

## A CHECKLIST OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH VERSIONS OF THE SUNJATA EPIC PUBLISHED BEFORE THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY<sup>1</sup>

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This checklist of published versions of the Sunjata epic (which is a slightly edited version of an article I published in *History in Africa* [1997]) aims to include the widest possible corpus of written variants of the Mande tradition available through publishers, libraries, and in unpublished higher degree dissertations.<sup>2</sup> It builds upon the work of Guy Tombs, Stephen Belcher, John Johnson, David Conrad and Ralph Austen.<sup>3</sup> Entries are arranged alphabetically, by the name of the *jeli* (griot or bard, plural *jeliw*) or writer.<sup>4</sup> Included in each entry are (1) the bibliographical reference (and subsequent references if the item has been republished or published in a translation or excerpted form);<sup>5</sup> (2) the name of the performer (or writer); (3) details of the location and date of the performance; (4) details of the recorder(s) and translator(s); (5) the format of the published version (including the language(s) and the type of translation); and (6) the coverage of the published version.<sup>6</sup> Coverage is indicated by use of a simple five-fold division of material traditionally included within the epic:

1. Paternal ancestry of Sunjata - links with the Middle East, Bilali, the Three Simbons, etc.
2. Buffalo woman tale
3. Birth and childhood of Sunjata
4. Exile of Sunjata
5. Return and war with Sumanguru

### [1] ANONYMOUS

Anonymous, 'La ruse de Diegué' *Présence Africaine* 5 (1949): 769-809.

**Writers:** unknown Marian students at the Ecole Normale William Ponty at Sebikotane, Senegal, in 1937, when the play was staged at the school fête

**Source(s):** unknown *jeli(w)*

**Format:** Drama. French verse and prose, and Maninka songs

**Coverage:** 5

**Notes:** The Prologue notes that stories about Sunjata are told by the Kéla griots every seven years at Kangaba.

### [2] BACILI

‘Suite de la singulière légende des Soninkes’ in ‘Traditions orales sur le royaume de Koumbi et sur divers autres royaumes soudanais, ‘ recueillies par Robert Arnaud, *L’Islam et la politique musulmane française en Afrique Occidentale Française*. Paris: Comité de l’Afrique Française (1912): 166-172.

**Source:** a Soninke of the Bacili family

**Recorder:** Robert Arnaud, French colonial official

**Place of recording:** Nioro, Mali

**Date of recording:** between 1898 and 1912 (publication), probably 1906

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

### [3] BERTOL, Roland

Roland Bertol, *Sundiata: the epic of the Lion King*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company (1970); British edition published in London by Hamish Hamilton (1972).

**Writer:** Roland Bertol, Franco-American children’s author

**Source(s):** unknown, but probably includes DIAKITÉ c.l.

**Format:** English prose

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

### [4] CISSE, Ahmed-Tidjani

Ahmed-Tidjani Cissé, *Le tana de Soumangourou*. Paris: Nubia (1988).

**Writer:** Ahmed-Tidjani Cissé, poet, dancer, and playwright, born ca. 1942, Guinea, resident in Paris since 1960s

**Source(s):** Wa KAMISSOKO and a performance by *jeli* Binta Gawlo Madam, translated by Khalifa Bayo

**Format:** Drama. French verse and prose

**Coverage:** 4, 5

### [5] CONDE, Babou

1. Camara Laye, *Le maître de la parole: Kouma Lafôlo Kouma*. Paris: Librairie Plon (1978).

2. English edition: *The Guardian of the Word: Kouma Lafôlo Kouma*, trans. J. Kirkup. Glasgow: Fontana/Collins (1980).

**Performer:** Babou Condé (died ca. 1964), Belentigi of Fadama, Guinea

**Recorder:** Camara Laye (1928-1980), Guinean novelist

**Place of recording:** Fadama, Guinea

**Date of recording:** March-April 1963

**Format:** 1, French prose; 2, English prose

### [6] CONDE, Mamadi

Mamadi Condé, (a) ‘Sunjata’ (b) ‘Fakoli’ in David Conrad, ed., *Epic Ancestors of the Sunjata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea*. Madison WI: University of Wisconsin African Studies Program (1997).

**Performer:** Mamadi Condé (died January 1994), *jeli* of Fadama, Guinea  
**Recorder:** unknown Guinean tape merchant  
**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba  
**Place of recording:** a. Kankan, Guinea; b. unknown  
**Date of recording:** a. before 1984: textual references indicate that it was probably towards the end of Sékou Touré's regime; b. unknown  
**Format:** English linear translation  
**Coverage:** a. 1, 2, 3, 4; b. 5

**Notes:** a. the performance took place in two sessions

#### [7] DIABATÉ, Ami

Ami Diabaté, 'Fasa Sunjata' and 'Fasa Sumaoro' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 95-98.

**Performer:** Ami Diabaté, born Kéla, 1969, wife of Sidiki KOUYATÉ of Kangaba; now living in Kangaba  
**Recorder:** Jan Jansen  
**Translator:** Cemako Kanté  
**Place of recording:** Figuira-Koro, Mali  
**Date of recording:** December 1988  
**Format:** French linear translation  
**Coverage:** *fasaw* or praise-songs are generally, as in this case, allusive

#### [8] DIABATÉ, Bakary

1. Abdoulaye Sadj, 'Ce que dit la musique africaine' *L'éducation africaine* 94 (April-June 1936): 140-154.
2. Reprinted as 'Soundiata' in Abdoulaye Sadj, *Ce que dit la musique Africaine*. Paris/Dakar: Présence Africaine (1985): 11-38.

**Performer:** Bakary Diabaté, *jeli* of Khasso province, Mali  
**Recorder:** Abdoulaye Sadj (1911-1961), Senegalese school teacher and author  
**Place of recording:** unknown, probably the province of Khasso, Mali  
**Date of recording:** unknown, probably early 1930s  
**Format:** French prose  
**Coverage:** 2, 3, 5

#### [9] DIABATÉ, Lansiné

- a. Lansiné Diabaté 'Fasa Sunjata', 'Fasa Sumaoro', and 'Fasa Tiramagang' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 81-90.
- b. 1. Jan Jansen, Esger Duintjer, and Boubacar Tamboura, *L'épopée de Sunjara, d'après Lansiné Diabaté de Kéla*. Leiden: Centre for Non-Western Studies (1995).

