



Newsletter Number 65 – Fall-Winter 2009-2010

MANSA Business Meeting Minutes (ASA 2009)

Kassim Kone, MANSA President, opened the MANSA meeting with an acknowledgement and thank you to David Conrad. In attendance were: Kassim Kone (MANSA President), Barbara Hoffman (MANSA Vice President), Laura Arntson (MANSA Secretary-Treasurer), Jan Jansen, Sabine Luning, Allen Howard, Cullen Strawn, Patrick McNaughton, Stephen Wooten, David Conrad, Martin Klein, Tal Tamari, Jody Benjamin, Candace Keller, Jeanne M. Toungara, Charles Riley, and Bruce Whitehouse.

Elections

The first item on the agenda was the election of MANSA Secretary-Treasurer. Kassim noted that Laura Arntson was the only candidate for Secretary-Treasurer. Laura was re-elected by a unanimous vote by the MANSA members present in addition to 16 proxy votes from members who could not attend ASA. Kassim then thanked the outgoing Advisory Board members, all but one of whom had generously served two sequential terms. Jan Jansen, who joined the Board to complete Barbara Hoffman's term following her election to the Vice President position, was nominated to serve a full term on the Board. Other names

proposed for election to the Advisory Board, in consideration of our international membership and gender representation, and in recognition of their evidence of MANSA scholarship and leadership, are: Eduardo Costa Dias, Stephen Wooten, Fiona McLaughlin, Maria Luisa Ciminelli, and Oumou Diaby-Kassamba. Nominations were seconded, and a vote confirmed all those names put forward by Kassim.

Treasurer's Report, presented by Laura Arntson (MANSA Secretary-Treasurer)

We currently have about 396 members listed in the database: 44% are in the US & Canada, 28% from the greater EU, etc., and 28% are in Africa. Of the 210 current members, about 16% are sponsoring members, 30% are regular members, 8% are students, 47% are sponsored members, and 7% are institutions. Among the members listed in the database, just over 90 are one year behind on their dues, about 20 are two years behind on their dues, and approximately 30 members are three or more years behind on their dues. Now that Paypal is up and running (we owe thanks to Barbara Hoffman for this), it should be easier for our non-US-based colleagues to pay their membership dues. The distribution of delinquent members, however, does not reflect the concern about an ability to

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

Maria Ciminelli, University of Venice
Eduardo Costa Dias, Centro de Estudos Africanos - ISCTE
Oumou Diaby-Kassamba, CNWS et Université de Ouagadougou

Jan Jansen, Leiden University
Fiona McLaughlin, University of Florida
Stephen Wooten, University of Oregon

pay. Of the members who are a year behind on their dues, about 50% are in the US and just over 40% in the greater European Union and elsewhere. As of November 14, 2009, we have \$10,299.30 total in the MANSA accounts (including the US Bank account and the paypal account, the Citizen's bank account, having now been closed). While this sounds substantial, we need to recognize that this includes pre-payment for journals that are still forthcoming. We are running very close to the margin, if not into the red (the amount varies, depending on how many generous sponsors we have in any one year), given anticipated expenses for journals already paid for and a limited number of print newsletters forthcoming. Because of increasing costs of the journal, including increased postage, we will necessarily have to consider an amendment to the membership dues fee schedule.

Mande Studies Journal Update

Kassim reported on the status of the Journal Volume 9, which Stephen Belcher (who was not able to attend ASA) promised will be forthcoming soon. Volume 10, edited by Esther Kühn is underway. Stephen has expressed his desire to step down as editor and Ariane DeLuz—we wish her well—who edits articles published in French, intends to step down as well. Kassim noted that we need two new editors for the journal, and invites interested members to step forward. Barbara Hoffman reported on a recent conversation with David Henige at the University of Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin Library, which is our Mande Studies Journal sponsor, is very unhappy with us because we are so far behind with journal publications. Volume 9 (supposed to come out in 2007) is still in production; Volume 10 (intended for 2008) will not come out until 2010; and Volume 11, which we haven't even begun to put together was to be the volume for this year (2009). As a result, we are really far behind in our production schedule. The delay is primarily due to a lack of submissions to the journal in order to generate volumes. MANSA members are urged to submit publications for consideration in the Mande Studies journal. Some ideas for filling

journal issues that have been discussed include book, film, and music reviews, so in addition to having a managing editor, we may want to identify volunteers to serve as review editors. Another issue is the increasing cost of the journal (both printing/publication and mailing). Costs associated with the journals that are still forthcoming exceed the funds collected from members for those journals. We are still awaiting written confirmation that the cost of Volume 9 remains at the previous level, and that the higher quoted journal production costs will kick in for Volume 12 (2010) and not before. One thing to keep in mind is the importance of actively promoting or seeking out submissions to the journal.

