



# MANSA Kibaru

## MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 70

2013

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Editors/La Redaction:  
Kassim Koné, Président  
Barbara Hoffman,

### NINTH INTERNATIONAL MANSA CONFERENCE June 18-22, 2014 - BURKINA FASO (OUGADOUGOU and BOBO DIOULASSO) Theme: The MandeWorld and Globalization

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

The encounter of peoples and civilizations often results in a rebirth. Civilizations that meet often generate situations of shock, violence or change through assimilation, borrowing, recycling or cultural creolization. *See the full CFP on the listserv!*

#### IMPORTANT DATES

By February 28, 2014: Panel organizers announce panel topics on listserv.  
By March 15, 2014: Paper proposals submitted to panel chair/organizers.

By April 20, 2014: Submission of papers to Barbara Hoffman ([b.hoffman@csuohio.edu](mailto:b.hoffman@csuohio.edu)) by West African colleagues residing in West Africa who wish to compete for funding to attend the conference.

April 20, 2014: Deadline for submission to Kassim Kone ([kassim.kone@cortland.edu](mailto:kassim.kone@cortland.edu)) of unattached paper titles & abstracts (i.e., papers not already part of a panel)

By April 30, 2014: MANSA Membership, Conference Registration payments must be received. *African colleagues living in Africa exempted.* Further instructions regarding payment of conference registration will be sent out via the listserv.

May 15, 2014: Board/Jury members' evaluation and ranking of West African colleagues' papers to be returned to Barbara Hoffman.

May 20, 2014: Barbara Hoffman informs our African colleagues selected for funding for their participation in the conference.

## NEUVIÈME CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES MANDÉ

DU 18 AU 22 JUIN 2014 À OUAGADOUGOU ET BOBO DIOULASSO

THÈME: *LE MONDE MANDE ET LA MONDIALISATION:  
DÉFIS ET PERSPECTIVES*

### Appel à

### Communication

La rencontre des peuples et des civilisations s'est souvent déroulée à travers des « matins de gésine ». Les cultures qui se rencontrent produisent des situations souvent de chocs, de violences ou de brassage à travers des situations d'assimilation, d'emprunts, de recyclage ou de créolisation culturelle. *Voir le reste de l'appel sur notre listserv!*

### Dates importantes et procédures

Janvier 2014: Premier appel à propositions de communications et de sessions.

**28 février 2014:** Les président(e)s des sessions envoient par courriel à la liste générale des membres un avis sur leur session en invitant des soumissions de communications sur des axes basés sur le thème et abrégés (les avis antérieurs à cette date sont les bienvenus)

15 mars 2014: Soumission des propositions de communication aux président(e)s des sessions.

20 avril 2014: Soumission des articles à Barbara Hoffman par nos collègues résidant en Afrique de l'Ouest qui souhaitent concourir pour des fonds pour assister à la conférence. (Cela signifie que Barbara Hoffman doit recevoir les documents à cette date.)

20 avril 2014: Date limite de soumission à Kassim Kone des communications et abrégés des communications qui ne sont pas affiliées aux sessions annoncées.

### *Soumissions*

*électroniques à:*

[b.hoffman@csuohio.edu](mailto:b.hoffman@csuohio.edu)

[kassim.kone@cortland.edu](mailto:kassim.kone@cortland.edu)

30 avril 2014: Adhésion au MANSA, inscription à la conférence et versement des frais. Collègues africains vivants en Afrique exemptés. *Précisions à suivre sur le listserv.*

15 mai 2014: Classement des documents des collègues de **l'Afrique de l'Ouest** après évaluation par le Conseil Consultatif / les membres du jury et renvoi à Barbara Hoffman.

20 mai 2014: Barbara Hoffman informe nos collègues africains sélectionnés du financement de leur participation au congrès.

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## Upcoming Election of the MANSA President-Elect

*Time to Vote for the next President-Elect*

In November of this year, **Kassim Kone's** term as President of MANSA will come to an end. He will step down, and Barbara Hoffman, currently President-Elect, will step up for a 3-year term as President.

Our bylaws mandate that we elect a dues-paying

member in good standing who will serve as President-Elect for a three-year term, followed by another 3-year term as President. This is a new system for MANSA that was designed to guarantee continuity and stability for our small, all-volunteer organization. Since we do not have a permanent of-

fice nor staff, our Officers are the guardians of the association. The President-Elect works closely with the President and Secretary-Treasurer.

We will hold an internet-based election in October of this year. Be sure to update your email address on the website so you can vote!