**Performer:** Lansiné Diabaté (1926-2007), *jeli* of Kéla, Kumatigi ('Master of the word') since 1989

**Recorder:** Jan Jansen

**Translators:** a. Cemako Kanté; b. J. Jansen, E. Duintjer, and B. Tamboura

**Place of recording:** a. and b. Kéla

**Dates of recording:** a. March 1989 b. 8 February and 6 December 1992

**Format:** a. French linear translation; b. 1, Maninka transcription, linear French translation; 2, Dutch prose and verse

**Coverage:** a. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; b. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[10] DIABATÉ, Mamadi**

Mamadi Diabaté, 'Sunjata and Fakoli' in David Conrad, ed., *Epic Ancestors of the Sunjata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea*. Madison WI: University of Wisconsin African Studies Program (1997).

**Performer:** Mamadi Diabaté (died 1979), *jeli* of Kouroussa, Guinea

**Recorder:** unknown Guinean tape merchant

**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba

**Place of recording:** possibly Kissidougou, Guinea, where the narrator lived

**Date of recording:** ca. 1970

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 4, 5

**[11] DIABATÉ, Sekou**

Sekou Diabaté, 'Ancestors of the Manden' in David Conrad, ed., *Almami Samori and Laye Umaru: Nineteenth-Century Muslim Heroes of Mande Epic Tradition*, forthcoming

**Performer:** Sekou Diabaté, of Setigiya, Guinea; songs by Fanta Kouyaté (*jelimuso*)

**Recorder:** Fatamata Doubaya Kamara of Radio Television Guinéenne

**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba

**Place of recording:** Conakry

**Date of recording:** March 1989

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 3, 4

**[12] DIABATÉ, Siné**

Siné Diabaté, 'Fasa Sunjata', 'Janjo Fakoli', 'Fasa Tiramagang', 'Fasa Sumaoro', in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 37-44.

**Performer:** *jeli* related to the Kela Diabaté (born ca. 1940)

**Recorder:** Jan Jansen

**Translators:** Cemako Kanté

**Place of recording:** Kéla

**Date of recording:** between December 1988 and April 1989

**Format:** French linear translation

**Coverage:** *fasaw* or praise-songs are generally, as in this case, allusive

**[13] DIABATÉ, Siramuri**

Siramuri Diabaté, 'Fasa Sunjata, 'Fasa Sumaoro', 'Gwede' (de vrais chasseurs) comprenant un fasa sur Tiramagang, ' and 'Sumaoro Fasa (reprise)' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 66-80.

**Performer:** Siramuri Diabaté (1937-1989), *jelimuso* of Kéla/Kangaba

**Recorder:** Jan Jansen

**Translators:** Cemako Kanté

**Place of recording:** Kangaba

**Date of recording:** January 1989

**Format:** French linear translation

**Coverage:** *fasaw* or praise-songs are generally, as in this case, allusive

#### [14] DIAKITÉ, Mamadou A'issa Kaba

a. Mamadou Aissa Kaba Ben Mohamed Kaba, 'Généalogie des gens de Keita' in ' Livre renfermant la généalogie des diverses tribus noires du Soudan et l'histoire des rois après Mahomet, suivant le renseignements fournis par certaines personnes et ceux recueillis dans les anciens livres' *Annales de l'Académie des Sciences Coloniales* 3 (1929): 209-210.

**Writer:** Mamadou Aissa Kaba Ben Mohamed Kaba, known as Mamadou Ai'ssa Kaba Diakité

**Place of composition:** Nioro, Mali

**Date of composition:** 1891

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

b. G. Adam, 'Légendes historiques du pays de Nioro (Sahel)' *Revue Coloniale*, nouvelle série (juillet 1903-juin 1904) (version entitled 'Le Mandé'). Paris: Augustin Challamel, éditeur, Librairie Maritime et Coloniale: 354-362.

**Source:** a young Soninke marabout of Nioro, probably to be identified as Mamadou Aissa Kaba Diakité

**Recorder:** G. Adam, Administrateur du Cercle de Kayes, 1900-1903

**Place of recording:** Nioro, Mali

**Date of recording:** between 1900 and 1901

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

c. 1. Maurice Delafosse, 'Histoire de la lutte entre les empires de Sosso et du Mandé (XIIIe siècle)' in *Traditions Historiques et Légendaires du Soudan Occidental, traduites d'un manuscrit arabe inédit*. Paris: Comité de l'Afrique Française (1913): 19-30.

2. Printed under the same title in *Bulletin de l'Afrique Française, Renseignements-Coloniaux* (1913), no. 8: 291-306; no. 9: 325-329; no. 10: 355-368.

3. Reprinted as 'Histoire de la lutte entre les empires de Sosso et du Mandé (XIIIe siècle) (Manuscrit arabe anonyme, traduit par Maurice Delafosse)' *Notes Africaines* 83 (1959): 76-80.

4. Excerpted English translation by Basil Davidson as 'Sundiata's Triumph (Anonymous)' in Davidson, ed., *The African Past: Chronicles from Antiquity to Modern Times*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap (1964): 73-74.

**Writer:** Mamadi [sic] Ai'ssa, qadi of Niore

**Translator:** Maurice Delafosse (1870-1926), French colonial official and scholar, writer on Western Sudanese culture and history

**Place of recording:** Niore

**Date of recording:** probably around 1910

**Format:** 1, 2, 3, French prose; 4. English prose translation of excerpt

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** Delafosse's telling of the story of Sunjata and Sumanguru in his *Haut-Sénégal-Niger* (3 vols.) Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose (1912) vol. 2: 162-184, seems to be based on this manuscript.

#### [15] DJEBAHATE, Mahan

1. Sory Camara, 'L'histoire pour les Mandenka' paper presented to the Conference on Manding Studies, SOAS, London (1972).

2. Reprinted as 'L'histoire du Mande' in Sory Camara, *Gens de la parole: Essai sur la condition et le rôle des griots dans la société Malinke*. Paris/The Hague: Mouton (1976): 254-266.

