

TRIBUTE RESOLUTION HONORING ABBA ALHADI

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:

1. 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.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association

Tuesday, July 2, 2013

in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels

ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council