



## REPRESENTATION OF NATURE IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE OVERSEAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Day: 02 July 2025 (Wed) 13:30 15:00 (NZST) room name: Burns Theatre 1  
SYMPOSIA WITH COMMISSIONS

016. A cross-cultural approach to representations of nature in the pre-industrial era. A  
symposium dedicated to the memory of Adama Samassekou

# Introduction

1 - The Académie des sciences d'outre-mer (ASOM) has a special place in the cross-cultural approach to representations of nature. Taking its profile from the legacy of the Geographical Societies of the 19th<sup>e</sup> century, from the outset it benefited from the participation of some of the leading personalities of the time.

2 - Today, the Académie des sciences d'outre-mer is backed by an extremely rich library, focusing mainly on the Académie des sciences d'outre-mer has been involved in a wide range of scientific and academic activities that have made, or continue to make, unparalleled contributions to the representation of nature in pre-industrial societies.

# 1/ THE ASOM: A WIDE RANGE OF SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF NATURE IN PRE-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES (1)

1.1 - many botanists : Raymond Dacary (1881-1973), Paul de Peyerhimoff (1873-1957))

1.2 - geologists and mineralogists (Alfred Lacroix (1863-1948)), prehistorians (Yves Coppens (1934-2022), Henri de Lumley, born in 1934), often with a cross-disciplinary profile (Théodore Monod (1902-2000))

1.3 - doctors of medicine (Alexandre Yersin (1863-1943), Eugène Jamot (1879-1937), Albert Calmette (1863-1933)),

1.4 - soldiers, colonial administrators and diplomats, engineers and archaeologists (Jean Leclant (1920-2011)), orientalist (Louis Massignon (1883-1962)),

1.5 - geographers (Pierre Gourou (1900-1999)) and historians (Hubert Deschamps (1923-1998), Robert Cornevin (1919-1988), and *alii*).

Théodore Monod (1902-2000)



Yves Coppens (1934-2022)



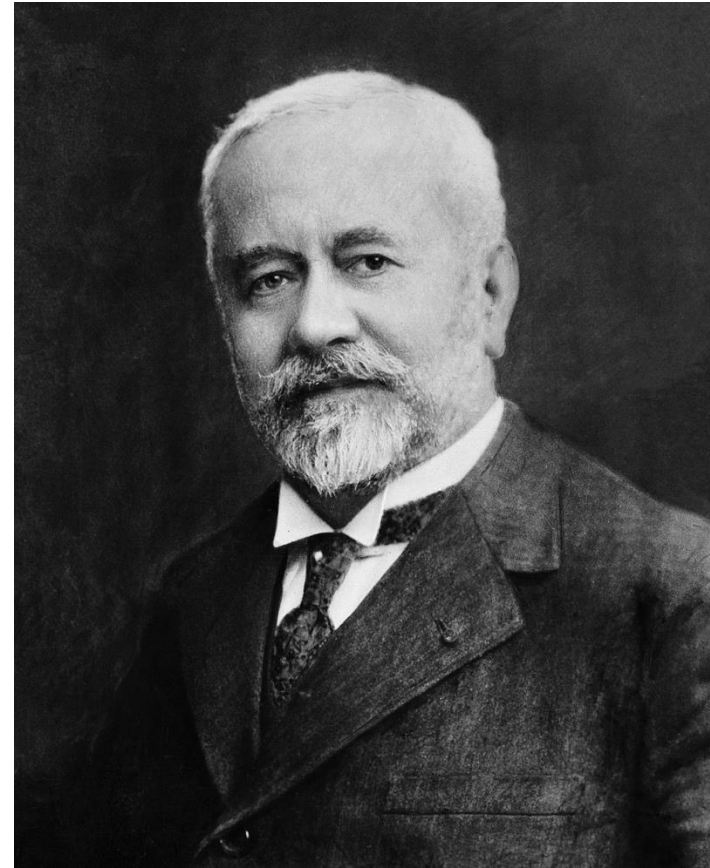


# Doctors of medicine

Alexandre Yersin (1863-1943)



Albert Calmette (1863-1933)



