

MANSA NEWSLETTER

MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES ETUDES MANDE

NUMBER 4, JANUARY, 1988

A Special Notice to Our Members in West Africa

If you are receiving the MANSA Newsletter, you are an official, sponsored member of the Association. Therefore, we want to publish a brief description of your research specialization, administrative duties, or occupational specialty, whatever it may be. We will also publish notices of your recent publications, or notices of anything that would be of interest to our members. Write it in French or English the way you would like to see it in the newsletter, and send it to MANSA, c/o David C. Conrad, History Department, S.U.N.Y.-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, U.S.A.

Minutes of the Second Annual Meeting

The second annual meeting of MANSA was called to order at 5:30 on November 20, 1987.

David Conrad gave a membership report indicating that there are 62 paying members. With newsletter and publicity costs (including sending newsletters gratis to interested Africans) the organization has a negative balance of \$26.17.

David suggested that in order to avoid financial problems something should be done about the dues structure. A lively discussion ensued, involving debate over a tiered dues structure, the advisability of keeping dues low to attract more members, and the need for sponsoring membership in order to be able to continue sending the newsletter to people in Africa who have monetary exchange problems.

Gerry Cashion made a motion, which was seconded, of having a sponsoring membership category of \$25/year and keeping normal dues at \$5. After discussion the motion carried with a vote of 11 for and 2 opposed. George Brooks made a motion, which was seconded, to add a student membership category with a dues of \$2. The motion carried on voice vote. Further along in the meeting a motion for institutional membership of \$10 was proposed and carried. Dues were then collected in the meeting--a good sum of money was raised, with several people paying sponsoring membership dues.

David Conrad then urged that members who move notify us of their changes of address. It costs the organization extra postage to send out a newsletter twice to the same person. He also suggested that people update their field experience periodically. The Newsletter can present members' research activities in each issue.

A new section of the newsletter will consist of a listing of titles of new publications by members.

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

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

Secretary: Kathryn L. Green (University of Florida)

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

Members are encouraged to send in citations of all their publications as they appear, so we can keep each other informed about our publishing efforts.

It was suggested to the President that, to avoid extra correspondence, a clip-off form be added to the newsletter so interested persons can send in the form with their dues.

Having heard from several people during the past year that they were dissatisfied with the MANSA logo, David Conrad raised the question of whether or not people would like to change it. Probably due to time constraints and the call of the Indiana party, a motion was immediately made and passed that we keep the logo as it is.

Under "New Business" a motion was made and carried that the MANSA officers and board members' terms of office shall for the time-being remain indefinite.

Kathy Green discussed the MANSA membership announcements. In her trip to Senegal, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire this past summer she handed out and posted numerous announcements of the organization, that had been prepared in French by Robert Launay. She found much interest in MANSA, and she encourages other members to write to MANSA for copies of the English and French announcements which they can photocopy and take with them on their research trips to Africa and Europe.

The members discussed MANSA-sponsored panels for next year's ASA meeting. Topics were suggested and a call for presenters is now issued. For those panels listed that contain the names of panel chairpersons, interested members are requested to write directly to the chairperson. For those without chairs, those interested can write to David Conrad. Addresses are provided in the updated membership list. It should be remembered that all chairpersons and presenters on MANSA-sponsored panels must be current dues-paying members of MANSA. The following topics are tentative suggestions; we do not expect to actually sponsor this many panels:

- I Politics and History in the Mande World
- II Savanna and Forest in Mande History. Chair: Ariane Deluz
- III The Ethnography of Mande Ethnography. Chair: Bonnie Kendall
- IV *Nyamakalaw* in the Mande World.
- V General bibliography catch-up panel. Chair: Joe Lauer (?).
- VI The state of Mande Art Historical Studies.
- VII *Karamogow* and *Jeliw*.
- VIII State Building in the Mande World: Ancient Mali and Successor States Compared.
- IX Oral and Written Tradition Among the Mande.
- X Islam and Politics in the Mande World.
- XI Mande Esthetics and Music.
- XII Life and Death in Mande Cosmology.
- XIII Mande Response to Western Education.

Next, the sharing of archival materials was discussed. Kathy Green suggested that the newsletter could be used for requesting copies or notes from materials with particular *cotes* or call numbers. People in need of a photocopy or notes from particular archival documents could request that a notice be put in the newsletter. Those who possess photocopies or notes from the cited document can then make them available to their fellow member. It was also suggested that this material be made available to libraries for a nominal fee. Time constraints did not allow us to discuss this matter further.

Patrick McNaughton suggested the sharing of Mande vocabulary with a cross index system by

circulating a computer disc. Participants would add their contributions to the disc, make a copy, and send it on the the next user. We are told that a student in Sierra Leone, Chris Geary, has begun this project.