New MANSA Membership Dues Schedule

Because we are running so close to the margin as a result of the rising costs of the journal and other costs of maintaining the association, and because we cannot continue to rely on generous "über-sponsors" among our membership, we need to revise the membership dues schedule. The proposed amendment to the dues schedule was put forth to the membership:

	Previous	New
Sponsoring	\$40	\$60
Regular	\$25	\$40
Full student	\$20	\$30
Basic student	\$10	\$15

The motion was seconded and brought to a vote. Members voted 13 in favor and 2 against the proposed amendment, with no abstentions. Jan Jansen expressed a concern for the record that, having already noted the issues regarding timely production of the journal, it is risky to request a higher dues schedule because of increasing journal costs. However, Kassim reminded Jan that there were other expenses besides the journal that prompted this revision of the dues. The new dues schedule proposal passed and is effective as of January 1, 2010.

MANSA Website Transition

Kassim reported that Richard Warms has stepped down as *webtigi* and the website

domain has been transferred to SUNY-Cortland, where as much space as required will be available. A colleague of Kassim's has agreed to assist with the set-up and running of the MANSA website. The new URL is www.mandestudies.org. The MANSA listserv issue is more complicated; Richard Warms will continue to be in charge of the listserv until it can be successfully transferred. He has the deep gratitude of the Association for his many years of service as *webtigi*.

MANSA By-Law Amendments

Barbara Hoffman reported that a number of suggestions have been proposed by members regarding the length and nature of Officer terms. One major change that had been suggested for the next elections was to initiate a President-Elect system, in which a President-Elect is elected to serve for a term in the place of a Vice President, after which s/he automatically becomes the President and a new President-Elect is elected for the next term. This is the model followed by ASA and other associations. It has also been proposed that the by-laws be changed so that officers' terms are longer, for continuity, and to provide the opportunity to organize and preside over an international MANSA conference. Barbara mentioned that it takes more than two years to fully understand how to run the organization. There are other issues that will require attention as well, including the possibility of becoming a non-profit organization so that MANSA donations can be claimed on year-end taxes. The Executive Council was not able to arrive at a consensus as to what the length of a term in office should be, or if MANSA should go to a President-Elect system. As a result, it was decided that this should be put to the broader membership for input. Barbara sent a survey via e-mail and encouraged all members to complete it. The survey is not an official vote on these issues, but rather a way to gather the opinions of more of the membership regarding the options proposed. David Conrad noted for the record that the suggestion for three-year terms came up quite a few years back, when David Conrad was President—perhaps as many as six years ago. Currently, the By-Laws as

they stand are inconsistent; there had been an amendment proposed and accepted regarding three-year terms, but somehow the By-Laws on the website do not reflect this. Officers are currently serving two-year terms of office.

As soon as the Officers have analyzed the results of the survey, we will publish a summary on the listserv.

International Conference on Mande Studies

After confirming the interest of the membership in having the next conference in Burkina Faso, Kassim visited Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso in early January to explore and discuss with locals the possibility of organizing the next International MANSA Conference in the two locations in June 2011. He met with several people: officials, university professors at the Université de Ouagadougou, officials and researchers at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique, and researchers at one of the main branches of this center, the Institut des Sciences des Sociétés. He also visited several hotels that could be the venue of the conference in the two locations. More information will be forthcoming as the organization of our next conference takes shape.

Member Activities

David Conrad is serving as a consultant to Christopher Parks, McCarter Theatre Education Director at Princeton University on development of a young people's production of *Sunjata* that has been chosen by New York's Kennedy Center to be a part of their New Visions/New Voices program in May 2010. His photographic exhibit in the Main Gallery of the Bolinas Museum in Marin County, California ran from June 20 to August 2nd. The third edition (second revised) of *Empires of Medieval West Africa: Ghana, Mali and Songhay* (2006 ASA Children's Africana Book Award) is now available with additional sidebars and color photographs.

Janet Goldner exhibited "Goldner's ideas conceived in Mali, born on Warren Street:"

from November 30 through December 12 at The Villager in New York City. To see more details, follow the link below:

<http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=186888258378&mid=17d3083G2cba0db3G457602bG7>

Alma Gottlieb was a keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Conference, Society for the Study of Childhood in the Past (Nov. 13, 2009), Miami. The title of her presentation was "When the Past Returns: A West African Model of Childhood".

