



## MANDE STUDIES ASSOCIATION/ASSOCIATION DES ETUDES MANDE

On the quiet continent of Africa, there is no one who does not know that every year thousands of tons of toxic wastes are dumped on the continent. This is a public secret and it is time to do something about it.

*Je suis très intéressé par ce que vous faites pour empêcher les déchets et les déchets chimiques de contaminer notre continent.*

Belles salutations à tous,

### The Trashing of Africa

In May, 1988 the tiny port of Koko, Nigeria was the unwilling recipient of about 4,000 tons of industrial and nuclear waste forwarded by Italian expatriate Gianfranco Raffaelli, a twenty-year resident of Nigeria. His construction firm, looking for a lucrative business venture, applied to the Pharmacist Board of Nigeria to import nine "non-explosive, non-radioactive and non-self combusting" industrial chemicals. What he brought into the country was toxic waste, including methyl melamine, dimethyl formaldehyde, ethylacetate formaldehyde, polyurethanes, and about 150 tons of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), one of the world's most toxic industrial wastes.

When the scheme was made public, Mr. Rafaelli fled the country, 15 alleged accomplices were arrested, and the chief spokesman for President Ibrahim Babangida threatened execution by firing squad for anyone found guilty of importing toxic waste for profit.

Dumping waste in Africa and other developing and cash-starved nations is emerging as the disposal method of choice for developed countries neck-deep in toxic and radio-active wastes. In May, 1988, 15,000 tons of Philadelphia incinerator ash were dumped on the Guinean Island of Kassa. Benin recently confirmed two shipments of nuclear waste from France, and a half-dozen other African dumping agreements are being negotiated.

Saddled with debt, developing nations are naturally tempted by waste deals to bring in much-needed currency and often are not told about hazards to agriculture and human health. Profits from converting a piece of real estate into an international dumpsite can total several times a nation's annual export earnings. [Elsewhere, Greenpeace reports that the government of Benin concluded a \$12.5-million-a-year agreement last year with a European firm to bury toxic American and European wastes in Benin.] At the same time, such arrangements are a windfall for the waste dealers and the industrialized countries squeezed by rapidly mounting disposal costs. What might cost between two and ten dollars a ton to dump in Africa can cost \$160-\$1,000 a ton at home—even more for extremely hazardous chemicals like PCBs.

"Exploiting poverty in the developing world to dispose of poisonous waste is an international crime," says Greenpeace activist Jim Vallette. "No monetary sum can offset the inevitable damage to human health and the environment."

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**President: David C. Conrad (SUNY-Subang Jaya, Malaysia)**

**Vice President: B. Marie Perinban (University of Maryland)**

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

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

**Robert Launay (Northwestern University)**

Says Sunday Mana, owner of the compound holding Nigeria's newly acquired waste pile, "The odor comes to the compound. It is everywhere. But to be sincere, it has not worried my health. I even walk into the place with bare feet. My children do the same." (A map accompanying the article shows that countries now holding toxic wastes in dumpsites from the developed world or planning to do so in the future are Morocco, Sénégéal, Guinée-Bissau, Guinée Conakry, Benin, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.)

*Reprinted from Greenpeace Vol. 13, No. 5, 1988; map information reference, "International Trade in Toxic Wastes: Policy and Data Analysis," Greenpeace, June 1988.*

The "Treaty to Curb Toxic Waste Export" recently concluded in Basel, Switzerland by 105 nations, while a step in the right direction, is far from a solution to this appalling situation. "It is a good departure point" said a negotiator from the Ivory Coast. "At least it fills the void." Mostafa K. Tolba, executive director of UN Environment Programs, the United Nations council that brokered the treaty, admits that "Our agreement has not halted the commerce in poison." The key feature of the pact is a requirement for the government of an exporting country to obtain a permit from the government of any country to which dangerous residue is to be shipped. This is designed to give governments time to halt unwanted shipments and to prevent illegal transfers arranged by unscrupulous businessmen and corrupt officials. Greenpeace sharply criticized refusal by the United States and other industrial countries to accept an outright ban on waste exports. The United States was particularly eager to retain the ability to make bilateral agreements for waste exports outside the terms of the treaty.

