



MANSA

Newsletter Number 34 -- Spring 1997

MANSA-Sponsored Panels for ASA 1997

EXPLORING THE COMPLEXITIES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGE IN THE MANDE WORLD

Chair: Stephen Wooten, University of Florida
Papers:

- Stephen Wooten, University of Florida
"Going to Market: Gender and Trade on the Mande Plateau (Mali)"
Barbara Frank, SUNY-Stony Brook and
Adria LaViolette, University of Virginia
"Pots For Sale: Potters' Marketing Strategies in Mali"
Rosa de Jorio, University of Illinois
"Socialist Values and Local 'Solidarities': An Examination of Wage Labor in Post-Independence Mali"
Richard Warms, West Texas State University
"What to do with a Pension: Economic Strategies of Ancien Combattants in Bougouni, Mali"
Discussant: Robert Launay, Northwestern University

CONSTRUCTIONS OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY AMONG THE MANDE AND THEIR NEIGHBORS (PART I)

Co-Chairs: David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego and
Dorothea Schulz, Frobenius Institute

- Papers:
Dorothea Schulz, Frobenius Institute
"Heroes of the Mande Past Enter the Malian Broadcast Media: The Construction of Political Identities in Televised Oral Performances"
Lansine Kaba, University of Illinois-Chicago
"The Ancestors of Samori Touré: Religion, Trade, War, and Identity in Baté, 1870-1955"
Peter Mark, Wesleyan University
"Changing Constructions of Luso-African Identity in Guinea and the Cape-Verde Islands, 1500-1650"
David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego
"Identifying 'Manden': 20th-Century Maninka Perceptions of 13th-Century Boundaries"
Discussant: B. Marie Perinbam, University of Maryland

CONSTRUCTIONS OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY AMONG THE MANDE AND THEIR NEIGHBORS (PART II)

Co-Chairs: David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego and
Dorothea Schulz, Frobenius Institute

- Papers:
Allen Howard, Rutgers University
"Mande Identity Formation in the Economic and Political Context of Northwestern Sierra Leone"
Stephen Belcher, Pennsylvania State University
"Using Sunjata: Fula Self-Definition in the Manden"
Lamissa Bangali, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana
"The Land of the Bush Spirits and the Territory of the Nation-State: Defining the Border-Line Between Two Malian and Burkinabe Villages"
Laura Arntson, Michigan State University
"Imagining Boundaries: Constructions of Political, Social, and Cultural Identity"
Andreas Massing, Projet Foyers Améliorés (Bamako)
"A Reconsideration of Wangara in the Context of Mali and the Mande Diaspora in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire"

LEARNING AND TEACHING ORAL TRADITION: INDIGENOUS AND FOREIGN PEDAGOGY IN ORAL PERFORMANCE

Co-Chairs: Jan Jansen and John Johnson

- Papers:
Jan Jansen
"The Mande School of Oral Tradition as a Total Institution: The Case of Kela (Mali)"
John Johnson
"Perception and Oral Tradition: Learning Somali Oral Poetry"
Dianne Oyler, Minot State University
"Re-Inventing Oral Tradition: The Modern Saga of Soulayman Kante"
Tom Hale, Pennsylvania State University
"Learning for West African Griots"

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

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

LAURA ARNTSON, *Secretary-Treasurer*, Michigan State University

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TÉREBA TOGOLA, Institut des Sciences Humaines

ASA Papers Submitted separately:

Marie Miran

"The Wahabi Movement in Côte d'Ivoire"

Ariane Deluz

"Historical Interest of Songs by Guro Bards Who are Not Jeliw"

Jeanne Toungara

"Lyrics, Lessons and History: Mande Songs from Northwestern Côte d'Ivoire"

If anybody has a paper that would go with the ones by Deluz and Toungara, we could organize those into a panel and make a late submission.

**International Conference on Mande Studies
Banjul, Gambia**
(Memo)

To: MANSA Members

From: David Conrad

Between now and the Spring 1998 MANSA Newsletter, all issues will contain up-dates of panel suggestions and paper titles so far submitted, so you can stay current on these developments and decide if you want to join any of the panels. You may choose to join a panel already formed, form one yourself, or simply submit your paper title and abstract to me, and I will coordinate it with others and organize whatever panels are called for.