Gregory Mann, Isaïe Dougnon, and Emily Burill, organized a workshop at the Université de Bamako: *le Passé du Mali au Présent: des Nouvelles pistes de recherches en histoire et en sciences sociales*, at the FLASH of the Université de Bamako on 31 July 2009. MANSA members **Brandon County** and **Paul Davis** presented their work alongside other researchers, from Mali and the U.S., including the organizers. The workshop had support from the office of the dean of the FLASH, Columbia University's Institute for African Studies, and the American Embassy, who responded generously and on short notice to our initiative. They hope to offer similar workshops in the future.

Gregory Mann is a fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center this year.

Trevor Marchand is curating a major exhibition on Djenné's masons and architecture for the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in London. The exhibition will hang from March 3rd to April 29th next year. Trevor has organised a parallel public lecture series which will be variously hosted at the RIBA, SOAS and the Ismaili Centre in South Kensington. He will send updates about the lectures to the listserv so that any MANSA members in London at the time can be sure to attend.

Miriam Philips has taken a position as Assistant Professor, Dept. of Dance, Univ. of Maryland

New Publications, Recordings, and Dissertations by MANSA Members

Books:

Brock-Utne, Birgit & Ingse Skattum (eds.) 2009: *Languages and Education in Africa. A comparative and transdisciplinary analysis*. Cambridge, Symposium Books.

Ciminelli, M.L. 2008. "D'incanto in incanto: Storia del consumo occidentale d' arte primitiva" ["A history of Western consumption of "Primitive Art"] Bologna : Clueb.

Counsel, Graeme *Mande popular music and cultural policies in West Africa : Griots and government policy since independence* . Germany: Verlag Dr Müller.

Holter, Karin & Ingse Skattum (eds.) 2008: *La francophonie aujourd'hui. Réflexions critiques*. Paris, L'Harmattan. (Coll. Langues et développement).

Chérif Keita. *Salif Keita: l'ambassadeur de la musique malienne*. Editions Grandvaux (Paris) 2009.

Wooten, Stephen, 2009. *The Art of Livelihood: Creating Expressive Agri-Culture in Rural Mali*, Carolina Academic Press.

Wright, Donald. 2010. *The World and a Very Small Place in Africa: A History of Globalization in Niimi, The Gambia*. 3rd edition. [with a new final chapter]

Articles and Book Chapters:

Ciminelli, M.L. 2009. "Djenné, Timbuctu, il Pays Dogon: protezione del patrimonio culturale ed eterogenesi dei fini" [Djenné, Timbuctu, le Pays Dogon: cultural heritage protection and heterogenesis of the ends], *Africa e Mediterraneo*, 65-66: 36-39.

Counsel, Graeme "Digitising and archiving Syliphone recordings in Guinea". *Australasian Review of African Studies* . 30 (1), pp. 144-150.

Counsel, Graeme "Archival and research resources in Conakry, Guinea". *History in Africa* . Vol. 36, pp 439-445.

Gottlieb, Alma. 2009. "Who Minds the Baby? Beng Perspectives on Mothers, Neighbours, and Strangers as Caretakers," in *Substitute Parents: Biological and Social Perspectives on Alloparenting across Human Societies*, ed. Gillian Bentley and Ruth Mace. Oxford: Bergahn (Biosocial Society Symposium Series), pp. 115-138.

Gottlieb, Alma "The Anthropologist as Mother: Reflections on Childbirth Observed and Childbirth Experienced" (from *Anthropology Today* 11, 3, 1995), reprinted in *Introduction to Anthropology*, ed. Cameron Wesson (Kendall/Hunt Publ. Co., 2009).

Graw, Knut. (2009a) 'Beyond Expertise: Specialist Agency and the Autonomy of the Divinatory Ritual Process', *Africa* 79 (1): 92-109.

Graw, Knut. (2009b) 'Divination as Hermeneutic Encounter. Reflections on Understanding, Dialogue, and the Intersubjective Foundation of Divinatory Consultation'. In: William A. Christian Jr. and Gábor Klaniczay, eds., *The Vision Thing. Studying Divine Intervention*. Budapest: Collegium Budapest (Collegium Budapest Workshop Series No 18), pp. 459 - 477.

