



MANSA

Newsletter Number 48 – Winter 2001-02

MANSA Dues Structure Changed to Rescue *Mande Studies*

In *MANSA Newsletter* 46 (Spring 2001), the lead article noted that the journal *Mande Studies* was in jeopardy because there had been fewer than sixty subscribers for the two hundred that were printed. At the annual meeting in Houston (see minutes below), it was decided that the best way to deal with this problem was to raise the dues to include subscriptions to the journal, which costs \$15 per issue (and is a great value for the money). Therefore, as of 16 November, 2001, the MANSA dues structure is as follows: Regular membership, \$25.00, sponsoring membership \$40.00. Student members will continue to pay \$5.00, with the option of purchasing the journal if desired.

Minutes of the Annual MANSA Meeting

The 16th annual meeting of the Mande Studies Association was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas on Friday, 16 November, 9-10 a.m. Those present were Akare John Aden, Laura Arntson, Ralph Austen, Stephen Belcher, Sarah Brett-Smith, David Conrad, Edda Fields, Maria Grosz-Ngate, Walther Hawthorne, David Henige, Allen Howard, Jan Jansen, Michelle Johnson, Candace Keller, Barbara Lewis, Emily Osborn, Heather Maxwell, Patrick McNaughton, Dianne Oyler, Jeanne Tougara, Craig Tower, Richard Warms, and Stephen Wooten.

As usual, the meeting began with the annual

business report by the Secretary- Treasurer, Stephen Wooten. He reported that for the period November 11, 2000 to November 13, 2001, we paid out \$2,295: "Approximately half of this figure reflects the cost of newsletter production and mailing. The other half represents payments to the African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin for copies of *Mande Studies* destined for complimentary distribution in West Africa." Wooten reported, moreover, that our membership records include 359 individuals or institutions (current, sponsored, and/or lapsed), up twenty-nine from the previous period. Of that number, only 166 are actually current members, i.e., with dues paid. We now have a total of eighty-two sponsored members (up seven from the previous period), and a total of thirteen institutional memberships (up one). There is a total of ninety-six lapsed memberships, i.e., people who have stopped paying dues or have lost contact (up twenty-two from the previous reporting period). Wooten's report concluded with the information that nineteen new members joined the Association (up nine from the last reporting period), and that seventy-three people renewed their memberships (down from ninety-three).

Following the business report, MANSA President David Conrad suggested that the "Treasurer Europe" be established as a regular officer of the organization. The position was originated and is presently occupied by Jan Jansen who handles European memberships and subscriptions to *Mande Studies*. A motion was made and carried unanimously.

David C. Conrad, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego
 Kassim Koné, *Vice-President*, State University of New York-Cortland
 Rosa DeJorio, *Secretary-Treasurer*, University of North Florida
 Jan Jansen, *Treasurer Europe*, Leiden University

Advisory Board

Mary Jo Arnoldi, Smithsonian Institute
 Alma Gottlieb, University of Illinois
 Patrick McNaughton, Indiana University

Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, Chicago State University
 Tereba Togola, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Bamako
 Donald R. Wright, State University of New York-Cortland

In the next item of business, the President announced that after two terms of excellent service as Secretary-Treasurer, Stephen Wooten would not be seeking reelection to the office. Conrad's nomination of Rosa DeJorio, was unanimously supported, and DeJorio became the new Secretary-Treasurer.

The President then announced that Barbara Frank had officially tendered her resignation as MANSA Vice-President, owing to the imminent arrival of her new baby. The floor was opened for nominations, and Patrick McNaughton nominated Kassim Koné. The nomination was unanimously supported, and Koné became the new Vice-President.

Conrad noted that Koné's election to the V-P post left his spot on the Advisory Board open, in addition to which, the terms of three other board members were expiring. Maria Grosz-Ngate suggested that members e-mail David to nominate people for the Board, and there was general agreement.