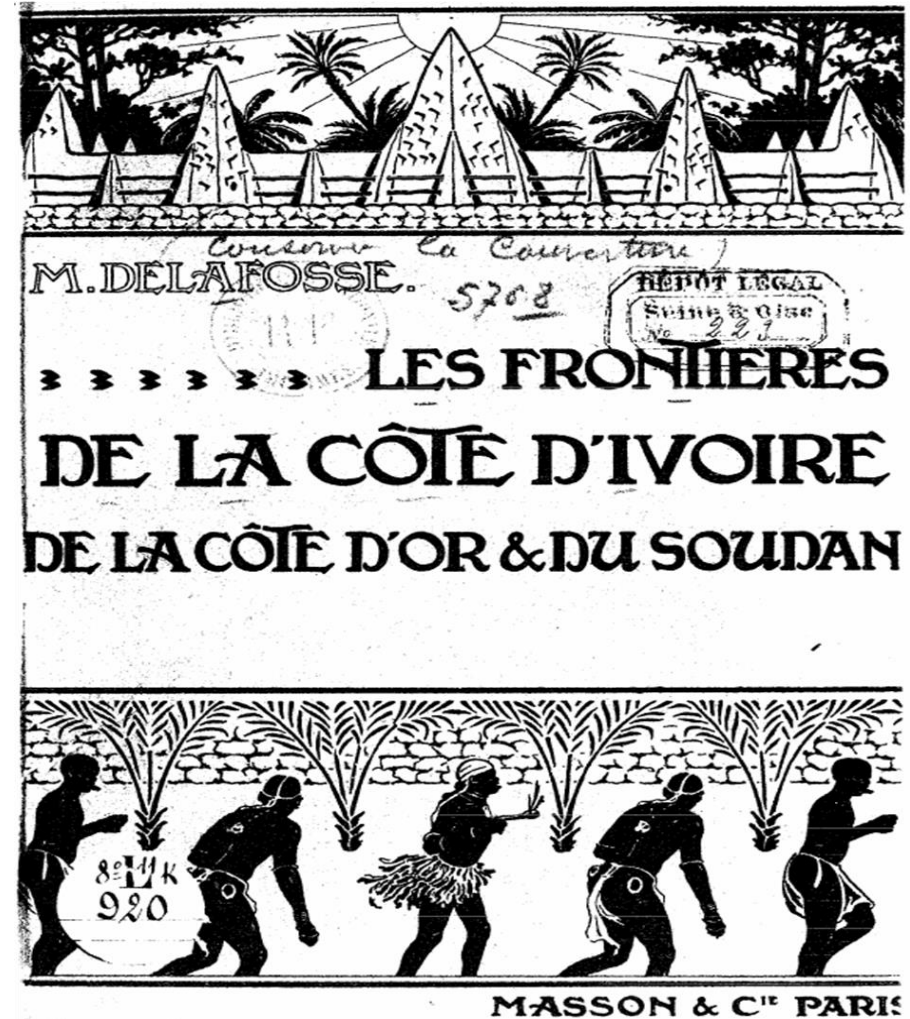
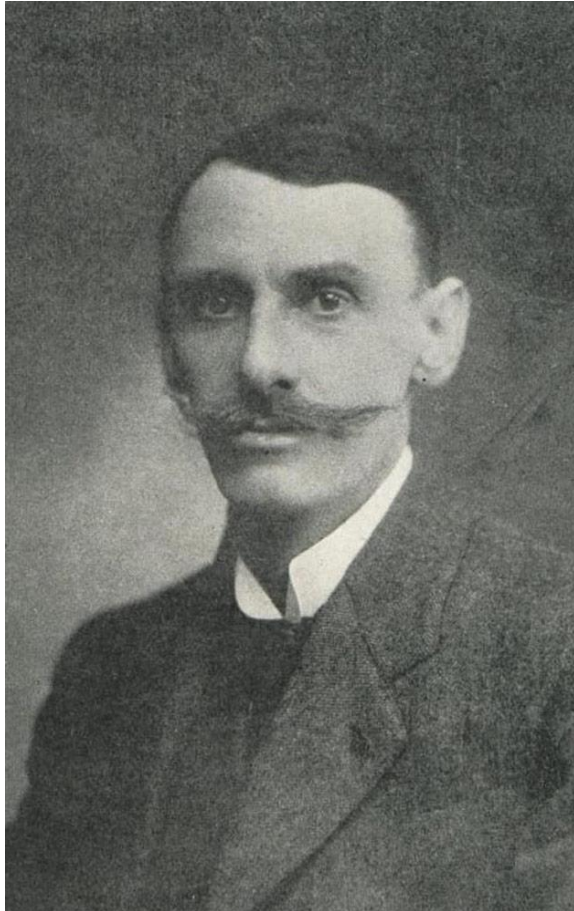
## 2/ THE ASOM: THREE EXAMPLES (1)

