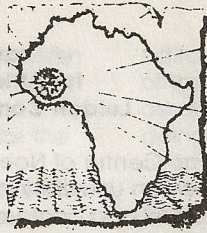


Mande Studies Association



Association des Etudes Mande

MANSA

Newsletter Number 24 -- Spring 1994

**Conference on Mande Studies
Leiden University**

To: MANSA Members
From: David Conrad

MANSA Newsletter #23 included a letter from Professor D.H.A. Kolff of the Centre of Non-Western Studies (CNWS) at Leiden University, outlining their offer to host an international conference on Mande studies, including the allocation of funds to pay the expenses of two West African scholars to attend the conference. CNWS proposed conference dates of 7-11 or 14-18 December, 1994. Members attending the MANSA meeting of 6 December, 1993 voted for dates anytime between 20 June and 10 July, 1995.

Soon after mailing Newsletter #23, I received notice from CNWS that our proposed dates were too late in the year. Their counter-proposal was for March, 1995, and they followed this with a fax sent 23-12-93, setting specific dates of 20-24 March. I immediately sent out a special mailing to members, explaining the CNWS position, and requesting that members notify me regarding their feelings about attending a conference at Leiden on those dates. I requested an early response to my question because it would be necessary to respond to the CNWS proposal within the next few months, long before our meeting in Toronto. I also wanted information in time for this newsletter.

Members who have responded positively (I received no objections) by telephone, in writing to me or to Vice-President Marie Perinbam, or who have spoken personally to me in Guinea or Mali, include: Jon Anderson, Mary Jo Arnoldi, Stephen Belcher, Sarah Brett-Smith, Stephen Bühnen, Eric Charry, Fodé Baba Condé, Boubacar Hama Diaby, Gérard Dumestre, Barbara Frank, Alma Gottlieb, John Hansen, Laura Harris, Eugenia Herbert, Jan Jansen, Raimund Kastenholz, Martin Klein, Dolores Koenig, Namankoumba Kouyaté, Pekka Masonen, Roderick McIntosh, Djibril Tamsir Niane, Marie

Perinbam, Ingse Skattum, Tereba Togola, and Clemens Zobel.

On the basis of these responses from interested MANSA members, I have faxed CNWS accepting their offer to host a conference on Mande studies at Leiden University during the period 20-24 March, 1995. These dates correspond to an archaeology program to be hosted by Dr. Roger Bedaux, in which some African archaeologists will be brought to Leiden. Therefore, there will actually be more than two funded African scholars attending the Mande studies conference.

Coordinated with both the archaeology program and the Mande studies conference is an exhibition scheduled for the Leiden Ethnological Museum during the proposed time of the conference. This is not the Vallée du Niger exhibit (which was scheduled for February, 1994), but a special exhibit on Jenne.

In addition to the CNWS reasons for the March dates detailed in my special mailing, CNWS has taken into account the dates of Ramadan (ending around 10 March that year) and Easter (16 April). Our March dates will make it difficult for those involved with preparations for the next ACASA Triennial Symposium on African Art scheduled for April, 1995 in New York City, though some have declared their intention to attend the Leiden conference in any case.

Regarding the availability of facilities during the conference: Rooms, slide projectors and all other necessary equipment will be available. However, photocopying in Holland is extremely expensive. Therefore, in that country it will not be possible to reproduce copies of the papers for distribution. A strategy for accomplishing distribution of papers can be discussed at the MANSA meeting in Toronto.

David C. Conrad
MANSA President

DAVID C. CONRAD, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego
B. MARIE PERINBAM, *Vice President*, University of Maryland
KATHRYN L. GREEN, *Secretary*
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ARIANE DELUZ, *Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociologique*
MAMADOU DIAWARA, *Universität Bayreuth*
LANSINE KABA, *University of Illinois-Chicago*
ROBERT LAUNAY, *Northwestern University*

**Participation à la conférence de Leyde
sur les études mandé frais de voyage
disponibles pour des universitaires africaines**

Le centre des études non-occidentales de l'université Leyde (CNWS) aux Pays Bas, financera le voyage et les frais de séjour pour deux universitaires africaines qui seront sélectionnés pour participer à la conférence internationale sur les études Mandé. Cette conférence se tiendra à Leyde du 20 au 24 Mars 1995. Le concours est ouvert à tous les universitaires africains résidant actuellement en Afrique.

