UNION CATALOGUES


Exhibition of MSS from the Bibliothèque Royale Albert 1er, Brussels; Centrale Bibliotheek, Universiteit Gent; private collection of JAN BAUWENS, Ghent. Incl. some in Persian & Turkish.


Over 800 MSS will be included.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ANTWERP

Nationaal Scheepvaartmuseum

Steenplein 1
2000 Antwerpen
Date of establishment: 1952
Status: Museum

Owns several Islamic MSS.

BRUSSELS

Algemeen Rijksarchief / Archives Générales du Royaume

2–4 rue de Ruysbroeck
Bruxelles
Date of establishment: 1794
Status: National archives

Owns several Islamic MSS.
Bibliothèque Royale Albert Ier / Koninklijke Bibliothek Albert Ist.

Boulevard de l'Empereur, 4 (Reader’s entry: Mont des Arts),
1000-Bruxelles
Tel.: 02/5195311. Telex: 21157. Fax: 02/5195679
Date of establishment: The ancient Librairie des Ducs de Bourgogne became, in April 1559, under Philippe II, the Bibliothèque Royale des Pays-Bas. In June 1837, after Belgian independence (1830), the Library was called Bibliothèque Nationale. Since 1839, its name has been Bibliothèque Royale / Koninklijke Bibliotheek.
Status: National library
Conditions of access: Credentials required: Identification from academic institution or library.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 09.00 – 20.00
(summer: – 17.00).
Total number of Islamic MSS: 233 (Arabic; Malay; Persian; Turkish).
Only 105 MSS (98 Arabic; 1 Persian; 5 Turkish; 1 Arabic-Turkish) have been catalogued (see below).
Description of collection (according to the catalogue): The collection includes many classics of Arabic learning: Ḥadīth (e.g. al-Bukhārī’s Ṣaḥīḥ: BR IV 560), tafsīr (e.g. al-Baydāwī: Anwār al-Tanzil wa-arār al-Ta‘wil: BR IV 564 and BR IV 971), fatāwa, fiqh, ṭuḥf al-ḥikm, ṭaqwīd, taqwīm, grammar, mantiq (e.g. al-Abharī: BR IV 965), tajwīd, al-Būṣīrī’s Al-Burāq (BR II 2286), and medicine (e.g. Ibn Butlān: Taqwīm al-Ṣība: BR 19.990), a Turkish translation of K. al-Mīdāt wa-l-Nīḥal (BR IV 898).
N.B. To this collection will be soon added some sixty manuscripts from the personal collection of the late Prof. Armand Abel (Université Libre de Bruxelles and Universiteit Gent).
Published catalogues:
Descriptions of 10 Malay MSS.


1968. See Union catalogue by BAUWENS (above).


N.B. All the manuscripts of the Bibliothèque Royale (and those of Prof. Armand Abel) will be included, with detailed descriptions, in the forthcoming General Catalogue of the Islamic Manuscripts of Belgium, prepared by Fr. BAUDEN (see Union Catalogues above).

Centre Culturel Islamique
Bruxelles
Owns several Islamic MSS.

Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire / Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis
10 parc du Cinquantenaire
1040 Bruxelles
Date of establishment: 1835
Status: Museum
Owns several Islamic MSS.

Société des Bollandistes
24 blvd. St Michel
1040 Bruxelles
Date of establishment: 1630
Status: Jesuit religious library
Owns several Islamic MSS.
GHENT

Universteit Gent

Centrale Bibliothek, Rozier, 9, 9000-Gent
Tel.: 091/643851. Telex: 11793. Fax: 091/644196
Date of establishment: 1817
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Credentials required: Apply in writing or by telephone to the Head of the Department of Special Collections (Dr. Albert Derozez, tel.: 091/643854).
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 09.00–19.00
(except during the academic holidays).
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (4 Arabic; 2 Turkish; 1 Malay).
Published catalogues:

HEVERLEE

Filosofisch en Theologisch College van de Societéite Jesus

Owns several Islamic MSS.

LIEGE

Centre d’Information et de Conservation des Bibliothèques (formerly Bibliothèque Générale)

Université de Liège, Place Cockerill 1, 4000-Liège

Tel.: 041/665206. Fax: 041/665702
Date of establishment: University founded 1817
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Credentials required: Apply in writing or by telephone to the Head of the Department of Special Collections and Archives (Mme Carmélia Opsomer-Halleux, Place Cockerill 1, 4000-Liège, Tel.: 041/665308).
Appointment required (consultation of the Oriental MSS will be allowed only after the publication of the Catalogue: see below).
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 09.00–12.00; 14.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 470 (mostly Arabic).
Description of collection: Besides 3000 Western MSS, 700 incumbabula, more than 4000 books of the 16th century, the University Library owned, before 1986, thirty-three Oriental MSS, principally belonging to the Fonds Chavusin and the Fonds Württer (they are mentioned in the Library Catalogues). In 1986, Mlle Darowit left the University a very important legacy of 437 Arabic majāmma. Most of these MSS are very rare; many of them are unpublished and are mentioned neither by C. Brockelmann in his Geschichte der arabischen Literatur nor by B. Sezgin in his Geschichte der arabischen Schriftenums. The oldest one dates from the end of the 13th century C.E.

