

Notes and News

First International Congress of Africanists—Ghana, December 1962

THE First International Congress of Africanists was held at the University of Ghana, Legon, from 11 to 18 December 1962. This Congress resulted from a resolution presented by the African Section of the 25th Session of the Orientalists' Congress held in Moscow in 1960, when the need for establishing periodic meetings of such a congress was discussed and an international organizing committee under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Onwuka Diké, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, was set up. Dr. Diké and his colleagues Miss Lalage Bown and Mr. Michael Crowder undertook the arduous preparatory work. The University of Ghana offered its hospitality for the first Congress. Generous grants towards the costs of the Congress were made by the governments of Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Libya, and by the Ford Foundation and UNESCO. It is hoped that other African governments will contribute to the funds needed for the continuing work of the Congress.

The Congress met under the presidency of Dr. Diké. Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, President of Ghana, delivered an Inaugural Address at the first plenary session. Over 500 delegates and observers from most African territories and many overseas countries participated in the work of the Congress, which was carried out in the following general sessions and sectional meetings :

General Sessions

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| 1. The Importance of African Studies | Dr. K. Onwuka Diké |
| 2. The Development of African Studies in Europe and America | Professor M. Herskovits |
| 3. The Spirit of <i>Présence Africaine</i> | M. Alioune Diop |

Sectional Meetings

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| 1. History and Archaeology | Chairman: Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo
Opening Speaker: Dr. K. Onwuka Diké |
| 2. Religion and Philosophy | Chairman: Monsignor M. Bakole
Opening Speaker: H.E. Amadou Hampaté Ba |
| 3. Languages | Chairman: Dr. A. C. Jordan
Opening Speaker: Professor J. Greenberg |
| 4. Social and Economic Problems | Chairman: Dr. Mekki Abbas
Opening Speaker: Professor I. Potekhin |
| 5. Literature and Folklore | Chairman: Professor M. Herskovits
Opening Speaker: M. Bernard Dadié |
| 6. The Arts and Music | Chairman: Mr. Kofi Antubam
Opening Speaker: Mr. Elimu Njau |
| 7. Social and Political Institutions | Chairman: Professor Simeon Rajaona
Opening Speaker: Professor Georges Balandier |
| 8. Science and Technology in African Development | Chairman: Dr. V. A. Oyenuga
Opening Speaker: Dr. R. P. Baffour |
| 9. Education and Psychology | Chairman: Dr. Aklilu Habte
Opening Speaker: M. Thomas Diop |

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Nana Kobina Nketsia IV, Director of the Ghana Institute of Art and Culture, a local arrangements committee representing the University of Ghana and the Ghana Academy of Sciences organized excellent facilities and amenities for the Congress, which was accommodated in the Commonwealth and other Halls of Residence in the University. Receptions were given in the splendid courtyards by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Conor Cruse O'Brien, and by the President of the Congress, while common-rooms and the terraced gardens were available for informal discussions.

Proposals drafted by the Organizing Committee for a constitution to govern the periodic meetings of the Congress and for the promotion of African Studies under its auspices were presented for discussion at plenary sessions. As finally approved, the Constitution provides for the establishment of an interdisciplinary organization open to scholars of any nation in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences to develop international co-operation in the field of African Studies. The Congress will, as far as possible, meet every three years, generally in Africa and preferably not consecutively within the same part of the continent. Presentation of papers and participation in plenary business sessions will be open to all persons registered as members on the ground of their contribution to African Studies, and observers will be welcome to attend all except business meetings.

A Permanent Council, to be composed of not more than four Africanists from each country and not more than one representative of any international organization engaged in African studies, has been established to maintain the scholarly standards of the Congress, to regulate its activities, and to promote its interests in their respective countries and organizations. Nominations to the Permanent Council will be received from established Africanist organizations or by *ad hoc* committees established in each country, and the members from each country will be recognized as a national delegation to the Congress. The first nominations to the Council made by those present at the Congress were ratified at the final plenary session of the Ghana Congress.

