

Mande Studies Association



Association des Études Mande

MANSA

Newsletter Number 15 ~ APRIL 1991

Canadian Association of African Studies Annual Meeting **York University, Downsview, Ontario May 14-18, 1991** **Papers on Islam, Panels Organized by Martin Klein**

Isaaka Bagayogo, Institut des Sciences Humaines, Mali, "L'Islam et l'État Contemporain au Mali"

Musa Abdul Hakim, SUNY-Buffalo, "An Ideas Approach to the Study of West African Islamic Historiography: New Perspectives and Contextual Understandings"

John Hanson, West Chester University, "Islam and Society After Umar Tal's *Jihad*"

Stephen Harmon, Arkansas State University, "Foreign and Local Marabouts: French Perception of Sudanese Marabouts, 1900-1940"

Elaine Hutson, Indiana University, "'Rightly Guided or Misguided': British Colonial Neo-Mahdist Policy in the Sudan and Nigeria 1908-1928"

Abdullah Hakim Quick, University of Toronto "The Concept of Al-Wala (Allegiance, Clientage) in the Sokoto Caliphate and the Resulting Dilemma at the Time of the British Conquest"

Charles Stewart, University of Illinois, "Notions of Self and Group Identity in a Southern Saharan History, Harun B. Sidiyya's *Kitab al-Akhbar*"

Raymond Taylor, University of Illinois, "Inquiry into Changing Concepts and Applications of Diyya in the Southern Sahara, circa 1850-1980"

Leonardo Villalon, University of Texas-Austin, "Charisma, Ethnicity and the Establishment of a Clientele: The Case of the Serer Marabout Ma Ansou Niang"

David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego, "Islam, Oral Tradition, and A Question of Mande Social Hierarchy"

Discussants: Ann McDougall, University of Alberta and Martin Klein, University of Toronto

MANSA Secretary Appointed to ASA Committee

MANSA Secretary Kathryn Green has been appointed by Martin Klein, President of the African Studies Association, to be a member of the Committee to Study the ASA's Relationship With Affiliated and Coordinate Organizations. Green was appointed to represent the small groups that have formed inside the ASA such as MANSA. She would welcome your opinions, criticisms, and comments in order to present them to the rest of the committee.

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

MANSA-Sponsored Panels, African Studies Association
Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, November 1991

ASTRIDE THE MALI-MAURITANIA FRONTIER: COLONIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

Chair: Stephen A. Harmon, Arkansas State University

Papers: Ann McDougall, University of Alberta, "On the Margin of the Mande World: Frontier Problems and Colonial Policy, Mali-Mauritania, 1912-1945"

Stephen A. Harmon, Arkansas State University, "Cheikh Ma al-Ainin: Armed Resistance and Colonial Policy in the French Sudan and Mauritania, 1900-1910"

Raymond Taylor, University of Illinois, "Diya and the Construction of the Collective Identity in the Southern Sahara: 1840-1960"

Boniface I. Obichere, UCLA, "Nioro du Sahel from the Reign of Ahmadou Cheikou to 1914: From a Tukolor Province to a Colonial District"

Discussant: Charles C. Stewart, University of Illinois

THE SUNJATA EPIC: HISTORY, LITERATURE AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Chair: Ralph A. Austen, University of Chicago

Papers: Ralph A. Austen, University of Chicago, "From Panegyric to Epic to Novel: A Speculative and Critical History of the Sunjata Text"

Stephen Belcher, Pennsylvania State University, "Sunjata, Sumanguru, and Mothers"

David C. Conrad, SUNY-Oswego, "A Town Called Dakajalan: Acknowledging A Message from the Sunjata Epic"

Tal Tamari, C.N.R.S. "The Sunjata Epic and the Genesis of the Mande Caste System"

Discussant: John W. Johnson, Indiana University

Book Releases

Carol Spindel, **IN THE SHADOW OF THE SACRED GROVE**, Vintage Books (New York, 1989).

This superb book about Carol Spindel's and Tom Bassett's experiences in a Senufo/Dyula village in the Northern Ivory Coast has enjoyed such success that it is now in its third printing.

Tell MANSA about your forthcoming books! Since begun several issues ago, this section of the newsletter has received a positive response from Africanist librarians of important research collections. It is of course only genuinely effective if we are able to publish notices earlier than is possible elsewhere because of inside information we acquire from our own MANSA members who author, edit, and review books. Since this section was introduced, several books have been authored, edited, or co-edited by MANSA members that we would very much have liked to mention. However, they have not appeared in this section because the editor was not aware that they were out until he saw them already reviewed or on display at a conference. Some titles have appeared here in good time because our Francophone colleagues gave us the information. Others appeared because the editor happened to be asked to review the book. You could help the MANSA Newsletter perform a useful service for its members by taking a minute or two to send David Conrad a postcard with your publication information on it soon after you hear from your publisher the date of your next book release. Alternatively, if you are asked to review a book on a topic related to the Mande world it might be by someone who is not a MANSA member or by one who has failed to inform us. Please take a moment to submit the publication information in case we have not heard about it.

PLEASE DO YOUR SHARE TO MAKE THE NEWSLETTER USEFUL -- IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES

MANSA Welcomes Fodé Sidibé to U.S.A.

