



MANSA

Newsletter Number 60 - Winter 2006-07

Minutes of the 21st Annual MANSA Meeting

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Mande Studies Association was held in San Francisco at the Westin St. Francis Hotel on Saturday, November 18th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Those who signed the attendance sheet include: Fuambai Ahmadu, Laura Arntson, Stephen Belcher, Robert Bellinger, Tracey Carter, David Conrad, Brandon County, Mark Davidheiser, Edda Fields-Black, Ylva Hernlund, Allen Howard, Jan Jansen, Fiona McLaughlin, Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, David Skinner, Simon Toulou, Jeanne Tougara, Walter van Beek, Kristina Van Dyke, Franklin Vivekananda.

Secretary-Treasurer report (Laura Arntson)

Latest statistics show that we are at a higher percentage of membership than we were 6 months ago. We hope to begin this new fiscal/calendar year with a larger percentage of our members paying at the beginning of the fiscal year. We currently have 441 names in our database; including 83 sponsored African colleagues.

The MANSA website has recently been updated with the exception of the Membership Directory, which will be updated shortly.

Mande Studies Journal update (Stephen Belcher)

Stephen Belcher offered an apology for the delay in releasing Vol. 6. The next volume (a special issue on divination edited by Jan Jansen) is

anticipated early in 2007. There is enough material to produce Volume 8 in Spring of 2007, with a special issue on education in Manden. General articles beyond the scope of a special issue's theme are welcome also and members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. David would like to strongly encourage article submissions. In the last newsletter, three different special journals with Mande studies themes and articles (including a volume edited by Rosa de Jorio) were noted. Almost every contributor to these other volumes is a Mansa member and it would have been nice to have published these articles in the Mande Studies Journal.

Newsletter

MANSA President David Conrad wanted to take this opportunity to emphasize that once he has finished editing each issue of *MANSA Newsletter* and has gotten it printed, a lot of work remains to be done. He noted that the person who spends many hours folding the newsletters, stuffing and addressing envelopes, and filtering out lapsed membership addresses works quietly and usually unrecognized behind the scenes, so he wanted to publicly thank his wife Barbara Wechsberg, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Announcements

Kristina Van Dyke recently visited with Noemi Arazi who has given birth to a baby girl named Sarah.

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

Advisory Board

Seydou Camara, Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako
P.F. de Moraes Farias, Birmingham University, U.K.
Allen Howard, Rutgers University

Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland State University
Dolores Koenig, American University
Valentine Vydrine, St. Petersburg, Russia

Minutes of the 21st Annual MANSA Meeting (continued)

Jan Jansen received a small grant, "New Media and Technology for Teaching" [see electronic form of announcement]

Fiona McLaughlin announced that the University of Florida just opened a tenure-track position for Islam in Africa. Also, the University of Florida is hosting the Annual Conference in African Linguistics in March.

Ylva Hernland gave us a very sad piece of news, that our colleague Matt Schaeffer is battling brain cancer. (A few weeks later, we learned from Ylva that Matt had passed away in Germany where he had gone for medical treatment.)

Fulbright Positions

Some of the Fulbright teaching/research positions are still open, including the Guinea (University of Kankan) and Mali positions. Members were encouraged to introduce themselves to the CIES representative, Debra Egan (who was at the Fulbright table in the exhibition hall during ASA). It is in our interest to maintain continuity of these positions.

New & Potential Members Welcomed

David took time to make a special point of welcoming new and potential members in attendance, noting that MANSA is a friendly and informal group of high achievers, with one of the best aspects being an effective network among our members and one that is oriented toward supporting new colleagues and graduate students. He expressed pride in the growing list of completed dissertations by MANSA members, that can be seen in the "History" section of the MANSA web site. David reported that at last count we were up to about 54 dissertations on Mande Studies. He noted that in one year alone, seven dissertations were defended, and that the list represents a truly impressive contribution to Mande studies scholarship. David stressed that for newcomers, especially through the listserv, there is a substantial network of scholars (senior to students) to provide advice, information, and ideas. He noted that MANSA has been able to hold international conferences every 3-4 years that have been very productive and which have been attended by many students, and that the organization works hard to bring our African

colleagues to the international conferences. So far the policy has been that every other international conference is held in West Africa.

