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.

Access: Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL’s online catalog for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access

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
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 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
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Palmer, Edward Nelson
Raper, Arthur Franklin, 1899-1979
Reid, Ira De Augustine, 1901-1968
Shils, Edward, 1910-1995
Sterner, 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
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r. 7 Johnson, Guion G. - "A History of Racial Ideologies in the United States with Reference to the Negro"
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   Includes appendices.
r. 8 Johnson, Guy B. and Kiser, Louise K. - "The Negro and Crime"
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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"
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r. 9 Lester, R. M. - "Corporation Grants for Education of the Negro"
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   McCormick, T. C. - "The Negro in Agriculture"
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