



M A N S A

Newsletter Number 42 -- Winter 1999 - 2000

Mande Studies Subscriptions Now Available

A detailed description of issue of *Mande Studies* No. 1 (1999) was published in the last issue (#41) of *MANSA Newsletter* (p. 2). That information is also now available on the MANSA web-site.

The price of the journal will be \$30 to institutions, \$15 to individuals. At the ASA meeting there were two circulars available that provided subscription information, including the address for ordering. One was prepared solely for the journal, and the other included the journal among other publications of the African Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison. One or the other of these is being enclosed with this issue of the newsletter.

Minutes of the 14th Annual Meeting Mande Studies Association Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, PA November 13, 1999, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Present: Tavy Aherne, Laura Arntson, Ralph Austen, Stephen Belcher, Catherine Bogosian, George Brooks, Eric Charry, David Conrad, Ferdinand DeJong, Rosa DeJorio, Barbara Frank, David Goodman, Maria Grosz-Ngate, Sten Hagberg, Musa Hakim, John Hanson, Joseph Hellweg, Christian Højbjerg, Allen Howard, John Hutchison, John Johnson, Kassim Kone, Kirsten Langeveld, Joe Lauer, Marie-Nathalie LeBlanc, Sabine Luning, Greg Mann, Peter Mark, Ann McDougall, Patrick McNaughton, Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, Robert Newton, Chuck Riley, Jacqueline Robinson, Dorothea Schulz, Kathleen Slobin, Mohamed Soumare, Papa Susso, Jeanne Toungara, Karim Traore, Richard Warms, Donald Wright.

President David Conrad opened the meeting by reporting that Secretary-Treasurer Stephen Wooten was unable to attend this year, but that he had submitted his

financial report (11/6/99), and it would be presented by Vice-President Barbara Frank (who would also handle dues and membership issues during the meeting).

Wooten's report covers the period October 26, 1998-November 6, 1999. The balance in the MANSA account at the beginning of that period was \$1,573.97. During this reporting period our deposits totaled \$2,145.34. Most of this was membership dues, with a very small amount coming from returned balances from advance checks for newsletter production. During the year we paid out \$1,235.18, mostly reflecting the cost of newsletter production and mailing. A very small component stems from charges for returned checks (i.e., insufficient funds). At the time of the report, the balance in the MANSA account was \$2,484.13.

At present we have membership records for approximately 322 individuals or institutions (up 29 from the last reporting period). We have a total of 154 current members, i.e., members with dues paid (up 4 from the last reporting period). We have a total of 73 sponsored members (up 5). We have a total of 9 libraries and 3 institutions on our complimentary distribution list (no change from last reporting period). There are 83 lapsed membership records, i.e., people who have stopped paying dues to the Association and/or who have lost contact. During the reporting period, 16 new members joined the Association (down from 23 who joined during the previous period) and 111 people renewed their memberships (up from 70 members renewing during the previous period).

Wooten reminded us that the MANSA bank account was still with Citizen's Bank in East Lansing, MI. He proposed that if he were re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, that in order to facilitate more efficient financial operations, the MANSA account be moved from East Lansing, Michigan to Eugene, Oregon.

The next item on the agenda was re-election of the Secretary-Treasurer, which in accord with the by-laws is carried out on alternate years from election of President and Vice-President. Conrad noted that Stephen Wooten

DAVID C. CONRAD, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego
BARBARA E. FRANK, *Vice President*, State University of New York-Stony Brook
STEPHEN WOOTEN, *Secretary-Treasurer*, University of Oregon

Advisory Board

Mirjam de Bruijn, University of Leiden
Lucy Duran, SOAS, University of London
Yacouba Konaté, Université d'Abidjan
Kassim Kone, State University of New York-Cortland

Peter Mark, Wesleyan University
Tereba Togola, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Bamako
Jeanne Maddox Toungara, Howard University
Karim Traoré, University of Georgia

has done a good job in that post. He nominated Wooten for another term, and called for further nominations. There were none, and Wooten was unanimously elected to serve another term as Secretary-Treasurer. Patrick McNaughton then moved in favor of Wooten's proposal to transfer the bank account, seconded by Richard Warms, carried with a strong majority.