Election of MANSA leadership

MANSA President David Conrad reminded those attending that in the by-laws of the Mande Studies association it is stipulated that elections will be held every 2 years for the President and Vice President, with the Secretary-Treasurer position open for election/re-election on alternating years. Last year, Laura Arntson agreed to return as Secretary-Treasurer, having already served in that capacity in late 1990s. This year, we were supposed to have elections for President and Vice President (Kassim Kone, the current Vice President could not attend ASA this year). In previous years, David Conrad has come up for re-election as President and has always been re-elected. In fact, David reminded the members that MANSA is "a rather strange little group," in that it is now beginning its 21st year but has had only one president since its founding. David expressed his view on this situation by saying he does not wish to emulate Robert Mugabe, which drew a laugh from the attending members. He went on to point out that it is probably difficult for the membership in general, and more specifically anyone contemplating undertaking the office of President, to realize how much time and effort is involved in maintaining our organization. David said that over the years he could tell from some of the correspondence he received, that some overseas members seemed to be under the impression that MANSA has an office furnished with business machines, staffed with secretaries, and (said another member) with congressional lobbyists in the waiting room.

David indicated that before he steps aside it seems desirable for him to produce some kind of detailed report on exactly what kind of commitment the next president of the organization would need to prepare for. After a brief discussion about how to proceed, Jeanne Tougara suggested elections be postponed and that a nominating committee be appointed to seriously put forward names for consideration for the position of President. A motion was made (and seconded) to postpone the elections until 2007, at which point the nominating committee will have had time to solicit and put forward

names for the positions of President and Vice President. The motion passed unanimously. Jeanne agreed to chair the nominating committee and Stephen Belcher, Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, and Kristina Van Dyke agreed to participate on the committee as well.

International Conferences

David pointed out that next year at this time we will be picking up momentum for the next (7th) international Conference on Mande Studies, to be held in Lisbon. He said he would send out a call for papers in the Fall of 2007. The MANSA President will ask advisory board members to carefully screen abstracts submitted for inclusion on the program so that we can maintain high scholarly standards—there have only been a few incidents of papers of uneven quality. David reminded attending members that anyone attending an international conference and otherwise participating must be an updated dues-paying member (unless attending as a sponsored African colleague living in Africa). He noted that our international conferences require an enormous amount of time and expense, and that only serious paper submissions can be accepted. David stressed the importance of publications emerging from these conferences thanks in a large part to our Dutch colleagues, and that we want to maintain a certain caliber of research. Reminding members that the most recent MANSA newsletter (No. 59) provides an update on the 7th International Conference, David commended Eduardo Costa Dias and Jose da Silva Horta for the amazing amount of work they have already accomplished, with a very efficient system of planning and communication already in place. He speculated that Lisbon is likely to be a very popular venue (perhaps as popular as Leiden was) thus possibly making it necessary to schedule at least a few concurrent panels.

As for last year's proposal by Christian Hojberg, Tim Gyesbeek, and James Fairchild for a conference at N'Zerekore on cross-border issues, that has been canceled owing to insufficient time and resources.

MANSA-sponsored panels at ASA

David observed that our presence at ASA has dropped off. We used to have too many MANSA panels to have each designated as a MANSA-

sponsored panel. This year, we have members participating in various panels, but they are sprinkled across panels on various topics. Last year we received no suggestions for panels. We would like to press harder for abstract submissions and commitments to organize MANSA panels for next year's ASA in New York City.

So far, suggested panel topics include:

1. New Media and technologies for documenting and teaching African Oral literature.
2. Contemporary politics and Mande perspectives in Cote d'Ivoire.
3. Djibril T. Niane's legacy, contributions to Mande Studies.

Conclusion

David expressed special thanks to all who showed up for the MANSA meeting. Jan Jansen reflected that when MANSA was founded 21 years ago there was only one MANSA member from The Netherlands—Walter van Beek, who paid the dues for all the students he knew who were involved in Mande studies. Jan noted that this was in 1985 and that he was one of Walter's students, though he had not yet decided to do fieldwork in Mali. Jan pointed out, moreover, that this meeting was the first time Jan and Walter had attended an ASA meeting at the same time. Jan expressed his thanks as an apprentice to Walter, drawing applause from the attending members.

Update on MANSA Members' Activities

LAURA ARNTSON was in Liberia in November on an assignment for AID, and in January will be traveling to Ghana and Angola.

