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AUTHOR CHRISTIAN FILOSTRAT'S STUDY REVEALS MISSING LINK TO NEGRITUDE AND FRANCOPHONE SCHOLARS

(CHERRY HILL, NJ) (25 April 2009)—Historian and novelist Christian Filostrat has penned an authoritative work, *Negritude Agonistes, Assimilation against Nationalism in the French-speaking Caribbean and Guyane*. The historical analysis and literary criticism are well-done. Filostrat has made his book priceless by including illustrations that are excerpts from a previously unknown issue of *L'Etudiant Noir Journal Mensuel de l'Association des Etudiants Martiniquais en France (The Black Student Journal ...)* where Aimé Césaire first used the word Negritude. For years, scholars of Negritude and francophone studies had doubted that the issue—Volume 1, number 3 (May-June)—existed. Christopher L. Miller, Frederick Clifford Ford Professor of French and African and Afro-American Studies, Yale University, stated after seeing *Negritude Agonistes*, “Now thanks to you we all have it! I will tell my students about this with excitement ...”

Filostrat deftly has assessed European and French colonialism in the French West Indies from the 16th to 20th centuries. His analysis of the racial and cultural movements of black and mixed-race people has identified French West Indians who supported or opposed assimilation into France's political and social structures in the 19th century and first half of the 20th century. He also gave another gem in the literary review: excerpts of previously unpublished poetry of Léon Damas, another important negritude proponent. The appendix has Filostrat's compelling interview of Josie Fanon, Frantz Fanon's wife.

Given Aimé Césaire's death on April 17, 2008, and the impending centennial celebrations of his birth (June 26, 1913), publication of *Negritude Agonistes* is timely. The author and publisher expect interest in this work to increase in parallel with the focus on Césaire. Filostrat's novel, *The Beggars' Pursuit*, includes the negritude proponents' activities in Paris, circa 1936.

Published by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLF), *Negritude Agonistes, Assimilation against Nationalism in the French-speaking Caribbean and Guyane* is available in two editions: ISBN 978-0-9818939-2-1, hardcover, US \$50; ISBN 978-0-9818939-9-0, softcover, US \$36. Readers and organizations may buy copies online, or from retailers and wholesalers. For more information contact AHLF at 856-773-0694 ext. 206 or on the Web at <http://ahlpub.com>.

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