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Newsletter Number 51 - Winter 2002-03

Minutes of the 17th Annual MANSA Meeting

On Friday, December 6th at 8 p.m. in Washington D.C., MANSA president David Conrad opened the Annual Meeting of the Mande Studies Association. The first order of business was the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Rosa De Jorio described some of the changes affecting the management of dues, and in particular the switch from an individualized dues cycle to a calendar year dues cycle, which is being implemented as of January 1st, 2003. The decision to adjust the dues cycle emerged from several ongoing discussions with European Treasurer Jan Jansen, David, and Rosa. Jan deserves credit for suggesting this strategy, which will ultimately simplify the handling of membership. The switch to an academic calendar year was motivated by increased membership, the need to standardize accounting methods for Europe and the US, and to improve the management of dues. (See also the separate item providing further details.)

Rosa has also reported that the current Mansa membership as of 12/1/2002 consisted of 244 members, including sponsored members, and institutions. She also noted regarding *MANDE STUDIES*, that in only one year we were able to raise the number of subscribers from less than 20 to ca. 130 subscribers. This is still short of having all regular members subscribing, but we are making good progress toward that goal.

During the discussions on dues policy, Jansen resigned from acting as European Treasurer due to problems in coping with complications in the Dutch banking system and the difficulty of reconciling that system with banking practices in elsewhere in Europe and in the U.S. For the time

being, the handling of all treasury duties will revert to the Secretary-Treasurer. European dues must now be sent direct to Rosa De Jorio, who is able to deposit Euro checks in our U.S. bank.

Thanks to the contribution of our Dutch colleagues and in particular Rogier Bedaux of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde of Leiden, the association was returned an additional \$1,000, and more recently an additional donation of 300 Euros.

Ralph Austin kindly offered to help the association with secretarial-related responsibilities, by volunteering the help of one of his student assistants during the spring semester. The possibility of assigning to this student the forthcoming and time-consuming task of updating and most of all removing obsolete e-mails from the Mansa e-mail list was discussed at the meeting.

Steven Belcher, co-editor with Arianne Deluze of the association's peer-reviewed journal, *MANDE STUDIES*, reported on the publication schedule and special issues planned for the next two years. *MANDE STUDIES* #4 which is scheduled to come out in Spring 2003, will feature a section on gender in the Mande world, guest-edited by Barbara Hoffman. The following issue (#5, Spring 2004) will contain a section dedicated to the political and cultural legacy of Mali's first president Modibo Keita and will be guest-edited by Baz Lecocq and Gregory Mann.

Peter Mark presented his initiative "SOS-Casamance" which aims to raise funds to send health personnel specialized in grief counseling as well as to create a scholarship to honor the memory of approximately 400 students

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

Ralph A. Austen, University of Chicago
 Alma Gottlieb, University of Illinois
 Nehemia Levtzion, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Patrick McNaughton, Indiana University
 Mohamed Saïdou N'Daou, Chicago State University
 Donald R. Wright, State University of New York-Cortland

Minutes (continued)

who died in the boat disaster that claimed 1,100 victims on September 27th 2002. Laura Arnston, who works for the "Children in Crisis" unit of Save the Children, volunteered to put Mark in contact with trained counselors who work in this area. Individuals interested in contributing to this initiative should send checks made out to "Wesleyan University" and send them to the following address: Peter Mark, Department of Art History, Wesleyan University Middletown, CT 06459.

As has been customary at our annual meetings, David requested possible topics for MANSA-sponsored panels for next year's annual meeting of the African Studies Association which is scheduled for October 30-November 2, 2003 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, MA. He noted that this year there were two panels made up entirely of MANSA members, but that when organizers submitted their panel programs, they evidently failed to request that they be listed in the ASA program as "MANSA-Sponsored." He reminded us that this is one of the essential ways that our organization achieves recognition, and expressed regret that we had missed out on that opportunity. David made a special point of requesting that organizers of Mande studies-dominated panels for the next ASA be sure to request the "MANSA-sponsored" designation.

Daniel Reed had sent an e-mail announcing that he is organizing a panel titled "Music, Performance and Popular Culture," and his message was repeated at the meeting. Those interested in contributing, should contact Reed at: reedd@indiana.edu.

