Modern Arabic manuscripts in the National Library of Tunis
A selection by Jan Just Witkam

INTRODUCTION

Only when one actually travels to Tunisia does it become clear how near to Europe this country, and more particularly its capital Tunis, is situated. Less than half an hour after the southbound aeroplane has crossed the line of the Italian shore, is Africa already within sight. This geographical vicinity has, from time immemorial till the present day, had an intensive political, economical and cultural interaction as a result. It may easily be maintained that Tunisia's history has, at all stages, had a considerable European component to it, both in an expansive and receptive sense. From as early as the tragic fate of Queen Dido at the hands of Aeneas in legendary times, through the traumatic period of the Punic wars between Rome and Carthage, during the inclusion of the territory in the Christian realm, from the subsequent Islamic conquest, down to the establishment of the French protectorate in 1881, and even till today, now that Tunisia is an independent republic, Tunis (as both the country and the capital are referred to here) has in some way or another always been concerned with Europe. Of all the countries 'on the other side of the Mediterranean' it is, nowadays, the one which is most assimilated to European secular and material culture, while at the same time retaining the elements of its own, Islamic identity. This assimilation, as it stands in its present-day form, is mainly the product of a process which was set in motion around the middle of the 19th century. It is a direct consequence of the European industrial revolution, its technical progress and ensuing expansion, a combination which excited the curiosity of Tunisians and facilitated the acceptance of so many aspects of this awe-inspiring and superior culture.

It is the purpose of the present article to describe a number of Arabic MSS which are preserved in the National Library of Tunis and which somehow illustrate this process of cultural and technical innovation and assimilation in 19th-century Tunisian society. The present selection was in no way preconceived, but rather is the result of a random selection of items which came to light during my consultation of the library's catalogues and card-files, items which, when taken as a group, are illustrative of certain aspects of modernity. Nor is the list which follows here in any way exhaustive, let alone complete, either in the number of its subjects or in the amount of materials described. Under the subject headings 'military technology', 'travels to European countries', 'medicine', 'veterinary medicine', 'textile machinery', 'photography' and 'various subjects', I have listed some twenty-seven texts which I came across during the week that I worked in the library. It must be borne in mind that all volumes but one were produced in the form of manuscripts which were made in an entirely traditional way and are therefore formally described as such. The contrast between the traditional form and the modern contents of these materials gives them an additional touch of interest.

Several of the texts are original compilations, but the greater part is made up of Arabic translations of European works, or works written or dictated by Europeans in Arabic. I have tried, as much as possible, to identify these works and their authors, though not always successfully, I am afraid. There must have existed a great many of these European brochures, reports and manuals, also outside Tunisia, and quite a number of translations must have been in existence. They illustrate the eagerness of those who commissioned such translations to be informed about modern technical developments. This recalls that other great period of assimilation by Middle-Eastern society of foreign cultures (Greek, Persian and Indian) in the heyday of the Baghdad caliphate. But unlike the research on the translations and assimilation of a millennium earlier, the texts of the sort which are mentioned here have hardly been the object of study. Such a study could be illustrative and revealing of the impact of waves of foreign influence. It is remarkable, that detailed knowledge of such a powerful and revolutionary weapon as the Gatling gun was already available in Tunis in 1870, a mere eight years after it had become available on the arms market. Literature on artillery was, in fact, known in North Africa before the 19th century, mainly from translated Spanish sources, so the subject
matter had already some roots in Arabic technical and historical literature. Luigi Calligaris' estimate of the strength of the Russian armed forces in 1854 was written only days after France and Britain had joined the Ottoman Turks in declaring war on Russia. Military intelligence is not all that I found, though. The travelogues which I have included here are mentioned because they are accounts of the contacts between North Africans and Europe. Al-Gazzāl, on his visit to Spain in 1766, directs much attention to Islamic remnants in al-Andalus, because there was at that time hardly any gap in technical knowledge which needed to be bridged. The conditions under which Sulaymān b. Ṣiyām traveled to France in 1852 were entirely different. Algiers had been occupied by the French, who were making a French province of it. The traveling party comes to Paris, very much like vassals of the feudal period who come to state their allegiance to the king. For them, technical novelties such as the speed of the trains and the military power of the French army, are remarkable facts. And although Sulaymān b. Ṣiyām and his companions were not Tunisians, it is striking that a copy of his account eventually came to Tunis. It was apparently, in Tunis too, considered as useful information.

Medicine is a somewhat different case. Arab medicine traditionally had a much higher quality than medicine in Europe. The 14th and 15th-century Egyptian ophthalmologists, to name but one example, were superseded only in the 18th century in some of their achievements by their European colleagues. For medicine in Tunisia, the 19th century is not a turning point in the same way as it was for the other technical sciences. Unlike these, medicine was much more firmly rooted in the indigenous tradition. Medical texts, in varying degrees of modernity and originality of their subject matter, were abundantly available in the Middle East. Most of the 'modern' medical texts, which are listed by me here, have, in varying degrees, their share of one or more of the three components which may be observed in all of the 'modern' texts: elements of the traditional, Greco-Arab medical approach, elements of locally developed practice and, finally, elements of foreign influence.