The purpose of this paper is to shed light on the contribution of the Académie des sciences d'outre-mer through a selection of personalities, including Vladimir Arseniev (1872-1930), the Reverend Father François Aupiais, Hugues Berthier (1869-1958), Maurice Delafosse, our founder, Jacques Faublée, Maurice Leenhardt (1878-1954), Lucien Lévy-Bruhl, Robert Montagne, Éveline Porée-Maspero and Jacques Soustelle.

### **1.1/ Maurice Delafosse (1870-1926): a French colonial administrator: Africanist, ethnologist, linguist, teacher and essayist**

- He started out in 1894 as a Foreign Affairs clerk in Ivory Coast, he became French consul in Liberia in 1899.
- On his return to the Ivory Coast, he was responsible for the demarcation of the country's border with Ghana.
- He was a lecturer in the Sudanese dialect at Langues O', in 1900-1901, and then worked on the preparation of the colonial exhibition in Marseille, before returning once again to the Ivory Coast.
- In 1908 he left this country for Sudan while continuing to teach at the colonial school and at Sciences Po in Paris.
- Mobilized in 1914-1915, he then served as director of political affairs in Dakar, Senegal, between 1915 and 1918.
- In 1918, he was appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> class governor of the colonies.
- After retiring, he became Delegate to the League of Nations Slavery Commission.
- He also played a major role in the Committee for Historical and Scientific Studies of West Africa and, of course, within the Academy of Overseas Sciences.

# Maurice Delafosse (1870-1926)



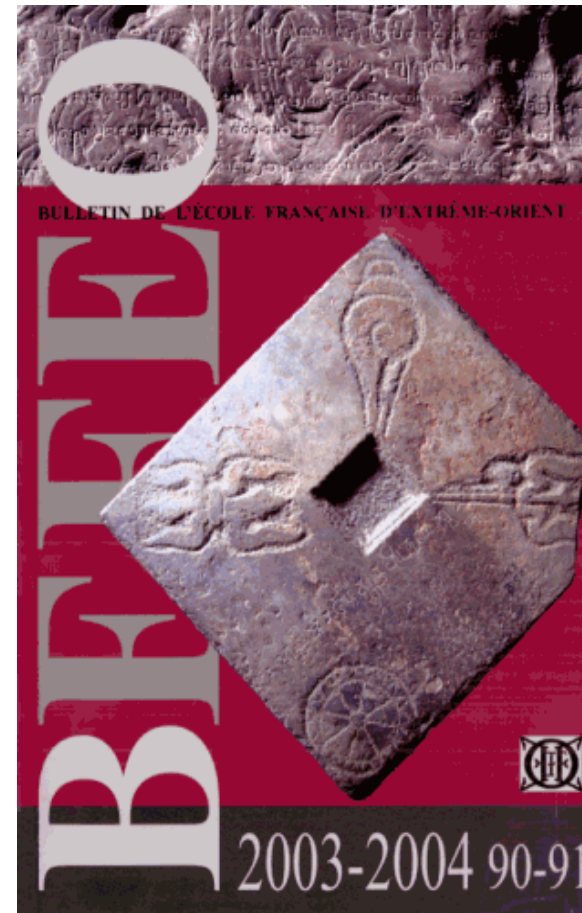
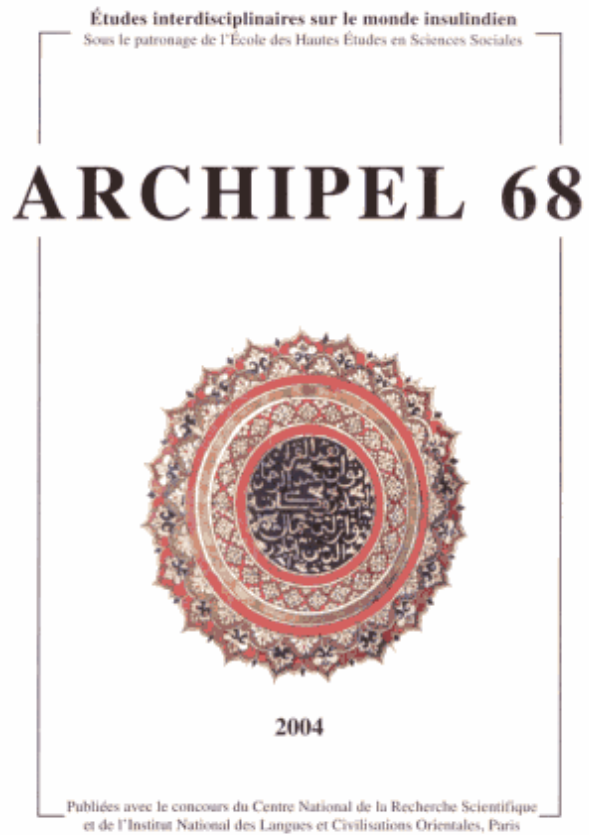
## 2/ THE ASOM: THREE EXAMPLES (2)

