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Benton Unveils A Masterpiece in Page Library Sun. Afternoon

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Benton Unveils A Masterpiece In Page Library Sun. Afternoon

Thomas Hart Benton, noted, artist, and James D. Parks, head of [illegible] stand before Mr. Benton's mural donation to the University. The unveiling took place in the main reading room of Page Library Sunday afternoon.

Adding a fitting climax to the music and arts festival at Lincoln University was the presentation and unveiling of the Abraham Lincoln mural by Thomas Hart Benton in Page Library Sunday.

The mural, 6 by 8½ feet, took three years to complete. Painted in tempra, mixture pigment and egg emulsion, the Benton mural was termed a classical masterpiece by James D. Parks, head of the University art department.

The painting shows a full life sized figure of Lincoln grasping the upstretched hand of a Negro. In the background of the painting are Negro soldiers seen sitting around a campfire. A corner of a ruined building is at one side of the picture. The foreground of the painting shows a teacher instructing children.

Describing the painting Benton told a capacity audience in Page auditorium "In the foreground of my picture I have tried to suggest how knowledge engages, new minds in the quest of knowledge - - how the values of knowledge, once acquired, are continually replanted."

He explained, "The Lincoln you see here pictured has no existence in fact. He is a Lincoln I have made. He is an imaginary composite not only of record, but of ideas, and of intuitions. What you see is the symbol also the social and legal implementation of that impulse.

"Behind Lincoln I have shown the beginning of Lincoln University. About a soldiers campfire men who have been given freedom, bet a start in the knowledge that will help to sustain it.

"As Lincoln himself represents the urge to freedom and the legal right to exercise it so Lincoln University has represented what is necessary to direct that urge and hold its gains. Freedom may be won violence but it cannot be maintained without knowledge.

Beginnings

Relating the background of the idea of the painting Benton told the audience, "some three years ago Dr. Scruggs and Rabbi Mayerberg came to my house in Kansas City, and suggested that I paint a portrait of Lincoln for Lincoln University. I agreed to try it. Little by little, however, as I reviewed the life of Lincoln and studied his photographic record I began to move away from the idea of a portrait toward that of a symbolic representation. I say that I could not make a Lincoln portrait which would be satisfactory to me from any of the photographs which had been taken of him. My ideas of Lincoln could not be tried to momentary aspects."

The idea of the Lincoln portrait here on the campus grew out of discussion between President of the University and the president of the 1951 senior class.

Benton, continuining in his address said, "Lincoln is for me, as he must also be for the rest of you gathered here, more than a man who, by his strength of character and judgement, impressed himself upon a convulsive period of our history. He is the symbol of something even greater than his place in the clash of events. He has come to stand for a universal and eternal impulse of the human soul, valid not only in a grim period of our own history but valid in all periods of all history. That is the impulse to be free, free not only from

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Three University Professors Attend Social Science Meet

Three professors from Lincoln university, Drs. W. Sherman Savage, J. Erroll Miller and Oliver C. Cox attended the 20th annual meeting of the Association of Social Science Teachers at Langston university May 5-7.

They were among 100 persons from over 20 states. The theme was "Process and Problems Involved in Desegregation and Integration as Viewed by Social Scientists."

Attorney U. S. Tate, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Councel for Program in the Southwest, Dallas, Texas, delivered an address at the public meeting of the Association.

A panel discussion on the topic: "The Process and Problems Involved in a Social Change" featured Dean Whitney Young, Atlanta School of Social Work, Drs. Stanley Smith, Livingston college and J. Erroll Miller, **professor of government.** Dr. Wynn, Langston university, served as moderator.

Each of the ten participants on the program read papers on various phases of attitudes and problems involved in desegregration.

Dr. Savage, **head of the department of history and government,** read a paper on "Civil Rights of the Negro in California"; Dr. Cox, **professor of sociology,** read a paper titled "The Balance Sheet of Desegregation in Education."

The Association adopted resolutions on: Desegregation of public schools, atomic weapons, economic aid to other nations, the outlaw of war, Federal aid to education, the United Nations, com-

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L. U. Artist Guild Sponsors Display

A variety of student artwork, sponsored by the Lincoln university Artist Guild, was on display in Page library, May 11-15.

Leatherwork was made by the elementary craft class in art 205 and the ceremics were done by the students of the advanced art class, in Art 305.

Four Lincolnites were double producers in picture paintings; Mary Griffin, June Price, Alta Johnson and Marshall Decatur. A total of 26 paintings were on display. Other artists whose work was presented were Ann Walker, Martin Carrington, Luther Deas, Hortense Charleston, Henry Pavitt, Vallie Cooper, Elizabeth Johnson and Marie Jones.

Eight pieces of sculpture work done by six Lincolnites were also on display. Elizabeth Johnson and William Jones turned in two sculptures apiece. Others were Connie Hawkins, Marshall Decatur, James Long and Charles Schwartz. "Despair" by Hawkins received honorable mention at the Missouri State Fair.

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some particular bondage, but from all bondage, from all tyranny, from all injustice, and from all the inherited misfortunes that an historical fate may have imposed, or that some doctrinal fanaticism may try to impose.

The speaker concluded his address with the presentation of the legal title of the picture to A. Byron Masterson, president of the Board of Curators represented the State of Missouri.

In conclusion he said, "When I was about half through my work on this project, the Supreme Court of the United States made a decision. This decision will, in time, no doubt change the character of Lincoln University.

"It will not however, change the fact that the University has played its historic part in the great upward struggle toward universal freedom which President Abraham Lincoln has come to symbolize for us. No matter what changes may occur in the future, I am giving this picture in memory of the Lincoln University that has been and to the Lincoln University that now is."