**Performer:** ye// Mahan Djebahate, originally from Kangaba

**Recorder and translator:** Sory Camara

**Place of recording:** Kedougou, Senegal

**Date of recording:** July 1970

**Format:** 1, Maninka linear text and French linear translation 2. French linear translation only

**Coverage:** 1, 2

#### [16] GBAGBO, Laurent

Laurent Gbagbo, *Soundjata: Lion du Manding*. Abidjan: Editions CEDA (1979).

**Writer:** Koudou Gbagbo Laurent, Ivorian, born 1945

**Source(s):** unknown, but employs Mamoudou KOUYATÉ

**Format:** Drama. French verse

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

#### [17] GIBATE, Yeli Fode

Michael Jackson, 'Prevented Successions: A Commentary upon a Kuranko Narrative' in R.H. Hooke, ed., *Fantasy and Symbol: Studies in Anthropological Interpretation*. London: Academic Press (1979) 101-103.

**Performer:** Yeli Fode *Gibate, jeliba* (Kuranko griot)

**Recorder and translator:** Michael Jackson

**Place of recording:** Kabala, Sierra Leone

**Date of recording:** August 1970

**Format:** English prose

**Coverage:** 3

**[18] GUILLOT, René**

‘La fleche magique’ in René Guillot, *La Brousse et la Bête*. Paris: Librairie Delagrave (1950): 54-73.

**Writer:** René Guillot (1900-1969), French children’s author living in Senegal 1923-1948, except for World War II

**Source(s):** unknown

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 3, 4, 5

**[19] HOURST**

1. *Sur le Niger et au pays des Tuaregs: La Mission Hourst par Le Lieutenant de Vaisseau Hourst*. Paris: Librairie Plon (1898): 50-53.

2. English edition: *Lieut. Hourst, French Enterprise in Africa: The Personal Narrative of Lieut. Hourst of his Exploration of the Niger*, trans. N. Bell. London: Chapman & Hall Ltd (1898): 52-58.

**Performer(s):** unknown, probably a *jeli* or *jeliw* from Kulikoro

**Place of performance:** Kulikoro

**Date of performance:** 1889 or 1895

**Format:** 1. French prose; 2. English prose

**Coverage:** 3, 5

**[20] HUMBLOT, Paul**

P. Humblot, ‘Episodes de la légende de Soundiata’ *Notes Africaines* 52 (1951): 111-113.

**Performer(s):** unknown, but clearly a composite account

**Recorder:** Paul Humblot, French colonial official

**Place of recording:** unknown, perhaps Upper Guinea, around Kankan, where Humblot conducted ethnographic research on the Maninka that was published in 1918

**Date of recording:** unknown, before 1918

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[21] JABATE, Ansumana**

Ansumana Jabate, ‘Mande History’ in *Ancestors of the Guinea Forest: Foningama Kamara and Bakari Kromah in Maniga Oral Tradition*, ed. Tim Geysbeek, forthcoming.

**Performer:** Ansumana Jabate, leader of the old men of Douama-Sobala, Guinea. In his seventies at time of performance

**Recorder:** Tim Geysbeek and Makula Mammadi Kromah

**Place of recording:** Douama-Sobala, Guinea

**Date of recording:** 12 July 1992

**Transcriber and translator:** Adama Talawole  
**Format:** English line-by-line translation  
**Coverage:** 2

**[22] JABATE, Bolin Jigi and others**

Mamby Sidibé, 'Soundiata Keita, héros historique et légendaire, Empereur du Manding'  
*Notes Africaines* 82 (1959): 41-51.

**Writer:** Mamby Sidibé (1891-1977), school teacher, scholar, and storyteller  
**Sources:** *jeli* Bolin Jigi Jabate, father of Kele Monson JABATE, according to M.M. Diabaté, and other unnamed *jeliw*  
**Place of composition:** Bamako  
**Date of composition:** 1937  
**Format:** French prose, with some Maninka songs  
**Coverage:** 3, 4, 5

**[23] JABATE, Jeli Kanku Madi**

Jeli Kanku Madi Jabate, *L'histoire du Mandé*. Ed. and trans. M. Ly-Tall, S. Camara, and B. Diouara. Paris: Association SCOA (1987).

**Performer:** *Jeli* Kanku Madi Jabate (1913-1987) of Kéla, Kumatigi ('Master of the word'), 1960-1987.  
**Recorders:** Madina Ly-Tall, Seydou Camara, Bouna Diouara  
**Place of recording:** Kéla  
**Date of recording:** 14 January 1979  
**Format:** Maninka linear transliteration, literal linear French translation and liberal French translation  
**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[24] JABATE, Kele Monson**

1. Massa Makan Diabaté, *Kala Jata*. Bamako: Editions Populaires (1970) 2. 'The Epic of Sunjata' trans. Rex Moser, Mamadou Konaré, and Charles Bird in R.E. Moser, 'Foregrounding in the "Sunjata", the Mande Epic' PhD. dissertation, Indiana University, Bloomington (1974): 203-349.  
3. M.M. Diabaté, 'Essai critique sur l'épopée Mandingue' Doctoral de troisième cycle, Centre de Recherches Africaines, Université de Paris I, Sorbonne (n.d.) 48-621.  
4. M.M. Diabaté, trans., *L'aigle et l'épervier ou La geste de Sunjata*. Paris: Pierre Jean Oswald (1975).  
5. M.M. Diabaté, trans., *Le lion à l'arc*. Paris: Hatier (1986).  
6. Charles Bird, trans., 'The Coming of Sunjata's Ancestors' in 'Bambara Oral Prose and Verse Narratives Collected by Charles Bird' in Richard M. Dorson, ed., *African Folklore*. Garden City NY: Doubleday (1972): 443-448.

