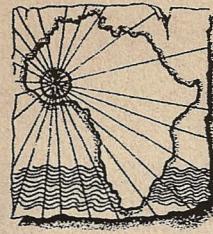


Mande Studies Association



Association des Etudes Mande

M A N S A

Newsletter Number 61 - Fall 2007

MANSA Meeting

The twenty-second annual meeting of the Mande Studies Association will be held in New York City at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, Friday, October 19th 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

7th International Conference on Mande Studies, Lisbon, Portugal, June 24-28, 2008 SCHEDULE OF DEADLINES

November 1, 2007: Panel chairs to issue general list-serv notices of their panels, requesting submission of titles and abstracts.

December 31, 2007: Submission of papers to Kassim Koné by West African colleagues residing in West Africa who wish to compete for funding to attend the conference. (This means Dr. Koné must receive the papers by this date.)

January 1, 2008: Membership renewals to Laura Arntson.

February 1, 2008: Submission of paper proposals to panel chair/organizers.

February 1: Deadline for submission to David Conrad of unattached (i.e. not already part of a panel) paper titles & abstracts

February 1: Conference registration and submission of fees to Laura Arntson.

February 15: Board/Jury members' evaluation and ranking of West African colleagues' papers to be returned to Kassim Koné.

March 1: West African colleagues notified of funding competition results by Kassim Koné.

March 15: Submission to David Conrad of all completed panels for the conference program.

Eminent Malians Depart for *lahara*

LANSINE DIABATE

By Jan Jansen

Kela's kumatigi Lansiné Diabate died on June 28 in Bamako, weakened by recent surgery. *Ala ka hine a la*. During his life, Lansine (born 1926) was the host of many researchers, and many more know him from making recordings with him. He was appointed as Kela's *kumatigi* in 1989. His funeral (3rd, 7th and 40th day ceremonies joined) was held in Kela on Thursday, July 5.

Personally, I have had the opportunity to make dozens of recordings with him, and his words are the basis of my academic career. I am most honored that I have had the chance to work with such an extraordinary person.

Lansiné's son Damori can be contacted at number (+) 223 51 89 520

David C. Conrad, *President*, State University of New York-Oswego
Kassim Koné, *Vice-President*, State University of New York-Cortland
Laura Arntson, *Secretary-Treasurer*, USAID
Advisory Board

Seydou Camara, Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako
P.F. de Moraes Farias, Birmingham University, U.K.
Allen Howard, Rutgers University

Barbara Hoffman, Cleveland State University
Dolores Koenig, American University
Valentine Vydrine, St. Petersburg, Russia

Eminent Malians to Lahara (continued)

By Nienke Muurling and Boubakar Diabaté:
Yesterday evening Seydou Diabaté from Kela (son of the late Laji Yamudu, and nephew of Lansiné Diabaté) called us to let us know that the funeral for Lansiné (3rd, 7th and 40th day ceremony joined) turned out to be a big event. Many people came to Kela to commemorate Lansine Diabate, amongst others an official delegation from IBK, Mali's former Prime Minister. Seydou was especially touched by the attention from different researchers, all MANSA colleagues. But I think Lansiné was worth it. One of my last memories of Lansiné is that we were in a 4x4 together on the bumpy road from Kela to Siby where he did a wonderful performance, notwithstanding his fatigue, for a delegation from the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development of the Netherlands. Of course I would like to join the others in their blessings.
Ala ka hine a la. Ala ka jafa a ma. Ala ka dayoro suma.

MAMADOU LAMINE TRAORE

By Karim Traoré

Professor Mamadou Lamine Traore died on July 22 in Bamako. Koro Mala was one of the most consequential Malian/African intellectuals and politicians, always refusing any form of compromise. Many of our Malian colleagues were Koro Mala's students either at high school or at the ENSUP. May he rest in peace.

By B. Touré, *L'Essor* 24 juillet 2007 (extrait)

Disparition du Pr Mamadou Lamine Traoré:
L'Hommage de la Nation.

