

# Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man



John P. & C. Buck West

TERENCE

Foremost of the Latin Stylists  
and Great Humanitarian  
(B.C. 190-1592)

(J. A. Rogers (Vol. I, pg. 57-58; World's Great Men of Color) mentions the name "Terence" as one of the least publicized but most imitated of Roman writers.)

"OF THE PERSONAL details of the life of Publius Terentius Afer (Terence), the greatest of Latin stylists, all that is known are a few lines written by Suetonius, Roman writer in his *De viris illustribus*.

"Terence was born about 190 B.C. and was a native of Africa as the 'Afer' (Africa) in his surname showed. Suetonius says he was 'dusky' in color (*colore fusco*), and that he was a slave brought to Rome, and purchased by Terentius Lucanus. He was so fond of learning and possessed such aptitude, that his master set him free and gave him his name--a rare honor.

"As a poet and a comedian, Terence soon won a reputation. It is said that he once went to the home of Caecilius, a leading citizen, to read his verses to him. Caecilius, on seeing the shabbily-dressed youth, was rude to him, inhospitably pushed a stool towards him and told him gruffly to commence. But as soon as he heard the first lines, he treated him as an honored guest, and invited him to stay for supper.

"It is believed that Terence died about 159 B.C. at, or near Leucadia in Arcadia, some say in a shipwreck; others, of grief for having lost some of the finest productions of his art among his baggage in this catastrophe. It is also believed that he died a poor man, but according to Suetonius, he left twenty acres of land on the Appian Way to his daughter, who was married to a Roman gentleman. Terence was an intimate friend of Scipio Africanus, who saved Rome from Hannibal.

"Terence left to posterity six comedies which have since served as models of Latin composition. He was supreme master of the elegant style. Although he wrote in verse, his choice of words was perfect and the form in which they were arranged, flawless.

"Julius Caesar, Cicero and Horace, were among those who used him as a model. Caesar said that his comedies lacked humor, but spoke of him as being 'placed among the highest and deservedly--lovers of pure speech.'

"In the British Isles and on the Continent, Terence is still studied in the leading universities. The works of no other Latin classicist has been reproduced in as many editions as his. *Biographie Universelle* says that up to 1779, there were 395 of them worthy of notice, among them being those of Erasmus and Melancthon. At present, editions in various languages, manuals, extracts, and other works of his are innumerable. Terence's imitators have been many and include Sir Richard Steele, Sedley, La Fontaine and Moliere.

"The six comedies are: *Andria Hecyra*, or the Mother-in-Law; *The Self-Avenger*; *The Eunuch*; *Phormio*; *The Brothers*.

"Terence is immortal, not alone for the purity of his language and the flawlessness of his verse. He is regarded as one of the greatest humanists of all time. There is one line of his, which, if all else of his had been lost, would have been sufficient to insure his immortality. This passage will remain the criterion of the truly cultured individual as long as breadth of knowledge is valued.

"It is: 'Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto' (--I am a man and nothing human is alien

# POLITICAL PULSE OF NEGRO LOCAL NATIONAL

By Otis Harris

President, Prometheus Circle

WEST LAS VEGAS is not the simple "across the track" ghetto it used to be; it is now developing into a complex society destined to play a major role in the cultivation of the city of Las Vegas and the state of Nevada. The entire population of Las Vegas in 1950 was a few more than 24,000, now the Negro population has reached that figure in a scant 16 years and still growing at a rapid rate.

In the early fifties, Las Vegas was one of the most backward places in which to live. Nearly everyone accepted the fact that he, or she, was alive and doing as well as could be expected under the prevailing conditions. Few people wanted to attempt to break out of the living patterns imposed on them, but now the situation is different, as it should be. Many people are newcomers here with diverse backgrounds; with fighting hearts and the knowledge that things could be better here, because they had been exposed to better conditions where they came from. If we continue to live second rate with an "I don't care", or an "I can't help it" attitude, it is our fault. If we don't work for improvement we deserve to be last in everything that this city has to offer.

Prometheus Circle is a chartered non-profit, non-stock organization designed to bring together young men and women whose desire is to serve this community on a non-profit basis in the following areas:

**POLITICALLY**--to conduct educational programs on the problems and democratic processes of government; to disseminate information on registration, voting and candidates for public office; to emphasize the importance of unity in political and governmental affairs to the end that common interest may be better served.

