

Oxford African American Studies Center

The Online Authority on the African American Experience

www.oxfordaasc.com

April 2006

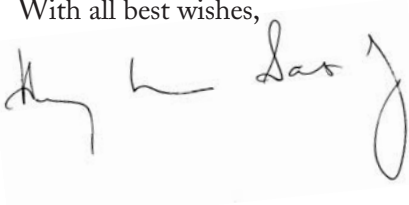
I am both delighted and honored to write to you today announcing the launch of Oxford University Press's African American Studies Center (AASC). Developed by a team of renowned African American historians and scholars including the contributions of literally hundreds of academics at institutions around the country, AASC will provide students, scholars, and researchers with online access to a landmark reference resource in African American studies.

Celebrated works such as Darlene Clark Hine's *Black Women in America, Africana*, edited by Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and the *African American National Biography*, edited by Dr. Gates and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, serve as the foundation of the center, but it is more than just an interconnected collection of great reference—it is a coherent site built to guide research, provide thoughtful insight, and to reassemble the lost and scattered fragments of the African American past. I am proud to be a part of this ongoing project—and excited to offer such a valuable tool to the next generation of students and scholars of American history. W. E. B. Du Bois dreamed of a repository for all knowledge of African American history and culture—I hope he would be pleased with what this community of scholars has built online.

AASC launches this month and is a subscription service. I respectfully encourage you to contact Oxford University Press to request a press password and experience the site yourself. Please see below for the relevant contact information.

Don Myers
Senior Publicist
Oxford University Press
(212) 726-6057
donald.myers@oup.com

With all best wishes,



Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Editor in Chief

DON MYERS
Senior Publicist
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
212-726-6057
donald.myers@oup.com

Oxford African American Studies Center

The Online Authority on the African American Experience

www.oxfordaasc.com

For immediate release

Oxford University Press — publisher of the 20-volume *Oxford English Dictionary* and the 29-volume *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* — is proud to announce the creation of the first online resource to fully document the African American experience. **The Oxford African American Studies Center** (www.OxfordAASC.com) will provide students, scholars, and librarians instant, cross-referenced access to the most comprehensive reference works in the field of African American studies.

Editor-in-Chief Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is enthusiastic about the project. “I am both delighted and honored to help launch Oxford University Press’s **African American Studies Center**. Developed by a team of renowned African American historians and including the contributions of literally hundreds of academics at institutions around the country, the **African American Studies Center** will provide students, scholars, and researchers with online access to a landmark reference resource in African American studies.” Dr. Gates is the W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of Humanities and Chair of the Department of African and African American Research at Harvard. He is the author of *America Behind the Color Line: Dialogues with African Americans*, *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley*, and *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*.

Core References

The Oxford African American Studies Center provides students, academics, and librarians with more than 7,500 articles by the top scholars in their field. The core content is drawn from over twenty different sources in Oxford’s diverse library of African American reference titles, including:

- **Africana 2nd Edition** (five volumes, 2005)
“This expansive resource deals with numerous topics about people of African descent throughout the world, from African American architects to Dominican-Haitian relations.”—*Library Journal* STARRED REVIEW
- **Black Women in America 2nd Edition** (three volumes, 2005)
“The second edition of this landmark reference work is an essential purchase.... *Black Women in America* is a valuable source.”—*Booklist* STARRED REVIEW
- **African American National Biography** (eight volumes, 2008)
The largest repository of black lives ever assembled, this ongoing project will be completed in 2008. Entries will be posted to this online resource as they become available.
- **Encyclopedia of African American History 1619–1895** (three volumes, 2006)
Documents the full range of the African American experience from the first slave ships to the death of Frederick Douglass.
- **Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature**
“A vital reference tool for both general readers and scholars.”—*Library Journal*

DON MYERS
Senior Publicist
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
212-726-6057
donald.myers@oup.com

Useful Features

The **Oxford African American Studies Center** allows users to explore history in numerous ways, including

- *Images* — over 1,000 images at product launch, with thousands more added annually
- *Primary Sources* — 100 primary sources will be available at product launch, including the Emancipation proclamation, Frederick Douglass's slave narratives, full text of important speeches, and more
- *Charts and Tables* — an expansive range covering everything from demographics to government to politics to education and the arts
- *Maps* — over 100 geographical and thematic maps illustrating demographics and history in a variety of areas
- *Timelines* — a general timeline of African American history, along with thematic timelines such as sports, women's history, and the military
- *Search and Browse Options* — targeted searches make finding the right content easy and quick!

Continual Growth

A key feature of the **Oxford African American Studies Center** is the continuing editorial program. The site will grow with new and updated content every three months. Updates will include the latest entries from the ongoing *African American National Biography*, which is being edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and will be published in print in 2008. New material will also include entries from the second set of the *Encyclopedia of African American History 1896–Present* (to be published in 2007) and the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of African American Art and Architecture*.

User-Friendly Applications

The **Oxford African American Studies Center** has been created with the latest in online technology to give users a robust and unique research experience. Precise search and browse capabilities allow users to refine their results by specific eras and subject categories. And users can choose to view biographies, subject entries, primary sources, images, maps, or charts and tables when searching or browsing. The site's thematic timelines and Learning Center resources also provide users with powerful tools for navigating the content. Context-sensitive help pages are available throughout the site to guide users through the features and functionality.

The Leader in Online Reference

Oxford University Press is the world's largest university publisher and the industry leader in web-based reference. In addition to publishing over 4,600 new books each year, Oxford is a major provider of online information to libraries and individuals worldwide. In addition to the **Oxford African American Studies Center**, Oxford publishes the *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, *Oxford Reference Online*, *Grove Art Online*, *Oxford Scholarship Online*, *Grove Music Online*, and over 1800 online journals. You can see a complete list of online resources at www.oxfordonline.com.

The Oxford African American Studies Center

www.oxfordaasc.com

FREE press passwords are available! Please contact Don Myers at donald.myers@oup.com

DON MYERS
Senior Publicist
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
212-726-6057
donald.myers@oup.com