



M A N S A

Newsletter Number 46 -- Spring 2001

The Journal *Mande Studies* in Jeopardy

On the 28th of February 2001, Stephen Belcher who co-edits with Ariane Deluz our journal *Mande Studies*, received the following e-mail message from David Henige, the benefactor who bestowed upon us the gift of having our own journal which is published by the African Studies Program of the University of Wisconsin: "Stephen: The Program just told me that we have fewer than 60 subscribers to *Mande Studies*, far too few to be viable. Given the vibrant character of MANSA, I expected it to do much better. Is there anything you can do to persuade (shame) members (how many are there by the way?) to subscribe? We printed up 200 copies."

The answer to David Henige's question is that we have about 180 dues-paying members who could subscribe to the journal. Belcher forwarded Henige's message to me, and I responded with an e-mail memo (3/8/01) informing MANSA members of the situation, noting that we owe the African Studies Program a debt of gratitude for providing us with a journal devoted to Mande studies and pointing out that the Program had even donated thirty free copies for us to distribute to colleagues and institutions in West Africa. I indicated that at the next MANSA meeting I intend to introduce a motion to add the \$15 subscription fee to the basic \$10 dues, which will raise them to a total of \$25. (Five members immediately replied in support of this plan.) The memo concluded with an appeal to members to please subscribe to the first two issues of *Mande Studies*.

Alas, the response to my memo has so far been less than hoped for. On April 3rd, Molly Simmons of the African Studies Program reported that "about ten orders came in in response to" my e-mail. Therefore, I'm repeating my plea for support of *Mande Studies*.

The MS 1 table of contents is on the website and in Newsletter 43 and the one for MS 2 is in this issue and on the website. This is a peer-reviewed journal which, if it survives, will surely someday feature articles by many of you. It has been a fine addition to our organization and is well worthy of your support.

I have been reminded of the difficulty that European members have in paying for things in the United States (something many in the U.S. have experienced in reverse). Jan Jansen reminded me that we have a MANSA account in Leiden that has existed since the time of our conference there in 1995. He suggested that a supply of the journals be sent to him. European members could then receive their copies by submitting payment in local currency to be deposited in our Leiden account. David Henige is sending twenty copies each of the first two issues of the journal to Leiden. This promises to solve the problem for our European members, several of whom have enthusiastically endorsed the plan and are waiting to subscribe. The plan is to do this for the first two issues and then revisit the question if, as I hope, members agree to include subscriptions to future issues in our dues. (It seems we could continue using the Leiden account to collect European members' dues).

Coincidentally, just as I was preparing the first appeal for additional subscriptions *Mande Studies* 2 arrived. In it, I noted the unintentional irony of a comment by Patrick McNaughton in his article "Comments on 'Secrets and Lies'," and I'll conclude with that here: "These papers are a tribute to the degree of dedication and sophistication that Mande studies have reached: who knew, so many years ago, when Gerald Cashion suggested we form a Mande studies association... that it would lead to this. I hope there will be many more publications of this caliber to follow" (*Mande Studies* 2: 175).

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
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Karim Traoré, University of Georgia

Dates Set for the Fifth International Conference on Mande Studies

The dates for the Fifth International Conference on Mande Studies to be held in Leiden, The Netherlands, are 17-22 June, 2002. The meetings will take place at the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde which has been remodeled since we were there in 1995.

The initial response from members has been promising, with many people already committed to attending, and others hoping that it will be possible for them:

