James Weldon Johnson honored at Baltimore Museum of Art

In February, The Baltimore Musuem of Art will celebrate Black History Month with two special programs and two exhibitions by and about black Americans.

On view from Feb. 10 will be a photographic biography of James Weldon Johnson, a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance who was poet, songwriter, literature professor at Fisk University and pioneer civil rights leader. The show "James Weldon Johnson 1871-1938" evolved out of a larger exhibition organized by the National Portrait Gallery and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

On Feb. 21, Baltimore's own Olufunmilayo and Company will present a program of West African and American dances in the Main Court of the Museum at 3 and 4 p.m. At 3 o'clock Frederick Lamp, who has recently joined the Museum's staff as Associate Curator in the Arts of Africa, the Americas and Oceania, will give a talk on "Blood Memory and the African Aesthetic in America."

Lamp, who studied African art history at Yale and has done extensive research in Africa has worked at the Musuem of African Art of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

The special exhibitions can be seen in the Museum's lower level Orientation Gallery during February. Photographs of life in Harlem in the early decades of this century and other subjects by the noted photographer, James Van DerZee, have been selected from the BMA's portfolio of his work by Jay Fisher, Associate Curator of Prints, Drawings and Photographs.

Both programs and exhibitions are free and the Museum, located the art and unparalleled talent catapulted her to become one of th

Both programs and exhibitions are free and the Museum, located on Art Museum Drive just off North Charles St., is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

James Weldon Johnson

Black History Month means different things to people

Employees of the Government Printing Office (GPO) came together Monday to celebrate Black History Month. More than 400 employees listened to a "profound" speech by Dr. Owen Nichols, vice president of administration for Howard University.

Nichols said that Black History Month means different things to the rank-and-file, the militant and scholarly blacks. Plus, a different meaning for whites.

Owens said that Black History Month gives the rank-and-file blacks "self-pride" and "personal worth." "We, the rank-and-file, are in fact somebody," Owens said.

"It heals the sensing soul," he said, about Black History Month. He said it helps the masses of blacks "deal with the identity crsis." "We don't have to apologize for the heritage which is ours," he said. Owens said that black history "teaches the concept of victory and acheivement."

The black militant, he said, views Black History Month "as a look into the evils of the past." Plus, they consider Black History gmonth as "a means of ideology indoctrination," he said. Black militants, Owens said, view America as having two colonies: one black, one white.

He called the black scholar "intellectually sophiscated" who has a "crying need to set the record straight." The black scholarships "remove the ignorance for so long that has been the enemy of truth," Owens said.

The black scholar, Owens said, knows that his forebearers help build this country." For whites, he said, Black History Month has "a very important message to be learned."

For whites, he said, not to know black history "is like limting the gospel to those already converted." "If we are to understand each other, we must know each other," he said.

Black history, according to Owens, will eliminate the myth that our country's past was rosy and "liberty and justice for all," He said that many white historians considered Andrew Jackson a great president. But at the same time black were denied the right to vote in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Owens said that black federal workers were segregated and given inferior working conditions during Woodrow Wilson's presidency. "Black history serves as a guide to the future," he said. "We must integrate the black story into the American story," he said. He told the audience to not worry about the past.

Owens told them, "We can not neglect the past" and "we must heal our history or our future will rot in the disease of the past." The GPO choir and violinist Wilbert De Lane Jr. entertained the overflowing Harding Hall crowd. The crowd sung "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the conclusion.

Coppin State homecoming

Homecoming '82 activities at Coppin State College get underway Feb. 14 with a Saint Valentine's Day Ball and culminate in the traditional cabaret on Homecoming Day Saturday, Feb. 20. Other highlights of the week include "Coppin in Retrospect"; a homecoming concert featuring "Pieces of a Dream" and a basketball game pitting the Coppin Eagles against Arch Rivals the Bears of Morgan State. For more information contact the SGA of Coppin State College at 383-4441.

Judge Allen keynoter at annual Boy Scout dinner

The Trailblazer District is sponsoring its second annual "Roots of Scouting" Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m., at the Odd Fellows Hall, 2257 Madison Avenue.

This dinner, which was attended by more than 300 persons last year, will honor four select pioneers of the Scout program whose early accomplishments have been forgotten.

Honorees for 1982 are the late Reverends Arthur Payne, Samuel Carter, Brooks Waters the first black Eagle Scout in Maryland, 1934, and the late Oscar Simmonds.

Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Payne

The "Roots of Scouting" Dinner is in keeping with Scout Anniversary Month and Black History Month. The Honorable Milton Allen will be the guest speaker.

