INTRODUCTION

1. Organization of the Conference

The Proceedings which follow are those of a Conference which was called under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, to permit a small group of scholars, representing a variety of fields, to exchange information concerning the present state of research on the Negro and to suggest means of improving and stimulating that research, particularly through interdisciplinary cooperation. Both subjects for research and methods were prominent in the discussions, and attention was repeatedly given to insufficiently studied aspects of Negro life and culture which may be effectively dealt with at the present time.

The Conference, held at Howard University, in Washington, D. C., on March 29 and 30, 1940, was attended by the following:

Melville J. Herskovits, Northwestern University, Chairman
Herbert Aptheker, Columbia University
William R. Bascom, Northwestern University
William Berrien, American Council of Learned Societies
Sterling Brown, Howard University
W. O. Brown, Howard University
Ralph J. Bunche, Howard University
W. Montague Cobb, Howard University
D. H. Daugherty, American Council of Learned Societies
J. Franklin Frasier, Howard University
Mortimer Graves, American Council of Learned Societies
Abram L. Harris, Howard University
Charles S. Johnson, Fisk University
Waldo G. Leland, American Council of Learned Societies
Alain Locke, Howard University
Richard Pattee, Division of Cultural Relations, United States Department of State
L. D. Reddick, Schomburg Collection, New York Public Library

Newbell Niles Puckett, Western Reserve University