



# M A N S A

Newsletter Number 10 ~ NOVEMBER 1989

## Minutes of the Fourth Annual MANSA Meeting

The fourth annual meeting of MANSA was called to order at 5:00 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia on November 4, 1989, David Conrad presiding. Signing the attendance sheet were: Kathy Green, Ray Silverman, Kate Ezra, Charles Bird, Jeanne Maddox Toungara, Laura A. Harris, Rachel Hoffman, Martin Ford, Robert Leopold, Carol Thompson, Adria LaViolette, Mary Jo Arnoldi, Carlos Lopes, Raul Mendes Fernandes, Peter Mendy, Adame Ba Konaré, David Robinson, Richard Warme, Augustine Konneh, Donald Wright, Barbara G. Hoffman, Robert Launay, Gérard Dumestre, Martin Klein, Rosa De Jorio, Gordon Thomasson, Stanley J. Tarver, Jane Turrutin, Kate Modic, Lamin Sanneh, Lansine Kaba, James Webb, Edrus Makward, Risa Ellovich, François Manchuelle, Kalilou Tera, Barbara Frank, Claude Ardouin, Walter van Beek, Ellen Suthers.

Financial statement: \$645 in dues collected since the 1988 meeting. The President indicated that those paying sponsoring membership have contributed greatly to the organization's ability to carry on. Expenses for newsletter #7 \$123.62; #8 \$170.89; #9 \$221.26. Postage other than newsletter \$135.46. Bank service charges as of August = \$48.96, present balance in the MANSA account = 149.67.

Dues structure was reviewed, and remains at Members \$5.00, Institutions \$10.00, Sponsors \$25.00

The President indicated that he had paid Kalilou Tera's pre-registration fee out of MANSA funds, and asked for membership approval of this. No disagreement was expressed by those present, which was taken as membership approval that we may continue to pay the pre-registration fees of MANSA sponsored international visitors to the ASA meetings.

Stressed again was the importance of sending in changes of address to the newsletter editor so that we do not have to pay postage on undelivered newsletters. Please also remember to send in any announcements, items of interest, book notices, etc. that are of interest to MANSA members.

The President expressed his chagrin at having forgotten to publish an obituary notice on the death of Maximin Samake. The announcement, written by Dolores Koenig, was misplaced in the confusion of the editor's move to Malaysia, and he later wrote an apology to Dr. Koenig. Charles Bird suggested that it is never too late to publish obituaries, and that it should be published in the next newsletter (see below).

Announcements were made: There will be a Liberian Studies Conference (see below). \*\*\* Robert Launay noted that the long awaited Mande special issue of *Cahiers d'Études Africaines* will be out in December. \*\*\* David Robinson encouraged historians to submit offerings to the *Journal of African History*. \*\*\* Carlos Lopes invited papers for a conference in Guinea-Bissau on the State of Kaabu. There will be a workshop in June, 1990 in preparation for the conference later the same year. If interested, write to the Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa, Complexo Escolar 14 de Novembro, Bairro Cobornel Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.

DAVID C. CONRAD, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego

B. MARIE PERINBAM, *Vice President*, University of Maryland

KATHRYN L. GREEN, *Secretary*, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Advisory Board:

LANSINE KABA, University of Illinois-Chicago

ROBERT LAUNAY, Northwestern University



\*\*\* Charles Bird reminded members that Souleman Cisse's film Yeelen would be shown later that evening, and encouraged everyone to attend. \*\*\* Gérard Dumestre called attention to a linguistics journal to be sent free to libraries (see below). Dumestre also indicated the interest in MANSA of two recent visitors to Paris, Professors V. Vydrin of Léningrad, and Professor P. Zima of Prague, and promised to forward their addresses to the President. Owing to their difficulty in paying membership dues in western currency, it was the general consensus that sponsoring membership dues may be used to pay for their membership, as is the practice with many of our African members. (Once again we see the importance of sponsoring memberships!) \*\*\* David Conrad took special pleasure in welcoming two distinguished African guests, Kahlou Tera, our ASA-funded and MANSA-sponsored member visiting from Côte d'Ivoire, and the historian Madame Adame Ba Konaré, visiting from Mali.

