A NEW CATALOGUE OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE
BODLEIAN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

VOLUME I: MEDICINE
SERIES EDITOR: COLIN WAKEFIELD

A NEW CATALOGUE OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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EMILIE SAVAGE-SMITH

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

One of the pleasures in completing a project is the opportunity it provides to thank formally all the people who have been a part of the effort and assisted in various ways. In this instance, the project has extended off and on for almost two decades and consequently has involved a large number of people whose assistance I wish to acknowledge.

The notion of preparing a detailed catalogue in English of a portion of the Bodleian Library’s extensive and important Arabic holdings was entirely the idea of Adrian Roberts, Keeper of Oriental Books from 1977 to 1999. His conception of the project was that it would serve as the first in a set of catalogues that would eventually cover the entire Arabic collection, with the series under the general editorship of Colin Wakefield, Curator of the Islamic Collections. This was viewed as particularly important, since, until today, only Latin catalogues published in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century provided any access to the Arabic holdings of the Bodleian Library (see the Abbreviations for details of the catalogues).

Through Adrian Roberts’s efforts, the first year of work (1991–2) was supported by a fellowship and a computer from the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. Thereafter the work was funded in large part by a project grant from the Wellcome Trust (grant no. 048165). In the early stages of the project, such funds allowed the assistance of Muhammad Affi al-Akti in reviewing much of the Greek-to-Arabic material and Henrietta Sharp (now Cockrell) in analysing papers and physical structures, during which time she devised the ‘Sharp Scale’ for quantifying paper transparencies. In 1993–4, the Wellcome Trust also generously funded a one-year pilot project to determine if the scientific technique known as PIXE (proton-induced x-ray emission) was appropriate to the study of dated Islamic manuscripts, and if a methodology could be developed which would result in reliable data of use to historians and palaeographers. This project was undertaken by the Bodleian Library in collaboration with the Scanning Proton Microprobe Unit of the Nuclear Physics Laboratory at Oxford. For a number of reasons, this particular project was not pursued further. An important feature of the Wellcome grant, however, was the holding of an International Colloquium on the Scientific Analysis of Islamic Manuscripts in Oxford, 7–9 July 1994, from which many highly useful ideas emerged. One of the points raised at the colloquium was the need for a database allowing comparison of codicological and palaeographic details. With this aim in mind, the Humanities Computing Unit at the University of Oxford collaborated with the University of Portsmouth, Department of Information Systems, in the production of a Master’s dissertation by Weidian Tang, ‘Islamic Codicological Database and Image Bank (ICDD) – Pilot Project’ (University of Portsmouth, 2000). Again, this project was not able to be taken further, but the framework of the database, and the methods designed to quantify distinctive palaeographic features, remain available for future development.
Work on the project was then interrupted by the publication of several books and even more articles, as well as the unexpected appearance of the now renowned ‘Book of Curiosities’ (Ghârdh al-funun wa-mudah al-layîn, MS. Arab. c. 90), with all its accompanying lecture, studies, exhibition, and eventual electronic publication at <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bookofcuriosities>. In the interval, many who rendered assistance in the preparation of this catalogue will either have forgotten about it or given up on the project altogether.

In preparing this catalogue I have employed some important unpublished resources: (1) handwritten catalogue notes of Arabic manuscripts acquired post Nicoll and Pusey (1836) prepared by Hermann Uthé (d. 1917), author of the Catalogue of the Persian, Turkish, Hindustani and Pushtu Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library. Part I and II (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1899, 1930); (2) the hand-written notes on volumes comprising the Bruce collection and the ‘Arab.’ class of manuscripts, prepared in the 1930s by Paul Ernst Kahle (d. 1964); and (3) the short-title, typed, card-catalogue prepared in the 1960s and 1970s by Norman Sainsbury (Keeper of Oriental Books from 1956 to 1976), incorporating earlier revisions and notes of A. F. L. Beeston (Keeper of Oriental Books from 1945 to 1955).

In addition, numerous scholars have given much-appreciated help through the years of this project. Fr Shafiq Abouzayed transcribed passages from some Kashâhî material. Others kindly responded to specific questions: Cristina Álvarez-Millán, Malachi Beit-Arié, Gerrit Bos, Florence Eliza Glaze, Penelope Johnston, Martin Kaufmann, Wilfred Madelung, Daniel Nicolae, Peter E. Pormann, Yossef Rapoport, Donald Richards, Lutz Richter-Bernburg, Sabine Schrödtke, Kevin van Bladel, Geert Jan van Gelder, Nigel Wilson, and Fritz Zimmermann. Generous assistance was also provided by the staffs of the British Library, the Wellcome Library, the library of the Royal College of Physicians, the Cambridge University Library, the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine (Bethesda, Maryland), the Beineke and the Whitney Medical Libraries at Yale University (New Haven, Connecticut), the Archibald Church Medical Library at Northwestern University (Chicago), the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in the University of Michigan Library (Ann Arbor, Michigan), the Lane Medical Library at Stanford University (Palo Alto, California), and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha (Qatar). I am grateful to them all. While the volume was in production with the Oxford University Press, an important Judeo-Arabic manuscript was brought to my attention by Monica Green, and the last-minute entry was prepared with the invaluable assistance of Sabine Arndt, and I wish to thank them both most profoundly.

