

## Notes on the Contributors

**Samir Amin** was born in Egypt and studied at the University of Paris. He is an economist, has been a consultant to the Malien Government (1960-1963), and has taught economics at the universities of Poitiers, Paris, and Dakar. He has directed the African Institute for the economic development and planification of the United Nations and is currently director of the Third World Forum in Dakar. His most recent works include: *La gestion capitaliste de la crise*, 1990; *L'éthnie à l'assaut des nations*, 1992; *Les défis de la mondialisation*, 1996; *Critique de l'air du temps*, 1997.

**Miguel Barnet** was born in Cuba in 1940. He is a writer, an ethnologist, and a poet; vice-president of the Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba, member of the Instituto de Etnología y Folklore, and president of the Fundación Fernando Ortíz. His many works include: *Biografía de un cimarrón*, 1966; *La piedra fina y el pavorreal*, *La sagrada familia*, *Oriki y otros poemas*, *Akeké y la jutía*.

**Yves Bénot** has been a journalist at the *Lettres Françaises*, the *Petit Marocain*, *Afrique-Asie*, and the *Nouvel Afrique-Asie*; a teacher in Guinea, Ghana, and in France, and an historian. He has published in particular: *Idéologies des indépendances africaines*, 1969; *Diderot de l'athéisme à l'anticolonialisme*, 1970; *La révolution française et la fin des colonies*, 1988; and *Massacres coloniaux*, 1994. He is president of the Association for the Study of European Colonization (1750-1850).

**Jean-Michel Deveau** is an historian. He is currently a professor at the University of Nice. He has published several works on the slave trade, notably *Le commerce rochelais face à la Révolution*, 1989; *La traite rochelaise*, 1990; and *La France au temps des négriers*, 1994.

**Dieudonné Gnamankou** was born in the Ivory Coast in 1963. He is a slavica philologist trained in Moscow (Université de l'Ami-

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**Oruno D. Lara** is an history professor, born in Guadeloupe. Founder and Director of the Centre de recherches Caraïbes-Amériques (CERCAM), he coordinates the research and study program at the Université de Paris X on the history of the relations between Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. He is the author of numerous books and articles. His most recent publications include: *Caraïbes en construction: espace, colonisation, résistance*, 1992; and *Les Caraïbes*, 1997 [1986].

**Paul E. Lovejoy** is Distinguished Professor of history at York University, Toronto, and a member of the Royal Society of Canada. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the economic and social history of Africa, slavery, and the African diaspora, notably, *Caravans of Kola: The Hausa Kola Trade, 1700-1900*, 1980; *Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa*, 1983; *Salt of the Desert Sun: The History of Salt Production and Trade in the Central Sudan*, 1986; and *Slow Death for Slavery: The Course of Abolition in Northern Nigeria, 1897-1936*, 1993.

**Luz María Martínez Montiel** was born in Mexico. She is an anthropologist and a researcher, received her doctorate from the Université René Descartes (Paris), and diplomas in African Studies from the Center for African Studies in Paris and in Afro-American anthropology from the independent national University of Mexico (UNAM). She is currently doing research at the National School of Anthropology and History of Mexico and coordinates the interdisciplinary and inter-regional program "Our Third Root" of the National Council for the Culture and Arts of Mexico. She is the author of numerous works devoted to African and Afro-American cultures.

**Katia de Queirós Mattoso** was born in Greece and specializes in economic and social history. She is a professor at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), where she teaches the modern and contemporary history of Brazil, having lived and pursued her university career there for over thirty years. She is the author of many books and articles; her *Etre esclave au Brésil*, originally published in French in 1979 and updated in 1995, is in its fourth Portuguese edition and fifth English-language edition.

**Claude Meillassoux** received his diploma from the National Institute of Political Studies in Paris, his doctorate in sociology from the Sorbonne, and his masters from the University of Michigan. He is honorary research director at the CNRS in Paris and has performed field research in the Ivory Coast, Mali, and Senegal. His publications include: *Anthropologie économique des Gouro de Côte d'Ivoire*, 1964; *Femmes, greniers et capitaux*, 1975; *Anthropologie de l'esclavage: le ventre de fer et d'argent*, 1986. He has edited several volumes: *L'esclavage en Afrique précoloniale*, 1975; *Génie social et manipulations culturelles en Afrique du Sud*, 1991; *Les spectres de Malthus*, 1991; etc.

