

LIBRARY



INFORMER

COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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APRIL FOOLISHNESS

Have you ever been sent on a silly errand on April 1, only to be called an April Fool? If so, you may have wondered where this unusual tradition originated. But where could you find such obscure information?

The answer is in The College of The Bahamas Library Reference section. All the books used to provide the following explanation of April Fool's Day were found there and include:

The Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore  
and Symbols.

Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable.

Encyclopedia Americana.

World Book Encyclopedia.

The above sources do not agree completely about the origin of All Fool's Day. The Dictionary of Mythology . . . feels that it may have begun long ago. They cite similar festivals, such as the Day of the Bull, a commemoration for bull worshippers, and the Feast of Lord Hu, the lord of wit and humor. Encyclopaedia Britannica also feels that the day has been celebrated for centuries. Additional similar celebrations noted in this source are the Hilaria of ancient Rome (March 25) and the Holi festival in India which ends March 31. Others have credited its beginning to the start of spring and Nature's way of fooling people with sudden weather changes. Brewer's feels that it may have stemmed from a Roman folk play which was held at the beginning of April. In the play, a young woman is carried away. Her mother, hearing the echo of her screams, searches unsuccessfully for her, but she was merely on a "fool's errand" as she was searching for "the echo of a scream".

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# EDITORIAL

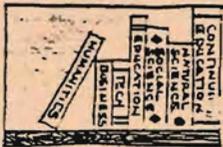
## AMNESTY COMES TO THE LIBRARY

You have no doubt heard about amnesty in one form or another, possibly in relation to political prisoners or draft dodgers or benefit concerts for Amnesty International. Now amnesty has come to The College of The Bahamas Library, and you can take advantage of it. Do you have some half-forgotten library books around the house? Perhaps you checked them out last semester, or last year, or even earlier. Once the amount of the overdue fine exceeded the price of a new Toyota, you dropped any idea of returning them. Well, dig them out of storage now! During the week of April 10-15 you can return all your overdue library materials and PAY NO FINES. But hurry up; it's for one week only. So bring in your overdue books today!

## April Foolishness, continued from page 1

The most common explanation is that the custom began in France. In 1564, Charles IX adopted the reformed calendar which changed New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1. Persons who resisted the change were the object of jokes and were called "April Fish". The tradition spread and was widely adopted in England by the 1660's. Britannica says that in Scotland, the cuckoo, the emblem of simpletons arrives at that time. Thus, there a person upon whom jokes are played is called a cuckoo. The British carried the practice to America. Pranks today are elaborate or simple.

So if you are curious about either light-hearted or serious information, remember that your library can be the place to obtain answers to such trivia, a good book to read for relaxation and enjoyment, magazines and newspapers to keep you abreast of world affairs, or information to complete your college assignments. Ask the Reference Librarian for assistance or explore on your own - you may be surprised by the knowledge you acquire.



# THE BOOK SHELF

## LITERARY CRITICISM SERIES

The Library has acquired twelve volumes of the two hundred volume literary criticism series, Modern Critical Views. This series represents "a comprehensive collection of the best contemporary criticism on the most widely read poets, novelists- and playwrights of the Western world." The writers covered by the volumes at The College of The Bahamas are Ernest Hemingway, Jane Austen, Joseph Conrad, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Richard Wright, Robert Frost, Thomas Hardy, T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, and three volumes on William Shakespeare. Each book contains several in-depth essays by critics on diverse general and specific aspects of the writer's works. For example, Joseph Conrad has one essay on "Impressionism and Symbolism in Heart of Darkness" and another on "Women as Moral and Political Alternatives in Conrad's Early Novels." As these are high quality, academic, interpretive essays, they are useful for lecturers and students. They include numerous, well-known quotations from the original works, such as the analysis in Goddard's essay, "Romeo and Juliet", of Romeo's speech immediately prior to his suicide. One other important note about the series is that all the books purchased by The College of The Bahamas have been published within the last four years. This series represents an important new acquisition to the Library's collection.

## ARE YOU AWARE ??

- . On April 11, 1695, Proprietary Governor Nicholas Trott named the capital city of New Providence Island "Nassau" in honour of the Prince of Orange-Nassau, who later became William III of England. The city was formerly called "Charlestown".
- . On April 24, 1671, proprietors appointed the first governor of The Bahamas. The governor was William Sayle.

## LIBRARY STAFF BRIEFS

Happy Birthday to:

Ethan Adderley,

April 23

# DATES TO NOTE

- April 1 . . . . . All Fool's Day  
April 7 . . . . . World Health Day  
April 8-12. . . . . Art Exhibition by Alton Lowe -  
Commonwealth Room, Nassau Beach  
Hotel.  
April 9-15. . . . . National Library Week. Theme:  
Ask a Professional, Ask Your  
Librarian"  
April 10-15. . . . . The College of The Bahamas Library  
Amnesty Week.  
April 14 . . . . . End of classes for Semester 891.  
April 17-25. . . . . Final Examination Period.  
April 23-29. . . . . Association of Caribbean University,  
Research and Institutional Libraries  
(ACURIL) Conference in Kingston,  
Jamaica.  
April 29 . . . . . The College of The Bahamas Family  
Fun Day, Nirvana Beach (South of  
Love Beach) 10:00 a.m.

# LIBRARY TRIVIA

## NEW TRIVIA

1. What is the oldest and largest national library association in the world? Give the date of its establishment.
2. Who is presently the Chief Librarian at the Ministry of Education?

## ANSWERS TO LAST TRIVIA

1. Also called the 'Author's Law', it protects the rights of those who are engaged in creative enterprise.  
Types of works protected: Literary, dramatic, musical, pictorial, graphic, sculptural and choreographic works.
2. Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559, U.S.A. FEE: \$10.00 for each item, but all contributions to periodicals within the same 12-month period may be registered for a single \$10.00 fee.