Next on the agenda was a report on the new journal *Mande Studies*, presented by Stephen Belcher (who as co-editor with Ariane Deluz has been serving as the primary mover on getting the first issue into print). Belcher reported that the first issue was in proof form, that the second issue is already well on the way to completion, and that David Henige had provided us with promotion circulars to be passed around at ASA.

Reviewing the general plan of *Mande Studies*, Belcher reminded us that our journal will be published annually, that it is to be peer-reviewed, and that we need submissions. The journal is published by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's African Studies Program. They are generously allowing us extra copies for distribution to African institutions, but MANSAs will quite rightly be responsible for paying the costs of distribution.

Belcher reported that the editors had invited various people to serve on the editorial board. These included Mamadou Diawara, Alma Gottlieb, Eugenia Herbert, Lansiné Kaba, Lilyan Kesteloot, Martin Klein, Robert Launay, Barbara Lewis, and David Conrad (*ex officio*).

Belcher asked that attending members ratify the list of proposed board members. After some clarification of how and why the people were chosen (according to areas of specialization), it was moved, seconded and carried with one abstention.

The next item of the agenda involved MANSAs Advisory Board changes. Conrad noted that the terms of Alfa Bah and Peter Mark were up this year, and that Peter Mark had expressed interest in serving for another term. In addition, three members of the Advisory Board were now on the Editorial Board of the new journal: Ariane Deluz, Mamadou Diawara, and Lansiné Kaba. This left a total of five slots open on the Advisory Board. Nominations were called for, and the following people were nominated: Peter Mark, Yacouba Konaté, Mirjam DeBruijn, Karim Traoré, and Jeanne Maddox Toungara. All five were elected to the board.

The agenda next called for a report from Lansiné Kaba regarding plans for the Conference "Samori in the Year 2000" but Kaba was not present at the moment. Conrad noted that Kaba was extremely busy because he is now President-Elect of ASA, and

congratulations were tendered to our distinguished colleague in his absence.

Members were asked for their views on the problem of sending computers to West Africa. Kassim Koné responded that he and John Hutchinson have been donating computers for a few years now. Koné explained that they send hardware in containers from New York for \$2.75 per kilo, and that they have a way of doing it so it is not subject to problems with Malian customs. Conrad asked Kassim to write a memo for the newsletter explaining how this is done (see separate item, this issue).

Kassim Koné also mentioned that Macintosh compatible Bamana language software is available for free, and that those interested could contact him.

Regarding the MANSAs web-site, the President asked for comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, up-dates, corrections. He noted that corrections are ongoing and that a new section for the journal *Mande Studies* is being added. He said Robert Newton has been working on the bibliography, but that it is a difficult and understandably slow process. Newton reported that he is building a reference database and that people need to continue to submit material, preferably in database form.

In keeping with MANSAs tradition, Conrad asked for tentative topics for MANSAs-sponsored panels for ASA 2000 in Nashville. He noted that it had been to our advantage for MANSAs member Tom Hale to serve as ASA panel chair for 1999, and that Patrick McNaughton would be serving in the same capacity for ASA 2000.

Acknowledging that every year there are inevitable conflicts in the panel scheduling, Conrad encouraged MANSAs folk to show up for MANSAs-sponsored panels whenever possible, to support their colleagues. Robert Newton identified some problems with scheduling, and Jeanne Toungara suggested that a letter be written to ASA to vent concerns. Peter Mark described an ASA mix-up for his panel proposal this year, and announced that he was turning it into an unofficial roundtable on the following day.

A few suggestions for MANSAs Panels for ASA 2000 were finally made: Peter Mark, "Precolonial Identity and Ethnicity: Mettisage Culturelle"; Richard Warms and Greg Mann, "The Times of Modibo Keita"; Laura Arntson suggested a panel of something having to do with "Local Knowledge" and David Conrad offered to chair another panel on Samori, if anything happens with commemorative plans for the year 2000. Members were reminded that these suggestions are always regarded as tentative, and that they are welcome to submit

suggestions between now and next March.

