



# M A N S A

*Newsletter Number 58 - Winter 2005-06 & Spring 2006*

**Dedicated to the Memory of Tereba Togola 1948-2005**

## **Homage to Tereba Togola**

*Our esteemed colleague and dear friend, Dr Téréba Togola, Directeur National du Patrimoine Culturel (Ministère de la Culture du Mali) died of kidney failure associated with typhoid on November 7, 2005. His health had been fragile since the summer, when colleagues who saw him at the Panafrican Congress of Prehistory in Botswana reported that he looked thin, drawn, and unwell. We will remember him always as a devoted champion of Mali's past, an outstanding field archaeologist and researcher, a kind and generous colleague and friend, and a devoted father and husband.*

Téréba Togola was born in 1948 in the region of Sikasso (Bla, Cercle de Bougouni). After receiving his M.A. in history and geography at l'Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENSUP) in Bamako in 1980, he began his professional career in archaeology at l'Institut des Sciences Humaines (ISH). Working with Dr. Michel Raimbault, his former professor at ENSUP, he participated in several archaeological campaigns in the Middle Niger and Mema regions, where his own research would ultimately be focused. In early 1984, he worked with Professors Roderick and Susan McIntosh as ISH homologue in an archaeological survey around Timbuktu. Following that collaboration, he entered the graduate program in anthropology at Rice University in 1986, funded by a Fulbright

Fellowship. With the McIntoshes, he undertook the first excavations and archaeological survey at Dia in January 1987. His pioneering doctoral research "Archaeological Investigations of Iron Age Sites in the Mema (Mali)" was funded by a prestigious National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant and supervised by R. and S. McIntosh. His investigations identified 108 Iron Age sites, including a number of iron production sites, and several occupation mounds measuring well in excess of 40 hectares in area. Excavations at the site of Akumbu resulted in the first ceramic Iron Age sequence for the Mema, spanning the 4th-14th centuries AD, and evidence for trade in tin bronze. He received the Ph.D. in 1993.

Upon returning home, Dr. Togola rejoined the ISH, where he was appointed Chef de section Archéologie à la Division Histoire - Archéologie. MANSA members will remember his hard work and successful organization of the biennial meetings held in Bamako in 1993. In 1995, he also helped organize the meetings in Bamako of the West African Archaeological Association. Between 1994-1997, he conducted numerous archaeological campaigns in the gold producing regions of Ségala, Tabakoto, Sadiola (région de Kayes), and Faboula (Kalana, Région de Sikasso), the Boucle de Baoulé, as well as collaborative research and excavation at Jenne-jeno.

David C. Conrad, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego  
Kassim Koné, *Vice-President*, State University of New York-Cortland  
Laura Arntson, *Secretary-Treasurer*, USAID

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### Homage to Tereba Togola (continued)

In 1998, Dr. Togola was appointed as Directeur National des Arts et de la Culture. In this post, administrative responsibilities for all aspects of national Arts and Culture kept him on the move, traveling to many countries, attending meetings and seminars, all of which prevented him from spending much time doing the fieldwork he loved. He was an outstanding excavator, able to read the fine nuances of the soil and the clues it provided about events that unfolded long ago. In 2000 and 2001, he was able to undertake a research program in the Mema in collaboration with the University of Kyoto (Japan) and subsequently with the Ethnology Museum of Osaka. This is especially remarkable in view of the fact that he was very active during that period as Organizing Secretary of the Panafrican Congress of Prehistory, which was held in Bamako in 2001. That same year, he organized the Semaine Nationale des Arts et de la Culture (SNAC), an artistic and cultural forum bringing together artists from all regions of Mali. Dr. Togola put his fluency in both English and French to good use in interactions with a wide variety of researchers, collaborators, and funding agencies.

*For his many services rendered to the nation, Tereba Togola was awarded the distinction of the honorary title "Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mali" in September 2000.*

With the restructuring of the Direction Nationale des Arts et de la Culture in 2001, Dr. Togola was appointed to lead the Direction Nationale du Patrimoine Culturel (DNPC). In this post, he emphasized the protection, management and promotion of Mali's cultural heritage. He participated in numerous conferences on the subject of the illicit antiquities trade and played an important role in assuring the extension in 2002 of the bilateral agreement with the United States under the UNESCO Convention, protecting archaeological materials at risk of pillage in the Middle Niger region. A significant aspect of his tenure was the ongoing inventory of cultural heritage. In 2001, 63 sites and monuments were inventoried and registered, rising to 68 in 2004. The Komoguel Mosque (Région de Mopti) and the Kamablon of Kangaba