The President announced that the 33rd annual ASA meeting will be held, according to this year's program, at the Omni Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, November 1-4, 1990. The theme of the meeting is Africa: Development and Ethics. However, all panel topics are welcome. Topics suggested for MANSA panels were:

1. Mande/Fula relations or "The Fula Can't Be Trusted" (suggested by David Robinson) or "Why Four Bamana Can't Lead A Cow" (suggested by Charles Bird)
2. Early Sahelian History (the annual catch-all history panel, Chair: David Conrad)
3. Mande Music and Orality (Chair: Cheick M. Chérif Keita)
4. The Mande Presence in Liberia
5. Women of the Mande World
6. Islam in the Mande World
7. Archaeology in the Mande World
8. Mande/Senufo relations.

Members interested in giving a paper or chairing a panel should express their interest and, in the case of panels not yet having a designated chairperson, send abstracts to David Conrad. When the chairperson is known, send abstracts to both the chair and Conrad. If you are a chairperson organizing a panel, be sure to notify Conrad. He requires the panel chair's current address and phone number, title of the panel, and the name, address, phone number, paper title, and abstract for each panel member. If your panel will be co-sponsored by another organization, be sure to include this information. Unless all of this information is provided in time to coordinate the panels and for publication in the newsletter, MANSA cannot be entirely effective. Also, remind your panelists that in addition to pre-registering for ASA, they must have their MANSA dues paid up. The deadline for submission of panel and paper proposals is March 15, 1990.

International Conference: The President began the discussion by suggesting that MANSA has now reached the stage where we may begin considering the planning of an International Conference, but he then interrupted the proceedings to read an urgent bulletin which he had just received:

Earlier this week in a bloodless coup d'état, the Mande Studies Association succeeded in placing one of its most distinguished founding members, Martin A. Klein, on the throne of the African Studies Association. Well-informed sources in the capital report rapidly mounting and widespread concern among non-Africanist North American political leaders that MANSA's next step will be to replace both George Bush and Brian Mulroney with Marty Klein. It is rumored that once he is seated on the lion-skin of power, the Emperor Marty's first order of the day will be to promote all MANSA members to full professor and place them in tenured positions at the universities of their choice at starting salaries of U.S.\$100,000 per year.

Returning to the question of an International Conference, the President indicated that he and the MANSA secretary, Kathryn Green, would like to establish that the membership has the interest and the energy required to sustain the kind of effort necessary to plan such an undertaking. He suggested that 1992 would be an appropriate year for holding the conference, as it would be exactly twenty years after the 1972 Conference on Manding Studies held at SOAS in London. He then turned the floor over to Kathryn Green.



Kathryn Green departs for Mali on November 15, 1989 for a 9-month stay on a Research Fulbright. While there she is willing to inquire into the possibility of holding the conference in Bamako. If the membership is interested in her laying the groundwork for a conference she feels the following contributions from them are immediately necessary:

1. Seriously consider and investigate possible sources of financial help from your own institutions, in terms of short grants for mailing, xeroxing, telephoning, etc.
2. If seriously interested and committed, please contact her for placement on the Steering Committee.

Write Kathryn Green c/o Public Affairs Officer, USIS-Bamako, Embassy of the United States, B.P. 34, Bamako, MALI (if mailing from the U.S., add West Africa). From the U.S., first-class mail can be sent to Kathryn Green, c/o Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy, Bamako Dept. of State, Washington D.C. 20520.

