



MANSA

Newsletter Number 23 ~ Winter 1993-94

Minutes of the 8th Annual Meeting of the Mande Studies Association / Association des Études Mande

Boston, U.S.A., 5 December, 1993, 5:30 p.m.: MANSA President David Conrad opened the meeting by presenting the annual financial report. As reported in an earlier newsletter, a \$500 contribution had been received from an anonymous MANSA member to replace the partial subsidy to Conrad for travel to the Second Mande Congress in Bamako, approved in February 1993 by Vice-President B. Marie Perinbam, Secretary Kathryn L. Green, and Advisory Board member Robert Launay. The balance in the MANSA account was \$1,036.66, but during the meeting an additional \$415.00 in dues was collected.

MANSA Secretary Kathryn Green was unable to attend the ASA and MANSA meetings. As of December 1993, she will no longer be at the University of Wisconsin. Members will be informed of her plans.

Conrad confirmed further reports of the success of the Bamako Congress, noting with pleasure the involvement of West African participants. He once more expressed MANSA's thanks and appreciation to Kathryn Green for her very capable conference organization, and to Marie Perinbam for her timely intervention in the conference planning. Similar sentiments were expressed to Tereba Togola and Seydou Camara of the Institut des Sciences Humaines in Bamako.

It was agreed that Kathryn Green be asked to report on the possibility of putting the papers together in a publishable form. [Green subsequently reported that she is still waiting for conference participants to send her final versions of their papers.]

The president reported that David Newbury, ASA Board Member, had expressed interest in our experience with the Bamako conference, because there is some interest in the possibility of holding an ASA conference in Dakar sometime in the future. After discussion, members voted to support the principle of a future ASA convention somewhere in Africa, but declined to privilege any city. The vote was 21 in favor, one against, no absentions.

Conrad introduced African visitor Fodé Baba Condé of Kankan, guest of Diane White Oyler of the University of Florida.

With respect to MANSA panels at the ASA meetings, Conrad reminded members that an important function of the organization from its founding in 1986 and one that helped establish its reputation, was the sponsoring of panels. Members wishing to present papers or to organize panels at future ASA meetings are asked to direct ideas or suggestions directly to the president, or to the association's officers. Panels officially sponsored by MANSA appear each year under the organization's aegis in the ASA schedule of meetings and events.

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

The following ideas and/or panel titles were suggested for the ASA meeting in Toronto in November, 1994: [1] "Construction of Gender in Mande Societies," by Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland State University; [2] "Mande Ideology, Power, Status and Legitimacy," by Jeanne Maddox Toungara, University of Virginia; [3] A panel on subjects pertaining to Massa Makhan Diabaté, by James McGuire, Northwestern University; [4] "Identity, Ritual, and the State," by Marie Perinbam, University of Maryland, College Park; [5] "Contemporary Mande Music," by Eric Charry, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Members wishing to participate in any of the above panels are asked to contact the chairpersons. Suggestions for other panels are welcome. Chairpersons are reminded to provide Conrad with details of presenters and paper topics once the panels are organized, in time for the Fall, 1994 Newsletter.

Conrad reported on two different matters pertaining to future conferences. The first of these is to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia (see item below). The second concerns an invitation received from the Centre of Non-Western Studies at Leiden University in The Netherlands. Jan Jansen, a MANSA member and doctoral student at Leiden University is behind this initiative. The proposed conference has already been funded to the tune of Fl. 10,000, approximately \$5,000 U.S. Half of this amount must be used to fund travel to the conference by two West African scholars to be chosen by MANSA.

The invitation proposed that the conference be held in December of 1994. After some discussion the motion was proposed by Lamin Sanneh and seconded by Robert Launay, to accept Dr. Kolff's invitation to sponsor a MANSA conference at Leiden University, on the condition that the dates fall sometime between 20 June and 10 July, 1995 with a preference for June. The motion carried unanimously.

It was suggested that Jansen be asked to provide more detailed information on conference costs not mentioned in the invitation. The question of an overall conference theme was raised and acknowledged to be important, but no conclusion was reached. Concern was also expressed that thought be given to the circulation of papers, because since the March 1993 conference some members have been frustrated in their attempts to acquire those presented in Bamako.

[The official letter of invitation from Professor Kolff of Leiden University is reproduced below, along with Conrad's response which was faxed a few days after the MANSA meeting.]

The attending members voted unanimously to augment the Advisory Board by the addition of two distinguished members, Ariane Deluz of the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale in Paris, and Mamadou Diawara of Bayreuth University in Germany, with the motion to take effect immediately. Conrad asked that members consider who among our colleagues in West Africa might later be added to the Advisory Board. Suggestions should be communicated directly to him.

