

GETS NEW POST



DR. ALAIN L. LOCKE

Dr. Alain Locke Named Professor At Wisconsin U.

MADISON, Wis. — Dr. Alain L. Locke this week became the first Negro to join the University of Wisconsin's faculty with a full professorial rank.

The noted educator, after 34 years as head of Howard University's philosophy department, swelled a growing number of Negroes now teaching in white colleges.

Locke, a 59-year-old former Rhodes Scholar will teach a course on "The Philosophy of Arts," and a seminar on "Value" in the university's philosophy department.

Announcement of Locke's classes was followed by an overflow registration for the course and indicated the general student response to their first full time Negro professor.

Extracurricular chores of Locke, who has written numbers of books on Negro art and race relations, will include talks on inter-racial and inter-cultural relations, although no specific plans have yet been announced.

"Wisconsin is pioneering in a trend which I believe will grow—a trend which must spread widely if we are to realize a full democracy in American education," Dr. Locke declared when interviewed in his room at the University club.

Locke stated that his attitude towards race prejudice was that of an American who "wants every race and every minority to be able to take its rightful place in a true democracy."

He ripped the policy of many public education institutions which "isolated" the minority issue. Locke pointed out that the racial minority situation could not be regarded as an isolated problem, but that it was linked with the general welfare.

"I think that but for slavery we would have had a great deal more social democracy in America," said Locke when tracing the development of fascism in America.

"I feel sure...that anti-alien and anti-Semitic bias could not have taken the hold that they have upon certain elements of our public, had there not been this chronic seed-bed of racial prejudice, produced by slavery and continued as an aftermath of slavery.

"You will see the importance of the statement that any potential fascism in America will make a gateway of racial, since whatever we have in this country which is

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congenial to the fascist way has been nurtured earlier by generations of racial prejudice."

Locke called attention to the progress toward democracy made during the war but pointed out: "If you line up the arguments for white supremacy with the arguments whether for German Aryan racism, for Mussolini's pan-Italianism, or for Japanese racialism, you will see their striking similarities. In fact, you will see that they are sister systems under the skin."

He said that "the most considerable recent improvements in the status of the Negro has come about, not through a special campaign for his betterment and welfare, but as a necessary part of the war effort."

Born in Philadelphia, Locke is a graduate of the Philadelphia School of Pedagogy and Harvard University. Selected as Rhodes scholar from Pennsylvania in 1907, he studied three years at Oxford university in England. He took graduate work at the University of Berlin in 1910 and 1911.

He served as inter-American exchange professor to Haiti in 1943. In collaboration with Prof. Stern of Columbia University, he has just finished a revised edition of their book entitled, "When Peoples Meet."

Dr. Locke's most sensational book was "The New Negro," which revolutionized the treatment of Negroes in American cultural circles.