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Black Heritage Stamp Series: Dr. Allison Davis

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Issue Date: February 1, 1994

First Day City: Williamstown, Massachusetts

Designer: Chris Calle, Ridgefield, Connecticut

Art Director and Typographer: Richard Sheaff

Modeler: Richard Sennett, Stamp Venturers

Project Manager: Elizabeth Altobell,
Stamp Acquisition, USPS

Manufacturing Process: Intaglio, Stamp Venturers

Colors: PMS 484 and 504

Image Area: 0.84 x 1.41 inches or
21.3 x 35.8 millimeters

Format: Pane of 20

Plate Numbers: "S" followed by a single digit

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Dr. Allison Davis Stamp

Dr. Allison Davis, who studied the factors that shaped the lives of African-Americans, was an influential voice in psychology, anthropology, sociology and education from the early 1940s until his death in 1983. He was perhaps best known for his contribution to the debate over intelligence testing, in which he suggested that tests were developed in a way that unfairly reflected the abilities of low-income children.

Dr. Davis was the author or co-author of 10 books. From *Deep South* (1941), written in conjunction with Burleigh B. Gardner and Mary R. Gardner, to *Leadership, Love, and Aggression* (1983), he studied racial and class issues in the United States in a voice that was provocative but never inflammatory. The 1983 book analyzed the life history of four African-American figures: Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Richard Wright and Martin Luther King, Jr. He found in them a common theme of anger at racial discrimination being channeled into constructive action.

Besides contributing to the literature of race in the United States, Dr. Davis had a successful academic career. He earned master's degrees in two fields at Harvard, studied anthropology at the London School of Economics and received a doctorate from the University of Chicago. He was on the Chicago faculty for nearly 40 years and late in his life was honored there by a symposium on "Race, Class, Socialization and the Life Cycle."



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES

DR. ALLISON DAVIS



Dr. Allison Davis has been noted as one of the most distinguished social anthropologists and psychologists of the nation. His pioneering investigations of learning and intelligence made him a leading authority regarding the influence of social and economic factors in the education of poor children. His research was instrumental in creating a basis for ending legalized racial segregation in the United States. One of the earliest challengers of intelligence testing based on cultural bias, Dr. Davis dispelled the theory that children from low-income families were inferior in intelligence to their upper-income contemporaries. He argued that the inadequate education that lower socio-economic students received as a result of defective intelligence testing was depriving society of untapped sources of human ability.

Dr. Davis was born in Washington, D.C. in 1902 and attended the academically rigorous M Street (later called Dunbar) High School. He graduated summa cum laude as valedictorian of the Class of 1924 at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He earned two master's degrees from Harvard, one in comparative literature and a second in anthropology. Dr. Davis went on to study anthropology at the London School of Economics and received his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1942.

Dr. Davis was a faculty member of the University of Chicago for nearly 40 years. In addition to Chicago, his teaching career included appointments at Dillard University; Hampton Institute; Yale, where he was a research associate in psychology at the Institute for Human Relations; and Harvard, where he was co-director of field research in social anthropology. In 1970, Chicago appointed him John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor. He held visiting professorships and lectureships at such places as Columbia University, the University of Michigan, Smith College, the University of California (Berkeley) and the University of Pittsburgh. He also worked for two years at the American Council on Education.

During the Johnson and Nixon administrations, Dr. Davis served as a member of the President's Commission on Manpower Retraining. He was a Fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Education and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. In 1982 and 1983, Dr. Davis won MacArthur Foundation grants to further his work on the life and career of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Davis' published work includes ten books, several of which have become classics. His co-authored book, "Deep South", a study of the cotton-plantation system and of color caste, helped to shape Gunnar Myrdal's "An American Dilemma", a study on race relations.

His last study, "Leadership, Love and Aggression", examined psychological factors which shaped the personalities and perspectives of four pivotal African American spokesmen. Other works include "Children of Bondage", "Father of the Man", "Social-Class Influences Upon Learning" and "Intelligence and Cultural Differences".

This commemorative stamp honors the accomplishments and service of Dr. Allison Davis and coincides with the 200th anniversary of the founding of his alma mater, Williams College.