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## Membership and Dues: MANSA NEEDS YOU

*We need Sponsors to help send African scholars to the next MANSA International Conference*

We currently have 122 (76%) members who are sponsored colleagues and 17 (11%) sponsored institutions.

Only 26 of our members (16%) have paid dues at the sponsor level this year—a slight improvement over last year, but still not a sustainable situation.

*There are not enough sponsors to cover even student-level memberships for all our sponsored members!*

Please consider becoming a sponsor for next year. As we prepare

for our next international conference in June 2014, we need to build up our coffers.

**Remember, we don't** have any paid staff in this organization: everything is done on a volunteer basis by the officers and generous members who help out with a variety of tasks, so all the funds you contribute through your sponsorship go to defray the costs of running the Association, hosting the website domain, publishing the journal, holding conferences outside the

U.S.A., and sponsoring African scholars to attend them.

For those of you who have not paid your dues for 2013, and 2014 please do so ASAP.

Also, if you are a sponsored member and can afford to pay \$40 for a regular membership, or \$15 for a student membership (for those of you working on a degree), please consider moving from the sponsored to the regular membership category.

## Adhésion et Cotisations – PÉNURIE DE SPONSORS

Nous avons actuellement 122 (76%) des membres qui sont des collègues sponsorisés et 17 (11%) des institutions sponsorisées. Seulement 26 de nos membres au niveau sponsor (16%) ont payé leurs cotisations cette année, une amélioration légère sur l'année passée.

**Cette situation n'est pas durable.** *Le compte du MANSA ne détient même pas l'équivalent des fonds correspondants à la cotisation de l'ensemble de nos membres au niveau étudiant.*

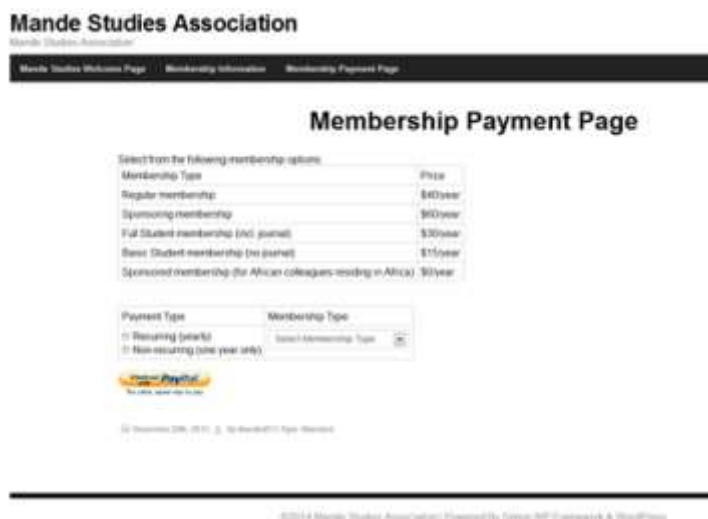
Nous vous

**prions d'envisager de** devenir un sponsor pour l'année prochaine. Alors que nous préparons notre prochaine conférence internationale en 2014, nous devons renforcer nos moyens financiers. Rappelez-vous que nous n'avons pas de personnel rémunéré dans cette organisation: tout est fait sur une base volontaire par les officiels et les généreux membres qui nous aident à accomplir une variété de tâches, de sorte que tous les fonds vous allouez contribuent à défrayer les coûts de fonc-

tionnement de l'Association, les frais pour le domaine du site Web, la publication du journal, la tenue des conférences à l'extérieur des États-Unis, et le sponsor des collègues chercheurs résidents en Afrique à y participer a ces conférences.

*Pour ceux d'entre vous qui n'avez pas payé vos cotisations pour 2013-2014, nous vous prions de le faire dès que possible.*

Aussi, si vous êtes un membre sponsorisé et avez les moyens de payer \$40 pour une cotisation régulière ou \$15 pour une cotisation d'étudiant (pour ceux d'entre vous qui travaillez sur un diplôme), nous vous prions d'envisager de passer du statut de membre sponsorisé à celui de membre régulier en envoyant votre cotisation par Paypal sur notre site web, [www.mandestudies.org/join](http://www.mandestudies.org/join)





I wrote this to present on a panel at the 2011 African Studies Association Meeting, but in many ways it seems even more pertinent today, as Mali emerges from recent troubled times. More than ever it is important to stand behind efforts to learn as much as possible about a nation and collection of cultures that have contributed so much to world history. And archaeology must be a major instrument in this effort. Over MANSA's past 25 years, we have seen a substantial rise in Malian archaeology, and our organization should proclaim strong support for all legitimate and government sanctioned survey and excavation projects in the country, with the

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## Guest Editorial: In Support of Malian Archaeology

by Patrick McNaughton

hope that they will continue to increase in numbers.