*Quotations and other information excerpted from The International Herald Tribune Singapore, March 23, 1989.*

#### MANSA 1989 ASA Panels Update

The ASA deadline for chairpersons submitting proposals is April 15, but once the panel has been scheduled with the ASA, it is possible to join it after the deadline. Contact the appropriate chairperson as soon as possible.

Owing to the burden of other work projects, Marie Perinbam has withdrawn from chairing "Precolonial Mande Urban Development". More papers are needed for the following panels:

"Cultural Fusion and Material Transformation in Mande Society" Chair, Rachel Hoffman. Panelist, Kalilou Téra.

"Sige in the Mande World: Group Consciousness and Individual Identity" Chair, Barbara Frank. Panelist, Barbara Hoffman.

"Deep Sahelian History" Chair, David Conrad. Panelists Tim Geysbeek and Martin Ford.

#### Additional Proposals:

"Modern Literature and Music in the Mande World" - Contact Cheick M. Chérif Keita, Department of Languages and Literatures, Carleton College, One North College Street, Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Concernant le prochain meeting du MANSA, je vous proposerais un thème portant sur la littérature politique, à savoir mythes dynastiques, épopées, chroniques, et la structure du pouvoir mandé.

Pourraient participer à ce panel des chercheurs comme Youssouf Cisse (CNRS Paris), Jean Derive (professeur à l'Université de Haute Savoie, Chambéry, Fac de lettres), Bassirou Dieng (professeur à Fac de lettres de Dakar) et Sekene Modi Cissoko (professeur d'histoire et vice recteur de l'Université de Libreville,

Gabon) - Tous spécialistes du monde mandé au sens large: soninke, dioula, wolof, et malinke.

**Lilyan Kesteloot**, IFAN, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, B.P. 206, Dakar, Sénégal. (Ed. Note: It was not quite clear if Professor Kesteloot meant this for 1989 ASA, or for the proposed triannual international MANSA meeting.)

*The editor would be grateful if panel chairpersons would bring him up to date on developments.*

### More on Proposed International MANSA Meeting

On the question of organizing larger MANSA meetings to be held possibly as often as every three years mentioned in Newsletter #7:

Je suis très heureux, à la réception de MANSA Newsletter, de constater que Mme A. Deluz a transmis la demande que je lui avais faite d'une réunion élargie, tous les 3 ans, cela afin que les chercheurs européens (et peut être aussi d'Afrique) puissent de temps à autre assister à ces rencontres et ainsi prendre ou conserver le contact avec les autres "mandinguants". Il nous est impossible de trouver le financement pour un voyage annuel aux Etats Unis, comme vous pouvez aisément le comprendre.

Une réunion triannuelle permettrait sans doute de développer un groupe de travail "Linguistique", où discuter et faire le point, et ce sera une excellente chose.... Dernier chose: il est essentiel pour nous, Européens, que les dates des réunions annuelles soient connus le plus longtemps possible à l'avance.

**Gérard Dumestre**, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, Paris

### More on Inviting a Bard to a Meeting

L'idée d'inviter un griot me semble (c'est bien sûr un avis personnel!) peu intéressante. Si MANSA est une association scientifique, restons dans cette voie... et si il y a de l'argent (cas qui dit griot... dit argent), mieux vaut le mettre dans autre chose, par ex. un billet d'avion pour un étudiante, ou une publication, etc.

**Gérard Dumestre, INALCO, Paris**

Si j'avais la chance d'être invité à la rencontre ASA de Atlanta, je proposerais d'inviter en même temps M. Sidiki Yayo, musicien de la Kora. M. Yayo est probablement l'un des plus, sinon le plus expérimenté dans l'enseignement et la pratique de la kora traditionnelle et son intervention pourrait appuyer et illustrer la conférence que je pourrais donner. Il pourrait aussi animer bien d'autres circonstances.