Conrad introduced the idea of restructuring the dues to include a subscription to the journal *Mande Studies*. He suggested adding the \$15 subscription fee on to the existing rates. Discussion ensued on rates and on whether sponsored members would receive the journal as well as whether student memberships should require journal subscription. It was decided that due to the perils of international mail to Africa, local institutions, libraries and archives would receive complimentary copies of the journal by hand courier. It was also decided that student members may elect to add the journal rather than being required to do so. Thus, the following dues structure was adopted: regular members = \$25 (including the journal), sponsoring members = \$40 (including the journal) and student membership remains \$5 (without the journal). Students wishing to add the journal may do so by simply adding \$15 for the subscription, for a payment of \$20.00. The new rates and subscription additions were effective immediately.

Regarding the upcoming Fifth International Conference on Mande Studies, Conrad reported that there had been a very strong response to the call for papers and panels for the Leiden meeting. Dutch colleagues have arranged access to more meeting space at the university, so Conrad was still accepting panel and paper

proposals for the time being. He noted that it might be necessary to have some simultaneous sessions this time around, however. Jan Jansen announced that he needed people who would be attending the conference to contact him ASAP to reserve rooms.

The President next asked for suggestions for MANSA-sponsored panels for ASA 2002 in Washington DC. Sarah Brett-Smith suggested one on Minyanka-Bamana relations, Heather Maxwell suggested Mande popular music, Akarie Aden suggested one on power associations gone public, Michelle Johnson and Patrick McNaughton suggested one on the conference theme: technology.

Giving an update on the status of *Mande Studies*, Stephen Belcher reported that issue #3 is in production with a special section on Samori, another on Souleymane Kanté and the N'ko script, and also a series of individually submitted papers. Belcher announced that he has complimentary copies of issue #2 available for people to hand carry to West Africa.

Regarding future plans, Conrad announced that colleagues in Guinea are very interested in hosting a Mande Studies conference there in the next few years. He reported that the infrastructure in Conakry has developed a great deal during the past ten years, and that Conakry might well be a good site for the next international conference after Leiden.

Allen Howard offered special thanks to Stephen Wooten for his service as Secretary-Treasurer, and the group gave a round of applause. The meeting was adjourned at about 10 o'clock.

Up-Date on MANSA Members' Activities

LAURA ARNTSON, in her work for Save The Children, is on a trip to their Palestine field office, after which she will go on to Guinea where she will conduct some background research on their child soldiers program in refugee camps near Albaderia (which happens to be quite near her 1994 Fulbright research site). ALMA GOTTLIEB has been elected Vice-President and President-Elect of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology (a unit of the American Anthropological Association)--two-year term for each position beginning December

2001. She also received the Outstanding Mentor Award, Graduate College, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2001.

BARBARA HOFFMAN's video *Womanhood and Circumcision: Three Maasai Women Have Their Say* (see "New Releases" below) received the Society for Visual Anthropology award at the American Anthropological Association meetings in Washington DC.

JAN JANSEN has received a prolongation of his contract (until June 2004) as a research fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

CHERIF KEITA led, for the second time, a between-semester student trip a program he originated, the Carleton College Francophone Seminar in Mali, which is affiliated with Mamadou Diawara's Point Sud Center for Research on Local Knowledge.

WILLIAM MOSELEY will be leaving his current position at Northern Illinois University this summer, as he recently accepted a tenure track, assistant professor position in the Geography Department at Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) starting July 1, 2002.

Book, Article, Video, and Dissertation Releases

BOOKS

David C. Conrad. 2002. *Somono Bala of the Upper Niger: River People, Charismatic Bards, and Mischievous Music in a West African Culture*. Leiden, Boston, Köln: Brill. Pp. xx + 161, map, 2 b&w photos.

de Jong, Willemijn, Möwe, Ilona und Claudia Roth (Hg.). 2000. *Bilder und Realitäten der Geschlechter. Fallstudien zur Sozialanthropologie*. Zürich: Argonaut Verlag.

Dorothea Schultz. 2001. *Perpetuating the Politics of Praise: Jeli praise singers, radios and political mediation in Mali*. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe.