The potential rewards are staggering, given what archaeological projects have already taught us. The need is acute, given the profound nature of Mali's cultural heritage and the threats to its preservation.

Things changed dramatically over the last century—moving from colonialist-sanctioned treasure hunting to sophisticated and forward looking professional projects. And MANSA has been very involved, with many archaeologists numbered among its members and many participating in MANSA panels and conferences. In the first years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the French lieutenant Louis Desplagnes carried out amateur excavations at two important tumuli in the Middle Niger Lakes District. At the famous Koï Gourrey (Killi) tumulus he found many wonderful objects, including three lovely little copper alloy sculptures—a long-beaked bird, a lizard, and a crocodile. Unfortunately his excavation did not employ the careful techniques used today, so dates did not

materialize and the site itself deteriorated at the expense of further research. What were those figures for? Were they amulets or divination pieces? Were they insignia of leadership or prestige? Were they common to other sites in the area? There are hundreds of important questions that Killi now cannot answer, but that today well-practiced and legally sanctioned archaeology can effectively address, and there are an almost endless number of other sites waiting for investigation.

We know that tumuli and tells are stunningly abundant throughout the Middle Niger (at least 1,000 sites) and across Mali's Sahel and savannah, all in need of survey and excavation. Now too the ranks of archaeologists working in Mali are growing at a significant rate. It is impressive and important to note that Mali's first elected president after the 1991 coup was a trained archaeologist and historian (and MANSA member), Alpha Oumar Konaré. As head of the historic and ethnographic heritage division of the Ministry of Culture, Dr. and future President Konaré accom-

panied the graduate students Susan and Roderick McIntosh to Jenne-Jeno for their first excavations in 1977. Not long thereafter, the McIntoshes welcomed Téréba Togola to Rice University, where he received his archaeology Ph.D. and went on to become Mali's Director of Cultural Patrimony (Directeur du Patrimoine Culturel), and also to become very well known for his work on Iron Age Mema. Meanwhile, from the mid 1960s to the 1970s Dutch scholars from the University of Utrecht collaborated with Mali to carry out research in the Tellem caves of the Bandiagara Escarpment, with wonderful results. Around the same time Samuel Sidibé received degrees in art history, African studies, and archaeology, and now has spent a quarter century as Director of Mali's outstanding Musée National.

From this professional kernel of dedicated scholars the ranks of archaeologists have grown in Mali, Europe, and America, with the result that far more excavations and surveys can today be carried out than ever before.



## In Memoriam

C'est avec une grande tristesse que nous avons appris le décès le 10 decembre du Professeur Youssouf Tata Cissé, chercheur, historien, spécialiste de la tradition orale. Avec sa mort, c'est un baobab géant du monde Mande qui s'écroule. Allah ka hinè a la.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on December 10 of Professor Youssouf Tata Cissé, researcher, historian, specialist in oral tradition. With his death, it is a giant baobab tree of Mande world that has fallen. Allah ka hinè a la. —Kassim Koné



Youssouf Tata Cisse in Segou, 2006.  
Photo by <http://www.thisfabtrek.com>



Alpha Yaya Diarra by Paul R. Davis, 2009

Malian visual artist and author Alpha Yaya Diarra (b. vers 1938) passed away in October 2013. He is survived by his wife Oumou, his son Abradamane, and family. *Allah ka mɔɔya kɛ! Saya yɛɛ bɛ sa don dɔ la. K'a fara jɔn kunnandiw kan! Ka so kolo suma a kɔ!*

Born in Kayes, Diarra studied at the Maison des Artisans Soudanais in Bamako in the early 1950s. He was a member of the Académie Africaine des Arts Plastiques, a colonial artists' association for West Africans and colonial administrator started by attorney Raoul Cosson in 1950. Having traveled through Senegal,

Mali, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire during the mid- to late-1950s, Diarra compiled his recollections in a manuscript he titled *Arts Fra Den le Soudan* ("Arts of Black-Skinned People from the Soudan"). An exquisite work of art, *Arts Fra Den* contains essays on African cultural history handwritten in French and over sixty gouache and watercolor paintings. Always sketching, painting, and writing, Diarra later worked as a bookbinder and illustrator for Amadou Hampaté Bâ at the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire (IFAN) in Senegal and Mali. He served as a camp coordinator for the youth league of the US-RDA during the early 1960s. From 1968 until his retirement in the late 1980s,

Diarra was an instructor and head of the artisanal section at the Institut National des Arts.