The meeting concluded with Conrad's announcement that he will be in West Africa, mainly Guinea and Mali, between January and August, 1994. The Spring 1994 MANSA Newsletter will be issued from Bamako, and it will be earlier than usual because Conrad will be there in February. Therefore, items and business for the newsletter should be sent to him c/o PAO/USIS Bamako (Mali), U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20521-2050; Fax 223-222025. Between February and July, contact him c/o PAO/USIS Conakry (Guinea), U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20521-2110; Fax 224-441522. In the U.S., contact B. Marie Perinbam, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; Tel. 301-405-4289; Fax 301-314-9399.



LEIDEN UNIVERSITY

CENTRE OF
NON-WESTERN STUDIES

CNWS

Dr. D. C. Conrad
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History Department
SUNY - Oswego
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USA
FAX: 3153415444

your letter,

93/713

Leiden,

December 1, 1993

Third MANSA Conference

Dear Dr. Conrad,

At the request of one of our junior researchers, Mr. J. Jansen, the board of the Research Institute CNWS, Leiden University, would like to propose to organise the Third MANSA Conference, planned for 7/11 or 14/18 December, 1994. The organisation will be sponsored by the CNWS and by the Africa Studies Centre (ASC), Leiden.

Together the CNWS and the ASC have allocated the maximum sum of Fl. 10,000; at least half of this sum should be spent on travelling fees and other relevant costs to invite two West African scholars to the conference. The other half will be needed to provide basic requirements for the conference, including drinks, lunches, administration, etc. Participants are expected to pay for their own fares, accommodation etc. The CNWS and the ASC will of course help in finding suitable accommodation.

The call for papers and the distribution of the papers will be organised by MANSA.

All meetings will take place in Leiden, which is an old university town that houses, not only the CNWS and the ASC, but also the National Museum of Ethnology with a large African collection. A regular service connects Leiden with Amsterdam (35 min.), Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol; 15 min.); The Hague (15 min.), Rotterdam (30 min.), and Utrecht (50 min.).

Accommodation can be organised in hotels (ca. \$60 per night, per person); a conference centre (ca. \$40 per night); the International Centre of the University (ca. \$20); or a youth hostel.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. dr. D. H. A. Kolff
Director



OSWEGO

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126

10 December, 1993

David C. Conrad
History Department

Professor dr. D.H.A. Kolff, Director
Centre of Non-Western Studies
Leiden University

Dear Professor Kolff,

On behalf of the Mande Studies Association (MANSA), I want to express our appreciation for your offer to host a Conference on Mande Studies at Leiden University.

At the annual MANSA meeting on 6 December, 1993 in Boston, this was a central topic of discussion. It was immediately clear to the attending members that the proposed dates of 7/11 or 14/18 December, 1994 would not be desirable for several reasons, including the fact that they occur during the period occupied by annual meetings held in the United States which many of us must attend, such as the African Studies Association and the American Anthropological Association.

However, the assembled members expressed interest in a conference at Leiden if it could be held at a time when we could expect to draw reasonably good participation from not only the U.S., but from Africa and Europe. A unanimous vote determined that the most desirable date for MANSA would be sometime between 20 June-10 July, 1995, with a preference for June. Clearly everything hinges on whether or not this would be possible in your scheme of things.

If this is possible for the CNWS and ASC at Leiden, MANSA would be willing to issue a call for papers, organize panels, and handle invitations to two West African scholars. In addition to The Netherlands, we have members in France and Germany who have expressed interest in helping with organizational matters in Europe, if needed.

In case our suggested dates are possible for you, I will raise the following questions now: Do the facilities you are offering include meeting rooms? Do they include audio-visual equipment such as slide-projectors, screens, overhead projectors and tape players? Would photocopying be available for reproduction of conference papers? In our experience charges for such things can, unless otherwise provided for, strain the budget. We would like to know of any basic conference facilities not provided, so in the event of going forward with this we could plan fund-raising strategy.

If you respond to this letter after 10 January, 1994, please write c/o PAO/USIS Bamako (Mali), U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20521-2050.
FAX c/o PAO/USIS Bamako, 223-222025.

cc: Jan Jansen

Sincerely yours,

David C. Conrad
President, MANSA

Fulbrights for West Africa Go Begging

An administrator at the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) which, along with the United States Information Agency (USIA) administers the Fulbright program, has expressed concern that too many of the Fulbright grants are going to projects in South Africa, and not enough to West Africa. She has asked that this be brought to the attention of MANSA members who might be interested in winning research or teaching Fulbrights. If you are interested, contact Christine Djondo, Tel. (202) 686-4082. Her address is CIES, 3007 Tilden St., NW, Suite 5M, Washington, D.C. 20008-3009.

