



# M A N S A

*Newsletter Number 50 - Fall 2002*

## **Annual MANSA Meeting**

The 17<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Mande Studies Association will be held during the annual meeting of the African Studies Association at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington D.C. We are scheduled for Friday, December 6, 8:00 pm-9:30 pm. The meeting room has not been assigned, but it will be found in the program at ASA.

## **President's Report on the Fifth International Conference on Mande Studies**

The Fifth International Conference on Mande Studies was held at the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde in Leiden, The Netherlands, 17-21 June, 2002. Following is a list of sponsoring agencies to whom we are extremely grateful: Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde; Netherlands Foundation for Scientific Research; Research School of Asian, African and Amerindian Studies (CNWS); African Studies Centre, Leiden; Leids Universiteitsfonds; Brill Publishers; Bremer Stiftung für Sozialantropologische Forschung. In addition, many individual members (several of whom were unable to attend the conference themselves) made generous donations toward the sponsorship of African colleagues to attend the conference:

Mary Jo Arnoldi  
Laura Arntson  
Catherine Bogosian  
Sarah Brett-Smith  
Herbert Braun  
David Conrad

Ariane Deluz  
Maria Grosz-Ngaté  
Joseph Hellweg  
Christian Højbjerg  
Barbara Hoffman  
Nicholas Hopkins  
Allen Howard  
Shigeko Izumi  
Jan Jansen  
John Johnson  
James Jones  
Martin Klein  
Dolores Koenig  
Kassim Kone  
Nehemia Levtzion  
Barbara Lewis  
Peter Mark  
Roderick McIntosh  
Patrick McNaughton  
Mohamed Saïdou N'Daou  
David Skinner  
Jeanne Toungara  
Kristina Van Dyke  
Peter Weil  
Donald Wright

A total of eleven African colleagues (one from Gambia, five from Guinea, and five from Mali) were funded through the combined efforts of Dutch agencies and MANSA donors, with some extra help from the MANSA treasury: Maladho Siddy Baldé, University of Conakry; Ishmael Barry, University of Conakry; Ibrahima Camara, University of Mali; Seydou Camara, ISH, Bamako; Marie Yvonne Curtis, Independent, Guinée; Bah Diakité, ISH, Bamako.

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  
Advisory Board

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

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



Mamadou Dian Diallo, University of Conakry  
Doulaye Konaté, ISH, Bamako  
Felix Y. Koné, ISH, Bamako  
Bala Saho, Gambia National Museum  
Aboubacar Touré, University of Conakry

In addition, two other African colleagues received supplementary help from MANSA: Dielimakan Diabaté, Ministère de l'Education du Mali (sponsored by Maria-Luisa Ciminelli), and Namankoumba Kouyaté, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Conakry (presently stationed in Bonn, Germany).

One of the individual MANSA contributors made an additional generous donation to help fund the participation of one of our new members, Mojca Piskor, a student at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research in Zagreb, Croatia who has conducted research in Gambia.

In the overall effort to maximize the participation of African colleagues living in Africa, our organization owes a great debt of thanks to Rogier Bedaux, who labored quietly and efficiently behind the scenes to acquire funding from Dutch academic institutions.

As anticipated, the conference schedule was very tight owing to the large offering of panels and papers. Presenters were limited to fifteen minutes, and despite the fact that most sessions inevitably began a bit late, the chairpersons were efficient, presenters were cooperative and good humored, and we were able to keep to the schedule with discussion periods of various lengths following each panel session. The papers were generally of very high quality, and I have reason to hope that within the next year or two we will see more than one edited volume of conference papers in print.

On the first morning, Rosa DeJorio and Barbara Wechsberg made it possible for the conference to get started on time by sorting through the turmoil of registration difficulties under quite confusing circumstances.

I want to thank MANSA Vice-President Kassim Koné for his support throughout the conference. Special thanks as well to Paulo Farias and Maladho Baldé who each readily agreed to chair panels that had formed more or less spontaneously during the organization process. I want to express my gratitude to all the panel organizers who worked hard to assemble their fine collections of presentations and most of whom kept me well informed during the process.

