



MANSA

Newsletter Number 43 -- Spring 2000

Mamadou Diawara's Point Sud Resource Center Needs Books (Editorial Note)

The Center for Research on Local Knowledge/Centre de Recherches sur le Savoir Local/Forschungszentrum Lokales Wissen in Bamako, Mali was founded by MANSA-member Mamadou Diawara. It is presently located in an attractive three-story building near the new bridge on the Badalabougou side of the river. Thanks to Diawara's heroic efforts in the face of enormous odds, the Point Sud Center is developing into a very dynamic institution.

In the past couple of years MANSA members have begun to participate in the programs and use the Center's facilities, and increasing numbers of us have lectured at Point Sud on various occasions. These appearances usually take place in a pleasant seminar room on the third floor of the building. That room is also meant to house the library part of Point Sud's Resource Center. Sad to say, however, the bookshelves are lamentably bare. Mamadou has mentioned to a few of us on recent visits to Bamako, that he would be very grateful for donations of books, journals and offprints of articles to fill the void, and we need to respond to this appeal.

Mamadou Diawara is a former MANSA Advisory Board Member, and is now a member of the *Mande Studies* Editorial Board. He is doing a terrific job with the limited resources at his disposal, and a visit to Point Sud is an inspiring experience not to be missed on anyone's next visit to Bamako. BUT LET'S FILL UP THOSE BOOKSHELVES! Point Sud is one of the institutions that will be receiving each issue of *Mande Studies* as it appears, but please dig down and find an extra copy of each of your books for the Point Sud Resource Center. This is a kind of support that we are equipped to provide for our colleague who is doing

everything in his power to use his European education, brilliant administrative gifts and personal charisma to bring something back to the Malian people.

If you don't plan a trip to Mali anytime soon, you can send the books, etc. to any of us who go back there regularly, and who will be willing to take them along. If you should be fortunate enough to get a Fulbright to Mali, Guinea, etc., a good strategy is to exploit your embassy pouch privileges as much as possible.

For those who are not familiar with Point Sud, the Center was established to analyze how the uses and meanings of local knowledge have evolved over time and to use this research to help development agencies plan viable programs and strategies for Africa. The Center uses, as a primary source and point of departure, the records of the Office du Niger which, as most MANSA people know, was an agency set up by the French colonial administration in the 1930s to implement massive agricultural projects in Mali.

Mamadou Diawara has initiated the first phase of activities which include (1) research, (2) capacity building, (3) development of a resource center, and (4) capital construction. The research component was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

The "capacity building" increment is of particular interest. One of the most important goals of the Center for the Study of Local Knowledge involves the training of local scholars. Initially five researchers from Mali will be selected by an International Advisory Council to train with Dr. Diawara and other Malian scholars with the goal that they will reach a level of scholarly sophistication that would make them competitive in seeking admission to top graduate programs in Europe and the U.S. When I spoke to Mamadou at Point Sud in January, he explained that there are six affiliated research institutions that have agreed to fund scholars for study abroad: The Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, Stanford University, the North Carolina research

DAVID C. CONRAD, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego
BARBARA E. FRANK, *Vice President*, State University of New York-Stony Brook
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Yacouba Konaté, Université d'Abidjan
Kassim Koné, 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

triangle, the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, and institutes in Berlin and Stockholm.

To further enrich the Center's intellectual community, scholars from abroad who are already in Mali for research are asked to spend time at the Center to share their expertise. The same is true for researchers and scholars from other African countries who will further the goal of creating an ongoing dialogue on local knowledge among scholars from all over Africa.

As for the Resource Center to which we need to contribute books and journals, the data collected by local researchers, as well as all reports and publications resulting from the project, need to be preserved in a library, archive and data center. In addition to the documents, files and audio-taped interviews, the hope is to develop a computerized data-base that will permit aggregation and cross-indexing of the data on local knowledge collected by the project in order to make it accessible to scholars, development agencies and NGOs.

