

Feb. 11

A SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY WEEK

Feb. 15

ALAIN LEROY LOCKE Writer Scholar 1886 – 1954

Alain Leroy Locke, critic and chronicler of the Harlem Renaissance, was born in Philadelphia. He grew up there and attended Central High School and the Philadelphia School of Pedagogy. He enrolled at Harvard University, and graduated in 1907 with a B.A. degree and membership in Phi Beta Kappa. The academic record which Locke achieved as an undergraduate was evidence of his outstanding intellectual ability and potential for significant achievement in later life. In addition to this he possessed the integrity and moral stamina which won for him the world's most prestigious graduate scholarship, the Rhodes Scholarship established in 1899. In 1907 Locke became the first black Rhodes Scholar and studied at Oxford University in England until 1910. After leaving Oxford he studied philosophy at the University of Berlin for two years. In 1918 he completed his doctoral dissertation, "The problem of Classification in the Theory of Value", and was awarded the Ph.D. from Harvard University.

When Locke returned to America from Berlin in 1912 he joined the faculty of Howard University in Washington, D.C. He taught philosophy and English and in 1917 became full Professor of Philosophy and head of the department of philosophy. Locke continued on the Howard faculty, except for periodic leaves, until 1953. During the school year 1927-28 he was an Exchange Professor at Fisk University in Tennessee. In 1943 he had the privilege to serve as Inter-American Exchange Professor in Haiti. He was invited to serve as Visiting Professor at the University of Wisconsin in 1945 and lectured at the New School for Social Research in 1947.

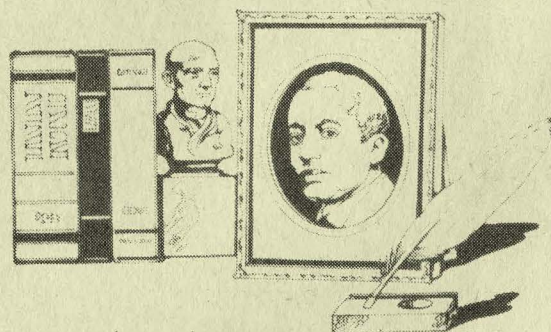
Locke's unique insight and scholarly writing on the theory of values, an area of study which is highly subjective and even controversial, won him distinction among his peers. His doctoral dissertation and his *Values and Imperatives in American Philosophy: Today and Tomorrow* were considered outstanding contributions to the field.

It is likely that Locke's most significant influence was in an area outside of his academic specialty. In 1925 he edited a landmark collection of the work of young black writers, *The New Negro*, which marked the arrival of the Harlem Renaissance. In commenting on the new movement for cultural self-expression Locke stated: "Social prejudice, which was meant to hamper the Negro—and which has hampered him in economic, political and social ways—has turned out to be a great spiritual discipline and a cultural blessing in disguise. For, it has preserved the Negro sense of a

peculiar folk solidarity . . . the root of the paradox . . . the stone that was socially rejected in the practical aspects of the American democracy has become a cornerstone spiritually in the making of a distinctive American culture." Thus he emerged as the leading intellectual spokesman of the Renaissance—a period of remarkable creativity in black literature, art and drama.

Throughout his life Dr. Locke combined his studies in philosophy, education, the social sciences and the arts with his studies on the culture of Black America, and as a result contributed a unique collection of works on American culture. These include: *Race Contacts and Inter-Racial Relations*, 1916; *The Negro in America*, 1933 and *When Peoples Meet*, 1942.

For a number of years he directed a great deal of effort toward encouraging young writers and wrote annual reviews of their literature in various publica-



tions. In addition, he edited the March 1925 edition of *Survey Graphics* which was devoted entirely to the works of young Harlem writers. In 1927 he edited *Plays of Negro Life and Four Negro Poets*. In 1934 he founded *Associates in Negro Education* and served as editor of its series, *Bronze Booklets*. Locke made three significant contributions to the series: *Negro Art: Past and Present*, 1936; *The Negro and His Music*, 1936; and *The Negro in Art*, 1940.

After years of writing and lecturing, Dr. Locke desired to write one comprehensive book which would sum up his broad interest in black contributions to American culture. In 1951 he secured a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and a leave of absence from Howard University in order to begin preparing his masterwork. Ill health delayed the progress of his work; however, he was faithfully assisted by Margaret Just Butcher who carried on the research and writing and pledged to see it through to publication. In 1956, two years after his death, Locke's final literary and scholarly effort was published by Mrs. Butcher.

COMPLIMENTS OF



CLARENCE REED WHITE: Scientist 1907 – 1969

Clarence Reed White was born November 6, 1907 in McKamie, Arkansas. His parents moved to Washington, D.C. when he was very young. He grew up in Washington and graduated from Dunbar High School. He was given a scholarship to Amherst College in Massachusetts and enrolled there in 1924. He graduated in 1928 with a major in mathematics and Latin.

He received a fellowship to do graduate work at Howard University and completed the requirements for the M.A. degree in 1930. A General Education Board Fellowship was awarded him to do further study in the department of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley. After completing his studies at Berkeley, he taught mathematics and physics for several years.

Mr. White was one of the first scientists to consider the possibility of sending a man to the moon. He sent a letter to the Signal Corps in 1944 regarding the scientific value of such a project. He received a reply stating that the government did not have money for such a nonsensical project.

On June 26, 1951 he received a copyright on his design of a Two-Dimensional Slide Rule. This unique device was designed to add another dimension to the conventional slide rule and make it possible for the user to add and subtract in addition to the usual operations. It also reduced the number of scales required to perform these operations. An abstract, *The Two Dimensional Slide Rule*, appeared in the bulletin of The Mathematical Association of America, April, 1961.

Other scientific contributions on which he received copyrights were: *Nomographic Computers as a Two Dimensional Slide Rule*, *Network Impedance Calculator* and *A Proposal for Dynamical and Theoretical Astronomy*. He was also the author of a book, *Two Mathematicians Play Contact Bridge*.

In addition to inventions, teaching was one of Mr. White's major interests; thus he held positions at Howard University; Bethune Cookman College; Hampton Institute; South Carolina State College; and Fort Valley State College in Georgia, where he taught from 1963 until the time of his death.

Mr. White was involved in several space and nuclear projects while working as a physicist at the missile test center, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. From 1955 to 1963 he was a mathematician at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

He did not limit his quest for knowledge to the laboratory, but throughout his career he participated in summer institutes and conferences, often as a lecturer. He also held membership in: American Association for the Advancement of Science; American Ordnance Association; American Mathematical Society and The Mathematical Association of America.

For his contribution of the Two Dimensional Slide Rule, he received an Academic Award for Creative Mathematics from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1948. He was also cited in American Men of Science; Who's Who in American Education, and Who's Who in the South West. He was a member of Alpha Delta Astronomical Honor Society, University of California and Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society.

At the time of his death in 1969 he was assistant professor of mathematics and physics at Fort Valley State and was in the process of developing slide rule calculators to be used in some of his classes.



In 1942 Mr. White accepted a position as associate physicist with the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He worked at Evans Signal Labs in New Jersey until 1946. Because of his background in mathematics and astronomy, he was assigned to work with a team of scientists who were experimenting with methods to determine the distance from the earth to the moon. The group successfully beamed radar to the moon and received back a signal. Their experiment proved that light could be reflected and also determined the precise distance from the earth to the moon. This pioneering effort was a forerunner of today's space program.

COMPLIMENTS OF



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