A special thanks is of course due the staff of the Oriental Reading Room and Special Collections of the Bodleian Library, for their unflagging assistance and good humour. In particular to Vicky Saywell, Rebecca Wall, and Julia Wagner, who fetched countless volumes with never a complaint, to Doris Nicholson, Gill Grant, and Alex Franklin for arranging for reproductions, and, for general support in all sorts of ways, to Lesley Forbes (Keeper of the Oriental Collections from 1999 to 2008) and Gillian Evison, the present Head of the Oriental Section of Special Collections.

Throughout all the work, the expertise and assistance of Colin Wakefield (Curator of the Islamic Collections) has been crucial. He guided me to various records pertinent to the manuscripts, determined the format and terminology of the catalogue entries, provided amazing assistance in reading the often cryptic colophons, and helped in solving a variety of puzzles.

In the final stages of the project, it was felt that a second set of eyes to look over the transcriptions of passages from manuscripts would aid in eliminating some of the inevitable human errors. Accordingly, the Carson Fund of the Bodleian Library and the M. B. Smith private fund supported the work of Alasdair Watson, who has proofread all the entries, reading each against the manuscript itself and checking all the Arabic and Persian transcriptions as well as general descriptions of each volume. Peter Glare, of the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources, generously donated his time to proof the Greek and Latin, the latter consisting mostly of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century notes added to manuscripts. Their assistance was instrumental in seeing this volume through to completion.

At Oxford University Press, the patient encouragement of Anne Ashby was always immensely helpful, as was the guidance given by her successor as Editor of University Publications, Sarah Holmes. Simon Witter, Design Project Manager of the Academic Division, redrew the front material and provided instructions to the typesetter, the author, who must remain responsible for any and all errors and infelicities. The copy-editor, Veronica Ions, cast a very sharp eye over the volume, while the production editor, Emma Barber, coordinated the final production of the volume. The cost of publishing the colour plates was assisted by a subvention from the Wellcome Trust.

Finally, I wish to dedicate this catalogue to the memory of Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Mani, an historian of ancient and early modern medicine, who trained me to appreciate the value of medieval manuscripts and to see them not just as capsules containing texts but as artefacts in and of themselves, reflecting the changing interests and needs of societies through many generations of readers and users.

E. Savage-Smith, FBA

Professor of the History of Islamic Science (retired)
The Oriental Institute, Oxford
December 2009
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ABBREVIATIONS

BODLEIAN LIBRARY CATALOGUES

Golian Sale Cat.
Catalogus Insignium in omni facultate, linguistique, Arabica, Persica, Turcica, Chinesis atc.
LIBRORUM MSS. quos Docetissimus Clarissimusque Vir D. JACOBUS GOLIUS, iam viventem
Mathernos & Arabicos Linguas in Acad. Ingld. Riuor. Professor Ordinariorum, Ex variis Regionibus
magnos studios, labore & sumptu, colliguit. Quorum auctio habebitur in Aedibus Johannis du
VIVIE, Bibliopol. Ad diem XVI. Octobris St. Novo, ad punctum hora nonae (Leiden: Apud
Joannem du Vivie, 1696)

KSEB
Gitray Kut, Supplementary Catalogue of Turkish Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, with a

N
A. D. Neubauer, Catalogue of the Hebrew Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library and in the College
Press, 1886)

NC
A. D. Neubauer and A. E. Cowley, Catalogue of the Hebrew Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library,

NBM
Malachi Beit-Arié, Catalogue of the Hebrew Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library: Supplement of
Addenda and Corrigenda to Volume 1 [A. Neubauer's Catalogue], ed. by R. A. May (Oxford:
Clarendon Press, 1994)

NPAC
‘Codices Christiani sermo et litteris Arabicis expressi’, in Catalogi Codicum Manuscriptorum
Orientalium Bibliothecae Bodleiacae Pars secunda Arabicos complectent. Confecit Alexander
Nicolî, Editionem absolutâ et catalogum Uranum aliquatudinem emendavit E. B. Pusey (Oxford: e
typographio Academicis, 1835), 10–59

NPAE
‘Addenda et Emendanda ad partem secundam catalogi et cod. Arab. in parte prima catalogi’, in
Catalogi Codicum Manuscriptorum Orientalium Bibliothecae Bodleiacae Pars secunda Arabicos
complectent. Confecit Alexander Nicolî. Editionem absolutâ et catalogum Uranum aliquatudinem
emendavit E. B. Pusey (Oxford: e typographio Academicis, 1835), 490–620

NPAM
‘Codices Arabici Mohammedani’, in Catalogi codicum manuscriptorum Orientalium Bibliothecae
Bodleiacae Pars secunda Arabicos complectent. Confecit Alexander Nicolî. Editionem absolutâ et
catalogum Uranum aliquatudinem emendavit E. B. Pusey (Oxford: e typographio Academicis, 1835),
68–407 and 433–9
Abbreviations


Payne Smith


SdB I


SdB II


SdB III


UAM


UHC


UP

Codices Persici, in Bibliothecae Bodleianae Codicum Manuscriptorum Orientalium, videlicet Hebraicorum, Chaldaicorum, Syriacorum, Aethiopicorum, Arabicorum, Persicorum, Turcicorum, Copticorumque Catalogus, a Joanne Uri confectus. Pars prima (Oxford: e typographo Clarendonianensi, 1787), 269–301

US

Codices Syriaci una cum Chaldauucis, sive Arabiciis Characteres Syriaco Expressiis', in Bibliothecae Bodleianae Codicum Manuscriptorum Orientalium, videlicet Hebraicorum, Chaldaicorum, Syriacorum, Aethiopicorum, Arabicorum, Persicorum, Turcicorum, Copticorumque Catalogus, a Joanne Uri confectus. Pars prima (Oxford: e typographo Clarendonianensi, 1787), 1–26

UT


FREQUENTLY CITED REFERENCES

Ahlwardt, Berlin

W. Ahlwardt, Verzeichnis der arabischen Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin, 10 vols. (Berlin: A. W. Schade’s Buchdruckerei, 1887–99)

Arberry, Chester Beauty


BLR

The Bodleian Library Record

Brockelmann, G.A.