The impression Diarra has left in the history of art from Mali is deep. In collaboration with the Diarra family, Souleymane Ouologuem, and Igo Diarra (no relation), I am planning a retrospective exhibition of his paintings and works on paper to celebrate Diarra's creativity and *mɔɔya*. The exhibition is planned for mid-2014 at Galerie Medina in Bamako and will be accompanied by a small, monographic publication.—Paul R. Davis

## Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

### ATTENDEES

Laura Arnston  
Lief Brottem  
Ben Cross  
Rosa De Jorio  
Sten Hamberg  
Barbara Hoffman  
Nicholas Hopkins  
Devon Galaszweski  
Janet Goldner  
Kassim Kone  
Barbara Lewis  
Julie Moore  
Bill Moseley  
Assan Sarr  
Michael Simsik  
Ryan Skinner  
Jeanne Toungara  
Bruce Whitehouse  
Don Wright

1. Kassim welcomed members to the annual MANSAs business meeting and thanked members who have helped to alleviate the effects of the conflict in Mali through their writing and other contributions. The group observed a moment of silence in memory of victims of the conflict in Mali.

2. Kassim recognized that former secretary-treasurer Laura Arnston was in attendance and noted that the acting secretary-treasurer, Dianna Bell, could not attend. Kassim announced that dues could be paid at the meeting and that he and Barbara had access to the

membership database at the meeting and could easily look up the standing of members after the meeting.

3. MANSAs has previously held meetings rotating between Africa and Europe. Traditionally Europeans would propose a location in Europe and worked to get funding for the conference at the chosen European venue. In 2011 MANSAs had scheduled a conference in Burkina Faso but the mutiny prevented it from taking place and the meeting was moved to Bamako instead. At the time of the 2011 meeting no European members volunteered to host the next meeting. Many in Burkina Faso were disappointed that the **conference wasn't held in Ouagadougou** in 2011. Kassim **relayed MANSAs's intention** to hold the next Mande Studies conference from June 18-22 2014 in Ouagadougou.

4. Barbara reported on behalf of the secretary-treasurer that MANSAs has \$7,787.50 in its bank account. We have a lot of members who are not current on their dues and Barbara encouraged members to meet with her after the meeting to check their sta-

tus on dues. Barbara explained that MANSAs is in the process of making major changes to the way memberships are recorded and paid, making it possible for members to update their own information and pay online. Everyone will need to go into the new site and sign up, even if they have already paid dues.

5. The MANSAs website has been moved from a SUNY-Cortland domain to an inexpensive commercial (Acorn) hosting site. Barbara asked that someone in the group become a *webtigi*, who would work to maintain the site and update information about conferences and officers. Barbara suggested that MANSAs might also add a blog component to the website.

6. Barbara reported on behalf of Peter Mark, the managing editor of *Mande Studies*. Mark wrote, **"The current status of *Mande Studies* is a situation characterized by insufficient manuscript submissions."** The last issue of *Mande Studies* came out in December 2012. Over the subsequent eight months Mark received only one manuscript of sufficient quality to send out for independent review. If the journal is ever to be included in JSTOR or other search databases it needs to get up to more than one submission a year. Mark is proposing MANSAs issue calls for papers on two special

## Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, con't.

themes. First, an issue on Mande textiles and historical perspectives. Second, an issue on archaeology. He is in touch with MANSA members who could potentially edit these issues. Write to Peter Mark if you have an idea for a special issue. Please provide a list of potential contributors along with the topic proposal. Mark would also like to see an issue on pre-colonial art and ritual with a timeframe through 1900. And another issue on free and unfree labor; articles could include studies on unfree Mande people in the Atlantic world. In response to audience discussion, Barbara said MANSA should ideally aim to publish the journal at least once every year after catching up.

7. Electronic and print version of the proceedings of the MANSA 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Bamako were supposed to be published, but the funding and personnel to carry out such a project were impossible after the *coup d'état*. Barbara and Kassim met with Ismaila Samba Traore of Editions La Sahelienne in Bamako in August and arranged a formal contract and pledge that the publication will be done by the end of the year.

8. Kassim reminded attendees that he sent out a message to the MANSA list serv several weeks ago asking members to update him on new publications, jobs, and other relevant announcements. He and Barbara are continuing to work on the newsletter, which should be out soon.

9. Kassim noted that the term of the current Advisory Board members has expired and that it is time to elect a new Board. He proposed the following list of members for the new advisory board, which was unanimously approved by the membership:

- Alain Sissao
- William Mosely
- Bruce Whitehouse
- Don Wright
- Fatoumata Keita
- Sten Hanberg

10. Kassim will step down as MANSA president next year, at which point Barbara will step up from president-elect to president for a three-year term. In the early fall of 2014 MANSA will need to elect a new president-elect who will become the president in 2017.