**EDUCATIONALLY**--to stress the importance of education to meet contemporary challenges facing minority groups; to develop a system of scholarships and/or loans to assist deserving students in obtaining a higher education or trade school training.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**--to conserve and improve community facilities, homes and business establishments in order to better the living, shopping, working, and recreational conditions.

**CIVIL RIGHTS**--to broaden the understanding of citizens of the community as to their rights as human beings, and to engender in them greater determination to obtain better jobs, housing and community benefits.

**BUSINESS**--to create a community awareness of the importance of patronizing and supporting community enterprises.

**POVERTY**--to crusade against poverty and its courses; to encourage the participation of the community's poor in poverty programs; and to assure their assimilation into the mainstream of our society.

We feel that all of these programs are equally important in nurturing this community into the type of society we would all like to live in. Let it be understood that we do not intend to take the place of the NAACP or any organization engaged in the struggle for equal rights and opportunity,

to me).

"Terence is named here as a Negro for the following reasons: he was from Africa; he was a slave; and Suetonius (98-138 A.D.) describes his color as 'fusco' (dusky, very dark). Had he been say of a mulatto color, Suetonius might have said he was 'subfusco.' For instance, Ammianus, 4th century historian, says of the Egyptians of his time 'Homines autem Aegyptii plerique subfusculi sunt et atrati' (The men of Egypt are, as a rule, somewhat swarthy and dark of complexion) XXII, 16:22-24.

"Terence was also called 'Afer.' The Century Dictionary says of this, 'The ordinary terms for African Negro or Africans were Ethiops and Afer.' L'Encyclopedie Francaise says similarly, 'The Latin, Afer, which was both ethnic and geographical, sufficed at a time when Africa was little known to designate its inhabitants by that characteristic which was almost typical of them and most apparent, namely color.'" (Vol. VII, 1, 46, 6.)

WASHINGTON, March 25 (Special) -- Over three hundred Negro Democrats holding elective offices in 33 states are expected to participate in a national workshop conference in Washington, D.C., on June 3.

Commenting on the conference, Louis Martin, Deputy Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who is a Negro, said:

"The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the recent Supreme Court decision outlawing poll taxes have opened the door for full participation of Negroes in our political life and we are on the threshold of a new era in American politics.

"The impact of these new developments will be fully explored at the conference. Administration leaders and all of the national Democratic Party officials will be invited to discuss all phases of political activity and special briefing sessions are planned for candidates who are running for office for the first time.

"More Negroes are filing as candidates in the 1966 elections than ever before in history. Heretofore many exceptionally well qualified Negroes have been reluctant to run for office but the upsurge of political concern in Negro communities all across the country has changed that picture."

CITING THE GREAT GAINS Negro Americans have won through the strong civil rights position of the Democratic Administration under President Lyndon B. Johnson, Martin said, "We believe that the rising expectations of Negroes cannot be ignored, and it is clearly in the national interest that Negroes seek greater opportunities through the ballot box and democratic processes."

Among the giant steps taken by President Johnson and the Democratic Administration in the field of civil rights and for equal opportunity, Martin mentioned:

"The historic appointments of Negroes in high government posts by President Johnson; including Dr. Robert Weaver in the Cabinet, and Dr. Andrew Brimmer on the Federal Reserve Board; the comprehensive Civil Rights Law of 1964 and the Voting Rights Law of 1965; the multi-billion dollar anti-poverty program and Federal aid-to-education; medicare for senior citizens and Federal programs for jobs and economic development."

but to take part in the battle in our own way. Prometheus Circle is designed to better the West Las Vegas area and the people within. But one organization cannot accomplish this goal alone. It must be a joint effort by all concerned; you, your neighbor and me--all working for the best in life; no longer content to accept just whatever is handed to us.

**MEETING**  
**PROMETHEUS CIRCLE**  
Doolittle Center Sunday, APRIL 17 3 P.M.  
All Interested Persons  
Are Urged to Attend

## Be A Selective Buyer

A SELECTIVE BUYER is one who spends his money with those firms which employ Negroes and which advertise their products in the Negro press--A selective Buyer is careful that his money continues to circulate in his community--Is Your Money going to be put back into your Community? A good check is: Does the Company advertise with the Negro Press?

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