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Guide to the

Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America research memoranda collection

1935-1948

Sc Micro F-13242

Summary

Creator: Carnegie Corporation of New York

Title: Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America research memoranda collection

Date: 1935-1948

Size: 1.03 linear feet (13 microfilm reels, 26 microfiche folders)

Source: Gift of Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1943.

Abstract: The Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America research memoranda collection consists of twenty-nine memoranda prepared by the team of social scientists; letters from Frederick Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation, establishing the project; correspondence between Keppel and Gunnar Myrdal; memoranda of interviews with Myrdal and the social scientists who wrote the reports; and files for the Committee on Selection.

Preferred citation: [Item], Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America research memoranda collection, Sc Micro F-13242, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Related Materials:

Related materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

"An American Dilemma", Literary and Scholarly Manuscript Collection

Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America research memoranda collection: additions

Ralph J. Bunche Papers

Bernhard Stern/Alain Locke Collection

Creator History

The Carnegie-Myrdal Study of the Negro in America, 1937-1941, was a comprehensive investigation of African-American life commissioned by the Carnegie Corporation of New York as a guide for the Corporation's activities as well as for "broader reasons".

The Corporation hired Gunnar Myrdal, a Swedish social scientist with the University of Stockholm and an advisor to the Swedish government, to organize and direct the project. Myrdal put together a team of social scientists of both races and sexes with the mandate of preparing memoranda on all aspects of life in the African American community. These memoranda were to serve as working documents which would assist him in the preparation of his report. The report, published in 1944, was entitled, *An American Dilemma* (New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1944).

The social scientists who worked on the project and produced memoranda included anthropologists, sociologists, and political scientists. They included M. F. Ashley-Montague, Margaret Brenman, Sterling Brown, Ralph J. Bunche, Barbara Burks, Allison Davis, Harold F. Dorn, J. G. St. Clair Drake, G. James Fleming, Lyonel C. Florant, E. Franklin Frazier, T. Arnold Hill, E. C. Isbell, Charles S. Johnson, Guion G. Johnson, Guy B. Johnson, Louise K. Kiser, Dudley Kirk, Otto Klineberg, Ruth Landes, Gunnar Lange, T. C. McCormick, Benjamin Malzberg, Paul Norgren, E. Nelson Palmer, Arthur Raper, Ira de A. Reid, Edward A. Shils, Richard Sterner, Samuel A. Stouffer, Louis Wirth, Doxey Wilkerson, and Thomas J. Woofter.

The memoranda cover a variety of topics such as religion, leisure activities, labor, family, health, leadership, organizations, migration, education, political status, mental disease, miscegenation, segregation, stereotypes, and physical characteristics. According to Myrdal, in his preface to *An American Dilemma*, he relied most heavily on the memoranda by Bunche ("Conceptions and Ideologies of the Negro Problem", "The Programs, Ideologies, Tactics, and Achievements of Negro Betterment and Interracial Organizations", "A Brief and Tentative Analysis of Negro Leadership", "The Political Status of the Negro"), Norgren ("Negro Labor and Its Problems"), Raper ("Race and Class Pressures"), Stouffer and Florant ("Negro Population and Negro Population Movements, 1860-1940"), Dorn ("The Health of the Negro"), Drake ("Negro Churches and Associations in Chicago"), Kirk ("The Fertility of the Negro"), and Lange ("Trends in Southern Agriculture").

Scope and Content Note

This collection is organized into two series, Research memoranda and General correspondence and memoranda. The Research memoranda series consists of the twenty-nine memoranda prepared by the team of social scientists.

General correspondence and memoranda series include letters from Frederick Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation, establishing the project; correspondence between Keppel and Gunnar Myrdal; memoranda or interviews with Myrdal and the social scientists who wrote the reports; files for the Committee on Selection, 1940-1943; and letters with scholars and experts with whom Myrdal conferred. The correspondents include Sterling Brown, Ralph J. Bunche, Horace R. Cayton, Melville Herskovits, Guy B. Johnson, Paul Norgren, Richard Sterner, Samuel A. Stouffer (director of the project during Myrdal's absence in Europe during the war years), Dorothy S. Thomas, Doxey A. Wilkerson, and Thomas J. Woofter, Jr.

