



# MANSA

Newsletter Number 12 ~ MARCH 1990

## **URGENT NOTICE**

### **To: North American Members Concerning a Visit to the United States by Our Members in the Soviet Union**

Two new members of MANSA, Konstantin Pozdnâkov of the Institute of Ethnology, Academy of Sciences, and Valentin Vydrine of Leningrad University have expressed interest in attending the ASA meeting in Baltimore. Their institutions will pay for their transportation to the United States. What they need from MANSA is help in lining up an itinerary of academic engagements at various universities that would cover their travel and accommodation expenses while in the U.S.A.

Professors Pozdnâkov and Vydrine both specialize in Mande linguistics. In addition to the titles of their proposed ASA papers, they list eighteen other topics (nine each) on which they are prepared to speak. Beyond the wide variety of Mande topics offered, the list ranges into other areas including "Structural Analysis of the Easter Island Script" and "African Linguistics and Ethnohistoric Studies in the Leningrad University". For the complete list, see below p. 3.

The time to act on this is now. Please do not wait until fall term, because the itinerary must be set up many months in advance so Pozdnâkov and Vydrine can make their travel arrangements. If your department or university has the interest and the means to host our colleagues from Leningrad, write or telephone B. Marie Perinbam, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 (Home): 4601 North Park Avenue, Apt. 321, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

## **MANSA Address Change**

The present MANSA address applies until July, 1990. Beginning September 1st, the address will be David C. Conrad, History Department, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, U.S.A. If you wish to contact MANSA during the month of August, the address is P.O. Box 72, Stinson Beach, CA 94970, U.S.A. Last safe date for posting mail to the Malaysia address: July 1.

DAVID C. CONRAD, President, State University of New York-Oswego

B. MARIE PERINBAM, Vice President, University of Maryland

KATHRYN L. GREEN, Secretary, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Advisory Board:

LANSINE KABA, University of Illinois-Chicago

ROBERT LAUNAY, Northwestern University



## Notice to Libraries and Other Institutional Members

In response to several requests, a limited number of formerly out-of-print back issues of the MANSA Newsletter have been reprinted in order to make it possible for institutional subscribers to complete their collections by acquiring missing numbers beginning with issue #1, at a cost of U.S.\$2.50 per issue. (Institutional subscription rates remain at \$10.00 per year.) Send orders to: David C. Conrad SUNY-Buffalo/ITM No. 5, Jalan SS17/1A Subang Jaya, Selangor Malaysia

### Mansa Panels, ASA 1990

#### ETHNO-LINGUISTICS IN THE MANDE WORLD

Chair: Invitation issued, but open at press-time.

Papers: Konstantin Pozdnâkov, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, "Perspectives of Comparative Studies on the Mande and West-Atlantic Groups"

Valentin Vydrine, Leningrad University, "Traces of Nominal Classification in the Mande Languages"

Note: This panel has been approved in advance by the ASA. Interested participants contact Marie Perinbam or Willie Lamoussé-Smith, Chairman of the Program Committee.

#### THE MANDE PRESENCE IN LIBERIA

Chair: Martin Ford, State University of New York at Binghamton

Papers: Warren d'Azevedo, University of Nevada-Reno, "The Early Nineteenth Century Settler Impression of the Mandingo in Liberia"

Tim Geysbeek, Michigan State University, "Yasi Kamara's History of Southern Guinea c. 1300 - c. 1550"

Martin Ford, State University of New York at Binghamton, "The Absence of Caste in A Mande Diaspora Population: The Case of Liberia's Mandingo"

#### ISLAM IN THE MANDE WORLD

Chair: Lansiné Kaba, University of Illinois at Chicago

Papers: B. Marie Perinbam, The University of Maryland, "Islamized Minorities in the Bamako *kafu* and Mande Hinterland c. 1800 to c. 1890"

Robert Launay, Northwestern University, "The Politics of Apolitical Islam: A Vindication of Mamadou Soumare"

Adria LaViolette, Rice University, "The Jenne *bari*: Islamic and *nyamakala* Synthesis in Artisan Organization"

David Skinner and Matthew Stevens, Santa Clara University, "Fode Ibrima Turay: Spiritual and Militant *jihad* and Resistance to Colonialism"

#### EARLY SAHELIAN HISTORY

Chair: David C. Conrad, State University of New York at Oswego

Papers: James Webb, Jr., Colby College, "Mauritanian Migrations: The Evolution of the Southwestern Desert Frontier, 1500-1700"

E. Ann McDougall, The University of Alberta, "Lands of Gold Unearthed: New Considerations on Early Sahelian Political Economy; Case Study Ancient Ghana"

