



M A N S A

Newsletter Number 9 — JULY 1989

Scholar Voted Travel Award

MANSA's application to the International Visitors Program Committee of the African Studies Association requesting travel funds for Kalilou Téra to attend the 1989 meeting in Atlanta has been approved. This is pending the arrival of funds from the Ford Foundation. Msr. Téra's additional U.S. speaking engagements and other functions are being coordinated by Professor Patrick McNaughton of Indiana University.

MANSA-Sponsored Panels, ASA 1989

Panel: **WOMEN IN THE MANDE WORLD**

Chair: Jeanne Maddox Toungara (University of Virginia)

Papers: Barbara Lewis (Rutgers University), "Mande Women Farmers in the Diaspora"

Maria Grosz-Ngate (Western Michigan University), "Bamana Women and the (Re)Constitution of the Social Order"

Tal Tamari (CNRS), "Girls' Initiation Societies Among the Bamana of Beledugu (Mali)"

Jane Turritin (University of Toronto), "Contradictions of Class and Gender for Educated Mande Women in the Period Leading to Independence"

Panel: **SIYA IN THE MANDE WORLD: GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS AND INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY**

Chair: Barbara Frank (University of Tulsa)

Papers: Kathryn L. Green (University of Wisconsin), "Siya in the Mande World: Ideals, Individuals, and Ethnic Change"

Barbara G. Hoffman (Indiana University), "When Brothers are of Different Races: Problems in Translating Social Categories"

Adria LaViolette (Rice University), "*nyamakala musuuri*: Specialization, Symbols, and Identity"

Robert Launay (Northwestern University), "Unintended Consequences: Colonial Ethnography and Post-Colonial Rhetoric"

Discussant: Charles Bird (Indiana University)

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

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)

Panel: **DEEP SAHELIAN HISTORY**

Chair: David C. Conrad (State University of New York-Oswego)

(The 2nd & 5th papers listed were submitted late and are subject to ASA approval)

Papers: Michael Gomez (Spellman College), "Gao, Timbuktu, and Lines of Influence in Imperial Songhay"

Steve Harmon (Arkansas State University), "Maraboutage in the French Sudan: A Quantitative Study"

Tim Geysbeek (Michigan State University), and Jobba K. Kamara (University of Liberia), "History of the Konyaka During the Formative Years: Foningama, Musadu and the Origins of the 'Mane Invasions'"

Martin Ford (State University of New York-Binghamton), "Konyaka Mandingo Migration from Beyla to Liberia in the 19th and 20th Centuries"

Carlos Lopes (United Nations Development Program), "Historical Impact of the State of Kaabu"

Panel: **Musicians and Oral Historians: Culture Transmission in Akan and Mande Societies**
(Jointly sponsored by MANSA and the Akan Studies Association)

Chair: David Owusu Ansah (James Madison University)

Papers: Laura Arntson Harris (Indiana University), "In the Hands of Others: A *yeŋŋu* in Maninka Society"

Kalilou Téra (ILA - Université Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire), "Cultural Fusion and Material Development in Mande Society"

Plus 2 Akan papers, the titles of which have not yet been revealed to the editor.

More On Inviting a Bard to a Meeting

I'm afraid I've created some misunderstanding about the possibility of inviting a griot to a MANSA meeting. I was not at all suggesting that we pay for a griot to come to Atlanta from Africa or anywhere else-- MANSA has barely enough money to put out a newsletter. My suggestion was simply that we invite a griot, just as we invite each other, to participate formally or informally at some sessions we're planning for the African Studies Association meeting in Atlanta. Mandé griots based at least part time in this country (I know of three) have the means to travel, and would welcome the opportunity to meet MANSA members, students and scholars, at the African Studies Association meeting. At my invitation, Papa Susso, a man with deep roots in a distinguished Mandinka family of griots, is planning to join the ASA and attend the meeting in Atlanta. I see no reason to raise a barrier between MANSA, "une association scientifique," and individuals with a certain "savoir" who interest many of us.

Cordially, Thomas A. Hale, The Pennsylvania State University

Book Release

Création et imitation dans l'art africain, by **Abdou Sylla**, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, IFAN-Ch. A. Diop, 1988, pp. 269.

