

AFRICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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THE 1969 ANNUAL MEETING

The African Studies Association held its 12th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Committee on African Studies in Canada, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, from October 15-18. Some 1600 people registered for the joint conference, whose program included 2 plenary sessions, 53 panels and several film showings.

Concurrently with the ASA sessions, the African Heritage Studies Association held several meetings, at which all Black persons attending the conference were welcome.

The first Plenary Session, at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 16, was to include brief addresses by Edouard Laberge and Benjamin Thomas, Presidents of the Canadian and American associations respectively, and a speech by Gabriel d'Arboussier, Ambassador of Senegal to the Federal Republic of Germany. But the session was interrupted by speakers from the floor who wished to state the disapproval by some Black participants of the organization and work of the ASA. The session was discontinued and the speakers withdrew.

Most panels occurred without unusual incident during the afternoon. The evening Plenary Session, however, at which Georges Balandier was scheduled to speak, saw interruption similar to that of the morning meeting. Immediately after the introduction of the speaker, representatives of the African Heritage Studies Association took the microphone to read the following statement:

African peoples attending the ASA conference have demanded that the study of African life be undertaken from a Pan-Africanist perspectives.

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REPORT FROM ASA BOARD, DECEMBER 6

At its December 6 meeting, the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association voted to ask the entire membership for guidance on how the Board should proceed in attempting to answer some of the questions raised at the Annual Meeting in Montreal. A series of questions will be sent out to the members during December.

The Board also voted to undertake to change several sections of the Association's By-Laws, the principal change providing that as of 1 October 1970, the Association would have but one category of individual membership. The text of the recommended revisions will be sent to the present Fellows within a month for their attention, since under the present By-Laws, they constitute the voting membership of the Association.