(Région de Koulikoro) were classified as national cultural heritage monuments in 2005. One of Dr. Togola's most visionary and enduring projects was the "Cultural Map of Mali: Inventory of Cultural Heritage", a vast atlas bringing together the elements of cultural heritage in the eight regions of Mali and the District of Bamako. He worked feverishly on this ambitious project, successfully bringing it to publication in 2005 under the title: *Carte Culturelle du Mali, esquisse d'un inventaire du patrimoine culture.*

Dr. Togola was also successful in assuring the addition of the Tombeau des Askia (Région de Gao) to the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in 2004, and the inscription of "Jaaral -Dégala" by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the immaterial heritage of humanity. Significantly as well, under Dr. Togola's tenure, Timbuktu was withdrawn from the list of endangered world heritage sites.

*Dr Téréba Togola was a member of the following Associations and Professional Organisations*

- la Société des Archéologues Africanistes (SAFA) ;
- le Comité Scientifique pour le Développement de la Boucle du Baoulé, Mali ;
- l'Association Ouest-Africaine d'Archéologie (AOAA) ;
- l'Association des Etudes Mandé (MANSA) ;
- l'Association des Historiens du Mali (ASHIMA) ;
- l'Association Panafricaine de Préhistoire et Disciplines Assimilées ;
- le Réseau des archéologues africains ;
- Karité Mali ;
- l'Association pour le Développement de l'Arrondissement de Koumantou.

### *Travaux et publications*

- 1982** *Inventaire analytique des sites archéologiques du Cercle de Bougouni. Mémoire de fin d'études, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Bamako. Directeur de Mémoire : Michel Raimbault. Document non publié.*
- 1986** *"Le pillage des sites archéologiques au Mali." Journal Jamana, Bamako, Mali. N°42 En collaboration avec Michel Raimbault.*



- 1989 (a) Archaeology of the people without history", *Archaeology* 42 (1):75-80. En collaboration avec R.J. McIntosh et S.K. McIntosh.
- 1989 (b) *The Méma, Mali :Overview and Research Prospects*. Mémoire de M.A. Département d'Anthropologie. Rice University. Houston. Document non publié.
- 1989 (c) *The Bamana Secret Societies (Jow) : their relation with the Bamana social, political and belief systems and the meaning of their membership*. Mémoire de M.A. Département d'Anthropologie. Rice University. Houston. Document non publié.
- 1991 (a) "Les missions d'inventaire dans le Méma, Karéri et Farimaké (1984 et 1985)". En collaboration avec M. Raimbault. Dans *Recherches Archéologiques au Mali*. Editions Karthala. Ouvrage collectif dirigé par M. Raimbault et K. Sanogo, pp. 81 – 85
- 1991 (b) "Le mobilier céramique." Dans *Recherches Archéologiques au Mali*. Editions Karthala. Ouvrage collectif dirigé par M. Raimbault et K. Sanogo, pp. 281 – 300.
- 1993 *Investigations of Iron Age sites in the Méma region (Mali)*. Thèse de Ph. D. Département d'Anthropologie. Rice University, Houston (USA).
- 1994 *Reconnaissance archéologique dans la zone du projet or, Sadiola (deuxième phase)*. Rapport Final. En collaboration avec Famory Sissoko et Nafogo Coulibaly. Rapport ISH non publié.
- 1995 (a) "Memories, abstraction and conceptualisation of ecological crisis in the Mande World". Communication présentée à l'atelier *Global Change in Prehistory and History* organisé par the Forest Service (Etats-Unis) et Rice University Center for the Study of Cultures.
- 1995 (b) *Recherches archéologiques dans la zone de Faboula, Arrondissement de Kalana, Cercle de Yanfolila*. En Collaboration avec Famory Sissoko et Nafogo Coulibaly. Rapport ISH non publié.
- 1995 (c) "The good collector and the premise of mutual respect among Nations". *African Arts*. Autumn 1995. Volume XXVIII. N° 4. En Collaboration avec Roderick J. McIntosh et Susan K. McIntosh.
- 1995 (d) *Recherches archéologiques dans la Boucle du Baoulé, Mali. Rapport Final*. En collaboration avec Boua Traoré, Youssef Kalapo, Josué Thiéro et Clément Traoré. Rapport ISH non publié.
- 1996 (a) "Iron Age occupation in the Méma region (Mali)". *African Archaeological Review* 13 (2): 91–110.
- 1996 (b) *Reconnaissance archéologique dans la zone de Ségala, cercle de Keniéba*. En collaboration avec Youssef Kalapo et Mahamadou Kaba. Rapport ISH, non publié.
- 1997 (a) "Mali's many shields of its past". *Nonrenewable Resources* 6 (2): 111–130. En collaboration avec R.J. McIntosh et B. Diaby.
- 1997 (b) "A civilization under seige", *US/ICOMOS Newsletter* n°1 Janvier–Février. En collaboration avec R.J. McIntosh, B. Diaby et S.K. McIntosh.
- 1997 (d) "Two millennia of human experience along the Middle Niger". Communication présentée au symposium intitulé *Four Rivers of Africa : historical archaeology and art in Africa*. Symposium organisé par the National Museum of African Art (Smithsonian Institution) Mai 1997.
- 1997 (e) "The Inland Delta and the Manding Mountains" dans *Museums and archaeology in West Africa*, ouvrage collectif dirigé par Claude Daniel Ardouin, pp. 59–67.
- 1997 (f) *Recherches archéologiques sur la concession minière Nevsun Resources LTD, Zone de Tabakoto, cercle de Keniéba*. En collaboration avec Mahamadou Kaba et Youssef Kalapo. Rapport ISH, non publié.
- 1999 (a) "Archaeology of the soul." *Archaeology* 52 (3).
- 1999 (b) "La gestion du patrimoine culturel au Mali: bref aperçu historique". Actes sur Colloque International sur le Patrimoine