Not much is known about the enigmatic figure of Yūsuf al-Qīr, Joseph the Proselyte (al-Qīr being the Tunisian spelling for 'Ger', proselyte), but the scant information given by Ben Milād is intriguing enough. He was an Italian who, in the second half of the 18th century, had come to Tunis, a foreigner who at some stage seems to have become the Bey's personal physician, a convert from the Christian faith to Judaism ('from one darkness to an even darker night', as a Muslim contemporary put it). He seems to have been able to speak Arabic, but appears to have written his medical works in Italian (none of which appear to have been preserved, if they ever existed in that form), and then dictated them in their Arabic version to a Tunisian colleague. Such a career is a reflection of the intercultural relationships of which many more must have existed long before the technical supremacy of Europe had become so conspicuous in the Mediterranean. Another instance illustrated in one of the MSS selected here is the introduction of the use of quinine in Tunis, a medicine which in 1726 was imported from Italy at the request of Tunis' prime minister Ḥusayn Kūga. This is one more sign of the cultural bonds between Europe and Tunis. When Ḥusayn Kūga first used quinine, in the course of a stay in Italy in 1689, this medicine had only less than a century before been introduced into Western medicine, where it had become to be appreciated as the only effective remedy for malaria.

Arab veterinary medicine is another practical science, which, till recent times, was never very much influenced by Western developments. In the MSS which I perused at the National Library in Tunis I found two texts on the treatment of horses, one about horse breeding, the other a poem on the handling of horses in general. In both, attention is given to veterinary matters as well. Another text treats of the use of light cavalry in war time and provides thereby a link between the purely veterinary and equestrian matters on the one hand and military and strategic considerations on the other.

The Arabic manual of a French knitting machine made in 1878 is another example of technical developments in the lives of the Tunisians.

By far the greatest number of modern scientific texts, however, is devoted to photography. That marvellous invention of 1839 which the French government presented to the world, enjoyed, from the very start, a great popularity in the Middle East. In the Tunis Library I found one convolute volume containing seven texts, and yet another volume with one text, on photography. These texts are mostly translations from European manuals, but some may also be original Arabic works. This convolute volume must have been composed by or on behalf of a professional photographer in Tunis in the last two decades of the 19th century. Some of the texts are of a simple nature ('How to learn photography without a teacher'), others are apparently destined for the advanced photographer. The manufacture of photographic paper and glass plates in discussed, lists of chemicals and recipes are mentioned, the organisation of a dark room is explained, etc.

My selection comes to a close with the enumeration of five MSS on odd subjects, which have no direct links with any of the aforementioned matters, but which nevertheless do fit with the common denominator.
of the previously described texts: the development of modern times in Tunisia. These are: a fatwā concerning the use of Eau de Cologne, Arabic translations of English and French press cuttings, a survey of the Arabic alphabet which may have been used as copy for a printer’s or founder’s type specimen, a speech held at the Khaldounia Centre, and, finally, a romance in colloquial Arabic (probably not originating from Tunisia).

One more function of the MSS selected here needs to be mentioned. In most of the modern scientific texts which I have listed and described, and those on photography in particular, yet another aspect of this wave of modernity comes up, which is reminiscent of the translation movement of a thousand years earlier: the lack of mastery of standard written Arabic by the translators in general and the question of the development of a new, technical vocabulary in particular. Several of the works mentioned above were the product of authors who admittedly hardly knew how to write Arabic. Figures such as Luigi Calligaris, Mansūr Carletti and Joseph the Proselyte were a sort of technical middle-men or culture brokers, having a European background, and using their knowledge and practical skills in a Tunisian environment. Calligaris’ work shows numerous signs of colloquial Arabic and it is doubtful that he had much theoretical knowledge of Arabic in its written form. The translators of European works on photography faced another problem: they had to invent an appropriate new terminology. To what extent they were successful in doing this remains to be assessed. The MSS which are herewith presented may provide the data for this. In addition to the cultural and scientific function of the texts, the MSS described here can be considered as sources for a history of modern Arabic scientific and technical vocabulary.

The Manuscripts

Military technology

MS 1370


Translated by al-Hāǧġ Muḥammad b. al-Hāǧġ ‘Umar, al-qā‘īm-maqām bi-Wizarat al-Harb. The MS is the translator’s autograph, dated 30 Rabi‘ al-Anwar 1293/1876 and signed by the translator. The original text, or texts, appears to date from a few years earlier. On f. 16a reference is made to a report, dated 28 October 1870.

The Gatling gun was an invention of the American engineer Richard Jordan Gatling (1818-1903). Patented in 1862, it was an early form of machine gun with multiple barrels (usually ten) which were rotated by a hand crank. Evident advantage was the increased firing speed of the gun, without the risk of the barrels becoming overheated. It was adopted in all parts of the world, built in many calibres and used in practically every war for 50 years after its invention. Notable use of it was made in the Middle East during the English occupation of Egypt in 1882.

MS on paper; 64 ff.; 21 x 15 cm; 14 lines to the page: brown ink; magribī script; lacuna between ff. 20 and 21?, and also between ff. 28 and 29? The original page numbers there jump from 57 to 80, but this may only be a mistake in the numbering of the pages without there being any text lacking.

f. 1a. Beginning: ما يتعلق بالمدفع الذي اخترعه قطانق وعرض هذا المدفع القتلى لأنه وحده هذا غير محتاج إلى الصرف. فطلب من مساعدته من المدفع فأسودة بذاته الناس من الدفع ذات الجهد وقد قسطت اعماله بمثابة معًبرة عن انسان الدفع الذي أدخلت من هذا النوع ...

f. 2b. ما يتعلق بالتقدير المذكور في f. 1a. وفي مبنا دفع قتالي لإسهال العشيرة.