Robert Handloff announced that people who have done work in the Ivory Coast can send slides or photographs (black and white or color) of ethnographic subjects, e.g., scenes of daily life, for use in a new edition of the country handbooks for which the Library of Congress now has a contract.

Richard Roberts announced that he is now an editor of *African Economic History* and would like manuscripts from MANSA members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Kathryn L. Green
Secretary

African Contributions in Lieu of Dues

Several members of MANSA attending the ASA meeting in Denver expressed their awareness and concern regarding the fact that our colleagues in Africa have a serious logistical problem when it comes to trying to submit dues. Although for those of us in the United States, Canada, and Europe, the dues are relatively modest, our members residing in Africa are confronted with much extra time and expense involved in converting money, purchasing money orders, and sending them from Africa to MANSA headquarters. This increases the cost for them to an unreasonable level, and we therefore voted in favor of an optional Sponsor's Membership fee that will allow us to sponsor the membership of our African colleagues. Philip Ravenhill suggests that when our African members publish an article or prepare a document that they would like to share, they send a copy of it to MANSA headquarters for distribution among the membership. Titles and brief descriptions of these things will be published in the newsletter, informing members that they are available.

Mansa Logo

In light of the apparent lack of interest in the logo at the annual meeting in Denver, I propose that we use the heading without the Indian headband/cactus motif, as on Newsletter #3 (with the map marked "MANDE"), unless and until an alternative logo is proposed. This heading is direct, effective and can be done on the computer.

Barbara Frank
The University of Tulsa

Chiefly Gowns and Regalia

"Chiefly Gowns and Regalia: Portraits of Sierra Leonean Paramount Chiefs", an exhibition of photographs by Vera Viditz-Ward and accompanying text by Joseph Opala, will be on exhibit January 14-February 14, 1988 at the Alexandre Hogue Gallery, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

New and Renewed MANSA Members, and Field and Research Specialization of New Members

(Members who have not yet published descriptions of their research specialization in the newsletter, or who wish to update them, are invited to submit them as soon as possible, so they can be included in the next issue.)

Kathi Austin, 204 S.W. 3rd Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

Larry Becker, Geography Department, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London,
Malet Street WC1E 7HP, England

Charles Bird (Sponsor), Department of Linguistics, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
 George E. Brooks, History Department, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
 Barbara Cashion, 5800 Broadmoor Street, Alexandria, VA 22310; Physical Anthropology
 Gerald Cashion (Sponsor), Bureau for Africa, Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C. 20523 (Sponsor)
 David C. Conrad (Sponsor), History Department, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126
 Ariane Deluz (Sponsor), Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, 52 rue du Cardinale-Lemoine, 75005 Paris, France
 Risa Ellovich, 1885 Bellwood Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27605
 Barbara Frank (Sponsor), Art Department, University of Tulsa, 600 S. College Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-3189
 Kathryn L. Green (Sponsor), Department of History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611
 Maria Grosz-Ngaté, 2017 E. Genesee St., TH D, Syracuse, NY 13210
 Bamana social organization and integration into the commodity nexus; Marriage and its transformation; Political economy and history of urban strip cloth production; Social significance of handwoven cloth in the context of West African fashions and their diffusion; Gender, self, and changing modes of dress.
 Thomas Hale, French Department, Comparative Literature, 316 Burrowes Bldg., The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802
 Robert Handloff, 1824 Kenyon St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010
 Steve Harmon, 1737 Butler #2, Los Angeles, CA 90025
 Allen Howard, Department of History, Yan Dyck Hall, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903
 Lansiné Kaba, Black Studies Program (M/C 069), The University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Arts and Sciences, Box 4348, Chicago, Illinois 60680
 Martha Kendall, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
 Roderick Knight, Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, 44074
 M. Kassim Kone, B.P. 2284, Bamako, Mali; Longtime assistant and friend of American researchers in Mali.
 Robert Launay (Sponsor), Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201
 Robert S. Leopold, Department of Anthropology, Rawles Hall 108, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405
 Nehemia Levtzion, Institute of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
 Barbara C. Lewis, 252 Lincoln Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904
 Simon Ottenberg, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195
 Philip L. Ravenhill, Chief Curator, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560
 Lamin Sanneh, Harvard School of Divinity, 45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138
 David E. Skinner, Department of History, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053
 Bakary Sidibe, Conservator, Oral History Division, Vice President's Office, Banjul, The Gambia
 Bill Siegmann, The Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY, 11238
 Kalilou Tera, ILA, 08 BP 887, Abidjan 08, Côte d'Ivoire
 Gordon Thomasson, 110 MCKB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602
 Jeanne Maddox Toungara, History Department, Howard University, P.O. Box 6256, Washington D.C. 20015
 Peter M. Weil, Anthropology Department, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711
 Donald R. Wright, Department of History, P.O. Box 2000, State University of New York-Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045