

# LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO OBSERVE EMANCIPATION

## PROCLAMATION ANNIVERSARY FETE DEC. 27

### Literary Exhibit And Program Of Music Is Feature Observance

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The eighteenth of December was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Thirteenth Amendment which ended slavery in the United States.

(Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was dated 1863 but the Thirteenth Amendment was not introduced in the Congress until January 1865. The last state necessary to ratification, Georgia, ratified the Amendment on December 6, 1865 and the Amendment was proclaimed by Secretary Seward on December 18, 1865.)

In celebration of this anniversary, the Library of Congress held an exhibit of Negro books and manuscripts, an exhibit of Negro painting, and a festival of four concerts of Negro music and music presented by Negro artists. The festival was made possible by the generosity of the Gertrude Clarke Whittall Foundation.

The first concert, given December 18, presented to Washington, Miss Dorothy Maynor, the celebrated Negro soprano; the second concert, presented the Budapest quartet; the third was an evening of folk music; and the last presented Roland Hayes, internationally famous musician.

The exhibit and the festival were arranged with the advice and assistance of a number of the most distinguished Negro scholars, writers, musicians, and artists in the United States.

The advisory committee on the music festival was made up of Harry T. Burleigh, Miss Lulu B. Childers, Dr. Alain Locke, Dr. R. Nathaniel Dett, and W. Grant Still.

The advisory committee on the exhibit of books and manuscripts included Prof. Sterling Brown, Mrs. Dorothy Porter, Henry P. Slaughter, Dr. L. D. Reddick, John P. Davis and Dr. Carter Woodson. Holgar Cahill, national director of the WPA art program and Dr. Alain Locke were in charge of the arrangements for the exhibit of painting.

The Negro paintings exhibited were selected from the work of contemporary Negro painters in Washington, Chicago, New York, and other cities. The books and manuscripts are principally from the collections of the Library of Congress but they contain numerous important items loaned to the Library of Congress by the New York public library from its Schomburg collection.

The Schomburg collection in the New York public library is one of the largest and most important libraries on the Negro. The action of the New York public library in loaning material from this collection was a noteworthy example of interlibrary cooperation, since the New York public library has never before loaned materials of such value for exhibit outside the city of New York.

Items from the Library of Congress collections include Briton Hammond's "Narrative of a Negro," published in 1760; the 1792 Almanac by Benjamin Banneker; Phillis Wheatley's poems on various subjects, London, 1773; first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Harriet Beecher Stowe; a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation bearing signatures of Lincoln and Seward; manuscript autobiography of Hiram R. Revels, the first Negro serving in the United States Senate; Volume I. William Lloyd Garrison's "The Liberator."

The festival of Negro music presented not only two of the greatest of living Negro singers but also, in the evening of folk music, examples of the magnificent anonymous music produced by the Negro people, and, in the evening of chamber music, examples of music by Negroes and the use of Negro themes in the music of other composers.