Mme Margit Smith pourrait accompagner M. Yayo à la Kora et contribuer, par sa formation musicale et sa longue expérience, à faire mieux connaître la kora et ses liens avec la culture manding. Si pour des contraintes financières MANSA ne pouvait pas prendre en charge la participation de Sidiki Yayo, je te serais reconnaissant de chercher pour nous ou de nous suggérer un éventuel sponsor pour un groupe manding formé de Mme Smith, M. Yayo et de moi-même comme commentateur, et éventuellement deux autres musiciens pour le bala et la danse.

**Kalilou Téra**, IIA, Université Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire

### Mande Scholars in Denmark

MANSA extends a special welcome to two new members, **Mette Bækgaard** and **Henrik Overballe**, Ph.D. candidates in the Department of Ethnography and Social

Anthropology, University of Aarhus, Denmark. They are also affiliated with an independent research institution called Third World Information, which undertakes anthropological research, information, and consultancy. Bakgaard and Overballe have spent a total of four years on field research in West Africa, mainly Guinea-Bissau, and have recently completed nine months in the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau working with Mandinka and Fula societies. Bakgaard's doctoral project is "Sex and Gender as Perceived by Urban Mandinga Women," and Overballe is working on "History and Oral Tradition in West Africa."

### A New Publication Series from Northwestern University

The Program of African Studies and the Northwestern University Press will publish a new series under the general title "Islam and Society in Africa." The focus will be on African societies that have been influenced to a greater or lesser extent by the culture of Islam - broadly defined. This is not to be an "Islamic Studies" series in the narrow sense of the study of religious phenomena; rather they seek to publish studies on broader social, historical, political, literary, artistic and other themes set within the context of Muslim or partially Muslim societies. While the main focus will be on sub-Saharan Africa, they will also include some titles which deal with North Africa or which offer a comparative perspective.

General Editors: John Hunwick (Department of History, Northwestern), and Robert Launay (Department of Anthropology, Northwestern). Editorial Board: Carl Petry (Department of History, Northwestern), Ivor Wilks (Department of History, Northwestern), Ralph Austen (Department of History, University of Chicago), Lamin Sanneh (Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University).

Editorial Advisory Committee: Jamil Abun Nasr, Mohamed Omer Beshir, Rene Bravmann, Louis Brenner, Abdullah Bujra, Allan Christelow, Lansine Kaba, Lidwien Kapteijns, Murray Last, Nehemia Levzion, David Robinson, Enid Schildkrout, Jay Spaulding, Charles Stewart, Jean-Louis Triaud.

Manuscripts for consideration for the series may be sent to either of the General Editors at the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, 620 Library Place, Evanston, IL 60208. The General Editors will also be glad to hear from scholars whose work is in progress or who have suggestions for possible titles for the series.

### Mandé Linguistics Workshop

Je vous signale le tenue de journée d'études linguistiques mandé à Paris les 11, 12 et 13 Sept. prochain, à l'INALCO. Pas de thème particulier, mais linguistique seulement (ni ethno-linguistique, ni textes...). Pour renseignement, me contacter. Gérard Dumestre, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales, 2 rue de Lille, 75007 Paris

### Returned Newsletters

Three copies of MANSA Newsletter #7 were returned with notices that the person had moved with no forwarding address. Newsletter #8 will of course not be sent to these addresses. The editor would be grateful if someone would send these people's current addresses to MANSA:  
Barbara G. Hoffman, 100 E. Miller Dr., Bloomington, IN 47401  
Moussa Konate, 2408 Leon St., Austin, TX 78705  
Richard Sigwalt, 1613 Harvard St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

### MANSA Membership List

Christopher Miller has asked about possible publication of the complete membership list. We agree that it is time to do this, and will schedule it for Newsletter #9.

#### New and Renewed MANSA Members, Research Specializations & Address Changes

Mette Bækgaard, Tredje Verden Information, Skt. Marcus Kirkeplads 24, DK-8000 ÅRHUS C, Denmark  
Gambia and Guinea-Bissau; Mandinka, Fula.

