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**Conservation team in Bamako, Mali, October 2014 (from back left): Youssouf Sakaly, Karim Sidibé, Masarran Diankouma, Moussa Kalapo, Ethan Watrall, Amadou Baba Cissé, Heida Shoemaker, & Candace Keller**

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The Archive of Malian Photography will clean, digitize, and render globally accessible circa 100,000 negatives from the archives of Mamadou Cissé, Adama Kouyaté, Abdourahmane Sakaly, Malick Sidibé, and Tijani Sitou. Funded by the British Library (bl.uk) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (neh.gov), this five-year project addresses significant needs for international scholarship and the preservation of cultural heritage in Mali because:

- Access to photographers’ studio archives is limited;
- Archives are not cataloged, appropriately preserved, or accessible for research and education;
- Materials are vulnerable to mistreatment, theft, and exploitation;
- The physical integrity of these collections is in serious jeopardy.

To preserve and promote Mali’s cultural heritage, this project will ensure that:

- Archival collections will remain in Mali;
- Negatives will be better protected and preserved;
- High-resolution scans will be preserved;
- Low-resolution copies will be made freely accessible via the web;
- A digital repository will be managed by MATRIX at Michigan State University;
- Access in Mali will be provided by the Maison Africaine de la Photographie.

La Maison Africaine de la Photographie

A collaborative team of US and Malian conservators select, clean, scan, catalog, and rehouse about 100,000 photographic negatives from the archives of Mamadou Cissé, Adama Kouyaté, Abdourahmane Sakaly, Malick Sidibé, and Tijani Sitou for long-term preservation and world-wide access on the web.