

MANSA NEWSLETTER

MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES ÉTUDES MANDE

NUMBER 2, APRIL 1987

Les chercheurs de toutes disciplines s'intéressant aux études Mande sont invités à s'inscrire à MANSA, Mande Studies Association (Association des Études Mande), fondée le 1er novembre 1986, lors de la réunion de l'African Studies Association à Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Les nom, adresse et sujet(s) de recherche des chercheurs, associés circuleront parmi les membres. De plus, un journal polycopié sera publié au moins deux fois par an avec des notices en anglais, français ou bamanakan précisant, entre autres, les recherches en cours.

Nous nous adressons également aux étudiants de 3ème cycle et nous espérons que leur professeur les encourageront à s'inscrire. Les frais d'inscription pour la première année sont de \$5 U.S. Veuillez envoyer un cheque ou mandat international pour cette somme au bénéfice de MANSA, ainsi qu'une courte description de vos sujets de recherche, à:

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

Les chercheurs en zone franc peuvent, s'ils le préfèrent, envoyer un chèque de 35 francs français, au nom de Robert Launay, à:

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

The above notice is available on MANSA letterhead. Researchers travelling to the Mande culture zone, France, etc. where it would be useful are encouraged to take copies with them to pass on to anyone who might be interested in MANSA. Write to David Conrad for original, photocopyable print-outs.

As it was conceived at the organizational meeting November 1, 1986 in Madison, Wisconsin, one of the main purposes of MANSA is the exchange of ideas and information among its members via this newsletter. In this issue we begin publishing the names, addresses, and research interests or occupations of our members. The mailing list now contains just over one hundred names. Of those, thirty-eight people have paid the \$5.00 U.S. requested as dues to finance the newsletter. They are listed in this issue, as are libraries that have subscribed to the newsletter, and West African agencies with whom our members have research affiliations. In some cases dues were not accompanied by descriptions of research interests, so I wrote what I could with the information available. If revisions are desired, send them in and the changes will be made in the master list as I receive them. Subsequent issues of the newsletter will list names and interests of new members as they join, and the present plan is to publish the comprehensive up-dated list each year.

David C. Conrad

President: David C. Conrad (State University of New York, Oswego)

Vice President: B. Marie Perinbam (University of Maryland)

Secretary: Kathryn L. Green (University of Florida)

Advisory Board: Gerald Cashion (Washington, D.C), Robert Launay (Northwestern University)

A Specialized Research-Oriented Dictionary of Mande Words

I would like to suggest that our MANSA group begin a specialized research-oriented dictionary of Mande words. Let me explain why. When I talk to Kathy Green, for example, I discover wonderful and ultimately very useful Dyula variations or transformations of words I encounter in my Bamana and Maninka research. Ready access to them would be very useful for distributional or historical studies, or all kinds of comparative work. When I talk to Kate Ezra or Mary Jo Arnoldi, I learn Bamana words I never got myself, and this too is, naturally, extremely helpful. The dictionaries available to us, such as Bazin and Bailleul for *Bamanakan*, are certainly valuable. But we all know that Mande peoples apply particularly flexible and creative relevance to that ancient linguistic axiom: the meanings of words are in their use. Think of the word *do* for example, and its potential usefulness to researchers in Mali, Guinea, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Burkina Faso. A list of its meanings as acquired by all of our colleagues working across many disciplines could be a tremendous resource.

It seems to me that ideally, we would store the dictionary on computer discs in the possession of our several administrators. It could be available to interested scholars on request, and we could even consider printing it serially in our newsletter. Accompanying information could include who collected each usage, where, when, from whom (blacksmiths, marabouts, elders, &c) and under what sorts of research circumstances. The best way to organize it, I think, would be alphabetically by categories such as Aesthetics, Local Medical Practices, Sorcery and the Supernatural, Clan Terminology, Ethnicity, Social Organization, Social Institutions and Organizations, Farming, Hunting, Commerce and the like. People submitting words could indicate the category or categories in which they feel each word belongs, and a list of the categories would make the dictionary rather easy to use. This way setting up and maintaining it would be a simple matter of data input.