R.M.A. Bedaux, Koningslaan 35, 3583 GH-Utrecht, The Netherlands  
National Museum of Ethnology; Iron Age and Ethno-archaeology of Mali.

Cassian Braconnier (Sponsor), IIA-Université, 08 BP 887, Abidjan 08, Côte d'Ivoire  
Département de Linguistique; analyse et description linguistique du dioula d'Odienne: phonologie, lexique, syntaxe.

Youssouf Tata Cisse, 223 Blvd. Pereire, 75017 Paris, France  
Chercheur au CNRS: ethnographie et histoire du domaine Mandingue.

Richard A. Corby, Social Science, University of Arkansas, Monticello, Arkansas 71655  
Development of Islam in Liberia.

Souleymane Diarra, I.G.T., U.N.C.I. 08 BP 863, Abidjan 08, Côte d'Ivoire  
Géographie-démographie, s'intéresse à la "mobilité spatiale", circulation des richesses et expansion urbaine en Afrique Occidentale avant et après la période coloniale.

Mamadou Diawara, Frobenius Institut, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Liebigstrasse 41, D-6000 Frankfurt 1, West Germany

Gérard Dumestre, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, 2, rue de Lille, 75007 Paris, France

Risa Ellovich, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27695

Martin Ford, 3453 Bruton Parish Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904

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

John William Johnson, Folklore Institute, 504 N. Fess St., Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47401  
Folklore Institute, Mande epic, Somali poetry.

Cheick M. Chérif Keita, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota 55057  
Mandenka oral traditions and modern Malian literature.

Lilyan Kesteloot, IFAN-Université de Dakar, B.P. 206, Dakar, Sénégal  
Département de littératures et civilisations africaines; recherches sur épopée  
bambara (transcription et traduction); recherches sur mythes d'origine des  
dynasties (Soundiata, Gabou, Ségou) et leurs implications idéologiques  
(conceptions du pouvoir, du chef, de la société).

Dolores B. Koenig, Department of Anthropology, The American University  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Frederick Lamp, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Art Museum Drive, Baltimore, MD  
21218

Art History of Baga/Temne.

Adria LaViolette, Archaeology Unit, University of Dar es Salaam, P.O. Box 35050,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Craft production and complex society; Swahili craft specialization and social  
organization.

Christopher L. Miller (Sponsor), Department of French, Yale University, Box 2504A  
Yale Station, New Haven CT 06520

Francophone African literatures and literature of the Mande in French.

A. Endre Myerges, 6605 NW 32nd St., Gainesville, FL 32606  
Center for African Studies, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.  
Ph.D. thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1988, "Swidden Agriculture and the  
Savannization of Forests in Sierra Leone".

Recent publication: "Seasonal Constraints in the Guinea Savanna: Susu Ecology in  
Sierra Leone," *MANSA Journal* (Special Issue: "Coping with Seasonality").

Thomas O'Toole, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, St. Cloud State  
University, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301

Guinea: nineteenth-century trade patterns from Guinea to the Atlantic coast.

Henrik Overballe, Tredje Verden Information, Skt. Marcus Kirkeplads 24, DK-8000  
ÅRHUS C, Denmark  
Gambia and Guinea Bissau; Mandinka, Fula.

The Robert Goldwater Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY 10028

David P. Rawson (Sponsor), 14 Bank Street, Princeton, N.J., 08540  
Traditional religion and political systems of Rwanda & Burundi; civil service in  
Senegal.

#### Joining MANSA and Renewing Membership:

Regular membership: U.S.\$5; Sponsoring membership \$25; Institutional \$10.

Make check out to MANSA and mail with description of your research topics to:

David C. Conrad (To pay in French francs send to): Robert Launay  
SUNY-Buffalo/ITM Department of Anthropology  
No. 5, Jalan SS17/A Northwestern University  
47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Evanston, IL 60201  
Malaysia U.S.A.