Marv Jo Arnoldi, Laura Arntson, Ralph Austen, Stephen Belcher, Alice Bellagamba, Catherine Bogosian, Saskia Brand, Sarah Brett-Smith, Shelby Carpenter, Eric Charry, Maria-Luisa Ciminelli, David Conrad, Ariane Deluz, Mamadou Diawara, Gérard Dumestre, Lucy Duran, Paulo Farias, Edda Fields, Henrik Florusbosch, Barbara Frank, Cornelia Geising, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Musa Hakim, Joseph Hellweg, Christian Hoejbjerg, Nicholas Hopkins, Allen Howard, Jan Jansen, Marloes Janson, John Johnson, James Jones, Lansiné Kaba, Chérif Keita, Martin Klein, Dolores Koenig, Kassim Koné, Frederick Lamp, Kirsten Langeveld, Nehemia Levtzion, Barbara Lewis, Carlos Lopes, Kevin MacDonald, Gregg Mann, Peter Mark, Pekka Masonen, Andreas Massing, Heather Maxwell, Patrick McNaughton, Marie Miran, Mohamed Saïdou N'daou, Rainer Polak, Marc Reinhardt, Mamadou Lamine Sanogo, Dorothea Schultz, Ingse Skattum, David Skinner, Berend Timmer, Red Tobin, Karim Traoré, Valentin Vydrine, Stephen Wooten, Donald Wright, Clemens Zobel.

Up-Date on MANSA Members' Activities

TOM BASSETT has received a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship for 2001-02 for his project "Rethinking Opportunistic Grazing: The Political Ecology of Herd Mobility in Northern Côte d'Ivoire."

BRAHIMA CAMARA, a new member who did his Ph.D. at Bayreuth University (Germany) on Mande hunters' literature, is currently working on a large project to transcribe and translate the work of Bala Jinba Diakité, the famous Malian hunters' singer. He is also preparing a work on the songs of Siramori Diabaté.

SEYDOUBA CISSE, from whom many of us have received help at the National Archives of Guinea for more than ten years, is on a course in Rennes, France during April and May. In the fall he will be at

l'Université d'Angers working on a thesis about archival research. "Les besoins des chercheurs en histoire sociale dans le domaine des archives au Angers et au Conakry."

ANDREW CLARK has been elected to the Executive Council of the Association of Third World Studies. This summer he will be spending two months back in West Africa with stays in Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Senegal.

PAPA ALY DRAME, a new member from Senegal who is a Ph.D. candidate in African History at the University of Illinois-Chicago, is currently working on the history of the Mandinka in the Casamance, with a focus on Islam and society in Karantaba. One of the first Mandinka settlements in the Casamance, Karantaba is located on the south bank of the Casamance River. Papa Aly will also be presenting a paper on the "Mande Diaspora Panel" at the ASA in Houston. "'Fodé Heraba, a Mandinka Religious Leader in the Casamance, Senegal."

On April 30 ALMA GOTTLIEB will be presented with the Outstanding Mentor Award of the Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Also, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has featured two articles discussing *A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Seven Societies* that Alma edited with Judy DeLoache (see MANSA Newsletter 44: 3-4): Jennifer K. Ruark, "Hot Type/Baby Talk," June 2, 2000: A24, and Jennifer K. Ruark, "Seeing Children and Hearing Them Too," November 17, 2000: A22-A24. Alma presented talks at the Oregon Humanities Center, University of Oregon in March, and at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco in November.

CHRIS HAYDEN has organized a panel for the ASA meeting in Houston, "Framing the Question of Modernity in Africa: Analytical Notes from Twentieth-Century Guinea." The panel's discussant will be LANSINE KABA.

JAN JANSEN has submitted a paper for the ASA meeting in Houston, "Coping with Time: The Commodification of *ciwara* Performances in Southwestern Mali."

MICHELLE JOHNSON will be presenting a paper on the "Mande Diaspora Panel" at the ASA in Houston, "On the Road to Alijana: Reconfiguring Islam and 'Manding-ness' in the 'New' African Diaspora."

CHERIF KEITA is working on a documentary film project, *Oberlin--Inanda: In Search of John L. Dube*. Directed by the award-winning Congolese filmmaker Mweze Ngangura, it involves Keita's search for John Langalibalele Dube, the first president and

founding member of the South African Native Congress (later the ANC) who studied in the U.S. at Oberlin College between 1887 and 1892. Dube founded the first industrial education school for Blacks and by Blacks, the Ohlange Institute (1901), that was modeled after the Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes. In 1903 he also founded a Zulu-English newspaper, *Ilanga Lase Natal* (The Sun of Natal) that is still published to this day. In 1994 when Nelson Mandela voted in the first multiracial national election, he asked to cast his vote on the grounds of Ohlange High School in tribute to John L. Dube. Keita spent four days in March shooting at Oberlin College, and part of the film will be shot in South Africa in September 2001 during the Centenary of the Ohlange School in Inanda, KwaZulu-Natal.