Meanwhile, in a recent letter from Guinea, Laura Harris who is there on a Fulbright research grant, writes: "Apparently, the University of Kankan has requested English and History professors (CIES Fulbright) for several years now, but no one has applied for a CIES teaching position."

Bob Newton's Archival Projects in Mali

[Excerpt from a letter to DC datelined Paris, August 4, 1993, received in October]

... While conducting my research in Segou, I've tried to remain sensitive to conditions and needs of Segouvien and Malian institutions and people - researchers and non-intellectuals alike. After taping all and videotaping the first half of a conference of, by, and for Segouviens on their own history, featuring presentations by the mayor, Mamadou Karamoko Simaga and the current "historian laureate", Samba Lamine Traore - all of this done under the auspices of the Direction Regionale de la Jeunesse des Sports des Arts et de la Culture with whom I have developed an interesting symbiotic relationship - I became more acutely aware of the lack of access that Segouvians have to the many studies and papers written about them, their history, and their world - often from afar. It brought into relief my own de facto method of carrying out my research: libraries of Wisconsin and Indiana, bookstores, libraries, and related institutions in Paris (EHESS and INALCO), and soon London (SOAS) - and on this continent, the people, activities, and events in Segou with side trips of only relative productivity to ENSUP and ISH.

This experience has propelled me into a two-pronged project, one half consisting of helping the Institut des Sciences Humaines to reconstruct their archives decimated during the 1991 coup; the other half dedicated to a more difficult and complex plan to organize a museum-archives-reading/listening/viewing room and general tourist center in Segou which would display and retain the artifacts, recordings, manuscripts, videos, books, and articles relating to Segou and its history. In regard to the latter, I am recording and filming events, performances, sites and vestiges related to Segou's putative history and identity as well as contacting researchers who have previously worked in the Segou region be they Malian, French, British, or American. Although at the moment the specifics of realizing such a center are unclear, especially as the wheels inside Mali - national, regional, civic, and within the two institutions previously mentioned are just beginning to turn with great interest and some energy, I have taken it upon myself to initiate the process of compiling bibliographies and discographies of work related to Segou. I'm trying to discern who and what is out there in what form, accessibility, and location....

Yours truly,
Bob Newton, dit Baba Sekou Diabate

Editor's note: Newton expressed interest in "a call for support through the MANSA newsletter if and when things move farther along." However, it seems appropriate to publicize this now, so people can be thinking about what they have to contribute to these projects. Newton can be reached c/o the PAO-USIS, American Embassy, Bamako.

St. Petersburg Conference **"Olderogge Readings"**

On 2-6 May, 1994, there will take place in St. Petersburg (Russia) an annual Conference "Olderogge Readings", dedicated to the memory of the founder of Russian school of African studies, Dmitry Olderogge. Foreign specialists are also invited to participate. Work languages of the conference will be English and French. There will be following sections:

1. Linguistics.
2. History and Ethnology (Social, Cultural, Economical, Political Anthropology).
3. Literature and Folklore Studies.
4. Woman Studies.

There is no participation fee. Unfortunately, organizers of the conference cannot pay travel and stay expenditures of participants, but assistance in dwelling is possible. Titles of communications can be submitted before 1 March, 1994 to the following address: Sevir Chernetsov, Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, 3 University Embankment, St. Petersburg 199 034 Russia, or by e-mail (tseytin@hm-spb-su) to Valentin Vydrin.

L'Harmonisation du Mandenkan

En collaboration avec la Direction Nationale de l'Alphabétisation Fonctionnelle et de la Linguistique Appliquée (DNAFLA), l'ACCT a organisé à Bamako, du 24 au 28 août 1993, un séminaire de concertation sur la relance des travaux de développement harmonisé de la langue mandingue, résolument baptisée en la circonstance, mandenkan.

On sait que depuis 1977, le même organisme avait financé des recherches qui avaient permis entre autres, de procéder aux études dialectales dans les différents pays locuteurs du mandenkan, d'avoir un alphabet, des règles d'orthographe et des terminologies harmonisés.

Cette relance est un nouveau tournant dans la mesure où outre les linguistes, elle a réuni les utilisateurs de la langue écrite (cadres d'alphabétisation, rédacteurs d'ouvrages didactiques, journalistes de la presse écrite), ainsi que des spécialistes des media oraux et audio-visuels de 4 pays, le Burkina-Faso, la Côte d'Ivoire, la Guinée, et le Mali, ainsi que des représentants de la diaspora mandéphone de France.

