

## **Jay Stiefel's Comments on the Federal Gazette item**

**Subject: Federal Gazette, June 8, 1792**

The last paragraph credits the Library Company and Philadelphia's citizenry for their roles in seeking to abolish slavery.

The contemporary reviewer correctly interprets that Liberty is shown as a "goddess" (not as a physical woman), encouraging the emancipation of the Blacks, as is literally denoted in the second half of the painting's title: "Liberty Displaying the Arts and Sciences, or *The Genius of America Encouraging the Emancipation of the Blacks.*"

Although liberty was not fully realized for Blacks at that time, the reviewer did not disparage those who conceived of the painting. Nor should anyone today. We should continue to honor them for their aspirational sentiments so effectively conveyed in this magnificent work of art.

Note that the print described in the review, and advertised in these two other local papers (attached), was never realized. A print on high quality paper, together with a copy of this review, would be a lovely memento.