Brockelmann, G.A. S


Browne, Collection

F. G. Browne, completed by R. A. Nicholson, A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental MSS. Belonging to the Late E. G. Browne (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1932). This collection is now in the University Library, University of Cambridge.

CMNH


Duzy, de Jong & de Goeje, Leiden


De Slane, BnF

W. MacGuckian de Slane, Catalogue des manuscrits arabes (Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1883–95)

Dalber, ‘Indian Libraries’

Hans Dalber, ‘New Manuscript Findings from Indian Libraries’, Manuscripts of the Middle East, 1 (1986), 26–48

Dietrich, Medicinalia Arabica


DSB


E2

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<td>Iskandar, <em>UCLA</em> A. Z. Iskandar, <em>A Descriptive List of Arabic Manuscripts on Medicine and Science at the University of California, Los Angeles</em> (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1984). The manuscripts are now housed as Collection 1062 in the Louise Darling Biomedical Library, Center for Health Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles.</td>
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<td>JAOS Journal of the American Oriental Society</td>
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Abbreviations

Krek, Whitney Medical Library

Langermann, Jadde-Orænic

Mach & Ormsby, Princeton

al-Munajjid, 'ibn
Sa'ilih al-Din al-Munajjid, 'Maṣā'id jadidah 'an ta'riḥ al-'āshb 'inda al-'Arab', RIMA 5 (1959), 229–348

Naṣḥabad, Bagdad

Nemoy, Yale

Patna/Bankipore, Arabic Medical

QSA
Quadrerni di studi arabi
RIMA
Revue de l'Institut des manuscrits arabe (Majallat Ma'had al-makhtūṣūtūt 'an 'Arābiyah)

Ritter & Walzer, Istanbul

Savage-Smith, Galen’s Lost Ophthalmology

Savage-Smith, Khalil Coll.

Savage-Smith, NLM
INTRODUCTION

This catalogue covers 229 volumes, forming part of the extensive collection of Arabic manuscripts in the Bodleian Library. These volumes represent the medical holdings, covering 243 different treatises. Including multiple copies, there are 378 medical items here catalogued in detail. The 229 volumes containing this Arabic medical material also contain some non-medical (and occasionally non-Arabic) items, which have been short-title catalogued as part of the Concordance of Manuscripts forming Appendix I of this volume. Thus, the Concordance of Manuscripts provides a guide to 593 different items, of which 378 are catalogued in detail in separate entries (or sub-entries, for multiple copies of the same treatise). The core of the catalogue presents detailed descriptions of the medical treatises, each given its own entry number. While the catalogue was in production with the press, however, a previously overlooked manuscript came to my attention that was considered of sufficient importance to merit the preparation of an extra entry. It has been placed as Entry No. 34*. As a result, there are two entries given the number 34 (34 and 34*), with the last entry number given as 242, when in fact there are 243 different treatises, some with multiple copies.

The 229 volumes described in this catalogue are drawn from twenty-four different oriental collections within the holdings of the Bodleian Library. The history of these and other Arabic-language collections is discussed by Colin Wakefield, Curator of the Islamic Collections, in his essay ‘The Arabic Collections in the Bodleian Library’ immediately following this introduction.

As is shown in the Table of Contents, the catalogue begins with the early translations of medical material into Arabic, with the entries arranged chronologically, together with commentaries on those works. Thereafter, the first level of organization is by topic. Within each topic the entries are arranged chronologically by author, with anonymous material placed at the end of each of the ten topical divisions. Such an arrangement allows for easier comparison of different treatises and obviates the need for a separate subject index. The concordances and indexes at the end of the volume provide guides to the manuscripts through titles (including variants), names of authors, names of copyists, dates of copies, and shelfmarks.

While an attempt has been made to be as complete as possible in identifying and describing Arabic medical manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, there are related manuscript materials that have not been included in this catalogue. While the occasional magical prescription or talismanic design has been included amongst the material catalogued under ‘Magical-Astrological Medicine’, actual talismans (rather than directions on how to make them) have not been included. For example, MS. Arab. e. 243 and MS. Arab. e. 244 are talismans...
Introduction

The shelfmark (collection and manuscript number, with item number if appropriate) is then given for the copy in the collection of the Bodleian Library. Should there be more than one copy, each is assigned a letter of the alphabet, and they are arranged chronologically, with dated copies first.

The entry begins with the number of leaves (folios) comprising the item being catalogued. In manuscripts written in languages reading from left to right, the sides of a folio are designated r (recto) and v (verso), while in manuscripts reading from right to left, such as Arabic, Persian, and Hebrew, the sides of a folio are referred to in the order read as "a" and "b".

