

The Journal of
African American History

Formerly The Journal of Negro History *Founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, January 1, 1916*

August 24, 2022

To: Executive Council
 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

From: Pero G. Dagbovie
 Editor, *The Journal of African American History* (JAAH)
 Associate Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Dean of the Graduate School,
 University Distinguished Professor of History, Michigan State University

Re: Report for *JAAH* Activities, April 2022 – present

In what follows, I provide a brief update on the progress and activities since the submission of the last report on April 17, 2022. As noted in the last report, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, “*The Journal of African American History* began encountering some noticeable challenges.” During the pandemic there was a noticeable decline in the numbers of submissions we received, invited peer-reviewers’ declined invitations to review at a higher rate, peer-reviewers took longer time to submit their reports, potential authors took longer time to submit their revised manuscripts, and the publication dates of some of the issues were slightly delayed. It seems since the summer of 2022, we have returned to a more familiar and stable state of affairs. Submission rates have increased and publishers have been sending us a manageable number of books to consider for book reviews. There have been some personnel changes within the University of Chicago Press Journal Division that relate to the journal. Since July 2022, we have been working with several new staff members.

When the April 2022 report was submitted, Volume 107, Number 1 (Winter 2022) had recently been released (including four articles, one review essay, and twenty book reviews). In the early summer of 2022, the Spring 2022 Issue (Volume 107, Number 2) was released and we were delighted. This “Special Issue” was long in the making. Entitled “Reconsidering the Uses of Violence in African American History” and guest edited by Kellie Carter Jackson, this issue includes an introduction by Dr. Jackson, five articles (the authors include Nicholas J. Johnson, Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders, Jasmin A. Young, Ashley Howard, and David Mathew Walton), and twenty-five book reviews. With an evocative cover, this issue features, with the exception of Johnson’s piece, articles by “junior” scholars in the field, demonstrating the journal’s interest across generational lines. The next issue, Summer 2022 (Volume 107, Number 3), will be released before the 107th ASALH Annual Meeting and Conference. The digital version was recently made available. This issue includes four articles on a range of topics. Tiffany Player explores the origins of the modern reparations movement; Alyssa Lopez delves into Black girls’ moviegoing culture in Harlem during the interwar period; David A. Varel provides an intellectual biography of John Abraham Davis; and E. James West unpacks the commercialization of Black history during the post-World War II era. The issue also includes twenty reviews of a wide variety of books published in the last several years.

At this point, our future pipeline is sound. We have accepted the articles and book reviews for Fall 2022 (Volume 107, Number 4), Winter 2023 (Volume 108, Number 1), Spring 2023 (Volume 108, Number 2), and partially for Fall 2023 (Volume 108, Number 4). Most of these pieces are ready to undergo the copy-editing phase and will be transmitted through the journal Editorial Manager portal when appropriate (usually several months before the anticipated publication date). The call for the Summer 2023 “Special Issue” (Volume 108, Number 3) on “The Black 1980s” has been released. Manuscripts are due on September 1, 2022. (See, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/journals/jaah/cfp-the-black-1980s>). There are currently seventeen article manuscripts out for revision that have the potential to appear in the pages of JAAH. As I’ve expressed before, it has been a great pleasure, privilege, and honor serving as editor of JAAH, working with the editorial board, the University of Chicago Press Journal Division, and the ASALH leadership. I look forward to helping the next editor transition into the position, especially in terms of navigating the journal’s efficient and nuanced Editorial Manager system. Looking forward, it would be ideal, in my estimation, to begin the transition in the spring or summer of 2023, approximately six months prior to December 2023. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you very much for your support.