Les gagnants de ce concours seront sélectionnés en fonction de la qualité des articles qu'ils auront écrits, et dans le but de les présenter à la conférence de Leyde. Nous encourageons les universitaires qui n'ont jamais eu la possibilité de participer à une conférence en dehors de l'Afrique à poser leur candidature.

Les articles gagnants seront ceux qui fournissent de nouvelles informations, exprimées clairement, de manière concise et réfléchie. Les candidats à ce don devront faire attention à ne pas répéter des informations déjà publiées. Par exemple, les articles décrivant la structure sociale du Mandé traditionnel dans ses formes de base ou qui relate simplement l'histoire traditionnelle de la lignée familiale de la personne qui écrit n'ont pratiquement aucune chance d'être retenus. Un article gagnant serait un article qui ferait évoluer notre connaissance du sujet choisi au delà de la connaissance actuelle. Il devrait par exemple donner de nouvelles informations sur la façon dont l'héritage culturel, les valeurs et les croyances mandingues ont influencé l'art, par exemple la sculpture, la musique, le théâtre, la littérature, ou comment ces derniers ont affecté les programmes économiques et politiques, les habitudes au niveau de l'environnement etc....

Note: Les deux gagnants du don de voyage seront sélectionnés par un groupes de juges anonymes. Le président de MANSA, David Conrad, ne fera pas partie du jury.

La date limite pour le dépôt des candidatures est le 1er octobre 1994. Cette date limite doit être respectée parce que les membres du jury doivent bénéficier d'un laps de temps suffisant pour la lecture des articles pour la prise de décision. Dès que les gagnants auront été prévenus, ils auront besoin de temps pour préparer leur voyage. Au cas ou un gagnant ne pourrait pas voyager à Leyde, nous espérons avoir assez de temps pour sélectionner une autre personne pouvant assister à la conférence.

Veuillez envoyer vos articles à Professor B. Marie Perinbam, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, U.S.A.
[We are grateful to Evelyn Petrus of USIS Conakry for this French translation.]

**Travel Funds Available
for African Scholars to Attend
Leiden Conference on Mande Studies**

The Center of Non-Western Studies (CNWS) of Leiden University in The Netherlands will fund the travel and conference expenses of two African scholars who will be selected to attend the International Conference on Mande Studies to be held at Leiden 20-24 March, 1995. The contest is open to any African scholar presently residing in Africa.

Winners of the travel grants will be selected on the basis of the quality of papers written by them for presentation at the conference in Leiden. Scholars who have never had the opportunity to travel to a conference outside of Africa are especially encouraged to apply.

The papers may be written in French or English on any subject of Mande history, politics, economics, religion, philosophy, geography, traditional or modern culture and society, art, music, language and literature, environmental studies, health sciences, and education.

Winning papers will be those which present new information clearly, concisely, and thoughtfully expressed. Applicants for grants should make every possible effort to not repeat information that is already part of the published literature. For example, papers describing such things as the traditional Mande social structure in its most basic form, or which simply relate the traditional history of the writer's family lineage are not likely to achieve the desired result. A winning paper would be one which moves our knowledge of the chosen subject somewhat beyond its present position. It should, for example, provide some new insight into how Mande cultural background, values and beliefs have influenced the arts (e.g., sculpture, music, theater, literature), or how they affect political and economic policies, environmental use, and the like.

Note: The two winners of travel grants will be selected by an anonymous panel of judges, and MANSA President David Conrad will not be involved in this process.

The deadline for submission of papers is 1 October, 1994. This deadline must be observed because the judges must have plenty of time to read the papers and make their decisions. Once winners are notified of their awards, they will need time to make travel arrangements. In the event that a winner cannot make the journey to Leiden, we hope to have enough remaining time to select an alternate who can attend the conference.

Send your paper to: Professor B. Marie Perinbam, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, U.S.A.

