



March 21, 2025

Dear CLA Scholars,

In my 2024 Presidential Address, I challenged us to look to the Archives as scholars, leaders, administrators, and as members of this historic organization. As we embark upon the next two years of celebrating our 90th anniversary in 2027, the CLA Executive Committee wanted to commence the celebration and build upon our legacy by releasing an updated CLA logo that honors and celebrates the future of our organization, so we looked to our Archives.

In our journey through the Archives, we were reminded of the **CLA Bulletin**, a precursor to both the CLA newsletter and scholarly Journal. This past year, we brought back the CLA Bulletin, and we hope that you have enjoyed these more regular updates on the news and happenings of CLA. We are continuing to build out the Communications Division, and during this year's **CLA Business Meeting**, we look forward to sharing all of the growth and changes that are taking place to improve both the governance and operations of CLA.

In a 1950 edition of the CLA Bulletin, there is a version of our logo that includes a singular word under each side of the open book — those words are **Scholarship** and **Fellowship** — two words that embody the spirit and heart of what makes CLA so special. Whether our members are gathering at our annual Convention, online via Zoom, or in the pages of our peer-reviewed academic journal **CLAJ**, our members consistently personify scholarly excellence and an inclusive spirit. The new logo with the words Scholarship and Fellowship under each side of the open book, now in **Latin** — **Doctrina** and **Societas** — builds upon our legacy as a scholarly organization. It restores words that had been removed and returns them in a way that honors our commitment to World Languages and higher education.

In 1937, in Memphis, Tennessee, a group of scholars gathered on the campus of then LeMoyne College for the Initial Conference of the Teachers of English in Negro Colleges. They had no logo, and the Conference Program had the American Missionary Association seal on the cover. The Second Annual Conference in Atlanta featured an emblem that is more familiar to all of us — an open book with a torch. An iteration of this emblem would eventually make its way into our official CLA logo, which has evolved over the years. As we prepare to gather in **Vancouver, Washington for our 83rd Annual CLA Convention, April 23-26, 2025, with the theme, "Redefining Expansion and Exploration: Black Diasporic Literatures, Cultures, and Pedagogies,"** I am looking forward to joining in scholarship and fellowship with the finest *Doctrina Societas* I have ever known.

Thank you for the opportunity and the privilege of leading such an historic organization. **Registration is still open for the 2025 CLA Convention, and you don't want to miss our first time visiting the Pacific Northwest!**

In Service,

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Founded in 1937