

# NEGRO HISTORY EDITION

Winning Essays On Pages 10 & 11

## Focus On Hidden History Of The Black Man

SPECIAL FEATURE

LAS VEGAS VOICE

Thursday, March 30, 1967

### ALL RACES AND PEOPLES MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVILIZATION

"RACES AND PEOPLES have contributed in their own ways and according to their opportunities to the civilization of the world. It is erroneous to conclude that some races and peoples have advanced in civilization while others have made no advances. However, if the chronicle of the story is left to one group to set forth its special virtues and contributions, while neglect and disparagement are employed towards others, it will not require many generations before credit for the major achievements of a civilization will be ascribed to one particular branch of the population. This process has led to the disregard and omission of the darker peoples from the historical account of the nation and the world. Since they were regarded as backward and dependent peoples, the historical facts concerning them were of no consequence to the writers of history, who belonged to other population groups. Such omissions of truth in the field of the natural sciences would be indefensible. Seekers after truth in the physical sciences insist upon the value of all direct and indirect knowledge bearing upon their subject. Only in the social sciences as they relate to the history of the darker peoples of the world is there a curtain of silence and neglect which conceal or ignore the facts. This curtain is being lifted by the Association and its workers.

AFRICA IS emerging not only as a continent to be considered from the point of view of European penetration, but also as a continent of peoples with histories and futures, in spite of the fact that they were non-white. In his native Africa, the Negro produced in ancient times prior to the slave trade, a civilization contemporaneous with that of the nations and peoples of the early Mediterranean. Negroes influenced the cultures then cast in the crucible of history and created, for their own uses, trial by jury--which is not so exclusively Anglo-Saxon as it is supposed to be--music by stringed instruments, the domestic use of iron and metals, the domestication of the sheep, goat and cow, the creation of a literature, oral and written, and an art emphasis, which compares favorably with the contributions of other peoples. We are beginning to realize that it is costly to neglect these facts in the areas of human relations."

### IS THERE SUCH A THING AS NEGRO HISTORY?

"HISTORY CANNOT be restricted by the limits of race, nation or peoples. Where the achievements of one element are purposely omitted from the published record, however, the historian must record these facts, label them with some designation and invite attention thereto. Generally speaking, there is no such thing as Teutonic history, Latin history, Roman history, Greek history or Egyptian history. All events and movements are so related and interrelated that they cannot be thus isolated. The Teutons have little history worthwhile except so far as that history bears upon their relations with non-Teutonic people. What they have borrowed from others lifted them out of primitive life. Roman history is Greek as well as Roman; and both the Greek and the Roman are Egyptian because the entire Mediterranean was civilized from Egypt, and Egypt in turn borrowed from other parts of Africa, especially Ethiopia, the Lower Nile and the Orient.

AFRICA CAME into the Mediterranean world mainly through Greece which had been under African influence; and then Africa was cut off from that melting pot by the turmoil among the Europeans and the religious conquests incident (See HISTORY, page 7)

### TRAIL BLAZER GREATEST OF THE EXPLORERS OF AFRICA



TIPPOO TIB, "The Napoleon of Central Africa."  
(Photo by Dr. Fred Puleston)

TIPPOO TIB, one of the richest men in the world of his time blazed the path for Stanley, Livingston, and all others who claimed to have been first explorers of Central Africa.

### In Grateful Acknowledgment

THE ASSOCIATION for the Study of Negro Life and History (A.S.N.L.H.) was organized by the late Carter G. Woodson in Chicago, September 9, 1915, with George Cleveland Hall, W. B. Hartgrove, J. E. Stamps, and Alexander L. Jackson.

On January 1, 1916, the Association brought out the first edition of THE JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY, and since that date has published that scientific magazine regularly every quarter. Complete files are available in bound annual volumes from 1916.

The Association originated the celebration of Negro History Week on February 7, 1926, and continued its celebration annually. Since its original publication date, October 1, 1937, THE NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN has been issued by the Association eight times a year for the school year period. The monthly Bulletin is designed to promote the study of the Negro among teachers and youths of elementary and secondary school ages.

The thoughts reprinted on this page on Negro History, the need, development and impact of factual chronicles of the Negro's role in History are those of the A.S.N.L.H., an organization which deserves all honor accorded it, and more support than it presently enjoys. Headquarters for the Association are located at 1538 9th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

### NEGRO HISTORY IN AN ERA OF CHANGING HUMAN RELATIONS

"THERE IS a need for Negro History in an era of changing human relations, and we need to study the history of the Negro in a society which is rapidly shaping itself into an integrated pattern. With advances in human relations, and particularly with the advent of school and job integration, there are those who believe that the emphasis and use of Negro History are becoming unnecessary. No one could be more mistaken, for Negroes and whites continue to face challenging falsehoods concerning the Negro's participation and performance in history and civilization. The claims of the Negro people for opportunities are still being denied on the basis of an assumed unworthy past. Slavery and segregation have concealed so completely the capacities and personalities of Negroes that there is need for a sustaining faith in themselves, and for whites to be informed.

IT IS WELL to remember that all elements of the population, religious groups, fraternal organizations and groups of associated persons have organized to develop pride in their past and are spending huge sums to record, publish and study their histories and traditions. Under the dominance of group pride, the need for defense against persistently adverse racial opinions and the desire to sponsor truthful estimates of the past achievements of groups of persons of supposedly similar racial backgrounds, several important historical societies have been founded. Among these were the German-American Historical Society, the American-Irish Historical Society, Scotch-Irish Society of America, Huguenot Society of America, Hispanic Society of America, Russian Historical Society, Norwegian-American Historical Association, Netherlands Pioneer and Historical Foundation, the Swiss-American Historical Society, Finnish-American Historical Society, American-Jewish Historical Society, and numerous other racial historical associations.

THESE SOCIETIES have investigated, published and used for instruction and group stimulation the facts and lessons of history to bring a sense of pride and an appreciative recognition of the historical contributions of their people to the life of the nation. They had learned the main national and group lesson of history that the first step in recognition by others grows out of belief in and recognition of one's self. This belief has been the inspiration and the mainstay of these societies. They have taught these lessons to their children at home, at school, at church, and they and others have learned the story, with a sense of pride.

WHEN IT becomes known from history's findings that there is no proof of racial or color superiority or inferiority and that the differences within racial and color groups are greater than the differences between groups, the foundation is laid for the beginning of the improvement of human relations. When it is believed from false statements that one of these groups, as he is often cast in motion pictures and on the stage, is generally a servant, an ignorant, lazy, cowardly, clownish person, and one who has tendencies toward disease, crime and social weaknesses, acceptance even with legal desegregation is most difficult. When the truths of history become known and the historical background of these accusations are described with their false presentations, the results are more meaningful for the achievement of a more complete American democracy. Negro History as a part of the history of peoples is an important foundation upon which to build racial understanding and appreciation, especially in areas in which false generalizations and stereotypes have been developed to separate peoples rather than to unite them."