANDIDATES

**Feb. 12 Set as Date for
Presentation**

(Photo on Picture Page)

New York, Jan. 13.—Recognition of creative work by members of the Race through awards of \$4,000, accompanied by gold and bronze medals, was announced by the Harmon Foundation, 140 Nassau St., this city, Monday, to 16 men and women.

This is the second year of the Harmon awards for distinguished achievement among our Race, which are directed by the commission on the church and race relations of the Federal Council of Churches. Achievement in fine arts, business, including industry, education, science including invention, and religious service, was cited with two awards in each field—a first of \$400 and a gold medal and a second of \$100 with a bronze medal. As no award in music was given last year, because of the nature of the material entered, the sum available was carried over and two awards of \$400 each and two of \$100 each with accompanying medals were granted this year.

Decision as to the persons to receive awards were made in each field by a jury of five men, all of whom were persons of recognized standing in the type of work they were invited to consider. The successful candidates will be formally presented with the awards in public ceremonies to be held in their home cities on Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12.

Purpose of Awards

The awards, which are being carried on over a five-year trial period, are not intended to develop a contest or competition for prizes. "They are designed to give stimulus to creative work through recognition of achievement of national significance," said Dr. George E. Haynes, secretary of the commission. "It is hoped by Mr. Harmon to bring about a better economic development of the Race through weighing of his accomplishments on a scale with the best that has been done. Only those whose work is believed to be of national significance have been named by the judges. It is thought that recognition by award will have a stimulative effect; that those cited will be encouraged to further achievement and others given an incentive to strive for accomplishments of a high character."

The series of awards also includes one for race relations of \$500 with a gold medal. This was open to either white or Race entrants but, as previously announced, the recipient will not be named until the latter part of January.

As an outgrowth of the awards in fine arts the Harmon foundation, in co-operation with the commission on the church and race relations, is sponsoring an exhibit of the fine art productions of Negroes in the United States. This will be held at International House, 500 Riverside Drive, New York city, from Jan. 6 to 15 inclusive. The entries for the fine arts awards

(Continued on Page 3)

HARMON AWARD GIVEN OUT TO 16 THIS YEAR

Winners to Get Prizes February 12

(Continued from Page 1)

last year were so satisfactory and attracted such favorable comment that it was believed an exhibition might bring about greater interest in the capabilities of Negroes in this field."

Develops Research

James A. Parsons, Jr., 27, chief chemist and metallurgist of the Durlon company of Dayton, Ohio, was given the first award in science for special research in aluminum bronze, his discoveries on corrosion testing and his development in duriron. Through the interest of his present employer, in whose family his father served as butler, he was able to attend and graduate from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, N. Y., where he specialized in electro chemistry and electro metallurgy. He has developed a research staff of five or six experts employed by the Durlon company. The judges made no decision for the second award.

Laura Wheeler Waring, a teacher of art at Cheyney State Normal school, Cheyney, Pa., was accorded the first award in fine arts for a group of paintings. Special mention was made of the portrait of an old Race woman entitled, "Anna Washington Derry." Mrs. Waring was educated in Brooklyn and studied painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. While there she was granted a scholarship for European study, where she spent two years. J. W. Hardwick, 36, of Indianapolis, Ind., received the second award in fine arts for a group of portrait studies.

A special award, consisting of a gold medal, was given William Edouard Scott, 43, of Chicago, Ill., who, because of the finished and excellent character of his paintings and the recognition already received, was considered by the judges to be outside the purpose of the awards but deserving of distinction. Honorable mention was made of the work of Malvin Gray Johnson, Aaron Douglas and James L. Allen, all of New York, N. Y.; Hilliard Robinson, Washington, D. C.; Paul R. Williams, Los Angeles, Calif., and A. R. Freelon of Philadelphia, Pa.

Musician Recognized

One of the \$400 and gold medal awards in music was granted to R. Nathaniel Dett, 45, musical director at Hampton Institute, Va., for his vocal and instrumental compositions. Some of his other well-known productions are "Magnolia Suite," "In the Bottoms Suite," "Listen to the Lambs," and other compositions based upon folk songs. The recipient of the other award of \$400 and gold medal was Clarence C. White, 47, director of Music, West Virginia Collegiate Institute, Institute, W. Va., for his work as a violinist and a composer. This year he has edited and arranged a collection of spirituals. Mr. White's compositions have been programmed by Kreisler, Spauldin and others. He received his training at Oberlin conservatory and studied in Europe under the direction of Zacharewitsch and the late Coleridge-Taylor. E. H. Margetson, 36, organist of the Chapel of Crucifixion, New York, received one of the awards of \$100 and bronze medal for his vocal and instrumental compositions. The other \$100 and bronze medal award goes to William G. Still, 32, of New York for his work in composing orchestrations for symphonies and for both instruments and voices. "From the Black Belt," his foremost current production, was presented by the Little Symphony orchestra last March. J. Harold Brown of Indianapolis, Ind., was given honorable mention in music.

The first award in religion was according William N. DeBerry, 57, pastor of St. John's Congregational church, Springfield, Mass., in recognition of his development of a model church as an outstanding example of what the church may mean in group and community service. The Right Rev. R. E. Jones, 52, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, New Orleans, was given the second award for his work in organizing and furthering an educational, social and religious center of his area and conspicuous work as a religious editor. Honorable mention was made of the work of Dr. J. W. E. Bowen, Atlanta, Ga., and Bishop A. L. Gaines, Baltimore, Md.

Educator Honored

In education John W. Davis, 39, president of West Virginia Collegiate Institute, Institute, W. Va., received the first award for his success in building up a land grant college from a secondary school to an institution acknowledged as having college standing. One of its features is its full Race faculty. It is the first institution of its kind to be accepted as a member of North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The second award in education goes to Benjamin Brawley, 45, professor in Shaw university, Raleigh, N. C., for his work as a teacher of English, his publications on Race life and on English literature, several of which are now being used as textbooks for his critical and technical articles. Honorable mention is made of the work of Thomas N. Campbell and Clinton J. Calloway, both of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; Dr. J. W. E. Bowen, Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Althea Edmiston, Nashville, Tenn., missionary in Luebo, Congo, West Africa.

Anthony Overton, 62, Chicago, Ill., was given first award in business for his success in organizing and developing the Douglas National bank of Chicago, the Overton Hygienic Manufacturing company, and the Victory Life Insurance company. He is president of all three companies. The second award in business goes to William G. Pearson, 68, for his success in organizing the only fire insurance company and the only bonding company operated by his Race. He is president of the Bankers' Fire Insurance company, the Southern Fidelity and Surety company, and the Peoples Building and Loan association. Honorable mention was made of Maggie L. Walker, Richmond, Va.; Louis C. Bulloch of Cranford, N. J.; Orlando S. Watts, Palmyra, N. J., and P. B. Young, Norfolk, Va.

Meritorious Literature

James Weldon Johnson, 56, of New York, was granted first award in literature for his book of poems, "God's Trombones," based upon the imaginative creations of the old-time preachers. The second award of \$100 with bronze medal was granted to Eric Walrond, 29, New York, for his book of original stories, entitled "Tropic Death." Honorable mention goes to Georgia Douglas Johnson and Alain Locke of Washington, D. C.; Benjamin G. Brawley, Raleigh, N. C., and Arthur Huff Fauset, Philadelphia, Pa. The judges expressed themselves as finding other candidates who deserve mention whose work will improve as years pass.



GETS MORE HONOR—

Anthony Overton, Chicago banker, who received the Harmon award for excellence in business. Mr. Overton received the Spingarn medal last year.

—Photo by Woodard.