

CORRESPONDENCE

Gentlemen:

You ask about the recent ASA [African Studies Association] in Denver. Except for private exchanges of information and news, I found the whole conference to be rather boring and mediocre. The better scholars and more-informed people apparently were unwilling to air their syntheses publicly because they feared a repetition of the mindless confrontations of earlier years. As a matter of fact, many people foresaw the intellectual lacunae and stayed at home. Thus, the platforms were loaded down with the purveyors of the new religion, whatever it is, or speakers who merely provided descriptive accounts of research, but who refrained from analysis. Most of the papers I heard were wretchedly presented and provided no enlightenment.

The racial issue, therefore, seems to have castrated the ASA.

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(Ed. Note: *For further reactions to the ASA meeting, please see Edward Okwu's article, The Traditional African Artist and His Society, in this issue.*)