David mentioned that he has been working on updating the "MANSA History" section of the web site, and that he expects to finish that soon. He said Valentin Vydrine's map of Mande linguistic groups has been added. He also plans on contacting Bob Newton who took on the onerous task of compiling the bibliography of MANSA members' contribution to the study of Mande people for inclusion on the web site. An updated list of MANSA current membership will also soon be made available there: (<http://www.swt.edu/anthropology/mansa>).

David proposed the nomination of Nehemia Levtzion (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and The Council for Higher Education)

and Ralph Austin (University of Chicago) as members of the MANSA Advisory board, a proposal that was unanimously accepted. The assembly also discussed the likely location for the next International Conference on Mande Studies, and Guinée-Conakry emerged as the most likely candidate. Some arrangements were made to pursue this venue.

Kassim Kone's temporary appointment as Vice President, which he initially took on last year to replace Vice-President Barbara Frank, was unanimously extended for two additional years to conform to a regular term. The assembly then convened to the election of the MANSA president, by constitution scheduled to occur every two years. Kassim and Mohamed Saidou N'Dao presented some compelling arguments to support the re-election of David who was unanimously re-elected. The meeting was adjourned about 9:30.

Memo From Secretary-Treasurer Rosa De Jorio: A Momentous Change in the Dues Cycle for MANSA Membership

As the association grows and the management of membership dues and membership services (newsletter, journal, list-serve, etc.) becomes increasingly cumbersome, we would like to switch from an Individualized Dues Cycle to a Calendar Year Dues Cycle. This idea emerged from a meeting between David, Jan Jansen, and myself and was later favorably received by members attending the last Mansa meeting at the ASA 2002 in Washington DC.

In the past, we counted as the beginning of a year of membership the date in which a member paid and/or renewed his/her membership. It followed, that each member had different due dates (e.g. if a member paid on 12/1/02 the membership typically expired on 12/1/03), making the system rather complicated on both ends.

Members will now be asked to pay at the beginning of each calendar year for a full year of membership. It follows that if a person renews and/or joins the association in the middle of 2003 his/her membership will expire at the end of 2003 and will have to renew at the beginning of 2004. This member will receive all the newsletters published during that year and the

year's issue of the *MANDE STUDIES*.

For those members who have already paid for parts of 2003, you still need to pay the \$15 for the forthcoming *MANDE STUDIES* #4. In other words, we offer you several months of free membership (till the end of the year 2003). You will be asked to renew your full membership (that is membership + journal) from the beginning of the following year (January 2004). We will continue to inform you about the due date of your membership on the back of your copy of *MANSA Newsletter*.

For those members who have paid several years of membership in advance at the old rate, please do not forget that in order to receive the next issue of the journal (*MANDE STUDIES* #4) you will need to send me a check for \$15.00 made out to MANSA.

Currency Rates \$ vs. Euro: Given that one dollar is roughly equivalent to one euro, dues are the same for those members paying either in dollars or euros (as long as that exchange rate is approximately maintained).

European members or members paying in euros can now send me a euro check. I will deposit them at least four times a year to minimize bank finance charges (our bank, Citizens Bank, applies a fixed rate of \$10 per deposit of either one euro check and/or group of euro checks).

We appreciate your patience as we make these changes effective. Finally, please find below a reminder about the current dues structure:

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: \$5 or EUR 5 (entitles student members to receive issues of *MANSA Newsletter* published during the year). Note: students are not required to subscribe to *MANDE STUDIES*, though they have the option of adding \$15 or EUR 15 to their membership fee for a total of \$20 or EUR 20.

PROFESSIONAL RATES

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP (it includes the required subscription to *MANDE STUDIES*): \$25 or EUR 25

SPONSORING MEMBERSHIP (includes subscription to *MANDE STUDIES*): \$40 or EUR 40

FAMILY RATE: REGULAR: \$35 OR EUR 35 (add \$10 per each additional family member)

FAMILY RATE: SPONSOR: \$50 OR EUR 50 (same as above)

Please send checks in dollars and/or euros made out to MANSA and/or renewal correspondence to:

University of North Florida
Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
ATTN: Rosa De Jorio, Bldg 034
4567 St. Johns Bluff Road South
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2672

Memo from Daniel Reed on the Archives of Traditional Music

In my capacity as director of the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University, I want to encourage you to consider depositing ethnographic field materials to the ATM. The largest university-based research sound archive in the U.S., we are particularly strong in collections of African and especially West African materials. Our holdings already include a number of significant collections from MANSA members and/or past scholars of the Manden, and I would very much like to see us continue to grow in this direction. We offer secure, climate-controlled storage (much safer than your home for these irreplaceable materials), and collector's copies in the format of your choice to all depositors free of charge. I would be happy to talk with any of you further about deposit and future directions of the ATM. Please e-mail me for more information: reedd@indiana.edu

Up-Date on MANSA Members' Activities

SEKOU BERTE is back in Bamako after finishing his Master of Arts in African Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London UK.