On the subject of a future International Conferences on Mande Studies, Conrad reminded the members that we have a standing invitation to meet in Côte d'Ivoire from Yacouba Konaté who would be our principal liason there. Marie-Nathalie Leblanc noted that she makes regular trips to Abidjan and offered to serve as a forward observer and contact with Konaté. Conrad reported that for future international meetings, we have expressions of interest from Burkina Faso (Lazare Ki-Zerbo for Bobo Dioulasso); Paris (Jean-Loup Amselle at EHESS), Berlin (Dorothea Schulz, during the next 3 years while she is there); Rome (Marie Luisa Ciminelli, who would be our liason there).

Conrad stressed that to go forward with plans for a meeting in Côte d'Ivoire or anyplace else, we need a demonstration of serious interest from a significant number of members, in addition to reasonably strong on-site location support.

Several general announcements were offered at various times during the meeting: Barbara Frank announced that a film/video of Mali is available from Janet Goldner. Robert Newton told of a web collection of Multimedia Inc. images and sounds from Mali that is available from the African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Peter Mark expressed strong concern that the plans for the Musée de l'Homme in Paris warrant serious concern from academics, and mentioned that he may draft a letter for signatures from MANSA members. D. Conrad reminded members of Mamadou Diawara's upcoming meeting at Point Sud in Bamako, the Colloque international to be held 12-18 February. Conrad also announced that MANSA T-shirts are still available for sale. He concluded the meeting with thanks to Barbara Frank for performing Wooten's duties, and to the members who attended. Meeting adjourned c. 9 p.m.

Sending Computers to Colleagues in West Africa by Kassim Koné

With regards to sending computer and other equipment to Mali as we discussed in Philadelphia, there are a few options: One is that a scholar going to Africa may bring a single computer in the luggage and claim (when asked by customs) that it will be used for work. If the laptop to be donated is in addition to one actually brought for research, it can be explained that the additional one would be used on fieldtrips.

The second option is what John Hutchison and

I have been doing for a few years now, which consists of sending computers and other accessories by container. So far we have been sending them only to Mali. Many such possibilities exist for other African countries. I will need to explore the possibilities to ship to the other West African countries where our MANSA relatives would like to send equipment. What we do is gather equipment (MacIntosh and PC, printers and scanners etc.) and send them to an office in New York City. Once the equipment arrives in New York, all that is required is the payment of \$2.75 per kilogram; the shipper has business representatives in Abidjan and Bamako to take care of the other logistics. It is important that the recipient's phone number and address be on the package/carton. Once the package gets there, someone will call the recipient to come and take the parcels. The recipient does not have to pay any additional fees. If you are sending a parcel to someone who does not have a phone, it remains necessary that this person have someone with a phone number under whose care the shipment would be sent. What I would suggest at this time is that people wanting to send equipment get in contact with me and I will provide them with the address in New York to which they could send the equipment. They should weigh the item in the meantime and divide the weight in pounds by 2.2 to get it in kg (to be multiplied by \$2.75 for delivery in Bamako). We will discuss the payment details as needs arise. Once everyone has done it once or twice, my assistance will no longer be necessary. As for the equipment people want to send, anything that they may have been using 3 to 5 years ago that still works can be sent to Africa. For equipment such as printers, which require ink cartridges or ribbons, one should consider whether such supplies are available. A printer in good condition but for which there are no available ink cartridges would obviously not be very helpful.

Up-Date on MANSA Members' Activities

EUGENIA HERBERT is now the book review editor of the ASA's *African Studies Review*.

LANSINE KABA is the new President of the African Studies Association.

The October 1999 issue of *Anthropology News* reports that President Bill Clinton appointed archaeologist SUSAN KEECH MCINTOSH of Rice University to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee. The Committee advises the President on the import of archaeological and ethnological materials into the U.S.