Des lexiques nationaux et un lexique inter-Etat harmonisé ont été programmés pour le prochain biennium, ainsi qu'un soutien à la presse et à l'édition en langue mandenkan. Des programmes communs d'alphabétisation, des échanges de publications, ainsi que la formation continue des hommes de media ont été également prévus.

C'est le lieu de rappeler aux amis de la langue et de la civilisation manden et particulièrement aux membres de MANSA que toute initiative dans le même sens serait la bienvenue.

Le réseau mis en place pour l'exécution et le suivi des projets a comme siège, la D.N.A.F.L.A., B.P. 62, Bamako; et le coordinateur général est M. Alain N'Do Cissé.

Par Kalilou TERA
08 B.P. 887 Abidjan 08
République de la Côte d'Ivoire

Book & Journal Releases

St. Petersburg Journal of African Studies 1 (1993)

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Linguistics

- I. Diakonoff, A. Militarev, V. Porkhomovsky, O. Stolbova. "On the principles of Afrasian phonological reconstruction"
- K. Pozdniakov. "The complementary distribution of sub-morphemic and morphemic neutralizations as a tendency in the languages with noun classes"
- G. Korshunova, B. Uspensky. "On the parts of speech typology in Hausa: the problem of the adjective"

Philology

- V. Misiugin. "The contribution of the Swahili writer Shaaban Robert to the development of East African thought"

Ethnology and Ethnohistory

- N. Girenko. "Cultures of East Africa in the process of structural transformation (XIX-XX centuries)"
- S. Chernetsov. "On the origin of the Amhara"

Written Source Studies

- V. Velgus. "Chinese voyaging to Africa and to the Persian Gulf: Hypotheses and sources"
- D. Olderogge. "The study of African languages in Russia"

Book Reviews & Information on Dissertations

New & Renewed MANSA Members **Research Specializations & Address Changes**

- Austen, Ralph, Committee on African and Afro-American Studies, University of Chicago, 5828 S. University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637
- Larry Becker, 509 South Randall Avenue, Madison, WI 53715
- Stephen Belcher (Sponsor), Comparative Literature Department, N434 Burrowes Bldg., Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802
- Jean-Louis Bourgeois, P.O. Box 526, El Prado, NM 87529
- George Brooks (Sponsor), History Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
- Eric Charry, School of Music, Brown Music Building, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27412-5001
- Fodé Baba Condé, c/o Nounke Keita, Directeur Générale, Société Navale Guinéenne, B.P. 522, Conakry, Republic of Guinea
- David Conrad (Sponsor), c/o PAO, U.S. Embassy, Bamako, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520
- Ferdinand DeJong, Amsterdam School of Social Research, Ouder Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Research on ethnic mobilization of the Mandinko in the Casamance region of southern Senegal: How "invented traditions" contribute to the construction of ethnic identities
- Ariane Deluz (Sponsor), Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, 52 rue du Cardinale-Lemoine, 75005 Paris, France
- Kate Ezra (Sponsor), Department of Primitive Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Avenue at 82nd St., New York, NY 10025

James Fairhand, Department of Anthropology, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0X0, England

Barbara Frank (Sponsor), Department of Art, SUNY-Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5400

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Stephen Harmon, Department of History, Arkansas State University, P.O. Drawer 1690, State University, AR 72467

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Barbara Hoffman (Sponsor), Department of Anthropology, Cleveland State University, Euclid Avenue at East 124th Street, Cleveland, OH 44115

Allen Howard (Sponsor), Department of History, Van Dyck Hall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903

John Hutchison, African Studies Center, Boston University, 270 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215
Research in Linguistic and Cultural Reform and Education in Mali: Theory and Practice

James A. Jones (Sponsor), 506 Main Hall, West Chester, PA 19383

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Nehemia Levzion, Institute of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

Barbara Lewis (Sponsor), 252 Lincoln Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904

Francois Manchuelle, History Department, Bowdoin University

Roderick J. and Susan Keech McIntosh (Sponsors), Department of Anthropology, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251

Kate Modic, Folklore/Musicology, 417 N. Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408

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Julianne E. Short, Department of Anthropology, Student Building 130, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Raymond A. Silverman, Department of Art, Kresge Art Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824

Gordon C. Thomasson, 280 Academy Drive, Vestal, NY 13850 (Address change)

Carol Thompson, The Museum for African Art, 593 Broadway, New York, NY 10012

Jeanne M. Tountara (Sponsor), History Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903

Karim Traoré, Universität Bayreuth, Afrikanistik I, Postfach 101251, 95440 Bayreuth, Germany

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Donald R. Wright, Department of History, P.O. Box 2000, SUNY-Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045

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