Association for the Study of African American History and Culture (ASALH)

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The Journal of African American History

Fall 2014

ASALH announces the publication of the latest issue of The Journal of African American History, Vol. 99 (Fall 2014).

The issue starts off with a commentary by V. P. Franklin, “United Front: Service Workers and the Supporters of Reparatory Justice,” which calls for solidarity between service workers who are organizing to gain a living wage and African Americans seeking reparations from multinational corporations that have done damage to African Americans in the distant and more recent past. The recommendation is for African Americans seeking reparations payments to support boycotts of restaurant chains and other businesses called by the Service Employee International Union (SEIU) and other unions, and for union workers to support African Americans’ demands for reparations.

Gloria Chuku’s “African Intellectuals as Cultural Nationalists: A Comparative Analysis of Edward Wilmot Blyden and Mbonu Ojike” examines the writings and speeches of two African intellectuals who spent time in the United States, but returned to Africa to lead movements for the self-determination of African peoples. Blyden is considered one of the leading African intellectuals of the 19th century, publishing numerous books, scholarly articles, and essays on African cultural developments, while serving as educational and political leader in Liberia. Ojike was an educator, journalist, political activist, and leading cultural nationalist intellectual who laid the foundation for the Nigerian independence movement in the 1940s and 1950s. The article compares their intellectual development and ideological positions.

Arthur Ashe was not just an international tennis star, but also an educator, researcher, and promoter of African American sports history. In “Symbols of Possibility: Arthur Ashe, Black Athletes, and the Writing of A Hard Road to Glory,” David K. Wiggins traces the history of the four-volume work produced by Ashe and his team of researchers. This encyclopedic scholarly project was a labor of love for Ashe who was committed to documenting the story of African American athletes’ contributions to football, baseball, boxing, horseracing, golf, tennis, and other U.S. sports. Wiggins describes in detail the reception of this significant multivolume work by the popular press and the academic community.
The demand for reparations for the stolen labor, land, and financial resources of African Americans can be traced back to the era of emancipation. Lynda Morgan’s “Reparations and History: The Emancipation Generation’s Ethical Legacy for the 21st Century” documents the belief system that formerly enslaved African Americans passed on to their children and to future generations. African American Christianity held as a core value the justice of God and the idea that those who have disobeyed his tenets will suffer in this world or the next. Equality, justice, and the need to make restitution for theft and willful damage were key elements in the African American ethical system and serve as the ideological foundation for reparations movements, past, present, and future.

The JAAH Fall 2014 issue also includes Essay Reviews by Merlin Chowkwanyan on “African Americans and Health Care: State Sponsored and Grass Roots Alternatives,” and by Jeffrey Helgeson on “Beyond a Long Civil Rights Movement.” There are also reviews of twenty recently published scholarly works on African American history and culture.

The JAAH Fall 2014 issue is available for purchase from ASALH in hard copy and for use in courses through Publications Director Karen May, at kmay@asalh.net. The digital version will soon be available through “JSTOR Current Journals”; please check and make sure your university library subscribes to the program.

For more information go to JAAH website: www.jaah.org; or contact V. P. Franklin, JAAH Editor, xpf1019@aol.com; or Sylvia Cyrus, Managing Editor; executive.director@asalh.org.