11. Kassim and Barbara asked members for any announcements, new business, or topics for the next conference. No one came forward.

12. Kassim and Barbara thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting.





## Mande Studies Journal Update & CFP

Peter Mark, Managing Editor, is issuing a Call for Papers for two issues:

1. An issue centered on pre-colonial art and ritual in the Mande world up to about 1900.

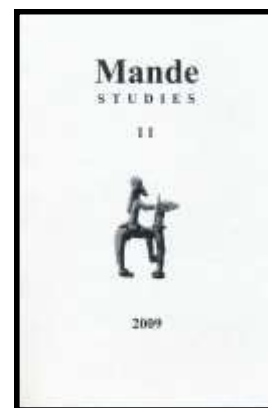
2. An issue focused on the theme of “free and unfree labor in the Mande and Atlantic worlds.” Articles could also include studies of unfree Mande workers in the Atlantic world.

About the journal:  
*Mande Studies* is an in-

terdisciplinary journal that focuses on the humanities and social sciences. We publish articles about the Mande peoples, their culture, and their interaction with their West African neighbors. We also welcome submissions on Mande interaction with Europeans. We are international in outlook, and we are multilingual.

*Mande Studies* strongly encourages submissions by younger scholars. Francophone scholars from West Africa, France, and Québec are encouraged to submit their manuscripts in

French. We also accept manuscripts written in Portuguese.



*Our journal  
needs your  
articles*

## Publishing in *Mande Studies*

General guidelines may be found at [www.mandestudies.org](http://www.mandestudies.org).

Manuscripts in French should be submitted to Ismaila Traoré, at [sahelienneedition@yahoo](mailto:sahelienneedition@yahoo).

[fr\\_](mailto:fr_) with a copy to Peter Mark, at [pmark@wesleyan.edu](mailto:pmark@wesleyan.edu).

Manuscripts in English should be sent to [pmark@wesleyan.edu](mailto:pmark@wesleyan.edu).

Portuguese manuscripts should go to José da Silva Horta:

[joses.horta@gmail.com](mailto:joses.horta@gmail.com).

## Revue des Études Mandé **mise à jour et appel**

Les Editeurs de *Mande Studies/ Etudes Mandingues* cherchent des manuscrits en français, traitant de l'histoire et de la culture du monde Mandé. "Mande Studies" est une revue pluridisciplinaire dans laquelle nous publions les résultats de recherches originales dans toutes les disciplines en sciences sociales, mais également en histoire de l'art et en littérature.

Nous sommes particulièrement intéressés par le travail de jeunes chercheurs français(es),

africain(e)s, tout comme canadien(ne)s.

Peter Mark, le rédacteur en chef, lance un appel à contributions pour deux publications:

1. Une publication centrée sur l'art précolonial et le rituel dans le monde Mandé jusqu'aux environ 1900.

2. Une publication qui porte sur le thème de "travail libre et non-libre dans le Mandé et les mondes atlantiques." Les articles

pourraient également inclure des études sur les travailleurs Mandé non libres dans le monde atlantique.

*Notre revue ne manque que vos articles!*

## Publier dans la *Revue des Études Mandé*

Pour les questions de format et de mise-en-page, les auteurs sont priés de consulter [www.mandestudies.org](http://www.mandestudies.org).

Les manuscrits doivent être envoyés à Ismaïla Traoré à [\[tion@yahoo.fr\]\(mailto:tion@yahoo.fr\), avec une copie à Peter Mark, à \[pmark@wesleyan.edu\]\(mailto:pmark@wesleyan.edu\).](mailto:sahelienneedi-</a></p>
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Les manuscrits en portugais doivent être envoyés à José da Silva Horta:

[joses.horta@gmail.com](mailto:joses.horta@gmail.com).

## Member Activities

PASCAL J. IMPERATO

The QCC Art Gallery of the City University of New York will be opening an exhibition, *Victor Forestier Sow. A Pioneer Malian Painter*, on January 31, 2014. The exhibition includes seventeen paintings created by Victor Forestier Sow in the late 1960s and the early 1970s and collected in Bamako by Pascal James Imperato during that time.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an 84-page color catalogue illustrating all of the paintings and containing three essays which will also be illustrated by a variety of photographs. There are three contributors to this volume. Paul Ramey Davis is currently an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral fellow in the Centre for the Creative Arts of Africa at the University of

Witwatersrand in South Africa. Dr. Davis received his doctoral degree from Indiana University and conducted his dissertation field work in Mali, focusing on contemporary Malian painters of the period of the 1930s through the 1980s. His essay is titled, "A Short History of Painting in Bamako."