A number of people made vital contributions to the overall smooth running of the conference. Jan Jansen was kept extremely busy solving problems with hotel accommodations, hosting the visitors' program, organizing dinners and social events, overseeing the book exhibit, and a multitude of other chores that added up to an efficiently run event. Indeed, one key to the participants' satisfaction was the quality of the hotels and pensions that were so efficiently booked by Jansen.

Several people performed vital services behind the scenes, graciously attending to important details: Annette Schmidt efficiently coordinated use of the audio-visual equipment. Marloes Janson and Nienke Muurling were always available to help participants sort out a wide variety of individual and group needs, from minor problems to major ones, such as altering flight reservations. They also served as splendid hostesses on social occasions, both informal and organized. Baz Lecocq, with assistance from Greg Mann, saw to a particularly important detail, which was to make sure that our Guinéen and Malian colleagues who had received travel grants, were entertained on the weekend following the conference. Among other things, Baz organized a special dinner, as well as seats at a local sports bar where they watched the World Cup match between Senegal and Turkey.

One highlight of the conference was a party sponsored by the eminent publishing house of Brill. This took place on Thursday evening in a beautiful urban park at a café called De Leidse Hout. The entertainment was provided by Namankoumba Kouyaté and his son Jemori, who traveled to Leiden from Bonn, Germany, where Namankoumba has served in recent years with the Guinéen Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The balafon music of Namankoumba and Jemori was enhanced by the vocals of the *jelimuso* Aisha Kouyaté, with spontaneous dancing and encouragement led by Dielimakan Diabaté. Many *jamuw* were praised, much *wari* was passed to the bards, and as the spirits flowed, one MANSA member (who must of course remain anonymous) became so eurodollar generous as a *jeli jatigi*, that it might be appropriate to note: Let it never be said,  
That he ever forgot,  
The debt he owed,  
To "Griot and Griotte."



Toward the end of the conference, participants began making it clear that they felt the event had turned out to be a great success. The city of Leiden was particularly beautiful at that time of year, with its sixteenth- and seventeenth-century architecture, the constant and colorful small boat traffic on the canals including many antique canal boats, the weekly street markets, and the venerable windmills. In the part of the city that we frequented, there seemed to be sidewalk cafes everywhere, including some on floating platforms in the canals. Needless to say, it was rare to see a cafe without at least one table occupied by *mansadenw* who were sampling the many varieties of amber-colored beverages.

#### **Up-Date on MANSA Members' Activities**

STEPHEN BULMAN has become Head of the School of Science and Medicine at Newman College in Birmingham, England.

MARIA-LUISA CIMINELLI has begun teaching in a new position at the University of Venice "Ca' Foscari" Dipartimento Studi Storici - Università "Ca' Foscari" di Venezia - S. Marco 2546 - 30124 Venezia (I).

GRAEME COUNSEL delivered a paper titled "Cultural policy in Guinea's first republic: Music, militants and myths," at "Africa Confronts Globalisation" - the 25th Annual & International Conference of the African Studies Association of Australasia and The Pacific (AFSAAP), Macquarie University, Sydney. October 5, 2002.

MICHELLE JOHNSON will be presenting a paper at the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans (November 20-24), entitled, "The Proof Is on My Palm: Debating Islam in a New African Diaspora."

ROD MCINTOSH recently returned from teaching a term at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

DONALD WRIGHT will be spending January-March 2003 in Gambia researching a new book. He has also received a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, so will be at the center in Bellagio, Italy from April 8 to May 6.