Even without too much response, however, I can imagine the task of setting up and maintaining this resource might be more than we can ask of our elected officers. If we had in our membership a librarian or archivist willing to take on the task, a kind of "keeper of the words," we would stand in good stead indeed. Short of that, we might consider beginning by circulating a disk and backup disk(s) by separate mail all round our membership. A problem would emerge here. We would face the incompatibility of systems, especially CPM vs. DOS. I believe, however, that there are simple little utility programs, some even in Public Domain Software, that transform foreign files into ASCII code that can then be digested, amended, recoded and dispersed back out onto the foreign disk. DANGER WOULD LURK HERE, because this sort of transferring back and forth is apparently very nearly the greatest cause of data loss, and so we would all have to proceed with the utmost care, backing up the file several times as we went, so that all our work would not be in vain. If we all had modems we could transfer the information much more quickly and safely.

Perhaps this is all too involved. But let's argue that it isn't, and that enough members have access to the hard and soft ware to allow us to proceed. Then, upon receipt of the working disk, each of us could add the words we think belong, in the categories where we each feel they best fit. When the backup(s) arrived we would update it (them) and then mail them off (separately) to the next person on the members' list. Each recipient could also be responsible for reading over the whole, growing thing and adding whatever cross-referencing they felt appropriate. In this way the dictionary could begin and grow almost as if by *subaga*. Of course we would each make our own copies each time it came around to us, meaning that all of us would be partaking of while participating in a fine usage of the term *badenya*. Patrick R. McNaughton, Indiana University

Editor's note: In the following note Roderick McIntosh elaborates on an idea he presented at the MANSA meeting November 1, 1986. Owing to the rush, this was not included in the first newsletter.

Computer Publishing

The technology exists now to put out an inexpensive newsletter-journal with very high quality black-and-white illustrations. Since the comments at the Madison MANSA meeting suggest that the majority of members have Macintoshes (quite right!), these comments are so slanted. The fastest, most editor-kind method would be for each author to "Mac-up" his or her contribution, as that author wishes it to appear, and post the disk to the editor. The latter would just print these out, without further work. Text on MacWrite and

line drawings on MacPaint are no problem. Black-and-white photographs can be run through the digitizer (Thunderscan) and reproduced to highest resolution by using the Laserprinter 'reduce' or 'clean-up' options. Those with PCs need only see that the document is formatted to ASCII (Plain text) or Formatted Printout, for easy conversion to the Macintosh (which most computer centers can do without problem). The color option is not currently available on Macintosh, but this is coming soon.

I suggest this be seen as an exercise in 'free-form' publishing, with everything from long reports to book notes or research queries being encouraged. Articles here would be in pre-circulated form; comments received from MANSA members would aid the final revisions for refereed journals. The major cost would be postage. Roderick J. McIntosh, Rice University

Permanent Fund for Small Grants

Kathryn Green reports that she has been unable to locate a granting agency willing to provide funding to pay for the transcription of tapes of field interviews. She requests that anyone who has had similar difficulty write to her as a first step in a cooperative effort to find an agency willing to set up a small fund to help in such matters. (She says it may cost \$40-\$50 to have one cassette transcribed).