Conference on Mande Studies, Leiden University: Call for Papers and Panel Chairs

So far, no overall theme has been specified for the conference at Leiden. Suggestions for a conference theme can be sent directly to Vice-President Marie Perinbam. Meanwhile, it is most urgent that MANSA members planning to participate in the Leiden conference begin to organize panels or round-table discussions.

At this point it would be most helpful if several people would volunteer to chair panels or discussions, and then begin to contact potential panelists. Please send offers to chair panels and/or suggestions for panel subjects and paper topics directly to B. Marie Perinbam, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, U.S.A. When David Conrad returns from Africa early in September, he and Perinbam will confer and then contact panel chairs and other participants. Progress will be reported in the Fall newsletter (#25), and final details on the conference theme and panel topics can be ironed out at the MANSA meeting in Toronto.

1993 Victor Turner Prize to Gottlieb and Graham

A book co-authored by Alma Gottlieb and Philip Graham, *Parallel Worlds: An Anthropologist and a Writer Encounter Africa*, which was published last April by Crown/Random House, was recently awarded the 1993 Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing. The prize is awarded annually by the Society for Humanistic Anthropology and is presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Intended for a general audience, *Parallel Worlds* is a personal memoir of the time spent by the authors among the Beng, a Southern Mande-speaking people of Côte d'Ivoire. In a statement about the book, one of the judges wrote,

Not only is the anthropology engagingly presented, but also the writing is exquisite.... There is a book that succeeds both in terms of literary and ethnographic writing.... This is ethnographic writing as it should be done.... *Parallel Worlds*... sings.

The book will be released as a paperback in August 1994 by the University of Chicago Press.

Tereba Togola and Roderick McIntosh Direct Further Archaeological Work at Jenne, Mali.

In January and February of 1994, Tereba Togola and Roderick McIntosh directed an archaeological survey of the ancient sites, including Jenne-Jeno, lying on the outskirts of today's city of Jenne. The

editor of the MANSA Newsletter spent the final week of the survey with the archaeological team, and asked McIntosh to describe what they had been doing at Jenne. McIntosh's remarks are condensed as follows:

"When we investigate urbanism in a place like Jenne-Jeno, we are interested in questions such as, How large was the community? What kind of space did the community occupy at different times during its base occupation? and How diverse was the population at a given time? This leads to an investigation of specialization. Were people specialized in food production as you find in the area today, with Fulani pastoralists, Bambara millet farmers, and Bozo barrage fishermen? Some occupations, such as blacksmithing, are more easily uncovered by archaeologists, and other occupations, such as cordonniers, are more difficult to find, but they are all important in the development of urbanism.

"To investigate the diversity of the population, we had a team begin with a systematic surface recording of features and, in many cases, of artifacts, on all of the satellite sites and at Jenne-Jeno itself. The surface was carefully combed and its features (e.g., walls, funerary urns, houses, iron furnaces, etc.) marked and classified. This offers some clue as to the different functions of sites and the variability or specialization of the population. In addition to Jenne-Jeno are 65 satellite sites, all occupied at the same time, some of which have already shown strong evidence of specialization.

"In order to assess how large communities were at different times, we used a technique that involves putting an auger screw 50 or 70 mms into the ground. The idea was that we would find enough pottery and stratigraphic information in order to determine how large an area was occupied at a given time. Core samples were taken at Jenne-Jeno and the satellite sites, but, unfortunately, not a lot of pottery was uncovered, and in other cases, the core pulverized and homogenized the different strata. Then, at the prompting of the Institut des Sciences Humaines in Bamako, we used this technique on looters' holes. Four or five cores were done at looters' holes in sites of different base materials (e.g., sandy material, clay, light loams) in order to determine the juncture between the disturbed material and the looters' hole. Then we did 34 cores in the town of Jenne itself. Oral traditions point to a brief period of simultaneous occupation of Jenne-Jeno and Jenne, and current historical consensus has it that only with the abandonment of Jenne was there a movement of the population to Jenne. The 34 cores of archaeological deposits (at depths of 3 to 7 meters) provide strong evidence that Jenne was occupied by A.D. 500 or earlier, and that during the heyday of Jenne-Jeno (A.D. 500 to ca A.D. 1000), at least half of the satellite sites and most of the surface area of Jenne was occupied. This implies a very large population. Where this population goes in the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries, when there was massive

abandonment of the site, is now in some ways an even greater question. There was a movement of at least part of the population to Jenne, but since Jenne was already occupied, there is a large population that remains unaccounted for."