**Djibril Tamsir Niane** received his doctoral thesis, *Recherches sur l'Empire du Mali*, in 1959. He is a specialist in the study of African oral traditions, a professor of history, and was previously principal of the Lycée classique of Conakry. Niane has undertaken the collection of oral traditions in Guinea, Mali, and Senegal. He is the author of numerous works on Africa, among them: *Soundiata ou l'épopée Mandingue*, 1960; and *Histoire Générale de l'Afrique* (Volume 4, UNESCO series), 1986.

### Interludes

**José Carlos Capinan** was born in 1941 in the State of Bahia. He studied education and medicine, and became interested in popular poetry and music. He writes screenplays, songs, and poems for singers such as Caetano Veloso, Edú Lobo, and Gilberto Gil, and has been working on a complete history of the mythic region

of cocoa. He is a representative of contemporary Brazilian regionalist literature. In 1986, he was named Cultural Secretary of the region of Bahia.

**Gilberto Gil** was born in 1942 in Salvador, Bahia. His music was influenced by Luiz Gonzaga, creator of baião and João Gilberto, inventor of the bossa nova. Gil has developed an international career as composer, singer, and guitarist. With Caetano Veloso he created Tropicalism, which was repressed by the government at the end of the 1960s. He was Cultural Secretary of the State of Salvador, and has, since the 1980s, been engaged in environmental issues. His recordings include: *Expresso 2222*, 1972; *Refazenda*, 1975; *Refavela*, 1977; *Montreux Jazz Festival (live)*, 1978; *Realce*, 1979; *Tropicalia 2*, 1992; and *Quanta*, 1997.

**Bill Tass Jones** was born in 1952 into a family of immigrants, the tenth of twelve children. He moved to New York in 1969 where he met Arnie Zane, and together they founded a dance company that was to tour the world and become a model of the incarnation of a particular form of contemporary dance, until Arnie Zane's death in 1988. HIV positive, today he continues to pursue work as a dancer and choreographer. His creations include: *Negroes for Sale*, 1974; *Everybody Works! All Beasts Count*, 1975; *Blauvelt Mountain*, 1980; *Freedom of Information*, 1985; *Absence*, 1988; *Forsythia*, 1989; *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land*, 1990; *Last Night on Earth*, 1992.

**Toni Morrison** was born in Lorain, Ohio. She studied literature and human sciences at Howard and Cornell Universities, and has taught in many universities in the U.S. (Texas, SUNY, Princeton, Yale). She won the Nobel Prize of literature in 1993 and today teaches at Princeton. Her many works include: *The Bluest Eye*, 1969; *Sula*, 1973; *Song of Solomon*, 1977; *Tar Baby*, 1981; *Beloved*, 1987; *Jazz*, 1992; *Honey and Rue* (poems), 1992; etc.

## Acknowledgments

This issue is the result of a collaboration with the "Slave Route" project, part of the Department of Intercultural Projects of UNESCO. We wish to thank Mr. Doudou Diène and Mrs. Marisa Fernandez in particular for their cooperation.

The editorial board of *Diogenes* is very grateful to all those who have contributed to this project over the months:

Mrs. Grace Bumbry and Mrs. Lisa Rausch for the *Music Tree*, the permission of which was graciously granted by the Revend Wyatt Tee Walker of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem; Mrs. Meny Lopes, Mr. José Carlos Capinan, and Mr. Gilberto Gil, for the poem/song *La Lune de Gorée*; the professor Vittorio Morabito from the Department of Political Studies at the University of Catane in Italy, for his attentive assistance and good advice; Mr. Emo Lessi for his knowledge, patience, and the time he devoted to this issue; Mr. Pierre-Emmanuel Dauzat and Mrs. Valentina Vagliani for their enlightening reading; Mrs. Dominique Arnouil and Mrs. Janet Arnulf for their encouragement and help. And for different reasons, Mrs. Isabelle Moreno, Mr. Reynaldo Harguinteguy, Mrs. Marie-Florette Lengue, Mrs. Léopoldine Rona-Beaulieu, Mrs. Cécile Goli in Washington, Mrs. Adrienne Azevedo, Mrs. Mimi Barthélémy, and Winifred Weeks, whose memory has accompanied this work.