Austin C. Imperato studied Classical art and Italian Renaissance art in Rome, Italy, and British painting and architecture in London. He is a painter of abstract works and has a special interest in the arts of Africa and Nepal. He received his MA degree from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and is currently Assistant to the President of the university for Research. The title of his essay is: "At Home in the Faraway. A

Reflection on the Work of Victor Forestier Sow." Pascal James Imperato is Founding Dean and Distinguished Service Professor of the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, School of Public Health. He is internationally respected for his studies of the Bamana, Dogon, and Peul peoples of Mali. The title of his essay is: "A Personal Remembrance of Victor Forestier Sow."

AGNÈS KEDZIERSKA MANZON

Agnès Kedzierska Manzon is currently holding a teaching position (ATER) at the Université de Toulouse. She was invited to give the key-speaker lecture at the exhibit Studio Malick at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida on October 29th. Her lecture title was: *The Art of "Bigarrure": Mimetic Excess and De-familiarization in the Photographs of Malick Sidibé.*

JULIE MOORE

Through the Cradle of Jazz Project, we are bringing Malian Songbird and *kamalen ngon* player Kokanko Sata Doumbia to the US for the first time since 2008 when she appeared at the Lincoln Center. She will be the guest musician at the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World conference, and will play at the Congo Square Festival, as well as make university appearances, at Duke and UGA. As her translator, we are bringing with her young Malian scholar and MANSA member Assigüe Dolo.

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## Member Activities, Con't.

### DIANNA BELL

At the Fall 2012 MANSA business meeting, Dianna Bell was unanimously elected Secretary-Treasurer for a full term of three years.

Since then, Dianna defended her dissertation, and has taken the position of Mellon Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Islamic Studies Program at Vanderbilt University. As always, she can be contacted via email: [mansa\\_treas@yahoo.com](mailto:mansa_treas@yahoo.com)

### DAVID CONRAD

The touring schedule of the very successful play *Sunjata Kamalenya*, for which David serves as historical consultant, has expanded into the first quarter of 2014. For a list of venues and dates, see <http://exptheater.org/home.html>. See MANSA Kibaru 69 for full details.

### JOSÉ DA SILVA HORTA

Associate Professor of History (with tenure) of the Faculty of Letters, Lisbon University (FLUL), since January 2013. He won first place among 22 candidates in December 2012. José also became Chair Visiting Professor at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG-Brazil), Chair of the IEAT (Transdisciplinary Advanced Studies Institute) (August 2013)

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## Member Publications: Books

Austen, Ralph. 2010. *Trans-Saharan Africa in World History*. N.Y: Oxford University Press, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2012. *Die Sahara - Tausend Jahre Austausch von Ideen und Ware* (Berlin-Wilmersdorf : Verlag Klaus Wagenbach) German edition of the book above.

Bellagamba, Alice , Sandra Greene and Martin Klein (eds.). 2013. *African Voices on Slavery and the Slave Trade*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## Member Publications: Books

Bellagamba, Alice, Sandra Greene and Martin Klein (eds.). 2013. *Bitter Legacy: African Slavery Past and Present* (Princeton: MarkusWiener)

Curtis, MarieYvonne. 2013. *A La Rencontre des Nalu : Arts de la côte de Guinée*. Harmattan. ISBN : 978-2-343-00338-2 • septembre 2013 • 176 pages

Diarra, Tieman. 2012. *Paludisme, Cultures, et Communautés: Le cri du hibou*. Paris : l'Harmattan.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2012. *Sante, Maladie et Recours aux Soins a Bamako (Mali): Les six esclaves du corps*. Paris : l'Harmattan.

Imperato, Pascal James, and Imperato, Austin C. with an essay by Paul Ramey Davis (2014). *Victor Forestier Sow. A Pioneer Malian Painter*. NewYork: QCC Art Gallery/ City University of New York, 84 pp. soft cover.

Keïta, Fatoumata. 2013. *Sous Fer*. La Sahélienne/L'Harmattan. ISBN :978-2-336-29154-3.

Mbodj-Pouye, Aïssatou. 2013. *Le fil de l'érit : Une anthropologie de l'alphabétisation au Mali*. Collection SET.(ISBN : 978-2-84788-375-6)

Moseley, W.G., E. Perramond and H. Hapke and P. Laris. 2013. *An Introduction to Human-Environment Geography: Local Dynamics and Global Processes*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley/Blackwell. (ISBN: 978-1-4051-8931-6).

