

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

“The aim of the Negro History Week is to bring about Negro History Year when we shall study the Negro as much as we study the Hebrew, the Greek, the Latin, and the Teuton.” Thus writes Dr. Carter G. Woodson, director and founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

The main idea is to make American schools conscious of the existence of a Negro history that bears authentic records of the cultural heritage and contributions of the black man. This is obviously a very necessary step. For, if we are to silence the myth of racial inferiority, we must attack not only the source but the very centers where it is disseminated. The classroom is therefore a very important medium. Here ideas are fashioned, false notions are either encouraged or discredited, facts are interpreted or misinterpreted. The honest, unbiased teacher is forever searching for scientific data in order better to impart knowledge to his wards. Thus the Negro History Week “becomes annually as the much-needed stimulus to arouse both students and teachers and to supply a standard by which they may measure their achievements.”

Through continuous scientific research painstakingly undertaken by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, we have today any number of well documented history textbooks. What is needed now beside classroom information is greater enthusiasm on the part of the Negro for his own heritage and contribution. Such an enthusiasm would stimulate the interest of other races whose historians have deliberately misrepresented facts about the black man.