Union Mandeng: A New Cultural Organization of the Mande World

At a meeting of the Union Mandeng in Conakry on 30 January, 1994, MANSA President David Conrad (aka Dauda Condé) was introduced by Fodé Baba Condé to more than four thousand assembled members. After Fodé Baba offered a brief description and history of the Mande Studies Association, Conrad was asked to speak, and he responded with edited excerpts from his address given in March, 1993 at the opening of the International Conference on Mande Studies in Bamako, Mali (see MANSA Newsletter #21). Since this initial encounter in Conakry, the MANSA President has met Union Mandeng members in Kankan, Siguiri, and Kissidougou. Membership in the Union Mandeng is rapidly growing, and is spreading beyond the borders of Guinea into neighboring Mande areas. So far it appears to be as described: An organization founded to promote awareness and appreciation of Mande history and culture among youth of the Mande world, in order to preserve it for future generations. Whatever political ramifications might eventually emerge are not now readily evident, but one remains sensitive to potential problems that could evolve if such manifestations were to arise. At the meeting in Conakry, upon conclusion of Conrad's remarks, he was addressed by the secretary on behalf of the officers and members of the Union Mandeng. The secretary's statement to the MANSA President is reproduced here because it conveys not only a greeting to all MANSA members, but also a sense of what the Union Mandeng appears to be about:

"Monsieur le président de MANSA. Au nomme des femmes de l'Union Mandeng. Au nom des jeunes et des vieux de l'Union Mandeng. Au nom des hommes et des femmes, le doyen de l'Union Mandeng me charge de vous souhaiter la bienvenue au Mande. L'Union Mandeng que vous avez devant vous ce matin a on le jour des suites d'une longue reflexion des sages. Elle est née pour sauver la culture Mandeng dont les sages ont vu en voix de disparition par le choc avec la culture occidentale et Islamique. Union Mandeng est une association qui est chargée de cultiver à la jeune génération la culture de nos ancêtres.

"Vous avez touchée notre coeur avec votre parole de l'esprit du Manden. Le doyen me charge de vous dire de bien vouloir transmettre le salutation du peuple de Manden à tous les membres de MANSA. Il est très heureux de recevoir vos dix noix de kola et la somme de FG 5,000. Ce geste symboli que lui a

montré que vous êtes vraiment du Mandé, car la kola est le symbole du respect.

"A partir de l'instant considerez vous ici comme dans votre pays. Vous avez quitté chez vous et vous êtes venu chez vous. Partout où vous irez au Mandeng vous êtes chez vous de ce fait le doyen est très très content du fait qu'il y a une association des chercheurs qui s'occupe du Manden, donc le Manden est la pour tous le monde.

"Vous avez touchée notre coeur. Nous vous souhaitons une bonne chance dans votre recherche et aussi un bon séjour au Mande. Merci. Ini tyé."

MANSA Representative Needed for African Studies Association Panels Committee

The African Studies Association has launched a search for National Panels Chairs or Co-chairs for both the 1996 Annual Meeting to be held in San Francisco, and the 1997 Annual Meeting to be held in Norfolk, Virginia. One of the Panel Chair's responsibilities will be to oversee a Panels Committee (nationally recruited and appointed in consultation with the ASA Board) to assist in the various tasks involving the organization of panels for the Annual Meeting. According to ASA News (January/March 1994, p. 33), this committee is supposed to include representatives of ASA sub-groups such as MANSA. This will be an important position for MANSA members to hold from one year to the next. In the ensuing years we will need representatives on this committee who will look out for our interests in getting panels approved and scheduled with as few conflicts as possible. Those interested in serving as our first representative on this committee should plan to attend our 1994 meeting in Toronto so we can choose and submit a name to the ASA Panels Chair.