L'émotion était grande hier après-midi sur l'esplanade du Centre international de conférence où ont eu lieu des funérailles nationales organisées à la mémoire du ministre de l'Éducation nationale Mamadou Lamine Traoré, décédé samedi dernier. Le président de la République Amadou Toumani Touré a présidé la cérémonie en présence du Premier ministre Ousmane Issoufi Maïga, de nombreux membres du gouvernement, des représentants du corps diplomatique, des organisations internationales, des responsables des organisations religieuses. Tout a commencé par une émouvante marche

funèbre de soldats portant le corps. La séquence a arraché des larmes à de nombreuses personnes dans l'assistance. Ensuite le Pr Mamadou Lamine Traoré sera fait commandeur de l'ordre national du Mali par le chef de l'État Amadou Toumani Touré. Son camarade de parti, le Pr Mamadou Kassa Traoré lui a rendu un hommage appuyé au nom des militants du Miria, la formation politique qu'il dirigeait. Il a salué en Mamadou Lamine Traoré un "militant indomptable, un patriote convaincu, un homme entier" qui a résisté aux dérives de notre "société en proie à la crise de foi en rien".

Le Premier ministre Ousmane Issoufi Maiga, qui a prononcé l'oraison funèbre, a indiqué qu'"avec la disparition du Pr Mamadou Lamine Traoré, le Mali, le monde de l'éducation et la classe politique perdent un homme de culture, un combattant intrépide de la liberté et de la démocratie". Le chef du gouvernement a ensuite révélé que l'homme qui vient d'être arraché à l'affection de toute la nation, est né le 2 janvier 1947 à Bamako où il fit ses études primaires et secondaires à l'école Mamadou Konaté (ex école rurale de Bamako) et au lycée Terrasson de Fougères (actuel lycée Askia Mohamed).

Mamadou Lamine Traoré a ensuite décroché une maîtrise en philosophie antique avant d'achever son parcours universitaire à l'université de la Sorbonne Paris IV où il obtint un doctorat de philosophie sur la thématique : "Vers une pensée originelle africaine". Sa carrière professionnelle l'a conduit aux lycées de Markala et Sankoré, ainsi qu'à l'École normale supérieure et à la Faculté des lettres, arts et sciences humaines (Flash) de l'université de Bamako. Mamadou Lamine Traoré était aussi un militant syndical qui a assuré de hautes responsabilités au SNEC et à la FEN. Le syndicaliste avait également une casquette d'homme politique. "Le combat politique l'a souvent emmené en prison", a souligné Ousmane Issoufi Maïga avant de rappeler que l'homme fut l'une des figures emblématiques du combat pour la démocratie, ayant conduit à l'avènement du 26 mars 1991. "C'est à ce titre que Mamadou Lamine Traoré a eu à siéger au Comité de transition pour le salut du peuple (CTSP)", a précisé le chef du gouvernement.

Pour Ousmane Issoufi Maïga, l'illustre disparu fut "un grand philosophe, mais un philosophe de l'action" qui a exercé des fonctions dans les hautes sphères de l'État. Ministre d'État chargé de l'Administration territoriale et de la Sécurité, puis chargé de l'Administration et de la Décentralisation dans le premier gouvernement de la 3^e République, il a fait son entrée à nouveau au gouvernement en 2002 avec cette fois-ci "la lourde charge de l'Éducation nationale". Mamadou Lamine Traoré, a ajouté le Premier ministre, était un "intrépide combattant de la liberté, un pourfendeur de l'arbitraire sous toutes ses formes", qui "n'a jamais reculé devant une difficulté, fut-ce au prix de son impopularité". En rendant au défunt l'hommage de la "nation reconnaissante pour ce qu'il a fait et ce qu'il a été", le Premier ministre a formulé le vœu que son exemple puisse inspirer la jeunesse afin que triomphent les idées pour lesquelles il s'est battu durant toute sa vie.