This is not an unrealizable dream. A walk through the building these days, reveals Malian scholars at work in study rooms on the ground floor, and in a room already equipped with a computer. But an advanced computer network will be required, with desktop publishing equipment and a computer data management specialist who could also serve as librarian.

In future, the scope of the research undertaken at the Center will be expanded to include other areas in which local and "global" knowledge interact, such as health, nutrition, marketing and environmental preservation. Research on the universalistic approaches of development agencies will also be expanded to include the studies of development programs funded by the World Bank, the United Nations, major donor nations and NGOs. The centerpiece of the future activities will be the expansion of the training, conference and seminar programs which will help alleviate the current crisis in training and support for serious research in underfunded African universities. Mamadou Diawara's great hope is to establish the Center as a focal point for intellectual activity and discussion where the vital dialogue between north and south can be facilitated and where south-south exchanges can take place. Following are the titles of research projects so far initiated:

- 1) Migration paysanne et transfert de savoirs du Pays Dogon à l'Office du Niger
- 2) Savoir populaire paysans et savoir universel sur les rongeurs nuisibles en zone Office du Niger
- 3) L'Office du Niger face au savoir faire de ses exploitants

- 4) Savoirs Paysans et photopériodisme des sorghos à l'Office du Niger

For further information write Mamadou Diawara, Center for Research on Local Knowledge, B.P. 3266, Bamako, Mali. Tel/fax 00 228 285229. E-mail:

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(Many of the above details on Point Sud were taken from Mamadou Diawara's memos describing the Center)

The Closing of the Bamako USIS Library (Editorial Note)

It is sadly ironic that as Mamadou Diawara's Point Sud Resource Center and other places like the Institut des Sciences Humaines and the Library of the University of Mali suffer from book famine, the USIS Library attached to the U.S. Embassy in Bamako has been closed. For as long as any of us can remember, that library on the street behind the embassy has been a well-used, *climatisé* intellectual haven for Malian students learning to speak and read English (not to mention American researchers seeking refuge from the heat). When Sekou Camara who has assisted so many of us in our research during the past twenty-five years (he is now *professeur de l'anglais* at the Lycée Ibrahim Ly) heard of the closing, he expressed deeply felt concern: "Where will our students of English go to read books in English? There is no other place! It cannot be done! This is very serious!"

According to the present PAO Michael Macy, the USIS library has been closed because of the embassy bombings in East Africa. The street alongside the embassy (where the Cafe Ali Baba is located) has been blocked off and embassy guards are stationed there, but even the mighty U.S. Government is unable to close the major street that runs past the RR Station.

One can understand the very real security risks that must be coped with by the embassy security officer, but what about all the books that some of us have donated to that library through the years? When I asked PAO Macy what was to be done with them, he replied to the effect that the library would most likely be used by embassy personnel. The U.S. Government has made an offer to take over the old CRES compound on Badalabougou hill for a new embassy location. If they can pull this off, the embassy will have a secure, secluded location above the hustle and bustle of mid-town Bamako, but even if they were to open a USIS library there (which seems unlikely in light of both real and threatened USIS closings in African countries that need them the most), it would be far from the former

central location, and inaccessible to most students.

Now, it seems certain that many of us did not donate books to the USIS Library solely for the use of embassy personnel, and it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that it would be appropriate to retrieve them and have them installed in the Point Sud library, or the university, or ISH. This may be impossible to do, but it seems worth discussing among ourselves. (And if you feel like writing a letter to the PAO to inquire about the status of the books, please do so).

"African Voices"
New Exhibition at the Smithsonian
by Mary Jo Arnoldi

African Voices, the new permanent exhibition of African History and Cultures, opened at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History on December 15, 1999. Many of our Mande colleagues participated in the development of the Mande exhibition stories. They have lent objects, photographs and important advice and counsel. I have heard low grumblings that there is too much on Mali (can there ever be too much anywhere?). The exhibition features a historical story on Jenne Jené with objects borrowed from the National Museum in Mali and texts written by Tereba Togola and photographs by Roderick McIntosh. A special thanks to Samuel Sidibé of the National Museum in Mali and Aminata Traoré, Minister of Culture for their support of this project.