KASSIM KONE has proposed a panel for the ASA meeting in Houston, "Mande Bards: Past, Present and Future." He hopes to have the panelists look at individual bards from medieval to present-day Mande, exploring how the relationships between bards and their patrons and society might have shifted in different periods of Mande history. Kassim's own paper will be on Banzumana Sisoko.

KEVIN MACDONALD is writing up the results of last year's field project in southeastern Mauritania and preparing to embark on Diaspora archaeology work in Louisiana. He has set up a project to work on eighteenth-century sites in Natchitoches parish and is hoping to locate some Mande connections.

In March, PETER MARK presented a seminar at the CNRS-Institut Parisien de recherche architecture urbanisme et sociétés, on "Métissages: architectures des pays lusophones." June 25 is the date of the opening of his exhibition of photos of Jenne at La Boîte aux Boîtiers photo gallery in Strasbourg. Peter has also organized a small working colloquium with Jos van der Klei to identify the photographs left by Professor Louis-Vincent Thomas. These include some 900 shots taken in the 1950s and 60s, mostly of Casamance. They hope to host a larger conference to complete this project and recover the photos as historical documents.

ANDREAS MASSING will be presenting a paper on the "Mande Diaspora Panel" at the ASA in Houston, "Nafuna, Ligbi, Weila: Proto-Diula or Mandeized Autochthones in Kong, Bouna, Bondoukou, and Gonja."

BILL MOSELEY, a new member from the University of Georgia has organized a pair of ASA panels for the Houston meeting, "(Inter)National Political Economies and Local Ecologies: Rural African Livelihoods in a Political Ecology Context, Parts I and II. One of the panels will be chaired by STEPHEN

WOOTEN, and other MANSA participants include MIRJAM DE BRUIJN and HAN VAN DIJK.

STEPHEN WOOTEN has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in Anthropology and International Studies at the University of Oregon. In March he organized the "Engaging Africa" symposium at the University of Oregon campus. Working with colleagues from the university's African Studies Committee and the Oregon Humanities Center, he coordinated a series of presentations by a group of distinguished visiting Africanists. The symposium highlighted the need for sustained attention to contemporary African issues and concerns.

DONALD WRIGHT will be presenting a paper on the "Mande Diaspora Panel" at the ASA in Houston, "Pan-Africanism with 'the Pinch of Famine': Gambian and African-American Debt Peons on the Wrong End of an Atlantic World Economy, 1850-1998."

Book, Article, Dissertation and Journal Releases

BOOKS

Jean-Loup Amselle. 2001. *Branchements: Anthropologie de l'universalité des cultures*. Paris: Flammarion.

Ce livre, qui procède d'un travail de terrain éclaté, nous promène à travers les capitales de trois pays africains: Bamako au Mali, Le Caire en Égypte et Conakry en Guinée. En cela, il rompt avec l'approche classique de l'anthropologie, qui privilégie le local par rapport au global, et répond au souci de cerner au plus près les contours d'une véritable multinationale culturelle: le N'ko.

Fondé en 1949 pour exprimer l'identité d'un peuple opprimé, le peuple mandingue, ce mouvement doit beaucoup à l'Europe et à l'Islam--l'alphabet dont il s'est doté évoque ainsi les alphabet latin et arabe, tout en possédant ses caractéristiques propres. À ce titre, le N'ko illustre les "branchements" possibles d'une culture sur une autre, phénomène de dérivations multiples qui montre bien que notre monde globalisé n'est pas une simple juxtaposition d'univers étanches.

De la globalisation à l'afrocentrisme, de l'écriture à la philosophie africaine et au génocide, la thématique du branchement permet de décliner les différentes figures qui font de l'Afrique un concept à géométrie variable, un élément essentiel de l'imaginaire planétaire.