Johnson, Michelle C. 2009. "Death and the Left Hand: Islam, Gender, and 'Proper' Mandinga Funerary Custom in Guinea-Bissau and Portugal." *African Studies Review* (Special Issue: Guinea-Bissau Today) 52(2): 93-117.

Johnson, Michelle C. 2009. "Islam." In *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*, ed. Richard A. Shweder, pp. 517-519. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Koenig, Dolores. 2009. "Rapport de Mission: Observations Préliminaires sur des Populations Urbaines Déplacées et Recasées au Burkina

Faso." Research Report for Burkinabe agencies. September.

Koenig, Dolores. 2009. "Rapport de Mission: Observations Préliminaires sur des Populations Urbaines Déplacées et Recasées au Mali." Research Report for Malian agencies. June.

Koenig, Dolores. 2008. "Rural Development is More than Commodity Production: Cotton in the Farming System of Kita, Mali." In *Hanging by a Thread: Cotton, Globalization and Poverty in Africa*. W. Moseley and L. Gray, eds. Athens: Ohio University Press. Pp. 177-206

Kone, Kassim Gausu. 2010. *Bamanakan Dapɛgafe*, 2nd edition. Mothertongue Editions, West Newbury MA, USA/An Lamokan, Bamako, Mali.

Marchand, Trevor Hugh James. *The Masons of Djenné*. Bloomington Indiana University Press, 2009.

Mbodj-Pouye, Aïssatou. « Tenir un cahier dans la région cotonnière du Mali. Support d'écriture et rapport à soi », *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, numéro 2009-4, juillet-août (numéro spécial « Cultures écrites en Afrique ») : 855-885.

Mbodj-Pouye, Aïssatou. Introduction. Eloi Ficquet & Aïssatou Mbodj-Pouye, « Cultures de l'écrit en Afrique. Anciens débats, nouveaux objets », *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, introduction au numéro spécial « Cultures écrites en Afrique », numéro 2009-4, juillet-août : 751-764.

Miran, Marie et El Hadj Akan Charif Vissoh, «(Auto)biographie d'une conversion à l'islam. Regards croisés sur une histoire de changement religieux dans le Bénin contemporain», *Cahiers d'études africaines*, vol.195, 2009: 655-704.

Skattum, Ingse & Birgit Brock-Utne 2009: "Introduction. Languages and Education in

Africa: a transdisciplinary discussion", in Brock-Utne & Skattum: 15-54.

Zappa, Francesco "Écrire l'Islam en bambara. Lieux, réseaux et enjeux de l'entreprise d'al Hâjj Modibo Diarra", *Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions*, 147, juillet-septembre 2009, numéro thématique: *Traduire l'intraduisible*, sous la direction de Pierre Lassave, pp. 167-186.
<http://assr.revues.org/index21440.html>

Zappa, Francesco "Popularizing Islamic knowledge through oral epic: A Malian bard in a media age", *Die Welt des Islams*, 49 (3-4), 2009, pp. 367-397.
<http://brill.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/brill/dwi/2009/00000049/F0020003/art00004#avail>

Discography:

Counsel, Graeme *Keletigui et ses Tambourinis. The Syliphone years*. Sterns. STC D 3031-32. 2 x compact discs.

Dissertations:

Julie Strand, *The Sambla Xylophone: Tradition and Identity in Burkina Faso*. (Wesleyan University; PhD, Ethnomusicology, 2009).

Grants and Scholarships:

Michelle C. Johnson was awarded a 2010 Social Science Research Council Book Fellowship to write her book, *Arguing through Ritual: Mandinga Custom and Global Islam in Portugal*.

Autres activités Mande d'intérêt

Le mouvement n'ko du Mali a décidé de s'intéresser à l'Europe dans le cadre de la diffusion de cet alphabet. Ce système d'écriture africain est implanté en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Nord, au Moyen Orient, en Asie, et en Amérique du nord. Mais jusqu'à ce jour, à part l'université de Madrid qui s'y intéresse, le vieux continent semble être épargné par la diffusion de ce symbole culturel alors que la diaspora africaine y est très importante. C'est sur le n'ko ce que l'artiste malien Ismaël Diabaté a exposé à Paris. Suivez ce lien pour en voir le compte

rendu .

<http://touaregspassepresent.blogspot.com/2009/10/ecriture-le-nko-sexporte-en-france.html>
(Ibrahima Sory Condé nous a fait parvenir ce message).