In the "Enterprising Africa" section there is a story on agriculture that features two Ciwara carved by the late Siriman Fane of Koké and donated to the Smithsonian by Pascal James Imperato. Barbara Frank's photograph of Mande potters is featured in the "Enterprising Africa" gallery. There are also photographs by Julianne Freeman and Stephen Wooten, and a story on recycling with objects from the Bamako market and an interactive developed from Mamadou Samaké's film on Recycling in Bamako.

In the "Wealth in Africa" there is a story of Bogolanfini -local, national and global. Mansa colleagues Barbara Hoffman, Tavy Aherne, and Victoria Rovine shared their research with us to develop this story. The Bogolanfini story features cloth made by Nakunté Diarra and lent by Barbara Hoffman and an interactive on Nakunté and the bogolan process that is based on the research and video and photographs by Tavy Aherne and Barbara Hoffman. There is also a painting by Ismael Diabaté, and a fashion ensemble by Chris Seydou which is installed in front of a

fantastic runway photograph of one of Chris Seydou's fashion shows in Dakar, taken by Victoria Rovine. On the text rail is a verse from a Salif Keita song dedicated to Chris Seydou. Georges Collinet also created a contemporary musical tour of Africa for the exhibit, and of course a number of Mande musicians are featured. These are just a few of the Mande highlights in the exhibit. We were delighted that Mme. Aminata Traore and Tereba Togola could join us for the exhibition opening along with many of our Mansa colleagues. I invite all of you to spend some time in "African Voices" when next you find yourselves in Washington.

Up-Date on MANSA Members' Activities

OBARE BAGODO of Université Nationale du Bénin reports that work has begun on preparing the papers from the conference "Borgu 98" for publication. MARIA LUISA CIMINELLI reports that her website "Ethnoanthropologica - strumenti in rete per la ricerca etnoantropologica" [*Ethnoanthropologica - Web Resources for Ethno-Anthropological Research*], which is hosted by the Department of Social Studies of the University of Florence, contains a page about "Mali & Mande", with a link to the MANSA website. She welcomes any suggestions from MANSA members. Maria Luisa has received a grant from the ISIAO (Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente) to fund her present research, "Nyama: analisi di un concetto-mana in contesto bamanan" [*Nyama: Analysis of a Mana-Concept in the Bamana Context*]

JOSE DA SILVA HORTA reports that he has been awarded a grant to return to Senegal next April and, in general, to support his doctoral thesis expenses. The grant is awarded by the Institute for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation (a public Portuguese institution supporting research in African Studies).

MAMADOU DIAWARA is serving on the VW Foundation's fellowship selection committee.

BARBARA FRANK is now chairing the Department of Art at SUNY - Stony Brook.

BARBARA HOFFMAN will be on sabbatical in Guinea and Mali from June 2000 to August 2001.

JAN JANSEN has just returned from another trip to Mali where he was continuing the research he has been conducting during the past year.

MICHELLE JOHNSON recently returned from ten months' research working with Mandinga immigrants in Lisbon, Portugal. She has rejoined her husband in Quebec City and is beginning to write her dissertation.

CHERIF KEITA conducted his Carleton College Francophone Seminar in Mali for three months (January-March) with seventeen students from Carleton College. They visited Cherif's home village of Nana Kéniéba and the Dogon country, and their seminars (including Bamana language instruction) in Bamako were conducted at the Point Sud Center for Research on Local Knowledge.

MARTY KLEIN retired from his position at the University of Toronto last July. He is presently a visitor at the Australian National University. Marty was recently named to the Editorial Board of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies*.