**Workshop Organized by Ralph Austin and Ben Soares: Paris, September 17-18, 2007
Reconsidering the Oeuvre of Amadou Hampâté Bâ**

Panelists and papers:

Yacouba Konaté, Université d'Abidjan-Cocody
Amadou Hampâté Bâ et Félix Houphouët Boigny : éléments d'une amitié.
Bintou Sanankoua, Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako
Amadou Hampâté Bâ. Un témoignage.
Abiola Irele, Harvard University
Narrative Structure of Wangrin and the Two Volumes of Memoirs
Lilyan Kesteloot, IFAN
Un roman oral inédit de Amadou Hampâté Bâ
Louis Brenner, SOAS, University of London
Amadou Hampâté Bâ: theological reflections
Jean-Louis Triaud, CEMAF-CNRS (Aix-en-Provence BIvry B Paris)
D'un Maître à l'autre : l'histoire d'un transfert.
Amadou Hampâté Bâ entre Tierno Bokar et Theodore Monod (1938 1954)
Ebrima Sall, CODESRIA
"Jesus Vu Par Un Musulman": Hampâté Bâ and the Relationship Between Islam and Christianity
Bernard Salvaing, Université de Nantes, CRHIA et Tal Tamari, Université Libre de Bruxelles;

CNRS Cemaf, Paris

De Amadou Hampâté Bâ à Fily Dabo

Sissoko: Islam, religions traditionnelles et oecuménisme

Ralph Austen, University of Chicago

The Medium of "Tradition": Amadou Hampâté Bâ's Confrontations with Languages, Literacy and Colonialism

Anna Pondopoulo, Université Paris 7

Identity and Construction of the Personnage "Wangrin"

Update on MANSA Members' Activities

LAURA ARNTSON is currently working in Nigeria with USAID/Nigeria, as the Strategic Information Advisor with PEPFAR (The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief). She will be based in Abuja for 2 years as the US Government (USAID - CDC - Department of Defense) Strategic Information Team Lead, where she oversees PEPFAR program monitoring and reporting, capacity building among implementing partners and the Government of Nigeria Ministry of Health HIV/AIDS Program (NASCP) and National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), survey and surveillance activities related to the epidemic, and data use for strategic planning and decision-making.

LOUISE BEDICHEK retired on September 28, after 28 years as a Foreign Service Officer, of which eight-and-a-half were in Guinea-Conakry. Since leaving Guinea in 2005, she has served as Regional Desk Officer for the West Africa Office of Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, at the Department of State. She still maintains an apartment in Conakry and will be going back for three weeks in October.

ALICE BELLAGAMBA is now Associate Professor of Political Anthropology and African Studies in the Department of Human Sciences for Education 'Riccardo Massa' University of Milan-Bicocca.

LOUISE BOURGAULT's documentary *From Mali to Michigan: A Musical Bridge* has received two awards: (1) The First Place Award for the Arts and Culture program division of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, a service organization of Public Television Stations in the State of Michigan. (2) First Place in the

Documentary category of the Good News Awards, which recognize media that "affirms positive values and uplifts the human spirit," given by the Judiciary Heads of the Presbyterian, United Methodist, Episcopal, Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The documentary was broadcast on WNMU-TV, TV 13 on Nov. 28, 2006, and March 25, 2007. It was also featured at the United Conference in Marquette, Mi. in Sept. 2006, and at the Fulbright Alumni Conference as part of a panel entitled "Engaging in Global Dialogues, in Marrakech, Morocco in Nov. 2006. It will be available for screening through the Video Marketplace at the upcoming 50th Anniversary meeting for the African Studies Association in New York.

