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THE GIVENS COLLECTION CLASSICS

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In the early 1950s, Richard Lee Hoffman, a playwright and former professor of English at New York University Technical College in Brooklyn, started collecting books and manuscript material by and about African Americans. In 1985, the family of Archie Givens, Sr. (1919-1974), a Minneapolis businessman and entrepreneur, and an eleven-member Patron's Council of African American community leaders assisted in the purchase of the 3,000-item collection, under the auspices of the Givens Foundation.

Housed in the Special Collections and Rare Books department of the University of Minnesota Libraries and boasting approximately 9,000 items to date, including African American novels, poetry, plays, short stories, essays, literary manuscripts and criticism, playbills, correspondence, pamphlets, photographs, periodicals, audiovisual media, and biographies of writers dating from the late-eighteenth century to the present and covering

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such literary periods as the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement, The Givens Collection seeks to collect, preserve, and promote literature that document the literary history and cultures of African Americans.

It is with great pride that Washington Square Press announces its collaboration with the prestigious Archie Givens, Sr. Collection of African American Literature to launch **THE GIVENS COLLECTION CLASSICS**, commencing with three timeless volumes:

- ❖ **MY BONDAGE AND MY FREEDOM by Frederick Douglass** (Washington Square Press Trade Paperback Reissue; May 27, 2003; \$14.00): Frederick Douglass was born a slave and escaped to freedom in his twenties. **MY BONDAGE AND MY FREEDOM** (1855) was written after he had established himself as a newspaper editor. In this book, Douglass expands upon his previous account of his years as a slave. With great psychological penetration, he probes the long-term and corrosive effects of slavery and comments upon his active resistance to the segregation he encounters in the North.

- ❖ **INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL by Harriet Jacobs** (Washington Square Press Trade Paperback Reissue; May 27, 2003; \$12.00): Harriet Jacobs began suffering physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her master at the age of eleven. In 1842, she fled to the North and joined a circle of abolitionists who worked for Frederick Douglass' newspaper. In 1863, she and her daughter moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where they organized medical care for the Civil War victims and established The Jacobs Free School.

- ❖ **THE CONQUEST: The Story of a Negro Pioneer by Oscar Micheaux** (Washington Square Press Trade Paperback Reissue; May 27, 2003; \$13.00): **THE CONQUEST** tells the story of the struggles of a black homesteader whose life closely mirrors that of the author. It helped launch Micheaux on his two artistic careers—author and filmmaker. Recently “rediscovered” as an important African American pioneer in Hollywood filmmaking, Micheaux was also a skillful novelist, and this welcome reissue introduces his work to a new generation of readers.

A collection unlike any other, **THE GIVENS COLLECTION CLASSICS** is a long overdue series of literary history that both documents and celebrates the cultures and contributions of African Americans to the vast and diverse institution of American literature.

THE GIVENS COLLECTION CLASSICS:

MY BONDAGE AND MY FREEDOM

By Frederick Douglass

Washington Square Press Trade Paperback Reissue

Publication Date: May 27, 2003

Price: \$14.00

ISBN: 0-7434-6059-6

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Publication Date: May 27, 2003

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