

# GUIDING LIGHTS



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Arthur A. Schomburg — bibliophile, book-collector, antiquarian and late curator of the Division of Negro Literature and History, 135th Street library was born in San Juan, Porto Rico in 1874. Studied in Porto Rico and Danish West Indies. Came to this country in 1891. Took law and later was head of the mailing division of Bankers' Trust Co. Was one of the founders of the Negro Society for Historical Research and member and president of the American Negro Academy in Washington, D. C. He collected books on the Negro for over forty years. Was curator of Fisk University Library for a year and remained curator of the Division of Negro Literature and History at 135th Street Library from January 1933

to June 1938 when he died. He has been called "the detective of history" and has made a most valuable contribution to posterity in collecting this vast amount of material on the Negro. The Schomburg Collection was bought from him in 1936 and presented to the New York Public Library by the Carnegie Corporation. There are now almost 9,000 volumes in the Division of Negro Literature and History besides about 2,000 prints and engravings and two to three thousand manuscript items—the rarest and most complete collection on the Negro in the country. It was an inspiration to come in contact with him and his vast knowledge of Negro History. He was truly a genius as a book collector and his name will ever live in the annals of history