



Newsletter Number 64 – Spring 2009

Minutes of the 23rd Annual MANS A Meeting

The first order of business was the MANS A election. Mary Jo Arnoldi acted as Secretary-Treasurer on Laura Arntson's behalf. Members who voted by proxy confirmed that their name was included in the proxy vote. Members in good standing received a ballot; those whose membership was in arrears paid their 2008 dues in order to receive a ballot and vote in the election.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (*excerpted*)

Of the 394 names in the MANS A membership database, 292 are current. MANS A membership represents 32 countries. Of these, 184 (63%) are current, dues-paying members, 92 (32%) are sponsored members, and 15 (5%) are institutions that receive the newsletter gratis. Among the dues-paying members, we currently have 52 sponsoring members (18% at the \$40 rate or above), 104 (36%) regular members, and 28 students. About 40% of our current members are in the US and 26% reside in the U.K., Scandinavia, or Europe (this includes Russia and Slovenia). African countries represented in our membership include: Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. With the rising costs of postage (the newsletter now costs about \$3.00 an issue to produce and mail) and the cost of the Mande Studies Journal currently at \$18.00, without generous donations from individual donors, we would run a deficit of about \$600 per year (this comes to a deficit of close to \$2,000 per year if we are generous in

mailing out newsletters to members who are only 1 or 2 years behind on their dues). Cognizant of the current economic climate and its impact on the scale of members' generosity, and very importantly, in the interest of continuing our commitment to our African sponsored colleagues, we may find it necessary to revisit the MANS A membership dues schedule and/or consider replacing the print copy of the newsletter with an electronic newsletter. A revised dues schedule will be brought to the board and the membership for discussion.

Election Results. The Election Committee reported that, with the 19 ballots cast at the meeting along with electronic proxy ballots received, Kassim Kone and Barbara Hoffman were elected President and Vice-President, respectively. Over a third of all eligible members voted, including close to 20% of our sponsored members.

Kassim Kone's address to the membership
MANS A must take into account so much diversity. I would like, at this point in time, to start whatever activities or decisions that would create more inclusivity in the decision-taking and the carrying out of decisions of MANS A worldwide. It's getting bigger but we have to actually change the by-laws to adapt to the present. I'm very, very humbled by the choice. I would like to thank the founding fathers of MANS A for paving the road to this institution that is going to become the single most special type of institution. We are academics but we are also

Kassim Kone, *President*, State University of New York-Cortland
Barbara Hoffman, *Vice President*, Cleveland State University
Laura Arntson, *Secretary-Treasurer*, USAID/OFDA
Advisory Board

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

Dolores Koenig, American University
Valentine Vydrine, St. Petersburg, Russia
Jan Jansen, Leiden University

(Kassim's address continued)

family. I would like to thank David Conrad for his leadership over the past 22 years. I would like to salute the memory of those MANSA members who are not here with us anymore. I am thinking particularly of Vice President Marie Perinbaum. I would like to salute the memory of Nehemia Levtzion. I would like to salute the memory of François Manchuelle. I would like to salute the memory of these great African scholars in their own right. I'm not going to remember all of their names. I was not ready to present the President Elect address today. There are many other members who contributed to the scholarship of every one of us here. I am thinking of Fadigi Cissoko who was a mentor to one of my mentors here. I am thinking of Kele Monzonba Diabate of Kela. I'm thinking of Balatigi Kouyate of Guinea. I'm thinking of Djankatasse Conte in Guinea, I'm thinking of Kelebalaba and his brother, Souramori Diabate. All of these great Mande scholars in their own right who have paved the way, in a lot of ways to building this institution. So, may their memories be honored today. I would like to thank my peers in the MANSA who were encouraged in high school what MANSA was creating. We are getting old. I have more grey hair. We are becoming the elders. I would especially like to thank the younger generation of MANSA scholars. Most of us who attended the Lisbon conference were impressed by what they brought. I would very especially like to extend my great thanks and appreciation for Jan Jansen. You could tell a lot of things about Jan Jansen. He is very dynamic. He brings in a lot of people to MANSA. He serves very well the association on the European front. So, I am appreciating what he has done. As a president I'm not going to be Mugabe. I'll just say one suggestion, if that is agreeable to the membership present today, if we could elect Jan Jansen to the Advisory Board. Thank you everybody. I would like to thank Ralph Austen, Mary Jo Arnoldi, and Mohamed N'Daou, for conducting the elections. Thank you all.