Culturel Mauritanien, 29 novembre – 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1999.

- 2000** (a) "Les peintures et gravures rupestres" dans *L'archéologie en Afrique de l'Ouest Sahara et Sahel*. Textes rassemblés par Robert Vernet, CRIAA, Nouakchott. Editions Spéciale France.
- 2000** (b) "Sites refuges et fortifications militaires" dans *L'archéologie en Afrique de l'Ouest Sahara et Sahel*. Textes rassemblés par Robert Vernet, CRIAA, Nouakchott. Editions Spéciale France.
- 2000** (c) "Memories, abstractions and conceptualisation of ecological crisis in the Mandé World" dans *The Way the Wind Blows: Climate, History, and Human Action*, ed. Roderick J. McIntosh, Joseph Tainter et Susan K. McIntosh. Columbia University Press: 181–192.
- 2002** "The rape of Mali's only resource", dans *Illicit Antiquities: the theft of culture and the extinction of archaeology*, ed. Neil Brodie and K.W. Tubb. Routledge: 250–256.
- 2004** (a) "Reconnaissance Archéologique à Gao (Mali) et Environs – Rapport Préliminaire" dans *The African Archaeology Network : Report and a Review*. Editions Studies in the African Past-4, Dar Es Salaam University Press LTD. Textes rassemblés par Felix Chami, Gilbert Pwiti & Chantal Radimilahy. PP 1–26.
- 2004** (b) "Sauvegarde et valorisation du patrimoine au Mali : Bref aperçu historique". *Actes du XI<sup>ème</sup> Congrès de l'Association Panafricaine de Préhistoire et Discipline Assimilée*, Bamako, 7 – 12 février 2001. Ed. Kléna Sanogo et Téréba Togola. Edition Soro Print Color, Bamako.
- 2004** (c) "Reconnaissance archeologique a Gao (Mali) et environs", Nyame Akuma 62: 50–61.
- 2005** *Carte Culturelle du Mali, esquisse d'un inventaire du patrimoine culturel national*. Ministère de la Culture. Impression IMPRIM COLOR, Bamako. (Prepared by Mamadou Cissé and Susan McIntosh)

## Minutes of the 20<sup>TH</sup> Annual MANSA Meeting

The twentieth annual meeting of the Mande Studies Association was held in Washington DC at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m.

The attendance sheet was signed by the following members: Mary Jo Arnoldi, Laura Arntson, Catherine Ash, Ralph Austen, Stephen Belcher, David Conrad, Marie Yvonne Curtis, Ariane Deluz, Issiaka Diakité, Edda Fields, Barbara Frank, Marame Gueye, Thomas Hale, Barbara Hoffman, Allen Howard, Jan Jansen, John Johnson, Agnes Kedrierska, Maghan Keita, Dolores Koenig, Kassim Koné, Robert Launay, Barbara Lewis, Tamba M'Bayo, Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, Dianne White Oyler, Seraphina Rombe-Shulman, Michael Rowlands, Matt Schaffer, Jeanne Tougara, and Kristina Van Dyke. (Some latecomers did not sign in.)