Part I, **ETHNO-ESTHÉTIQUE DES ARTS AFRICAINS**, contains the chapters "Tradition et modernité", "Unité et diversité", and "Un art magico-religieux". Part II, **POUR UNE ESTHÉTIQUE DES ARTS AFRICAINS**, includes "Sens et conscience esthétiques", "Statut de l'artiste", "Techniques et matériaux", and "Création et imitation." Following are some remarks by Lilyan Kesteloot about this volume:

Abdou Sylla commence par une revue critique des essais jusqu'ici accomplis, pour classer, soupeser et juger cet énorme patrimoine. Ensuite, il entame un repérage, non seulement des conditions concrètes dans lesquelles s'inscrit l'art traditionnel du continent, mais aussi des problèmes d'esthétique, de stylistique et de création. Sylla remonte à la source, interroge les artistes sur leurs langues sur les vocables et notions de beau, joli, agréable, etc., bref il explore la conscience esthétique de l'artiste traditionnel; enquête très rarement réalisée.

Et son projet englobe non seulement la statuaire mais l'artisanat, les parures, la bijouterie, l'architecture. Il se poursuit dans l'étude des multiples fonctions de l'Art africain; fonctions non uniquement religieuses auxquelles on l'a trop souvent réduit, "mais politiques sociales, commémoratives et esthétiques, de communication et de syncretisme".

Teaching Position/Financial Aid Sought in U.S.

Je viens très respectueusement solliciter vos aide et concours pour ce qui suit:

Je suis enseignant-chercheur à l'Université d'Abidjan depuis sept (7) ans. J'enseigne la littérature comparée et la stylistique. Je suis titulaire d'un doctorat de Lettres Modernes de l'Université de la Sorbonne-Nouvelle, Paris III, depuis 1980.

Parallèlement à mes activités d'enseignant, je prépare présentement une thèse de doctorat d'Etat de Littérature Comparée qui porte sur "La Symbolique Animale dans les Traditions Populaires Amérindiennes (Amérique du Nord) et Manding (Afrique de l'Ouest): chants, mythes et récits".

Bénéficiant, à compter du 8 Juillet 1989, d'une année sabbatique, je projette de faire un séjour d'un à deux ans aux Etats-Unis dans le cadre de la préparation de ma thèse sus-indiquée.

Je sollicite votre intervention en vue d'obtenir soit un poste d'enseignant (de française, de littérature et civilisation africaines ou françaises), soit une aide financière et matérielle d'un institut ou d'un organisme.

Je suis de nationalité française et compte me rendre aux Etats-Unis le plus tôt possible et, au plus tard, dans la deuxième quinzaine d'août 1989.

Je vous remercie de tout ce que vous ferez pour moi et vous prie d'agréer l'expression déferente de ma profonde reconnaissance.

22 Juin, 1989

Dr. Jean-Baptiste Kourouma

22 BP 437 Abidjan 22

République Côte d'Ivoire

New and Renewed MANSIA Members. **Research Specializations & Address Changes**

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Kassim Koné, B.P. 2284, Bamako, Republic of Mali

Carlos Lopes, 2 Ermeti Place, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 (address change)

E. Ann McDougall (Sponsor), Department of History, 2-28 Tory Bldg, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H4

Southern Sahara-Sahel in the Mali-Mauritania Region; interaction pastoralist/non-pastoralist political economy and culture; changing labour-social relations in pre-colonial and colonial society.

Matt Schaffer (Sponsor), 12045 Montrose Village Terrace, Rockville, MD 20852
Social anthropology of the Mandinko of southern Senegal and Gambia: ethnomedicine, plant classification, the human body and medicine. West African influence among the Gullah of coastal Georgia and South Carolina.

Laye Sidibe, Direction Nationale de la Culture, Ministère de l'Information de la Culture et du Tourisme, B.P. 617, Conakry, Republic of Guinea
Various topics on the Mande of Guinea; participant in the 3è campagne de fouilles archéologiques guinéo-polonaises, de la ville de Niani, capitale de l'Empire du Mali.

Margit Smith, Hartmeyerstrasse 119, D74 Tuebingen, West Germany (address change)

Kalilou Tétra, ILA Université, 08 BP 887 Abidjan 08, Côte d'Ivoire
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HANSA Membership List

In three or four cases the addresses are not current because the editor has not been notified of changes (he knows they moved, but he doesn't know where). The following figures on world distribution of the newsletter are according to members' geographical locations, which fluctuate to a minor degree as members move between Africa, Europe, and North America:

North America ca. 84, Africa ca. 31, Europe ca. 20, Middle East 1.

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

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