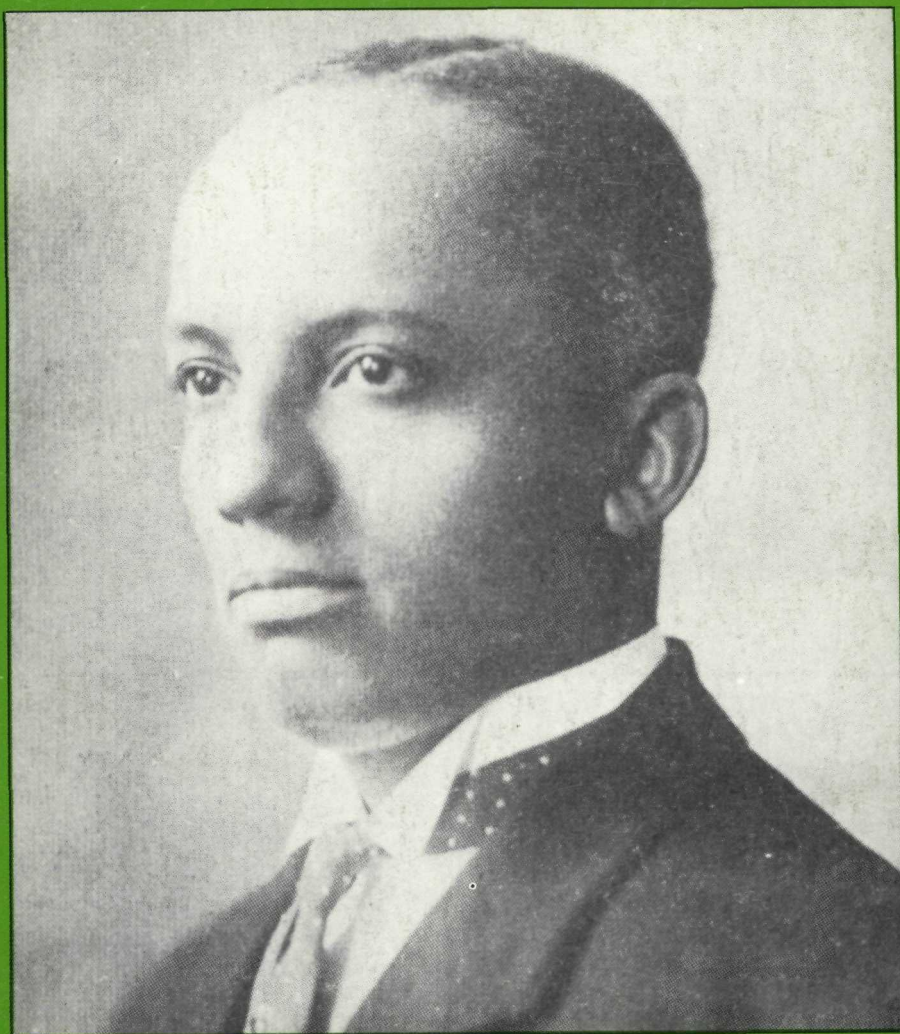


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On the cover: Portrait of Carter G. Woodson. Courtesy of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, DC.

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FROM THE EDITOR:

In reviewing the contents of the *American Archivist* for the past twenty years I discovered only four articles dealing with collecting the records of ethnic groups. Rudolph J. Vecoli's "The Immigration Studies Collection of the University of Minnesota" [32 (April 1969): 139-145] was the first, and for several years it was the only one. He discussed in very general terms the establishment and early history of the Immigration Studies Collection. Whether or not the historical fervor of the American bicentennial was a factor is, at this point, uncertain, but two such articles appeared in 1976: Robert M. Warner and Francis X. Blouin, Jr., "Documenting the Great Migrations and a Century of Ethnicity in America" [39 (July 1976): 319-328]; and Richard N. Juliani "The Use of Archives in the Study of Immigration and Ethnicity" [39 (October 1976): 469-477]. Warner and Blouin dealt with ethnic records from the collector's point of view while Juliani discussed them from the user's viewpoint. In both articles there is some assessment of the types of records which are important in documenting ethnic cultures. Linda Henry discussed ethnic records in only very general terms in "Collecting Policies of Special-Subject Repositories" [43 (Winter 1980): 57-63].

It seems reasonable to conclude that the collecting, preserving, and making

available of records of various ethnic cultures which are found within the United States has not been well documented in the *American Archivist*. I hope the five articles in this issue will help to fill that void. In the lead article, Jacqueline Goggin has described in detail the efforts of Carter G. Woodson to collect and preserve the records of his race. The economic anemia of present-day archival repositories is thoroughly recorded in *Documenting America* edited by Lisa B. Weber, but Goggin seems to indicate that Woodson's efforts were accompanied by an even more severe paucity of funding. Thomas H. Kreneck, of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center, has described the efforts of his institution to collect and preserve the records of Houston's large Mexican American population. While many of the practices at Houston are followed by virtually every collecting institution, Kreneck and his colleagues did adopt some very innovative ways of acquiring materials. These articles by Goggin and Kreneck fill a particular void in the literature as neither of the two ethnic groups they have written about were discussed by the previous authors.

The last three articles by Susan Grigg, R. Joseph Anderson, and John J. Grabowski are all revised versions of papers presented at the Minneapolis

meeting in 1983. All three authors have described activities at individual institutions—Immigration History Research Center, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, and Western Reserve Historical Society—to collect records of ethnic groups of European origin. Some of these groups were mentioned in earlier articles, but none of them were discussed in the detail provided by these three authors.

CHARLES SCHULTZ
Editor

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