Secretary-Treasurer Catherine Bogosian-Ash reported that as of November 2005 we had 191 current members, 180 of whom subscribed to *Mande Studies*. Thirteen libraries and institutions are receiving the newsletter, and we have eighty-six sponsored members. As of October 31, 2005 there was \$4,449 in the bank account. The Guinea conference cost MANSA \$5,522.

MANSA President David Conrad noted that owing to inflation and other changes in the economy since our organization's founding in 1986, the student membership fee of \$5.00 no longer seems practical or realistic. He suggested that the fee be raised to \$10.00. A motion was made to that effect, and it passed unanimously.

When it appeared that everyone who would be attending had arrived, the President asked that a period of silence be observed in memory of our lately departed and deeply lamented colleague Tereba Togola.

On a brighter note, Conrad congratulated Paulo Farias for being honored with the ASA's Paul Hair award for his recent magnificent book on epigraphy, and expressed regret that Paulo was unable to attend ASA on this occasion.

Vice-President Kassim Koné gave a brief report on the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mande Studies (for a detailed report see *MANSA Newsletter* 57). He described our opening session in Conakry which included a welcome from the Ministre de l'Enseignement Supérieure, Dekasi Kamara and keynote speech by Djibril Tamsir



Niane. Koné also mentioned that he, Stephen Belcher, D. T. Niane, Mohamed Saidou N'Daou and David Conrad conducted radio and television interviews in Conakry. Regarding travel to Kankan for the second half of the conference, Kassim acknowledged the Guinean government's contribution of a bus, driver and gasoline, valued at 11 million Guinean francs. Speaking of the Kankan portion of the conference, both David and Kassim thanked the rector of the university Seydouba Camara, and the mayor of Kankan. Further thanks were expressed to Stephen Belcher, Kabiné Oulare, Louise Bedichek, Catherine Bogosian, Barbara Wechsberg, Mohamed N'Daou, Djibril Tamsir Niane, the University of Kankan students who attended the conference, and all survivors of the eventful bus ride to Kankan. Appreciation was expressed for contributions of the bala players from Niagasola, the Conde from Baro and Kassemadi Diabaté. Finally, pictures were passed around of the mural commissioned from the artist Mohamed Chejan Kromah for the reading room at the University of Kankan.

*Mande Studies* – Stephen Belcher and Ariane Deluz reported on the upcoming editions of the journal. Journal #6 will have articles on archaeology and rituals of passage; #7 will have articles on education and #8 will be guest edited by Jan Jansen. All of these should be out in the next 12-15 months. Stephen Belcher and Laura Arntson concluded this part of the meeting by presenting the MANSA President with several T-shirts illustrating the notorious bus ride from Conakry to Kankan.

#### Member announcements:

a. Jan Jansen announced the publication of *Wari Matters*, edited by Stephen Wooten, which is the first of a new series "Mande Worlds" (see "Book Releases" below).

b. Dianne Oyler announced the publication of her new book, *The History of the N'ko Alphabet and its Role in Mande Transnational Identity: Words as Weapons* (see details below).

c. Stephen Belcher – announced a forthcoming conference in Trinidad.

d. Maria Grosz-Ngaté – spoke about SCALI at Indiana and urged recruitment for Bamana language students. SCALI currently offers 13 languages for 8 weeks in the summer, but requests for Bamana are down.

e. Barbara Hoffman – offered for sale (\$25) a student edited DVD, "Through the Eyes of a Master" about Nakunte Diarra and the *bogolanfini* she makes.

Secretary/treasurer election: Barbara Frank and Barbara Hoffman made a motion to accept Laura Arnston as the new secretary/treasurer; this motion was accepted unanimously.

Board member elections: The terms of all six current board members had expired. MANSA President D. Conrad reported that while meditating in a mountainside cave he had been visited by the Angel Djibril, who repeatedly chanted the names Seydou Camara, Paulo Farias, Barbara Hoffman, Allen Howard, Dolores Koenig, and Valentine Vydrine. Conrad interpreted this vision to mean that these six were designated by a Higher Authority to be the next board members. Barbara Frank and Mary Jo Arnoldi moved to accept these miraculous nominations and the vote was unanimous in favor.

#### Two future conferences in the works:

David Conrad announced two forthcoming conferences. The first of these is *Upper Guinea Frontiers*, which is to be held in N'Zerekoré, Guinea in 2007. Focusing on the internal dynamics of the Guinea-Liberia border region, early stages of its organization have been carried out by James Fairhead, Tim Geysbeeck, Christian Højbjerg, and Wenda Bauchspies with the encouragement of Louise Bedichek. They would like MANSA to co-sponsor this conference.

