

Abba Alhadi Honored by the American Library Association via *JPAS* Editor Suggestion

JPAS editor Itibari M. Zulu suggested that Mr. Abba Alhadi who spent 40 of his 72 years taking care of rare manuscripts at the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu, Mali be recognized by the American Library Association (ALA), hence in their 2012-2013 ALA Tribute #3 at the ALA Annual 2013 Conference a tribute was adopted by the Council of the American Library Association, July 2, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois. The American Library Association is a non-profit organization based in the United States that promotes libraries and library education internationally. It is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with more than 62,000 members.

The tribute resolution honoring Mr. Abba Alhadi reads as follows:

Whereas Mr. Abba Alhadi has spent 40 of his 72 years taking care of rare manuscripts at the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu, Mali;

Whereas the books, which document so much about life as it was lived during Timbuktu's rise and fall over centuries, challenge the notion that Africa's history was exclusively oral until the arrival of European colonialists;

Whereas Mr. Abba Alhadi disguised the books as rice and millet, the bags went on a journey on motorcycles and in canoes to the Malian capital Mopti, still controlled by the government;

Whereas Mr. Alhadi protected these documents that date back to the thirteenth century, and serve as a historical documentation of not only Africa but the entire world; and

Whereas Mr. Alhadi, in January 2013, protected 28,000 of the 30,000 manuscripts from invaders who succeeded in burning parts of the library and research center; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members extends its deepest appreciation and gratitude for his efforts to preserve, protect, and save 28,000 of the 30,000 manuscripts that date back to the 13th century from burning parts of the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning & Islamic Research in Timbuktu, Mali.