#### **MANSA Participants at the 44th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association** (With locations codes in ASA program)

##### **Session I**

**Thursday, 12:45 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.**

(I-B1) Roundtable: Senegambian Lutes and the New World Banjo

Eric Charry, Wesleyan University (Co-Chair)

(I-E1) Roundtable: State Formation and the Production of Ethnic and Religious Identities in the Mande World: In Memory of Jean Bazin  
Co-Chairs: Richard Roberts, Stanford University  
Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Indiana University  
Participants:

Akare John Aden, Indiana University

Jan Jansen, Leiden University

Rosa DeJorio, University of North Florida

Maria Luisa Ciminelli, University of Venice

Richard Roberts, Stanford University

Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Indiana University

##### **Session III**

**Friday, 8:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.**

(III-N11)

Barbara C. Lewis (Chair), Rutgers University,

"Winning with Media Spin: Ivoirian

Government TV & Belgian Documentary La

Poudrière Incendiaire"

##### **Session IV**

**Friday, 10:45 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.**

(IV-C52)

Marie Miran, SOAS, "Muslims without Sharia:

Islamic Accommodation to the Post-Colonial

State's Secularism in Côte d'Ivoire"

Nehemia Levtzion, Hebrew University, "The Representation of Islam in the Arabic Chronicles of West Africa"

(IV-D27)

Christopher E. Hayden, Northwestern

University, "Reframing the Relationship

between Medicine and Colonialism: Practice,

Repetition, and Ambivalence in Colonial

Guinea"

##### **Session V**

**Friday, 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**



(V-B2) Roundtable: New and Improved:  
Applications of Information Technology in  
Studies of African Visual Culture  
Tavey D. Ahern, Indiana University

(V-D8)  
Odile Goerg, Université Paris, "Femmes et  
Hommes dans les Villes Coloniales: l'Illusion du  
Desequilibre Permanente"

(V-G3)  
Robert Launay, Northwestern University,  
"Abidjan on the Web: Ivoirian Politics and  
Religion on the Internet"

(V-P4) APAHS Roundtable: Keeping  
Momentum through Technological Strategies  
David Conrad, SUNY-Oswego

#### **Session VI**

**Friday, 3:15 P. M. - 5:15 P.M.**

(VI-D29) Art, Technology, and Information in  
Africa II  
Patrick McNaughton (Chair), Indiana University

(VI-C50) Roundtable: Islam and Africa after  
September 11  
Lansine Kaba (Co-chair), University of Illinois-  
Chicago

#### **Session VII**

**Saturday, 9:00 A. M. - 11:00 A.M.**

(VII-E8) Bending the Chains: The Culture and  
Politics of Slave Resistance in North Africa and  
the Sahara  
Discussant: Martin A. Klein, University of  
Toronto

(VII-E15)  
David Robinson, Michigan State University  
"Resurrecting Oral Narratives from the Senegal  
River Valley"

#### **Session VIII**

**Saturday, 11:15 A. M. - 1:15 P.M.**

(VIII-G7)  
Peter Mark, Wesleyan University, "Trans-  
Atlantic Ties: Senegambian 'Portuguese' &  
Brazilian Marrano Identity"

#### **Session IX**

**Saturday, 3:00 P. M. - 5:00 P.M.**

(IX-C17) Mande Hunters, Nation-States and  
Civil Society in Contemporary West Africa  
Chair: Joseph R. Hellweg, Yale University  
Thomas J. Bassett, University of Illinois-Urbana  
Champaign, "Containing the Donsow: The  
Politics of Scale in Côte d'Ivoire"  
Sten Hagberg, Uppsala University, "Political  
Decentralization and Traditional Leadership in  
the Hunters' Association in Western Burkina  
Faso"

Karim Traoré, University of Georgia, "Donsow  
as Intellectuals: The Missing Dimension"  
Joseph R. Hellweg, Yale University, "Sacrificing  
for Security: Dozo Ritual in the 'Benkadi'  
Movement of Côte d'Ivoire"  
Discussant: Melissa Leach, University of Sussex