Reflecting the concern of many members in promoting more African participation in MANSA, Green stressed interest in Bamako as the first choice of a possible conference site. Gérard Dumestre voiced his opinion that Paris would be a much more suitable conference location, stressing his concern about logistics, and noting that hotels and transportation are cheaper in Paris. He feels it would be a logistical nightmare to try and organize the conference in Bamako, and that all Malians and other West Africans have jjatigw in Paris with whom they could lodge. He also suggested that transportation within Africa is as expensive as a direct flight to Paris.

Adame Ba Konaré spoke at some length on the psychological importance of holding the conference in Africa and upheld the choice of Bamako. She suggested that since Kathryn Green would be spending a significant amount of time in Mali, and she herself would be there during that time, the two could collaborate and accomplish a good deal. While not underestimating the difficulties in organizing the conference, she feels it will be possible.

Lansiné Kaba discussed the success of the 1972 London conference, which continued for five days with an attendance of some 500 people. Kaba suggested that the international MANSA conference would continue the process of reclaiming African history for the continent, begun with the Kaabu Conference.

Claude Ardouin voiced his personal conviction that the project is quite possible. He volunteered personal support from his Dakar base and suggested that the Ford Foundation grant with which he is involved might be able to pay the transport costs of some Africans attending the conference from within West Africa. Ardouin also issued a plea for a less "folkloristic" approach in the MANSA conference, pointing out that there are serious issues to be discussed, and asking that the conference be kept on that level.

At the invitation of Kathy Green, the meeting was attended by Edris Makward, Chairman of the African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin and recent organizer of the African Literature Association Conference in Dakar, who kindly made himself available to answer questions on logistical and organizational problems. Professor Makward feels MANSA is approaching the organization of a conference in the correct fashion, and that Green has the right idea in first determining if the Bamako site is feasible. After some initial inquiry in Bamako, if there appears to be little interest or the logistical problems prove to be too great, she can simply report this to the MANSA members. Professor Makward offered to advise MANSA about locating funding sources based on his experience with the literature conference.

Carolos Lopes indicated that the Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa would probably be able to fund the participation of attendees from Guinea-Bissau.

During additional discussion that followed, a motion was made to have Kathryn Green begin scouting the possibilities of holding an international conference in Bamako, Mali and to report back with her findings at the MANSA meeting next year in Baltimore. The motion was passed with no dissenting votes. Green requests



that all ideas on the conference be sent to her as they occur to members, including ideas for addressing logistical problems, financial support, etc.

After a final reminder to members that this is the best time of year to pay their dues, the President adjourned the meeting at 6:10.

**Forgotten Agenda Items:** In his ongoing efforts to upgrade the quality of MANSA Newsletter, the editor had intended to ask the members if anyone could donate to MANSA a Macintosh Desktop Publishing Program. ??? He also meant to ask for opinions (approval/rejection) of the new MANSA logo used on Newsletter #9.

### **MANSA in Burkina Faso**

MANSA extends a special welcome to **Habbib Savane**, our first member from Burkina Faso. Mr. Savane holds an M.A. (1987) in Applied Linguistics from the University of Durham, England. His research topic was a morpho-syntactic description of a northern Ivory Coast Mande dialect, and his principal interest is in the linguistic history of the Mande language community.

### **Book Release**

**Discourse and its Disguises: The Interpretation of African Oral Texts**, edited by Karin Barber and P.F. de Moraes Farias, Birmingham University African Studies Series 1, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham

This is the first volume in a new interdisciplinary African series launched by C.W.A.S., University of Birmingham. Based on papers and discussions produced at an intensive workshop, it brings together the approaches of history, criticism, anthropology and linguistics. The texts examined are taken from all over southern and western Africa and range from classic oral epic to modern Trade Union poetry; from the oral traditions of ruling groups in pre-colonial states to those of hereditary craftsmen and women of servile status. The papers look at theoretical issues in oral poetics; at the location of oral text production in history and social structure; and at the surplus of oral 'textuality' that has always escaped Western academic appropriations. New ethnographic material on Soninke, Tukulor, Yoruba and Zulu genres is presented.