Jan Jansen selection to the Advisory Board

Mary Jo Arnoldi seconded the motion that Jan Jansen be selected to the Advisory Board. Mohamend S. N'Daou noted how valuable it is that the newly elected officers were able to learn so much from David. N'Daou highlighted how important information sharing is and the ability to serve on the Advisory Board as preparation for

leadership of MANSA so that it does not any crisis of transition.

MANSA By-Laws to be amended. Kassim noted that the next few months will include much discussion around the by-laws and how they will be amended. There are some issues that are very problematic.

Apologies. The voice recorder was turned off during part of the MANSA meeting and as a result, full minutes are unavailable.

Note from the Officers:

MANSA is making some exciting changes that we want to bring to your attention, some of which will affect how you interact with the association; others have to do with the operation of the organization by the officers. In the latter category, we are pleased to announce that, for the first time ever, MANSA now has an organizational bank account of its own.

Another step we are hoping to take is to propose MANSA for non-profit status with the IRS. This will mean that members working in the USA who itemize their tax deductions will be able to deduct donations made to the organization on their tax returns and members in European countries that allow similar deductions for donations to US-based charities will be able to do the same. The process for incorporating MANSA as a non-profit association is a long one and will entail some expenses, but in the long-term, it will greatly facilitate the expansion of the services the organization can offer.

We have asked our hard-working *webtigi*, Richard Warms, to develop a new website for MANSA that will permit easier interaction among our widely-scattered membership, and will offer the kinds of membership features that are available on the ASA's website, such as member-updated profiles and the capacity to vote on matters such as bylaws and election of officers.

Speaking of bylaws, your Officers have been working on a draft revision that will be circulated to the Advisory Board for comments and suggestions in the upcoming months. Our plan is to have a new set of bylaws ready to be voted on in the fall; perhaps at our business meeting at the ASA in New Orleans (November 19-22).

Member Activities

David Conrad left for Guinea right after the Obama inauguration and spent a week back in Bagatai doing more work on the Yale University Baga D'mba project. He continued up to the Kankan area for more work with his basitigiw there, then went overland to Bamako to meet his fourth "Timbuktu & Rivers of West Africa" tour group, which included Barbmuso this time. After two weeks at home, David flew to Cape Town to lecture on a ten-day tour of South Africa. This was immediately followed by a lecture series on a thirty-five day cruise from Cape Town to Gibraltar via eleven countries on Africa's west coast. He will be back home on May 5th working on a gallery show of his Africa photography that will open in an S.F. Bay Area gallery on June 2.

Graeme Counsel completed a major research project in Guinea, funded through the British Library's Endangered Archives Program, to re-create the complete Syliphone catalogue of musical recordings now housed in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Conakry and soon in the British Library itself. The Guinean government recognized Dr Counsel's contribution through the awarding of the *Palme Académique en Or* and a *Diplôme d'Honneur*.

Lucy Duran is currently working on the production of Bassekou Kouyate's next album. President Obama had listed Bassekou Kouyate's *Kulanjan* CD among his top five (see http://www.bordersgroupinc.com/online/store/ArticleView_shortlistobama)—an album Lucy Duran produced 8 years ago. The *Kulanjan* CD features blues artist Taj Mahal with Toumani Diabate, Kasse Mady, Bassekou Kouyate, and other Malian musicians.

Charity Ellis of Made from Scratch Films recently produced *Nous Sommes Le Sang*, a poetic feature documentary about the evolution of *jeliya* (<http://www.noussommeslesang.org>)

Janet Goldner will conduct a three week seminar for visual art and multimedia students at the Balla Fasseke Kouyate Conservatory of Arts and Multimedia in Bamako, Mali on a Fulbright Specialists project Using a process originated by the renowned feminist art critic, Arlene Raven, students will examine the reasons and context of their artistic production in order to deepen their understanding of their work.

Ryan Skinner recently published a children's books, *Sidikiba's Kora Lesson*; www.sidikibaskoralession.com

Valentin Vydrine led an 8-member Russian-Mande Linguistic Research Mission earlier this year to Côte-d'Ivoire and Guinea. Research focused on Dan-Gweetaa, Dan-Blo, Kla-Dan, Mano, Looma, Kpelle (Guinea) and Kakabe languages. Dr. Maria Konoshenko was part of this research team. Two dictionaries resulted from this research and were officially presented to Santa village, in Man, Danane, and Abidjan.