MANSA Logo

As reported in the first newsletter, at the organizational meeting the "life eternal" mudcloth symbol was chosen as a logo, and John Johnson gave generously of his time and talent to prepare a letterhead for us. The "life eternal" symbol appeared in the left-hand margin of the first newsletter, with an outline of the African continent added as a means of identifying our organization with Africa. Our choice of that symbol has received mixed reviews, and many people have expressed a desire to contribute their ideas to the adoption of a logo, so this will be on the agenda at the Denver meeting. Those who have suggestions in this regard are encouraged to bring prepared designs to the meeting. The Editor

MANSA-Sponsored Panels

1987 Annual Meeting of The African Studies Association Denver, Colorado U.S.A., November 19-23

In *Mansa Newsletter* Number 1 (January 1987) we issued a call for papers to be sponsored by MANSA at the ASA meeting in Denver. Three of the five originally suggested panels have been organized, and a fourth panel has been formed to accommodate papers offered to panels that failed to materialize. Four seems an appropriate number for our first effort, and we wish to thank everyone who offered to chair panels as they were originally conceived. Following are the panels as they have been proposed to the organizers of the Denver ASA meeting:

Panel #1 Environment and Ecology in the Mande Culture Zone

Chair: George E. Brooks, History Department, Indiana University

Papers: Charles S. Bird, Linguistics Department, Indiana University, "Etymology and History: The Mande in West Africa"

George E. Brooks, History Department, Indiana University, "Perspectives on Mande Settlement Patterns from the Atlantic Wet Phase (c. 5500-2500 B.C.) to the Present"

Adria LaViolette, Department of Anthropology, Washington University, St. Louis, "Effects of the Sahel Drought on Craft Populations in Jenne and its Supporting Region"

Thomas J. Bassett, Department of Geography, University of

Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, "Dyula Farmers in Senufoland, Côte d'Ivoire"

Panel #2 Social Organization Among the Southern Mande

Chair: Alma Gottlieb, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Papers: Ariane Deluz, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Paris, "Marriage and Relationships and/or Strategies Between the Guro and the Youré of Côte d'Ivoire"

Alma Gottlieb, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign "Double Descent Among the Beng"

Francoise Heritier, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Paris, "Social Organization Among the Samo"

Panel #3 Mansaya: Political Authority in the Mande World

Chair: Lansiné Kaba, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago

Papers: Jean-Loup Amselle, Centre d'Études Africaines, Paris, "Le Kafo du Jitumu"

Kathryn L. Green, Department of History, University of Florida, "Mansaya and the Role of *jeliwin* Southern Sudanic States"

Lansiné Kaba, Black Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Mansaya in 19th-Century Kankan - Baté, Guinea"

Panel #4 Mande Cultural Institutions: Society, Politics and Religion

Chair: David C. Conrad, History Department, S.U.N.Y.-Oswego

Papers: Barbara Frank, Art Department, College of Wooster, "Soninke *garankew*: Identity and Diaspora"

Robert Launay, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, "Sufism Degree Zero: The Dyula Case"

David C. Conrad, History Department, S.U.N.Y.-Oswego, "The Mande Pilgrimage Tradition and Religious Accommodation: Mansa Musa and Fajigi"

Laurence C. Becker, Geography Department, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, "Abandoning the *forobaforow*: Problems in Farm Labor Availability and Land Resource Utilization Strategies in Southern Mali"

Discussant: Nehemia Levtzion

Official (Dues-Paying) MANSASA Members:
Field and Research Specialization

Jean-Loup Amselle, Centre d'Études Africaines Laboratoire de Sociologie et Géographie Africaines, 54 bd. Raspail, 75006 Paris

Migratory routes; western sudanic trade; Islam; Mande social systems; ethnicity.

Mary Jo Arnoldi, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Curator of African Ethnology; art history and anthropology; research on drama and the arts among the Mande of Mali.

Thomas J. Bassett, Department of Geography, University of Illinois, 220 Davenport Hall, 607 S. Mathews, Urbana, IL 61801

Political-economy and human ecology of farming systems, Côte d'Ivoire; development theory; socio-cultural change among Senufo, Dyula and Fulani.

Caroline Bledsoe, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201

Liberia and Sierra Leone; family and marriage; social stratification; demography.

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

Guinea Bissau, Migration and settlement patterns of the proto-Mande, including artisans, traders and cultivators; early climate periods; economic history.