Renewed Members

Louise Bedichek
Stephen Belcher (sponsor)
Saskia Brand
Sarah Brett-Smith (sponsor)
George Brooks (sponsor)
Stephen Bulman (sponsor)
Maria Luisa Ciminelli
Eduardo Costa Dias (sponsor)
Ariane DeLuz (sponsor)
Kristina G. Due
Ryan Durkopp
Ian Edwards
Paulo de Moraes Farias
Paul Folmer
Maria Grosz-Ngate (sponsor)
Eugenia Herbert
Nicholas Hopkins (sponsor)
Allen Howard (sponsor)
Alexandra Huddleston
Pascal Imperato (sponsor)
Jan Jansen (sponsor)
Michelle Johnson
John Johnson
James Jones (sponsor)
Marloes Janson
Candace Keller
Martin Klein (sponsor)
Roderick Knight
Dolores Koenig (sponsor)
Esther Kühn
Rachel Laget
Fred Lamp
Kirsten Langeveld
Joseph Lauer (sponsor)
Laura Machín Álvarez
Fiona McLaughlin (sponsor)
Greg Mann (sponsor)
Agnes Manzon
Amanda Maples
Trevor Marchand
Roderick McIntosh (sponsor)
Mike McGovern

Daniela Moreau (sponsor)

Emily Osborn

Daniel Reed

Victoria Rovine

Karim Sagna

Ryan Skinner (sponsor)

Cullen Strawn

Tal Tamari

Simon Toulou

Jeanne Maddox Toungara (sponsor)

Laura Ann (Pechacek) Twagira

Bruce Whitehouse (sponsor)

Stephen Wooten

Don Wright

Francesco Zappa

New Members

Jody Benjamin (Harvard U),

jbenjam@fas.harvard.edu

Research interests: Mande history

Jean Paul Colley (EHESS), colley@ehess.fr

Research interests: Art & social life, religious life, Bamana and Minianka cultures; visual anthropology and ethnographic film

Carolina Hofs (U de Lisboa),

hofscarolina@yahoo.com

Research interests: Griots, music, art, and transnationalism, Guinea-Bissau

Salya Koné (Sociologue de l'Education,

Ouagadougou), bassalya@yahoo.fr

Research/teaching interests: education of children from humble backgrounds, radio broadcasting

Mahamadou Konta (Chercheur, Institut des

Langues Abdoulaye Barry, Bamako),

tonkonta@yahoo.fr

Research/teaching interests: Bamana, bamana literacy and teaching

Enock Somé (Ouagadougou)

Research/teaching interests: teaching, education of children from humble backgrounds

Bakary Traoré (Chargé de recherché,

IN.S.S./C.N.R.S.T., Ougadougou),

traore1bak@yahoo.fr

Research/Teaching Interests: Linguistics, research in Jula linguistics

Abdou S. Yaro (Indiana University),

asyaro@indiana.edu

Research interests: Language instruction

with technology; Francophone African Literatures & Cinemas; Mande Cinema; Postcolonial & Disability studies; African Diaspora

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Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership

New MANSA membership dues schedule* as of January 1, 2010:

- Regular = \$40
- Sponsor = \$60
- Full Student (*with journal*) = \$30
- Basic Student = \$15

*If paying in Euros, consult current rates at the time of membership payment (e.g.,

<http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>)

If paying by check, please send dues in US\$ only, payable to MANSA to:

Laura Arntson, MANSA Secretary-Treasurer

106 Walnut St., NW

Washington, DC 20012 USA

*If paying via **PayPal**:*

1. Go to www.paypal.com and create an individual account if you don't already have one.
2. When your account is active, click on Send Money.
3. Specify the amount and send it to mansa_treas@yahoo.com
4. A receipt will be sent to the email address you used when setting up your paypal account.

If you are joining for the first time, please e-mail the MANSA Secretary-Treasurer at (mansa_treas@yahoo.com with your affiliation, e-mail address, postal mailing address, and your research & teaching interests.

Si vous voulez payer avec PayPal:

1. Aller sur www.paypal.com et créer un compte individuel si vous n'en possédez pas déjà.
2. Lorsque votre compte est actif, cliquez sur Envoyer de l'argent.
3. Préciser le montant et l'envoyer à mansa_treas@yahoo.com
4. Un reçu vous sera envoyé à l'adresse électronique que vous avez utilisé en établissant votre compte paypal.)

Si vous desirez joindre l'association MANSA, veuillez envoyer un courriel à mansa_treas@yahoo.com avec votre affiliation, adresse électronique, interest académiques