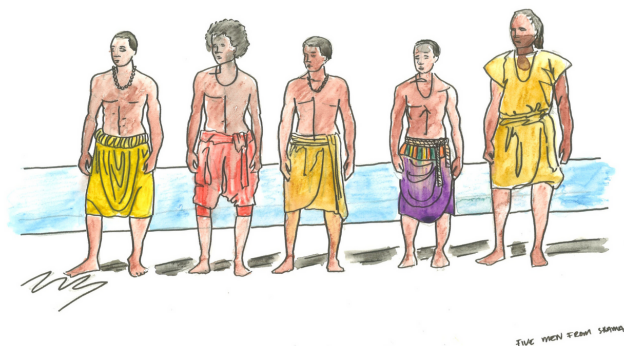




1. SIDENOTE, OR FIVE MEN FROM SHAMA

[SIDENOTE: FIVE BLACKE MOORES
BROUGHT INTO ENGLAND.
COLDE MAY BE BETTER ABIDEN THEN
HEATE.]

THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM CERTAINE
BLACK SLAUES, WHEREOF SOME WERE
TALL AND STRONG MEN, AND COULD WEL
AGREE WITH OUR MEATES AND DRINKES.

THE COLDE AND MOYST AIRE DOTH
SOMEWHAT OFFEND THEM. YET
DOUBTLESSE MEN THAT ARE BORNE IN
HOT REGIONS MAY BETTER ABIDE COLDE,
THEN MEN THAT ARE BORNE IN COLDE
REGIONS MAY ABIDE HEATE,

FORASMUCH AS VEHEMENT HEATE
RESOLUETH THE RADICALL MOYSTURE
OF MENS BODIES, AS COLDE
CONSTRAINETH AND PRESERUETH THE
SAME.

[Sidenote: The castle of Mina.]

The 14 day we came within Saker-shot of the castle, and straightway they set forth an Almade to descry vs, and when they perceiued that we were no Portugals, they ranne within the towne againe: for there is a great towne by the Castle which is called by the Negros Dondou. Without this there lie two great rockes like Ilands, and the castle standeth vpon a point which sheweth almost like an Iland.

Before we came at this castle, we found the land for fiue or six leagues to be high land, and about seuen leagues before we came to the castle, lowe land, vntil we came at the castle, and then wee found the land high againe. This castle standeth about fiue leagues to the East of Cape de Tres puntas. Here I tooke the boate with our Negros and ranne alongst the shore till I came to the Cape and found two small townes, but no boates at them, neither any traffique to be had. At these places our Negros did vnderstand them well, and one of them went ashore at all the places and was well receiued of them.

This night we ankred at the Cape de Tres puntas.

The 15 day I tooke our boat and went along the shore, and about 3 leagues beyond the Eastermost part of the Cape we found a faire Bay where we ran in, and found a smal towne and certaine boates which belonged to the same towne, but the Negros in a long time would not come to vs, but at the last by the perswasion of our owne Negros, one boat came to vs, and with him we sent George our Negro a shore, and after he had talked with them, they came aboard our boates without feare, and I gaue to their captaine a bason, and two strings of Margarets, and they shewed vs about 5 duckats weight of gold, but they required so much for it that wee would not take it, because the Frenchman and we had agreed to make price of our goods all in one boat, and the price being made then euery man to sell in his owne boat, and no man to giue more then the price which should be set by vs al.

This place is
called Bulle, and here the Negros were
very glad of our Negros, and shewed
them all the friendship they could, when
they had told them that they were
the men that were taken away being
now againe brought by vs.
The sixteenth day I went along the shore
with two pinasses of the
Frenchmen, and found a Baie and a
fresh riuer, and after that went to a
towne called Hanta, twelue leagues
beyond the Cape. At this towne our
Negros were well knowen, and the men
of the towne wept for ioy when they
saw them, and demanded of them where
Anthonie and Binne had bene: and they
told them that they had bene at London
in England, and should bee brought
home the next voyage. So after this, our
Negros came aboard with other
Negros which brought a weight with
them, which was so small that wee could
not giue them the halfe of that which
they demaunded for it.

The Negros here told vs that there were fiue Portugall shippes at the
Castle, and one pinnasse, and that the Portugals “did much harme to their
Countrey, and that they liued in feare of them”

[Sidenote: The Negros brought home by our men.]