ARTICLES

Mary Jo Arnoldi. 2001. "The Sogow: Imagining a Moral Universe Through Sogo bô Masquerades" in Jean-Paul Colleyn (ed.), *Bamana: The Art of Existence in Mali*. New York: Museum for African Art (77-84).

Sarah C. Brett-Smith. 2001. "When is an Object Finished?: The Creation of the Invisible Among the Bamana of Mali." *RES* (Spring): 98-132.

David C. Conrad. 2001. "Pilgrim Fajigi and *basiw* from Mecca: Islam and Traditional Religion in the Former French Sudan" in Jean-Paul Colleyn (ed.), *Bamana: The Art of Existence in Mali*. New York: Museum for African Art (25-33).

Kate Ezra. 2001. "Art of the Jo Society" in Jean-Paul Colleyn (ed.), *Bamana: The Art of Existence in Mali*. New York: Museum for African Art (131-141).

Barbara E. Frank. 2001. "More than Objects: Bamana Artistry in Iron, Wood, Clay, Leather and Cloth" in Jean-Paul Colleyn (ed.), *Bamana: The Art of Existence in Mali*. New York: Museum for African Art (45-51).

Alma Gottlieb. 2000. "A Critical Appraisal of Theories of Menstrual Symbolism" (co-authored with Thomas Buckley), reprinted in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective* (third edition), ed. Caroline B. Brettell and Carolyn F. Sargent. Englewood-Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.

Christian Kordt Højbjerg. 2001. "Inner Iconoclasm: forms of reflexivity in Loma rituals of sacrifice." *Social Anthropology* 10:57-75.

Patrick McNaughton. 2001. "The Kòmò" in Jean-Paul Colleyn (ed.), *Bamana: The Art of Existence in Mali*. New York: Museum for African Art (175-183).

Claudia Roth. 2000. Der unerfüllte Heiratswunsch. Erzählungen einer jungen Frau in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. In: W. de Jong, I. Möwe, C. Roth (Hg.). *Bilder und Realitäten der Geschlechter. Fallstudien zur Sozialanthropologie*. Zürich: Argonaut Verlag. S. 155-176.

Dorothea Schultz. 2000. "Muslim women's associations, mass media, and morals in urban Mali." Institute of the Study of Islam in the Modern World. *ISIM Newsletter* 6: (27 October).

Dorothea Schultz. 2001. Music videos and the effeminate vices of pop culture in Mali." *Africa* 71 (3).

Dorothea Schultz 2001. "Posen des Prestiges. Zur Theatralisierung von Regierungsgewalt in der malischen Öffentlichkeit" in Soeffner, Werner; Tänzler, Dirk (eds.) *Figurative Politik*. Leverkusen: Leske & Budrich.

VIDEOS

Barbara Hoffman. 2001. *Womanhood and Circumcision: Three Maasai Women Have Their Say.* Cleveland State University: Visual Anthropology Center, Department of Anthropology.

Synopsis: a young married Maasai woman talks with Hoffman about the importance of excision in her life, then introduces her to the woman's younger sister who is about to undergo the procedure. The girl has witnessed "circumcision" of girls before; nonetheless, she is eager in many ways to have her day in the spotlight. We see her before and after (but not during) the surgery. Her point of view is made evident to us through her facial expressions and body language. When Hoffman talks with the mother of the girls, now post-menopausal, about the experiences of circumcision and childbirth in her own life as well as that of her daughters, the depth of a diachronic perspective is brought to bear. For distribution information contact Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland OH 44114 (USA) phone: 216 687 3549; fax: 216 687 9384; e-mail b.hoffman@csuohio.edu.

DISSERTATION

William G. Moseley. 2001. "Sahelian 'White Gold' and Rural Poverty-Environment Interactions: The Political Ecology of Cotton Production, Environmental Change, and Household Food Economy in Mali." University of Georgia, Department of Geography.