There follows a transcription of the beginning and ending of the copy. Line numbers are given as subscripts. If the copy is signed or dated, the colophon is transcribed, and if the copy is undated or unsigned then a suggestion is made as to the possible date or place of copying.

The completeness or fragmentary nature of the copy is then indicated.

In the transcription of the Arabic, the following conventions have been used:

- **bold** rubricated words or overlaid words
- [ ] preceding word undotted; written without diacritical marks
- < > damage; hole, gap, lacuna
- _ _ _ _ _ _ erase or deletion in text
- [ ] illegible
- [ ] as written in text
- { } reading and/or meaning of preceding word uncertain
- [ ] correction or expansion of a term by the editor
- () superfluous writing in the text; word(s) written twice
- ( ) gloss or correction written above or outside the line
- [ ] catchword

Any vocalization is that given in the manuscript itself, but not all vocalization found in a manuscript is reproduced. A **bold** font has been used in the Arabic transcription to indicate either rubricated words in the text or words that have been overlined. The orthography has been normalized only to a certain extent to bring it into a form more familiar to modern readers. Dots have not been placed over the dā’r marbūtab, however, when these are not indicated in the manuscript itself. Some hamzahs have been added where expected (in final or medial positions), though often they are left unwritten as in the manuscript. On the other hand, hamzahs written over alif at the beginning of words have been omitted here even if occurring in the manuscript itself.

The **Physical Description** portion begins with the dimensions of the copy, with height given first (the size of the text area is in parentheses), and the number of lines per page. That is followed immediately by the evidence given in the manuscript itself for the title and the author. Distinctive features of the copy may be mentioned at this point.

The general type of script is then specified (for example, Naskh or Maghrībi) and an indication of size given. The latter has been done by using terms that correspond to the following measurements of the letter š occurring in the text:
Introduction

very large > 10 mm
large 8–10 mm
medium-large 6–7 mm
medium-small 4–5 mm
small 2–3 mm
very small < 2 mm

It is also noted if undotted letters (mulmul) have small háčks over them or minuscule letters underneath, and other distinctive features of the hand are recorded. An indication of ink colour and the coloration of headings is also provided.

A separate paragraph is devoted to paper description. The colour of the paper has been determined by comparing pages toward the inner part of the manuscript (not water damaged or soiled, if possible) with fan decks of colour samples using the ‘Munsell system’ (formerly known as the Centroid Colour Charts devised by the US National Bureau of Standards). Fan decks in the 5Y and 10YR range were used. These were grouped into six sets, and when a paper in a manuscript fell within the following range of colour samples in a set, the general colour name assigned to that set was given the paper in the catalogue entry. This was done in an attempt to introduce some quantification, even if rather primitive, to what is a highly subjective evaluation. The six colours have been defined as follows:

Ivory 5Y/9.5–1.0; 5Y/8.5/0.5–1.0; 10YR/9/0.5–1.0; and 10YR/8.5/0.5–1.0
Cream 5Y/8.5/1.5–3.0 and 5Y/9/1.5–3.0
Beige 10YR/9/1.5–2.0 and 10YR/8.5/2.0–4.0
Biscuit 10YR/7.5/1.5–2.0 and 10YR/8.5/1.5–3.0
Brown 10YR/7.5/2.5–4.0 and 10YR/7/2.5–4.0
Grey 5Y/6.5–8/0.5 and 10YR/6.5–8/0.5

The thickness of the paper was measured with a micrometer and a range of values given. Because of the variation in all papers, the range of values for a paper is significant, rather than a single value. The opaqueness, or translucency, of the paper is assigned a value on the Sharp Scale of Opaqueness. The latter is a recently devised method (named after its originator, Henrietta Sharp) by which the translucency of paper can be categorized in terms of the number of folios required before the outline of a dowel held behind the folio(s) is no longer visible when illuminated from behind with a constant light of 60 watts at an approximate distance of 15 cm. The laid lines are described as well as the chain lines (if there are any) and the occurrence of watermarks noted (sometimes with a description of the watermark when it was sufficiently visible).

Under Marginalia the occurrence of any marginalia is noted, as well as any evidence for authorship or dating of the annotations. This section does not include former owners’ ex libris, for those are discussed in the section titled Provenance.

Volume Contents details the volume structure, miscellaneous leaves, and other important features of the volume as a whole. For items comprising the volume (other than the one being immediately catalogued), the Concordance of Manuscripts (Appendix I) is to be consulted. The detailed discussion of the volume structure occurs only once for those manuscripts with multiple items, in the entry marked MAIN ENTRY in the Concordance of Manuscripts (Appendix I).

In the subsection Binding, a general description of the binding, pastedowns, and endpapers is given. When a binding is described as having ‘modern’ pastedowns or endpapers, it is meant that these items were probably placed in the volume when it was last bound or rebound. No attempt has been made to give a specialist description of Near Eastern bindings. Many of these manuscripts, in fact, have been rebound in European bindings of no particular historical importance.

Under Provenance all the available information about previous owners is given. This includes owners’ stamps and handwritten ex libris wherever these occur in the volume, as well as the donor or vendor through which the volume entered the Bodleian collections.

Under References, the entry numbers in earlier Bodleian catalogues are given, using abbreviations as provided in the List of Abbreviations. When an item has not been referred to in any earlier published catalogue or other publication, it is listed as uncatalogued.

