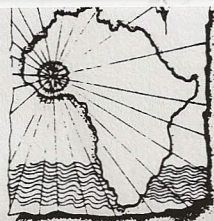


Mande Studies Association



Association des Études Mande

MANSA

Newsletter Number 19 ~ OCTOBER 1992

Seventh Annual MANSA Meeting, 1992

The seventh annual meeting of the Mande Studies Association will be held at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., on Friday, 20 November, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please note that this starting time is one hour later than the time published in the official program. This will allow people arriving in the early evening on the first day of the conference to get to the meeting.

Attendance was low at last year's MANSA meeting. Your presence is extremely important for the annual renewal of energy and personal communication required to keep our organization healthy. Some urgent items concerning the International Conference on Mande Studies will be on the agenda. If you will be attending the ASA meeting in Seattle, please plan to be at the MANSA meeting.

International Conference on Mande Studies

Bamako, Mali, March 15-19, 1992

ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE

If you plan to attend but have not contacted MANSA, please notify the conference organizer: Dr. Kathryn L. Green, ICMS Organizer, Department of History, 3211 Humanities Building, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, U.S.A.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Africans residing in sub-Saharan Africa are the only members whose MANSA membership fees are covered by sponsorships. All others must pay dues. In other words, up-to-date membership is required of everyone living in Europe, North America, or other non-African regions of planet Earth who plans to attend the International Conference in Bamako.

BOOKING YOUR FLIGHT

If you are attending the conference from North America, Europe or Africa, you can obtain a 10% fare reduction from Air Afrique by identifying yourself with MANSA. In North America, contact Leye Thiam, Timbuktours c/o Travel Gems, Suite 1025, 11 Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10001. Telephone (212) 947-3500

PAPER PRESENTERS

If you plan to present a paper, you must submit an abstract to Kathryn Green; a title is not sufficient. An abstract of one or two paragraphs describing the content of your paper is required.

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*

Senegal Honors Lamin Sanneh

Senegal has paid tribute to the academic career of Lamin Sanneh of Yale University. In May of this year, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal conferred upon him Senegal's highest national honor. Professor Sanneh is now *Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Lion*.

Nehemia Levtzion Returns

On October 1st, 1992, Professor Nehemia Levtzion completed a five-year term as President of the Open University of Israel, and returned to his Chair of the History of the Muslim Peoples at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In addition to his teaching, Professor Levtzion hopes to undertake three major projects:

1. Continue the study of eighteenth-century renewal and reform movements in Islam, looking at such cases as: The Khalwatiyya in Egypt, Fez in the 18th Century, the haramayn as foci of Islamic revivalism, and the background to the jihads in West Africa.
2. Write a three-volume course book for the Open University, The Religion of Islam: A Historical Introduction.
3. Revise Ancient Ghana and Mali.

Professor Levtzion reports that he is looking forward to resuming scholarly work and to rejoining his colleagues in the ongoing academic discourse of symposia, conferences, workshops, etc., and he is planning to attend the International Conference on Mande Studies in Bamako.

Mande Studies Panels, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, November 1992

Sponsored by MANSA:

GRIOTS: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON WEST AFRICAN WORDSMITHS

Chairs: Thomas A. Hale, Pennsylvania State University and David C. Conrad, SUNY-Oswego

Papers: Laura A. Harris, Indiana University, "Mandenfabureh, Jirikananani, and Manden"

Bassirou Dieng, University of Dakar, "La figure royale et la figure de la parole dans les mythes et les épopées ouest-africaine"

Thomas A. Hale, Pennsylvania State University, "Roots of the Word Griot: Six Etymologies in Search of a Missing Link"

David C. Conrad, SUNY-Oswego, "Burying Bards in Baobabs: Early European Impressions of Griot Status and Identity"

Discussant: Papa Bunka Susso, Banjul, The Gambia

In addition, Ariane Deluz has written from Paris to say she is planning to attend the meeting. She proposes a paper entitled "The Guro Zamble Cult as an Historical Landmark".

We also welcome the following panel which was organized without reference to or contact with the Mande Studies Association:

ORAL TRADITION AND CHANGING CULTURAL IDENTITY: THE MANDE WORLD AND ITS WESTERN FRINGES

Chair: Peter Mark, Wesleyan University

Papers: Peter Weil, University of Delaware, "Art and Culture among the Gambian Mandinka"

Peter Mark, Wesleyan University, "Oral Tradition and the Interpretation of Masking Forms: Western Mandinka and West Atlantic"

Mamadou Diawara, University of Bayreuth, "Creating and Recreating Oral Tradition in Soninké History"

Stephan Bühnen, Giessen University, "Ancient Susu: The Need for Reassessment of Evidence and Identification"

Sunjata Epic Conference

Institute for Advanced Study & Research in the African Humanities

Northwestern University, November 13-15, 1992

PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED:

Ralph Austen, "The Historical Transformation of Genres: Sunjata as Panegyric, Epic and Novel"

Stephen Belcher, "Sini-mogo: The 'Man for Tomorrow' and the Present"

Charles Bird, "The Production and Reproduction of the Sunjata Epic"

Stephen P.D. Bulman, "The Role of the Literary Mediator in the Dissemination of the Sunjata Epic"

Seydou Camara, "L'épopée de Sunjata: Structure, conservation et transmission"

David C. Conrad, "A Town Called Dekajalan: The Sunjata Tradition and the Question of Ancient Mali's Capital"