(IX-N7) Griots with Cell Phones: New  
Technologies in the Mande World  
Sponsored by the Mande Studies Association  
Chair: Michelle C. Johnson, Bucknell University  
Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland State University,  
"Griots in a CD Universe"  
Ylva Hernlund, University of Washington,  
"Videorizing' New Ritual in the Gambia: The  
Gaze and Women's Agency"  
JoAnn D'Alisera, University of Arkansas  
"Transnational Phone Calls: Re-Connecting  
Sierra Leonean Space and Identity"  
Craig Tower, Northwestern University,  
"Koutiala Calling: Malian FM Radio in  
Historical Perspective"  
Michelle C. Johnson, Bucknell University,  
"Technology and Transnationalism: Mandinga  
Immigrants and Their Cell Phones in  
Portugal"  
Discussant: Robert Launay, Northwestern  
University

#### **Session X**

**Sunday, 9:00 A. M. - 11:00 A.M.**

(X-B9) Artist Biographies: With or Against the  
Grain?

Chair: Barbara E. Frank, SUNY-Stony Brook  
Heather Ann Maxwell, Indiana University,  
"Nahawa Doumbia: Destined to Sing"  
Barbara E. Frank, SUNY-Stony Brook, "Nansa  
Doumbiya: Matriarch, Artist, and Guardian of the  
Past"  
Discussant: Mary Jo Arnoldi, National Museum  
of Natural History



(X-D19)

Gregory Mann, Columbia University, "How to Go Home Rich and Happy: West Africans in Southeast Asia, 1950s"

(X-J5)

Thomas A. Hale, Penn State University, "Voices from the Past: Documentary Traces of Women's Songs from the Sahel and Savanna"

(X-K9) Contextualizing Local Knowledge of the International Health System: Female Genital Circumcision (FGC) and HIV/AIDS in Africa  
Discussant: Kassim Kone, SUNY-Cortland

#### Session XI

**Sunday, 11:15 A. M. - 1:15 P.M.**

(XI-M8) The Coding of Love and Passion  
Stephen Belcher (Chair), "The Troubled Question of the Woman's Voice in African Epic"  
Discussant: Ralph A. Austen, University of Chicago

#### Book, Article, CD, Film and Dissertation Releases

##### BOOKS

Eugenia Herbert. 2002. *Twilight on the Zambezi: Late Colonialism in Central Africa*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. xxvi + 196pp. 4 maps. 21 illustrations.

This book looks at a remote district in Central Africa in 1959, just before the collapse of British rule. After an introduction to the environment and history of the Barotse floodplain, two chapters provide a picture of everyday life from the vantage point of local officials, on the one hand, and their African counterparts in the Native Authority, on the other. The story then moves outward in widening circles to the larger drama pitting diehard proponents of settler supremacy against African nationalists in the context of the Central African Federation. Finally it turns to Whitehall and the centers of imperial power in London. The point is to show how things looked at the time to the people on the ground, without the benefit of hindsight, from the perspectives of the colonial *boma*, the African *kuta*, Salisbury, the capital of the Federation, and Whitehall. A brief epilogue then fills in the subsequent history.

Jan Jansen. 2002. *Les secrets du Manding: les récits du sanctuaire Kamablolon de Kangaba (Mali)*. Leiden: CNWS. 163pp. 2 illustrations.

Valentin Vydrine and Alexandre Zheltov (eds.). 2002. *The South Mande Languages: Linguistics in African Rhythms, Dedicated to the 50th anniversary of Konstantin Pozdniakov*. St. Petersburg: European Space Publishers. Pp. 189 (printed in Russian).