Mamadou Diawara, Frobenius-Institut, "Les Sources Orales de l'Histoire Soninke: l'Exemple des *gesuru* du Royaume de Jaara du XVe au Milieu du XIXe Siecle"

Kathryn L. Green, The University of Wisconsin, "The Meeting of Two World Views: Jula and Senufo Compared"



## The Pozdnâkov and Vydrine Lecture Topics

### Konstantine Pozdnâkov, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad

1. "Results of Comparative Studies of the West-Atlantic Language Branch of Niger-Congo"
2. "The Perspectives of the Mande Languages Etymological Dictionary"
3. "Approach to New Quantitative Methods of the Comparative Studies"
4. "Elements of the Structural Comparative Studies in African Linguistics"
5. "Interpretation of the Consonant Alternation in the West-Atlantic and Mande Languages"
6. "Results of Structural Comparative Studies of the Mel Languages"
7. "An Attempt at the Typological Classification of Vowel Systems"
8. "African Linguistics in the USSR"
9. "Structural Analysis of the Easter Island Script"

### Valentin Vydrine, Leningrad University

1. "Comparative Studies of the Southwestern Mande Languages"
2. "Perspectives of the Historical Phonology of the Mande Languages"
3. "Manding Lexicography Today"
4. "Mande and Southeastern Asia Languages: Syllabic Structures"
5. "Ethnohistory in Oral Tradition: the Sunjata Epic Case"
6. "Various Script Systems of the Manding Languages Speakers"
7. "African Linguistics and Ethnohistoric Studies in the Leningrad University"
8. "Problems of the Internal Phonological Reconstruction: the Bamana Beledugu Case"
9. "Some Problems of Bamana Syntax and Morphology"

## Reading Bank

It has occurred to me that MANSA members could serve each other better by insitutionalizing a more or less "Readers' Program," or some such thing (the name is unimportant at this stage), where members' manuscripts would be informally reviewed -- given the areas of expertise -- before submitting them to a journal or a press. Program Readers ---- a number as yet undetermined and doubtless changing perhaps on a quarterly, semester, six monthly, or yearly basis -- would also, if they wish, serve as referees for jobs and grant applications, as well as promotions, etc. People involved in on-going research are usually in need of the latter, and drawing on a personal network of friends may not always be convenient. Readers who agree to review a manuscript could be asked to render their suggestions within a time agreed upon in advance. To be a Reader in some such "Readers' Program" would of course have to be absolutely voluntary, and the decision to read or not to read any particular manuscript would rest entirely with the Reader. The names and addresses of Readers could be published on a quarterly, six monthly or yearly basis in the MANSA newsletter.

B. Marie Perinham

## New and Renewed Mansa Members, Research Specializations & Address Changes

Rogier M. A. Bedaux, Koningslaan 35, 3583 GH Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Curator, Department of Subsaharan Africa, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden. Research topics:  
West African Iron Age, ethno-archaeology, material culture.



George E. Brooks, History Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Hoover Institute, Stanford University

Sékéné Mody Cissoko, Université O. Bongo, B.P. 13936, Libreville, Gabon

Barbara G. Hoffman, 3209 East 10th Street, No. 160, Bloomington, IN 47408, U.S.A.

Lansiné Kaba (Double Sponsor), Black Studies Program, The University of Illinois at Chicago, Box 4348, Chicago, IL 60680

Konstantin Pozdnyakov, URSS, Leningrad, Universitetskaya nab. 3, Institut de l'Ethnologie de l'Académie des Sciences

Matt Schaffer (Sponsor), P.O. Box 101, Sagle, ID 83860

Bakary Sidibé, Conservator, Oral History Division, Vice President's Office, Banjul, The Gambia

David Skinner, Department of History, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053

Menno P. Sypkens Smit, S.K.O.P., Postbus 87, 8050 AB Hattem, The Netherlands

Ismaila Samba Traoré, Institut des Sciences Humaines, B.P. 159, Bamako, Mali

Valentin Vydrine, URSS, Leningrad, Universitetskaya nab. 11, vostochnyj fakultet (home address printed in issue #11)

#### **Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership:**

Regular membership \$5, Sponsoring membership \$25, Institutional \$10. Make out check to MANSA and (if you are joining) send with your institutional affiliation and a brief description of your research topics to:

David C. Conrad  
SUNY-Buffalo/ITM  
No. 5, Jalan SS17/1A  
47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor  
Malaysia

After July 1, 1990:

David C. Conrad  
History Department  
SUNY-Oswego  
Oswego, NY 13126  
U.S.A.

To pay in French francs make check out to Robert Launay and send to:

Robert Launay  
Department of Anthropology  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL 60201  
U.S.A.