The Second International Conference on Mande Languages and Linguistics took place in St. Petersburg September 15-17, 2008. More information can be found on the Mande Languages website:

http://mandelang.kunstkamera.ru/index/langues_mande/2colloque_mande/

Ajami Digital Library Project

We are looking for scholars from various countries and language backgrounds with knowledge of *Ajami* to participate on a collaborative project organized by faculty at Boston University and Harvard University. The library will contain texts in nearly a dozen African languages in ajami characters from West and East Africa. The goal of the project is to make available to researchers and students this rich body of literature that has been heretofore neglected, through the establishment of the Ajami Digital Library. Qualified and interested Mande language scholars are encouraged to contact Professor Fallou Ngom, Director of the African Language Program at Boston University at: fngom@bu.edu.

Nous cherchons des spécialistes en manuscrits Ajami. Un projet collaboratif organisé par des professeurs de Boston University et Harvard University formule une proposition de financement pour l'établissement d'une Bibliothèque Numérique de Manuscrits en Ajami, qui mettrait cette richesse à la portée de tout le monde par l'internet. Nous essayons de contacter des spécialistes de plusieurs pays et orientations linguistiques qui connaissent cette orthographe pour participer dans ce projet. La bibliothèque aura des textes dans une douzaine de langues Africaines en caractères ajama de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et de l'Est. Le but du projet c'est de rendre disponible cette littérature qui a été historiquement négligée. Les spécialistes en langues Mande sont priés de contacter le Professeur Fallou Ngom, Directeur du Boston University African Language Program au: fngom@bu.edu.

Jamajèbaara, min labènnen Bòsitòni Kalansoba ni Hariwari Kalansoba fè, ye nganiya jira kè nafolo hakè dò bilali ye ka Duniya Selekenaani Dònniya Jòba Ajami Kitabusò sigi sen kan, wale min bèna ajami dònniya nanfama in bila bèlajèlen ka bolo kan jòba la. An bè a nyini mògòw fè jamana caman na, kanw caman na, minnu bè ajami dòn, u ka u bolo don an fè. Kitabusò in bèna ajami sèbènw lasagon kan tannifila hakè la Farafinna tilebò ni tilejigin kanw na. Baara in dabòra ajami sèbèn dònniyaw jèsènni kama ka bò bolokòfèfènya la. A nyininen ajami sèbèn dònbagaw fè mandenkanw na u ka u kan labò Karamògò Falu Ngòm ma Bòsitòni Kanw Kalansoba nyèmògò jòba kan: fngom@bu.edu.

A new website of the African Language Materials Archive (ALMA) went live in April 2009. ALMA is a project of the West African Research Association (WARA) and the Digital Library for International Research (DLIR). The url for the new site is: <http://alma.matrix.msu.edu/>

New Publications, Recordings, and Dissertations **by MANSÁ Members**

Books:

- Anna Erman and Japhet Kahouyé Loh. *Dictionnaire Dan-Français (dan del'Ouest) avec un index français-dan*. St Pétersbourg Nestor-Istoria 2008.
- Fields-Black, Edda L. *Deep Roots Rice Farmers in West Africa and the African Diaspora*. Indiana University Press 2008.
- Valentin Vydrine and Mongnan Alphonse Kességbeu. *Dictionnaire Dan – Français (dan de l'Est) avec une esquisse de grammaire du dan de l'Est et un index français-dan*. St Pétersbourg: Nestor-Istoria, 2008.

Book Chapters:

- Peter Mark and Jose da Silva Horta, "Catholics, Jews and Muslims in early 17th-century Guinée," in *Atlantic Diasporas: Jews and Crypto-Jews in the Age of Mercantilism, 1500-1800*, edited by Philip Morgan and R. Kagan (Johns Hopkins University Press 2008).
- Fiona Mc Laughlin. "The ascent of Wolof as an urban vernacular and national lingua franca," in *Globalization and Language Vitality: Perspectives from Africa*, edited by Cecile Vigouroux and Salikoko S. Mufwene (Continuum Publishers, London, 2008).
- Valentin Vydrin. "On the problem of the Proto-Mande homeland" *Journal of Comparative Linguistics 1* (Moscow, 2008).