YACOUBA KONATE has been named *directeur de cabinet* by Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Culture and Francophony, Henriette Diabaté.

MARIE NATHALIE LEBLANC found 1999-2000 to be a rather decent year for winning grants. For the project "The construction of spaces of identification: Social and material networks among French-speaking West Africans in Montreal, Canada" she won two grants: General Research Funds, Concordia University competition \$3,000 and SSHRC special competition, \$5000. For the project "Les processus d'identification chez les jeunes Chrétiens et Musulmans en Côte d'Ivoire", FCAR-Nouveau chercheur, \$45,000 and \$10,000 for equipment. For the project "Les enfants des mariages mixtes", in collaboration with Deirdre Meintel (Département d'anthropologie, Université de Montréal) and Victor Piché (Département de Démographie, Université de Montréal), Conseil Québécois de la Recherche Sociale (CQRS), \$20,000.

MARLIES LUCK reports that she and colleague Hildegard Damm have produced a Mandinka learning manual for foreigners and a Mandinka-English Dictionary that will soon be ready for submission to a publisher.

GREG MANN has accepted a multiple-year teaching position in African History at Columbia University. RODERICK MCINTOSH of Rice University has been spending the academic year in Mali on a teaching and research Fulbright. In January - February, he conducted an archaeological season in Mema with TEREBA TOGOLA, JOE TAINTER, and SEKOU BERTE (the season was cut a week short owing to deadly violence by Tuareg rebels operating in the northern regions). McIntosh also participated in the 8th Conference of the West African Archaeological Association held at Jenne in November, 1999, which was also attended by RED TOBIN.

PATRICK MCNAUGHTON recently gave a lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on the occasion of the

exhibition of Walker Evans photographs, and found a great deal of interest in Mande art. Patrick is serving as National Panels Chair for the 2000 ASA meeting in Nashville.

RAINER POLAK returned to Mali in January for seven weeks of research. He has released a new CD of jembe music (see "New Releases"), and now has a jembe web site: <http://www.nauticom.net/users/tcd/djembemande/bamakofoli.html>

DAVID SKINNER reports that he still has a few copies of Harrell-Bond, Howard & Skinner, *Community Leadership in Freetown, 1801-1976* to sell. The book is now out of print and is probably only available from him. If interested, e-mail David at: pdnaps@flash.net KOUFEROU TRAORE is President of the N'Ko society of Mali, known as *N'Ko Mouvement Culturel pour le Développement*. Traoré has notified the editor that his association is organizing an international conference on the writing of N'Ko to be held in Bamako, April 2000. For information contact him at B.P. 8095, Bamako. Telephone 22.62.53/20.22.42.

VALENTIN VYDRINE expects to finish his book on the Kagoro language in April. He will then be working on dictionaries of the Kpelle and Looma languages and an etymological dictionary of the South-Western Mande, which is what he had proposed for the Humboldt Fellowship that he was awarded.

STEPHEN WOOTEN gave an invited lecture on Bamana expressive culture at the Oregon Humanities Center in January. In February, he was interviewed on "UO Today," the University of Oregon's TV program. In April, he will be presenting a paper, "Bananas and Charcoal: Gender, Commodity Production, and Market Trade in Mali" at the annual meeting of the Society of Economic Anthropology in Bloomington.

Book, Article, Dissertation, Journal, Video and CD Releases

BOOKS:

Nehemia Levtzion and Randall L. Pouwels (eds.). 2000. *The History of Islam in Africa*. Athens: Ohio University Press, Oxford: James Currey, Cape Town: David Philip. Pp. x, 591.

In this first comprehensive history of fourteen centuries of the Islamic faith in Africa, the twenty-two contributors have sought to identify the creative and crucial role that Islam and Muslims have played in the history of African development. For chapters by MANSA members that are of direct relevance to the Mande world, see "articles" below.