MARIE YVONNE CURTIS has a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., where she is working on two research projects, one on the arts and cultural heritage of the Baga and Nalu communities of Guinea, as well as the Art of Guinea and Mali. MARK DAVIDHEISER was organizer and chair, with Orit Tamir, for two special sessions on migration, relocation, and conflict during the March 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society of Applied Anthropology in Tampa, FL. Mark presented a paper on the social marginalization of Manjaco migrants in The Gambia. The session material has been adapted for proposed special issues of Practicing Anthropology and Human Organization. Mark is Director of the multi-institutional Africa Working Group on Peace and Conflict (www.africaworkinggroup.org), and his work examines human social responses to crisis, change, and conflict and other topics such as reconciliation and peacebuilding. He has conducted field research on mediation in Eritrea, the Navajo and Hopi territories, Senegal, and The Gambia.

CHARITY ELLIS is working on a feature documentary about Griots, which she says is still a couple of years from completion.

MARIA GROSZ-NGATE was in Mali for research during the summer, after which she directed a summer program in Dakar.

STEN HAGBERG was in Western Burkina Faso doing fieldwork on Tiefo ethnicity in July 2006 and March 2007, and is there again in September and October.

JOSEPH HELLWEG has applied for a Fulbright Lecturing/Research Award through the University of Kankan to teach a year long anthropological field methods practicum focusing on gathering information on local ideas about HIV/AIDS among both Mande and French speakers.

NICK HOCKIN has been appointed Director of the Arts and Culture in Mali Program offered through Antioch Education Abroad, administered under the auspices of Antioch University. This part-time position involves teaching two 4-credit courses based broadly on arts and culture in Mali, overseeing the teaching of intensive language courses in French and Bamana, arranging homestay apprenticeships, and guiding students in their independent field study projects. This is a fall semester program based in Bamako, with 3 weeks of travel within Mali incorporated into the curriculum. For more info: <http://www.antioch-college.edu/AEA/mali/>

ALLEN HOWARD is completing a book manuscript entitled *Contested Places; Disputed Rules: Traders and Authorities in Northern Sierra Leone, 1780-1930* and currently chairs the graduate program in the Department of History at Rutgers.

BAZ LECOCQ is now Professor of African History at Ghent University, Belgium.

GREG MANN has received the David Pinkney Prize for the best book in French history published in 2006 from the Society for French Historical Studies, for his *Native Sons: West African Veterans and France in the 20th Century*, Duke University Press.

MARIE MIRAN has accepted a position at the Centre d'études africaines at the EHESS in Paris.

MOHAMED SAIDOU N'DAOU won a Fulbright Hays grant to take Chicago State University faculty and students on educational visits to Guinea, with the first one already completed.

EMILY OSBORN has moved from Notre Dame to the History Department at the University of Chicago.

CLAUDIA ROTH is in Burkina Faso doing research in Bobo Dioulasso.

INGSE SKATTUM reports that on June 28, 2007 her student Coumba Touré at the doctoral school ISFRA of the University of Bamako, defended her doctoral thesis titled "Problèmes didactiques et linguistiques de l'enseignement de la

philosophie au Mali. Une étude de compréhension de textes par les lycéens ayant comme langues premières le bamanankan et le fulfuldé.”

DAVID SKINNER is spending the year as Visiting Fellow at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, working on his manuscript Islam, Local and Global: da'wah in Ghana, Sierra Leone and The Gambia.

JULIE STRAND spent the spring semester teaching for Semester at Sea, a study-abroad program on a ship that sails around the world with 700 students and 25 faculty. Then she spent the summer in Ghana teaching an ethnomusicology course to American students for an overseas program through Lewis & Clark College. Julie is now in Boston teaching African American Music as a visiting lecturer at Tufts University. Later this semester or early next semester she will defend her dissertation tentatively titled “Constructing Tradition and Identity: The Sambla Xylophone in Burkina Faso.”

WALTER VAN BEEK has accepted a chair in Anthropology of Religion at Tilburg University commencing on September 28.