**Performer:** Kele Monson Jabate, *jeli* of Kita (born Karaya, Mali)  
**Recorders:** Charles Bird and Massa Makan Diabaté (1938-1988)  
**Transcriber and translator:** 1, 3, 4, 5, M. M. Diabaté  
**Transcriber:** 2, Mamadou Koita



**Translators:** 2, Rex Moser, Mamadou Konaré, and Charles Bird

**Place of recording:** Kita

**Date of recording:** 18 March 1968

**Format:** 1, French prose translation 2, Maninka linear transcription and English linear translation 3, Maninka linear translation, French literal translation, and French liberal linear translation 4, 5, French linear translation 6, English linear translation

**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** Massa Makan Diabaté also produced a collection of traditional Mande songs rendered into French, *Janjon et autres chants populaires du Mali* (Paris: Présence Africaine [1970]). This contains 'Une mère chante son fils', 'Sun Jata Faasa', 'Chants a la mémoire de Sun Jata', 'Janjon', and 'Tira Magan ni Kankejan Faasa'. Diabaté used as informants Tiemoko KONE, Yamourou Diabaté, Kele Monson JABATE, and Fa-Digi SISOKO. The same treatment of the Sun Jata Faasa also appears as M.M. Diabaté, 'Presentation du Sunjata Faasa: version originale de Kéla' *Etudes Maliennes* 1 (1970?): 101-108.

#### [25] JAIME

Le Lieutenant de Vaisseau Jaime, *De Koulikoro a Tombouctou a bord du 'Mage' 1889-1890*. Paris: Librairie de la société des gens de lettres (n.d.): 329-333. Revised edition, Paris: Les Librairies Associés (1894).

**Performer(s):** unknown, probably *jeli(w)* from Kulikoro

**Recorder:** Lieutenant Jaime of the French navy, member of the Niger flotilla based at Kulikoro, Mali

**Place of recording:** Kulikoro

**Date of recording:** 1889

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 5

#### [26] KAMALA, Vase

Vase Kamala, 'Sunyala and Mande' in Tim Geysbeek, *Mande Voices from Southern Guinea: Koniya Traditions of Sunyala, Foningama, and Samori*, forthcoming.

**Performer:** Vase Kamala (died 1994/1995) of Fombadu, Guinea

**Recorder and Transcriber:** Jobba K Kamara

**Translators:** Muhammed Chejan Kromah, Tim Geysbeek, Jobba Kamara, and David Conrad

**Place of recording:** Fombadu, Guinea

**Date of recording:** 21 December 1985

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

#### [27] KAMARA, Sila Nani

Sila Nani Kamara, 'Mande History' in *Ancestors of the Guinea Forest: Foningama Kamara and Bakari Kromah in Maniya Oral Tradition*, ed. Tim Geysbeek, forthcoming.

**Performer:** Sila Nani Kamara, head of the youth association of Douama-Sobala, Guinea. 38 years old at time of performance

**Recorder:** Tim Geysbeek and Makula Mammadi Kromah  
**Place of recording:** Douama-Sobala, Guinea  
**Date of recording:** 29 October 1990  
**Transcriber and translator:** Faliku Sanoe  
**Format:** English line-by-line translation  
**Coverage:** 3, 4

**[28] KAMARA, Sory Fina**

Sory Fina Kamara, 'Almami Samori' in David Conrad, ed., *Almami Samori and Laye Umaru: Nineteenth-century Muslim Heroes of Mande Epic Tradition*. Madison, WI: African Studies Program (1997).

**Performer:** Sory Fina Kamara; songs by *jelimuso* Saran Kouyaté  
**Recorder:** unknown  
**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba  
**Place of recording:** Macenta, Guinea  
**Date of recording:** ca.1985  
**Format:** English linear translation  
**Coverage:** 2

**[29] KAMISSOKO, Wa**

- a. *L'empire du Mali: Un récit de Wa Kamissoko de Krina, enregistré, transcrit, traduit et annoté par Youssouf Tata Cissé*: Fondation SCOA pour la recherche scientifique en Afrique Noire (Projet Boucle du Niger): Premier Colloque international de Bamako, 27 janvier - 1 février 1975. Paris: Fondation SCOA (1975).
- b. *L'empire du Mali (suite): L'enfance, l'exile, le testament et les funérailles de Magan Soundyata; les Peuls du Manding: Un récit de Wa Kamissoko de Krina, enregistré, transcrit, traduit et annoté par Youssouf Tata Cissé*: Fondation SCOA pour la recherche scientifique en Afrique Noire: Deuxième Colloque Internationale de Bamako, 16 février - 22 février 1976. Paris: Fondation SCOA (1977).
- c. Youssouf Tata Cissé, Wa Kamissoko, *La grande geste du Mali: Des origines à la fondation de l'Empire (Traditions de Krina aux colloques de Bamako)*. Paris: Editions Karthala/ Association ARSAN (1988).
- d. Y.T. Cissé, Wa Kamissoko, *Soundjata, la gloire du Mali: La grande geste du Mali, tome 2*. Paris: Editions Karthala/Association ARSAN (1991).

**Performer:** Wa Kamissoko (1919-1976), *jeli* from Krina, Mali  
**Recorder, transcriber, translator:** Youssouf Tata Cissé, ethnologist from San, Mali  
**Places of recording:** San and Krina, Mali  
**Date of recording:** from March 1972  
**Format:** a, b, c: Maninka transcription, literal French translation, liberal linear French translation; d, French translation only  
**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** Much of the material in volumes (c) and (d) of Wa Kamissoko's performances reproduces that found in the earlier ones: (c) chapter 2 = (b) chapters 1 and 2 (rough equivalent); (c) chapter 3 = (a) chapter 4; (c) chapter 4 = (a) chapter 1; (d) chapter 3 = (a) chapter 2 (rough equivalent); (d) chapter 4 = (a) chapter 3; (d) chapter 6 = (b) chapter 3

(rough equivalent); (d) chapter 8 = (b) chapter 4 (rough equivalent); (d) Chapter 10 = (a) chapter 5 (rough equivalent). Kamissoko was a source for CISSE and KONARÉ BA.

**[30] KANOTE, Kande**

Franz de Zeltner, *Contes du Sénégal et du Niger*. Paris: Ernest Leroux (1913) ('La légende de Soundiata': 1-36).

**Performer:** Kande Kanote, a Khassonkey'e/i of Nioro

**Recorder:** Franz de Zeltner, French colonial official, ethnologist, and archeologist, through an interpreter

**Place of recording:** probably Nioro, Mali

**Date of recording:** between 1904 and 1912

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 2, 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** De Zeltner presented two versions of the epic of Sunjata in his book: see also SISSOKO, Habibou.