Following the Catalogue proper there are three Appendixes and five Indexes:

The Concordance of Manuscripts (Appendix I) provides a guide to each item comprising a manuscript volume. For those items that are not medical, a reference has been given to published catalogue descriptions or other forms of publication, when these are available.

The Concordance by Author (Appendix II) provides a guide to the medical authors (and their respective treatises) whose works are here catalogued (with a reference in bold to the Entry No.), as well as non-medical authors whose writings are found amongst the 228 volumes comprising the Concordance of Manuscripts (Appendix I).

The Concordance of Dated Manuscripts (Appendix III) lists the dated copies in chronological order, providing the place of production and copyists when specified in the manuscript. Occasionally a place of production will be suggested (and enclosed in square brackets) based on evidence other than a precise statement by the copyist. Items which could be assigned to a given copyist or location on the basis of evidence other than a specific colophon are not included in this concordance, but are discussed within the catalogue itself. An asterisk is placed next to dates which are questionable; the relevant catalogue entry should be consulted for further details.

The Index of Titles includes all the medical titles (with variants) catalogued here (with a reference in bold to the Entry No.) as well as all the titles of non-medical items that are part of the Concordance of Manuscripts (Appendix I).

The Index of Copyists includes copyists of undated material as well as those listed in the Concordance of Dated Manuscripts (Appendix III).

The Index of Previous Owners, Donors, and Vendors includes the names of all those previously in possession of a volume prior to its entering the Bodleian Library, with the exception of the named collections within the Bodleian. A guide to the manuscripts here catalogued which were part of the collections of Robert Huntington, or Edward Pococke, or James Bruce of Kinnaird, or similar figures whose names now designate Bodleian collections,
can be found by looking at the alphabetical list of shelfmarks in the Concordance of Manuscripts (Appendix I).

The Index of Persons and Treatises Cited provides a guide to personal names and titles of treatises that are cited within the manuscript descriptions. Often these will be sources cited by the author of the treatise being catalogued.

The General Index provides a guide to subjects, place names, and terms that occur in the course of the manuscript entries. It will also serve as a guide to miscellaneous material that was not considered extensive enough to merit being treated in separate entries.

The Arabic Collections in the Bodleian Library

Colin Wakefield

The Bodleian Library possesses some two thousand five hundred Arabic manuscripts containing an estimated total of five thousand individual works. These figures include the 228 volumes of medical manuscripts described in the present catalogue. The Bodleian’s Arabic collections have a fascinating history spanning the 400 years of the Library’s existence from the time of its opening in 1602. The great collections that were assembled and acquired in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries still form the centrepiece of the Library’s Arabic resources but manuscripts have continued to be acquired right down to the present century, albeit on a much reduced scale. In this introductory essay we look at the way in which these resources came to the Library and mention some of the notable items in the collection.

In the early decades of the seventeenth century the acquisition of Arabic manuscripts was a slow piecemeal process which relied on the generosity of merchants, diplomats and individual scholars. When Sir Thomas Bodley’s library opened to the public in 1602 it possessed just one Arabic manuscript. This was a copy of the Qur’an (MS. Bodl. Or. 322), which was given by John Wrothe in 1601. The small number of Arabic manuscripts acquired over the next few years included two more Qur’ans given, respectively, by the diplomat Sir Henry Wotton in 1604 and by Thomas Cutler in 1606. A manuscript which contains commentaries on a work of logic by Najm al-Din 'Ali al-Kastribi (MS. Bodl. Or. 519), was given in 1604 by Sir George More, who also gave a number of western manuscripts in the same year. A copy of the Psalms in Arabic (MS. Bodl. Or. 230) was presented in 1609 by William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was later Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

Sir Thomas Bodley was eager to acquire manuscripts in Arabic and other Near Eastern languages for his library and was disappointed at his lack of success in the early years. As a result he approached the consul to the English merchants in Aleppo, Paul Findar, for help.

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After an interval of some three years, Bodley received a rather modest delivery of some twenty volumes in various languages. The Arabic manuscripts in the Pindar donation number eight. They cover various subjects and include three medical manuscripts, of which we might mention the copy of Ibn Hibat Allah’s al-Majhīf fī al-ḥādīr al-amīrī (MS. Bodl. Or. 513), and the physician Dakhwār al-Dināshqī’s commentary on the Pragmastics of Hippocrates (MS. Bodl. Or. 231).

When Sir Thomas Bodley died in 1613 the Library’s Arabic resources were still small and the situation did not significantly improve until the latter half of the 1630s. In the interim, a handful of manuscripts was presented to the Library, of which the most celebrated is the Arabic version of the Church Councils presented by Sir Thomas Roe in 1629 (MS. Roe 26). The widely travelled diplomat was ambassador in 1621–8 at Constantinople where he obtained the manuscript from the Patriarch Cyril Lucar.