Arrangement: Organized into two series: (1) Research memoranda and (2) General correspondence

and memoranda.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Civil rights
African Americans -- Economic conditions
African Americans -- Education
African Americans -- Employment
African Americans -- Illinois -- Chicago -- Societies, etc
African Americans -- Legal status, laws, etc
African Americans -- Recreation
African Americans -- Religion
African Americans -- Segregation
African Americans -- Social conditions -- Research
African Americans -- Study and teaching
Discrimination -- United States
Endowments -- New York (State) -- New York
Sociology -- United States

Geographic Names

United States -- Race relations
United States -- Race relations -- Research
United States -- Social conditions

Names

Brenman-Gibson, Margaret
Brown, Sterling A., 1901-1989
Bunche, Ralph J. (Ralph Johnson), 1904-1971
Burks, Barbara Stoddard, 1902-1943
Cayton, Horace R. (Horace Roscoe), 1903-1970
Davis, Allison, 1902-1983
Dorn, Harold Fred, 1906-
Drake, St. Clair
Fleming, George James, 1904-
Florant, Lyonel Charles
Frazier, E. Franklin, 1894-1962
Herskovits, Melville J. (Melville Jean), 1895-1963
Hill, Arnold
Isbell, Elanor C
Johnson, Charles Spurgeon, 1893-1956
Johnson, Guion Griffis, 1900-1989
Johnson, Guy Benton, 1901-1991
Keppel, Frederick P. (Frederick Paul), 1875-1943
Kirk, Dudley
Kiser, Louise K
Klineberg, Otto, 1899-1992
Landes, Ruth, 1908-
Malzberg, Benjamin, 1893-
McCormick, Thomas Carson
Montagu, Ashley, 1905-1999
Myrdal, Gunnar, 1898-
Norgren, Paul Herbert, 1903
Norgren, Paul Herbert, 1903-

Palmer, Edward Nelson
Raper, Arthur Franklin, 1899-1979
Reid, Ira De Augustine, 1901-1968
Shils, Edward, 1910-1995
Stern, Richard, 1901-1978
Stouffer, Samuel Andrew, 1900-
Thomas, D
Wilkerson, Doxey Alphonso, 1905-1993
Wirth, Louis, 1897-1952
Woofter, T. J., Jr. (Thomas Jackson), 1893-1972
Carnegie Corporation of New York

Container List

Research memoranda

- Ashley-Montague, M. F. - "Two Memoranda on the Origin, Composition and Physical Characteristics of the American Negro"
- r. 1 "The African Origins of the American Negro"
- r. 1 "The Characteristics of the Negro Population"
- r. 1 Brenman, Margaret - "The Personality of Urban Negro Girls"
- Brown, Sterling A. - "The Negro in American Culture"
- r. 1 Sports
- r. 1 Music
- r. 1 Stage
- r. 1 Bunche, Ralph J. - "Conceptions and Ideologies of the Negro Problem"
- r. 1 r. 2 Bunche, Ralph J. - "The Programs, Ideologies, Tactics and Achievements of the Negro Betterment and Interracial Organizations"
- Reel 1: Books 1 and 2; reel 2: books 3-4.
- r. 2 Bunche, Ralph J. - "A Brief and Tentative Analysis of Negro Leadership"
- r. 2 Burks, Barbara S. - "The Present Status of the Nature-Nurture Problem as It Relates to Intelligence"
- r. 2 Davis, Allison - "The Negro Church and Associations in the Lower South: A Research Memorandum"
- r. 2 Drake, J. G. St. Clair - "The Negro Church and Associations in Chicago"
- Book 2
- r. 3 Bunche, Ralph J. - "The Political Status of the Negro"
- Books 1-7
- r. 4 Dorn, Harold F. - "The Health of the Negro"
- r. 4 Etuk, S. - "A West African's Impression of the Negro in the United States"
- r. 4 Fleming, G. J. - "The Negro Press"
- r. 4 Florant, Lyonel C. - "Negro Migration 1860-1940"
- r. 4 Florant, Lyonel C. - "Critiques of the Census of the United States"
- r. 4 Frazier, E. Franklin - "Recreation and Amusement among American Negroes"
- r. 4 Frazier, E. Franklin - "Memorandum to Guy B. Johnson"
- r. 4 Haynes, George Edmund - "Toward Interracial Peace"
- r. 4 Hill, T. Arnold - "Digest and Analysis of Questionnaires Submitted by Urban League Secretaries"
- r. 4 Isbell, Eleanor C. - "Memorandum on the Negro Family in America"
- r. 4 Isbell, Eleanor C. - "Statistics of Population Growth and Composition"
- Johnson, Charles S. - "Source Material for Patterns of Negro Segregation"
- r. 5 Birmingham, AL
- r. 5 New York City, NY
- r. 5 Richmond, VA
- r. 5 Indianapolis, IN
- r. 5 Baltimore, MD

Research memoranda (cont.)