**[31] KANOUTE, Dembo**

Dembo Kanoute, 'Formation de l'Empire Mandingue' in *Histoire de l'Afrique authentique*, trans. T. Sanogho and I. Diallo. Dakar (1972): 30-71.

**Performer:** Dembo Kanoute, Senegalese *jeli*, son of Djalimadi Kanoute and Sakiliba Kounadiya

**Translators:** Tidiane Sanogho and Ibrahima Diallo

**Place of recording:** unknown

**Date of recording:** unknown; 1972 or before

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 2, 3, 4, 5

**[32] KANTÉ, Ibrahima**

Ibrahima Kanté, *L'épopée du Mandingue*. Kindia, Guinea (n.d).

**Performer:** Ibrahima Kanté, *jeli* of Kankan, Guinea

**Recorder:** N'Famara Keita, government minister, Guinea

**Translator:** Ahmadou Kada, government official

**Place of recording:** unknown, probably Kindia or Kankan, Guinea

**Date of recording:** soon after May 1963

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[33] KANTÉ, Nakunte**

'De l'histoire des Sinbon et du Sosobala', appendix to Drissa Diakité, 'Le Mansaya et la société Mandingue. Essai d'interprétation des luttes sociopolitiques qui ont donné naissance à l'empire du Mali au XIIIe siècle' Thèse pour le doctorat de 3e cycle d'histoire. Université de Paris I (1980).

**Performer:** Nakunte Kanté of Narena, Mali, member of a blacksmith family  
**Recorder:** Drissa Diakité  
**Place of recording:** Narena, Mali  
**Date of recording:** October 1977  
**Format:** Maninka transcription and French linear translation  
**Coverage:** 1, 4, 5

[34] **KANUTE, Banna**

Banna Kanute, 'Sunjata' in Gordon Innes, ed. and trans. *Sunjata: Three Mandinka Versions*. London: School of Oriental and African Studies (1974): 136-259.

**Performer:** Banna Kanute, *jeli* from the Georgetown area of Gambia (born ca. 1925). Younger brother of Dembo KANUTE  
**Recorder:** Gordon Innes  
**Transcriber:** Bakari Sidibé  
**Translator:** Gordon Innes with Bakari Sidibé  
**Place of recording:** Serrekunda, Gambia  
**Date of recording:** 1969  
**Format:** Mandinka linear transcription and English linear translation  
**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

[35] **KANUTE, Dembo**

Dembo Kanute, 'Faa Koli' in Gordon Innes, ed. and trans. *Sunjata: Three Mandinka Versions*. London: School of Oriental and African Studies (1974): 260-323.

**Performer:** Dembo Kanute (born ca. 1920), *jeli* from Niani-Kayayi, The Gambia. Older brother of Banna KANUTE  
**Recorder:** Seni Darbo, agricultural officer, Yumdum, Gambia  
**Place of recording:** Serrekunda, a village about 8 miles from Banjul, Gambia  
**Date of recording:** 1968  
**Transcriber:** Bakari Sidibé  
**Translator:** Gordon Innes, with Bakari Sidibé  
**Format:** Mandinka linear transcription and English linear translation  
**Coverage:** 3, 4, 5

[36] **KOATE, Kieba**

1. Leo Frobenius, 'Die Sunjattalegende der Malinke' in his *Atlantis: Volksmärchen und Volksdichtungen Afrikas, V, Dichten und Denken im Sudan*. Jena: Diederichs Verlag (1925): 303-331.
2. Printed in part as 'Ein historisches Dichtwert (der Mandé oder Mandingo)', in Leo Frobenius, *Und Afrika Sprach*. Berlin/Charlottenburg: Bita, Deutsches Verlagshaus (1912-1913): 445-461.
3. Excerpted English translation: 'An Historical Poem (The Mandes or Mandingoes)' in Leo Frobenius, *The Voice of Africa 2*, trans. R. Blind. London: Hutchinson & Co. (1913): 449-466.

**Performer:** *jeli* Kieba Koate, alias Korongo  
**Recorder:** Leo Frobenius, German ethnologist (1873-1938), through an interpreter  
**Place of recording:** unknown, perhaps Kankan, Guinea  
**Date of recording:** probably 1907-1909, but possibly 1910-1912  
**Format:** 1, 2, German prose; 3, English prose translation of excerpt  
**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[37] KONAKE, Sory**

Sory Konake, *Le grand destin de Soundjata*. Paris: Office de Radiodiffusion-Télévision Française, Direction des Affaires Extérieures et de la Coopération (1973).

**Writer:** Sory Konake, born 1922, school inspector and writer from Mali  
**Source(s):** unknown, but probably based in part on Mamoudou KOUYATÉ  
**Format:** Drama. French verse and prose  
**Coverage:** 2, 3, 4, 5

**[38] KONARÉ BA, Adama**

Adama Konaré Ba, *Sunjata: le fondateur de l'empire du Mali*. Libreville: Lion/Nouvelles Editions Africaines (1983).

**Writer:** Adama Konaré Ba, lecturer, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Bamako. Wife of Alpha Oumar Konaré (president of Mali, 1994-2002)  
**Sources:** unknown, but includes Wa KAMISSOKO  
**Format:** French prose  
**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[39] KONE, Tiemoko**

Tiemoko Kone, *Soundjata*, transcribed and translated by Lassana Doucoure and Mme Marta. Bamako/Niamey: Institut des Sciences Humaines/Centre Régionale de Documentation pour la tradition orale (1970).

**Performer:** Tiemoko Kone *jeli* from Mourdiah, Mali (born ca. 1907)  
**Recorder:** Lassana Doucoure  
**Transcribers and translators:** Lassana Doucoure and Mme Marta  
**Place of recording:** Mourdiah, Mali  
**Date of recording:** November 1967  
**Format:** Bamana transcription, French literal translation, and French liberal translation  
**Coverage:** 1, 2

**[40] KONTE, Bakary**

Charles Monteil, 'Fin de siècle à Médine (1898-1899)' *Bulletin de l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire* 28B (1966): 166-170 ('Simanguru et Sun-Dyata').