The other forthcoming conference is the Seventh International Conference on Mande Studies. Conrad reported that Jose da Silva Horta had sent details about the possibility of a Lisbon conference to be held 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at the School of Social Science of the Lisbon Technical University and gave details about the attractive facilities available. Barbara Frank and Mary Jo Arnoldi moved to accept the Lisbon proposal, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

3. David concluded by noting that the next ASA meeting would be in San Francisco, 2006 and asked for suggestions on topics for MANSA-sponsored panels. None were offered at that time, and the meeting was adjourned.



## 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mande Studies

As noted in the minutes to the 2005 MANSA meeting, the attending members voted unanimously in favor of holding the next ICMS in Lisbon, Portugal. Following are some edited details of the proposal made by our colleagues José da Silva Horta and Eduardo Costa Dias of Lisbon University:

1. The Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, during the 4th week of June 2008, 23-27 June.
2. The sessions will be held at ISCTE (Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa), the school of social sciences of the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa (Lisbon Technical University), hereafter referred to as "Lisbon University-ISCTE". ISCTE offers all the necessary facilities, including a very large conference room or auditorium and, if needed, smaller rooms all in the same new university building. This is located near the university campus and the town center, and is in easy walking distance of the National Library (Biblioteca Nacional) and the National Archives (Torre do Tombo).
3. Lisbon University-ISCTE has agreements with two four-star hotels located near the university with rates for single rooms with breakfast, of 49 euros at present rates (doubtless a bit higher by 2008).
4. Eduardo Costa Dias has contacted the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (the main Government agency that supports research in Portugal) and expects to get support from them for the conference.
5. Our Portuguese colleagues will also apply for a Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon) grant to support the participation of at least three to four colleagues from African countries.
6. Suggested themes are (1) the relevance of Portuguese historical sources to the study of Mande, (2) the Portuguese role establishing direct contact between Europe, America and the Mande world from the 15th and 16th centuries onwards, and (3) the Portuguese relationship with the Mande world to the present.

## A Great MANSA Benefactor, Rogier Bedeaux Retires

Rogier Bedeaux has retired from his position as Director of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde in Leiden, the Netherlands. As one of our most distinguished but low-profile members, Rogier has also been one of our greatest benefactors. Laboring quietly (indeed virtually anonymously) in the background, he was a major facilitator of the International Conferences on Mande Studies at Leiden in both 1995 and 2001. Bedeaux was personally responsible for acquiring the funding for dozens of Malian participants who attended the Leiden meetings, and he made it possible for us to hold those conferences at no expense to our organization. MANSA owes Rogier Bedeaux a great debt of gratitude, and we wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

## Prestigious Book Awards to MANSA Members

PAULO F. DE MORAES FARIAS received the Paul Hair Award of the African Studies Association for his book *Arabic Medieval Inscriptions from the Republic of Mali: Epigraphy, Chronicles and Songhay-Tuareg History* (2004). The prize was awarded at the 2005 ASA meeting in Washington, DC. ALMA GOTTLIEB's new book, *The Afterlife Is Where We Come from: The Culture of Infancy in West Africa* (University of Chicago Press, 2004), won Honorable Mention for the 2004 Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology, awarded by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

## Activités de << l'École de Dakar >> sur l'épopées ouest-africaines By Lilyan Kesteloot

1) Un réseau a été créé (*RÉARÉ*) de recherches sur les épopées, entre des médiévistes français (universités de Paris 4, Nanterre, Amiens, Arras, Tours, INALCO, et Aix) et les spécialistes de Dakar, Niamey, Banjul et Bamako, qui travaillent sur les épopées wolof, peul, mandingue, mandinka et zerma-songhay. Il y a déjà eu plusieurs séminaires de ce réseau, à Dakar (2000),



Amiens, Paris, et Niamey(2004).

2) Ce *RÉARÉ* a été l'origine d'un projet Corees qui est en cours et qui rassemble les specialists de Dakar (B. Dieng, Amadou Ly, Amade Faye, Diamé Signaté, L. Kesteloot) et les médiévistes français (professeurs Suard, Buschinger, Christiane Seydou, Ursula Baumgardt, J-P. Martin, M-J. Pinardie et Dominique Boutet) autour d'un travail sur les <<épopées islamistes>> c'est-à-dire les épopées où l'islam est cause ou partie d'un conflit violent – c'est le cas de l'épopée du Kabou, de celle d'El Hadj Omar, de celle de Boubou ardo, etc. etc.

3) Par ailleurs les specialists poursuivent leurs travaux de transcription et d'analyse: Amade Faye pour l'épopée Sérère et Mamadou Toungara pour l'épopée du Kabou devraient finaliser leurs thèses en 2006. Ils ont recueilli, transcrit et traduit des textes originaux, et en terminent la présentation historique.