Articles:

- Fiona Mc Laughlin. "On the origins of urban Wolof: evidence from Louis Descemet's 1864 phrase book," in *Language in Society 37/5* (2008):713-735.
- Mandenkan 44* (Paris; available electronically: <http://lacan.vjf.cnrs.fr/fichiers/Mandenkan/index.html>) has just been published and contains articles by MANSÁ members:
- Anna Marie Diagne. "Le marquage de la focalisation en soninké," pp. 5-20
- Maria Konoshenko. "Tonal systems in three dialects of the Kpelle language," pp. 21-42
- Natalia Kuznetsova, Olga Kuznetsova, Valentin Vydrine "Propositions pour une réforme de l'orthographe du gouro," pp. 43-52.
- Elena Perekhval'skaya. "Body parts and their metaphoric meanings in Mwan and other South-Mande languages," pp. 53-62
- Henning Schreiber. "Copula constructions in Mande – an overview," pp. 63-78
- Alexandra Vydrina. "Vowel length in the Kakabe language," pp. 79-88.
- Bruce Whitehouse. "Transnational child-rearing and the preservation of transnational identity in Brazzaville, Congo," in *Global Networks* (2009).

Renewed Members

- Mary Jo Arnoldi (sponsor)
- Ralph Austen (sponsor)
- Wenda Bauchspies
- Rogier Bedaux
- Victoria B. Coifman
- Graeme Counsel
- Brandon County
- Mirjam de Bruijn
- Ariane DeLuz (sponsor)
- Sainey Drammeh (sponsor)
- Edda Fields-Black
- Henrike Florusbosch
- Barbara Frank (sponsor)
- Julianne Freeman
- Tim Geysbeek
- Joseph Hellweg
- Barbara Hoffman (sponsor)
- Jan Jansen (sponsor)
- Candace Keller
- Dolores Koenig (sponsor)
- Robert Launay (sponsor)
- Natalie Mettler
- Patrick McNaughton
- Vittorio Morobita
- Saidou M. N'Daou (sponsor)
- Miriam Phillips

David Rawson (sponsor)
Annette Schmidt
David Skinner (sponsor)
Stephen Thompson
Ousmane Traore
Jeanne Maddox Toungara (sponsor)
Joe Williams

New Members

Hannah Abeodu Jones (Chicaco)
hjones22@csu.edu *Research interests:* Liberian studies; Toma, Lorma, Vai

Ismaël Barry, Univ. de Conakry, Dept. d'Histoire.
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Dianna Bell (Florida State U.) dkb08@fsu.edu
Research interests: Christianity & Islam; syncretism of folk traditions with world religions

Mamadou Diallo (Lycée Technique Ahmadou Bamba, Senegal), siraseydi@gmail.com
Research/teaching interests: African linguistics, ESP, Pulaar and Mande languages

Isaie Dougnon, FLASH, Département des Sciences Sociales, Univ. de Bamako
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Christopher R. Green (Indiana University)
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Research/teaching interests: Bamana, theoretical linguistics, tonology and syllable structure

Alexandra Huddleston (Santa Fe Comm. College)
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Seydou Magassouba, Vice doyen du centre universitaire de Kindia, ancien chef de département d'histoire à l'Univ. de Conakry
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Luca G. Pes (London School of Economics & Political Science and University of Turin)
Luca.pes@unito.it *Research interests:* Decentralization, political systems, legal anthropology, and forms of government

Marie Rodet (Univ. de Paris 7 – SEDET)
mrodet@hotmail.com *Research interests:* End of slavery & gender relations in Kayes region, Mali.

Chikako Ueno (Ochanomizu University)
Uenc3pc@yahoo.co.jp *Research interests:* Dance, music, and society of Mande; Kassonké jeli and Malinke jeli

New Affiliations

Wenda Bauchspies, Georgia Institute of Technology, Associate Professor of Sociology
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Stephen Bulman, Academic Vice Principal, Leeds Trinity & All Saints s.bulman@leedstrinity.ac.uk

Sekou Berte, Manager, Agence du Patrimoine culturel du Mali-SARL, Bamako culture-areas@orangemali.net

Baz Lecocq, Ghent University, Department of Contemporary History

Bruce Whitehouse, Lehigh University
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Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership

Regular and institutional membership \$25; sponsoring membership \$40; full student membership (includes *Mande Studies* journal) \$20; basic student membership \$10. Send checks, payable to MANSA to:

Laura Arntson, MANSA Secretary-Treasurer
106 Walnut St. NW
Washington, DC 20012

Provide affiliation, e-mail, mailing address, research & teaching interests with check or e-mail the information to: Mansa_treas@yahoo.com.