ROSA DE JORIO has edited a cluster of essays for the latest issue of *Polar: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 25, based on contributions from the panel "Sites of Memory and the Construction of Social, Religious, and Political Identities in the Postcolony" that she had organized for the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association,

November 28-December 2, 2001, Washington, DC (individual titles in "Article Releases" below).

MAMADOU DIAWARA is now teaching in the History Department at the University of Georgia. MARIA GROSZ-NGATE has been elected to the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association.

SUSAN KEECH MCINTOSH has been elected President of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA).

NIENKE MUURLING, one of the staff members who was such a great help behind the scenes at the conference in Leiden last summer, has begun her Ph.D. studies at the University of Amsterdam, and is presently revising her research proposal.

PATRICK ROYER's book *West African Challenge to Empire. Culture and History in the Volta-Bani Anticolonial War* which he co-authored with Mahir Saul, has won the 2002 Royal Anthropological Institute's Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology.

JULIE STRAND who is working on her Ph.D. in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University has a Fulbright-Hays DDRAP grant supporting her research in Burkina Faso. She is presently based in Bobo-Dioulasso studying *bala* music, along with xylophone traditions of some non-Mande groups in the same region. In addition to Dyula she's studying Sambla, and hopes to remain in the field for a year and a half.

DONALD WRIGHT is now in Gambia, collecting information for his next book.

Northwestern University's 2003 Summer Program in Mali

Spend six weeks June 21 until August 2 -- studying:

- *Mali cultures and Islam in Africa in two Northwestern courses
- *Language: Bamana
- *Malian everyday life through village and city homestays
- *Local and global context of the Francophone world
- *Islamic heritage in an African democracy
- *Important cultural sites of African medieval and colonial history

*African artistic creativity in traditional and modern forms

For more information, e-mail Bill Murphy, wmurphy@northwestern.edu.

See Program Website:

www.scs.northwestern.edu/summersa

<<http://www.scs.northwestern.edu/summersa>>

Book and Article Releases

BOOKS

Caroline Angenent, Anneke Breedveld, Mirjam de Bruijn and Han van Dijk. 2002. *Les Rois des Tambours au Haayre. Recitée par Aamadou Baa Digi, griot des Fulbe à Dalla (Mali)*. Leiden: Brill.

Sten Hagberg. 2001. *Poverty in Burkina Faso: Representations and Realities*. Uppsala: Uppsala-Leuven Research in Cultural Anthropology. Map, 5 b&w photos.

Marloes Janson. 2002. *The Best Hand is the Hand that Always Gives. Griottes and their Profession in Eastern Gambia*. Leiden: Research School CNWS; pp. 322, 12 b&w photos, appendix with several *jalimuso* songs (Mandinka transcriptions and English translations) 35 Euro.

As a striking feature of Mandinka culture, *jalimusolu* can be recognized by their flamboyant style of dress and their sharp voices. Nevertheless, they have largely been neglected in scientific literature, while ample attention has been paid to *jalilu*, or "griots." This book attempts to remedy that situation. Marloes Janson lived with the female bards from a Mandinka community in eastern Gambia for more than a year and was trained by them as an apprentice. From this perspective she describes the daily life and concerns of the *jalimusolu*, their skills, their techniques for learning the profession, their means of subsistence, their relationships with their male counterparts and their patrons.

The main activity of *jalimusolu* is *daaniroo*. When they set out for *daaniroo*, they praise their patrons, and in return they are rewarded with money or goods. This book shows that *daaniroo* is a highly controversial practice. It is sometimes considered a new development, while at the same time it fits in with the bardic tradition. Some patrons disapprove of *daaniroo*, yet they depend on it

to have their prestige confirmed. Several Koranic scholars regard *daaniroo* as conflicting with Islam, while the *jalimusolu* do their best to embed their activities in an Islamic discourse. By studying the gendered practice of *daaniroo*, the dynamics of female *jaliya* are demonstrated.

James A. Jones. 2002. *Industrial Labor in the Colonial World: The African Workers of the Chemin de Fer Dakar-Niger*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

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

Nehamia Levtzion & Jay Spaulding (eds.). 2003. *Medieval West Africa: Views from Arab Scholars and Merchants*. Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers. Pp. xxxiii; 126.

