Negro Poet and Philosopher Is Serving as Model at U. I.

Edward Smyth Jones, well known negro poet and philosopher, hailed by newspaper critics for his "The Sylvan Cabin" and "A Centenary Ode on the Birth of Abraham Lincoln," is serving as a model at the U. I. College of Fine Arts. He is known on the campus as Edward le Diable.

"Le Diable" is a guest during his stay in Champaign-Urbana at the home of Mrs. Hattie G. Wells, 1203 West Stoughton, Urbana.

Jones, a cultured negro of the deep south, who fought his way up from the obscurity of the backwoods of Mississippi to a coveted place among renowned American negro poets, came to Champaign-Urbana Feb. 10 at the request of C. E. Bradbury, associate professor, College of Fine Arts.

In order to avoid touching upon his reputation as a poet, Jones assumed the name "le Diable" in his work as a model. His brown skin, waxed mustache, and typical Moroccan Van Dyke beard made him appear to be an East Indian when he donned a turban. Students, using him as a model, have turned out some excellent work in reproduction of scenes of the Far East.

Jones' "The Sylvan Cabin" was originally published in 1911, but has since been republished a number of times. A number of well known persons have contributed money for the purchase of the book, with the proviso that it be sent to various schools.

Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, mother of the publisher, sent him a substantial draft and a letter which said in part:

"It is my belief that this book should be read by every negro child. This draft will enable you to put it in every negro school."

Appreciation to Lincoln

Jones explained his reason for writing the ode.

"It's an expression of appreciation of the entire negro race to Abraham Lincoln for having freed them," he said. "Negroes of the south, who have not yet read it, will be enabled to do so when the forthcoming edition is completed."

Jones was born in Franklin county, Mississippi, May 5, 1881, and was educated in country schools. Later, he entered Alcorn college, at Lorman, Miss., the negro school equivalent to the state university.

At the present time, he said, he is operating a small publishing business in Chicago and is planning a series of readings on the campus and in local churches and clubs. He will read his own works and those of other negro poets.

Because of his ability to pose and his facial characteristics, he often acts as a model for paintings and photographs depicting the Far East.

EDWARD SMYTH JONES

Poet and interesting character . . .

[Associated Press Wirephoto.]

SINGER TAKEN BY DEATH—Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, age 75, who died in Hollywood from blood ailment which had made several transfusions necessary.

BETHEL A. M. E. NAMES A. R. LEE CHOIR PRESIDENT

Albert R. Lee was installed as president, vested choir, Bethel A. M. E. church, Thursday night at the church. Rev. T. H. Stoner, pastor, was in charge of ceremonies.

Other officers are: Cecil Pope, director; R. M. Scott, Mrs. Alice Pope, assistant directors; Cecil Pope, organist; Miss Blanche L. Bishop, Miss Erma P. Scott, assistant organists; Miss Mary Grace Jordan, secretary; Mrs. Odessa Lashley, treasurer.

A social hour following was a farewell for Miss Davie Roberts, who is leaving the city. Charles A. Martin, social chairman, was in charge.

United Choirs Hold Social Tuesday Night

United Choirs held a social Tuesday night, Bethel A. M. E. church with Bethel choir as host. Mt Olive Baptist, St. Luke C. M. E. Pilgrim Baptist, Salem Baptist, and Bethel A. M. E. choirs participated. Pastors present were: Rev. C. W. Saunders, Rev. T. H. Stoner, Rev. Charles Campbell. Mrs. Saunders is choir organization president. C. A. Martin had charge of refreshments and Mrs. Alice Pope and Miss Bernice Lee, the games.

HOLD TEA SUNDAY

The pulpit committee of the Mt. Olive Baptist church will hold a silver tea from 2 to 6 p. m., Sunday at the home of Mrs. Callie Washington, 1108 North Fourth street

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH PLANS YULE PROGRAM

The Bethel A. M. E. church, Champaign, has planned a complete program of Christmas activities for Saturday and Sunday, including a Christmas party and program Saturday evening which will include a meeting around a decorated tree.

The Sunday morning services will consist of a program at 11 a. m. given by the Sunday school and entitled "The Christ Child" under the direction of Mrs. Herman Jordan. At 5 a. m. Sunday the A. C. E. league will give a drama of living pictures portraying the birth of Christ. All meetings are open to the public.

Choir of Bethel Church Names New Officers

The vested choir of Bethel A. M. E. Church named these officers Thursday night: Albert R. Lee, president; Cecil Pope, director; Raymond M. Scott and Mrs. Alice Pope, assistant directors; Miss Mary Grace Jordan, secretary; Mrs. Odessa Lashley, treasurer; Cecil Pope, organist; Miss Erma P. Scott, assistant organist. Rev. T. H. Stoner, pastor, conducted the election and installation.

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