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A REPORT ON
THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY HELD OCTOBER 15-17, 1959 AT THE A&M UNIVERSITY,
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

I

The general theme of the meeting was "THE NEGRO IN REVIEW." On the two full days of the conference, the sessions began at 9 a. m. and ended at 9 p. m., with breaks for lunch and dinner. The three subjects discussed on the first day, October 15, were "Negro History in High Schools and Colleges," "How to Secure Increased Financial Support for the Association and "The Teaching of Negro History." Unfortunately, I did not arrive in time to hear the presidential address by Dr. Charles H. Wesley of Wilberforce or to hear the symposium on "How to Secure Increased Financial Support for the Association." Dr. Wesley's subject was "Background Stereotyping and Achievement for Negro-Americans."

On October 16, five sessions were held: Section One related to "Historiography"; Section Two was on "Africa--Yesterday and Today"; Section Three dealt with "The Anti-Slavery Movement"; Section Four was on the "Constitutional History of the Negro"; and Section Five discussed "The Status of Negro Life Since World War II."

"Regional Studies of Negro History" was the subject of the Saturday morning gathering on October 17.

II

The Section in which a great deal of interest was manifested was that which took up the study of "Africa--Yesterday and Today." William Gordon, one of the Neiman Fellows, read a paper on the impact of African nationalism, in which he compared the different types of nationalistic movements presently operating or emerging in the countries he visited as he traveled across the continent.

Mrs. Dorothy Porter of the Moorland Collection, Howard University Library, read a paper on "Resources for the Study of African History" in this country and abroad. Incidentally, she also mentioned the unpublished bibliography compiled by Monroe N. Work just before his death in 1945 as a source on African history.

Dr. Horace Mann Bond's paper on "Africa An Area of Study in Writing Negro History" told of the study he is making on the development of "Early African Nationalism and the Negro College." Important was his indication of other areas for future research, which would reveal an understanding of the American Negro's role in Africa, namely "The American Educated African," "The American Negroes in the Commercial Development in Africa," "Liberia's Golden Age," and others.

In connection with the commercial development of Africa, Dr. Bond brought out the fact that Booker T. Washington was connected with this movement before his death.

Dr. Chancellor Williams' paper on "Africa A Field for New Adventures in Education," stressed the need for a history of Africa written by Negroes. Previous ones, he stated, are the result of European scholarship.

Three papers on "The Post-World War II Status of the Negro," were timely. Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick of Alabama State College compared the progress against India's untouchability and the American Racial Segregation. His presentation was unique because of the freshness of its approach.

Dr. Daniel C. Thompson of Dillard spoke on "The Role of the Federal Courts in Social Change," and Paul M. Rilling of the Southern Regional Council presented materials from studies made by the Southern Regional Council on "Negro Voting in the South."

In the Section of "Historiography," Dr. Frenise A. Logan of A&T College, gave an analysis of the articles and book reviews appearing in the Journal of Southern History. He revealed that during the period February 1935 to August 1959, although quite a number of Negro scholars reviewed books in this journal, only three had contributed articles. His interpretation of this failure was the fact that the Journal itself permitted only a limited revision of Southern history; and therefore, did not accept points of view which were different from those held traditionally by the South. He also stated that Negro historians did not take advantage of the opportunity to publish their writings through this medium, and he chided them for this failure.

III

Allan Angoff of the Montclair, New Jersey Free Public Library advocated "A Publishing Organization for Scholarly Studies By and About Negroes" which would be on the look-out for manuscripts giving a better understanding of Negro history, which would also publish works relating to some of the untapped phases of this history, such as that relating to Negro colleges and their graduates; to Carter G. Woodson and his works; to Freedom's Journal; to Samuel B. Cornish and the Moral Reform Movements of 125 Years Ago and the like. Through such an organization valuable manuscripts which now cannot find a publisher would do so and young Negroes would be trained to enter the publishing field.

IV

Not having attended this conference for several years, it was interesting to note the changes that had taken place in the type of conferees, in the calibre of the papers read, and in the seriousness with which the conference was conducted. There was no

wasted effort and every bit of the time allocated to the meetings was well used.

Present were a number of persons long interested in the scientific study of Negro life and history who have contributed substantially toward making the history of the Negro and his role important and significant in American life.

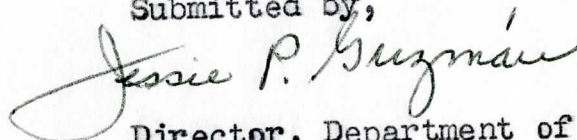
Impressive too was the attendance of a number of young and well-trained scholars actively writing and teaching in the general field of American history as well as in this specialized area.

I did not remain for the business meeting of the Association, as my plane left before it began. Missing this flight would have made me remain over until the next day. However, the sum of \$100. was turned over to the Treasurer, Mr. Albert N. D. Brooks, with the list of those who contributed as follows:

Dr. Charles G. Gomillion	\$10.00
Tuskegee Institute Students	18.00
Tuskegee Civic Association	27.00
Mr. Frank J. Toland	2.00
Mrs. Jessie P. Guzman	<u>43.00</u>
TOTAL	\$100.00

This represents the amount pledged to the Association approximately five years ago by three members of the faculty of Tuskegee Institute.

Submitted by,



Director, Department of Records and Research

October 27, 1959