Johnson, Charles S. - "Source Material for Patterns of Negro Segregation" (cont.)

- r. 5 Johnston County, NC
- r. 6 Chicago, IL
- r. 6 Poinsett County, AR
- r. 6 Lourens - Laurens
- r. 6 Cleveland, MS
- r. 6 Nashville, TN
- r. 6 Atlanta, GA
- r. 7 Houston, TX
- r. 7 Johnson, Guion G. - "A History of Racial Ideologies in the United States
with Reference to the Negro"
Books 1 and 2
- r. 7 Johnson, Guion G. and Johnson, Guy B. - "The Church and the Race
Problem in the United States"
Includes appendices.
- r. 8 Johnson, Guy B. and Kiser, Louise K. - "The Negro and Crime"
Books 1 and 2
- r. 8 Kirk, Dudley - "The Fertility of the Negro"
- r. 8 Klineberg, Otto W. Maltzberg, Wirth, and Goldhamer - "Characteristics of
the American Negro"
Books 1 and 2
- r. 9 Landes, Ruth and Johnson, Guy B. - "The Ethos of the Negro in the New
World"
- r. 9 Lange, Gunnar - "Trends in Southern Agriculture"
- r. 9 Lange, Gunnar - "Agricultural Adjustment Programs and the Negro"
- r. 9 Lester, R. M. - "Corporation Grants for Education of the Negro"
- r. 9 McCormick, T. C. - "Memorandum on the Negro in Agriculture"
McCormick, T. C. - "The Negro in Agriculture"
- r. 9 Plantation System
- r. 9 Selected Topics
- r. 9 Malzberg, Benjamin - "A Study of Delusions among Negroes with Mental
Disease"
- r. 9 Myrdal, Gunnar - "Memoranda on the Study of the Negro"
- r. 10 Norgren, Paul H. - "Negro Labor and Its Problems"
Books 1-5
- r. 10 Palmer, E. N. - "The Development of Negro Lodges in the U. S"
- r. 10 r. 11 Raper, Arthur - "Race and Class Pressures"
- r. 11 r. 12 Reid, Ira De A. - "The Negro in the American Economic System"
Reel 11: book 1; reel 12: books 2 and 3.
- r. 12 Shils, Edward A. - "The Basis of Social Stratification in Negro Society"
- r. 12 Stouffer, Florant, Isbell, and Wyant - "Negro Population Movements 1860-
1940"
- r. 12 Wilkerson, Doxey - "The Negro in Education"
Books 1-3
- r. 13 Woofter, T. J. - "The Negro and Agricultural Policy"

Research memoranda (cont.)

- r. 13 Sterner, R. - "Standard of Living of the Negro"
Books 1 - 4

Correspondence

General correspondence and memoranda

- f. 1 1935-1938
- f. 2 1939 January-July
- f. 3 1939 July-December
- f. 4 1940
- f. 5 1941
- f. 6 1942 January-August
- f. 7 1942 September-December
- f. 8 1943
- f. 9 1944
- f. 10 Committee on Selection 1940-1943
- f. 11 *Fortune Magazine* survey 1939-1943
- f. 12 Reviews 1944-1945
- f. 13 Sterling A. Brown 1939-1943
- f. 14 Ralph J. Bunche 1939-1943
- f. 15 Horace R. Cayton 1939-1942
- f. 16 Melville Herskovits 1939-1944
- f. 17 Guy B. Johnson 1939
- f. 18 Guy B. Johnson 1940
- f. 19 Guy B. Johnson 1941-1948
- f. 20 Paul Norgren 1939-1943
- f. 21 Richard Sterner 1939-1948
- f. 22 S. Stouffer and D. Thomas 1939
- f. 23 S. Stouffer and D. Thomas 1940
- f. 24 S. Stouffer and D. Thomas 1941
- f. 25 Doxey A. Wilkerson 1939-1944
- f. 26 T. J. Woofter, Jr 1939-1943