On ff. 13b-14a are tables with the results of shooting experiments.

f. 16a. في مذكرة التقدير المؤخر في 3 أكتوبر عام 1870.

f. 23a. في ما يتعلق بقواعد الصرف الأدنى على مسافة 150 بارد.

f. 26a. في عادلة صنع دفع قتالي من قلب (420) من أجزاء.

f. 28b. في ما يتعلق بقواعد الصرف على مسافة 500 بارد.

On ff. 41a-44b follow 25 properties of the Gatling gun. The text on ff. 16a-52b appears to be the summary of a previous report on the gun.

f. 51b. ما يتعلق بالسرير.

f. 52b. ما يتعلق بإحساء إجزاء الدفع.

f. 53a. ما يتعلق بكيفية المباريات بين دفع قتالي ذات الجهد وغيرها من الآلات.

f. 53b. ما يتعلق بالكسر.

f. 54b. ما يتعلق بإحساء إجزاء الدفع.

f. 55b. ما يتعلق بكيفية المباريات بين دفع قتالي ذات الجهد من قالب الكلاش العسكرية.

f. 56a. ما يتعلق بأماكن قارب المدفع.

f. 58a. ما يتعلق بالضبط تابهة المدفع.

f. 58b. ما يتعلق بالضبط دفع قتالي على نظرة العمل.

f. 59b. ما يتعلق بال츠امص المدفع.

f. 60a. ما يتعلق بالضبط المدفع.

f. 61a. ما يتعلق بالضبط دفع المدفع.

f. 62a. ما يتعلق بالضبط دفع المدفع.

f. 62b. ما يتعلق بمفهوم المدفع ذات الجهد بينما وتجاوز

MS 18671 (Catalogue Mansür 1975, p. 437) contains a text on the maintenance of field guns, written in the Tunisian spoken language. It is entitled: *al-Gūf al-Awwal min Muhimmāt Sīnā'at al-Tubgiyya* and was copied on 21 Gumādā II 1263 (1847/188a).

MS 9868

Memorandum by Luigi Calligaris (1808-1870) on the strength of the Russian army and navy. The memorandum, which was written in April 1854, is directed to the Bey of Tunis, Ahmad b. Muṣṭafā (reigned 1253/1833-1271/1855) and his prime minister (here referred to as *amīr al-umārah*), Muṣṭafā ʿAzīz ad-Dādar (1817-1878). MS on paper, with text written within a frame printed with gold ink: 8 ff.; 210 × 150 mm; 9 lines to the page; magribī handwriting; brownish ink, with the occasional use of red, green and yellow ink; written, possibly by Calligaris himself, in April 1854 (f. 8b); entry note of the Zaytuna Library in Tunis dated 24 Gumādā 1295/1878 (f. 1a).

Luigi Calligaris, who was of Italian extraction, made his career as a soldier in Tunis. He first came to Tunis in 1833 and stayed there for almost thirty years. In 1840 he was appointed director of the Military Academy in the Bardo, and in 1853 he had attained the rank of colonel (*amīr al-ālāy*) in the Tunisian army. In 1861 he was appointed professor of colloquial Arabic in the University of Turin.

He is the author of a history of Napoleon (Paris, 1856) and also of several textbooks of Arabic, e.g. *Il nuovo Erpenio ossia Corso teorico-pratico di lingua Araba* (Torino, 1867), which was reprinted several times. He was recently identified as the author of a memorandum on the use of the printing press in Tunisia (cf. Demeerseman 1956).

The reason why Calligaris wrote his estimate of Russian military strength must have been the Crimean war. When the conflict of interests in the Middle East between the great powers had escalated, the Turks declared war on Russia on 4 October 1853. On 3 January 1854, the British and French fleets entered the Black Sea and on 28 March 1854 both Britain and France also declared war on Russia. Tunis nominally being an Ottoman domain, it was perfectly understandable that the Bey of Tunis and his prime minister were interested in this sort of military intelligence, and the more so, because they had sent an expeditionary force of 8000 men in support of the Sultan.

To judge from this beginning, Calligaris' mastery of the grammar of standard Arabic cannot have been very impressive. If the present MS was copied by him, it means that he knew how to write magribī script. From f. 2a onwards follows the estimate of the military strength of Russia:

- 660,000 men infantry
- 110,000 men cavalry
- 70,000 men artillery
- 210,000 men irregular forces, Cossacks, Bashkiris and Kirghiz.

This makes a total of 1,050,000 men. To these must be added clerks and customs officers, in total some 150,000 men. Then follows an account of their geographical dispersion, a historical survey and an account of the Russian harbours.

MS 3686


Account by the Moroccan envoy Abū al-ʿAbbās Ahmad b. al-Mahdī al-Gazzālī, to the court of King Charles III of Spain. He was sent to negotiate the release of prisoners and also, it seems, the return of the library of Moulay Zaydān. See on this latter point also 'Inān 1980, pp. 4-5, and Jones 1987, p. 103. The text
contains a detailed account of the numerous localities through which the party of Moroccans traveled, with numerous details on Islamic architecture in al-Andalus. To the known MS copies of this work can now be added nine MSS in Rabat, five in the Bibliothèque générale et Archives du Maroc, Nos. D 981, D 1297, D 1316, D 961 and D 1640 (catalogue by I. S. Allouche & A. Regragui 1958, vol. II, Nos. 2345-2349), and four in the Royal Library, Nos. 1814, 3916, one text as a part of magmūʿ 75, and 3066 (catalogue M. ʿAbdal-lāh ʿInān 1980, pp. 328-330). An abridged edition by Alfredo al-Bustani (Tetuan 1945, or 1941?) is mentioned in both Rabat catalogues.