Maria Luisa Ciminelli. 1998. *Follia del sapere e saperi della follia. Percorsi etnopsichiatrici tra i Bamanan del Mali*. [*Folie du savoir et savoirs de la folie. Parcours ethnopsychiatriques parmi les Bamanan du Mali*] Milano: F. Angeli. Winner of the first "Premio Paolo Toschi per un'opera nel campo degli studi etnoantropologici" ("Paolo Toschi Prize for a Work in the Field of Ethnoanthropological Studies") Rome, February 1998.

David C. Conrad (ed.) 1999. *Epic Ancestors of the Sunjata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea*. Madison: University of Wisconsin African Studies Program. Illustrated by Mohamed Chejan Kromah and Sidiki Doumbia.

Contains English translations of seven variants of the Sunjata Epic:

1. Sanassy Kouyaté of Jelibakoro, "Village Issues and Mande Ancestors"
2. Jeli Fayala Kouyaté of Siguiri, "Kamanjan and Islam"
3. Jeli Mori Kouyaté of Niagassola, "Ancestors, Sorcery and Power"
4. Mamadi Diabaté of Kankan, "Fakoli"
5. Mamadi Condé of Fadama, "Sogolon and Sunjata"
6. Mamadi Condé of Fadama, "Fakoli and Sumaworo"
7. Demba Kouyaté of Dinli, "Sunjata"

Price \$30.00. Orders should be sent and checks made out to: African Studies Program, 205 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706. E-mail afirst@mac.wisc.edu

ARTICLES:

Tom Bassett and Koli B. Zuéli. 2000. "Environmental Discourses and the Ivorian Savanna." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90 (1): 67-95.

Eric Charry. 2000. "Music and Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa" in Levtzion and Pouwels (eds.) *The History of Islam in Africa* 545-73.

Andrew Clark. 1999. "Imperialism, Independence and Islam in Senegal and Mali." *Africa Today* 46 (3/4): 149-67.

Julianne Freeman. 2000. "Have You Heard the Words of the Elders?: Senior Bamana Women's adaptations to Culture Change in Rural Mali" in Mario I. Aguilar (ed.) *Rethinking Age in Africa: Colonial, Post-Colonial and Contemporary Interpretations*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.

Alma Gottlieb. 2000. "Où sont passés tous les bêtes?: Vers une anthropologie d'unourrisson" in *En substances: Textes pour Françoise Héritier*. Paris: Fayard.

Alma Gottlieb. 2000. "Luring Your Child into this Life: A Beng Path for Infant Care" in Judy S. DeLoache and Alma Gottlieb (eds.) *A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Alma Gottlieb. 1999. "Revising the Text, Revisioning the Field: Reciprocity Over the Long Term" (with Philip Graham), *Anthropology and Humanism* 14 (2).

Lansiné Kaba. 2000. "Islam in West Africa: Radicalism and the New Ethic of Disagreement, 1960-1990" in Levtzion and Pouwels (eds.) *The History of Islam in Africa*: 189-208.

Marie Nathalie LeBlanc. 1999. "The Production of Islamic Identities Through Knowledge Claims in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire," *African Affairs* 98 (393): 485-508.

Nehemia Levtzion. 2000. "Islam in the Bilad al-Sudan to 1800" in Levtzion and Pouwels (eds.) *The History of Islam in Africa*: 63-91.

David Robinson. 2000. "Revolutions in the Western Sudan" in Levtzion and Pouwels (eds.) *The History of Islam in Africa*: 131-52.