ERIC SILLA's book *People Are Not the Same: Leprosy and Identity in Twentieth-Century Mali* (1998) was recently announced as the winner of the prestigious Amaury Talbot Prize, which is awarded annually to the author, or authors, of a work which a distinguished panel of scholars judge to be the most valuable work of anthropological research relating to Africa submitted during the annual competition.

STEPHEN WOOTEN was selected by the U.S. Department of Education to serve as a member of the National Review Panel for the African Studies component of the 2000-2003 competition for institutional funding under the Department's Title VI program for National Resource Centers and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships.

Book Releases

BOOKS:

Ralph Austen. 1999. *In Search of Sunjata: The Mande Oral Epic as History, Literature, and Performance*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Contents:

"The Dichotomy of Power and Authority in Mande Society and in the Epic of Sunjata"

John William Johnson

"The History of the Sunjata Epic: A Review of the Evidence"

Ivor Wilks

"The Epic of Sunjata: Structure, Preservation and Transmission"

Seydou Camara

"The Historical Transformation of Genres: *Sunjata* as Panegyric, Folktale, Epic, and Novel"

Ralph A. Austen

"*Sinimogo*--'Man for Tomorrow': *Sunjata* on the Fringes of the Mande World"

Stephen Belcher

"Searching for the Historical Ancestor: The Paradigm of Sunjata in Oral Traditions of the Sahel (13th-19th Centuries)"

Mamadou Diawara

"The *Gesere* of Borgu: A Neglected Type of Manding Diaspora"

Paulo Fernando De Moraes Farias

"*Jeli* and *Sere*: The Dialectics of the Word in the Manden"

Karim Traoré

"Mooning Armies and Mothering Heroes: Female Power in Mande Epic Tradition"

David C. Conrad

Sunjata as Written Literature: The Role of the Literary Mediator in the Dissemination of the Sunjata Epic"

Stephen Bulman

Butchering Heroism?: *Sunjata* and the Negotiation of Postcolonial Mande Identity in Diabaté's *Le Boucher de Kouta*"

James R. McGuire

"The Production and Reproduction of *Sunjata*"

Charles S. Bird

"An Ethnography of the Epic of Sunjata in Kela"

Jan Jansen

"Out of Print: The Epic Cassette as Intervention, Reinvention, and Commodity"

Robert C. Newton

Pp. 349, ISBN 0-253-21248-0, pb.

Andrew F. Clark. 1999. *From Frontier to Backwater: Economy and Society in the Upper Senegal Valley (West Africa), 1850-1920*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America.

This book follows the interaction of politics, economy, society, and ecology in the upper Senegal valley from the middle of the nineteenth century through the end of World War I. During this turbulent period, the region was transformed from an export-producing area on the frontier of European expansion into a marginal labor reserve. The valley included the sparsely populated regions of Bundu, Khasso and Gajaaga, along with the societies of Bambuk and Gidimaka in the transitional zone between the Sahara Desert and the Guinea rain forest. Over time, changing French interests constantly shifted the areas of importance, yet settlements along the water routes were generally larger, more economically diverse, and more commercialized. At the middle of the nineteenth century, the diversity and vitality of the economy, along with the growing colonial presence in the heartland, led to the recovery of the upper Senegal Valley after several ecological and war-induced crises. However, the entire region was gradually marginalized. A fall in gum prices, the severe famine of 1913-1914, intensive war recruitment and mobilization efforts, combined with increased permanent migration, sealed the fate of this valley on the periphery of the French colonial empire.

Contents: Sources and Historiography; The Regional Perspective; The Regional Economy in the Late Nineteenth Century; The Political Economy of the Upper Senegal Valley: 1850-1890; The Central River Valley and the Towns, 1850-1890: Bakel, Medine and Kayes; The Political Economy of the Hinterland, 1890-1920. Pp. 296 ISBN 0-7618-1438-8 \$47.00 cloth

Maria Luisa Ciminelli and Vittorio Lanternari (eds).
1998. *Medicina, magia, religione, valori. Volume II: Dall'antropologia all'etnopsichiatria* [Medicine, Magic, Religion, Values. Volume II. From Anthropology to Ethnopsychiatry]. Naples: Liguori Publishers.