MS on paper; 238 x 180 mm; 17 lines to the page, not dated, but probably a 19th/20th-century copy; brown ink with rubrics for the localities which were visited.

**MS 4230**

Rihlat al-Sayyid Sulaymān b. ʿSiyyām ilā Bilād Fārānṣa

Rحلة السيد سليمان بن سيم إلى بلاد فرانس

Account of a journey by a number of Algerian notables in the spring of 1852 to the Prince-President Napoleon of France (al-maqām al-salṭānī al-Napoleonī), written by one of the participants, al-sayyid Sulaymān b. ʿSiyyām. On 23 April 1852, the Algerians receive their orders from the French governor-general of Algeria, al-gubernūr Rāmūn (Jacques César Comte Randon [1795-1871]), and they depart, together with notables from Oran and Constantine, to France. They cross the Mediterranean, from Algiers to Sète (25-27 April). On 2 May they arrive by train in Lyons. Then follows some general information on the history and geography of France. In Versailles, they meet the Minister of War (f. 25a) and are, finally, introduced to the Prince-President (f. 31b). They receive presents and are ordered to return to their country. On 19 May they are back in Lyons, from where they go by boat on the River Rhône till Avignon, and from there by train to Marseilles, where they arrive on 22 May. Having departed from Marseilles on 25 May, they arrive in Algiers on 27 May, where they are met by their friends. After they have expressed their gratitude to the governor-general they return to their homes.

MS on paper; 200 x 145 mm; 13 lines to the page; magribī handwriting.

**Medicine**

**MS 510**

A collection of four texts on medicine by different authors and copied by different copyists.

1. (ff. 1b-9b):


MS on paper; 200 x 145 mm; 23 lines to the page: magribī handwriting.

f. 1b. (بسم الله ... سبحان من يزيد العلوم الحالم من صدور جبال العلوم الشامخة ...)

f. 2a. (المقامة في تدريب دعوى مطلب الحام ...)

f. 2b. (الفصل الأول في الرسالة في فضل الجامعات المدنية وبيان من الخصائص المفيدة للثوابت في ذلك المبعان ...)

f. 3a. (الفصل الثاني في ذكر المعادن التي تم عليها هذه المبادئ وسبح أنها مثالية ...)

f. 3b. (الفصل الثالث في الكلام على حفظ العناية في هذا الشأن ...)

f. 4a. (المراجع في ذكر معرفة ومعرفة شرب وأعتناء في الفصل الخاص في كيفية استعماله شربًا واغتنامه ...)

The first authority mentioned in the first chapter is Hippocrates. The locality mentioned in the title of the third chapter is the present-day Hammam Lif, between Tunis and Hammamet.

2. (ff. 10b-24b):

Zād al-Maṣūr fī Ilāg al-Bawāsīr

زاد المسیر في علاج البواؤسي

Treatise on the treatment of hemorrhoids by the Ottoman Turkish physician and poet (takallus: Nidāʾī) Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Qawṣūnī (lived in the middle of the 10th/16th century, cf. GAL G II, 447). The text was compiled at the order of al-hakīm al-ṣaḥīf al-Manṣūfiyya (Egypt).

MS on paper; 200 x 145 mm; magribī handwriting; black ink with rubrics; copied on Thursday 20 Du ʿal-Quʿda 1182/1769.

f. 10b. ( помещه في هذا الايادان ...)

f. 11a. (وبدور هذه رسالة ... تتعلق باللغة المرفوعة بالبواؤسي ...)

f. 12b. (الفصل الثاني في القوانين التي يجب أن يراعيها أصحاب هذه اللغة من أجل الأغذية وغيرها ...)

f. 13b. (الفصل الثالث في القوانين التي يجب أن يراعيها أصحاب هذه اللغة من أجل الأغذية وغيرها ...)

ff. 19a-b. (الفصل الرابع في الأدوية النافعة والمرفوعة في هذه اللغة مرتبة على حروف المعجم ...)

3. (ff. 25b-88b):

Risālat Yūṣuf al-Qīr

 رسالة يوسف القر
Untitled medical handbook by Yūṣuf al-Qīr (lived 1171/1757, cf. Ben Milād 1980, pp. 126-8). Ben Milād has it that this author of Spanish or Italian extraction somehow came to Tunis and made his medical career there. He was a Christian, but then converted to Judaism, hence his nickname Joseph the Proselyte. He knew how to speak Arabic, but he seems to have written in Latin. When Ben Milād mentions Latin, this probably means Italian or Spanish. No texts in Latin, or in another European language for that matter, of Yūṣuf al-Qīr’s hand appear to be preserved, however. Another treatise by Yūṣuf al-Qīr (on medical baths) was noted down from his dictation by M. Ḥusayn Bayram (see on him above, text No. 1 in this volume) and recorded in Arabic by the latter. Would this be, in fact, the first text in the present volume? The MS to which Ben Milād refers, but which he does not specify (op. cit., pp. 127-8), is actually the presently described MS.

MS on paper; 200 × 145 mm; 23 lines to the page; magribī handwriting; black ink with rubrics; copied 1 Gumādī II 1248/1832 by Māhmūd Qahwāghi.

f. 25b. Beginning: (الاسم...) يا وليّ بن خالد فندّقي في صناعة...