This is a book designed for students, offering English translation of meaningful selections from Arabic works about West Africa before 1500 by major writers of the Islamic heartlands. Twenty-two texts from the comprehensive collection in Levtzion and Hopkins, *Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History*, which is now available in paperback (Markus Wiener, 2000).

Peter Mark. 2002. *"Portuguese" Style and Luso-African Identity: Precolonial Senegambia, Sixteenth-Nineteenth Centuries*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press. Pp. x, 208, 2 maps, 32 b&w photos.

In this history of domestic architecture in West Africa, Mark shows how building styles are closely associated with social status and ethnic identity. He documents the ways in which local architecture was transformed by long-distance trade and complex social and cultural interactions between local Africans, African traders from the interiors, and the Portuguese explorers and traders who settled in the Senegambia region. What came to be known as "Portuguese" style symbolized the wealth and power of Luso-Africans who self-identified as "Portuguese" so they could be distinguished from their African neighbors.

ARTICLES

Alice Bellagamba. 2002. "Portrait of a Chief between Past and Present: Memory at Work in Colonial and Postcolonial Gambia." *Polar: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 25 (2) 21-49.

Sekou Berte. 2001. "Indigenous Perception of Cultural Heritage and its Management: A Cursory Blueprint Among the Senufo in the Sikasso Region of Mali." In *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology*, Vol. 12. 105-109.

Rosa De Jorio. 2002. "Introduction to Narratives of the Past/Sites of Memory: Constructing Social, Religious, and Political Identities in the Postcolony." *Polar: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 25 (2): 1-4.

Rosa De Jorio. 2002. "Gendered Museum, Guided He(tour)topias: Women and Social Memory in Mali." *Polar: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 25 (2): 50-72.

Maria Grosz-Ngaté. 2002. "Memory, Power and Performance in the Construction of Muslim Identity." *Polar: The Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 25 (2): 5-20.

Patrick Royer. 2002. "The spirit of Competition: wak in Burkina Faso" *Africa* 72 (3): 464-483.

New & Renewed MANSA Members & Address Changes

NEW MEMBERS

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Interests: African cinema and literature

RENEWED MEMBERSHIP

Jose da Silva Horta
Departamento de Historia
Cidade Universitaria
Faculdade de Letras de Lisboa
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Emily Osborn
University of Notre Dame
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Home address:

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eosborn1@nd.edu

Interests: Gender, power and authority in
Kankan-Bate and Haute Guinee. Also
interested in colonialism and intermediaries

ADDRESS CHANGES

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Tamba M'bayo
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Interests: Colonial Senegal; indigenous
interpreters, officers, intellectuals, and "cultural
brokers"; the Fulbe diaspora; the Empire of
Mali; slavery and slave resistance.
Nienke Muurling
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Tatiana Nikitina
Department of Linguistics
Stanford University
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Ivory Coast

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RENEWALS (ADJUSTMENT TO A
CALENDAR YEAR DUE CYCLE): Members
whose expiration date fell at some point during
the year 2003 were extended till the end of 2003
as agreed at the last MANSA meeting
(December 6, 2002). Members are still expected
to pay \$15 for Mande Studies #4 and will have to
renew their 2004 membership by the beginning
of 2004. Those whose expiration date preceded
1/1/2003 will have to pay regular dues.

Laura Arnston (sponsor)
Ralph Austen
Stephen Belcher (sponsor)
Caroline Bledsoe
Maria Luisa Ciminelli
Victoria Coifman
David Conrad (sponsor)
Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias
Tim Geysbeek (sponsor)
Fritz Goerling
Eugenia Herbert
Barbara Hoffman (sponsor)
José da Silva Horta
Cheick M. Cherif Keita
Jan Jansen (sponsor)
Joseph Lauer
Robert Launay
Tamba Eadric M'Bayo
Patrick McNaughton
Marie Miran
Saidou N'Daou
Tatiana Nikitina
Emily Osborn
Jeanne Toungara (sponsor)
Donald Wright

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. (For additional information on *Mande Studies* see the web page: <http://www.swt.edu/anthropology/mansa/wisconu.html>)

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 following signals have been included 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:

University of North Florida
Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
ATTN: Rosa De Jorio, Bldg 034
4567 St. Johns Bluff Road South
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2672

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.