The years 1635–40 saw the Library’s stock of manuscripts of all sorts greatly increased through the patronage of William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury and Chancellor of the University of Oxford. Between these two dates Laud presented more than one thousand manuscripts, western and oriental, to the Bodleian in four separate donations. Among the oriental manuscripts are 147 in Arabic. Laud was keen to promote oriental studies in the University and in 1636 set up the University’s Chair of Arabic, which was permanently endowed by him in 1640. In an attempt to increase the Library’s stock of Near Eastern manuscripts, Laud obtained a royal letter to the Levant Company requiring them to send one Arabic or Persian manuscript on each of their returning boats, an arrangement which appears to have been unproductive. More successfully, Laud commissioned Edward Pococke and John Greaves to acquire manuscripts suitable for the University Library on their visits to the Near East, and it seems beyond doubt that the majority of the Arabic and Near Eastern manuscripts that Laud gave to the Library are due to the efforts of these two men. The Laudian Arabic manuscripts are quite diverse in content and cover most of the fields of traditional learning including medical works by Galen, al-Rāzī, Ibn Sīnā, and Ibn al-Baytār (MSS. Laud Or. 135, 289, 5 and 235). Of interest for the history of Arabic studies in Europe is a Qur’ān which was given to Jacob Christmann, Professor at Heidelberg University, in 1593 (MS. Laud Or. 246). In 1635 it came into the possession of Samuel Johnson, chaplain to the British envoy in Germany, who passed it on to Laud. The Laudian collection also contains a number of items that had formerly belonged to the English Arabist William Bedwell, who was a teacher of Edward Pococke. One of these is a copy of Ibn al-Bannūt’s al-Marrākūshī’s Mīnāḥī, a set of astronomical tables (MS. Laud Or. 278).

The oriental manuscripts of Sir Kenelm Digby, diplomat and natural philosopher, were received at the Bodleian in 1640. They came with Laud’s last donation of manuscripts and were for a time confused with the Laudian manuscripts proper, though they were later separated from them. Thirty-one of the thirty-six are Arabic, some reflecting Digby’s medical and astrological interests. In the former category is a copy of ‘Alī al-Majnūn’s Kāmil al-suṣūn‘ah al-thibiyah (MS. Digby Or. 23).

In 1659 the Bodleian received by bequest over eight thousand volumes of manuscripts and printed books belonging to the lawyer and scholar John Selden. Amongst the 358 manuscripts are 117 in Arabic. The collection is strong in mathematics and astronomy; Selden left his medical manuscripts to the College of Physicians. At the front of some of his manuscripts, he records their provenance, so we learn that a volume of the Qimās of al-Firuzabādī was the gift of Sir Kenelm Digby (MS. Arch. Seld. A.8) and another manuscript was given to him by John Wandesford, consul of the English merchants at Aleppo, on 1 May 1633 (MS. Arch. Seld. A.38).

The provenance of Selden’s Arabic manuscripts is linked with the name of John Greaves, Professor of Geometry at Gresham College and later Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford. John Greaves died in 1652 and the Greaves collection was purchased in 1678 from the estate of his brother Thomas Greaves, who had died in 1676. As presently constituted the Greaves collection contains just twenty-one Arabic manuscripts and a smaller number in Persian and Turkish. Greaves is reported to have spared no expense in acquiring Arabic and Persian manuscripts, and it appears that he amassed a considerable private collection on his travels to Constantinople and Egypt, as well as collecting on behalf of Laud. Professor Toomer has shown that Selden bought many of John Greaves’s manuscripts from his brother Thomas.4 Thomas Greaves deputized as Professor of Arabic for Edward Pococke from 1637 during Pococke’s absence in the Near East, and had been the recipient of his brother’s oriental manuscripts on the latter’s death in 1652. Selden’s purchase of the Greaves manuscripts accounts for the presence of most if not all of the valuable mathematical and astronomical Arabic manuscripts in his collection, of which we might mention the unique copy of al-Hišānī’s al-Bi‘rī’s al-Qāmūs al-Mas‘ūdī (MS. Bodl. Or. 516) had also belonged to John Greaves.5 It was purchased by the Bodleian in 1698 from the estate of Edward Bernard, Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, 1673–91. Bernard had in turn bought it from Thomas Greaves, probably from his estate. In the ‘named’ Greaves collection, the two most notable Arabic manuscripts are the North African copy of al-Idrīsī’s Geography with maps (MS. Greaves 42), and the illustrated manuscript of al-Jazzār’s book on mechanical devices (MS. Greaves 27).

In 1672, a few years prior to the purchase of the Greaves collection, Dr Thomas Marshall of Lincoln College gave the Library a copy of a celebrated fourteenth-century mathematical and astronomical manuscript containing an abridged version of the Conics of Apollonius of Perga

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4 Ibid., 70, 176–7.

5 Ibid., 178.
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(MS. Thurston 3). The manuscript had belonged to Christian Ravius of Berlin, who acquired it in Constantinople. Ravius sent the manuscript from Sweden to the French mathematician Claude Hardy but it went missing en route and turned up in an Amsterdam bookshop, where Thomas Marshall purchased it.

The year 1692 witnessed a dramatic increase in the Bodleian’s holdings of Arabic manuscripts for it was in this year that the collections of Edward Pococke and Robert Huntington were purchased. Edward Pococke was the first incumbent of the Laudian Chair of Arabic at Oxford and gave his inaugural lecture on 10 August 1636. He had already spent five years as the chaplain to the English merchants at Aleppo in Syria where he deepened his knowledge of Arabic and collected Arabic and Hebrew manuscripts. In 1637, within a year of his inaugural lecture, he had set off again for the Near East, this time to Constantinople in the company of John Greaves. He remained in Constantinople for three years and continued to collect manuscripts during that time. After his return to England, Pococke continued collecting manuscripts through agents in the Near East. In addition to collecting for himself, he also collected for Laud and Greaves. Pococke was the doyen of English and European Arabists in the seventeenth century and was a discriminating collector of manuscripts.

