

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
*A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society*



*Ramsey County History* awarded  
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**Spring, 1994**

Volume 29, Number 1

**The 'Fighting Saint' —  
The U.S.S. St. Paul and Its Minnesota Connection** *Page 4*



*Women from the Yokosuka, Japan, Folk Dance Association perform Japanese folk dances for U. S. S. St. Paul crewmembers as the heavy cruiser prepares to leave Yokosuka for the United States on July 6, 1962. See article beginning on page 4.*

**D-Day Remembered By Seven Who Were There**

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# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 29, Number 1

Spring, 1994

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## A Message from the Editorial Board

The Ramsey County Historical Society recently lost a loyal and long-time supporter when Lester B. LeVesconte, a grandson of Heman and Jane Gibbs, died in Illinois. In 1849 the Gibbs family established the pioneer farmstead that today we know as the Gibbs Farm Museum. Lester LeVesconte, whose mother was the Gibbs's daughter, Lillie, was instrumental in working out in 1949 the arrangements by which the Gibbs farm became a museum under the auspices of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

The Society's debt to Lester LeVesconte extends beyond the Gibbs Farm Museum because over many years Mr. LeVesconte actively promoted the publication of historical material about the Gibbs family and Ramsey County. Thus he helped support financially the Society's publication of his mother's book, *Little Bird That Was Caught*, about Jane Gibbs's experiences as a young pioneer in the wilderness that became Minnesota. His advocacy of the publication of Ram-



Lester LeVesconte

sey County history extended to the Society's broader plans, which included this quarterly magazine, *Ramsey County History*.

We honor Lester LeVesconte's memory and his many contributions to the Ramsey County Historical Society. We are inspired by his example and his vision for history.

—John M. Lindley, chairman,  
Editorial Board



Lobby card from "Oscar Micheaux presents *Underworld*," 1936. This and other items shown here are from the exhibit, "A Stronger Soul Within a Finer Frame," which the Ramsey County Historical Society is opening April 17 at Landmark Center, St. Paul. The photographs are from the Touring Exhibition Program of the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota.

## New Exhibit Revisits The Harlem Renaissance

The Ramsey County Historical Society is opening a new exhibit, "A Stronger Soul Within a Finer Frame: Portraying African-Americans in the Black Renaissance," on April 17, 1994, in the Society's exhibit gallery on the first floor of Landmark Center, St. Paul.

The exhibit documents the Harlem or Black Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s when jazz and the blues, the Charleston and the Cotton Club, African art and literature contributed to a nation-wide cultural movement by African Americans. On display will be more than 250 items, including first edition books and copies from the originals of magazines, manuscripts, graphic arts, posters, playbills and photographs, some of which are shown here.

Organized by the Touring Exhibition Program of the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota, the exhibit is made possible through an Arts & Diversity Partnership between The St. Paul Companies and United Arts in St. Paul. The Archie E. Givens, Sr., Collection of African-American Literature and Life, held by the University of Minnesota Libraries, serves as a basis for the exhibition.

Major funding for the exhibit, which will remain on view at Landmark Center through Friday, May 14, 1994, is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency.

Cover design for Taylor Gordon's autobiography, *Born to Be*, published in 1929 by Covici-Friede, New York, and loaned to the exhibit by the Archie E. Givens, Sr., Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries.



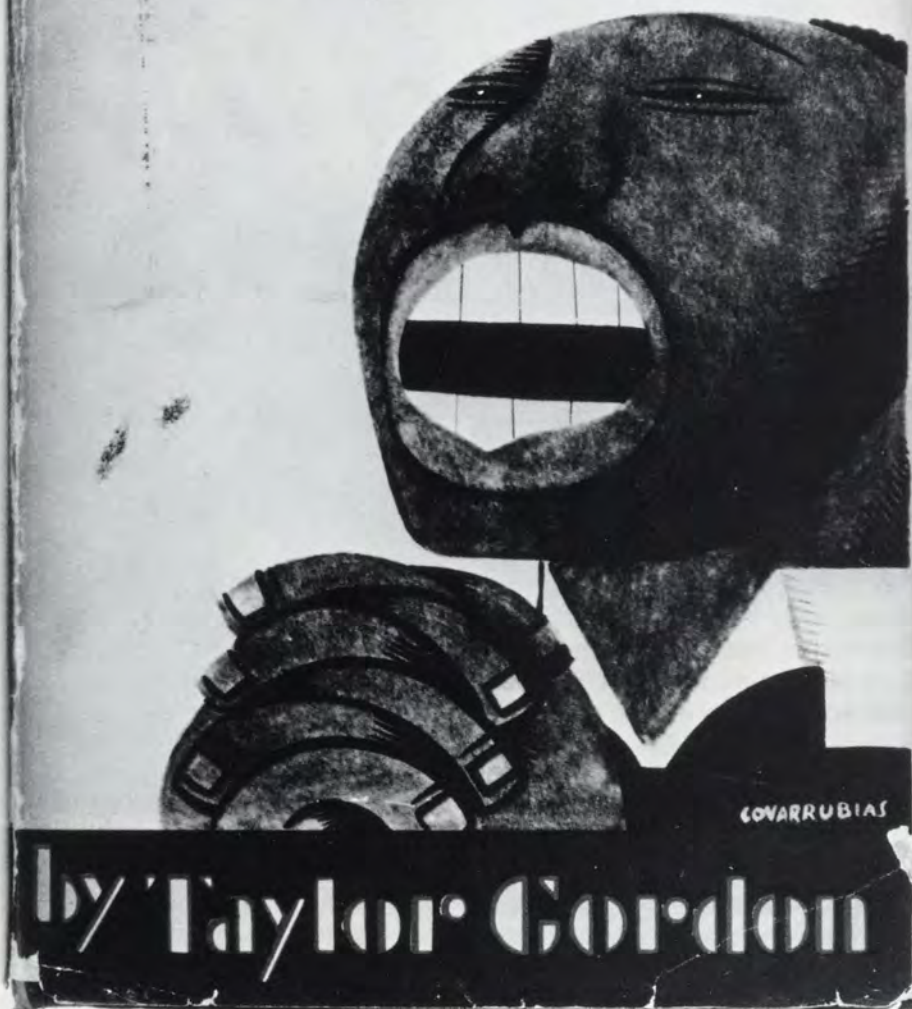
Jacket design by Miguel Covarrubias for Langston Hughes's *The Weary Blues*, published in 1929 by Knopf, New York, and republished in 1944.