African Archivists Conference in Conakry, Guinea

The Seminaire Guinée sur la Gestion des Documents et des Archives en Afrique was held in Conakry 5-8 January, 1994. The following list of participants was provided by Seydouba Cissé of the National Archives of Guinea-Conakry:

ANGOLA
Madame Rosa Marie Cruz y Silva, Directeur
Arquivo Histórico Nacional
Centro Nacional de Documentação e Investigação
Histórica (C.N.D.I.H.)
Rua Pedro Félix Machado, No. 49
Luanda

BENIN

Madam Elise R. Paraiso, Directeur
 Direction des Archives Nationales
 B.P. 629
 Rue de l'Inspection
 Porto Novo

BURKINA FASO

Monsieur Didier Ouedraogo, Directeur
 Centre National des Archives
 Présidence du Faso
 B.P. 7030
 Ouagadougou

BURUNDI

Monsieur Guillaume Ruzoviyo
 Département des Archives et Bibliothèque
 Nationales
 Direction centrale, B.P. 1095
 Roheroll - Avenue Kunkiko
 Bujumbura

CAMEROON/CAMEROUN

Monsieur Bernard Patrick Ayuck, Directeur
 Direction des Archives Nationales
 B.P. 1053
 Yaoundé

CAPE VERDE/CAP-VERT

Monsieur José Maria Almeida, Directeur
 Arquivo Histórico Nacional
 C.P. 321
 Chã de Areia
 Praia

COTE D'IVOIRE

Monsieur Kouassi Missa, Directeur
 Archives Nationales
 B.P. V-126
 Abidjan

GABON

Monsieur René Georges Sonnet-Azize
 Directeur des Archives Nationales
 Direction générales des Archives Nationales
 Bibliothèque Nationale et Documentation
 B.P. 1188
 Libreville

GUINEA/GUINEE

Monsieur Almany Stell Conté, Directeur
 Archives Nationales
 B.P. 1005
 Conakry

GUINEA-BISSAU/GUINEE BISSAU

Monsieur Peter Karibe Mendy
 Coordinateur du CEHC et des Archives Historiques
 Institut National d'Etudes et de Recherches (INER)
 B.P. 112
 Complexo Escolar 14 de Novembro
 Bairro Cobornel
 Bissau

MALI

Monsieur Ali Ongoïba, Directeur
 Archives Nationales
 B.P. 159
 Bamako

NIGER

Monsieur Idrissa Yansambou, Directeur
 Archives Nationales du Niger
 B.P. 550
 Niamey

RWANDA

Monsieur Aloye Semasaka
 Chef de Division A.I.
 Service des Archives Nationales
 Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la
 Recherche Scientifique et de la Culture
 B.P. 624
 Kigali

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE

M. Dougenio Narciso, Documentaliste
 Service d'Archives
 Ministerio dos Assuntos Sociais
 Direcção Nacional de Cultura
 B.P. 87
 Sao Tome

SENEGAL

Monsieur Saliou Mbaye, Directeur
 Archives du Sénégal
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 Avenue Roume
 Dakar

Personnes Resources

Monsieur Seydouba Cissé
 Archives Nationales
 B.P. 1005
 Conakry, Guinea

Monsieur Jean le Pottier, Directeur
 Service des Archives Départementales de l'Hérault
 B.P. 1266
 2 Avenue de Casteinau
 34011 Montpellier cedex, France

Madame Suzanne Richer
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 Banque d'Information des Etats francophones (BIEF)
 a/s Secrétariat d'Etat du Canada
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Madame Paule René-Bazin
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 60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois
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MANSA Newsletter from Guinea-Conakry

This issue of *MANSA Newsletter* was edited in
Conakry, and is the first to be published in West
Africa. It was edited with the generous assistance
of Laura A. Harris, without whose word-processing
skills the newsletter's new look would not have been
possible.

Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership

Regular and institutional membership \$10, students
\$5, sponsoring membership \$25. Make check out to
MANSA and (if you are joining) send with your
institutional affiliation and a brief description of your
research interests to: David C. Conrad, P.O. Box 72,
Stinson Beach, CA 94970, U.S.A.