VALENTIN VYDRINE and ELENA

PEREKHALSKAYA are in Côte d'Ivoire for the “Festival de la lexicographie villageoise” which will take place in the village of Yaloba in the Tura country. This is an outcome of their project with Thomas Bearth, and of his projects concerning the topic of “language as a tool of development”. Valentin's student DMITRY IDIATOV has produced a first draft of the Tura dictionary, and for about three years, there has been a network of Tura people who are completing this dictionary, looking for plant and animal names, etc. Another practical outcome of the Côte d'Ivoire project is the first periodical in the Dan language, Pamebhame. It is published in two versions, Dan-East (Gweetaa) and Dan-West (Blo); 18 issues have been published so far.

Books, Articles, CDs, DVDs, Dissertations

BOOKS

Cornelia Giesing, Valentin Vydrine (eds.). 2007. *Ta:rikh Mandinka de Bijini (Guinée-Bissau) : La mémoire des Mandinka et Sooninkee du Kaabu.*

Leiden & Boston: Brill. African Sources for African History 9, pp. xxiv + 398. ISBN 978 9004 14724 9

Ce tome présente le Ta:rikh Mandinka, un manuscrit rédigé en Arabe et en Mandinka, originaire du village de Bijini en Guinée-Bissau. Inédit jusqu'à présent, le manuscrit consiste en une compilation structurée et très originale sur le Kaabu, réunissant divers récits et chroniques focalisant les débuts mythiques et la chute de cet « empire » païen au milieu du 19^e siècle. Deux versions du manuscrit et plusieurs interprétations (lectures) du Ta:rikh sont reproduites transcrrites, traduites et analysées en tenant compte de questions philologiques, historiques et anthropologiques. L'analyse regarde la communauté cléricale de Bijini et tant que lieu de transmission de savoirs dans un contexte local et régional. Le point focal du livre est l'importance de la diaspora cléricale des Mandinka et Jaakanka (Jakhanké) dans le processus de la construction de l'histoire de l' « empire » sooninkee du Kaabu en Sénégambie. Le tome contient un glossaire des noms et des termes mentionnés par les sources, des illustrations, des tableaux, des cartes et des photographies.

This volume presents a hitherto unpublished manuscript written in Arabic and Mandinka from the muslim village of Bijini in Guinea-Bissau, the Ta:rikh Mandinka, a unique and structured compilation unfolding the pagan “empire” of Kaabu from its mythical beginnings to its downfall in the nineteenth-century. Two existing manuscript versions and several oral interpretations of the Ta:rikh are reproduced, transcribed, translated, compared and analyzed considering philological, historical and social-anthropological issues (chaps. 1-3). The fourth chapter deals with the clerical community of Bijini as a place of knowledge-transfer in its local setting and within regional networks. The focus of the book is on the importance of the Mandinka and Jakhanka clerical diaspora in the making of the history of the Sooninkee “empire” of Kaabu in Senegambia. The volume contains a glossary of names and terms mentioned in the sources and is illustrated with maps, photographs and drawings.

JOURNAL

Mande Studies 7

Divination in the Mande World

Guest Editors: Jan Jansen and Annette Schmidt
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Formalized Education in Sand Divination: A
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Notes on Contributors

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FILM

From Mali to Michigan: A Musical Bridge. 2006. Produced by Louise Bourgault and Robert Thomson. A 28-minute documentary telling the story of the visit of Malian pop diva Nainy Diabate to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 2005. Shot on location in Mali and in Marquette, Michigan. It highlights the rich cultural and performative heritage of Nainy Daibate's native Mali and features the star's lively collaborations with musical artists from Michigan and with students and faculty at Northern Michigan University.

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DISSERTATIONS

Tamba Mbayo. 2007. "African Interpreters, Mediation, and the Production of Knowledge in Colonial Senegal: The Lower and Middle Senegal Valley, 1850 to 1920." Ph.D. Department of History, Michigan State University.

Bruce Whitehouse. 2007. "Exile Knows No Dignity: African Transnational Migrants and the Anchoring of Identity," Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, Brown University. (West African [mostly Malian] migration to Brazzaville, Congo.)

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