

## **W. PAUL COATES**

RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST DR. DOROTHY PORTER WESLEY AWARD

Our 2018 and first recipient of the Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley Award is Mr. W. Paul Coates. He is the founder and director of Black Classic Press, which specializes in republishing obscure and significant works by and about people of African descent, and Black Classic Press Digital Printing, which produces books and documents using digital print technology. BCP Digital Printing is the only African-American owned book printing company in the United States. He is co-editor of *Black Bibliophiles and Collectors: Preservers of Black History*. This volume of edited papers resulted from the Black Bibliophiles and Collectors conference Coates and colleagues organized at Howard University in 1983. The conference remains a singular event, bringing together book lovers, scholars, and information professionals in acknowledgement of the active and key role bibliophiles and collectors assumed in documenting the Black past and the research of the African diaspora as well as building collections to support the libraries and special collections; and research of our institutions of higher education.