**Performer:** Bakary Konte, Khassonke, *marabout* of Komenfara, near Medina, Mali  
**Recorder:** Charles Monteil (1871-1949), French colonial officer and scholar

**Place of recording:** unknown, probably Medina or Komenfara

**Date of recording:** June 1898

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 5

**Notes:** This is the second of two brief versions of the Sunjata epic recorded by Monteil in his journal. The first is anonymous, see Charles MONTEIL.

#### [41] KOUYATÉ, Bintan

a. Bintan Kouyaté, 'Fasa Sunjata, 'Fasa Sumaoro', and 'Fasa Tiramagang' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 99-104.

b. Bintan Kouyaté, Sanungwe Kouyaté, Siramuri Diabaté, Kelebala Diabaté and (probably) Bremadjan Diabaté, 'Fasa Sunjata' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 57-65.

**Performers:** Bintan Kouyaté, born Kangaba 1959, now living in Kéla; daughter of Siramuri DIABATÉ of Kangaba. Kelabala Diabaté, 'chef des griots' of Kéla (1919-1997). For Sanungwe KOUYATÉ and Siramuri DIABATÉ see separate headings.

**Recorder:** a. Jan Jansen; b. staff of Insititute des Sciences Humaines, Bamako

**Translator:** Cemako Kanté

**Place of recording:** a. Kangaba; b. Bamako, at a ceremony to mark Banzumana Cissoko's death

**Date of recording:** a. January 1989; b. 1988

**Format:** French linear translation

**Coverage:** *fasaw* or praise-songs are generally, as in this case, allusive

#### [42] KOUYATÉ, Demba

Demba Kouyaté, 'Sunjata' in David C. Conrad, ed., *Epic Ancestors of the Sunjata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea*. Madison WI: University of Wisconsin African Studies Program (1997).

**Performer:** Demba Kouyaté

**Recorder:** Fatamata Doubaya Kamara of Radio Télévision Guinéenne

**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba

**Place of recording:** Radio Télévision Guinéenne, Conakry

**Date of recording:** 19 May 1987

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 2, 3, 4

#### [43] KOUYATÉ, Jeli Fayala

Jeli Fayala Kouyaté, 'Kamanjan and Islam' in David C. Conrad, ed., *Epic Ancestors of the Sunjata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea*. Madison WI: University of Wisconsin African Studies Program (1997).

**Performer:** Jeli Fayala Kouyaté of Siguiiri, Guinea

**Recorder:** Fatamata Doubaya Kamara of Radio Télévision Guinéenne

**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba, Emmanuel Yemoson, Djibrila Dumbuya  
**Place of recording:** Quartier Colya, Conakry  
**Date of recording:** December 1992  
**Format:** English linear translation  
**Coverage:** 1

**[44] KOUYATÉ, Mamary**

Mamary Kouyaté, 'Sunjata' in David C. Conrad, 'The Role of Oral Artists in the History of Mali', PhD. University of London (1981) vol. 2: 711-713.

**Performer:** Mamary Kouyaté, *jeli* living at Kolokani, originally from Kita  
**Recorder:** David Conrad  
**Transcriber:** Sekou Camara  
**Translators:** Sekou Camara and David Conrad  
**Place of recording:** Kolokani, Mali  
**Date of recording:** August 1975  
**Format:** English prose translation  
**Coverage:** 3, 5

**[45] KOUYATÉ, Mamoudou**

1. Djibril Tamsir Niane, *Soundjata, ou L'épopée Mandingue*. Paris: Présence Africaine (1960).
2. English edition: *Sundiata, an Epic of old Mali*, trans. G.D. Pickett. London: Longman (1965).

**Performer:** *jeli* Mamoudou Kouyaté (died 1967) of Djelibakoro, Guinea  
**Recorder:** D.T. Niane (born 1932), Guinean historian and writer  
**Place of recording:** Djelibakoro, Guinea  
**Date of recording:** 1958  
**Format:** 1, French prose; 2, English prose  
**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** Mamoudou Kouyaté became *Belentigi* of Djelibakoro before his death but did not hold this position in 1958. Niane writes that he and Kouyaté spent many sessions together over a period of several weeks to record this version (personal communication, 1988).

**[46] KOUYATÉ, Mori**

Mori Kouyaté, 'Ancestors, Sorcery and Power' in David Conrad, ed., *Epic Ancestors of the Sunjata Era: Oral Tradition from the Maninka of Guinea*. Madison WI: University of Wisconsin African Studies Program (1997).

**Performers:** Mori Kouyaté, *jeli* of Niagassola, Guinea; songs by Mariamu Kanté  
**Recorder:** unknown Guinean tape merchant  
**Translators:** David Conrad, Jobba Kamara, Lansana Magasouba  
**Place of recording:** Kouroussa, Guinea  
**Date of recording:** 1988

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 4, 5

**[47] KOUYATÉ, Sanungwe**

Sanungwe Kouyaté, (a) 'Fasa Sunjata' and 'Fasa Sumaoro'; (b) 'Fasa Sunjata' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 105-113.

**Performer:** Sanungwe Kouyaté (born 1953) of Bamako, daughter of Siramuri DIABATÉ of Kangaba

**Recorder:** a. Jan Jansen; b. staff of Radio Mali

**Translators:** a. Cemako Kanté; b. Suleyman Berete and Mamadu Kouyaté of Kangaba

**Place of recording:** a. Bamako; b. unknown

**Date of recording:** a. January 1989; b. unknown

**Format:** French linear translation

**Coverage:** *fasaw* or praise-songs are generally, as in this case, allusive

**[48] KOUYATÉ, Sidiki**

Sidiki Kouyaté, 'Fasa Sunjata' in *Siramuri Diabaté et ses enfants: une étude sur deux générations des griots Malinke*. Utrecht/Bamako: ISOR/ISH (1991): 91-94.

**Performer:** Sidiki Kouyaté (born 1956), son-in-law of Siramuri DIABATÉ of Kéla

**Recorder:** Jan Jansen

**Translators:** Cemako Kanté

**Place of recording:** unknown

**Date of recording:** between December 1988 and April 1989

**Format:** French linear translation

**Coverage:** *fasaw* or praise-songs are generally, as in this case, allusive

**[49] LIKING, Werewere**

Werewere Liking, *L'amour-cent-vies*. Paris: Editions Publisud (1988).