Tom Bassett. 2001. *The Peasant Cotton Revolution in West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire 1880-1995*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (African Studies Series).

ARTICLES

- Andrew Clark. 2000. "The Village Dispensary (Senegal)." *Journal of African Travel Writing* 8-9.
- Victoria Bomba-Coifman. 2000. "The People of the African-European frontier, from the Sahil to Sierra Leone: The Rio Nunez and Rio Pongo of Lower Guinea." In *Migrations anciennes et peuplement actuel des côtes guinéennes*, ed. Gerald Gaillard. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Alma Gottlieb. 2000. "Where Have All the Babies Gone? Toward an Anthropology of Infants and Their Caretakers," *Anthropological Quarterly* 73 (3), Special Issue: "Youth and the Social Imagination in Africa" Part I.
- Aly Gilbert Iffono. 2000. "Migrations mandingues dans la zone littorale guinéenne du X^e au XIX^e siècle." In *Migrations anciennes et peuplement actuel des côtes guinéennes*, ed. Gerald Gaillard. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Peter Mark. 2000. "Les 'Portugais' de la Sènegambie et de Bissau: Identité et architecture." In *Migrations anciennes et peuplement actuel des côtes guinéennes*, ed. Gerald Gaillard. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Peter Mark. 2001. "Ils commencent en cet endroit pour prendre les habitudes des anglais; métissage culturel en Gambie au 17^e siècle." In *Festschrift in Honor of Max Liniger-Goumaz*. Madrid.
- Jan Jansen. 2001. "The Sunjata Epic: The Ultimate Version." *Research in African Literatures* 32 (1).
- Mohamed Saïdou N'daou. 2000. "Politique de peuplement et construction de l'identité des Mikhifore." In *Migrations anciennes et peuplement actuel des côtes guinéennes*, ed. Gerald Gaillard. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Mohamed Saïdou N'daou. 2000. "Oral Stories, Academic Stories and the Construction of Identity." *Illinois Schools Journal* 79 (2).
- Berend Timmer. 2000. "They Came from Sankarag: Oral Traditions in a Gambian Village." In *Migrations anciennes et peuplement actuel des Côtes Guinéennes*, ed. Gerald Gaillard. Paris: L'Harmattan.
- Karim Traoré. 2000. "Kourouma's Monnéas Aesthetics of Lying." *Callaloo* 23, 4.

JOURNALS

Revue Guinéenne d'Histoire 2001 (1).

The first issue of a new journal representing the Association des Historiens de Guinée which was founded the same year as the Mande Studies Association (1986). Among various introductory editorials and commentary the contents include the article:

"Découverte d'un site de signes rupestres à Ley-Legguel, Sous-Préfecture de Sarekaly Préfecture de Téliélé (Guinée)" by Alpha Mohamed Diallo (3-5).

Mande Studies 2

Special Issue "Secrets and Lies in the Mande World"
Contents:

Molly Roth and Jan Jansen

Introduction: The Social Life of Knowledge

Sory Camara

Servitudes rituelles, subversion narrative, ou le secret de l'existence

Molly Roth

The 'Secret' in Malian Historical Consciousness: Renarrating the West

Dorothea E. Schulz

Seductive Secretiveness: *Jeliw* as Creators and Creations of Ethnography

Barbara G. Hoffman

Classifying Information: Secrets, Lies, and Other Categories in Mande

Jan Jansen

The Mande Magical Mystery Tour: The Mission Griaule in Kangaba (Mali)

Julinne E. Freeman

Knowledge, Secrecy, and the Practice of Senior Womanhood Among the Bamana of the Bèledugu (Mali)

Alma Gottlieb

Secrets and Society: The Beng of Côte d'Ivoire

Ferdinand de Jong

Secrecy and the State: The Kankurang Masquerade in Senegal

Patrick McNaughton

Comments on 'Secrets and Lies'

New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

NEW MEMBERS

Herbert Braun, Parcusstrasse 1, 55116 Mainz GERMANY; Tel.: 06131/220591; e-mail: brauh005@mail.uni-mainz.de. Affiliation: Johannes Gutenberg University. Interests: Western Mande languages and Songhay; functional description of languages; inter-ethnic relations in Mali.