The author then proceeds to tell us that this compilation (ta’līf) was written for people of all levels of education, and that he has illustrated his discourse with practical experiments of his own observation.

f. 26a.

مقدمة

باب أسباب الأمراض

f. 27a.

الباب الأول في الأمراض الطبيعية المحدثة عن الحمى...

In this chapter are treated, among other things, al-hubb al-ifrangī (venereal diseases, f. 49a), dysentery (f. 59a), and amrād al-nisā’ (women’s diseases, f. 74a).

4. (ff. 89a-96b):

Al-Asrār al-Kamīna bi-Āḥwāl al-Kīna Kīna

الأسرار الكبيرة بأحوال الكينة كينة

Treatise on the use of quinine by al-hagg Ḥusayn Köçā b. ‘Ali b. Sulaymān (Tunis, 1077/1666-1145/1732, cf. GAL S II, 687 (where the year of his death is given as 1169/1755), and Ben Milād, op. cit., p. 214). The author was Ru’ūs Dwān al-‘Inṣādā wād the Bey Ḥusayn b. ‘Ali (reigned 1117/1705-1148/1735). In order to recover from an illness he went to Italy in the course of 1101/1689, and there he learnt from local physicians (hukamā) to use quinine. The present text is, according to Ben Milād, the translation into Arabic of the letter in Latin which accompanied the quinine, which he ordered from abroad in 1139/1726. He received assistance (not being a physician himself) with the translation into Arabic from the Tunisian pharmacist Hārūn Ābū al-‘Uyūn. The treatise consists of an introduction (muqaddima), 12 chapters (maqālāt), an epilogue (kātimma) and a supplement (tatimma).

MS on paper; 200 × 145 mm; 21 lines to the page; magribī handwriting; brownish ink with rubrics.

f. 89b. Beginning:

(الاسم...) الحمد لله وليّ السم ومرتب السلم... أما بعد فقول...

VETERINARY MEDICINE.

MS 2296

A collection of several texts, two of which treat how to handle horses. The volume contains 102 ff., plus an unspecified number of blank pages.

The first text in the volume (ff. 5b-59a) is:

Kitāb al-Furṣīyya wa-Iṣṭīʿāl al-Kayl al-ʿArabiyya

كتاب الفرسية واستخدام الخيل العربية

No author of this work on horse breeding is mentioned, unless it is al-hagg Ḥusayn b. al-marḥūm al-hagg Ismā’il al-Hanafi, who is said to have completed the tabyīd of the work on 15 Sawwāl 1172/1759 (colophon on f. 59a). It is not certain, however, that completing the tabyīd, the neat copy of a text, means that this was done by the author. The word tabyīd may also refer to the work of the copyist. The work consists of 4 parts (gǔz‘), divided into sections (band). The 4th part is of veterinary content.

MS on paper; 200 × 150 mm; 22 lines to the page; magribī handwriting; brownish ink; copied in 1172/1759 (f. 59a).

f. 6b. Beginning:

(الاسم...) الحمد لله رب العالمين... وعند هذا كتاب يستعمل على أربعة أجزاء كل جزء منها خصص علم عن علم الفروسية واستخدام الخيل العربية ومعرفة ماركرها وأراها وما يحصل لها من الفوائد كذالك بأنهم عازرون وأسهل حاجة ومعروفة الأصل منها...

f. 7a.

الجزء الأول من كتاب علم الفروسية في استعمال الخيل

العربي...

f. 18b.

الاسم...) الحمد لله... وإذا هذا الجزء الثاني من كتاب الفروسية في علاج الحيوانات من الخيل وأصلح ذلك على أحسن الوحوش وأوصي آلهة في كريمة ودخيلة وخيرها وسويها...

f. 37b.

(الاسم...) الحمد لله... وإذا هذا الجزء الثالث من كتاب الفروسية ويستعمل على أعالي صاص الخيل وألوانها ومقياسها...

f. 44b.

(الاسم...) الحمد لله... وإذا هذا الجزء الرابع من كتاب الفروسية واستعمال الخيل العربية يستعمل أو الأدوية ذات...

f. 59a. Colophon:

وكان الفراخ من تبييض... الحاج

حصن بن المرحوم الحاج إسماعيل الحنفي
On ff. 90b-101a in this MS is yet another text on the treatment of horses, entitled:

Tamrmat al-Afyad fi al-Safinat al-NaEibet al-Ciyed


MS on paper; magribi handwriting, probably by the copyist who also wrote the text on ff. 80a-89b in the volume, which is dated 4 Ramadan 1182/1769.

f. 90b. Beginning:

وْقُولُ بعْدَ الْحَمْدِ عِبَادُ الْقَادرِ، اَعْنِيَ بِالشَّرْفِ الحَسْنِيِّ الْقَادرِ

بِنَادُأَ اللهِ ذِي الْعَرْشِ العَلِيمُ، سَبِحَةُ جِلَانِ الْقَدِّيمِ ...

f. 101a. End:

فَسَمِّيَتْهَا تَمْيِيظُ الأَجْيَادِ، فِي الصَّفَاتِ النَّاجِحِاتِ الْجَيْدِ

مَا دَامَتِ الْحَلِيلَ غَدِوَهُ وَرَوَاهَا، نَدَعُوا لَهَا بَدَعَةُ النِّجَاحِ

MS 3781

A collection of seven texts on photography.