Rates: Within the U.K.: £6.95, no charge for postage

In Europe: £6.95 plus £1.75 for postage = £8.70

In U.S.A.: \$14.00 plus \$3.50 for postage (2nd class) = \$17.50 or \$10.00 for postage (1st class) = \$24.00

Send order with crossed check to Dr. P.F. de Moraes Farias, CWAS, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, B15 2TT, England, U.K.

### **Liberia: Retrospect and Prospect**

**The 22nd Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association**  
March 29-31, 1990

Hosted by the World Studies Program of Marlboro College and the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Deadlines: Submission of proposals, December 15, 1989; final papers and panels January 31, 1990. Address correspondence to: Gordon C. Thomasson, World Studies Program, School for International Training, Kipling Road -- Box 676, Brattleboro, VT 05302, Tel. (802) 257-7751, ext. 301

### **INALCO Linguistics Journal for Libraries**

The Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales is publishing a new linguistics journal that they will send free of charge to university libraries. To be placed on the mailing list, librarians should write to Gérard Dumestre, INALCO, 2 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris



## Obituary

Maximin Samake, 37, head of the Ethno-sociology Department of the Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako, drowned in Lake Manantali, Mali, in May 1988 when a pirogue in which he was traveling capsized. At the time, he was doing research as head of an ISH team studying changes in the domestic economy of those people resettled as a result of the OMVS high dam construction at Manantali.

Upon submission of his thesis, "Pouvoir traditionnel et conscience politique paysanne: Les Kafo de la region de Bougouni - Mali," Maximin received his doctorate from EHESS-Paris in 1984. Since then he has done a variety of research throughout Mali, including studies of the role of rural women, and small scale irrigation in Gao and Tomboctou. He also continued research on his interests in pre-colonial politics and Bamana initiation societies.

Maximin was an excellent social scientist and a valued colleague. His death is a loss for Mali as well as for those of us who had the good fortune to work with him.

(Submitted by Dolores Koenig 23 September, 1988, though publication was regrettably delayed through editorial error).

## **New and Renewed MAMSA Members, Research Specializations & Address Changes**

Claude Ardouin, West African Museums Project, B.P. 357, Dakar, Senegal

Mary Jo Arnoldi (sponsor), Department of Anthropology NHB 112, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Larry Becker, 2528 Hawthorne Terrace, Berkeley, CA, 94708

Walter Van Beek, Kennedylaan 79, 3981 GB Bunnok, Netherlands (Dagon)

David Conrad (sponsor), SUNY-Buffalo/ITM, No. 5 Jalan SS17/1A, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Mirjam de Bruin, Maresingel 48a, 2315 HD Leiden, The Netherlands (Utrecht University, Fulani-Mande relations)

Mantia Diawara, CSBLaE, 3808 Walnut St., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19095 (film, novel)  
Gérard Dumestre, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, 2 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris, France

Rosa De Jorio, 505 W. Springfield Ave., Urbana, IL 61801

Mamadou Diawara, Frobenius Institut, Goethe Universität, Liebigstrasse 47, D-6000 Frankfurt/Main 1, West Germany

Barbara Frank (sponsor), Art Department, University of Tulsa, 600 S. College Ave., Tulsa, OK 74104

Fritz Goerting, B.P. 237, Ferkessedougou, Côte d'Ivoire

Kathryn Green (sponsor), c/o Public Affairs Officer U.S. Embassy, Bamako, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520

Maria Grosz-Ngate, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, 200 W. Engineering Bldg., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092

Thomas Hale, French Department, 316 Burrowes Bldg., The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802



Laura A. Harris, 14513 N.E. 6th Place #1, Bellevue, Washington 98007

Stephen A. Harmon, Department of History, Arkansas State University, P.O. Drawer 1690, State University, AR 72467