4) Enfin les éditions Karthala-IFAN publient un ouvrage de référence sur sa tradition orale (wolof, peul, mandingue) qui est titrée *Critique de la raison orale* par le professeur de philosophie Mamousse Diagne. Le même publie un corpus bilingue de textes épiques wolof-français, chez le même éditeur *Le hero et le sage*.

5) Le département d'études médiévales de l'Université d'Amiens a publié dans sa revue *Médiévales* des récits épiques bilingues peuls, zerma et haoussa, sous la signature de Ousmane Tandina, Ibrahima Wane et Bassirou Dieng. Plus les actes de trilogies séminaires.

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

MARY JO ARNOLDI was back in MALI during the winter as study leader on a cultural tour and to continue her ongoing art history research in the Bamako and Segou regions. She will be returning to Mali in May.

LAURA ARNTSON recently joined the staff of the Global Health Bureau within the U.S. Agency for International Development as an Africa Regional Specialist with Regional & Country Support. She will be a lead on country support teams for the USAID Mission Health Teams in

Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

IBRAHIMA SORY CONDE reports from Conakry: *Somôya Sila* est un magazine d'information culturelle qui paraît en N'ko en Guinée. Dans l'édition de Septembre 2005, le journal a écrit plusieurs articles sur le congrès du MANSA avec des interviews de certains chercheurs. L'article s'appelait: "Études mandé à Conakry et Kankan." L'objectif et l'historique de l'association ont été abordés avec en photo de Conrad et de Valentin.

LUCY DURAN has been on sabbatical for the last term, working on a book about women and music in Mali. She spent nearly two months in Mali in January and February in Bamako and the Segou area continuing her research on Mande music, attending the Segou music festival on the Niger.

TIM GEYSBEEK has become Director of Archives for SIM International in Charlotte, NC, and reports that he has been discovering a very significant amount of important but previously unexploited research material.

CHRISTIAN HØJBÆRG was back in Guinea during the winter, continuing his anthropological research in the Guinea-Liberia border region and laying the groundwork for the 2007 conference in N'Zérékoré.

NICK HOCKIN, who is finishing a dissertation on Mande Music under the direction Eric Charry at Wesleyan University, will be returning to Mali again this spring to continue his research.

JAN JANSEN has received a grant for a French translation of his yet to be published *De lessen van Namagan Kanté - Zanddivinatie in het Mandé-gebergte (Mali-Guinée)*

MARLOES JANSON is spending two years as a research fellow at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies/Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, working on the project 'Islam as Subculture: The Gambian Tablighi Jamā'at Studied as a Translocal Network for Youths in West Africa'.

DOROTHEA SCHULZ has spent the present academic year at Cornell University on a fellowship before taking up her new position in the Anthropology Department at Indiana University. She will be returning to Mali in May to continue her ongoing research.

ANNETTE SCHMIDT has replaced Rogier Bedeaux as Director of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde in Leiden, the Netherlands.



VALENTINE VYDRINE and ELENA PEREKHVALSKAYA were back in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire in December and January continuing their ongoing research into Manding linguistics.

PETER WEIL is on sabbatical from the University of Delaware to work on his book on the history of Mande masking and culture change in Senegambia.

DONALD WRIGHT has been spending the current academic year as Visiting Professor at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

### Books, Film, Articles and Dissertation

#### BOOKS

Stephen Belcher. 2005. *African Myths of Origin*. London: Penguin Books.

(Stories selected and retold by Stephen Belcher.) Gathering a wide range of traditional African myths, this landmark new collection offers tales of heroes battling mighty serpents and monstrous birds, brutal family conflicts and vengeance, and desperate migrations across vast and alien lands. From accounts of the inventive wiles of animal-creators and a community fleeing giant crocodile, to the heroic story of the cripple Sunjata who rose to found an empire, all the narratives here concern origins. They offer a kaleidoscopic picture representative of the rich cultures and societies of the African continent; the ways of life, the peoples – from small hunting bands to great empires – and the states that have taken shape over many generations and environments.

Arranged to allow easy identification of regional patterns and connections, this volume reworks traditional stories in a language intended for the general reader. The introduction explores the vital significance of these time-honoured myths of origin, their history and development over the years. This edition also includes detailed maps that place the tales in geographic context.

Jan Jansen et Mountaga Diarra (eds.). 2006. *Entretiens avec Bala Kanté: Une chronique du Manding du XXème siècle*. Leiden & Boston: Brill.