Dinie Bouman, Emmastraat 15 - c209, 9722 EW Groningen, The Netherlands. Affiliation: Leiden University. Interests: Arabic as a second language in Mali; Quranic schools, Islam.

Brahima Camara, FLASH, Departement d'Allemand,
Universite du Mali, BP 241, Bamako; Tel/ Fax: 00
223 23 16 88; e-mail:

brahimacamara@hotmail.com. Interests: Mande
hunters' literature; the works of Bala Jinba Diakite
and Siramori Diabate.

Shelby Carpenter, 137 Bay State Road, Boston, MA
02215; Tel.: 617-867-9997; e-mail: carp@bu.edu
Affiliation: Boston University. Interests: Sierra
Leonean refugee crisis; population movements;
Arab influence in West Africa.

Papa Aly Drame, University of Illinois-Chicago,
Department of History (MC 198), 601 South
Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607-7109; Tel.:
708-660-9348; e-mail: adrame1@uic.edu.
Interests: History of the Mandinka in the
Casamance; social and religious organization;
ethnic interaction.

Candace Keller, 800 North Smith Road, Apt. 1-U
Bloomington, IN 47408, Tel.: 812-323-2740;
e-mail: cmkeller@indiana.edu; Affiliation: Indiana
University. Interests: Bamana aesthetics; the
relationship between ideas/social philosophies and
the visual arts.

Matthew Lewis, 300 South Goodwin Ave. Apt. 613
Urbana, IL 61801; Tel.: 217-332-5817; e-mail:
mtlewis@uiuc.edu. Affiliation: University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Interests: Religion
and ritual; gender; art and artists; symbolic
anthropology; feminist anthropology.

Friederike Luepke, Max Planck Institute for
Psycholinguistics, Postbus 310, Nijmegen 5600
AH The Netherlands; Tel.: (0031) (0)24
3521560; Fax: (0031)(0)24 3521213; e-mail:
friederike.luepke@mpi.nl. Interests: Western
Mande languages, semantics, typology,
ethnolinguistics, and comparative linguistics;
Mande history.

UPDATES & ADDRESS CHANGES

Laura Arntson, 106 Walnut St., NW, Washington, DC
20012; Tel.: 202-530-4386 (work); Fax:
202-293-4167; e-mail: larntson55@hotmail.com;
Affiliation: Save the Children/Children in Crisis
Unit. Interests: Music and verbal art as
representations of history and identity; forced
migration and identity issues; psychosocial
program planning and evaluation; incorporation of
traditional healing and ritual into responses to
complex emergencies.

Mark Davidheiser (Temp. thru 1/2002); P.O. Box 2090
Serekunda, Gambia.

Henrike Florusbosch, 639 Turner Park Court
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Cornelia Giesing = Valentikkolo@aol.com

Konrad Tuchscherer = tuchschk@stjohns.edu

Scott Lacy, P.O. Box 8262, Goleta, CA 93118

Tel.: 805-968-4585; e-mail:

solosangare@netscape.net. Affiliation: UC Santa

Barbara, Anthropology. Interests: Mali; local

knowledge, science and agriculture.

RENEWED MEMBERS

Laura Arntson (sponsor)

Catherine Bogosian

Maria Luisa Ciminelli

Jose da Silva Horta

Mark Davidheiser

David Gamble

Tom Hale

Joseph Hellweg

Stacy Holden

Marloes Janson

Michelle Johnson

James Jones (sponsor)

Lansine Kaba (sponsor)

Scott Lacy

Joseph Lauer (sponsor)

David Robinson (sponsor)

Patrick Royer

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 e-mail). 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 manuscrits 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).

Renewal Notices on Newsletter Labels

The Secretary-Treasurer, Stephen Wooten, has included the following signals on your address labels: If the date is highlighted in yellow it means "time to renew." A red check-mark beside the date means you are overdue, and this is your last newsletter until you do renew.

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 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.