Seydou Camara, 13 rue Dareau, 75014 Paris

Working on a thèse de doctorat à l'EHESS sur le système de conservation et de transmission des traditions orales en pays Mandingue (approche historique), appuyant sur le centre d'enseignement des *jeliw* de Kéla près de Kangaba.

Gerald Cashion, African Development Foundation, 1625 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
Director, African Development Foundation; Mande hunters, their associations and belief systems.

David C. Conrad, History Department, S.U.N.Y.-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126

Mande oral tradition; ancient Ghana and Mali; Bamana Segou in the 18th and 19th centuries; social hierarchy; influence of Islam.

Richard A. Corby, Center for African Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

Development of Islam in Liberia in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Soumaila Diakité, Institut Pédagogique Nationale, B.P. 1583, Bamako, République du Mali

Directeur Nationale des Arts et de la Culture; International development education; history and culture of Bamana Segou.

Seydou Diallo, B.P. 1227, Bamako, République du Mali

Cinematographer; contemporary Malian society; fourteenth-century Mali.

Kate Ezra, Department of Primitive Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Ave. at 82nd Street, New York,

NY 10025

Art of the Bamana and other Mande peoples; sculptures associated with the *Jo* initiation society; history and dating of Bamana sculpture; the relationship between sculpture and oral tradition; Dogon art.

Humphrey J. Fisher, History Department, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP

Western and Central Sudan; Arabic sources; African slavery; indigenous religions; Islam; ancient Ghana.

Martin Ford, 3453 Bruton Parish Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Doctoral candidate in anthropology at S.U.N.Y.-Binghamton; Mande peoples of Guinea and Liberia; Mande-Dan relations in Liberia.

Barbara Frank, Art Department, The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 44691

Doctoral candidate in art history Indiana University; Mande leatherworking traditions and craftsmen; other artisans of the Mande, including tanners, cloth dyers, weavers, blacksmiths and potters.

Tim Geysbeek, 8812 Newhouse, Portage, MI 49002

Finishing M.A. at Michigan State University, Spring '87; West African history; pre-colonial Mande migrations in SE and SW Guinea; the role of volunteer associations in Monrovia as key mechanisms linking rural dwellers from Liberia and Guinea.

Michael A. Gomez, Department of History, African and Afro-American Studies, Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130

Bundu and its origins; Malik Sy; Islam in the western Sudan.

Alma Gottlieb, Department of Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, 607 S. Mathews Ave., University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

The Beng (a.k.a. Ngan or Gan) of Côte d'Ivoire; symbolic anthropology, social organization and gender structures.

Kathryn L. Green, Department of History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

The warrior state of Kong, Côte d'Ivoire; 19th-century Sikasso (Mali); Islam in West Africa; concepts of ethnic identity and change; warrior states and their relationship to Islam; small pre-colonial states of Guinea.

Thomas A. Hale, French Department, Comparative Literature, 316 Burrowes Bldg., The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802

Songhay oral tradition; links between the Songhay, Zarma, and Soninké-speaking peoples; the epics of Askia Mohammed and Mali Bero from western Niger; Mande griots and their verbal art.

Hoover Institute, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Martin A. Klein, Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1 Canada

Islam in the Western Sudan, especially Senegal; slavery; imperialism; peasant cultures in the colonial period.

Robert Launay, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201

Social anthropology; the Dyula of northern Côte d'Ivoire, hinterland of Korhogo; contemporary and historical trade and religion, political and social organization; Islam among the Dyula.

Adria LaViolette, Department of Anthropology, Box 1114, Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130

Doctoral candidate (1987); social organization of craft populations; ethnic group formation and reformation; archaeology of the Iron Age in the Middle Niger; the Somono; culture history of the Jenne area; ethnoarchaeology; metallurgy and metallographic analysis; complex society and urbanism.

Nehemia Levtzion, Institute of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel History of the Western Sudan; Arabic sources; pre-colonial Islam in the Middle Volta Basin; ancient Ghana and Mali; rural and urban Islam in West Africa and throughout the sahelian zone.

