

**DISTINGUISHED IN ARTS AND LETTERS**



Shown above is a rare collection of distinguished men of arts and letters in America. Samuel S. McClure, who received the "Order of Merit" for his services to American Letters and Journalism; Willa Cather, who was awarded the Gold Medal of the National Institute of Fiction; Theodore Dreiser, who received the Merit Medal of the Academy for Fiction; and Paul Robeson, who got the Academy Medal for Good Deeds on the stage. The contest was honored last Friday at the annual convocation of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

### Robeson Wins Arts And Letters Award

By GLADYS F. GRAHAM

NEW YORK—Four awards of merit were presented by the Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters here on May 12. Among the recipients was Paul Robeson, star of "Othello." Mr. Robeson was presented the Diction Medal of the Academy, which may be "awarded from time to time in recognition of exceptionally good diction on the American stage." The award was made by Walter Damrosch, president of the academy.

Mr. Damrosch spoke of Robeson's achievements in glowing terms. He compared the star of "Othello," which he had heard in the 1930's, with the present star (Robeson) and stressed the quality of the latter over the former. "Mr. Robeson is a credit to himself, as well as the people of America," said Mr. Damrosch. "He has been employed with unimpeachable skill and in his best with the utmost perfection. It is indeed a pleasure and an honor for me to have the privilege of making this award to Mr. Robeson."

When Robeson arose to accept the academy's medal for good diction, the entire audience stood in acclamation. He said that from his youth he had retained the power of the spoken word and had been song and in drama. The award winner stressed the fact that the academy was a democratic institution and that he was proud to accept the award not only as an individual but as a member of the colored people who were striving to contribute their bit to the culture of the Nation. "Truly this is democracy in action," he concluded.

W. E. Burghart DuBois shared in the ceremony and was inducted into the Department of Literature as a new member of the Institute of Arts and Letters by Henry Seidel Canby, secretary.

This momentous occasion was history making as an example of racial amity by one of the highest intellectual organizations in America.

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### Marva Moves To Zanzibar

NEW YORK—Less than a month since she made her first New York public appearance, Mrs. Marva

### Seeks King Oliver's Heirs

NEW YORK—(ANP)—An effort is being made to contact the relatives of the late Joseph "King" Oliver, one of America's greatest trumpet players, musicians and band leaders. Bill E. Oberstein, representative of the Classic Record company, this week, has search for Oliver's rightful heirs will be made to turn over rights and royalties accruing from his money musical endeavors.

"If we can find his rightful heirs, it would be to their benefit to prove their ancestry," said Oberstein. "I knew King Oliver for many years and if I can be of help to his family I shall be happy to do so."

There is some money that can be paid to his rightful heirs for some rights which they own which they probably do not know of. The Classic Record company head disclosed.

### FAVORITE



# Cather mention in Robeson award article, The Pittsburgh Courier, 27 May 1944, p 12

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