Werthmann, Katja & Mamadou Lamine Sanogo. 2013. *La ville de Bobo-Dioulasso au Burkina Faso. Urbanité et appartenances en Afrique de l'ouest*. Paris: Karthala.(ISBN : 9782811107987) ."



## Member Publications: Articles

Álvarez, Laura Inés M. 2012. «Afrikansk frankofon litteratur: Om å oversette en kultur». In Helena Boberg & Vendela Fredricson (red.) *Kritiker 22-23*. Stockholm, Ariel forlag: 97- 107.

Austen, Ralph. 2013. “As grandes incertezas da historiografia africanista: haverá um tempo/espço 'africano' e poderá o passado de África prever-lhe o futuro?” *Grandes Licoes* (Lisbon: Gulbenkian Foundation), 2:57-93.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2012. “Coming of Age through Colonial Education : African Autobiography as “Reluctant Bildungsroman (the Case of Camara Laye),” *Mande Studies*, 12 (2010\*), 1-17 (\*actual publication date being 2012) .

Bellagamba, Alice, Sandra Greene and Martin Klein,

"Introduction: Finding the African Voice," in *African Voices on Slavery and the Slave Trade* ,1-10/

"Introduction: When the Past Shadows the Present: The Legacy in Africa of Slavery and the Slave Trade," in *Bitter Legacy: African Slavery Past and Present* ,1-28

Bellagamba, Alice and Martin Klein. "Slave Ancestry and Religious Discrimination in The Gambia," in *Bitter Legacy: African Slavery Past and Present* ,163-92.

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## Member Activities: DISSERTATIONS:

Dianna Bell successfully defended her dissertation in April 2013 under the direction of fellow MANSA member Joseph Hellweg and passed with distinction from Florida State University Department of Religion. Dissertation Title: "Between Prayers: The Life of a West African Muslim"

Theodore L. Konkouris successfully completed the PhD program in the School of History and Anthropology at Queen's University Belfast under the supervision of Professors Fiona Magowan and Marina Roseman. The doctoral thesis was examined by Professor Michael D. Jackson and Dr Suzel Ana Riley in May 2013. Thesis title "Heroes, Gunpowder, Cassettes & Tape Recorders: Production, Distribution & Transmission of Hunters' Musical Tradition in Mali, West Africa"

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## Member Activities

### FILMS:

#### *Growing into Music in Mali, 2013*

Two documentary films, shot and directed by Lucy Durán.

The *Growing into Music in Mali* films were shot on location between 2009-12 in Mali and Guinea. They show how factors such as urban living, globalization, technology, and the lack of institutional support for music, are impacting on some of the most important Mande jeli families in the transmission of their art across generations. But they also highlight the determination of both elders and children to celebrate their art and keep it alive – only a few months before political upheaval threatened the very existence of music in the country.

The films were funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council UK **‘Beyond Text’** project. Based at the SOAS, University of London, under the guidance of Durán, the project also documents children learning music in oral traditions of North India, Rajasthan, Azerbaijan, Venezuela and Cuba.

#### *Part 1 Da Kali - the pledge to the art of the griot*

This film follows the children of four celebrated *jeli* families in southern Mali as they face the challenges of learning the ancient art of the jeli in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Just turned twelve, Rokia Kouyaté is determined to learn the lyrical style of her famous grandfather the singer Kasse Mady Diabaté, and performs at noisy wedding parties, and for a popular television competition. Precocious Thierra Diarra at the age of four is already on the path to becoming a virtuoso on the jembe, following in the footsteps of his father Adama. Ten year-old Salif Diabaté, nephew of kora master, Toumani Diabaté, struggles to fit kora lessons into his busy school schedule, but begins to improve dramatically over a school holiday. And seven year-old Saran Kouyaté and her younger sister, the five year-old Ami, are taught songs by their grandmother, the charismatic and fiery Bako Dagnon, considered one of the great master-singers of Mali. Her ideas about passing on her musical knowledge are rooted in the rural traditions of the remote village where she was born and raised,

## Member Activities

### **FILMS, con't:**

Golobladji - where her extended family continue to sing the hauntingly beautiful songs of the countryside.

*Part 2 Dò farala a kan: something has been added.*

This film looks in more detail at ideas around what constitutes musical progress. Our guide in the film is Lassana Diabaté, a virtuoso jeli who comes from a long line of balafon players in Guinea, now living in Bamako. We follow the musical progress of children in two prestigious extended families of jelis, representing two distinctive regional traditions: the *balafon* of Niagassola, and the *ngoni* of Segou.