**Writer:** Werewere Liking, Camerounian author, based in Côte d'Ivoire

**Source:** unknown

**Format:** French prose and verse

**Coverage:** 2, 3, 4

**[50] MONTEIL, Charles**

Charles Monteil, 'Fin de Siècle à Médine (1898-1899)' *Bulletin de l'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire*. 28B (1966): 166-170 ('Simanguru et Sun-Dyata').

**Performer:** unknown, probably a Khassonke storyteller or griot

**Recorder:** Charles Monteil (1871-1949), French colonial officer and scholar

**Place of recording:** unknown, probably Medina, Mali, or its environs

**Date of recording:** June 1898

**Format:** French prose



**Coverage: 4, 5**

**Notes:** This is the first of two short versions of the Sunjata story recorded by Monteil in his journal; for the second see Bakary KONTE. Monteil also includes elements of the epic of Sunjata in his historical study 'Les empires du Mali' *Bulletin du Comité d'Etudes Historiques et Scientifiques de l'Afrique Occidentale Française* 12 (1929): 291-377 (reprinted as *Les empires du Mali, Etude d'histoire et du sociologie soudanaises*. Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose [1968]).

**[51] PAGEARD, Robert**

Robert Pageard, 'Soundjata Keita et la tradition orale. A propos du livre de Djibril Tamsir Niane: Soundjata ou l'épopée Mandingue' *Présence Africaine* 36 (1961): 53-55.

**Performer:** unknown, of Segou

**Recorder:** Robert Pageard, French official and historian

**Place of recording:** Segou, Mali

**Date of recording:** ca. 1954-1956

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage: 2, 3, 4, 5**

**[52] QUENUM, Maximilien**

Maximilien Quenum, 'La légende de Fama-Soundjata (Soudan Français)' in his *Légendes Africaines, Côte d'Ivoire-Soudan-Dahomey*. Rochefort-sur-Mer: Imprimerie A. Thoyen-Theze (1946): 43-72.

**Writer:** Maximilien Quenum Possy Berry, born 1911, Cotonou, Dahomey (present-day Benin), ethnographer and author.

**Sources:** based in part on the play 'La ruse de Diegué' composed at the William Ponty School in 1937 (see ANON.), and apparently on childhood memories of *jeliw* performances

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage: 3, 5**

**[53] QUIQUANDON, F.**

F. Quiquandon, 'Histoire de la puissance mandingue d'après la légende et la tradition' *Bulletin de la Société de Géographie de Bordeaux* 2/15 (1892): 305-318.

**Performer(s):** unknown *jeli(w)* of Kenedugu

**Recorder:** Capt. F. Quiquandon of the French army, emissary of Archinard, to Tieba, ruler of Kenedugu

**Place of recording:** probably Sikasso, capital of Kenedugu

**Date of recording:** 1890

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage: 3, 4, 5**

**[54] SAKO, Ousmane**

'Two Brothers, Kirama and Kankejan' in Harold Courlander, 'Three Soninke

Tales' *African Arts* 12/1 (1978): 84-88, 108.

**Performer:** Ousmane Sako (Sakho), a Soninke, born 1946, Bamako

**Recorder:** Harold Courlander, died 1996

**Place of recording:** unknown

**Date of recording:** unknown

**Format:** English prose

**Coverage:** 2

[55] **SAWSE, Ali**

David Ames, 'Lion of Manding: A Wolof Epic' in Harold Courlander, ed., *A Treasury of African Folklore*. New York: Crown Publishers Inc. (1975) 71-78.

**Performer:** Ali Sawse, Wolof *gewel* (griot) from The Gambia

**Recorder:** David Ames, U.S. graduate student

**Place of recording:** Ballanghar, The Gambia

**Date of recording:** 1950

**Format:** English prose

**Coverage:** 3, 4

[56] **SIDIBÉ, Bakari K.**

*Sunjata: The Story of Sunjata Keita, Founder of the Mali Empire*, Comp. and ed. B.K. Sidibé, Introduction by Winifred Galloway. Banjul, Gambia: Oral History and Antiquities Division (1980) (reprinted: Banjul: Oral History Division for The Gambia Traditional Griot Society [1984]).

**Sources:** Bamba SUSO, Dembo KANUTE, Banna KANUTE, and Jabir Kuyate (from Tambasansang, Fuladu East, Gambia, died 1978)

**Recorders:** Gordon Innes, Bakari Sidibé, and Seni Darbo

**Translator and writer:** Bakari Sidibé

**Format:** English prose

**Coverage:** 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** Sidibé's *Sunjata* is a synthesis of the recorded performances of Banna and Dembo KANUTE and Bamba SUSO, plus a performance by Jabir Kuyate.

[57] **SISOKO, Jeli Baba**

Jeli Baba Sisoko, 'Wagadu and Sunjata' in David C. Conrad, 'The Role of Oral Artists in the History of Mali' PhD., University of London (1981) vol. 2: 649-710 (information on *Sunjata*, 670-710).

**Performer:** Jeli Baba Sisoko from Mali

**Recorders:** staff of the Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako

**Transcriber:** Sekou Camara

**Translators:** Sekou Camara and David Conrad

**Place of recording:** Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako

**Date of recording:** 24 July 1975

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 2, 3, 4, 5

**[58] SISOKO, Fa-Digi**

1. John William Johnson, 'The Epic of Sun-Jata: An Attempt to Define the Model for African Epic Poetry' PhD., Indiana University (1978) vol. 2.

2. Reissued as: *The Epic of Son-Jara: A West African Tradition. Analytical Study and Translation by John William Johnson, text by Fa-Digi Sisoko.* Bloomington/Indianapolis: Indiana University Press (1986).

**Performer:** Fa-Digi Sisoko, *jeli* from Bandoma, Cercle de Kita; father of Magan Sisoko

**Recorders:** Charles Bird, with the assistance of M.M. Diabaté

**Transcribers and translators:** J.W. Johnson, Charles Bird, Cheick Oumar Mara, Cheickna Mohamed Singare, Ibrahim Kalilou Tera, and Bourama Soumaoro

**Place of recording:** Kita

**Date of recording:** 9 March 1968

**Format:** 1, Maninka linear transcription and parallel English linear translation; 2, English linear translation only

**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Note:** 2 has been reissued in re-edited versions.

**[59] SISOKO, Magan**

1. John William Johnson, 'The Epic of Sunjata: An Attempt to Define the Model for African Epic Poetry, ' PhD., Indiana University, 1978, vol. 3.