I will also keep you informed of all developments involving travel arrangements, efforts to obtain funding, etc. The latest news on funding is as follows: At the annual MANSA meeting in November 1996, I reported that I had applied for a grant from a German research foundation and had received a pledge of \$200 for help in renting our conference room. The sum of this grant awarded to us by the Bremer Stiftung für Geschichte (see item elsewhere in this issue) has been raised to \$800, which will nearly cover the rental of our meeting room for the entire conference.

**International Conference on Mande Studies
Banjul, Gambia:**

Panel Topics and Papers Submitted to Date
(Some titles are suggested or working versions
only & will change before the conference)

CHANGING FRONTIERS: MIGRATORY
MOVEMENTS OF MANDE PEOPLES AND THEIR
NEIGHBORS

Chair: Mirjam de Bruijn

Papers:

Jan Jansen

"Migration in Mande Oral Tradition"

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

Co-Chairs: Roderick McIntosh, Rice University and
Joe Tainter, Cambridge University

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF GENDER
AND CASTE, POWER AND HIERARCHY

Chair: Barbara Hoffman

PRE-1700 MANDE AND LUSO-AFRICAN
CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS ON
THE ATLANTIC COAST

Chair: Peter Mark, Wesleyan University

Papers:

Peter Mark, Wesleyan University

"Mande-Portuguese Relations and Cultural Interaction
Before 1700"

MANDE LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

Chair: Valentin Vydrine

CONSTRUCTIONS OF POLITICAL AND
CULTURAL IDENTITY AMONG THE MANDE
AND THEIR NEIGHBORS

Chair: David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego and

Dorothea Schulz, Frobenius Institute

Papers: Berend Timmer, Research School, CNWS

PAPERS WITH NO PANEL YET FORMED

Ralph Austen, University of Chicago

"African Autobiography in Comparative Perspective:
The Case of Laye Camara"

David Skinner, University of Santa Clara

"The Late 19th-Century Spiritual and Military
Movement of Fode Kaba"

**Nehemia Levtzion Elected
to Highest Israeli Educational Post**

Professor Nehemia Levtzion of the School of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been elected to the most senior academic position in Israeli Higher Education. He is now Chair of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the Council for Higher Education. This has made it necessary for him to resign his position as Executive Director of the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem.

Professor Levtzion will be in charge of allocating all the public funds to universities and colleges in Israel, as well as planning the creation of new institutions and enlarging existing institutions. He also decides about priorities of special fields of study to determine the numbers of students in universities and disciplines.

**Bremer Stiftung für Geschichte
(Bremen Foundation for History)**

The Bremer Stiftung für Geschichte is a newly founded institution in Germany headed by Dr. Stephan Bühnen, that has generously pledged a grant of \$800 to the Mande Studies Association to be used for rental of our meeting room at the International Conference on Mande Studies to be held in Banjul, Gambia, in June, 1998.

This foundation is still in its infancy, and the directors are continuing the process of outlining their goals, which they stress must be kept modest because their funds are limited.

So far they have defined their objectives as follows: The funding of research into the precolonial history of western West Africa, mainly the documentation of historically relevant data including ethnographic material and oral traditions. They are also interested in supporting research into the prehistory of Central Europe.

Looking to the future, the directors are presently considering the possibility of setting up a relatively low-key coordinated project for field research in "Greater Manden." Several ideas about how they might go about this have been proposed, and this part of their program remains in the planning stage. One possibility they are considering, is a "Mande Documentation Project" for systematic collection of oral data related to descent groups, marriage alliances, ritual locations, and various cultural institutions.

More information will be forthcoming in later issues. Meanwhile, MANSA wishes to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks to the Bremer Stiftung für Geschichte for the generous grant pledged for our meeting in Banjul. We are extremely grateful to our German colleagues and especially the foundation's Director, Dr. Stephan Bühnen, and will of course acknowledge their generosity in the Banjul conference program and any volumes spawned by that event.

**West African Research Association
WARA
International Symposium on West Africa
and the Global Challenge
June 22 - 28, 1997
Dakar, Senegal**

For the original call for papers, see the flyer on the back page of MANSA Newsletter #31. WARA invites faculty, researchers and graduate students involved in the study of West Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean to submit proposals for organized panels and individual presentations. To allow participants to better plan their visit to Senegal and West Africa, the symposium panels are being organized in three categories and grouped into three-day sessions throughout the week.