Music will be provided by the Douglass High School Jazz Ensemble and the Dunbar High School Concert Band. Chuck Lanham, the Scout Executive, also will be in attendance.

The cost of the dinner is $6.50 per person payable in advance. Tickets are available by contacting Leo Burroughs, Scout Headquarters, 701 Wyman Park Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21211, or by calling Kenton Campier, 38-1700, ext. 77.

Black History Month observances at Howard

Black history Month will be celebrated at Howard with a variety of programs throughout February.

The annual observance of black history dates from 1926 when, through the efforts of Carter G. Woodson and others, a specialweek was set aside to inform Americans about the contributions blacks have made to this country as other campus sites. For registration, call 636-7242.

The Paul Robeson Symposium with speakers, panel discussions and a film will be held Feb. 11 and 12 at the Blackburn Center and mpus sites. For registration, call 636-7242.

A song service for Black History Month presented by the Chapel Choir will be held at 11 a.m., Feb. 14 in Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel.

A "Law and Black America" lecture is scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m., Feb. 16 in Cramton Auditorium.

The 11th Annual Communications Conference "The Future of Communications: A Battle for the Human Mind" will be held Feb. 18-21. For registration information, call Peggy Pinn, 636-7491.

A Jazz Art Series concert is scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m., Feb. 19 in the Blackburn Center punchout.

"A Tribute to Malcolm X" featuring Gil Noble will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 22 in the Blackburn Center auditorium.

"The Role of the Black Church in Urbanizing Black America," is the topic of a program scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m., Feb. 24 in the Blackburn Center ballroom.

Bowie State waives tuition for seniors

Bowie State College encourages senior citizens, who are Maryland residents, to register for courses at the institution. Retired persons over 60 are exempt from payment of tuition for both credit and non-credit courses.

The move is in keeping with a policy adopted by the Maryland board of trustees of the State Universities and Colleges.

For information about program and course content, requirements, registration dates and course schedules, call the Bowie State Admissions Office at 464-3211 or the Bowie State Continuing Education Center on 464-3208.

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Joachim Murat (1767 - 1815)

Born in the Auvergne, France, his limited skills found Murat performing menial tasks when he emigrated to Paris. Bored, he joined the army and became one of Napoleon's assistants. After serving with distinction under General Alexander Dumas in Egypt, his courage and daring caused him to be promoted to divisional general.

His return to France found him encouraging Nepoleon to declare himself Emperor. In fact, he and 60 of his men seized control of the National Convention and declared Napoleon dictator of France. In gratitude, Nepoleon gave to Murat in marriage his sister Caroline.

Murat acquired many honors and awards from Nepoleon. After leading the force that defeated the Germans, he was made Governor of Paris, Marshal of the Empire, Grand Duke of Berg and Cleves and Grand Admiral of France. In addition, he became the ruler of Naples; a country in what was considered to be Southern Europe. (It did not become a part of Italy until 1861.)

Murat remained loyal until Napoleone decided to invade Russia. Here, one defeat upon another caused Murat to return to his home in Naples against Napoleon's orders. The rift that developed between the two never healed. Eventually he was tried as a deserter and executed.

Two of his sons married Americans; one of who was Washington's grand-niece. Murat was posthumously vindication by Napoleon. The Emperor felt that had Murat been with him at Waterloo, his infectious will to win would have inspired the French to victory over the British.

General Alexander Dumas (1762 - 1806)

Born of a black mother, Marie Dumas and French father, the Marquis de la Pailleterie in St. Dominique (Haiti) in 1762, Alexander Dumas developed the prodigious strengh to match his six feet two.

At the age of 19 he went to Paris with his father. After a quarrel with the elder de la Pailleterie, he reverted to his mother's maiden name.

He was twenty-four whe he enlisted in the Army of the Rhine as a private. Within two years, extraordinary courage and daring in a number of encounters enable him to acquire the rank of general and command of the Army of the West.

At this time (during the French Revolution), the National Convention (equivalent to the Congress) demanded that Gen Dumas attack the main body of Austrians (who were on the side of the Royalists) in the Slps.

Carefully surveying the terrain and strengh of the enemy, he decide to attack the main forces og Mt Cenis: a theoretically unassailable mountain, on its sheer north side. With 300 men, he succeeded in doing the "impossible" and won his most spectacular victory.

Both General Dumas and (the then) Major Neapoleon were Republican in ideology and strongly in favor of the Revolution. The leadership of the Revolution rested in the National Convention. Histroy most often reveals that Napoleon was selected by the Convention to quell the excessive demands of the Moh. it rarely states that he was the Convention's second choice.