DISSERTATION:

Lucy Duran. 1999. "Stars and Songbirds: Mande Female Singers in Urban Music, Mali 1980-99" School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

This thesis examines the reasons why women singers have predominated in the local music scene in Mali since the early 1980s. In particular it looks at the apparently oppositional relationship between the art of the *jelimuso* and that of the Wasulu *kono* (songbird, a category denoting a musician by choice rather than by birth). The ways in which Mande gender ideology is foregrounded in song is a theme that runs through the thesis as well as the concept of *ngaraya* (musical mastery) and the appropriation of hunters' idioms. The chapter headings are as follows:

- 1) "The Woman is a Slave" - representations of Mande gender ideology through song
- 2) "Watery Men" - song as "female"
- 3) "Fiery Women" - concepts of mastery and the *jelimuso*
- 4) "Sumu Culture and Stardom" - the case of Kandia Kouyaté
- 5) "Hunters and Songbirds" - Wasulu identity
- 6) "Rural Roots, Urban Context" - an ethnography of wassoulou
- 7) "Hunters' 'mystique'" - songbirds, stars and hunters' music in the city

JOURNALS:

Mande Studies 1

Contents:

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

Articles:

"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 Contacts: The Case of Manding and Jola-Fogny"

Valentin Vydrine

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

Mohamed Saidou N'Daou

Mandenkan 35 (Winter 1999)

Contents:

Gérard Dumestre. "Des auxiliaires en bambara"

Douglas Boone, Mike Boling, Lamine Silue, and Mary Anne Augustin. "Enquête sur les dialectes mandé nord de Côte d'Ivoire"

Valentin Vydrine. "Les parties du discours en bambara: un essai de bilan"

Compte-rendu: Holger Tröbs. Funktionale Sprachbeschreibung des Jeli (West-Mande). *Mande languages and linguistics* Vol. 3. Köln: Köppe, 1998, pp. 241 (by Valentin Vydrine)

VIDEO:

Mali: An Invitation to Travel

1999. 18 minutes, in English, shot and produced in

Bamako with additional archival footage, a co-production of MaliWatch and CNPC.

This new video documentary presents a positive yet not uncritical introduction to the history, economics and culture of Mali. It is the first in a series of videos which aim to fill the void between the lack of information and the misinformation currently available to students and the general public about Africa in general and about Mali in particular.

Price: \$25 plus shipping for individuals, \$50 plus shipping for institutions. Add \$4 for shipping within the US and \$10 outside of the US. Speakers are available to accompany the video at your school or organization. Make your check or money order payable to: MaliWatch and mail to: MaliWatch, c/o Bakary Sylla, 1212 Hampshire, #211-2, Richardson, TX 75080 For information : info@maliwatch.org or (972) 437-6522 or Janet Goldner, 52 Warren Street New York, NY 10007, 212 766-1910. E-mail: art@janetgoldner.com

CDs:

Jakité, Dunbia, Kuyaté, and Samaké: Bamakò Fòli:

Jembe Music from Bamako (Mali). 1999. Rainer Polak's latest edition of music from the Malian drum ensemble. The first half of the CD presents field recordings made at an urban Bamana wedding in Bamako. The second half consists of studio recordings. Among other things, these feature the current lead drummer-Brahima (a.k.a. "Petit B.") Samake of the Ballets Maliens, the national ballet of the Republic of Mali, who demonstrates the solo expertise and style that continues to be developed by the younger generation in Bamako. To order in the US: Michael Wall, 5295-D Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Honolulu, HI 96821 drum@aloha.net (Michael Wall)

To order in Europe: tobias ott BANDALOO music hofgasse 6 83278 traunstein, république fédérale d'Allemagne, 0049-8654-694244 elektroluchs@t-online.de

New Ancient Strings by Toumani Diabaté and Ballaké Sissoko. 1999. Produced by Lucy Duran. Hannibal HNCD 1428. This album consists of instrumental *kora* duets by the sons of two of the greatest ever *kora* players, Sidiki Diabaté and Djelimady Sissoko, who recorded the original "Ancient Strings" back in 1970 as part of the celebrated series "Anthology of Malian Music" published by the Ministry of information with sleeve notes by Massa Makhan Diabaté. "New Ancient Strings" was meant as a follow-up to the earlier album (the first ever album of instrumental *kora*), to show

where the new generation of *kora* players have taken the art, with classic pieces like Mali Sajio and Lamban. It was recorded in Bamako at the new Palais de Congres in 1997 on state of the art digital equipment brought to Mali specially for the recording. It was done in a single take through the night and has no added effects, just the natural acoustic of the marble floors of the Palais, and the sound of two extraordinarily virtuosi *kora* players with sublime music.

