




Tombouctou

MANUSCRIPTS PROJECT

مشروع مخطوطات تومبكتو

 [Like on Facebook](#)

 [Follow on Twitter](#)

 [Forward to a Friend](#)



REPORT FROM BAMAKO (16 - 19 JUNE)

As I stepped off the the plane in Bamako a few days ago, I didn't know exactly what to expect. [READ MORE...](#)



REPORT BY DR. THOMAS SCHULER

Since the very beginning of

EDITORIAL BY SHAMIL JEPPIE

Over the past few months we have been watching the political crisis in Mali which has centred on the capital, Bamako, and the important towns of the North among which Timbuktu is the most prominent. Timbuktu is also, of course, the focus of this Project. We have tried our best to stay in contact with our friends and colleagues in and from Timbuktu. As the crisis spread and the Tuareg rebels occupied the town many of our colleagues and their families left for the capital. They are amongst the foremost researchers, conservators, and library-owners of the country. Without them the manuscript collections in Timbuktu are in a precarious state; there are now few people with the skills and knowledge to handle the manuscripts. We know that a number of the private libraries have been locked-up and we have been assured that the manuscripts are out of danger. For how long we do not know. The new building of the Ahmad Baba library has been taken over by the Ansar al-Din rebels. Equipment such as computers were the items first removed by the rebels; how much data are now lost we shall only know when the building is returned to professional management; the generator was an object for removal but it was too large. These devout rebels have no problem with theft.

The Timbuktu manuscripts might be stolen in the near future; or they may be destroyed willingly or unconsciously. We do not know at this point what condition the manuscripts are in. However, they are being neglected at the moment. This may be the first

the Malian crisis, ICOM 'disaster Relief Task Force' has been monitoring the situation in northern Mali very closely. [READ MORE...](#)



NEW MANUSCRIPTS IN OUR DATABASE

This letter, dated 1324/1906-7, concerns trade issues. No information is known about the sender, Muḥammad b. 'Abd al-Qādir b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Bāyish (?) Naḳībā (?) b. Maḥmūd b. 'Alī.

To get access to our growing database, please register [HERE](#). Once your registration has been confirmed, you will be able to access [THIS MANUSCRIPT](#) and many more.



CENTRE FOR THE
STUDY OF
MANUSCRIPT
CULTURES

WORKSHOP REPORT: WEST AFRICAN MANUSCRIPTS

On 22 March 2012, the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CMSC) of the University of Hamburg hosted an international workshop entitled, "West African Manuscripts: Encyclopaedic

stage in their disappearance and destruction. Unstable climatic conditions, bugs, and dust piling-up and then mishandling could destroy whole collections. Very little can be done from this distance. We are in contact with many concerned colleagues and specialists. But we are all really very far from Timbuktu. The capital itself is hundreds of kilometers away.

The rebels are oblivious to the heritage of Timbuktu, as we have just witnessed with the destruction of a number of tombs by the Ansar al-Din. These are the graves of people highly regarded in Timbuktu and the region. Among them are men who were both saintly and scholars. The rebels may next focus on the manuscripts with Sufi content – of which the libraries are filled. It is strange to hope for anybody or group to be illiterate but in this case one hopes that they cannot decipher the materials because of their inadequate literacy in the language or script of the materials. One hopes that they are just not interested in the materials. If they are interested in them then it should be to see that they are cared for. But rebels trying to assert their control over a town have more important concerns.

Any progress will have to start in the capital, Bamako. There, the intrigues in the military and the conflict between sections of the military and the government will have to be sorted out. It does not appear that they will come to any agreement soon. So the inadequate military will not be able to turn their attention to the rebels in Kidal, Gao, and Timbuktu and beyond. There have been many insurgencies before in the post-colonial history of Mali but this is the boldest one, taking in the largest swathe of territory and even entails a declaration of an independent Azawad state. No other state has recognized the rebel government. Do the rebels believe that they can create "facts on the ground" and by default become the legitimate rulers? The longer the authorities in Bamako dispute, dally, and delay coming to a consensus the longer time the rebels have to implant, by force of arms necessarily, their rule. However, they are unlikely to sustain their rule. Already conflict within the rebel camp has emerged. More contention among them should be expected.

In the meanwhile, all Malians are suffering. There is

Dimension of Study". [READ MORE...](#)



MUHAMMAD IDRIS MUHAMMAD SALEH (1934 - 2012)

Muhammad Idris Muhammad Saleh died in Zanzibar on March 5th 2012, aged 78. Known locally as Maalim Idris (or Maalim Idrisa), his impact on the Zanzibari community was first and foremost as a religious leader and a teacher, but also as a keeper of the history of [READ MORE...](#)



NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We would like to make you aware of two new team members, Rifqah Kahn, who joined us last year and Mauro Nobili, who joins us as a post-doctoral fellow. [READ MORE...](#)

displacement, even more impoverishment, frustration, and violence. Another avoidable human crisis in Sahel is the consequence.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS IN MALI

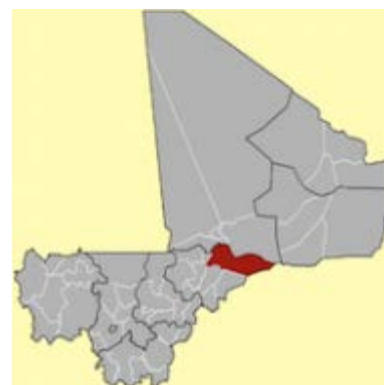
Below is a timeline of events in Mali since the resurgence of a Tuareg rebellion following an influx of weapons and fighters from Libya last year.

17 January 2012: MNLA gunmen clash with army troops in the northern town of Menaka after months of warnings that rebels have been amassing arms. MNLA accuses the government of military provocation and a series of broken promises, and says its objective is "winning peace and justice for the Azawad community" and "stability for our region." [READ MORE...](#)



DECLARATION DE TOMBOUCTOU

Déclaration des intellectuels, hommes de culture et artistes de Tombouctou face au péril qui menace le patrimoine matériel et immatériel de la cité. [LISEZ EN PLUS...](#)



LA ZONE FRONTALIERE AVEC LA SUPPOSEE <<REPUBLIQUE DE L'AZAWAD>>

Le développement de la ville de Douentza a pris de l'ampleur avec l'arrivée des ONG, surtout après les années 90 quand les zones du nord ont gagné plus



RAPPORT DE MOHAMED AG ERLESS

Nous vivons en ce moment dans une situation qu'on n'imaginait pas il y a seulement quelques mois. Je profite pour vous donner toutes les nouvelles. [LISEZ EN PLUS...](#)

d'attention suite à la rébellion Touareg de cette époque. Les années 90 étaient aussi la période de tournant politique au Mali avec le coup d'Etat du 26 Mars 1991 par le Comité de Transition du Salut du Peuple conduit par le jeune Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Toumani Touré. [LISEZ EN PLUS...](#)

[follow on Twitter](#) | [like on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2012 Tombouctou Manuscripts Project, All rights reserved.

- FORWARD TO A FRIEND -
Know someone who might be
interested in the email?
Forward this email to a friend.

- ENVOI À UN(E) AMI(E) -
Vous connaissez quelqu'un qui
pourrait être intéressé ?
Envoyez cet e-mail à un(e) ami(e).

زُر الموقِع

- VISIT WEBSITE -

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

University of Cape Town · University of Cape Town · Cape Town, W. Cape 8000

