

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

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The Journal of African American History

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ASALH announces the publication of the latest issue in the second century of *The Journal of African American History*.

Contents

The Journal of African American History's (JAAH) Spring 2017 issue includes four original and pathbreaking articles on the African American experience. In “‘You Could Do the Irish Jig, But Anything African was Taboo’: Black Nuns, Contested Memories, and the 20th Century Struggle to Desegregate U. S. Catholic Religious Life,” Shannen Dee Williams examines the circumstances and experiences of the first African American women to enter all-white religious orders in the twentieth century. Many of the women, motivated by a spiritual calling, were victimized personally by the discriminatory practices tolerated in the white sisterhoods. Based on letters, reports, investigations, and personal interviews, Williams describes what it took for African American women to persevere and dedicate their lives to the U. S. Catholic Church.

While there have been numerous books and articles on the experiences of African American soldiers in Europe during the Second World War, Simon Topping’s “Racial Tensions and U.S. Military (In)Justice in Northern Ireland during World War II” probes for the first time the events surrounding the U. S. military’s execution of black soldiers stationed in Northern Ireland. The disproportionate sentencing to African American soldiers to be executed often shocked British military officials and civilians, but they were unable to intervene because these were the actions of U.S. military courts. The treatment of African Americans in U.S. military trials abroad resembled too closely the legal lynching that often occurred in courts in the 1940s in U.S. South.

The portrayal of Malcolm X during his years of incarceration found in the numerous biographies is often based solely on the information provided in *The Autobiography* (1965). There, Malcolm describes himself as a barely literate, disreputable malcontent until he encountered “Bimbi,” the brilliant prison autodidact; and the teachings of the Nation of Islam’s Honorable Elijah Muhammad. However, Jed B. Tucker in “Malcolm X, The Prison Years: The Relentless Pursuit of Formal Education” provides a completely different portrait, based on newly available archival sources and prison records. Using many letters to family members and prison officials, Tucker shows that Malcolm was quite literate upon entering Charlestown Prison in 1946, and he was determined to be transferred to the progressive Norfolk Prison Colony where he enrolled in various college courses and was celebrated as an outstanding member of the prison debating

team. Tucker's article offers a thorough revision of all earlier accounts of Malcolm's prison years.

The "mis-education" of Americans about the history of African-descended people inside and outside the United States is an educational problem in need of urgent repair. In "A Reparatory Justice Curriculum for Human Freedom: Rewriting the Story of African American Dispossession and the Debt Owed," Joyce E. King exposes the inaccuracies and distortions found in curricular materials used in U. S. public and private schools and calls for the dissemination of up-to-date educational texts and programs, and new standards of teaching and learning. The goals in these efforts would be the promulgation of enlightened knowledge about African peoples and the development of new approaches in the pursuit of human freedom.

In the Essay Review by Pero G. Dagbovie, he discusses the continued relevance of five of the groundbreaking historical works by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History." These works have been reissued by ASALH and Black Classics Press. In addition, there are reviews of fifteen recently published works on African American history and culture.

The JAAH Spring 2017 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.

Be sure your membership is up to date. Forthcoming JAAH issues will examine African American migrations during and after the Civil War, international reparations campaigns, and 300 years of the African American experience in New Orleans.

For more information, go to the JAAH website: www.jaah.org; or contact Sylvia Cyrus, JAAH Managing Editor, executive.director@asalh.net.