The Mande Studies Association has extended a warm welcome to Mr. Fodé Sidibé, who recently arrived in the United States from Mali. Mr. Sidibé has spent seven years studying in the Soviet Union where he earned a Master of Arts degree in International relations. He was given the MANSA address by Youssouf Tata Cissé, and we were pleased that he wrote to say that he is presently in Philadelphia (see addresses below), and that he plans to begin studying for a Ph.D.

Converting Foreign Currency for MANSA Dues Payments

Recording the minutes of the last MANSA meeting in Newsletter # 14, MANSA Secretary Kathryn Green reported that problems connected to the practice of some members paying in French francs had been causing extended delays between the time of the dues payments and the recording of renewed memberships in the newsletter. Since then, some members in both Europe and Africa have found a way of converting local currency to U.S. \$ that eliminates this problem for the MANSA treasurer. These members have been going to European and African banks that have affiliations with CITIBANK, 111 Wall Street, 21 FL Zone 19, New York NY 10043, and with Banque Nationale de Paris's New York Branch at 499 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Using French francs, Deutschmarks and West African currencies, they have been able to purchase cashier's checks called CITIBANK CHEQUEXPRESS, or the Banque Nationale de Paris's Service Etranger. This means that they can send their dues in U.S.\$ which can be deposited directly into the MANSA account. The President wishes to thank the members who have done this, and to encourage others to consider adopting this practice.

--D.C.C.

Returned Newsletters

The most recently returned newsletters are ones that were sent to Kalilou Tera, formerly of ILA, Université Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire, and Jean Baptiste Kouroma of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, both marked inconnu. If anyone knows either of their current addresses, please notify the newsletter editor.

New and Renewed Mansa Members, Research Specializations & Address Changes

Issaka Bagayogo, s/c Madame Bagayogo Miriam Sidibé, Direction Nationale des Industries, B.P. 278, Bamako, Republic of Mali

Thomas J. Bassett, Department of Geography, University of Illinois, 220 Davenport Hall, 607 S. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801

Cassian Braconnier, ILA - Université, 08 BP 887, Abidjan 08, Côte d'Ivoire

George E. Brooks, History Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Victoria Bomba Coifman, Department of Afro-American & African Studies, 808 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Preparing an English edition of the autobiography Noviciat d'un évêque. Captivité sous Sékou Touré by the former Archbishop of Conakry (1962-1979), Raymond Marie Tchidimbo.

Rosa De Jorio, Department of Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, 607 South Mathews Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801
Third year Ph.D. student in socio-cultural anthropology, University of Illinois. Economic, social and urban anthropology, Bamana focus.

Kate Ezra (Sponsor), Department of Primitive Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Avenue at 82nd Street, New York, NY 10025

David P. Gamble, 268 Klamath Street, Brisbane CA 94005

Marla Grosz-Ngaté (Sponsor), Center for African Studies, 200 W. Engineering Bldg., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092

Barbara Hoffman, 4730 E. State Road 46, Bloomington, IN 47401 (address correction)

Rachel Hoffman, 15915 SW Waluga Dr., Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (address change)

Hoover Institute Africa Collection (Karen Fung), Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-4409

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

Jan Jansen, Himalaya 154, 352 XJ Utrecht, The Netherlands

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

Martin A. Klein (Sponsor), Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto, ONT M5S 1A1, Canada

Roderic Knight, Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074
Mandinka music

Dolores Koenig, Department of Anthropology, The American University, Washington, D.C. 20016

Yacouba Konaté, École Normale Supérieure, 09 B.P. 301, Abidjan 09, Côte d'Ivoire
Mande philosophy and aesthetics. Author of Alpha Blondy: Reggae et société; co-author of Sacrifices dans la ville (Editions Douga, 1990).

Frederick Lamp, Curator, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218

Dierk Lange, Geschichte Afrikas, Universität Bayreuth, Geschwister-Scholl-Platz, Postfach 10 12 51, 8580 Bayreuth, Germany

Carlos Lopes, 40 River Road (14K), Roosevelt Island, New York, NY 10044

Claude Meillassoux, 2 rue Mirbel, 75005 Paris, France

Christopher Miller, Department of French, P.O. Box 2504A Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

Simon Ottenberg, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195

Fodé Sidibé, 5031 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Margit C. Smith, Hartmeyerstr. 1119, KD-7400 Tübingen, Germany

Carol Spindel, 608 W. Delaware, Urbana, IL 61801

J. Malcolm Thompson, Department of Humanities, Fayetteville State University, 1200 Murchison Road, Fayetteville, NC 28301-4298

Labor history; economic and social effects of slave abolition and the processes by which communities assimilated millions of emancipated slaves in the Senegal River valley, specifically focusing on slaves (including river boatmen or laptots) who served in colonial armed forces as soldiers, sailors and porters.

Jane Turritin, Glendon College, Women's Studies Program, York University, 2275 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4N 3M6

Peter M. Weil, Anthropology Department, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711

Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership:

Regular and Institutional membership \$10, Students \$5, Sponsoring membership \$25

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

David C. Conrad
History Department
SUNY-Oswego
Oswego, NY 13126
U.S.A.