

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BAHAMIAN STUDIES

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Welcome to the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* – and the second volume to be published under our new name. This year the volume consists of two themed issues: no. 1 is the *Caribbean Art Music Bibliography* and in issue no. 2 nearly all articles have a scientific focus.

The *Caribbean Art Music Bibliography* is the first compilation of its kind. Although few people think of classical or art music when they think of music emanating from the Caribbean region, Dr. Gangelhoff and Ms. LeGrand have compiled information about the composers, compositions, scores, books and articles to document this little-known musical art form. This compilation features the classical music and composers found in The Bahamas, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The volume concludes with a transcript of an interview of Bahamian composer and conductor Cleophas Adderley that was conducted by two music students along with Dr. Gangelhoff. The country bibliographies and interview have been enhanced with photographs and video excerpts embedded in the text – with links to the Youtube™ CariClassical channel where the videos are located. We are grateful to reknowned ethnomusicologist Dr. Edgardo Díaz Díaz for providing the thoughtful foreword to the bibliography.

It was purely by chance that nearly all the manuscripts submitted to the journal this year came from scientific disciplines. Thus, the articles focus on the natural history of the Bahamas: spiders, wasps, reef fish, the lion fish, and harm of animals by Bahamian children. We are pleased to include a commentary on the dengue fever outbreak that occurred in The Bahamas during the late summer of 2011.

The volume also includes a review of Don Gerace's autobiography, *Life Quest*, which is fitting as this year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Gerace Research Center on San Salvador. Two papers in this volume report on research conducted at the Gerace Research Centre.

The research agenda of The College of The Bahamas is moving steadily forward and this volume includes research completed by our faculty who have received research grants to assist them in their work. We were delighted to learn that Dr. Raymond Oenbring, author of a paper in Volume 16 (2010) and contributor to a paper in this year's volume, won the COB Stanley Wilson Award for Research.

Upon reviewing the statistics for article downloads and abstract views since the journal was digitized and published as an online open access journal four years ago, we note that the use of the journal has increased steadily. Some articles have been downloaded or viewed more than 5,000 times. Although the journal's "impact factor" cannot be computed, we are certain that the number of views and downloads recorded by the journal software, searches on Google Scholar and articles being cited by new scholarship are all barometers of the success of publishing electronically and according to open access principles.

Many people are instrumental in making the journal a success: first and foremost, we must thank the authors for considering the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* as a venue for publishing their work. We are grateful to the peer reviewers – who must remain nameless – for taking the time to read the manuscripts, for their critiques of the works and, in many cases, for re-reading the manuscripts after revisions. The peer review process is the heart of publishing a scholarly journal as the peer reviewers ensure the quality of the scholarship that we publish.

Thanks to Valdez Russell, International Relations Liaison Officer and the staff of the Office of Research, Graduate Programmes, and International Relations, for their tireless support of the journal and its mission, to William Fielding, Chair of the Research Advisory Board and member of the journal's Editorial Board member for his encouragement and to Marjorie Downie, the copyeditor for the journal, for her work to ensure that the manuscripts read well and are error free. To all my all colleagues in the Libraries and Instructional Media Services department under the direction of Willamae Johnson, I am grateful for their support and assistance. I owe special thanks this year Tom Lundstrom and Helene Peloquin for their help with creating the multimedia html files accompanying the *Caribbean Art Music Bibliography*. Thanks to the Office of Communications and Office of Information Technology for ensuring that the journal was advertized on the College of The Bahamas home web page. And last, but not least, we are grateful to the systems team at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia who host the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*.

Virginia Ballance
Managing Editor

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