In 1973, when mob rule threatened to undermine the stability and orderly transition from monarchy to democracy, a request was sent to Dumas that he return to Paris from his home two days journey away.

However, urgency demanded that resolution be immediate and Napolen was temporarily place in Dumas's post.So well did Napoleon perform his duties that the Convention retained him in charge as Consul-General even after Dumas appeared. Dumas was not at all bitter, and the two became fast friends and companions in succeeding campaigns.

Eventually they quarrelled. While on campaign in Egypt, Dumas began to see that Napoleon's ambitious were becoming increasingly imperial in nature. He left Egypt and Napoleon, landed in Naples and was captured. Unaware that the Neopolitans had recaptured their kingdom from France his port of debrkation caused him to be imprisoned for two years. When released, he attempted to re-emlist, but Napoleon would not allow it.

He died at 44, leaving a penniless widow and four-year-old son. His son was destined to add more luster to the nae of Dumas through this hundreds of literary pieces; most notable are Camille, The Count of Monte Cristo and the Three Musketeers.

Sosthene Heliodore Mortenoe (1859 - 1930)

Born in the French colony of Guadeloupe, W.I.Mortenol received his secondary education in the mother country on a scholarship. Upon gradusting from a military institute, he entered the navy.

Mortenol's naval career was impressive and global. He was active service in 1891-1892 and again in 1907; and off the coast of France from 1897 to 1900. In addition, he became extremely proficient as an artillery officer and won many medals and honors.

One honor bestowed upon his came from Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. He was made an Officer of the Crown of Prussia for saving a German crew and torpedo boat that developed trouble off the coast of Africa in 1909.

J.A.Rogers states that during World War I he became responsible for the serial defense of Paris and commanded a force of aviators, artillery men, clerks, etc. of about 10,000. At one time Paris was threatened with bombing by Germany's Big Bertha (heavy artillery). Mortenol determined their position throught mathematical calculation and had them destroyed.

Although all who served under him were white and he performed the duties of a Rear Admiral, Mortenol never achieved a rank above captain. He received many awards and honors.

Mortenol received the only negative reaction to his race in the United States. On several occasions while the ships he commanded were berthed in American ports, he refused service even though his subordinates were not.

After the war, Mortenol returned to his home in Paris refusing all requests that he run for Parliament. He remained active in the Black social life of Paris until his death in 1930

Moshesh, King of Bosuteland

King Kalydosos, 7th century A.D.

In northeast Africa, the area closest to the birthplace of Christianity and Mohammedanism (Islam), blacks had gradually migrated from the seacoast, so that by the 7th century, they had firmly established themselves in Ethiopia.

There, they repeatedly suffered the incursions into this area (that was by this time largely Christian) by the burgeoning Muslim (Arab) armies that swarmed the eastern section of Africa and easily occupied Egypt.

Having done so in 634 A.D. with an army of only 4,000 men, the Muslims, under Abdullah the Viceroy of Egypt, now turned southward with the confidence born from the easy defeat of Egypt.

Meeting and overcoming limited resistance, further southward they pressed the fleeing Ethiopians until the latter, joining at an assigned area with their king, Kalydosos, leading the way, they massed into a group of 100,000 expertly trained courageous troops that almost totally destroyed the Muslims. The bow-and-arrow corps were so skillful that the devastation they wreaked astonished the world.

Defeated, the remnants of the Arabian army retired northward and remained there for eight years; rebuilding and retraining to again attack King Kalydosos and his country (then called Makuria).

In 651 A.D. the decision was made by the Arab viceroy of Egypt to avenge the earlier slaughter by Kalydosos, so once more the Muslims invaded Makuria. This time they penetrated deeply enough to capture and raze the capital city of Dongola. All major buildings including the great cathedral were destroyed by massive catapults.

Often, the loss of the capital in ancient times signalled capitulation; however, King Kalydosos regrouped. So outraged were the blacks that it soon became apparent to the Arabs that the king and his army would fight to the death. An armistice was then declared that lasted 600 years.

Some historians believe that Christianizing Ethiopia had an enormous political and religious impact upon the world, for it created a buffer zone between the Afro-Asian Islamic forces and the white Christian Europeans.

A theory has been promulgated that had it not been for King Kalydosos, Ethiopia, a man Islamic country, may have prevented Europe from colonizing Africa. Conversely, Ethiopia, a Christian country, may have prevented the Islamic forces from conquering all of Africa.

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