DAVID CONRAD leaves for Guinea in February for a few weeks' research on his way to work as Study Leader for a Smithsonian Institute tour group traveling to Malian historical cities, then to Senegal, and Gambia.

MUSA HAKIM is in Ghana on a one-year sabbatical that began in July 2006 and ends July 2007. He is working on a manuscript on Timbuktu libraries.

YLVA HERNLAND leaves for Gambia in February to work on an oral history project involving Mandinka oral histories and songs from Pakao.

FRED LAMP will be in Mali, Senegal and Gambia in January, lecturing to a tour group from Yale University.

TAMBA M'BAYO began a tenure-track position fall semester, as Assistant Professor of History at Hope College. He is continuing work on his dissertation at Michigan State University, "African Interpreters, Mediation, and the Production of Knowledge in Colonial Senegal: The Lower and Middle River Valley, ca. 1850s to ca. 1920s" and hopes to finish next spring.

ROD MCINTOSH will be in Mali, Senegal and Gambia in February, lecturing to a tour group of the American Archeological Society.

KONRAD TUCHSCHERER was promoted to Associate Professor in September and appointed Director of Africana Studies at St. John's University, New York. He spent several weeks of December back in Cameroon for more work on the Bamum Scripts and Archives Project in Foumban.

VALENTIN VYDRINE reports that the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography in St. Petersburg, Russia is opening its permanent African exposition on January 15, and that Mande ethnic groups are well represented. He also says that as usual his research team will be back in West Africa from January to March, this time in Côte d'Ivoire, adding two Mande languages to its research efforts, Yaure and Kla-Dan. They now have a web site:

<http://www.mandsud.net>

DONALD WRIGHT recently spent several weeks lecturing at a university in Beijing, China. As of August, 2007 he will be retiring from his position as Distinguished Teaching Professor in the History Department at State University of New York at Cortland.

Report on New Publications in N'Ko

By Ibrahima Condé, Conakry

Il y existe maintenant un millier de titres de livres en N'ko et un rythme de publication de vers 15 livres par an, ce qui n'est pas négligeable dans le contexte africain malgré le manque de moyen. Voici les titres des 8 livres les plus vendus par la librairie N'ko de Conakry en 2006.

Selon les informations recueillies auprès du directeur général de la librairie N'ko, Sanassy Fiman Diané à Conakry le 04 janvier

2007, seules 7 livres rédigés en N'ko ont enregistré des ventes record:

- 1) Histoire de l'île de Gorée, par le malien Ousmane Koulibaly qui y retrace l'esclave à travers le commerce triangulaire. Le livre a été publié à Bamako le 20 mai 2006 au Mali. C'est la toute première publication formelle sur l'esclavage occidental en N'ko.
- 2) Lecture et écriture, c'est la quatrième édition de ce livre publié en 2006 au Caire en Egypte par le guinéen Baba Diané. Le livre est resté célèbre à cause du fait que son auteur a pu y présenter tous les aspects élémentaires de la civilisation villageoise mandingue, donc très apprécié par les étrangers qui peuvent facilement y apprendre le malinké ou le bambara.
- 3) Les douleurs du Siècle (traduction approximative car le mot Djaankata en mandingue que j'ai traduit ici par douleur peut signifier aussi châtiments ou difficultés ou bien misères), roman publié en N'ko par le jeune écrivain guinéen Mohamed Lamine Keita et publié au Caire en 2006 en Egypte. C'est l'ouvrage le plus vendu en Guinée et au Mali en 2006. Cela explique le regain du lectorat N'ko pour la littérature. Autrefois, c'était la religion et l'histoire qui se vendaient mieux, nous explique Diané, le directeur de la librairie. Mais, poursuit-il, ce succès s'explique par le thème abordé par l'auteur: l'intrigue paraissant anodine et s'inspire d'un drame survenu en Haute Guinée, alors sous domination coloniale française, début de l'aventure, jusqu'à la lutte pour la libération et s'achevant par les péripéties des indépendances en Afrique.
- 4) Le cholera, ouvrage sanitaire ou biomédical sur le Cholera, publié par le Guinéen Mamudu Diané en 2006 au Caire en Egypte. Il y fait allusion au danger, à la prévention et au traitement de cette maladie qui fait souvent des ravages en Afrique/c'est un livre illustré.
- 5) La construction, de Ali Badara Camara. Cet ingénieur guinéen diplômé de l'université de Tripoli en Libye a écrit cet Ouvrage d'architecture de bâtiment. L'auteur vit en Libye. Mais l'ouvrage a été édité en Egypte en 2006.
- 6) Les dépressions nerveuses, ouvrage de réflexion sur les névroses et autres maladies mentales selon l'appellation et la conception traditionnelle des mandingues. L'auteur est Mamady Souare de Faranah en Guinée.
- 7) les versets coraniques simples pour la prière,

livre écrit et publié en Egypte par Baba Mamady Diané en 2006. il s'agit de la théologie musulmane.