L'importance de cette oeuvre repose sur la façon dont Bala Kanté (né 1926) mobilize les narrations de son environnement pour rendre compte des changements qui se sont opérés dans sa société. Les histoires qu'il raconte sont des

témoignages de sa propre expérience. Bala Kanté est, probablement hors de sa propre volonté, un chroniqueur qui, par sa puissante imagination, construit une oeuvre très originale sur l'histoire du Manding au XXème siècle. Le discours de Bala Kanté est d'une grande cohérence. On trouve un fil rouge, un message, dans ses paroles: il traite les grands événements historiques qui ont touché sa société: l'inclusion dans l'ensemble mondial, la soumission aux pouvoirs extérieurs, la monétarisation de la vie quotidienne, l'introduction du salariat et des nouvelles technologies, l'abandon des anciennes coutumes et des formes d'association collective, la mise en place d'une nouvelle morale sociale, l'introduction d'une nouvelle morale sexuelle, les changements climatologiques... Bala Kanté évoque ces changements d'une manière un peu nostalgique. Ici parle un homme qui a perdu beaucoup et qui n'apprécie pas que son peuple ait autant changé dans ses pratiques anciennes. On note que Bala conserve toujours une perspective mandingue quand il illustre les grands thèmes de l'histoire du XXème siècle. La perspective mandingue figure également dans la présence de la magie, de l'amour pour la mère et de la trahison – grands thèmes de la littérature orale mandingue – dans plusieurs narrations de Bala.

Roderick McIntosh. 2005. *Ancient Middle Niger: Urbanism and the Self-Organizing Landscape*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

The cities of West Africa's Middle Niger, only recently brought to the world's attention, make us rethink the "whys" and the "wheres" of ancient urbanism. These cities present the archaeologist with something of a novelty: a non-nucleated, clustered city-plan with no centralized, state-focused power. Ancient Middle Niger explores the emergence of these cities in the first millennium BC and the evolution of their hinterlands from the perspective of the self-organized landscape. Cities appeared in a series of profound transformations to the human-land relations and this book illustrates how each transformation was a leap in complexity. The book ends with an examination of certain critical moments in the emergence of other urban landscapes in Mesopotamia, along the Nile, and in northern China, through a Middle Niger lens. Highly illustrated throughout, this work is a key text for all students of African archaeology and of comparative pre-industrial urbanism.



R.J. McIntosh, J.A. Tainter, B. Makaske (ed.), and E. de Vries. 2005. *Geomorphology and Human Palaeoecology of the Méma, Mali*. Wageningen: Alterra (Alterra-report 1244). The Méma is an isolated basin of the northern Sahel of Mali that has attracted archaeological interest since the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Previous work suggests that the Méma is an important area in which to study such topics as the origins of Sahelian agriculture, metallurgy, and urbanism, the continuing effects of long-term desiccation, the fluvial history of the Niger River basin, human responses to desertification, and regional abandonment. This report summarizes the state-of-the-art knowledge of Méma geomorphology and archaeology, aimed at providing a basis for future in-depth field research in the Méma. Preliminary field data collected during a short field mission in 2000 are also presented.

Dianne White Oyler. 2005. *The History of the N'ko Alphabet and its Role in Mande Transnational Identity Words as Weapons*. Cherry Hill NJ: Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers.

Dianne White Oyler discusses the creation of the N'ko script based on the Maninka language by Souleymané Kanté (1922-1987) in 1949 in Haute Guinée. She documents N'ko's dissemination by a grassroots literacy campaign that started with Kanté and continues to the present and shows how important the language is in the evolution of cultural nationalism of the Mande-speaking people, and Kanté's and N'ko's relationship to pan-Africanism. She shows that efforts by Mande-speaking West Africans to substitute N'ko, and indigenous alphabet, for the current Western system heralds the onset of a movement likely to become a major aspect of cultural nationalism.

Stephen Wooten (ed.). 2005. *Wari Matters: Ethnographic Explorations of Money in the Mande World*. Münster: Lit Verlag. This is Vol. 1 of "Mande Worlds," a new series published by Lit Verlag and edited by Jan Jansen, Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, Dorothea Schulz, and Stephen Wooten.

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"Social Stratification and Access to Wealth in the Rural Hinterland of Kita, Mali"

Dolores Koenig (American University)

"Money as a Gift: Marriage, Exchange and Sociality in Maane, Burkina Faso"

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Peter Weil (University of Delaware), and Bala Saho (Gambia National Council for Arts and Culture)

"Finding Money at Home and Abroad: The Affairs of a Transnational *Jelimuso*"

Nienke Muurling (University of Amsterdam)

"Walking Wallets: Tourists at the Dogon Falaise"

Walter van Beek (African Studies Center, Leiden)

#### FILM

*Malick Sidibe: Portrait of the Artist as a Portraitist*

A Film by Susan Vogel, Prince Street Pictures  
Produced in Association with the Musée National du Mali.

