Mauritanian Manuscripts Collection
Mauritanian Manuscripts-Color Negatives (12 strips of 35mm Kodak CA 100 5095 containing up to 36 exposures each) of Selected Mauritanian Manuscripts, 1987-88
Mauritanian Manuscripts-Data Disks for August, 1988 Interim Finding Aid covering Records 1-937. Seven 5.25 inch, floppy diskettes containing data for guide. Operating system and application program are held by Charles C. Stewart.

Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts among the Ahl Al-Shaykh Sidiyya Boutilmit, Mauritania, 1990
Volume I: Record Numbers 1 - 1,000
Volume II: Record Numbers 1,001 - 2,054
Volume III: Arabic Indices

Fragile: Documents are not adhered to book binding.
Volume IV: English Index

Volume I contains an introduction describing the scope of the libraries and the microfilming project, list of subject terms, and the nature of the catalogue.

Entries in Volumes I and II list (in English and Arabic): record number, collection number, title, subject, literary form, author, recipient, copyist, date of composition, date of copying, pages, condition, and related physical information.

Microfilm Cabinets: (in UAS Range 28-7)

104 reels of positive microfilm

Master negatives of the microfilm are stored in the Photographic Services unit of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library. One negative and one positive copy were donated to the collection owner, Bab wul Harun in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

Box 5:

External hard drive with digital copies of the 104 digitized reels of microfilm

Box 6:

In Box 6, under the heading “Guides and Inventories” are guides Stewart created to the series of copies of manuscripts he had photographed or obtained. Stewart also created his own classification system for the film reels found in Boxes 9-11, identifying them as series A-Z, XIV-XVI, AA-ZZ, A1-A17, AA1-AA12, and 1-15 to reflect an organization of the film by its contents and the location where it was filmed. He created series 1-10, O-A, and O-B to classify audio recording tapes by their contents. Further information on these film and audio materials can be found among the Guides and Inventories found in Box 6 within the following folders: “Fieldnotes and Films 1967-70 (and 1990)”, “Film Index,” “Tape Index,” and in the Notebooks, “Filming Field Notes,” “Tape Transcriptions.” Material gathered in 1990 by Stewart’s graduate student, Raymond Taylor, is also included.

Guides and Inventories

“Fieldnotes and Films 1967-70 (and 1990)”

“Guide to printed items in Charles C. Stewart Fieldnotes and Film, 1968-69, 1970"
Stewart’s guide to navigating prints of manuscripts and correspondence collected 1968-70.

“Tape Index,” ca. 1969

“Film Index,” ca. 1969

Microfilm Index to Centre Ahmad Baba, ca. 1996
Guide, written in Arabic, to manuscripts filmed by Stewart’s graduate student Raymond Taylor at the Ahmad Baba Center in Timbuktu. Film reels containing these manuscripts are located in Box 12.

“Indices to ‘Green Folders,’” ca. 1969
Guide to Box 8, Green Folders.

“Maktabat Ahl al-Shaykh Sidiyya ‘Harun’”, ca. 1968-1970
Guide to Haroun’s Boutilimit Collection, explains how catalogue was produced, written in Arabic.

Notebooks


“Field Notes,” 1968-69
Diary of fieldwork, microfilm log, family genealogy.

“Tape Transcriptions,” 1969
Notes and transcriptions for Box 13, Tapes 1-6.

Raymond Taylor, ca. 1990
Documents from Stewart’s graduate student Raymond Taylor.

“La Biographie des Hommes de Culture Arabe au Fouta Senegal au XIXe et le XXe Siècle,” 1968
Information on Arabic men from Fouta, Senegal, written in French.
“D.P. Gamble Files: Gambian Archives,” ca. 1968-1970
Archival entries in D.P. Gamble Files, selected quotes.

“Interview Synopses From Senegal + Gambia (inc. Casamance),” 1969
List of interviewees and transcriptions relating to interviews on family genealogy.

Student Memoire and University of Nouakchott Senior Thesis Requirement, ca. 1986
Document about senior thesis project, written in Arabic.

“University of Nouakchott ‘Senior Thesis’/Memoire,” 1986-87
Undergraduate thesis on Brehim wuld Shaykh Sidiyya Baba’s work on bidagni customs.

List of events in Mauritania circulated during national census in 1987-88.

“L’Institut Musulman de Boutilimit,” Pamphlet, 1960s
Prospectus of school curriculum.

“Shehu Ahmadou Bamba in Captivity,” Photographic postcard
Painting of famous Muslim scholar.

Print of Tijaniyya Figures, 1960s
Print of significant Tijaniyya figures from the 1960s.

“Historical Summary of Salih Bin, Abdal-Latif Etc by Al-Hajj Thierno Kamara, Pikine,” ca. 1968
Handwritten summary written in Arabic.

`Abd al-Jalil b. `Abd al-Rahman, ca. 1968-70
Manuscript prints of `Abd al-Jalil’s legal opinions.