Kulanjan with Taj Mahal (voice and acoustic guitar), Toumani Diabaté (*kora* and *bolon*), Kassemady Diabaté (vocals), Ramata Diakité (vocals), Dougouyé Coulibaly (*kamalengoni*, *bolon* and *karinyan*), Basekou Kouyaté (*ngoni*), Ballaké Sissoko (2nd *kora*), and Lasana Diabaté (*balafon*). Recorded in Athens Georgia, 1999. Produced by Lucy Duran. Hannibal HNCD 1444.

Kulanjan explores the connections between the blues and the music of the *jeliw* as well as the music of Wasulu. Blues musician Taj Mahal has recorded over 40 albums and collaborated with musicians from all over the world, but this was a special project that he had been wanting to undertake since he first heard the *kora* back in the early 1970s. Taj's experience of *kora* players revealed to him the uncanny similarity between plucking techniques of the *kora* and the kind of finger-thumb playing that he learned from great blues masters like Jesse Fuller. It set him on a search for something he instinctively felt was at the heart of his own music - perhaps even his own identity - the African roots of the blues. The dominant sound of *Kulanjan* is Malian, with some great singing by Kassemady Diabaté of Kéla (scholars of oral literature may find his "Kulanjan" of special interest), but Ramata Diakité also does some splendid vocal duets with Taj adding a new wasulu-stye dimension to blues standards like "Queen Bee" and "Take this Hammer".

New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

UPDATES & ADDRESS CHANGES

Tavy Aherne, 1894 Hawksbill Road, Massanutten Village, McGaheysville, VA 22840. Tel: 540-568-6372; Fax: 540-568-6598; ahernetd@jmu.edu.
Affiliation: James Madison University. Research: Textiles, Fulbe diaspora, aesthetics.

Chuck Cogliandro, 3441 Beech Drive, Decatur, GA 30032. Tel: 404-289-5726.

Edda Fields, 609 S. 42nd St., Philadelphia, PA 19104-4559. Tel: 215-222-2075; fieldse@sas.upenn.edu.
Affiliation: University of Pennsylvania. Research:

Precolonial West African History, social history of the Rio Nunez to 1880.

Claudie Gosselin, 183 Augusta St., Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8B9, Canada. Tel: 613-244-1034;
claudie@web.net Affiliation: University of Toronto

Michelle C. Johnson, 2989 Rue Laroche Apt. 7, Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1X 1k1, Canada. Tel: 418-657-7478; mich_johnson@hotmail.com.
Affiliation: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Research: Life-cycle rituals, religion and personhood among the Mandinga of Guinea-Bissau and among Mandinga immigrants living in Portugal and Gambia.

Pekka Masonen, Kaskitie 11 A 6, 33540 Tampere, Finland.

Daniel Reed, 303 S. Tremont Dr., Greensboro, NC 27403. Tel: 336-274-7716; dbreed@uncg.edu.
Affiliation: University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Michael Schlottner, Oberstrasse 2, 56459 Willmenrod, Germany; Tel/Fax: 49-69-788-01293;
Schlottner@em.uni-frankfurt.de. Affiliation: Frobenius Institute-Goethe-University of Frankfurt. Research: Cultural studies, music, media, oral texts (West Africa and North America).

Benjamin Soares, 1121 W. Oakdale Ave. Apt. 3A, Chicago, IL 60657

Patience Sonko-Godwin, P.O. Box 955, Banjul, The Gambia

E-MAIL UP-DATES

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Submitting Articles to MANDE STUDIES

The journal of the Mande Studies Association *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.

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