

Contributions in Black Studies

A Journal of African and Afro-American Studies

Volume 7

Article 1

January 1985

Front Matter

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/cibs>

Recommended Citation

(1985) "Front Matter," *Contributions in Black Studies*: Vol. 7 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.umass.edu/cibs/vol7/iss1/1>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Afro-American Studies at ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. It has been accepted for inclusion in Contributions in Black Studies by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. For more information, please contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu.

Contributions in
BLACK STUDIES

A Journal of African and Afro-American Studies

Number 7, 1985-86

Published annually by the Five College Black Studies Executive Committee with the support of the Five Colleges Incorporated: Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts

INTRODUCTION

2

REQUIEM FOR A REVOLUTION: PERSPECTIVES ON THE
U.S./OECS INTERVENTION IN GRENADA

William Eric Perkins

3

JEAN TOOMER AND THE POLITICS AND POETICS
OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

Onita Estes-Hicks

22

AFRO-AMERICAN IDENTITY:
REFLECTIONS ON THE PRE-CIVIL WAR ERA

Ernest Allen, Jr.

45

CONTRIBUTORS

Inside Back Cover

CONTRIBUTIONS IN BLACK STUDIES

Editor: Ernest Allen, Jr., W. E. B. DuBois Department of
Afro-American Studies, University of Massachusetts

Editorial Board: Johnnella Butler (Smith),
Michael Ford (Hampshire),
Andrea Rushing (Amherst)

INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Contributions* moves us further toward the development of a publication which will enjoy much wider national distribution. We continue to be interested in scholarly essays which focus—either within the scope and methods of one of the traditional disciplines of the Humanities or Social Sciences, or in an interdisciplinary manner—on the societies, cultures, histories, or politics of the Black World. Along with analytical, critical, and historical scholarship, we also accept short fiction, one-act plays, and short, self-contained passages from novels.

Concerning the present issue: Employing previously untapped informational sources, William Eric Perkins offers a fresh perspective on the Grenadian revolution and counterrevolution. Acknowledging that the internal struggle between “elitist” and “mass” visions of the New Jewel Movement constituted the key contradiction of the Grenadian revolution, Perkins locates a crucial source of that conflict in the internal problems of non-capitalist economic development in Grenada and, in particular, the lack of a politically mature working class. From her forthcoming critical work on Jean Toomer, Onita Estes-Hicks examines a period of Toomer’s life which has been largely glossed over by other researchers. She places Toomer’s quest for national and self-identity at the center of her analysis, she re-examines the meaning of Toomer’s magnificent poem, “Blue Meridian,” in that light. The question of Afro-American national identity is also one raised by Ernest Allen, Jr., in the context of the late antebellum period. Enlarging upon Du Bois’ poignant analysis of Afro-American “two-ness,” Allen affirms that black identity can only be fully understood within the context of an inherent duality from which also flow the ideological tendencies of assimilationism and nationalism.

From the perspectives of artistic endeavor and of self-knowledge, Estes-Hicks’ essay tends to stress the benefits of multiple consciousness among Afro-Americans, while that of Allen leans more toward a pessimistic outlook in the corresponding realm of political action. That after-the-fact contrast in itself would seem to pose significant questions for readers. As it turned out, the myriad questions of Afro-American identity and consciousness raised by these two essays stirred considerable discussion among the editors—so much so that we decided to devote a single future issue to that general subject. We thus call your attention to a “Call for Papers” which can be found in the back pages of the present number.

Correspondence whether of a business or editorial nature should be directed to Five College Black Studies, 310 New Africa House, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. Telephone (413) 545-0980. Five College Contributions in Black Studies is published annually from Amherst, Massachusetts. Printed by the Commonwealth Press, Worcester, Massachusetts.