Photographs, documents, and negative film about Haroun of Cheik Sidya, collaborator of Stewart.

Box 7:

“Sidiyya Baba, Irshad Al-Muqalladin,” ca. 1968-69
Print of Arabic text written by Sidiyya Baba.

“Extracts Copied from the Ifaq al-Masur...” ca. 1975
Manuscript relating to Sokoto-Kunta relations, given to Stewart by Alkalin Wazivin, Sokoto Town.

Unidentified religious/academic text.

Fragments of Unidentified Manuscripts, ca. 1968-69
Fragments of manuscript prints. May also be included in film strips A1, A2, A7, A12, A15, A17 contained in Box 10.

Correspondence of Sheik Sidiyya, ca. 1968-69
Manuscript prints of correspondence written by Sheik Sidiyya. These may also be included in film strips A1, A2, A7, A12, A15, A17 contained in Box 10.

Sidiyya Baba Manuscript Prints, ca. 1968-69
Biography of Sidiyya Baba, manuscripts of Sidiyya Baba’s writings relating to colonial occupation, education, attitudes towards French, Jihad. Prints correspond to WAAMD ID #10010, #10011, #10012 in West African Arabic Manuscript Database.

“Harun Wuld Shaykh Sidiyya Baba, Catalogue of His Boutilimit Library,” ca. 1968-69

“Harun Wuld Shaykh Sidiyya Baba, Catalogue of His (Sidiyya al-Kabir) Writings,” 1969
Catalogue of Sidiyya al-Kabir’s correspondence from Harun’s personal library. Prints continue in folder “Shaykh Sidiyya al-Kabir (Mainly Commercial Matters).”

“Correspondence: Shaykh Sidiyya al-Kabir (Mainly Commercial Matters)”, ca. 1968

“Correspondence Compilation of Sidi Muhammad b. Sidi al-Mukhtar al-Kunti,” ca. 1968-69
Correspondence of Sidi Muhammad made in the Azaouad at the time Sidiyya al-Kabir was a student/disciple between 1812-24. Includes the Risala al-Ghalawiyya. Includes prints of film reels A9-A12 contained in Box 10.

“Fath ash-Shakûr fi ma `rifât at a `yân `ulamâ at-Takrûr.” ca. 1968-69
Print copy of manuscript from the Bibliothèque Nationale.

Box 8:

Green Folders
Photostatic prints of manuscripts and correspondence, ca. 1968-70.

“O Hbiri I”
“O Hbiri II”
“Kunta”
“Zawiyia/Djedjeba/Sudanis/Morocco Travels”
“Correspondence with talamidh”
“Brakna”
“Trarza”
“Certificats/Fatwa”

Box 9:
Filmed Manuscripts (35 mm reels and filmstrips in photo processors boxes)

1968 Boutilimit contains Haroun ould Baba’s summary of works written by Sidiyya al-Kabir, copy of *al-Tara ‘if wa talaid*. Beginning with film H, contains correspondence written to or received by Sidiyya al-Kabir.

“Series A-Z” (1 box)
White microfilm box. Contains strips A-B, H-Z.

C, D, E, F, G (5 boxes)
5 yellow photo processor boxes of individual film strips.

1968 Nouakchott contains Catalogue Provisoire of Mauritanian manuscripts compiled by Mokhtar ould Hamidoun and Heymowski, maps from Frerejean study. XV included in film processor box “AA1.”

XIV (1 box)

XVI (1 box)
Includes film from strip AA6.

1968 Gambia, Senegal, Nouakchott Part 1 contains manuscripts identified by the villages where they were filmed. Beginning with Film II, contains studies and reports from early years of colonial era. Part 2 included in Box 10.

“Spliced films in order of: AA/BB/CC/DD/EE” (1 box)
White paper microfilm box. Contains strips AA-EE.

EE-OO (11 boxes)
11 yellow film processor boxes of individual film strips.

Box 10:

Filmed Manuscripts (35 mm reels and filmstrips in photo processors boxes)

1968 Gambia, Senegal, Nouakchott Part 2 contains studies and reports from early years of colonial era. Part 1 contained in Box 9.

PP-ZZ (11 boxes)
11 yellow film processor boxes of individual film strips.

1969 Boutilimit contains letters relating to economic and commercial matters, inventory of Haroun ould Baba’s library, copy of *al-Tara 'if wa talaid*, Kunta correspondence, Sidiyya al-Kabir’s visit to Morocco ca. 1830, Haroun’s reconstruction of Sidiyya’s relations and communications with dan Fodio’s state in Northern Nigeria in 1820s.

A1, A2 (2 boxes)
2 yellow film processor boxes of individual film strips.

“1968/9 Boutilimit Series A3-A-17, 1970/71 Boutilimit, Series 1-3” (1 box)


“1968/9 Boutilimit Series A3-A-17, 1970/71 Boutilimit, Series 1-3” (1 box)

6, 9, 10, 11, 14 (5 boxes)
5 yellow processor boxes of individual film strips.