Rachel Hoffman (sponsor), P.O. Box 1315, Culver City, CA 90232

Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa, Complexo Escolar 14 de Novembro, Bairro Cobornel Bissau, Guiné-Bissau

Jan Jansen, Terschelling 116, 352u A2 Utrecht, The Netherlands (Utrecht University, Oral tradition-epic)

Cheick M. Cherif Keita, Department of Languages and Literatures, Carleton College, One North College Street, Northfield, MN 55057

Cheik Oumar Keita, Musée Nationale du Mali, B.P. 159, Bamako, Mali

Moussa Konaté (newsletters returned, address unknown, please send it, Rachel)

Kassim Koné, Eigenmann Hall Room 890, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Augustine Konneh, University West #305, Bloomington, IN 47406

Robert Launay (sponsor), Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201

Adria LaViolette (sponsor), Department of Anthropology, Rice University, Box 1892, Houston TX 77251

Robert S. Leopold, Department of Anthropology, NHB Stop 112, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Nehemia Levtzion, President, The Open University of Israel, P.O. Box 39328, 15 Klausner Street, 61382 Israel

Barbara Lewis, 252 Lincoln Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904

Carlos Lopes, 2 Ermeti Place, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

François Manchuelle, Department of History, Landrium Box 8054, Georgia Southern College, Statesboro, GA 30460-8054 (Soninke migrations)

E. Kate Modic, Folklore/Ethnomusicology, 417 N. Indiana Ave., Bloomington, IN 47408 (Music-performance)

A. Endre Nyerges, Department of Anthropology, Lafferty Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0024

Recent publication: "Seasonal Constraints in The Guinea Savanna: Susu Ecology in Sierra Leone," MASCA Research Papers in Science and Archaeology Special Issue: Coping With Seasonal Constraints 5 (1988)

B. Marie Perinbam (sponsor), Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

Dave Rawson, 874 N. Jacksonville, Arlington, VA 22208

Erik Sacré, Brusselse str. 2g, B 3000, Leuven, Belgium (Leuven University, Malinke Studies)



Lamin Sanneh, Yale University, 409 Prospect St., New Haven, CT 06510

Habib Savane, 01 B.P. 1762, Ougadougou 01, Burkina Faso

Linguistic History of the Mande language community; research on Mande languages of northern Ivory Coast

Roy Silverman, Department of Art, Kresge Art Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

Ellen Suthers, 214 Whitmoor Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Stanley Tarver, 2716 Marion Ave. #1K, Bronx, N.Y. 10458

Studio Museum in Harlem, Director of Education (Religious transition and the arts of Senegambia)

Gordon C. Thomasson, World Studies Program, School for International Training, Kipling Road, P.O. Box 676, Brattleboro, Vermont 05302

Carol Thompson, The Center for African Art, 54 East 68 St., New York, NY 10021

Ismaila Samba Traoré, Institut des Sciences Humaines, B.P. 159, Bamako, Mali

Jane Turritin, Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, 100 Albertus Ave., Toronto, ONT, Canada M4R 1J7

Moniel Verhoeven, Bierenstraat 156, 5 bu 82X Nymegen, The Netherlands (Nymegen University, Soninke griots)

Richard Warms, Anthropology Department, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666  
Ethnicity and merchants in Mali

Jim Webb, Department of History, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901 (History of Mauritania and Gambia)

Donald Wright, Department of History, P.O. Box 2000, State University of New York-Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045

#### **Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership:**

Regular membership \$5, Sponsoring membership \$25, Institutional \$10.

Make out check to MANSA and (if you are joining) send with your institutional affiliation and a brief description of your research topics to:

David C. Conrad  
SUNY-Buffalo/ITM  
No. 5, Jalan SS17/1A  
47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor  
Malaysia

To pay in French currency  
send check in francs to:

Robert Launay  
Department of Anthropology  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL 60201  
U.S.A.