

ASA ASA ASA AFRICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER ASA ASA ASA

Volume iii

November-December 1970

Number 7

THE 1970 ANNUAL MEETING -- VERBA VOLANT, SCRIPTA MANENT

The African Studies Association held its 13th Annual Meeting at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Boston, October 21-24, 1970. Almost 900 people registered for the conference whose program included 3 plenary sessions, the annual business meeting, 38 panels, and meetings of the Women's Caucus and Radical Caucus. Along with minutes of the Board meetings which took place on October 21 and 24, this newsletter includes comments from several people in attendance at the Annual Meeting whose reactions to the proceedings of the plenary sessions and to the resolutions passed at the business meeting were set forth in letters to the editor. We expect that the number of members wishing to voice their opinions through the Newsletter will be large enough to warrant the publication of a January issue, and request that letters for inclusion in a supplementary newsletter be mailed before the end of December.

The atmosphere which prevailed during the four-day conference and the import of the discussions which took place regarding the future of the ASA are a sign that the Association is emerging from a traumatic period. It is evident, however, that the ASA still lacks the confidence necessary to proceed in the most effective way possible with a valuable aspect of its work: the encouragement of communication among Africanists and the collection and dissemination of information useful to its members. The growth of the Africanist community in the U.S. and the obligation of friends of Africa to respond to the needs of African peoples underlines the necessity of such work. Once again the Annual Meeting brought into focus the potential significance of a truly representative association of Africanists. Now that the meeting is over we have gone back to stuffing envelopes in hopes of obtaining your advice, criticism, and help.

The Editor

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