

*"They call me, Dr. John
Known as the Night Tripper
Saddle a little Gris-Gris in my hand
Day trippin' up, back down the bayou
I'm the last of the best
They call me the Gris-Gris man
Got many clients
Come from miles around
Running down my prescription
I got my medicine, to cure all your ills
I got remedies of every description
Gris-Gris gumbo ya ya
Gris-Gris gumbo ya ya"*

DR. JOHN

The Name 'Dr. John' was taken by Mac Rabennack for his act, having been derived from a New Orleans Folklore Character from the 1840's named Dr. John (Jean Montanee), a huge free black man who made a small fortune by selling cures and other materials to various clients, thus amassing sufficient funds to purchase several slaves himself. He alleged that he was a prince from Senegal who had been taken to Cuba and there freed before coming to Louisiana. These multitude of concoctions and charms created or gathered were to either harm or help, and so called 'gris-gris' (small cloth bags containing herbs and amulets) sold to lift or cast curses for a fee.

Gris-gris is a Voodoo amulet originating in West Africa which is believed to protect