Mamadou Diawara, "Sunjata et les autres: Le héros et son paradigme -- Le cas du royaume de Jaara (Mali, Mauritanie & Senegal) du xve au milieu du xixe siècle"

Paulo F. de M. Farias, "Praise Performance as Intrusion and as Foreign Language: A Sunjata Paradigm Seen from the Gesere Diaspora in Borgu (Republic of Benin)"

Thomas A. Hale, "Literature and History in the Sunjata Epic and the Epic of Askia Mohammed"

James R. McGuire, "Narrating Mande Heroism in the Malian Novel: Negotiating a Post-Colonial Identity in Diabaté's Le Boucher de Kouta"

Tal Tamari, "Historicity in Tradition: The Sunjata Epic as Evidence for the Development of Manding Social Structure"

Karim Traore, "Hunters' Songs of the Mande"

Ivor Wilks, "The History of the Sunjata Epic: A Reconsideration"

Book and Article Releases

Books

Vladimir Romanovich Arseniev, Animals=Gods=People: An Analysis of the Birth and Development of Religious Belief in West Africa. Moscow: Political Literature Publishing House, 1991. This book is in Russian -- the above information was translated for this newsletter.

Alma Gottlieb, Under the Kapok Tree: Identity and Difference in Beng Thought. Bloomington: Indiana University Press (African Systems of Thought series), 1992.

Frederick Lamp, La Guinée et ses Heritages Culturels: Articles sur l'Histoire de l'Art de la Région. Conakry: United States Information Service, 1992.

Articles

Roderic Knight, "Music out of Africa: Mande *jaliya* in Paris," The World of Music 33/1 (1991), 52-69

-----, "Vibrato Octaves: Tunings and modes of the Mande *balo* and *kora*," Progress Reports in Ethnomusicology (University of Maryland, Baltimore), Vol.3, No.4 (Sept. 1991), 1-49.

-----, *Jali Nyama Suso, Kora Player of The Gambia* VHS videotape, 20 minutes with 8 pp. notes, song texts in English. Original Music OMY 003. (418 Lasher Rd. Tivoli, NY 12583). This was originally a film made in 1972 when Nyama Suso was in residence at the University of Washington. He died in 1991.

New & Renewed MANSA Members.

Research Specializations & Address Changes

Jon Anderson (Sponsor), 1220 Marie Victorian, Longueuil, Quebec J4G 2H9

Oumou Anderson, Jon Anderson's wife, runs a Bed and Breakfast establishment in Bamako's quartier Niaréla. He has a printed brochure, with map showing directions to the B & B.

Larry Becker, 95 Craig Avenue, Madison, WI 53705 (address change)

Sarah Brett-Smith, 287A Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540 (address change)

Mirjam de Bruijn, Nachtegaalstraat 6g bis III, 35 81 AE Utrecht, The Netherlands (address change)

Stephen Bühnen (Sponsor), Lüder-von-Bentheim-Str. 22, 28 Bremen 1, Germany

Sekou Camara, Professeur d'Anglais, Lycée de Badalabougou, B.P. 08, Bamako, Mali

Mamadou Diawara, University of Bayreuth, Hugo Rüdel-Strasse 10, Postfach 101251, D-8580, Bayreuth, Germany (address until November, 1993)

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

Tim Geysbeek, P.O. Box 10-0192, 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia (address change)

Andrew Habermacher (3 years' membership), Prince George's Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20772-2199. Research on Mande migration in Casamance; Senegal Contemporary Painting and Traditional Music Project, Prince George's County, Maryland, April-May, 1992.

Jan Jansen, Himalaya 154, 3524 XJ Utrecht, The Netherlands (address change)

Carolyn M. Jefferson (2 years' membership), 411 Warner Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
20001-2409. Ph.D. student, Howard University, researching agricultural production groups,
vegetable growers & technological know-how.

Raimund Kastenholz, Institut für Afrikanistik der Universität zu Köln, Meister-Ekkehart Strasse 7,
W-5000 Köln, Germany

Martin A. Klein (Sponsor), Department of History, University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street,
Toronto, Canada M5S 1A1

Roderic Knight, Division of Musicology, Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
44074-1588

Frederick Lamp, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218-3898

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

Nehemia Levtzion, Institute of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem,
Israel (address change)

James McGuire, 918 Crain Street, Apt. 3, Evanston, IL 60202

Diane W. Oyler, c/o Public Affairs Officer, American Embassy Conakry, U.S. Department of State,
Washington D.C. 20521-2110

Ph.D. candidate, University of Florida, dissertation research in the Republic of Guinea, 1992-93.
Studying social struggles over the control of literacy among Mande-speaking peoples, focusing on
the locally generated script N'Ko.

Julianne Short, c/o PAO-USIS, Ambassade Americaine, B.P. 34, Bamako, Republic of Mali (Doing
anthropology dissertation research in Kolokani, studying older women).

David E. Skinner (Sponsor), Department of History, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053

Kathleen Slobin, 27 River Oaks Pt., Moorhead, MN, 56560 (address change)

Kalilou Tera, 08 B.P. 887 Abidjan 08, République du Côte d'Ivoire

Berend Timmer, Centre of Non-Western Studies, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands
Studying the way Mandinka people in western Gambia conceptualize the "person" and how ideas and
values are articulated in the relations positioning a person within his socio-cosmological context.

Robert Winshall, M.D., 531 Key Blvd., Richmond, CA, 94805

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.