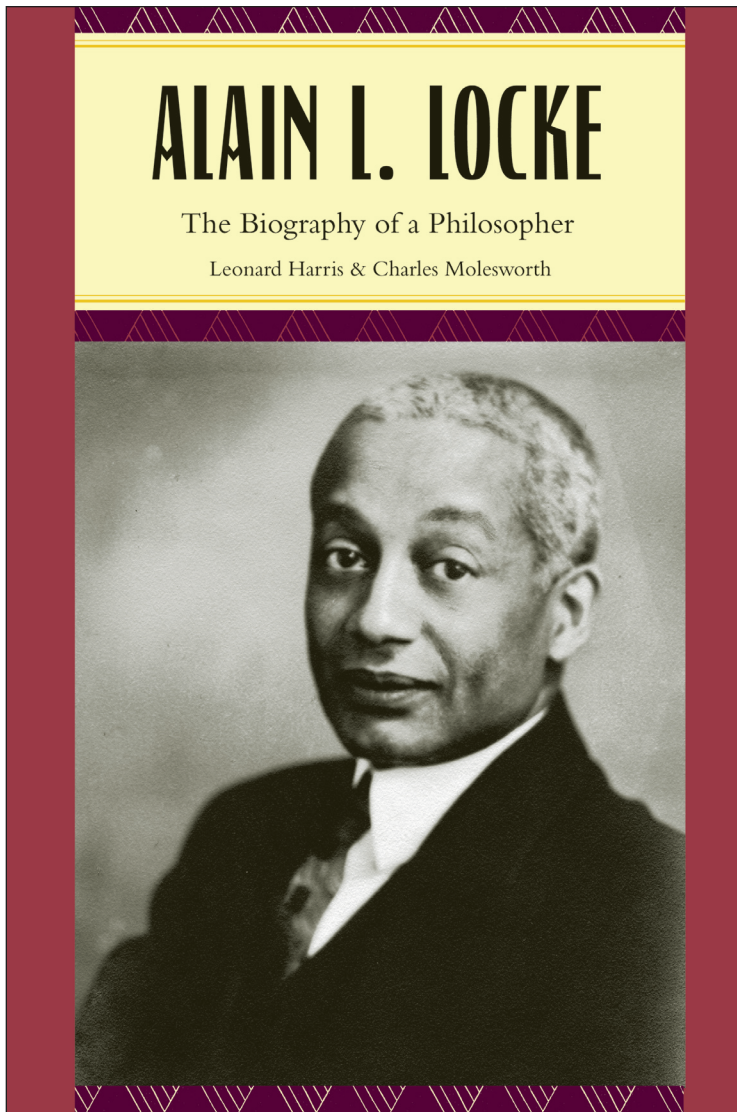


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# ALAIN L. LOCKE

*The Biography of a Philosopher*

Leonard Harris & Charles Molesworth



“This is the definitive biography of the towering cultural critic and pioneering Afro-American philosopher Alain Locke. The intellectual subtlety and meticulous work of Leonard Harris and Charles Molesworth forever puts Locke on our academic radar screen!”

**Cornel West**

Alain Locke, in his famous 1925 anthology *The New Negro*, declared that “the pulse of the Negro world has begun to beat in Harlem.” Often called the father of the Harlem Renaissance, Locke had his finger directly on that pulse, promoting, influencing, and sparring with such figures as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Jacob Lawrence, Richmond Barthé, William Grant Still, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Bunche, and John Dewey. The long-awaited first biography of this extraordinarily gifted philosopher and writer, *Alain L. Locke* narrates the untold story of his profound impact on twentieth-century America’s cultural and intellectual life.

Leonard Harris and Charles Molesworth trace this story through Locke’s Philadelphia upbringing, his undergraduate years at Harvard—where William James helped spark his influential engagement with pragmatism—and his tenure as the first African American Rhodes Scholar to study at Oxford. The heart of their narrative illuminates Locke’s heady years in 1920s New York City and his forty-year career at Howard University, painting a multifaceted portrait that effectively reclaims Locke’s rightful place in the pantheon of America’s most important minds.

**LEONARD HARRIS** is professor of philosophy at Purdue University.

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