

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

PRESS RELEASE

3 April 2015

FORTHCOMING

The Journal of African American History

VOLME 100 – WINTER 2015

ASALH announces the publication of the first issue of the centennial volume of *The Journal of African American History*, Winter 2015.

The centennial volume of the *Journal of Negro History*/*Journal of African American History* (JAAH) includes articles examining African American history, intellectual activity, and social activism from the 18th to the 21st centuries. The JAAH Editor V. P. Franklin in the article “The Power to Define: African American Scholars, Activism, and Social Change, 1916-2015” describes how Carter G. Woodson, Horace Mann Bond, Charles H. Thompson, John Hope Franklin, James H. Cone, and other African American scholar-activists created new knowledge that not only led to cultural advancements, but also social and political change. African American scholars outlined the intellectual basis for challenges to the racial status quo and tied their scholarship to larger social movements.

In “The Haitian Revolution and the Central Question in African American History,” JAAH editorial board member Gerald Horne offers a detailed examination of the international and transnational aspects of the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), which helps to explain its success. It was the connection to other events in Europe, North America, and the Caribbean that allowed the Haitian revolutionaries to take advantage of rivalries and conflicts outside the island of San Domingue and to gain their independence. Horne argues that from the early 19th century to the present, improvements in the social conditions for U.S. African Americans have come about when they made connections to international events, campaigns, and movements.

The first international campaign that had a direct impact on African Americans in the United States was the antislavery movement. In “Frances Ellen Watkins: Family Legacy and Antebellum Activism,” editorial board member Margaret Washington discusses the upbringing of Frances Ellen in Baltimore, Maryland, in the household of her uncle, William Watkins Jr., an antislavery activist. Frances Ellen wrote poems about the horrors of slavery and the domestic slave trade she witnessed in Maryland, a slave state, and rather than attend college, she went on the road as a lecturer for American Anti-Slavery Society to raise awareness about the need to end immediately the practice of slavery in the United States.

In assessing intellectual developments in the study of African American life and culture over the course of the 20th century, certain continuities as well as changes become apparent. Editorial board member James B. Stewart's "Black/Africana Studies, Then and Now: Reconstructing a Century of Intellectual Inquiry and Political Engagement, 1915-2015" posits the development of the "proto-Africana Studies Movement" beginning with the founding of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915. This event also signaled the professionalization of the field which came to be dominated by university-trained scholars, rather than gifted amateurs. With the launching of the Black Studies movement in the 1960s, research and scholarship in this area exploded and changed the academic landscape in the United States and various parts of the world.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is known for his leadership of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, but there has been less attention paid to his global vision. Editorial board member Genna Rae McNeil reviews Jonathan Rieder's *The Gospel of Freedom* describing Dr. King's domestic vision as outlined in the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"; and King's *Global Vision of Justice* as found in his speeches, letters, and writings, and compiled by Lewis V. Baldwin. The detailed analysis in the Essay Review assesses the authors' degree of success in capturing the essence of Martin Luther King, Jr. – the visionary.

There are also reviews of 20 recently published scholarly works on African American history and culture.

The JAAH Winter 2015 issue is forthcoming and can be purchased from ASALH in hard copy and for use in courses through Publications Coordinator Karen May, at kmay@asalh.net. The digital version will be available through "JSTOR Current Journals"; please check and make sure your university library subscribes to the program.

Also forthcoming in the JAAH centennial volume will be the Special Issues on "Malcolm X and the Black World" (Spring 2015); "Gendering the Carceral State: African American Women, History, and Criminal Justice" (Summer 2015); and "Civil Rights, Black Power, and African American Education" (Fall 2015). Be sure you have your subscription.

For more information go to JAAH website: www.jaah.org; or contact V. P. Franklin, JAAH Editor, vpf1019@aol.com; or Sylvia Cyrus, Managing Editor; info@asalh.net