Part I: June 23 - 25, The African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean. Panels Organizer: Dr. Sheila Walker, University of Texas at Austin

Part II: June 24 - 26, West African Research. Panels Organizer: David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego

Part III: June 26 - 28, Contemporary Issues, A Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Fulbright Programs: Democratization of Society, Urban Environment, Electronic Technology, and Education and Culture. Panels Organizer: Dr. Robert Fatton, University of Virginia

Topics are interdisciplinary. Contributions in the social sciences, public history, humanities and the arts

are solicited. Submit an abstract (500 words max.) and pre-registration fees as soon as possible. Send to WARA, P.O. Box 742, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059. Registration fees: (residents of the U.S., Canada, Western Europe) members \$65, students \$45 (others) \$20.

The Journal of Mande Studies

The newly created Journal of Mande Studies invites submissions dealing with all aspects of the Mande world, as well as volunteers for manuscript evaluation and any other appropriate participation. Manuscripts from North America should be sent to Stephen Belcher at Department of Comparative Literature, N434 Burrowes Bldg., Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802-6204, U.S.A. or Sarah Brett-Smith, 287A Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08540, U.S.A. Manuscripts from Europe should be sent to Ariane DeLuz, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociologique, 52 rue du Cardinale-Lemoine, 75005 Paris, France.

Book, Article, and Dissertation Releases

BOOKS:

1997 Alusine Jallow and David E. Skinner (eds). *Islam and Trade in Sierra Leone*. Lawrence, NJ: Africa World Press. Pp. 229.

Muslims constitute more than half of the four and a half million residents of Sierra Leone, and they continue to be significant contributors in the affairs of the country. It was in recognition of the historical and contemporary importance of Muslims that the Sierra Leone Studies Association (USA) sponsored a conference entitled "Islam, Culture, Commerce, and Politics in Sierra Leone" in 1994 at Howard University, Washington D.C. to study their varied contributions to Sierra Leone society from the pre-independence period to the present. This edited collection of essays by leading specialists is the result of this conference. Although the religious and commercial activities of Muslims in Sierra Leone have been examined in several studies, there still does not exist a single, comprehensive text about their role in cultural, commercial, political and religious affairs from the pre-independence period to the 1990's. This volume, which includes new data and perspectives, is designed to advance scholarship toward that more comprehensive account of Muslims in Sierra Leone.

1997. Stephen Belcher, Thomas Hale, and John Johnson (eds). *The Epic in Africa: An Anthology*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Contents:

1. The Epic of Wagadu, by Diarra Sylla and Jiri Sylla
2. The Epic of Son-Jara, by Fadigi Sissoko
3. The Epic of Fa-Jigi, by Seydou Camara
4. The Epic of Bamana Segu, by Tayiru Banbera
5. The Epic of Sonsan of Kaarta, by Mamary Kouyate

6. The Epic of Almami Samori Toure, by Sory Fina Kamara
7. The Epic of Musadu, by Moike Sidibe
8. The Epic of Kelefa Sane, by Sherif Jebate
9. The Epic of Kambili, by Seydou Camara
10. The Epic of Sara, by Sira Mori Jabate
11. The Epic of Askia Mohammed, by Nouhou Malio
12. The Epic of Mali Bero, by Djibo Badie
13. The Epic of Issa Korombe, by Samba Gafisso
14. The Epic of Hambodedio and Saigalare, by Hamma Diam Bouraima
15. The Epic of Silamaka and Poullori, by Maabal Samburu
16. The Epic of Silamaka and Hambodedio, by Boubacar Tinguidji
17. The Epic of Samba Gueladio Diegui, by Pahel Amadou Baila
18. The Epic of Njaajaan Njaay, by Seq Nan
19. The Epic of Lat Dior, by Bassirou Mbaye
20. The Epic of the Bani Hilal I, by Shaikh Taha Abu Zayd
21. The Epic of the Bani Hilal II, by Awadalla Abd al-Jalal Ali
22. The Epic of Mvet Moneblum, by Daniel Osomo
23. The Epic of Jeki la Nzambe, by Pierre Celestin Tiki a Koulle
24. The Epic of Mwindo, by Mr. Shekwabo
25. The Epic of Kahindo, by Muteresi Shempunge