MS on paper; 92 ff.: 220 × 160 mm; magribi handwriting by several copyists, probably four; brown ink with rubrics; copied on 14 Gumādā I 1287/1870 (colophon of the 3rd text on ff. 74b). Texts 1-2, 3-5, 6, 7 show the respective involvement of four copyists.

1. (ff. 1b-43a):

Taʿrīb Kitāb yataʿallaqu bi-Taswīr al-Futūgrāfī

Arabic translation of a manual on a knitting machine made in Rabīʿ II 1295/1878 by al-qāʿīn maqām ʿUmar b. ʿAlī b. Bāraḳāt. The text is preceded by two folded drawings of the machine. The first drawing shows the machine as a whole and in operation: one sees that wool is being made, with the needles, into a shawl. The second drawing shows the several parts of the machine.

MS on paper; 67 pp.: 220 × 150 mm; 21 lines to the page; magribi handwriting; black ink; text set within a red frame.

p. 1.

القسم الأول، الوصف

p. 10.

القسم الثاني، فوائد كلمة

p. 18.

القسم الثالث، كُنيَات مختلفة لخدمة أمثال مختلفة

There follows the colophon:

تَرَجَمُ هَذَا الْكِتَابُ لِلْعِربِيَّةِ مِنَ الفِنِّ النَّسَوَى قَيْرٍ رَأْسِهِ ذِي عِبَادَة

القائم مقام على بن بركات فجر الله نعمة البيت وضعف له الحسنات وذلك في ثاني الرابعين سنة 1295

Photography.

Textile machinery

MS 4133

A short manual on the use of light cavalry in times of war. Several sorts of schematic formations are given. There is no indication of author, nor could it be established with certainty whether this text was originally written in Arabic, or whether it was translated, e.g. from French or Turkish. The text is divided into an introduction and 26 chapters (fayl).

MS on paper; 45 ff., plus blank leaves; 215 × 160 mm; 13 lines to the page; magribi handwriting; brown ink with rubrics; text set in a red frame; schematic illustrations sometimes also executed in red ink; dated Gumādā I 1265/1849.

f. 1b. Beginning:

(بَسْمَةٍ) ... هذه جملة مختصرة في عمليات الخيل الخفيف حالة الحرب

MS 3112

Kayfiyyat al-Istīʿām bi-Makān al-Taśbik aʿnī al-Nīsāğa

كيفية الاستعمال لمكانة التشبيك أمني النساءة

Arabic translation of a French manual on a knitting machine made in Rabīʿ II 1295/1878 by al-qāʿīn maqām ʿUmar b. ʿAlī b. Bāraḳāt. The text is preceded by two folded drawings of the machine. The first drawing shows the machine as a whole and in operation: one sees that wool is being made, with the needles, into a shawl. The second drawing shows the several parts of the machine.

MS on paper; 67 pp.: 220 × 150 mm; 21 lines to the page; magribi handwriting; black ink; text set within a red frame.

p. 1.

القسم الأول، الوصف

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القائم مقام على بن بركات فجر الله نعمة البيت وضعف له الحسنات وذلك في ثاني الرابعين سنة 1295

Photography.

Textile machinery

MS 3781

A collection of seven texts on photography.

MS on paper; 92 ff.: 220 × 160 mm; magribi handwriting by several copyists, probably four; brown ink with rubrics; copied on 14 Gumādā I 1287/1870 (colophon of the 3rd text on ff. 74b). Texts 1-2, 3-5, 6, 7 show the respective involvement of four copyists.

1. (ff. 1b-43a):

Taʿrīb Kitāb yataʿallaqu bi-Taswīr al-Futūgrāfī

Arabic translation of a manual on the preparation of photographic paper which was issued by the Belgian firm L. Gevaert & Cie. The manual cannot date earlier than 1890, and the translation must be more recent, therefore. The illustrations of the original have not been added to the translation (e.g. on ff. 4b, 5a, 8b), but the references in the text to the illustrations have been maintained (sometimes with adad, sometimes with numrī [= numèro]). The text contains instructions for the preparations of chemical baths (bānyū, pl. bānyūwāt) and photographic paper. The use of North African words is evident, e.g. ʿūq for 'two' (f. 36b).

١٤٩٥

Lieven Gevaert (1868-1935) established himself as an independent photographer in Antwerp in 1890. An autodidact in the technical literature on photography, he started producing photographic paper. In 1894 he founded his own firm in Mortsel, Belgium, which
became well known for its production of photographic paper and which, several decades later, was to merge with Agfa. A number of handbooks on photography and collections of chemical recipes were published by the firm.

f. 1b. ترجمة كتاب تتعلق بصور الفنن في ألفه العلم

أولها في تعلق بالكتلة

في كيفية ما يلزم لإنتاج الصورة

الفصل الرابع: بخصوص تحويل الكالوريين على الكاغاز وعلى النقاش

f. 13a.

f. 16b. القسم الثالث: في كيفية العمل وما يتعلق به

المعظم وعلى الجلد كما سيأتي بيانه

f. 29b.

f. 34a. القسم الخامس: في تحويل الكاغاز لنقل الصورة عليها

f. 38b. الفصل السابع: في كيفية أسابيع عدم نتيجة واعلاع

التصاور كما يلزم

The end of the text is on f. 69a, and on f. 69b are some chemical recipes.

f. 63b. القسم السادس: في خلفية اللينو

f. 64a. الفصل السابع: في كيفية وضع البلراء في الماكينة أي المغير

أي بالبيت المغلق

f. 65b. الفصل الثامن: في إعاده من موجات الصورة من تحميلها

f. 67b. الفصل التاسع: في إعادة ما قد يقدم على سبيل الاستعارة

The end of the text is on f. 69a, and on f. 69b are some chemical recipes.

