

NEW YORK SOCIETY

By BESSYE J. BEARDEN

NEW YORK.—With the gad-about of society apparently deciding that they needed a well deserved rest after an unusually active holiday season, our rather large fashionable coterie of devotees of the arts, to say nothing of the numerous devoted sports fans, came in for their share of activities. In what might otherwise have been a pretty dull week, since there were no social affairs of any great consequence,

came two of the season's outstanding concerts, the opening of the third important Negro art exhibition of the season, and Joe Louis-Buddy Baer fight. This, of course, meant that those who wanted to fulfill their desire to hear good music, to see a group of fine paintings and craft work or attend the winter season's foremost boxing exhibition had to carry on in spite of the fact that they, too, may have felt the urge to do a bit of well needed resting.

In the matter of the concerts, Marian Anderson lead off on Monday evening, Jan. 5, with her only recital of the season here at Carnegie Hall. With her unostentatious platform manner, but looking as beautifully radiant and stunning as ever in a gown of gold lace trimmed in mink, the gifted contralto sang, it seemed to us, more gloriously than she has ever sung before. Her large audience, as usual, filled every available seat in the vast concert hall, and also took in every inch of standing room.

P. S.—No other concert artist whom we have ever seen accepts a bouquet of flowers quite as charmingly and graciously as Miss Anderson does.

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Eugene Gash's Piano Recital

The other concert of the week came on Saturday evening, Jan. 10, when Eugene Gash, the very talented young pianist from Denver, who made his debut here last season, appeared in his first recital of the season at Town Hall. Interpreting the music on his program with a clear, beautiful piano tone and a brilliant technique, Mr. Gash again displayed evidence of the now well established fact that he is, perhaps, the foremost instrumentalist of the race.

Some of those seen in the audience of music lovers and fashionable concert goers attending young Gash's recital were Mr. and Mrs. Countee Cullen, Miss Ivy Jackman, Harold Jackman, Miss Gladys Stoner, Mrs. Mollie Lewis (Henry Lee) Moon, Miss J. Clarice Brooks, William Anthony Hill, Edward G. Perry, George Edgecombe, Mrs. Ambrades (James W.) Brown, Augustus Granville Dill, Bill Chase, Margaret Bonds, Lawrence Richardson, Miss Georgia Washington, Miss Helene Grant and Mrs. Aaron Douglas.

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Third Negro Art Show

With a list of nationally prominent sponsors, the third important Negro art exhibition of the season had its preview opening on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 7, at the Associated American Artists Galleries, 711 Fifth avenue. This is an exhibition of paintings, sculpture and crafts, all of which were created at the Karamu House, in Cleveland, which has the unique distinction of being the only free cultural center of its kind in the country.

The speakers for the preview reception on Wednesday afternoon included Dorothy Maynor, famous soprano, who is serving as chairman of the group of sponsors, and Russell Jelliffe, founder of Karamu House. There was a large group of artists, art lovers, fashionable members of society and civic leaders on hand for the opening of this distinctive exhibition of Negro art.

With Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt as honorary chairman, and Miss Maynor as chairman, the committee of sponsors includes Marshall Field, Ethel Waters, Carl Van Vechten, Marian Anderson, Langston Hughes, Mrs. David R. Levy, Miss Beatrice Straight, Mrs. William F. Gibbs, Leonard Hanna, Mrs. James Welton Johnson, Katharine Dunham, Walter F. White, Dr. Alain Locke, Mrs. Edith J. R. Isaacs, A. Philip Randolph, Miss Louise Crane, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Hyde, Oronzio Maldarelli, Mrs. J. David Stern and Mrs. William S. Paley.

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Former Mayor Is Visitor

Dr. Oswald E. Anderson, a member of the Jamaica (B. W.I.) Legislative Council for the Parish of St. Andrew, returned to the island during the past week-end after spending about six months in the United States for the benefit of his health. During his visit here Dr. Anderson, who is also a former mayor of the city of Kingston, in Jamaica, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lucien M. Brown.

A few seasons ago when we were

on a tour of the West Indies, we recall having attended a public mass meeting at which Mr. Anderson presided. We enjoyed the eloquence of his speech and were greatly impressed with his forthright and progressive idea. When the meeting was over we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Anderson; so it was indeed very pleasant to see him again on Friday evening, Jan. 9, at a reception which a group of his friends gave in his honor at the residence of Justice and Mrs. James S. Watson, 117 West 120th street.

Greetings From the West Indies

While speaking of the West Indies, we are reminded that our last holiday card of greetings came from Ellis A. Williams, in Trinidad, where he has been for the past several months and will probably remain for sometime, since he is there as the representative of a nationally known business concern.

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Visiting In Boston

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Norman of Flushing, Long Island, left the city on Monday by motor for Boston. While Mr. Norman, who is a famous music arranger for a number of nationally known orchestras, is attending to business, his wife will be doing a bit of work in Bean Town in the interest of the National Council of Negro Women, of which organization she is the national organizer.

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Sympathy to the Garners

We wish to offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Laura M. Garner, who died quite recently. She was the wife of the Rev. A. C. Garner, retired pastor of Grace Congregational church, where funeral services were held for her on Friday, Jan. 2.

We also wish to extend our sympathy and condolences to the family of Mrs. Marjorie Moore Werner, who died on Friday, Jan. 2. Once acclaimed as one of the most beautiful women in fashionable New York society, Mrs. Werner was the daughter of Fred R. Moore, publisher of the New York Age, and the late Mrs. Ida Lawrence Moore; and the mother of Ludlow W. Werner, Sr., managing editor of The Age.

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Testimonial For New Councilman

When the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., was sworn in on Monday, Jan. 5, as New York's first Race councilman, his family and a large group of friends and admirers were on hand to witness the ceremony, which took place in the City Hall office of Mayor LaGuardia. Included in the family group present were Mrs. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., the Rev. and Mrs. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., and Joseph Ford, the new councilman's secretary.

In recognition of the unusually fine work which young Adam has long been doing in the interest of the community a Citizen's Testimonial dinner is being planned in his honor for January 28. Serving as chairman of the committee is Dr. Hudson Oliver, and Mrs. Mozella Swann is its secretary.

Gwen Bennett Exonerated

Having invited Mollie and Henry Lee Moon in for what was going to be a quiet dinner on Friday evening, Jan. 2, Gwendolyn Bennett and her husband, Richard Crosscup, had their little foursome turned into a party of great jubilation when a letter arrived from the WPA Administration clearing Gwen of the recent charges made against her that she was a red and that she is once more eligible for her position as a supervisor on the art project of the WPA. This news spreaded like the proverbial wild-fire, and the Crosscups found themselves with a party of celebration on their hands before they knew it. While we, because of a very severe cold, were unable to make it over to their house, among those who dropped in to congratulate Gwen and to share in her happiness were the Lisle Carters, Rachel Davis Dubois, Norman Lewis, Langston Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. W. John, Estelle Machin, Sara Witt Dunston, Alta and Aaron Douglas.