The Dr. Allison Davis commemorative stamp, one of the Black Heritage Series stamps, was designed by Chris Calle of Ridgefield, Connecticut. The stamp was issued on February 1, 1994, in Williamstown, Massachusetts.



MUSICAL PRELUDE MS. TANYA NICHOLSON '94
Williams College

PRESIDING MS. JO E. SAUNDERS
District Manager
Customer Services and Sales
Springfield District
U.S. Postal Service

NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION DR. DENNIS C. DICKERSON
Stanfield Professor of History
Williams College

WELCOME DR. HARRY C. PAYNE
President
Williams College

INTRODUCTION OF
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS MR. ARTHUR BEAULIEU
Postmaster
Williamstown, Massachusetts

ESSAYS MS. CHRISTINA DICKERSON
Williamstown Elementary School

MR. LINDSAY GRACE
Mt. Greylock Regional High School

REMARKS MR. GORDON J. DAVIS
Son of Dr. Allison Davis

DR. JOHN A. DAVIS
Brother of Dr. Allison Davis

DEDICATION OF STAMP MR. SAMUEL GREEN, JR.
Vice President
Customer Services and Sales
U.S. Postal Service

HONORED GUEST MR. ALLISON S. DAVIS
Son of Dr. Allison Davis

BLACK HERITAGE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

W. Allison Davis, born in 1902 in Washington, D.C., was one of the nation's most distinguished social anthropologists and psychologists. His pioneering investigations into the influence of social and economic factors on the education of poor children, helped to create a basis for the ending of legalized racial segregation in the United States.

Davis, one of the earliest challengers of intelligence testing on the basis of cultural bias, attacked the assumption that children from low-income families were inferior in intelligence to their upper-income contemporaries. He argued that the inadequate education poorer students received, as a result of defective intelligence testing, was depriving society of untapped sources of human ability.

Among numerous honors, Davis served on the President's Commission on Civil Rights and as vice chairman of the Department of Labor's Commission on Manpower

Retraining, during the Johnson and Nixon Administration. He was a Fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Center for Advanced Studies and from 1970 until his death in 1983, he served as the John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor.

His published work includes ten books. Most influential were *Deep South*, a study of the cotton-plantation system and of color caste, and his last study, *Leadership, Love and Aggression*, which examined psychological factors that shaped the personality and perspective of four pivotal African Americans.

The Postal Service is proud to commemorate Dr. Allison Davis with the issuance of this stamp. Designed by Chris Calle of Ridgefield, Connecticut, the stamp is the latest addition to the Postal Service's Black Heritage Series and is officially dedicated at Williams College, Davis' alma mater.

THE NEGRO NATIONAL ANTHEM

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

by James Weldon Johnson

1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise,
high as the list'ning skies. Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, biffer the chast'ning rod.
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the
slaughtered, Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us for ever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