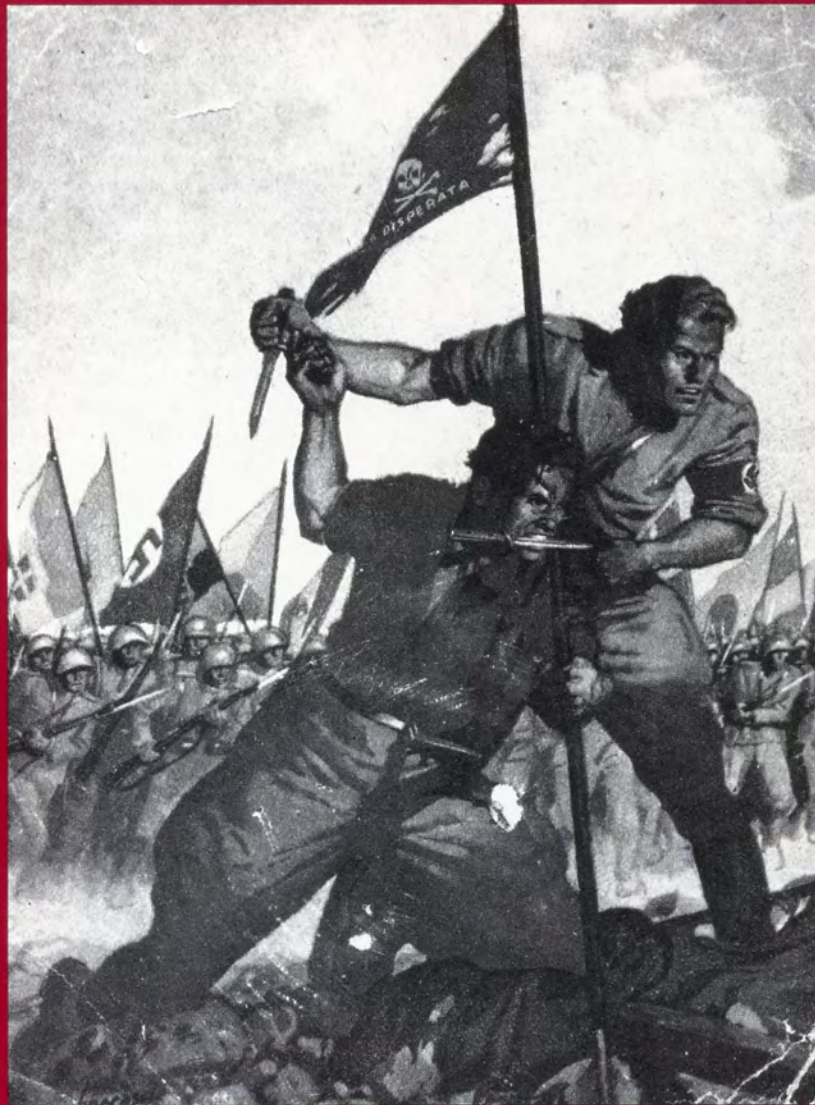
**EBONY and TOPAZ**  
A COLLECTANEA



*Ebony and Topaz: A Collectanea*, Charles S. Johnson, editor, and published by Opportunity, 1927, New York. At right: Elmer Simms Campbell's N.A.A.C.P. dance poster from the 1930s, on loan by the Special Collections Department, Boston University.

# BORN TO BE





*A German propaganda card given to Russell W. Anderson by a German soldier taken prisoner during the Normandy landings. "He was a nice guy," Anderson remembers. See the article beginning on Page 9: "D-Day Remembered by Seven Who Were There."*

**R.C.H.S.**  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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