Pioneer Orientalists

The Manuscript Collections of Scaliger, Raphelengius and Golius from Leiden University Libraries

Advisor: Arnoud Vrolijk, Curator of Oriental Manuscripts and Rare Books at Leiden University Libraries, The Netherlands

Leiden University Libraries has a world-famous collection of Middle Eastern Manuscripts. Its core collection consists of volumes brought together by the Leiden Orientalists Joseph Justus Scaliger (d. 1609), and Jacobus Golius (d. 1667). These include extremely rare, sometimes unique, manuscripts. The Golius collection in particular is well-known for its texts on mathematics and other Islamic sciences.

Brill and Leiden University Libraries have joined forces to scan and publish these manuscripts. This not only makes these valuable texts available to a larger community of scholars, it also helps to preserve these manuscripts, 30 of which were restored as part of the project. In total the collection consists of 267 manuscripts in 303 volumes, counting 109,517 pages. Most texts are in Arabic, with secondary texts in Ottoman Turkish and Persian.
Pioneer Orientalists
The Manuscript Collections of Scaliger, Raphaelengius and Golius
from Leiden University Libraries

Advisor: Arnoud Vrolijk, Curator of Oriental Manuscripts and Rare Books at Leiden University Libraries, The Netherlands

- October 2011
- Online
- Number of scans: 109.517, covering 267 manuscripts (303 vols.)
- Outright purchase price: EUR 18,250.- / US$ 25,000.-
- Middle Eastern Manuscripts Online, 1

Metadata: MARC-21 records
Language scans: Arabic, with secondary texts in Ottoman Turkish and Persian
Language metadata: English
Source of metadata: Voorhoeve’s Handlist
Depth of metadata: Each text has a MARC-21 record of its own
Linking: References to GAL will become hyperlinks to Broekelmann Online
Quality of scans: full color, 24 bit color depth
Resolution: 400 dpi
Formats: TIFF-files, PDFs, and Deja-Vu
Equipment: Hasselblad
Filmed on site by: Harald Fisher Verlag, Erlangen, Germany

Key Features
- These are the oldest core collections of one of Europe’s top repositories of Oriental manuscripts
- Originally collected by Franciscus Raphaelengius (d. 1597), Joseph Justus Scaliger (d. 1609), and Jacobus Golius (d. 1667)
- 30 manuscripts were restored as part of this project
- Filmed on site at the Leiden University Libraries
- Almost 110,000 high-resolution scans of unique and rare Arabic manuscripts
- Full colour scans
- The collection includes two manuscript scrolls, each c. 5 meters long
- Three viewing options
- Downloadable files
- Metadata in English per individual text (also for miscellanies)
- References to Broekelmann’s GAL

For pricing options, consortium arrangements and free 30-day trials for these collections contact us at brillonline@brill.nl or brillonline@brillusa.com for customers in the Americas.