Then wee departed and went to Shamma, and went into the riuer with fiue boates well appointed with men and ordinance, and with our noises of trumpets and drummes, for we thought here to haue found some Portugals but there were none: so wee sent our Negros on shoare, and after them went diuers of vs, and were very well receiued, and the people were very glad of our Negros, specially one of their brothers wiues, and one of their aunts, which receiued them with much ioy.



2. NEWCASTLE MUSIC HALL

Opened in 1838 as a first floor concert room, the Music Hall on Nelson Street in Newcastle was known for hosting lectures, exhibitions, concerts, bazaars, and public dinners.

Charles Dickens read several of his works in this place and described the audiences as follows:

“AN UNUSUALLY TENDER AND SYMPATHETIC AUDIENCE, WHILE THEIR COMIC PERCEPTION IS QUITE UP TO THE HIGH LONDON AVERAGE. A FINER AUDIENCE THERE IS NOT IN ENGLAND, AND I SUPPOSE THEM TO BE A SPECIALLY EARNEST PEOPLE, FOR WHILE THEY CAN LAUGH TILL THEY SHAKE THE ROOF, THEY HAVE A VERY UNUSUAL SYMPATHY WITH WHAT IS PATHETIC OR PASSIONATE.”

The Music Hall was the meeting place for local activist organisations including the Anti-Slavery League and the Ladies Society of Negro Friends which were in touch with other anti-slavery movements around the world, and who would occasionally invite speakers to come to the city. Several African-American campaigners against enslavement lectured in the hall in the mid to late 1800s, including Fredrick Douglass, who spoke to a crowd of about 700 people, and a man called Henry ‘Box’ Brown who performed here four times in October 1852.



3. HENRY 'BOX' BROWN

Mr. Brown was conveyed from Richmond, Virginia, to Philadelphia in a box,
three feet long,
and two feet six inches deep.
For twenty-seven hours he was enclosed in this box.

The following copy of a letter which was written by the gentleman to whom it was
directed; will explain this part of the subject: —

Copy of a Letter respecting Henry Box Brown's escape from Slavery — a verification
of Patrick Henry's Speech in Virginia Legislature, March, 1775, when he said,

"Give me Liberty or give me Death."

Philadelphia, March 26th, 1849

DEAR----

Here is a man who has been the hero of one of the most extraordinary achievements I ever heard of;--he came to me on Saturday Morning last, in a box tightly hooped, marked "THIS SIDE UP," by overland express, from the city of Richmond!!

Did you ever hear of any thing in all your life to beat that? Nothing that was done on the barricades of Paris exceeded this cool and deliberate intrepidity. To appreciate fully the boldness and risk of the achievement, you ought to see the box and hear all the circumstances.

The box is in the clear three feet one inch long, two feet six inches deep, and two feet wide. It was a regular old store box such as you see in Pearl-street;--it was grooved at the joints and braced at the ends, leaving but the very slightest crevice to admit the air.

Nothing saved him from suffocation but the free use of water--a quantity of which he took in with him in a beef's bladder, and with which he bathed his face--and the constant fanning of himself with his hat. He fanned himself unremittingly all the time.

The "this side up" on the box was not regarded, and he was twice put with his head downward, resting with his back against the end of the box, his feet braced against the other,--the first time he succeeded in shifting his position; but the second time was on board of the steam boat, where people were sitting and standing about the box, and where any motions inside would have been overheard and have led to discovery; he was therefore obliged to keep his position for twenty miles. This nearly killed him. He says the veins in his temples were as thick as his finger.

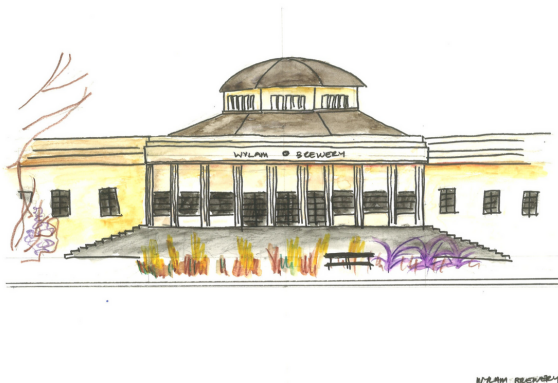
I had been expecting him for several days, and was in mortal fear all the time lest his arrival should only be a signal for calling in the coroner. You can better imagine than I can describe my sensations, when, in answer to my rap on the box and question, "all right," the prompt response came "all right, sir."