Translated Contents:

Valentin Vydrine. "Methodological recommendations to the description of a South Mande language"

Alexandre Zheltov. "Syntax, deiksis and pragmatics: A grammar without limits, or a super-inflection in an analytical language (a brief sketch of the verbal system of the Gban language)"

Irina Zhuk. "Parts of speech in the Guro language: Adjective"

Dmitry Idiatov. "Interaction of "intensifiers" and numerals in Tura"

Tatiana Nikitina. "Postposition in the Wan language: A survey"

Alyona Tcherdyntseva. "Aspectual and temporal system of Dan (the Gweta dialect)"

Anna Erman. "Subject pronouns in Dan-Blowo and modal, aspectual and temporal Semantics"

##### ARTICLES

Seydou Camara, Eric Charry and Jan Jansen. "The Mande Praise Song 'Kayra' (Peace): Mande Global Perspectives" *Metamorphoses* (Special Issue on Sub-Saharan Africa) Spring 2002 Vol. 10 (1): 300-321.

Graeme Counsel. "Regionalisation". *JRoots* 2002, Vol. 225: 45, 47. (Article on the return of Mali's Biennales in 2001).

Brehman Diabate (alias Clemens Zobel) and Sidiki Kouyate (alias Jan Jansen). "The Guest is a Hot Meal: Questioning Researchers' Identities in Mande Studies" in Toyin Falola and Christian Jennings (eds.) *Africanizing Knowledge - African Studies Across the Disciplines*. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers.



Greg Mann. "What's in an Alias? Family Names, Individual Histories, and Historical Method in the Western Sudan." *History in Africa* 29 (2002): 309-320.

#### COMPACT DISKS

Gibson, Gloria J. and Daniel B. Reed. *Music and Culture of West Africa: The Straus Expedition*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002.

The original collection that served as the basis of this CD-ROM consists of the music of 21 ethnic groups recorded in 1934 by Laura Boulton during the Straus Expedition, which covered a vast region of West Africa, stretching from Dakar to Timbuktu to Buea in contemporary Cameroon. In addition, contemporary ethnographic materials (video, photos, information) were collected from more recent scholars and used to supplement the Boulton material. For practical purposes, the CD-ROM included the music of only seven ethnic groups (Serer, Tuareg, Maninka, Bamana, Dogon, Edo and Wakpe). Each town/city developed for the CD has an introduction to its history and culture, then the material is organized according to musical instruments, further broken down into subsections (performers, performance contexts, construction and playing technique, etc.). There are many additional presentations on a variety of topics, including the Sunjata epic, *jeliya*, Dogon mask performance, representational issues in the material, the "expedition" itself and Laura Boulton's career in historical perspective, and an interactive section designed to teach students some common West African musical principles represented on the recordings.

Jan Jansen. *Siramori Diabaté (Griot Music from Mali #3)* (PAN records 2104) 72 minutes, 48 seconds. This contains 1974 recordings [6 minutes] by John Johnson and 1989 recordings by Jan Jansen).

#### FILM

Barbara Hoffman. *Womanhood and Circumcision: Three Maasai Women Have Their Say*. University of California Extension Center for Media and Independent Learning 2000 Center Street, Fourth Floor Berkeley, CA 94704 Phone 510/642-0460

Fax 510/643-9271

Available for rental or purchase in both NTSC and PAL. For more information, contact e-mail: [ucmedia@ucxonline.berkeley.edu](mailto:ucmedia@ucxonline.berkeley.edu)

#### DISSERTATIONS

Marloes Janson. 2002. "The Best Hand is the Hand that Always Gives. Griottes and their Profession in Eastern Gambia." Leiden University.

Baz Lecocq. 2002. "That Desert is Our Country": Tuareg Rebellions and Competing Nationalisms in Contemporary Mali (1946-1996)." Leiden University

#### New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

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Interests: Mande languages in general, mainly focused on Western Mande languages (in particular Bozo); functional description of languages; grammaticalization; discourse; inter-ethnic relations

Stephan Buehnen

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Interests: Epic of Sunjata and related oral traditions, use of oral traditions for historical research, Kulikoro and traditions about Sumanguru (Sumaworo) Kante and Soso (Susu).

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Submissions may be made electronically to Ariane Deluz ([Ariane.Deluz@ehess.fr](mailto:Ariane.Deluz@ehess.fr)) or to Stephen Belcher ([spbelcher@mindspring.com](mailto: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).

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