The Pococke collection amounts to over four hundred volumes, of which Arabic accounts for some two hundred and seventy, with Hebrew over one hundred (Pococke was also the Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford). The collection reflects Pococke’s main interests in geography, history, language, literature and philosophy. Of the many noteworthy manuscripts might be mentioned his copy of al-Idrīsī’s Geography, with its world and regional maps (MS. Pococke 375), the illustrated Kalilah wa-Dīnah (MS. Pococke 400) and Ibn Ṭūfayl’s Ḥarīr ibn Yaqūn (MS. Pococke 263). To this may be added numerous historical works and the peripatetic ‘Abd al-Lātīf al-Baghdāḍī’s Kitāb al-Badāw wa-al-Tībārī, an eye-witness description of Egypt (MS. Pococke 230). This manuscript is written in the author’s own hand and is dated Cairo, 1204. Among the medical manuscripts in the Pococke collection are works by, among others, Ibn Ṣinā, Ibn al-Nafis, Maimonides, and Ibn Abī ʿUsaybiʿah (MS. Pococke 356) as well as the interesting treatise by Saʿīd ibn Ḥibat Allāh, Kitāb Khaliq al-Insān (MS. Pococke 66).

As we have already mentioned, the year 1692 also saw the purchase by the Bodleian of Robert Huntington’s oriental manuscripts, amounting to over six hundred volumes, but before we look more closely at this it may be noted that Huntington had already presented thirty-five oriental manuscripts to the Library in 1678, 1680, and 1683. Among the twelve Arabic manuscripts he gave there are three medical items – parts of al-Majūṣī’s al-Kāmil (MS. Huntington donat. 31), Ibn al-Nafis’s abridgement of Ibn Ṣinā’s Canon (MS. Huntington donat. 9), and the Taqquṣīm al-ṣibyḥah of Ibn Būlān (MS. Huntington donat. 34). Huntington was a fellow of Merton College and in 1670, following Pococke’s suggestion, he applied for and obtained the post of chaplain to the Levant Company in Aleppo. But Huntington was of a more adventurous spirit than Pococke, and in the eleven years that he spent in the Near East he travelled widely within Syria and visited Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine, and Constantinople.

Huntington made contact with the Christian communities in the region, visited the Samaritans in Nablus and acquired two manuscripts of the Mandaens (MSS. Huntington 6 and 71). Huntington was a keen collector of manuscripts not only for himself but also for others, including Edward Pococke and Narcissus Marsh. The Arabic component of the Huntington collection, some three hundred and twenty in number, contains fifty or so of Christian content, and his collection includes smaller but significant numbers of Coptic and Syriac, as well as two hundred Hebrew manuscripts, amongst them two autograph copies of Maimonides.

The Huntington collection contains some rare and early Arabic works, notable among which are the Algeebra of al-Khwārizmī (MS. Huntington 214), a cookbook by the tenth-century Ibn Sayyār al-Warrāj’s (MS. Huntington 187), and the unique illustrated treatise on popery by al-Tarsīṣī, which was commissioned by Saladin for his own library (MS. Huntington 264). Of the several Arabic medical manuscripts there is an illustrated copy of the Surgery of Abū al-Qāsim al-Zahrawī (MS. Huntington 156) and an interesting early copy of Ibn al-Bayḍāʾ’s Kitāb al-Jāmiʿ fi-muḥdādāt al-advīyāt wa-al-aghdbiḥyāt, copied at Tabriz in 1215 during the lifetime of the author (MS. Huntington 432). Also of interest is a Yemeni medical manuscript on simple drugs, al-Muʿlamad, ascribed to the Rasulid ruler of Yemen al-Malik al-Ashraf (MS. Huntington 56).

Also in the year 1692, thirty-nine manuscripts belonging to Thomas Hyde were acquired. Hyde held the posts of Laudian Professor of Arabic, Regius Professor of Hebrew, and from 1665–1701, that of Bodley’s Librarian. Eleven more manuscripts were received on his death in 1703. The total of Arabic is just twelve, of which the most noteworthy is the manuscript containing Dīwān al-dīr and Ibn Ijul (MS. Hyde 34).

The last of the great seventeenth-century collectors whose oriental manuscripts came to the Bodleian was Narcissus Marsh.6 Marsh was an Oxford graduate who became a fellow of Exeter College in 1658. He was appointed Provost of Trinity College, Dublin in 1678 and later Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland. Marsh had studied Arabic and Hebrew at Oxford under Edward Pococke and had made the friendship there of Robert Huntington and Edward Bernard. He died in 1713 and bequeathed all his oriental manuscripts (and Chinese books) to the Bodleian, where they arrived in the following year. At over seven hundred volumes, including some five hundred Arabic, it represents the Library’s biggest single acquisition of oriental manuscripts.

