

Interview date: 23 Mar 2009

File name: Sogbaleh women song 2

Transcriber: HS

Transcription consultants: Tōmi Ngombu.

Present: Hawa Sanja = Hawa Ngaju, Manu Joni, Boi Tua, Jilo Sigbi, Hawa Idrisa, Tōmi Ngombu, and HS.

Chorus: Ma Gbonjo yâ bogilɛ kɔ lɔn

Ma Gbonjo cooked the sauce but it didn't come out fine.

(Mende: Yan bili lêi oo.

Beat the drum (bili).

Ma Gbonjo yâ sàbà wai, mbei wundunga oo.

Ma Gbonjo cooked society rice, (but it was) "raw rice" (Mende) oh.

law = taboo = society rice. Bom = saba = sàà (Mende).

After singing, they discuss if there's another song:

HS: Yen cé lɔn, oo!

There's not another one, oh!

Then, in Mende (first set as song 3):

Ma Gbonjo nya lɔngɔ a gbulɔ, Sɛkɛ wɔ mia ee!

Ma Gbonjo, I want (some) salt, "It belongs to Seke!"

Ma Gbonjo was stingy, so when people asked her for anything, she would say, "(I can't give it away,) it belongs to Seke!"

HS: "Ee ya, Sɛkɛ wɔ mia, hé?"

"Ey ya, it belongs to Seke, hear?"

TG: true story! Day they put on boys' society, you have to cook. You cook a big big basin. Ma Gbonjo cooked on that day (In Sogbaleh), but the sauce didn't come out well. She is no longer alive.

END SEGMENT