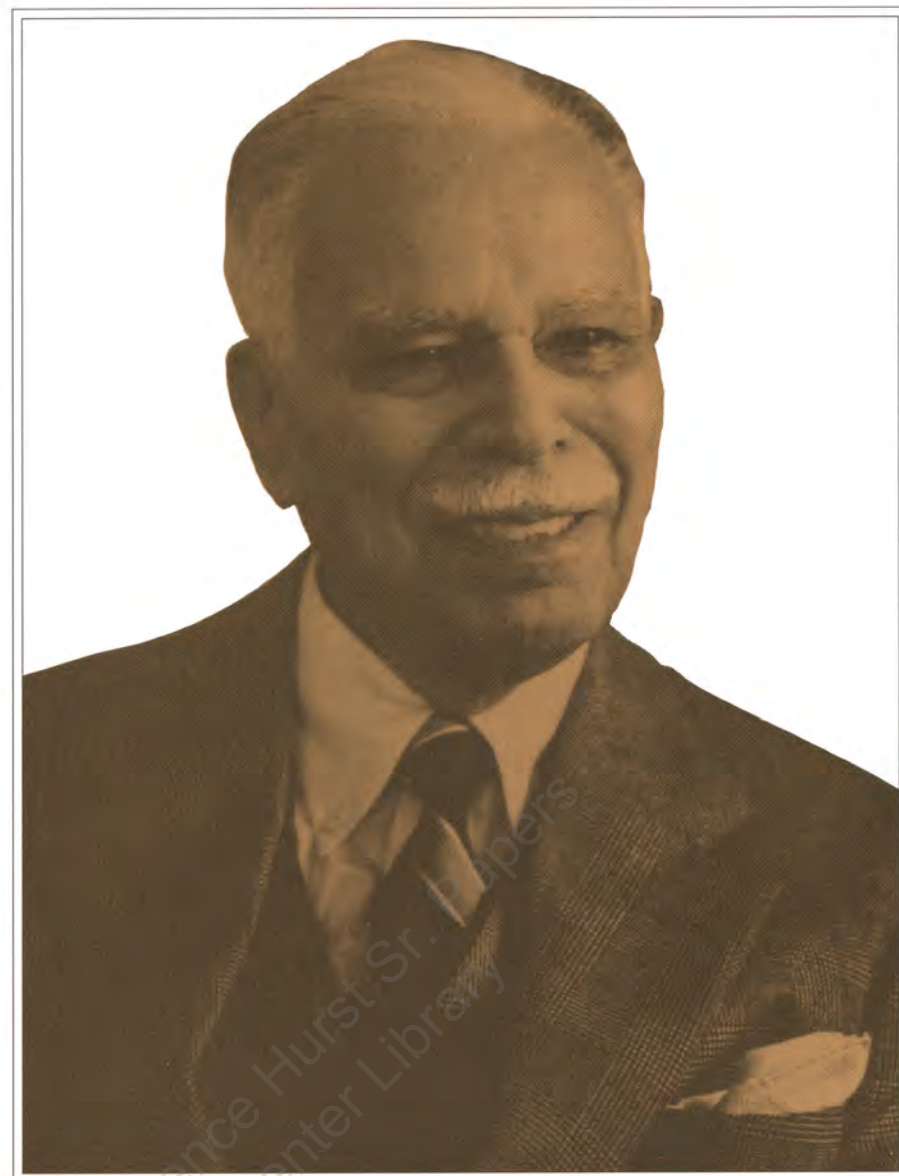
DR. ALLISON DAVIS



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DR. ALLISON DAVIS

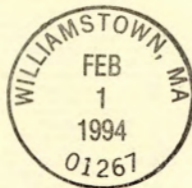
**FEBRUARY 1, 1994 WILLIAMS COLLEGE
WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

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*Dr. Allison Davis
Black Heritage Series*

BLACK HERITAGE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Books
Thomas G Carpenter
Special Collections

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Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers
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Dr. Allison Davis

Black Heritage Series

First Day of Issue: *February 1, 1994*

First Day City: *Williamstown, Massachusetts,*
home of Davis' alma mater, Williams College

Stamp Designer: *Chris Calle*
Ridgefield, Connecticut

Dr. Allison Davis (1902-1983), who is honored on this U.S. stamp, greatly influenced contemporary thought on valuing the capabilities of children with diverse backgrounds. He was one of the most respected social anthropologists, psychologists, and professors of his day. In 1967, he became the first scholar from the field of education elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

A summa cum laude graduate of Williams College, Davis went on to earn two masters degrees from Harvard and a doctorate from the University of Chicago. He joined the faculty of Chicago in 1942 and remained

there for more than 30 years. In 1970, he was appointed The John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor of Education.

As a social scientist, Davis was one of the pioneers in the study of the black experience in America. Much of his research focused on class and caste, and the influence of social and economic factors in the education of poor children. His conclusions led him to assume a role of civil rights leadership in the administrations of Presidents Nixon and Johnson. He fought for understanding human potential in all races and challenged intelligence testing as being culturally biased. Davis' work helped end legalized segregation.

Among the most influential of his ten books were *Deep South, Father of the Man, Social-Class Influences Upon Learning, and Leadership, Love and Aggression.*