1969 Mauritania, Part 1 contains administrative reports and studies relating to opening
years of colonial era. Part 2 included in Box 11.

AA1-AA3 (3 boxes)
3 yellow processor boxes of individual film strips.
Box AA1 includes film from strip XV.

Box 11:
Filmed Manuscripts (35 mm reels and filmstrips in photo processers boxes)

1969 Mauritania Part 2 contains administrative reports and studies relating to opening years of colonial era. Part 1 contained in Box 10.

AA4-AA5, AA7-AA12 (8 boxes)
8 yellow boxes of individual film strips.
AA6 included on film strip XVI.

“Memories (Undergraduate Memories)” (1 box)
Two honors theses from University of Nouakchott history undergraduates relating to traditional education system, religious leader and colonial politician Sidiyya Baba.

“Archives A.O.F/Dakar,” Dakar, ca. 1968-70 (1 box)
Selection of documents from the French West African Archive (Archives de l’Afrique-Occidentale française), written in French.

“Reel 1 of 2: Appears to be Handlist of Centre Ahmad Baba,” ca. 1990, Timbuktu (1 box)
Handlist of manuscripts held at the Centre Ahmad Baba.
Filmed by Raymond Taylor.

“Reel 2 of 2: Appears to be Handlist of Centre Ahmad Baba,” ca. 1990, Timbuktu (1 box)
Handlist of manuscripts held at the Centre Ahmad Baba.
Filmed by Raymond Taylor.

Box 12:
Filmed Manuscripts (35 mm reels and filmstrips in photo processers boxes)

“8,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Black cylindrical container. Individual film strip belonging to “Appears to be Handlist of Centre Ahmad Baba.”
Filmed by Raymond Taylor.

“14,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Black cylindrical container. Individual film strip belonging to “Appears to be Handlist of Centre Ahmad Baba.”
Filmed by Raymond Taylor.

Subheading: Centre Ahmad Baba, Timbuktu, ca. 1990 (7 boxes)
Description: Film reels of selected manuscripts from the Centre Ahmad Baba in Timbuktu. The manuscript order on these reels follows the list documented in the two film reels titled “Appears to be Handlist of Centre Ahmad Baba” in Box 11. A written guide to these manuscripts is provided by Stewart in the folder “Microfilm Index, Centre Ahmad Baba” contained in Box 6. These reels were filmed by Raymond Taylor, a graduate student of Stewart, in the 1990s. The manuscripts were not filmed in numerical order and are instead photographed as Taylor came across them (see “Microfilm Index, Centre Ahmad Baba” for complete list.)

“Reels 1-20,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Film positives of manuscripts #280-2078.

“Negative Reels 1-20,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Film negatives of manuscripts #280-2078.

“Reels 21-42,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Film positives of manuscripts #2078-3313.

“Negative Reels 21-42,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center, Part A (1 box)
Film Strips #21-23 of #21-42.
Film negatives beginning at manuscript #2078.

“Negative Reels 21-42,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center, Part B (1 box)
#24-42 of #21-42.
Film negatives beginning at manuscript #1031.

“Reels 43-48,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Film positives of manuscripts #3313-4743.

“Negative Reels 43-48,” ca. 1990, Ahmad Baba Center (1 box)
Film negatives of manuscripts #3313-4743.
Box 13:

Audio Tape Recordings, ca. 1968-1970 (open reel 3 inch and 5 inch reels)
Oral interviews and colleagues reading manuscripts.

Tape 1: Religious chants performed by women, reading of Arabic manuscript.
Tape 2: Oral interviews relating to genealogy, religious elites of Bondu, meditation, Sheik Sidiya Kebir.
Tape 3: Oral interviews relating to Bondu.
Tape 4: Oral interviews relating to genealogy, family distribution.
Tape 6: Haroun of Shaykh Sidiyya Baba reading history of early studies of Sheik Sidiya Kebir, music from Radio Mauritania.
Tape 7: Sheik Sidiya Kebir’s fables in the Chemena, Harana talking about the OI before 1927, Harouna on Sheik Sidiya Kebir’s studies, economics.
Tape 8: Harouna reading letters, poetry of Sheik Sidiya Kebir.
Tape 9: Reading of letters, poems, proverbs.
Tape 10: Classical music recordings, interview with children named Andrew and Chrissy.

“Tape Started in Nouakchott, Mauritania, ending in Oxford, England April 1969-October 1969”: Interview between Stewart and child named Andrew conducted in English and French


O-B: “Part One Mokhtar ould Hamidoun reading classical Arabic translation of biography of SSK written by Harouna.”

Plastic Orange Case, unlabeled: Interview between female and male voice with child named Andrew.

Scotch Magnetic Tape, “#1”: Letter home reported by female voice regarding meals, tutorial system, preparation for the queen’s visit, Peace Corps, segregation.

Burgess Magnetic Recording Tape with Address: Interview between female voice and child named Andrew.