

100 Years Ago: A Brief Look at Three Black Members of CAMWS in 1917

Over the past 25 years or so classical scholars have begun to delineate the dynamic pattern of black classicism in the United States. This new subfield of the classical tradition involves the analysis of both the creative response to classical antiquity by artists and writers as well as the history of the professional training in classics of scholars, teachers and students in high schools, colleges and universities across the country of African descent. Part of this work requires the recovery and analysis of the names and locations of those who have, were or are participating professionally within our discipline's organizations at every level. And so if we wish to understanding the question of diversity in our field knowing this history and having these demographics are critical to understanding not only what kind of organization we have been, but also what our future might be. My paper will present brief profiles of the lives and careers of three African Americans who were members of CAMWS in 1917. These are:

1) Pinckney Warren Russell, (1864-1941) professor of Greek and New Testament Greek at Biddle University (a.k.a. Johnson C. Smith University), Charlotte, NC.

2) Edward Caesar Mitchell, (n.d.- 1961) professor of Latin and Greek, dean and interim president at Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA.

3) Helen Maria Chesnutt, (1880-1969) Latin teacher at Central High School, Cleveland, OH.

Various documents including some historic photographs will be used to bring the faces of these our lost colleagues back to us.