Barbara C. Lewis, Department of Political Science, Hickman Hall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903

Dyula community and economic networks in Ivory Coast (truckers and market women); agricultural policy, production and politics in West Africa, particularly Côte d'Ivoire.

Main Library E660, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 (Nancy J. Schmidt, African Studies Area Specialist)

Daniel F. McCall, 7 Wigglesworth St., Boston, MA 02120

Anthropology; culture history; Boston University (retired).

E. Ann McDougall, Department of History, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4, Canada

Pre-colonial trade of the Sahara and desert-side economies: salt and slaves; pre-colonial social systems of Mali and Mauritania; women in West African Islamic societies.

Roderick J. McIntosh, Anthropology Department, Rice University, Houston, TX 77251

Archaeology; West-African pre-history; pre-urban process and regional integration; early settlements (AD500-1500) at the sahel-Saharan frontier, inland Niger valley; geomorphology, mechanics of

desertification and human ecological response in the Middle Niger.

Susan K. McIntosh, Anthropology Department, Rice University, Houston, TX 77251

Archaeology; West-African pre-history; early iron-age economy in the inland Niger Delta, Jenne-jeno area; evolution of political complexity in Mande society; food production; early population movements and urban beginnings in the Western Sudan.

Patrick R. McNaughton, Art History Department, School of Fine Arts, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Iron art of the blacksmith in the Western Sudan; art and ritual in Bamana initiation societies; Mande iron technology and sorcery as art; sculptors, ideology and aesthetics.

William Murphy, Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 60201 Liberia and Sierra Leone; symbolism, language and politics.

B. Marie Perinbam, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

Mande/Jula trade; markets and urban development in the Niger and Volta regions; relationships between Mande peoples and traditional gold miners in Bambuhu/Bure and the Black Volta.

Richard Roberts, History Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Bamana and Maraka of Segu and the Middle Niger valley in the 19th and 20th centuries; social and economic history; states, slavery, households and social change; textile history; legal history.

David Robinson, History Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

The 19th-century Western Sudan; Islamic reform movements, especially Umar Tal; the Islamic regime of Futa Toro; oral tradition; Arabic documentation; collaboration between Islamic and colonial authorities in Senegal.

Klana Sanogo, Institut des Science Humaines, B.P. 159, Bamako, Republic of Mali

Directeur General, Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako.

Mahir Saul, Department of Anthropology, 109 Deavenport Hall, 607 S. Mathews Ave., University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Social anthropology, peoples of Burkina Faso; organization of Bobo, Mossi and Bisa farming communities, trade life among the Jula; kinship, stratification, rural Islam, economic life.

Laye Sidibe, Direction Generale de la Culture, B.P. 391, Ministere de l'Information et de la Culture, Conakry, Republic of Guinea

Direction Generale de la Culture, Ministere de l'Information et de la Culture, Conakry.

Carol Spindel, Art Department, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Working on M.A. in art history; studying art history and society of northern Côte d'Ivoire; daily life in Katiali; Senufo potters; indigenous craft technologies.

Menno P. Sypkens Smit, Department of Cultural Anthropology, State University of Utrecht, Postbus 80140, 3508 TC Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Influence of the Mande on the Diola in southwest Senegal and The Gambia.

Tal Tamari, E.N.S. 20, rue Pasteur, 92120 Montrouge, France

Working on doctorat d'Etat, University of Paris, Nanterre. Anthropological and historical study of endogamous artisan and musician groups in caste systems of the Western Sudan including the Manding and Soninke; oral tradition; indigenous religion; Islam.

Jane Turrittin, 100 Albertus Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4R 1J7, Canada

Anthropology; Bamana culture and language; influence of Islam on gender in the Sudan belt; relationship between Islam and economic activity, in particular Wahhabiyyism and economic activity in Mali; promotion of literacy in Bamana - adult education and language policy; Mali *musow*.