

preparation and care, than did their finely-honed articles in the JAF or elsewhere.

I am glad I went. Seeing and meeting folklorists who had been phantom names in books and journals was exciting for a lowly acolyte to whom Dundes, Abrahams and others were as deities. And in some small way I have changed---as have the other first-year students who made the pilgrimage. I am a little more skeptical of the power of names; I am a little more knowledgeable about my chosen field and the people in it. My folkloric world has expanded and my perspective is wider.

I will probably go to Los Angeles next year. I am not sure why, except that now, two days after Atlanta, some of the sting is already wearing off, and maybe by this time next year so much will have worn off that I will have forgotten the disappointments and will eagerly be awaiting the kind of spiritual experience that was absent in Atlanta this year. If this communication opens me to attack, hopefully it also will prod some AFS members into examining their motives for and methods in presenting papers. I have cited no specific cases and mentioned no names because I intend this comment to be a general criticism of the membership and not criticism of particular members. I am interested in your comments, whether attacks or defense.

Avery Comarow  
Folklore Institute  
Indiana University

#### AFRICAN FOLKLORE CONFERENCE

The Folklore Institute of Indiana University will sponsor an African Folklore Conference, to be held in Bloomington, Indiana, on July 16, 17, and 18, 1970. This conference will continue the series of special summer programs in folklore held at Indiana University every four years since 1942. Scholars from Africa, Europe and the United States will discuss the genres of African folklore, oral tradition as literary art, the influence of African folklore on modern African literature, relationships between African folklore and American Negro lore, African folklore as a source for the historian, and teaching materials for courses in African oral traditions.

The African Folklore Conference will call attention to African folklore as an independent field of study. Further information and reservations may be obtained from the Director of the Folklore Institute, Indiana University, 714 East 8th Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.