New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

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cultural translation; kinship; Bamana; Mali.

R. David Goodman, 1825 Woodbine St. 32
Ridgewood, NY 11385, Tel.: 718-497-8193
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Interests: Broad historical; relations w/ North Africa;
music.

Sten Hagberg, Department of Cultural Anthropology
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Burkina Faso; perceptions of environment.

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Jacqueline Robinson, 1552 E. Capitol Ave. #1,
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grâce à des changement de comportements voulus et

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UPDATES & ADDRESS CHANGES

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THE GAMBIA

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RENEWED MEMBERS

Ralph Austen (sponsor)
Catherine Bogosian
Sarah Brett-Smith (sponsor)
Stephen Bulman (sponsor)
David Conrad (sponsor)
Ferdinand DeJong
Rosa DeJorio
Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias
Barbara Frank (sponsor)
Julianne Freeman
Alma Gottlieb (sponsor)
Maria Grosz-Ngate (sponsor)
Joseph Hellweg
Eugenia Herbert
Joe & Carol Hoover
John Hutchinson (sponsor)
John William Johnson
Roderick Knight
Kassim Kone (sponsor)
Joseph Lauer
Adria LaViolette
Sabine Luning
Greg Mann
Peter Mark (sponsor)
Ann McDougall
Patrick McNaughton
Saidou N'Daou (sponsor)
Bob Newton
Richard Roberts (sponsor)
Patrick Royer
Dorothea Schulz
Bill Siegman
Kathleen Slobin (sponsor)
Mamadou Soumare
Clark Speed
Papa Susso
Jeanne Maddox Toungara (sponsor)
Karim Traore
Don Wright (sponsor)

Submitting Articles to *MANDE STUDIES*

Mande Studies welcomes articles on all aspects of the Mande world and the peoples and cultures that compose it. Submissions will be peer-reviewed before acceptance. The journal will accept and publish manuscripts in English or French.

Manuscript submissions should be typewritten or computer-printed in double-spacing, and should be accompanied, if possible, with an electronic version of the text on a diskette (IBM/MS-DOS; Mac texts should be sent by email). Authors must furnish any maps or illustrations in hard copy suitable for reproduction, and are responsible for obtaining any necessary permissions.

Colleagues from Africa without access to computers should send a typewritten manuscript, keeping a copy for their own use.

Submissions may be made electronically to either Ariane Deluz (Ariane.Deluz@ehess.fr) or to Stephen Belcher (spbelcher@mindspring.com); manuscript submissions should be sent to Stephen Belcher (R.D. 1 Box 1000, Petersburg PA, 16669 USA). In the case of electronic submissions, the text should be sent as an attachment and not in the body of the message. The preferred format, if not WordPerfect or Microsoft Word, is as a 'rich text file' (suffix: .rtf).

La revue *Etudes Mandé* invite nos collègues à présenter des contributions portant sur tous les aspects du monde mandé et des peuples et des cultures qui le composent. Les articles proposés seront évalués anonymement avant d'être retenus. La revue accepte et publie des articles en anglais ou en français.

Les manuscrits soumis doivent être saisis ou imprimés sur ordinateur en double interligne, et devraient s'accompagner si possible de la version électronique du texte sur disquette (format IBM/MS-Dos). Les textes composés sur Macintosh doivent nous parvenir comme fichiers attachés à un email. Les auteurs sont priés de fournir leurs cartes et illustrations sur papier, d'une qualité permettant la reproduction. Il est de la responsabilité des auteurs d'obtenir toute permission nécessaire pour la reproduction.

Nos collègues en Afrique d'ayant pas accès à un ordinateur sont priés d'envoyer un manuscrit dactylographié, et de conserver un deuxième exemplaire pour leur propre usage.