A Bureau, consisting of the Presidents and the Secretaries-General of the current and the next session of the Congress, an Honorary Treasurer, and not more than ten other members who will act as Vice-Presidents, has been established to conduct the business of the Congress. The members appointed at the Ghana Congress to serve on the Bureau for the period 1962-5 are:

President:	Dr. K. Onwuka Diké (Nigeria)
President-Elect:	M. Alioune Diop (Senegal)
Secretary-General:	Dr. Nana Kobina Nketsia IV (Ghana)
Secretary-General-Elect:	Professor Alassane N'Daw (Senegal)
Honorary Treasurer:	Professor Daryll Forde (International African Institute)
Vice-Presidents:	Monsignor Martin Bakole (Congo-Léo) Professor Georges Balandier (France) Professor Bouhdiba (Tunisia) M. Aimé Césaire (Antilles) Professor James Coleman (U.S.A.) Dr. Aklilu Habte (Ethiopia) Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo (Upper Volta) Dr. Nicholas Otieno (Kenya) Professor Ivan Potekhin (U.S.S.R.)
Executive Secretary:	Mr. Michael Crowder, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

The several subject sections of the Congress presented for adoption at the final session a large number of resolutions designed to promote the advance and co-ordination of studies in their several fields. These are being circulated to the national delegations for information and appropriate action by their committees and their implementation will also be considered by the Bureau.

The Director of the Humanities Division of UNESCO, addressing the final plenary session, informed the congress that the General Conference had at its recent session warmly welcomed the establishment of the Congress and he assured it of the continuing interest that would be taken in its work by UNESCO, which would be ready to assist its development by all practicable means. Arrangements will be made in this connexion to affiliate the Congress to the International Council of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies which works in close association with UNESCO.

At the invitation of S.É. Léopold Senghor, President of Senegal, the next session of the Congress will be held in 1965 at the University of Dakar. M. Alioune Diop, Secrétaire-Général de la Société Africaine de Culture, Directeur de *Présence Africaine*, has been elected President of this session of the Congress. Invitations for future sessions of the Congress were also received from the University of Lovanium (Congo-Léo) and from the Haile-Selassie University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Arrangements are being made to publish the Proceedings of the Ghana Session of the Congress, which will include the main addresses and a substantial proportion of the papers presented, together with the text of the Constitution, a record of participants, and the membership to date of the Permanent Council.

All inquiries concerning the Ghana Session and future arrangements should be addressed to Mr. Michael Crowder, Executive Secretary of the Bureau of the Congress, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

D. F.

Inaugural Seminar and Opening of Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh

A SEMINAR on Urbanization in African Social Change was held from 5 to 7 January 1963 in the newly constituted Centre of African Studies in Edinburgh. The Seminar was arranged to coincide with the formal opening of the Centre, which was performed by Lord Hailey on Monday, 7 January.

Some forty persons attended the Seminar, coming from countries which included America, France, Ghana, Holland, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Central and South Africa, apart from those coming from English and Scottish universities. A generous grant from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation made it possible to invite representatives from five of the university colleges of African Commonwealth countries.

The papers given at the Seminar were arranged to cover the main aspects of urbanization as a continuing process within African countries today. Professor Daryll Forde, Mr. Ian G. Stewart (Reader in Political Economy, Edinburgh University), and Professor R. W. Steel (Professor of Geography, Liverpool University) read papers on the methodological and interdisciplinary problems of urbanization. Mr. S. H. Ominde and Dr. J. Van Velsen spoke on the migration of workers to towns, which was also later considered from the economic aspect by Dr. Walter Elkan. Tribalism in towns and emergence of social classes were treated by Dr. Audrey Richards and Professor Paul Mercier. Papers on the changing patterns of family and marriage were presented by Dr. Mary Bird, Dr. D. P. Gamble, Dr. A. R. Mills, Mr. W. H. Chinn and Mr. H. W. Ord. Religious organizations in urban life were treated in papers by Professor Philip Mayer, Dr. P. E. H. Hair, and Mr. G. A. Shepperson. Professor I. Wallerstein, Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, and Dr. J. F. A. Ajayi spoke about the development