8) Sur les traces du prophète, 4ème réédition en 2006 d'un livre de Soulemana Kanté, inventeur de l'écriture N'ko.

Other Books, Articles, Dissertation

BOOKS

Pascal James Imperato. 2006.

African Mud Cloth. The Bogolanfini Art Tradition of Gneli Traore of Mali. Tenaflly, NJ and New York: The African Art Museum of the SMA Fathers/Kilima House Publishers, illustrated, 105 pp.

This volume describes the *bogolanfini* art tradition of one Malian artist and her children and students, and documents the changes that took place in this tradition over a period of thirty-five years. Published in conjunction with an exhibition held at the African Art Museum of the SMA Fathers, April, 2006-January, 2007. ADD ISBN 0-910385-03-3.

Agnes Kedzierska. 2006. *Guérisseurs et féticheurs : La médecine traditionnelle en Afrique de l'Ouest* (en collaboration avec B. Jouvelet). Paris: Éditions Alternatives.

Donald Wright, et. al. 2007. *The Atlantic World: A History, 1400-1888.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, pp. 500.

The first full synthesis of Atlantic history, useful as a textbook in appropriate courses, pp. 500. As the Africanist among the authors, Wright contributed most of the parts dealing with Africa, and included a good share of Mande-related material.

ARTICLES

Karin Barber and P.F. de Moraes Farias. 2006. "Archive as Work in Progress." *Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa* 18 (2): 14-32.

José da Silva Horta and Peter Mark. 2005.

"Judeus e Muçulmanos na *Petite Côte* senegalesa do início do século XVII: iconoclastia anti-católica, aproximação religiosa, parceria comercial" [Jews and

Muslims on Senegal's *Petite Côte* in early 17th century: anti-Catholic iconoclasm, religious common ground and trading partnership]. *Cadernos de Estudos Sefarditas* (5) 29-51.

Mamadou Diawara (University of Frankfurt), P.F. de Moraes Farias (University of Birmingham), Gerd Spittler (University of Bayreuth) eds. 2006. *Heinrich Barth et l'Afrique.* Cologne: Ruediger Koeppe Verlag. ISBN-10: 3-89645-220-7/ISBN-13: 978-3-89645-220-7.

P.F. de Moraes Farias. 2006. "Touareg et Songhay: histoires croisées, historiographies scindées" in Hélène Claudot-Hawad (ed.), *Berbères et Arabes.* Paris: Editions Non Lieu. ISBN 2-35270-015-9.

P.F. de Moraes Farias. 2006. "À quoi sert l'épigraphie arabe 'médiévale' de l'Afrique de l'Ouest ?" in Abdoulaye Camara et Cyr Descamps (eds.). *Senegalia: Études sur le patrimoine ouest africain: hommage à Guy Thilmans.* Paris: Editions Sépia, pp. 90-105. ISBN-10: 2-84280-122-9/ISBN-13: 978-2-84280-122-2.

Joseph Hellweg. 2006. "Manimory and the Aesthetics of Mimesis: Forest, Islam, and State in Ivoirian Dozoya." *Africa* 76 (4).

Pascal James Imperato. 2006. "Lake Rudolf as a Geographic Space in East Africa." *Ethnohistory* 53(1): 13-33.

Pascal James Imperato. 2005. "Differing Perspectives on Mau Mau" (review article). *African Studies Review* 48 (3): 147-154.

Jan Jansen 2006. "Loon naar werken? – Ciwara-dansen in Sobara (Mali)" in Eshter Kühn (redactie). *Landbouw Kampioenen: Ciwara-Maskers uit Mali (West Afrika).* Museum Dorestad, Wijk bij Duurstede.

Agnes Kedzierska. 2006. "L'amour de la brousse: Le rôle de l'espace dans la construction de l'identité du chasseur malinké." U. Baumgardt et P. Roulon-Doko (eds.) Paris: Éditions CNRS.