Unlike Pococke, Greaves and Huntington, Marsh never visited the Near East and did his collecting at a distance. Huntington supplied him with manuscripts, as did his successor as chaplain to the English merchants at Aleppo, William Hallifax. After a slow start, Marsh

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increased the size and quality of his collection enormously in 1696, when the manuscripts and Chinese printed books of the Dutch orientalist Jacob Golius were put up for auction in Leiden. Marsh was able to use the services of his friend Edward Bernard to bid on his behalf and he secured seventy per cent of the items on offer. Some of the Bodleian's most celebrated Arabic manuscripts belong to the Marsh collection, among them al-Shâfi‘i's Book of Fixed Stars (MS. Marsh 144), one of the earliest illustrated Arabic manuscripts, and al-Hârîrî's Maqâmât in an illustrated copy dated 1337 (MS. Marsh 458). Another valuable item in the collection is the Arabic translation of Apollonius of Perga's Conics which Golius had acquired in Aleppo in 1627 (MS. Marsh 667). Europe had long waited for the publication of this work, especially Books 5-7 which have been lost in the original Greek. Golius failed to produce an edition, and it was not until 1710 that the work was eventually published in Oxford by Edmund Halley using this manuscript, then still in Marsh's possession. Among the medical manuscripts in the Marsh collection is the Arabic version of Galen's Anatomy in fifteen books (MS. Marsh 158) and an illustrated copy of Abû al-Qâsim al-Zahrâwî, Surgery (MS. Marsh 54). The Galen, the al-Shâfi‘i, and the Apollonius are all Golius manuscripts. Also among the Golius manuscripts are three which formerly belonged to his teacher at Leiden, Thomas Erpenius (MSS. Marsh 309, 160, and 358), the last being a Qur‘an given to Erpenius by the French scholar Isaac Casaubon in 1610. Many Marsh manuscripts, but not those that derive from Golius, are inscribed with Marsh's Greek motto: πανταγορητας φρονιμιας, inspired it is said by a similar motto used by John Selden. Most, but unfortunately not all, of the Golius manuscripts in the Marsh collection have the Leiden auction catalogue details written on the flyleaf. This also applies to the five Golius manuscripts given to the Library in 1700 by Moses Amyraldus (Amyrault) (MSS. Bodl. Or. 72, 339, 500, 532, 536). An apparently unique set of gores for a celestial globe in whose production Jacob Golius collaborated, bound with a Latin essay by him on the Chinese cycles of years, was recently identified in the Bodleian Library (Vei. B. 23 b.29).7

Marsh himself did not make use of his manuscripts. Professor Toomer has shown that his purpose was to emulate Archbishop Laud in promoting oriental studies by assembling a magnificent collection and donating it to the Bodleian Library.8 With the arrival of the Marsh bequest in 1714 the Library now possessed over one thousand five hundred Arabic manuscripts, making it the best repository for Arabic studies in England at that time. During the remainder of the eighteenth century, with Arabic studies having fallen into decline, very little came to the Library, though the gift of the Khûl al-Ballûnî, probably in about 1717, should be noted (MS. Bodl. Or. 133). This unusual illuminated manuscript containing astronomical, astrological and divinatory texts was given by Nathaniel Palmer of Fairfield, Somerset.

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8 Toomer, Eastern Wisdom (n. 3 above), 288.
There were no large-scale acquisitions of Arabic manuscripts during the twentieth century, but of the individual items acquired the Arabic Materia medica of Dioscorides, bequeathed by Sir William Oster in 1926, is of considerable importance (MS. Arab. d. 138). Copied in 1239, it contains a portrait of Dioscorides and illustrations of medicinal plants. In 1948 the Library bought a large fifteenth-century medical encyclopedia containing portions of al-Razi’s al-Hawi and al-Fakhir (MS. Arab. b. 10), and in 1954 it bought a rare fourteenth-century ‘Hermetic’ manuscript, illustrated and containing magical and other treatises (MS. Arab. d. 221). An early copy of the sacred writings of the Druze, dated 1018, was purchased in 1956 (MS. Arab. c. 213). The start of the twenty-first century saw the major purchase in 2002 of the Book of Curiosities, a late twelfth- or early thirteenth-century manuscript containing unique maps and astronomical diagrams (MS. Arab. c. 90). This anonymous Arabic treatise on the heavens and the earth was composed in Egypt between 1020 and 1050. Its acquisition was made possible by the financial support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Art Collections, the Friends of the Bodleian, and others. The date of purchase of the Book of Curiosities coincided nicely with the four-hundredth anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Bodleian Library in 1602.

The present catalogue of Arabic medical manuscripts is only the third Bodleian catalogue of Arabic manuscripts to be published. The first was compiled by Johannes Uri and titled Bibliothecae Bodleianae codicum manuscriptorum orientalium catalogus, part 1, Oxford, 1787. Compiled in Latin, it is a catalogue of the Library’s oriental manuscripts, for, in addition to 1,404 Arabic manuscripts, it describes manuscripts in Coptic, Ethiopic, Hebrew, Persian, Samaritan, Syriac, and Turkish, a total of 2,708. A second volume, describing only Arabic manuscripts, was published in 1836. Written again in Latin, it was compiled by Alexander Nicoll and completed by Edward Pusey. Nicoll and Pusey’s catalogue contains much more detailed descriptions of a further 450 Arabic manuscripts as well as additions and corrections to Uri’s catalogue. This new catalogue by Dr Emilie Savage-Smith provides full descriptions of the Bodleian’s Arabic medical manuscripts in the light of the latest information available, incorporating detailed codicological and palaeographical analyses of the manuscripts and data on their provenance. It is hoped that it will be the first of a series of volumes which will eventually describe all the Bodleian’s Arabic manuscripts and make this valuable resource more fully accessible to the scholarly community.