### 1.2/ Évelyne Porée-Maspero (1906-1992), French teacher and ethnologist, specialist in Cambodia

- Évelyne Porée-Maspero (1906-1992) was a specialist in Cambodia.
- Daughter of Georges Maspero (1872-1942), a colonial administrator, she was a graduate of the EPHE and Langues O'. A doctor of letters, she was the wife of Guy Porée (1902-1985), artistic advisor to the Cambodian government.
- She headed the commission on the mores and customs of Cambodia at the country's Buddhist Institute,
- She became a member of the École française d'Extrême-Orient, then joined the CNRS.
- During her career, she accumulated numerous microfilms and documents filed with the Société asiatique.
- In addition, she published numerous works on the sociology and history of Cambodia



# Évelyne Porée-Maspero (1906-1992)



## 2/ THE ASOM: THREE EXAMPLES (3)

### 1.3/ Jacques Soustelle (1912-1990) : Americanist, ethnologist, politician and essayist

- Originally from Lyon, he was the first to enter the École normale supérieure, then went on to top the philosophy aggregation. He obtained a doctorate in literature in 1937 and was a polyglot.
- He quickly established himself as a leading specialist on the Maya. He was a lecturer at the Collège de France and the École nationale de la France d'outre-mer and was a Marxist and pacifist when the Second World War broke out.
- However, he refused to accept the armistice of June 22, 1940, and joined General de Gaulle in London. The latter entrusted him with a diplomatic mission in Central and Latin America, then, from 1942, the direction of the National Information Commissariat. In 1943-1944, he was Director General of the Special Services of Free France in France and in Algiers.
- He then embarked on a great political career, occupying major posts: Minister of Information and then Minister of the Colonies (1945-1946), President of the RPF group (1951-1952), Governor General of Algeria (1955-1956), Minister of Information (1958-1959), Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of the Sahara, the French Overseas Territories and Atomic Energy.

# Jacques Soustelle (1912-1990)

Jacques Soustelle in 1945



Jacques Soustelle dressed as Governor of Algeria.



## 2/ THE ASOM: THREE EXAMPLES (3)

### 1.3/ Jacques Soustelle (1912-1990) : Americanist, ethnologist, politician and essayist

- In 1961, he joined the OAS (Organization of the Secret Army hostile to the independence of Algeria), and, threatened with arrest, went into exile abroad. In 1968, he was granted amnesty and returned to France.
- Director of studies at the EHESS, he sat on the Council of Europe and, in 1975, submitted a report to the Prime Minister on French research in anthropology and archaeology.
- For a time, vice-president of the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council (1975-1977), he carried out important missions on behalf of the French government in South Africa (1978), Mexico and South America (1979-1980, then 1984-1986). I
- In 1982, he became president of the European University Center for Cultural Heritage.
- He has received numerous prestigious foreign decorations and is a member of the Académie française. He has also been a member of the New York Academy of Science and the Instituto Mexicano de Cultura (Mexico City).