The man weighs 200 pounds, and is about five feet eight inches in height; and is, as you will see, a noble looking fellow. He will tell you the whole story.

Please send him on to Mr. McGlelland, Boston, with this letter, to save me the time it would take to write another. He was boxed up in Richmond, at five, A.M. on Friday shipped at eight, and I opened him up at six (about daylight) next morning. He has a sister in New Bedford.

Yours, truly,
M. McROY.

THE REPORT OF MR. BROWN'S ESCAPE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, SO THAT HE WAS INTRODUCED TO THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY IN PHILADELPHIA, FROM THE OFFICE OF WHICH SOCIETY A LETTER, OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY, WAS WRITTEN.
ANTI-SLAVERY OFFICE,
PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 8TH, 1850.



4. THE PALACE OF ARTS

In May 1929, the North East Coast Exhibition was opened by the then Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) to encourage local heavy industry by reviving interest and stimulating trade in the region, and by repositioning the North of England in the global context of Empire. This world's fair came five years after the British Empire Exhibition in London, and attracted over 4 million visitors over six months to the exhibits in Newcastle upon Tyne.

An average of 30,000 people per day visited Art Deco style buildings including the Palace of Art which was one of the earliest reinforced concrete buildings, designed by Sunderland architects W and TR Kilburn, who were experienced in the field of theatre and cinema design. The main buildings of the Exhibition were the Palace of Engineering, the Palace of Industry, the Palace of Arts, the Festival Hall, Garden Club, a 20,000 capacity stadium, and sections for Women and Artisans. A local firm, Henry Kelly Limited of Newcastle, built the project for a cost of £114,000 (just over £5 million in today's money).

Separate from these, the government appointed architects to design and build an Empire Marketing Board Pavilion. The Empire Marketing Board had been established in 1926 to encourage intra-imperial trade in the British empire, and to encourage the purchase of goods from the colonies.

The Palace of Arts is the only building still standing from the North East Exhibition of 1929.



5. THE AFRICAN VILLAGE

A full scale 'African Village' was constructed in the amusements section of the North East Coast Exhibition, alongside other attractions like 'The Great Himalayan Railway', the 'Animal Race', and 'Chapman's Jungle'.

The African Village appears to have been a 'conglomerate village' playing to racist stereotypes in the form of an incongruous mixture of scenes and settings featuring a variety of huts, animals, and a group of African people who were made to perform outdoors in the cold, and in clothing inappropriate for the English weather.



PERFORMANCES AT THE AFRICAN VILLAGE

6. ZUZA BEN I FORD

One of the performers, whose name is recorded as Zuza Ben I Ford, probably from Biskara in Eastern Algeria had come to Newcastle with others from her community to be part of the Exhibition.

She was perhaps part of the group of women whirling outdoors in a semi-open pavilion, dancing in what was described as 'jersey dresses' in the increasingly chilly weather. A number of complaints about the conditions for people in the Village were filed, including to the British Home Office, who declined to intervene because the people involved were not British citizens.

Zuza Ben I Ford died of consumption in September 1929, just a month before the close of the Exhibition, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Jesmond.

Her burial was attended by her husband and eight month old child.



7. AFRICA TO TYNESIDE

In 1928, Robert Wellesley Cole had left his home in Freetown, Sierra Leone to study medicine in Newcastle.

His was one of the voices that protested the treatment of the various African people in the Exhibition, and his efforts helped to galvanise student activism around pan-Africanist ideals and anti-racism in the Northeast in the 1930s and 1940s through the founding of the Society for the Cultural Advancement of Africa in Newcastle, which had the aim to:

“BIND THE STUDENTS HERE, AFRICAN, WEST INDIAN, AND AMERICAN NEGRO, IN A SELF-CONSCIOUS AND RACE-CONSCIOUS UNIT”

The group adopted showcasing culture as a strategy to combat racist stereotypes, and to bring people together despite their origins, backgrounds, and circumstances. In June 1943, the Society organised an exhibition of African arts and crafts at the Hatton Gallery which included a program of events including a by legendary Nigerian composer and musician Fela Sowande.