2. Reissued as *The Epic of Sun-Jata According to Magan Sisoko.* Bloomington: Folklore Publications Group, Indiana University (1979). 2 vols.

**Performer:** Magan Sisoko, *jell* from Kabe, cercle de Kita; son of Fa-Digi SISOKO

**Recorder:** John William Johnson

**Transcriber:** Cheick Omar (sic!) Mara

**Translators:** John Johnson, Ibrahim Kalilou Tera, Cheickna Mohamed Singare

**Place of recording:** Kita

**Date of recording:** 19 April 1974

**Format:** 1, Maninka linear transcription and parallel English linear translation; 2, English linear translation only

**Coverage:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**[60] SISSOKO, Habibou**

Franz de Zeltner, *Contes du Sénégal et du Niger.* Paris: Ernest Leroux (1913) ('Suite à la légende de Soundiata': 37-45).

**Performer:** Habibou Sissoko, Khassonke *jeli* of Nioro

**Recorder:** Franz de Zeltner, French colonial official, ethnologist, and archaeologist, through an interpreter

**Place of recording:** probably Nioro, Mali

**Date of recording:** between 1904 and 1912

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

**Notes:** De Zeltner published another, more accomplished, variant of Sunjata: see Kande KANOTE.

**[61] SISSOKO, Djelimady**

*Music of the Royal Courts: A Celebration of the Musicians' Place Near the Thrones of Africa and the Orient: Epic Singing-Sunjata, from Mali.* Concert programme notes, BBC Radio Three/South Bank Centre, 6-7 July 1987, Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London.

**Performer:** Djelimady Sissoko

**Recorder:** Lucy Duran

**Transcribers:** Toumani Diabaté (the famous kora player) and Lucy Duran

**Place of recording:** unknown

**Date of recording:** January 1987

**Format:** English linear translation

**Coverage:** 3, 4

**[62] SUSO, Bamba**

Bamba Suso, 'Sunjata' in Gordon Innes, ed. and trans., *Sunjata: Three Mandinka Versions*. London: School of Oriental and African Studies (1974): 34-135.

**Performer:** Bamba *Susojeli* (ca. 1899-1974) of Sotuma, The Gambia

**Recorder:** Gordon Innes

**Transcriber:** Bakari Sidibé

**Translator:** Gordon Innes with Bakari Sidibé

**Place of recording:** Secondary School, Brikama, Gambia

**Date of recording:** 1969

**Format:** Mandinka linear text, English linear translation

**Coverage:** 3, 4, 5

**[63] TOUNKARA, Monzon**

Boniface Keita, *Le Monde Malinke de Kita des années 1910*. Bamako: Editions Jamana (1988): 8-13

**Performer(s):** unknown, of Kita

**Recorders:** Monzon Tounkara and Father Barrie

**Place of recording:** Kita

**Date of recording:** 1910s

**Transcription and translation:** Boniface Keita

**Format:** French prose and verse

**Coverage:** 3, 4, 5

**[64] VIDAL, Jean**

Jean Vidal, 'La légende officielle de Soundiata, fondateur de l'empire Manding' *Bulletin du Comité d'Etudes Historiques et Scientifiques de l'Afrique Occidentale Française*, 7 (1924): 317-328.

**Performer(s):** unnamed *jeli(w)* of Kéla

**Recorder:** Jean Vidal, 'administrateur en chef des colonies'

**Place of recording:** Kéla

**Date of recording:** December 1922 or soon after

**Format:** French prose

**Coverage:** 1, 3, 4, 5

## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> I wish to thank Ralph Austen, Stephen Belcher, David Conrad, Paulo Farias, and the interlibrary loan staff of the Library of the University of Birmingham for their help in locating obscure versions of the Sunjata epic. I am grateful to Jan Jansen for providing details on the Sunjata recordings he has made in Mali. David Conrad also most kindly provided details of oral performances from Guinea he is to publish, while Tim Geysbeek graciously gave me his translation of Guinean versions of Sunjata he had recorded.

<sup>2</sup> I have not included vinyl, tape, or compact disc recordings of *jeliw*, which often include songs (*fasaw*) about Sunjata or other figures associated with the epic.

<sup>3</sup> R.A. Austen (1990) 'Africans Speak, Colonialism Writes: The Transcription of Oral Literature Before World War II' *Cahiers de Littérature Oral*, 28 (1990): 29-53; S.P. Belcher (1985) 'Stability and Change: Praise Poetry and Narrative Tradition in the Epic of Mali' (Ph.D., Brown University); D.C. Conrad (1984) 'Oral Sources on Links between Great States: Sumanguru, Servile Lineage, the Jariso, and Kaniaga' *History in Africa* 11: 35-55; D.C. Conrad (1992) 'Searching for History in the Sunjata Epic: The Case of Fakoli' *History in Africa*, 19: 147-200; J.W. Johnson (1986) *The Epic of Son-Jara: A West African Tradition* (Bloomington/Indianapolis): 227-239; G. Tombs (1978) 'An Historical Interpretation of the Sundiata Epic' MA thesis, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.

<sup>4</sup> Where the performer is unknown, versions are listed by recorder.

<sup>5</sup> Different editions of the same performance or literary reworking of the Sunjata epic are arranged chronologically and given consecutive numbers. Consecutive lower-case letters within an entry refer to different performances by the same *jeli*. Where a *jeli's* name is given in capitals in an entry it indicates a cross-reference to another entry in the checklist.

<sup>6</sup> More detail on many of the versions, their performers and coverage is given in S.P.D. Bulman (1990) 'Interpreting Sunjata: A Comparative Analysis and Exegesis of the Malinke Epic' (PhD., Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham), and S.P.D. Bulman (1999) 'Sunjata as Written Literature: The Role of the Literary Mediator in the Dissemination of the Sunjata Epic' in R.A. Austen (ed.) *In Search of Sunjata: the West African Epic as History, Literature and Performance* (Bloomington/Indianapolis): 231-251