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CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts Due: Monday, January 5, 1987
Papers Due: Friday, October 2, 1987

It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one’s self through the eyes of others, of measuring one’s soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity. One ever feels his twoness—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.

—W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk

Contributions in Black Studies is seeking papers for its forthcoming ninth issue [1987-1988] on the subject of the double consciousness of Afro-Americans. Writers in all fields of the humanities and the social sciences are invited to submit essays on the subject no greater than twenty typed, double-spaced pages.

For example, one might explore the ramifications of being black and female from a literary and/or historical perspective; the contradictions between class and national (racial) consciousness/behavior among black toilers; the political and literary potentialities as well as limitations of multiple forms of consciousness; the manifold, evolving identities of black Americans compared and contrasted with those of Afro-Americans of the Caribbean—or with South Africans, for that matter; or the forms of “biculturality” practiced by black professionals.

Submissions will be selected by the editor and refereed by two outside readers from the appropriate discipline or area of study. Bibliographic notes should follow the MLA Style Sheet and be appended on separate sheets to the manuscript. Explanatory notes should be indicated by asterisks and typed single-spaced at the bottom of the page. We urge that, at the time a manuscript is submitted, appropriate biographical material be sent for inclusion on our Contributor’s page. Manuscripts we cannot use will be returned if the author encloses a stamped, self-addressed envelope. We anticipate a spirited and intellectually rigorous response to our call for papers for this special edition.


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CONTRIBUTORS


N Anita ESTES-HICKS is an associate professor in the humanities at State University of New York at Old Westbury. "Jean Toomer and the Politics and Poetics of National Identity" is taken from her forthcoming book, Jean Toomer and the Aesthetic Adventure. This is her first appearance in Contributions.