New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

NEW MEMBERS

AFRICANA COLLECTION, Yale University, 317 Sterling Memorial Library, P.O. Box 208240, New Haven, CT. 06520-8240
AKARE JOHN ADEN, P.O. Box 1116, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, Tel.: 765-359-1723; e-mail: adenj@wabash.edu
Interests: Komo; Segu; history.
MALADHO SIDDY BALDE, Département d'Histoire Université de Conakry, B.P. 1147 Conakry, Guinée. Tel.: 012 69 43 84; e-mail: msbalde@hotmail.com
Interests: History of the Rio Pongo.

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Interests: Perceptions of history in modern Mali; urban history; memory and political change; Mande views of society.
MARIE YVONNE CURTIS BP 3423 Conakry, Republique de Guinee, West Africa. Tel: 013 40 65 44 (Cell phone in Conakry) 224 40 65 44 (from outside the country). mycurtis@hotmail.com
MAMADOU DIAN CHERIF DIALLO, Departement d'Histoire, Université de Conakry, BP 1147 Conakry, Republique de Guinee diancherif@hotmail.com
NICHOLAS HOCKIN, 266 Pine St., Middletown, CT 06457; Tel. (860) 865 7511; e-mail: hhockin@wesleyan.edu
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Interests: Ethnomusicology/Anthropology, jenbe drumming in Bamako
TATIANA NIKITINA, Kirochnaya ul 18 kv 7 St. Petersburg 191028, Russia. Tel.: 7-812-2732928; e-mail: tanya@tn6201.spb.edu
Affiliation: Saint Petersburg State University
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MOJCA PISKOR, Ivana Svraca 1010 290 Zapresic, CROATIA Affiliation: Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, Zagreb.
Research interests: music & gender - different aspects of identity, status and role of female musicians of West Africa (especially Gambia), changes of tradition (relations between griot and non-griot musicians), reception of African musics in Croatia.
MAMADOU SAMAKE, Musée Nationale, Section A-V, B.P. 159, Bamako, MALI nterests: Youth association masquerades; videography.

MARC SCHAFFER, 7 Wenark Drive, Apt. 3
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Affiliation: University of Delaware

Interests: West African music and outreach
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Affiliation: Département d'Histoire Université de
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Interests: Improvisation among Mande bala
players.

ADDRESS CHANGES & UPDATES

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RENEWALS

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Rogier Bedeaux

Herbert Braun

Sarah Brett-Smith (sponsor)

George Brooks

Carla de Bruin

Stephen Bulman

Victoria Coifman (sponsor)

David Conrad (sponsor)

Elizabeth den Otter

Aly Drame

Gérard Dumestre

Edda Fields

Paul Folmer

Barbara Frank (sponsor)

Gérard Gaillard

Alma Gottlieb

Maria Grosz-Ngate

Thomas Hale

Eugenia Herbert

Nicolas Hopkins

Jan Jansen

Marloes Janson

Michelle Johnson

William Johnson

Manya Jordans

Lansine Kaba (sponsor)

Lilyan Kestleloot

Anne Moseng Knutsen

Dolores Koenig (sponsor)

Joseph Lauer

Baz Lecocq

Fiona McLaughlin (sponsor)

Robert Launay

Nehemia Levtzion

Barbara Lewis (sponsor)

Peter Mark (sponsor)

Pekka Masonen

Susan McIntosh

Marie Miran

William Moseley

Diane Oyler
Barbara Polak
Rainer Polak
Daniel Reed
Claudia Roth
Tal Tamari
Berend Timmer
Red Tobin
Jeanne Toungara (sponsor)
Craig Tower
Nancy Van Eps

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 permission.

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 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, Rosa DeJorio, 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 \$25, sponsoring membership \$40, students \$5 (regular and sponsoring membership includes subscription to the journal *Mande Studies*). Make check out to MANSA and (if you are joining) send your institutional affiliation and a brief description of your research interests to: Rosa DeJorio, Department of SACJ, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, South Jacksonville, FL 32224-2666. 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. European members may submit their dues to the MANSA Treasurer Europe: Jan Jansen, Winnubst laan 13, 3533 EA Utrecht, The Netherlands. E-mail: jansenj@fsw.leidenuniv.nl