Agnes Kedzierska. 2006. "L'habitus d'un « itinérant »: portrait du chasseur malinké" in I. Sidéra et P. Erikson (eds.). *La chasse: Pratiques sociales et symboliques*. Paris : Maison d'Archéologie et Ethnologie.

Agnes Kedzierska. 2006. "Les hommes et les choses : Esquisse d'une théorie du rapport malinké, l'objet." *ARA* 56.

Robert Pringle. 2006. "Democratization in Mali: Putting History to Work." US Institute of Peace and USAID "Peacework" series (October): <http://www.usip.org/pubs/peaceworks/pwks58.html>

Valentin Vydrine. 2006. "Emergence of morphological cases in South Mande: From the amorphous type to inflectional?" in: L.Kulikov, A.Malchukov, P. de Swart (eds.). *Case, Valency and Transitivity*. Leiden – Nijmegen: John Benjamins Publishers (49-64).

Valentin Vydrine. 2006. "Toward the reconstruction of the phonological type and the noun morphology of Proto-Mande." *Transactions of the Institute of Linguistic Studies* Vol. 2, Part 2. St. Petersburg: Nauka (pp. 3-246 in Russian).

Valentin Vydrine. 2006. "Personal Pronouns in South Mande Languages." *Transactions of the Institute of Linguistic Studies* Vol. 2, Part 2. St Petersburg: Nauka (pp. 327-413 in Russian).

Stephen Wooten. 2006. "Krachtig spel – Antelope hoofddeksels en kammioen-landbouwers" in Eshter Kühn (redactie). *Landbouw Kampioenen: Ciwara-Maskers uit Mali (West Afrika)*. Musedum Dorestad, Wijk bij Duurstede.

DISSERTATION

Agnes Kedzierska. 2006. «De la violence et de la maîtrise: habitus et idéologie cynégétiques mandingues.» INALCO /LLACAN CNRS, Paris.

RENEWED MEMBERS

Laura Arntson (sponsor)
Wenda Bauchspies
Rogier Bedaux
Stephen Belcher (sponsor)
Saskia Brand
George Brooks (sponsor)
Tracey Carter
David Conrad (sponsor)
Marie Yvonne Curtis
Mamadou Diawara
Sainey Drammeh (sponsor)
Lucy Duran
Edda Fields-Black (sponsor+)
Maria Grosz-Ngate (sponsor)
Joseph Hellweg (sponsor)
David Henige (sponsor)
Eugenia Herbert
Nicholas Hockin
Nicholas Hopkins (sponsor)
Jan Jansen (sponsor)
Marloes Janson
Michelle Johnson
James Jones (sponsor)
Agnes Kedzierska
Dolores Koenig (sponsor+)
Kirten Langeveld
Robert Launay (sponsor)
Adria LaViolette
Peter Mark
Fiona McLaughlin (sponsor)
Nienke Muurling
Seydou N'Daou (sponsor)
Robert Pringle (sponsor)
Annete Schmidt
David Skinner (sponsor+)
Steven Thomson
Simon Toulou
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ADDRESS CHANGES

Tracey Carter (UCLA History Department)
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Interests: Historical and contemporary influence of griots on politics in The Gambia; Mande caste

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Interests: African Colonial Intermediaries in French West Africa; Colonial and Post-colonial West African Political and Social History; Pan-Africanism and Diasporan Connections in the Atlantic World; Religion and Ethnicity in Africa.

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NEW MEMBERS

Marlies Bedeker (PhD student, Leiden University)
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Interests: Research conducted in Narena, Mali; teaching strategies, classroom management, and teacher conceptions of primary school education & pedagogy in rural Mali.

Lotte Pelckmans (PhD student)
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Interests: The dynamics of social hierarchical relations in transnational Fulbe society and transnational migration; social remittances, inequality, and translations of hierarchy and social status in Mali.

Bruce Whitehouse (PhD candidate)
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Interests: Mande immigrants in Brazzaville, Congo; construction & transmission of a "stranger" identity across generations.

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

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 (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.

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 (spb3@psu.edu). Dans le cas des articles envoyés par email, le texte ne doit pas être envoyé dans le message mais comme fichier attaché au mail.

Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership

Regular and institutional membership \$25, sponsoring membership \$40, students \$10 (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:

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