Chapter 1 spends time with the families of Elhadj Sekou Kouyaté, the custodian of the Sosso Bala (declared a UNESCO Masterpiece of Intangible Oral Heritage in 2001). His son Fantamady, like many balafon players, is an expert guitarist; while Janguiné is a singer. Both are settled in Bamako where they have busy careers, and both are concerned to keep the tradition of balafon alive with their children. Three of their sons show a special interest in learning the balafon, but there are many distractions and talent is not always the key to progress. A visit to Niagassola by the three boys highlights some of the tensions between town and country living, but their **pride as future inheritors of Sunjata's sacred balafon shines through.**

Chapter 2 visits the extended family of Bassekou Kouyaté, innovative and virtuoso player of the *ngoni*, whose international success has given him another perspective on his Bamana tradition from Segou. Although the *ngoni* plays a central role in the lives of this family, the focus is on how the many Kouyaté girls, aged four to twelve, learn the art of song and dance, in both Bamako and Garana, a village in Segou province where Bassekou grew up and where most of his family still live. In Garana, we watch the girls learning to sing such pieces as *Da Monzon*, and see them play at the vibrant handclapping songs, the *tegere tulon*, that are fast disappearing, and were once a major **creative force in the lives of Mali's musicians.**

*More films will be posted on the Growing into Music website in 2014: one on the culture of wedding parties in Bamako, one on a very young prodigy musician from a Bobo family in Segou, and a third film on the tegere tulon.*

## Member Activities

### **FILMS, con't:**

*The films are available for viewing on [www.growingintomusic.co.uk](http://www.growingintomusic.co.uk)*

*DVD copies of the films can be obtained by writing to*

*Dr. Lucy Durán*

*[ld@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ld@soas.ac.uk)*

*Music Department*

*SOAS, London University*

*Thornhaugh St*

*London WC1H 0XG*

Chérif Keïta's 55 min documentary film *Remembering Nokutela* (uKukhumbula uNokutela in Zulu) premiered at the Minneapolis Saint Anthony theater Main, November 17, as part of the series entitled "Images of Africa" at the Minneapolis St. Paul Film Society. The information on the film and the festival at the following link: <http://mspfilmsociety.org/content/remembering-nokutela>

### **IN THE MEDIA:**

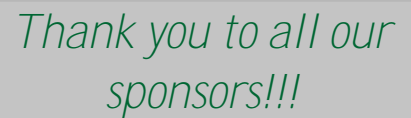
Álvarez, Laura Inés M. 2011. «Ordets makt hos muslimske kvinnelige barker». [masterbloggen.no](http://www.masterbloggen.no) <http://www.masterbloggen.no/blog/2011/05/01/ordets-makt-hos-muslimske-kvinnelige-barker/>

Francis Simonis was recently interviewed on the situation of French hostages in the Sahel. The interview is on the following link <http://www.metronews.fr/info/mali-la-france-n-a-qu-une-strategie-a-kidal-recuperer-ses-otages/mmkf!stfFphx0T3tyA/>

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## RENEWED Members

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*Thank you to all our  
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## NEW Members

Szilard Biernaczky [biernaczky.szilard@munduspress.hu](mailto:biernaczky.szilard@munduspress.hu)

*Research Interests:* A long-time student of African epic.

Assigue Dolo (University of Bamako) [assigueadolo@yahoo.fr](mailto:assigueadolo@yahoo.fr)

*Research and Teaching Interests:* A native from the Dogon country, Assigué recently finished his English studies at the University of Bamako. His thesis : “Death Rituals in the Dogon Country, the Case of Sangha” is available on his website : [assiguedolo.com](http://assiguedolo.com). Assigué plans to continue his research in African literature, especially Mande.



## New Members, continued

Coleman Donaldson (University of Pennsylvania) [cdonal@gse.upenn.edu](mailto:cdonal@gse.upenn.edu)

*Research and Teaching Interests:* Manding dialectology, linguistic anthropology, language policy and literacy practices in Francophone and Mandingophone Africa. Most recently been focused on Jula Ajami, the expansion of the N'ko movement, and the social value of reflexive verb constructions in Jula.

University of Basel Ethnologisches Seminar [bibliothek-ethnologie@unibas.ch](mailto:bibliothek-ethnologie@unibas.ch)

*Institutional Research Focus:* Political transformation, state and statehood, trust and social reconfiguration after conflict, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Guinea, Liberia

## Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership

MANSA has joined the 21st century by creating a *new membership database*, which members must now use to join the association, pay dues, enter, and update membership information such as mailing address and email. The link:

<http://mandestudies.org/wp/wp-login.php?action=register>

Or, follow the navigation instructions on page 25 of this issue.

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**Chaque membre doit se réinscrire, même les membres parrainés.**

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