



# MANSA NEWSLETTER

## MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION DES ETUDES MANDE

NUMBER 7, November 1988

### Minutes of the Third Annual MANSa Meeting McCormick Center Hotel, Chicago IL Friday, October 28, 1988

Members attending: Laura Arntson Harris, Robert Launay, Steve Harmon, B. Marie Perinbam, Philip Ravenhill, Claude Daniel Ardouin, Jeanne Maddox Toungara, Maria Grosz-Ngaté, David Skinner, Richard Roberts, Allen Howard, Bill Siegman, Carol Thompson, Robert S. Leopold, Mary Jo Arnoldi, Patrick R. McNaughton, Rachel Hoffman, Barbara Frank, Moriba Touré, Arien Deluz, Tal Tamari, Dolores Koenig, Barbara C. Lewis, Lynda Day, Ann McDougall, Susan McIntosh, Thomas Hale, Tim Geysbeek, Ray Silverman, Kathryn Green, Carol A. Thompson, David Conrad.

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m., and commenced with the president's report on membership. There are now 128 names on the mailing list, including thirteen libraries and museums which receive the newsletter. Only thirty-four of our members are Africans, but we hope to continue adding to that number. Members are encouraged to submit names of interested African colleagues to be added to the mailing list. Most of those receiving the newsletter have now paid dues at one time or another, but there are a quite a few whose dues for 1988-89 are outstanding.

Financial report: From being in the red last year, we took in \$814 and had expenditures of \$554, leaving a balance of \$260. The big difference in the financial state of the association is being made by the sponsoring members, who pay \$25 per year dues. We now have sixteen sponsors, six of whom are in their second year of sponsorship.

Membership: After some discussion from members about the student membership category which was introduced last year, Robert Launay moved that we drop the student membership category. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Discussion of other membership fee categories ensued with no action being taken to change or raise them.

President: David C. Conrad (SUNY-Buffalo/Institut Teknologi Mara, Malaysia)

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

Secretary: Kathryn L. Green (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Advisory Board: Lansiné Kaba (University of Illinois-Chicago),

Robert Launay (Northwestern University)



**Dues structure:** \$5 regular member  
\$10 institutional member  
\$25 sponsoring member

**Newsletter report:** The editor of the newsletter renewed his request that members who move please notify him of their change of address. The organization pays extra postage to send out a newsletter twice to the same person, or wastes postage when newsletters are returned with no forwarding address. He also asked that members update their field experience notices, which can be presented in each issue. The editor would also like to continue with the section on new publications by members which was suggested in the 1987 meeting but which did not receive much response from members. Members are encouraged to send in citations of all their publications as they appear so we can keep each other posted on our publishing efforts.

**Officers and boardmembers:** The president again brought up the fact that for its officers and board members, MANSA has no by-laws and no recognized terms of office. No complaints were offered regarding the work of the officers, and they will continue for another year. D. Conrad reported that one of our founders and board members, Gerry Cashion, has indicated an inclination to become less active in the organization due to its heavy academic emphasis and also because he has moved to Lagos. Conrad reminded us that Cashion was a moving force behind the original formation of MANSA which was organized during an impromptu meeting in Cashion's suite at the 1986 ASA meeting, and that we owe him a debt of gratitude for his early efforts on behalf of this association. Kathy Green then nominated Lansiné Kaba to replace Cashion on the Board. The nomination passed unanimously.

**MANSA publication:** Patrick McNaughton reported on his efforts to interest Patrick O'Meara, Director of the African Studies Program at Indiana University, in supporting a MANSA publication that would be formed around particularly successful panels after each year's meeting. McNaughton indicated that O'Meara did not turn us down and in fact expressed "qualified enthusiasm." He needs gentle encouragement from the membership. He requests that all those interested in such an undertaking or in seeing MANSA get involved in such an undertaking should write to Patrick O'Meara c/o Patrick McNaughton (School of Fine Arts, Fine Arts Building, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405), indicating your interest in the project, the benefits to MANSA and to the Indiana University African Studies Center.

The project should involve MANSA-sponsored panels with especially good-quality papers that go well together. Those who chair and serve as discussants, if interested, could then serve as guest editors in the MANSA publication series. To make the publication acceptable for use in tenure and promotion decisions, one or two outside readers could serve as a jury.

**Distinguished visitor:** David Conrad introduced and welcomed Moriba Touré of Côte d'Ivoire, who was sponsored by MANSA to receive an ASA International Visitors Program travel grant to this year's meeting at which he presented a paper.



**MANSÁ panels:** Several topics were suggested for MANSÁ-sponsored panels at next year's ASA meeting. Members who are interested in one of the tentative areas listed below are invited to write to the chairperson. If there is no chairperson listed or you do not have the issue of the newsletter containing their address, you are welcome to write to David Conrad. Meanwhile, those who have volunteered to serve as chairpersons should begin contacting potential contributors. At this early date, potential panel topics are not limited to the list below; these are tentative suggestions only. Members who were not able to attend the MANSÁ meeting but are interested in organizing a panel are invited to submit ideas, but please do so as soon as possible. All chairpersons and presenters on MANSÁ-sponsored panels must be current dues-paying members.