Distributed by First Run / Icarus Films.com.

Running time: 8 minutes.



**Ideal for classroom use:** subject areas -- photography, modernity, portraiture, Mali culture, contemporary African art, Malick Sidibé, Seydou Keita.

Malick Sidibé started out as a local photographer in Bamako. After Mali's independence in 1960, his snazzy studio portraits and party shots captured the buoyant optimism of a new nation. Today they are recognized internationally as masterpieces, and Malick is world famous.

This short but sweet film looks at the work of the renowned African artist whose photographs have documented the social scene in Mali over a forty-year period. In an interview, this self-taught photographer, now seventy years old, describes how his photography answered a desire for immortality, and explains his documentary and portrait techniques, including methods of putting his subjects at ease and "giving life to the image." We watch the photographer at work in his studio, placing his subjects in stylized poses while he quickly deploys humor, flattery and a special extension cord in the service of his art.

#### ARTICLES

Alma Gottlieb. 2005. "Babies' Baths, Babies' Remembrances: A Beng Theory of Development, History and Memory" *Africa* 75 (1):105-118 (special issue: "Collective Memory and Generation in Africa," ed. Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg).

Alma Gottlieb. 2005. "Non-Western Approaches to Spiritual Development among Infants and Young Children: A Case Study from West Africa," in *The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*, ed. Peter L. Benson, Pamela Ebsteyne King, Linda M. Wagener, and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishers, pp. 150-162.

Marloes Janson. 2005 "Roaming about for God's Sake: The Upsurge of the *Tabligh Jama'at* in The Gambia" *Journal of Religion in Africa* 35 (4): 450-481.

Michelle C. Johnson 2006. "The Proof Is on My Palm': Debating Ethnicity, Islam and Ritual in a New African Diaspora." *Journal of Religion in Africa* 36 (1): 50-77.

Dolores Koenig. 2005. "Mitigating Impoverishment in Development-induced Displacement and Resettlement." In *Development Resettlement: Where to from Here?* Chris deWet, ed. Oxford: Berghahn. Volume 18, Forced Migration Series. Pp. 105-140.

Dolores Koenig. 2005. "Multilocality and Social Stratification in Kita, Mali." In *Migration and Economy: Global and Local Dynamics*. L. Trager, ed. Society for Economic Anthropology Monograph, Volume 23. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira.

Fiona Mc Laughlin. 2005. "Voiceless implosives in Seereer-Siin" *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 35 (2): 201-214.

Daniel B. Reed. 2005. "The Ge is in the Church and Our Parents are 'Playing Muslim': Performance, Identity, and Resistance among the Dan in Postcolonial Côte d'Ivoire." *Ethnomusicology*, 49 (3).

Daniel B. Reed. 2005. "Masks and Music, Spirits and Sports: Gunyege in Performance." Wittmer, Marci, ed., *Imaging and Identity: African Art from the Lowe and other South Florida Collections*. Miami: Lowe Art Museum.

#### DISSERTATION

Noemi Arazi. 2005. "Tracing History in Dia, in the Inland Niger Delta of Mali. Archaeology, Oral Traditions and Written Sources." Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

#### New & Renewed Members & Address Changes

##### NEW MEMBERS

Nathan C. McClintock  
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[mcclintock@berkeley.edu](mailto:mcclintock@berkeley.edu)  
Ph.D. student, Department of Geography, UC-Berkeley. Research on urban/peri-urban agriculture in Mali & Senegal; farmer *tonw*, local soil/land use classification and management; agricultural development; and Cendugukan and 1960s and 1970s rumba orchestras.



Noemi Steuer  
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Completing a Ph.D. in medical anthropology at the University of Basel. Research focus (a longitudinal study) on patients experiences of AIDS and anti-retroviral therapy and their resilience.

#### RENEWED MEMBERS

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Mary Jo Arnoldi (sponsor)  
Laura Arntson (sponsor)  
Catherine Ash  
Ralph Austen (sponsor)  
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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. (For additional information on *Mande Studies* see the web page:

[www.txstate.edu/anthropology/mansa](http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/mansa)

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](mailto:Ariane.Deluz@ehess.fr)) or to Stephen Belcher ([spb3@psu.edu](mailto:spb3@psu.edu)).

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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