Case 6-Afr-Mali-Bandiagara Cliff-Dogon-Kanaga Masked Dancer-Bronze-late 19th c

Figs. 1-3. Mali-Mande-Bandiagara Cliff-Dogon-Kanaga Masked Dancer-late 19th c

**Case no.: 6**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** Mali-Mande-Bandiagara Cliff-Dogon-Kanaga Masked Dancer-late 19th c **Display Description:**

This is a late 19th c Dogon Kanaga Masked dancer in bronze using thelost-wax process from Djenné, Bandiagara Cliffs, Mali. The Kanaga mask consists of a long center slat that is crossed by two short slats. The cross slats each have two smaller wooden slats at right angles. Those pointing downwards symbolize Earth, while those pointing upwards (symbolizing Sky). This alludes to the metaphoric Dogon cosmology that is also present in the Nyerum-Nommo wood sculptures.

**Geographical Area:** Mali- Djenné-Djeno

**LC Classification:** DT551.42

**Date or Time Horizon:** 19th c

**Geographical Area:** site of Djenné-Djeno, Mali, on the flood plain of the Bani River,3 km (1.9 mi) s of modern town.



**Fig. 3. Cliff dwellings of the Bandiagara Cliffs, Mali, after http://www.apsaidal.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Tellem\_Dwelling\_Bandiagara\_Escarpment\_Mali.jpg**

**Map:**

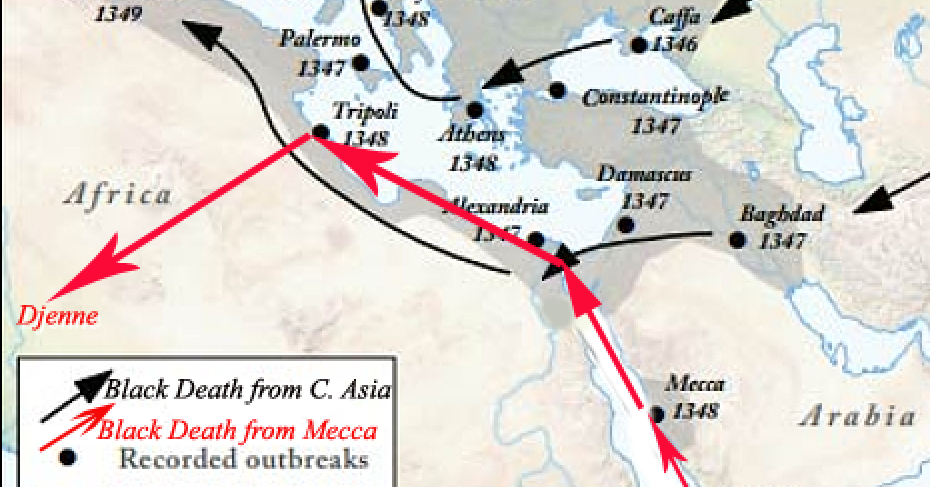


Fig. 4. Diffusion of the Black Death 1347-1350. This map does not show the marine route from Guangdong to Meccca in 1348 which was the traditional route for Chinese Hajj participants.



Fig. 4. Trade routes of the Western Sahara c. 1000-1500, showing the most direct route for the Black Death from Tripoli to Ghadames to Gaoto Timbukti to the Bandiagara Escarpment from Tieme Ciewe to Djenne ca 1348-1349. This indicates that the diffusion of the Black Death would have been expeditious, since these trade routes were in operation in the 1340’s. Goldfields are indicated by light brown shading. After https://i.pinimg.com/564x/69/15/ce/6915ce6f4fd34025787fe59bd44f9eae.jpg

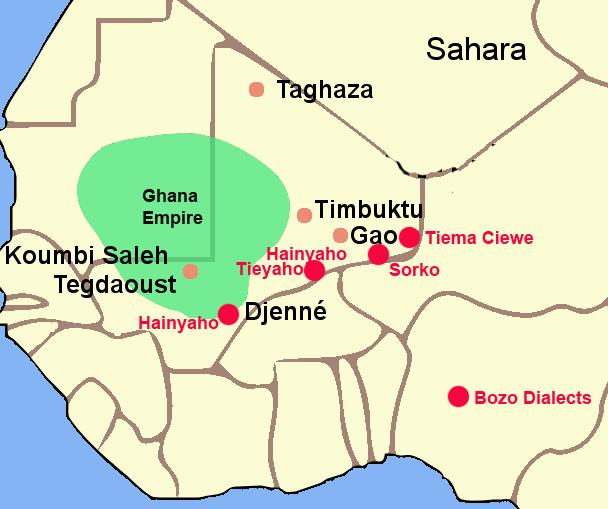


Fig. 5. The Ghana Empire 1000-1400 CE showing the ethnolinguistic groups along the Niger River. After <https://i.pinimg.com/564x/c6/a7/9b/c6a79b7443105f363ff965ebf420b7fd.jpg>

**Formal Label:** Mali-Djenné Djeno-Bozo People-Sorko Culture-14th c

**GPS coordinates:** [13° 53′ N, 4° 32′ W](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Djenn%C3%A9-Djeno#/maplink/1)

**Cultural Affiliation:** Dogon

**Media:** wood, kaolin paste, charcoal, rawhide.

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition: original**

**Provenance:** Bandiagara cliffs

**Discussion:**

Dogon dancers perform with Kanaga masks at 'Dama' ceremonies which honor and commemorate the dead. Half-sized masks, too small to be worn, replicate the forms of masks worn in performances. Like their larger counterparts they are powerful charms, filled with spirit, with potential for good or evil. However, while the full-sized masks are made for display in public ceremonies, these “Passport” masks are not used in performances and are sequestered in the local compound on a personal shrine. When the owner of this mask was travelling, it was carefully packed with other personal belongings and carried with care like a passport, hence the term “Passport” mask was coined.

Djenne 220 miles (354 km) south of Timbuktu was founded by the Bozo people in the 13th century as a fishing village. In the early 14th c the Soninke People made it into a trading center supplying Timbuktu with food, cotton, gold, cola nuts, and slaves in exchange for salt and North African trade described by Leo Aericanus in 1512-13. At the time of the Black Death in ca 1348 residents deserted the city and established Djenne-Djeno, only 2 miles (3 km) distant, which remained an independent city (outside the jurisdiction of the various empires rising and falling around it), and one seemingly without imperial aspirations, until Sunni Ali Ber conquered it in the 1470s. Djenne’s location provided some security for traders, as it was surrounded by the two rivers for nearly half of each year. However, the protection of the rivers did not prevent more powerful invaders such as the Mali in the 14th century, the Mossi in the mid-15th century, and the Songhai under Sunni Ali Ber in 1491 from laying siege to the city, nor from Moroccan invaders in the 1500s.

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**Formal Label:** Mali-Mande-Bandiagara Cliff-Dogon-Kanaga Mask-Passport-late 19th c

**Display Description:**

**LC Classification:** DT551.42

**Date or Time Horizon:** 19th c

**Geographical Area:** site of Djenné-Djeno, Mali, on the flood plain of the Bani River,3 km (1.9 mi) s of modern town **Date or Time Horizon:** early 20th c





**http://www.apsaidal.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Tellem\_Dwelling\_Bandiagara\_Escarpment\_Mali.jpg**

**Map:**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**

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