1. "Life-cycles in the Mande World" - Chair, Lansiné Kaba.
2. "The Ethnography of Mande Ethnography" - Chair, Martha Kendall.
3. "Precolonial Mande Urban Development" - Chair, Marie Perinbam.
4. "Women in the Mande World" - Chair, Jeanne Maddox Youngara.
5. "Sips in the Mande World: Group Consciousness and Individual Identity" - Chair, Barbara Frank.
6. "Songhay and Mande Compared" - Chair, Tom Hale.
7. "Cultural Fusion and Material Transformation in Mande Society" - Chair, Rachel Hoffman.
8. "Proto-Mande" - Chair, open.
9. "Deep Sahelian History" - Chair, open.

Ariane Deluz informed us that some French members of MANSÁ are concerned about the lack of linguistic representation in our panels. Linguists are encouraged to form a panel and submit it to David Conrad for MANSÁ sponsorship. In addition, Ariane Deluz suggested a larger MANSÁ meeting every three years in which we make a concerted effort to draw as great an international representation as possible. The general response was that this is a very worthwhile goal, and we would like to hear members' ideas on how to organize this effort. X

Tom Hale suggested that MANSÁ endeavor to invite a Mande bard to a meeting. He named two griots who are resident in the U.S., Bunku Susso and Jimo Kuyate. We welcome further comment on this, and suggestions as to how their participation might be financed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**New and Renewed MANSÁ Members,  
Research Specializations & Address Changes**

Claude Daniel Ardouin, West African Museums Project, B.P. 357, Dakar, Senegal

Mary Jo Arnoldi, Department of Anthropology NHB 112, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C 20560

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



David C. Conrad (Sponsor), SUNY/ITM, No. 5, Jalan SS17/1A, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

Ariane Deluz (Sponsor), Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, 52 rue du Cardinale-Lemoine, 75005 Paris, France

Barbara Frank (Sponsor), Art Department, University of Tulsa, 600 S. College Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74104

Tim Geysbeek, 321 Manzana Ct. Apt. 1C, Walker, MI 49504

Kathryn L. Green (Sponsor), Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706

Maria Grosz-Ngaté, Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5032

Steve Harmon, History Department, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126

Laura Arntson Harris, 3315 E. Longview #14, Bloomington, IN 47401

Rachel Hoffman, P.O. Box 1315, Culver City, CA 90232  
Graduate student, U.C.L.A. Department of Art History, and U.C.L.A. Museum of Cultural History

Maghan Keita, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085  
State formation; pre-colonial urbanization.

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

Moussa Konate, 2408 Leon St. #204-A, Austin, TX 78705  
Graduate student, Fulbright Scholar, and Directeur Adjoint, le Musée National du Mali

Robert Launay (Sponsor), Department of Anthropology, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201

Nehemia Levzion (Sponsor), The Open University of Israel, p.o.b. 39328 16 Klausner Street, Tel Aviv, 61392, Israel

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

Susan Keech and Roderick McIntosh (Sponsors), Anthropology Department, Rice University, Houston, TX 77251

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

Claude Meillassoux, Centre d'Etudes Africaines, Laboratoire de Sociologie et Géographie Africaines, 54, bd. Raspail, 75006 Paris, France



Mohamed Saidou N'Daou, 1112 Sheridan Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN  
The collective memory in pre-capitalist Djallonka Society of Guinea

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

B. Marie Perinbam (Sponsor), Department of History, University of  
Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742

Philip Ravenhill, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian  
Institution, Washington D.C. 20560

Richard Roberts (Sponsor), History Department, Stanford University,  
Stanford, CA 94305

David Robinson, Department of History, 301 Morill Hall, Michigan State  
University, East Lansing MI 48824-1036

Richard Sigwalt, 1613 Harvard St. N.W., Washington D.C. 20009  
Interlacustrine East Africa

David E. Skinner, Department of History, Santa Clara University, Santa  
Clara, CA 95053

Margit C. Smith, RD 3, Box 60, Newport, Maine 04953  
Research on the *kora* & bards of Côte d'Ivoire.

Ellen Suthers, 213 S. Cleveland Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805  
Social anthropology: religious organization; Djimini/Senufo divination  
practices in Côte d'Ivoire.

Carol Thompson, The Center for African Art, 54 E. 68 St. New York, NY  
10021

1988 Master's thesis (University of Iowa): "Black and White in Color:  
Checkerboard Patterns, Magic Squares, and the History of the Mande  
Expansion".

Moriba Touré, Université d'Abidjan, 08 B.P. 1083, Abidjan, Côte  
d'Ivoire.

Je desire devenir membre de MANSAS/renouveler mon affiliation  
I wish to become a member of MANSAS/renew my membership for 1989.

Name (Nom): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution and description of Research activities: \_\_\_\_\_

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