

Non-Fiction Rights

To Timbuktu for a Haircut

A Journey Through West Africa

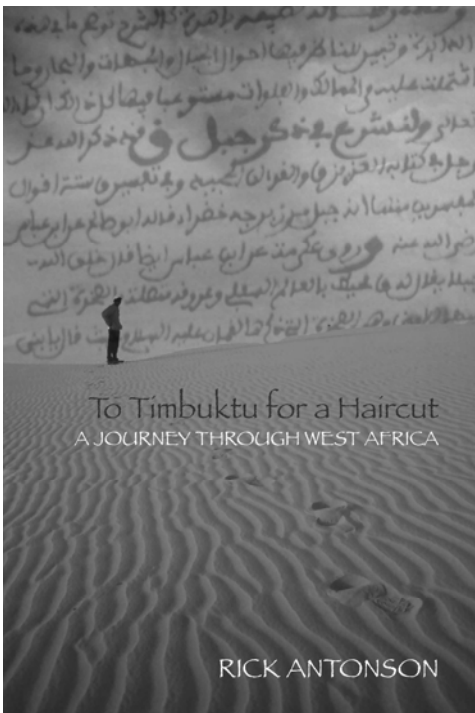
Rick Antonson

The image of the city as mysterious or mythical has survived to the present day in other countries: a poll among young Britons in 2006 found 34% did not believe the town existed, while the other 66% considered it "a mythical place".

Timbuktu is the world's most exotic travel name. Historically rich, remote and once dangerous beyond imagination for foreign travelers, it still teases: "find me if you can." Travel executive and writer, Rick Antonson coaxes the reader with charm and knowledge into joining his pretentious expedition in West Africa. Like many, he was on a quest to discover this place of legend and mystery. Unforgettable encounters with train companions Ebou and Ussegnou, then the irascible tour operator Mohammed, mysterious cook Nema and his intrepid guide Zak, make you want to pack-up and leave tomorrow.

As Antonson travels in Senegal and Mali by train, four wheel drive, river *pinasse*, camel and on foot, he tells of fourteenth century legends, eighteenth century explorers, and today's endangered existence of Timbuktu's 700,000 ancient manuscripts in what scholars have described as "The most important archeological discovery since the Dead Sea Scrolls." The author has committed part of this book's proceeds toward preserving the Timbuktu manuscripts.

A former travel writer, book publisher, train company executive, and now a travel industry leader, Rick Antonson has chaired the Destination Marketing Association International, based in Washington, DC, and was co-founder of the Oceans Blue Foundation for environmentally responsible tourism. He serves as a member of the board for the Pacific Asia Travel Association, based in Bangkok. He is president & CEO of the award winning organization, Tourism Vancouver. He is regularly invited to speak all over the world on the topic of travel.



Non-Fiction: Travel Memoir
 Publisher: Dundurn (Canada)
 Rights Sold: World print
 Pub Date: May 2008
 Materials available: Finished book
 Manuscript length: 85,000 words
 Rights Available: Film/TV