Les articles peuvent être soumis par voie électronique à Ariane Deluz (Ariane.Deluz@ehess.fr) ou à Stephen Belcher (spbelcher@mindspring.com); les

manuscripts devraient être adressés à Stephen Belcher (R.D. 1, Box 1000, Petersburg PA, 16669 -- USA). Dans le cas des articles envoyés par email, le texte ne doit pas être envoyé dans le message mais comme fichier attaché au mail. Le format préféré, autre que Microsoft Word, est le "Rich Text File" (suffixe .rtf).

**Free Copies of *Mande Studies*
For West African Institutions**
(A note from the editor)

David Henige, to whom we owe thanks for the birth of the new journal of the Mande Studies Association, has arranged for us to receive a generous number of copies of *Mande Studies* to be donated to West African libraries and institutions. This is with the understanding that MANSAs will pay for any mailing costs, and I have offered to handle the distribution (though I anticipate that much of the delivery will be done by hand as various people travel to the appropriate places).

I've begun to prepare a list of recipients, and am requesting further suggestions. If you suggest an institution that ought to receive the journal, please be sure to give all available address information, and if possible, the name of a contact person at the institution. The following is what I've listed so far. It is just a beginning list, so please suggest some additional institutions *with which you are personally familiar*, and which you know would formally register the volumes and make them available to the public:

Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako
University of Mali (formerly ENSUP), Bamako
USIS Library, Bamako
Guinean National Archives, Conakry
University of Conakry History Department Library
USIS Library Conakry
University of Kankan Library
National Library of The Gambia, Banjul
Université d'Abidjan
West African Research Center (WARC), Dakar
IFAN Library, Dakar
CEDA, Ouagadougou
CNRST, Ouagadougou
CESAO, Bobo Dioulasso
INEP, Guinea-Bissau
Université Nationale du Bénin, Cotonou

Please send me your suggestions.

-- DCC

MANSAs T-Shirts

To order your MANSAs 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

Joining MANSAs and Renewing Membership

Regular and institutional membership \$10, students \$5, sponsoring membership \$25. Make check out to MANSAs and (if you are joining) send your institutional affiliation and a brief description of your research interests to: Stephen Wooten, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1218. Members (other than sponsored African colleagues) will find the date on which their present membership expires recorded on their address labels. The Secretary-Treasurer will forward your up-dated address and research information to the President for publication in the newsletter.

Introducing

Mande STUDIES

1 (1999)



SUBSCRIPTION RATE

(ONE VOLUME PER YEAR)
INDIVIDUALS \$15
INSTITUTIONS \$30

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TEL: (608) 262-2493
FAX: 608/265-5851

CONTENTS OF 1(1999)

The Mande Studies Association and the Journal of
Mande Studies
David C. Conrad, President, MANSA

Special Section: Mobility in the Mande World
Guest Editors: *Mirjam De Bruijn and Han Van Dijk*

Introduction: Changing Frontiers
Mirjam De Bruijn and Han Van Dijk

Mande and Fulbe Interaction and Identity in
Northwestern Sierra Leone, Late Eighteenth
through Early Twentieth Centuries
Allen M. Howard

Fulbe Mobility: Migration and Travel into Mande
Mirjam De Bruijn and Han Van Dijk

Aspects of Interethnic Relations in
Contemporary Agricultural Migration and
Settlement in Southern Mali
Dolores Koenig, Tiéman Diarra, and Moussa Sow

Identity, Rice, and Oral Traditions: Reflections
from Fieldwork Among Nalu, Baga Fore,
and Baga Pukur-Speakers
Edda L. Fields

General Articles

Ethnic Pluralism and Homogeneity in the
Western Sudan: Saalum, Segu, Wasulu
Martin A. Klein

Les Mandingues de l'Ancien Kaabu et
le Savoir Musulman
Eduardo Costa Dias

Language Contact: The Case of Manding
and Jola-Fogny
Valentin Vydrine

Politique de Peuplement et Construction de
l'identité des Mikhiforé de Boko
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