2. (ff. 43a-58b): Mulâhaçât yaḳūṣṣū bi-Taṣwīr al-Futugrāf

ملاحظات يخصي بصورو الفنن في

Several instructions for the photographer. No author is mentioned. The text is incomplete and ends abruptly on f. 58b. From f. 46b onwards, there are instructions for the manufacture of quṣn al-bārūd (salt peter cotton?). The text appears to be a genuine Arabic one, to judge from the phrase 'inda al-Ifran (f. 49b).

3. (ff. 59b-69a):

Ta'rib Kitab al-Futugrāfiya

Arabic translation of an anonymous work on the preparation of collodion on glass (billār, billārā), and the treatment of glass plates in general.

Another magribi hand than the preceding; brownish ink; 17 lines to the pages; dated (in the next text, colophon on f. 74b) as 1287/1870.

f. 59b. أَحْمَدُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ السَّمَاءَ وَالْأَرْضَ 

عَلَى مَقْدَدَةَ وَنَسْخُ فَصُول

القائمة، وُقِيتُ كِتَابُ الفنَّان مُتَوَّلٍ بِرَاكَرْدِي (؟) فَنَقُّرُ فَقُرَّة

In the introduction the purpose of photography is given:

جَمِيعُ النَّاسُ المُسَافِرُونَ الجَالِينُ في الْعَرَامِ فِي تَصِيرُ الْبَلَادَ

وقَدْ نُقِدتُ فِي ذَلِكَ الصَّدِيقُ...

ff. 59b-60a.

f. 60b. إِنَّ الْفَلَسَ الْأَوَّلَ فِي تَنْفِيضِ الْبَصُولَاتِ إِلَى قَطْعِ الْبَلَاد

الفلس الثاني ذكر مَلْعَ مَنْسَبَ الثَّانِي وَبَعْدُ هَجَسُهُ

مَثَلَيْنَ يَوْمَ يَتَحَدَّثُ عَلَى الْغَرْبِ المَقْصُودُ

f. 61b. الحَلَوَاتُ ثَانِيَةَ فِي الرَّيْحَةِ الكَائِنِيَةِ عَلَى الْبَلَادِ قَبْلَ أن

يَصْبِبَ الكَائِنِيَةَ عَلَى الْبَلَادِ

f. 62b. الفَلَسُ الْأَرَبَّى فِي بِئْرَةُ حَفْظِ الْبَلَادِ لِلْمَثَالَ...
Arabic translation of a list of chemicals with their prices (in francs and centimes, "farankūt wa-santimāt") describing one article per line of text. From f. 89b onwards is a survey of instruments and spare parts, and on ff. 90a-91b follows an explanation of their use, with reference to the page numbers of the original text.

Copied in a hand different from that of the copyist of the preceding text; usually 17 lines to the page.

f. 83b. ...(هذه ترجمة كتاب الفوتوغرافي في بيان انواع
اللوازم والإضافات اللازمة للتصوير الشمسي الآن...)

f. 89b. ...بيان المصمود من الفوتوغرافي وله كيفيات كثيرة احدها القلم
لجيب اللوازم الطبيعية وله بلازات التي يعبر عنها بنظارة الإشارة
التي قابهما...

7. (ff. 91b-92a):
Bayān Kayfiyyat al-Taşwīr bi-al-Makina al-Futugrā-
fiyya

بيان كيفية التصوير بالرookeeper الفوتغرافي

Short manual on photography.

f. 91b. Beginning:

الحمد لله بيان كيفية التصوير باللوازم الصغرى الفوتغرافية او
لما تخرج البلازة إلى المكتبة يصب عليها ما الجديد مرة بعد مرة حتى
هذا التصوير...

MS 1750

Arabic translation of a manual on photography by Dr. Ġ. Fuwā (?). The reconstruction of the phonetically written French name is uncertain; it could be something like J. Fouat, Fois, Foix, Fouet.

MS on paper; 23 pp.; 290 × 200 mm; c. 27 lines to the page; magribīi handwriting (fountain pen?).

Title-page:

صناعة الفوتوغرافي وما يتعلق بها (الله الحمد اللطيف جَوَّا
الحمد لله تفسير صناعة الفوتوغرافي وما يتعلق بها على ورق البلار.
وعلى الكاغذ... اوه يختصر ذكر الكاغذ...

The first section treats the manufacture of photographic paper. The author suggests that the paper of the mark Atfīq Canson, which is, as he contends, inexpensive and widely available. Also treated is the waxing (tāmīr) of paper.

p. 2.

p. 4.

p. 5.

p. 6.

p. 7.

p. 8.

p. 9.

p. 10.

p. 11.

p. 12.

p. 13.


p. 15.

p. 16.

The required materials are enumerated here, beginning with "عذب أثناء الخطأ". Then follow other substances, with indication of the required quantities in grammes. The end of the text is halfway p. 23.