ARTICLES

Revealing why David Henige, Editor of *History in Africa*, has encouraged us to establish the *Journal of Mande Studies*. All of the articles by MANSA members listed below are from *History in Africa* 23 (1996)

- Ralph A. Austen and Jan Jansen, "History, Oral Transmission and Structure in Ibn Khaldun's Chronology of Mali Rulers," 17-28.
- José da Silva Horta, "La Perception Du Mande et de l'Identité Mandingue dans les Textes Européens, 1453-1508," 75-86.
- Jan Jansen, "The Representation of Status in Mande: Did the Mali Empire Still Exist in the Nineteenth Century?," 87-109.
- Stephan Bühnen, "Brothers, Chiefdoms, and Empires: On Jan Jansen's 'The Representation of Status in Mande,'" 111-120.
- Jan Jansen, "Politics and Political Discourse: Was Mande Already A Segmentary Society in the Middle Ages?," 121-128.
- Dierk Lange, "La Chute de la Dynastie des Sisse: Considerations sur la Dislocation de l'Empire du Ghana a Partir de l'Histoire de Gao," 155-178.
- Peter Mark, "'Portuguese' Architecture and Luso-African Identity in Senegambia and Guinea, 1730-1890," 179-196.
- Pekka Masonen and Humphrey J. Fisher, "Not Quite Venus from the Waves: The Almoravid Conquest of Ghana in the Modern Historiography of Western Africa," 197-231.

- B. Marie Perinbam, "The Salt-Gold Alchemy in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Mande World: If Men are Its Salt, Women are Its Gold," 257-278.

DISSERTATION DEFENDED

1997. Karim Traore. *Le jeu et le sérieux. Essai d'anthropologie littéraire sur la poésie épique des chasseurs du Mande (Afrique de l'Ouest)* Bayreuth University

MANSA T-Shirts

To order your MANSA T-shirt send \$17.40 per shirt (15.00 plus 2.40 each for mailer & postage; overseas orders please include an additional 2.50 per order) to: David Conrad, History Department, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126

New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

- Tavy Aherne, 103 E. Southern Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401 (address change)
- Lamissa Bangali, University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana, 109 Davenport Hall, MC-148, 607 S. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801; e-mail: bangali@students.uiuc.edu
Research interests: Ritual and ethnicity, Mali and Burkina Faso; Senufo, Samogho, Moore, Bamana.
- Stephan Bühnen (sponsor), Osterdeich 49, 28203 Bremen, Germany
- Victoria Coifman, Afro-American & African Studies Department, 808 Social Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455
- Banning Eyre, P.O. Box 444, North Scituate, MA 02060; e-mail: 102644.1030@compuser.com
Independent researcher, Malian musicians; freelance journalist.
- David P. Gamble, 268 Klamath Street, Brisbane, CA 94005
- Pascal J. Imperato, MD (sponsor), Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, SUNY-Health Science Center at Brooklyn, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 43, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098
- James A. Jones (sponsor), 506 Main Hall, West Chester University, West Chester PA 19383
- Namankoumba Kouyaté, 48 rue General Delestraint, 75016, Paris, France (address change)
- Dierk Lange, Geschichte Afrikas, Universität Bayreuth, 95440 Bayreuth, Germany (address correction)
- Kirsten Langeveld, Tuyl v. Serooskerkenpln 42-1, 1076 NC Amsterdam, The Netherlands (address change)
- Adria LaViolette (sponsor), Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia, Brooks Hall 303, Charlottesville, VA 22903
- Bruce Mouser, 2323 Mississippi St., LaCrosse, WI, 54601 (address change)

Emily Osborn, c/o PAO-USIS, Am Embassy,
Conakry, Department of State, Washington DC
20521-2110 (address change)

Michael Schlottner, Oberstrasse 2, 56459 Willmenrod,
Germany

Nancy Van Eps, 6251 Dogwood Avenue, Excelsior,
MN 55331

Undergraduate in History, African Studies Program,
University of Minnesota. Research interests: The spread
of Islam, trade and the dynamics of empires in West
African History (12th-16th Centuries)

Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership

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sponsoring membership \$25. Make check out to
MANSA and (if you are joining) send your institu-
tional affiliation and a brief description of your research
interests to: Laura Arntson, African Studies Center, 100
Center for International Programs, Michigan State
University, East Lansing, MI 48824. Members (other
than sponsored African colleagues) will find the date on
which their present membership expires recorded on
their address labels.