Various subjects

In MS 4184, which contains a number of religious texts, the last text (ff. 70b-71b) is a jātāwa by Siyy M. B. al-Kūga on the permissibility of the use of Eau de Cologne (al-Māʿ al-Musannā bi-al-Kunāliyya, and also: al-Māʿ al-Musannā Kullāniyya). This use is considered to be forbidden (ḥarām), because it is nāqisat al-ʿayn, soiling the eye. As authority for this is quoted the imām al-Zaylaʾ (d. 743/1342, cf. GAL G II, 78), with reference to his Kitāb al-Ārīfī, which is one of the chapters of his commentary on the Hanafite fiqh-book Kanz al-Daqaʿīq by ʿAbdallāh b. Ahmad al-

In MS 4212 are extracts from European newspapers translated into Arabic, which shows numerous features of the colloquial language. On the fly-leaf a title is given: Maqāmāt al-Gazīfīят, Collection from the newspapers. The newspapers which, according to a note on f. 1a, have been surveyed are the Gazīfīят Bāriz (= Gazette de Paris), the Akḥār Lunda (= London News, or the Times?), and possibly others as well. The period from which events are covered is around 1864 (e.g. f. 10a) and 1865 (e.g. f. 141a). The translations are not bound in an entirely chronological order. There is no indication of the translator, nor is any clue given as for whom the translations were made. Dr. G.S. van Grieken suggested to me that the translations may have been made by or on behalf of MANSOUR CARLETTI (1822-1892), who edited the official journal, al-Rāʾīd al-Tūnisī, in which many articles taken from
the European press and translated into Arabic appeared. As Carletti had learnt Arabic in Syria, this could explain both the features of the colloquial language and the Oriental handwriting (that is: non-Mağribî script).

MS on paper; 243 numbered ff., and several blank leaves; 210 × 160 mm; Oriental handwriting; brownish ink.

MS 3725 is a survey of the Arabic alphabet, with the tables displaying the use of the letters in combination with one another. Each page has five columns and six rows. On f. 1a are signs used for vocalisation. It is not entirely evident for which purpose this MS was made. One possibility is as a model for writers or letter designers, another possibility is that it is the copy of a printer’s or founder’s type specimen. On ff. 15b-17a of the MS are several prayers, which may also point to its use as a type specimen.

On a heavy type of paper; 17 ff.; 240 × 200 mm; 6 lines to the page; black ink; Oriental handwriting.

MS 3294 is the draft of a speech held by al-Hasâ’îsî at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of al-Gânîyya al-Kaldâniyya in Tunis. The stencilled library catalogue (vol. 4, December 1978) mentions that the speech was held at the end of the school year, but does not specify in which year the speech was delivered. As the Kaldounia was founded on 22 December 1896, the speech must have been held in 1906. See on the Kaldounia also Mohamed-Salah Lejri. Evolution du mouvement national tunisien des origines à la deuxième guerre mondiale (2 vols., Tunis 1974-77). vol. I, pp. 107-109.

MS on paper; 3 ff.; 310 × 210 mm; 36 lines to the page; text on recto sides only; mağribî handwriting; brownish ink.

p. 1. Beginning:

إذا فخامة الوزير
يا أبا السادة
قد فضت علي الجمعية الخالدية عشر سنين من يوم تأسيسها قضاءها
كلما في بيت العلماء والعارف المصرية بين الطبقات الأهلية...

MS 18703 (catalogue Mansûr 1975, p. 459) is a catalogue of the collection of coins in the Museum of al-Gânîyya al-Kaldâniyya. According to Mansûr, this institution, or rather its Museum, was founded in 1328/1910.

MS 502 is not a MS but a lithograph. It contains a romance in colloquial Arabic, entitled Nâzâhât al-Muštâq wa-Gûsâyat al-’Ussâq fî Madinat Tinîyâq fî al-Iraq. As author is mentioned Dânûnûs (or Dânûnûs?) and a sort of dedication is made to al-amîr M. b. Muštâfî. Written in Oriental script, with features of mağribî. The text is preceded by an abstract of the contents of the hikâyâ.

Then follows, on an unnumbered page:

This is a sketch of this text:

تازهة المشتاق وقصة العشاق في مدينة طرابيق في العراق تأليف التغير
ضعف الأدب وأحوجهم إلى الملك الجواد دانيوس

On the page opposite p. 1, an abstract of the contents of the story is given:

Persons appearing in the course of the romance are (in alphabetical order):

Amnâ, Bâbâ Gâbyûn, Bâbâ Gâ’îr, Bâbâ Qaysûr, Dâmanhûr, Fayâyâla, Marûtân, Masrûr, Nâsir, Nîmâ, Nu’mân, Sa’d, Sâlih, Sâmsî, Sîdî Mahmûd, Sîdî al-Muk’târ, Sîdî al-Wâsâmûn, Yâsâmînâ, and slaves and servants.

Bibliography

Allouche & Regragui 1958

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Inân 1980

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Lejri 1974-77

de Leone 1973

Maṣūr 1969

—— 1975

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G.A. Wiegars 1988

NOTES

1 Research for this article was conducted in the week of 17-24 April 1987. I would not have come to Tunis at that time but for the 9th International MELCOM conference held on 13-16 April 1987 in Hamamet. I acknowledge with appreciation the choice of Tunisia by Melcom’s president, Dr. Derek Hopwood, and the hospitality extended by the Institut Supérieur de Documentation of the University of Tunis which hosted the conference, in the person of its director, Dr. Wahid Gdoura. The University of Leiden liberally provided funds for my traveling to Tunisia. At the final stage of the writing of this article I have been fortunate to receive a number of valuable suggestions of Dr. G.S. van Krieken.

2 Quoted in Ben Milād 1980, p. 126.