These 470 volumes of MSS include 822 works of Arabic learning: ḥikāya (Mālikī, Shāfi‘ī, Hanafī), hadith, mathematics, alchemy, astronomy, astrology, rhetoric, grammar, taṣawwuf, Qurān (very nice exemplars), conjuring books, talismans, etc. E.g.: Mukhtasar Kitāb ‘Uṣūn al-anbā’ fi ṣabābāt al-ṣīḥāb ‘an Ibn Abī ‘Ubaydī (anonymous, 15th C.; Fonds Chavusin, MS. 2232); Waqīyā Aflahūn fi khidmat al-mallik (apocryphal, 14th C.; Fonds Darjent MS. 5006); Muḥammad ibn Ahmad ibn Abī Bakr ibn Faraq al-Anṣārī al-Khāṣṣā‘ī al-Qurṭubī (d. 671/1273), Al Tadhkira bi-ahwāl al-maṣā‘ī wa-ahwāl al-ākhirā (1083/1672–73, copy made from the original manuscript of the author, Fonds Darjent MS. 5058);Muḥibb al-Dīn Abū ʿAbd Allāh al-Maqrizī al-Qurtubī (d. 694/1294), Dakhkhās ‘al-Ṣūḥāb fi manāqib dhawi al-Qurṭub (Fonds Darjent MS. 5086; the oldest manuscript of the collection: 1296 C.E.; a critical edition—with a translation—is being prepared by Fr. Bauden; Abu ‘Alī al-Muḥassan ibn ‘Alī al-Tanūkhī (d. 384/994), Kitāb al-Faraj bīd al-shidda (Fonds Darjent MS. 5087: 1005/1596–97); Abū Ahmad ibn Yahyā ibn Muḥammad ibn Abū al-Walīd ‘Alī al-Wansharīshī (d. 914/1508), Al-Mīyār
maintained its seat in Louvain (Leuven), and Universiteit Catholique de Louvain, established on the sites of Louvain-la-Neuve (q.v. below) and Louvain-en-Woluwe (Brussels).

Status: University Library

Conditions of access: Credentials required: Apply in writing or by telephone to the Librarian of the Department of Manuscripts and Precious Works (Mr. Chris Coppens, Mgr Ladeuzeplein 21, 3000-Leuven, tel.: 016/284625).

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 08.45–12.30; 13.30–17.30.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (4 Arabic; 1 Turkish; 1 Persian; 1 Swahili).

Description of collection: Three Arabic MSS include several works (different periods, different styles of script): e.g. a Commentary (14th C.) of Ibn Malik’s Alfiya (see Brockelmann, GAL, Suppl., I, 522), a Commentary on Khalil’s Muhkama (see GAL, II, 84), a work (unidentified) of Birkawi (see GAL, II, 440–441 and Suppl., II, 654; two dates in the colophons: 977/1569 and 1130/1717); an apocryphal history (in Persian) of the Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna, attributed to Firdawsî (?)(17th C.; fine Indian paintings and illumination).

The Islamic MSS are not yet catalogued.

N.B.: Before the Second World War, the University Library had in its possession a very important collection of manuscripts the Funds LEFORT. Unfortunately they were mostly destroyed (except about twenty) in May 1940 (see Chris Coppens: Handschriften und catalogisering in Leuven: problemen en verwachtingen, Archives et Bibliothèques de Belgique, Archief- en Bibliotheekzeen in België, 61, 1990, pp. 51–60). The Arabic MSS had been mentioned and described in two articles in Le Muséon, 48, 1935, pp. 297–310 (Arn. van Lantschoot, Inventaire sommaire des MSS arabes d’Egypte: Fonds LEFORT, série A: MSS chrétiens) and 50, 1937, pp. 85–100 (W. Hertogen, Die Islamischen Handschriften der Universität-Bibliothek Löwen: Fonds LEFORT, Serie B und C).

There are also a few Islamic MSS in the Faculteit van Theologie.

LOUVAIN—LEUVEN

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Centrale Bibliotheek,
Handgeschreven en Kouthare Werken,
Mgr Ladeuzeplein 21,
3000- Leuven
Tel.: 016/284625. Telex: KULBIB 25715. Fax: 016/284616

Date of establishment: University founded 1425. In 1970, the University was divided between Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, which has

LOUVAIN—LEUVEN

Université Catholique de Louvain

Service des Archives U.C.L.,
rue Montesquieu 27,
1348-Louvain-la-Neuve
Tel.: 010/474884
Date of establishment: University founded 1425 (see Louvain (Leuven) above).
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Credentials required: Apply in writing or by telephone to the Head of the Department of Archives (Mme d’Arras d’Audrecy, rue Montesquieu 27, 1348-Louvain-la-Neuve, Tel.: 010/474884).
Appointment required.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 08.30–12.00; 13.30–16.30.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15 (14 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: The collection contains several incomplete copies of the Qurʾān (one on parchment in Kufic script), two books of prayers, copies of the Muqaddima of Ibn Ṭūrkmān and al-Buṣīrī’s al-Burda, and a treatise of fiqh (Kitāb al-Muṣāraba, Kitāb al-Muṣāraba, Kīthā al-Shīrk).
These manuscripts were acquired after the Second World War and form a part of the Legs CHABOT and the Legs CASSART. Unpublished catalogue. Descriptions by Prof. J. RYCKMANS are available at the Service des Archives.

MARIEMONT
Musée Royale
Morlanwelz, Mariemont.
Tel.: (064)221243
Date of establishment: 1922
Status: Museum
Owns several Islamic MSS.

TERVUREN
Koninklijke Museum voor Midden-Afrika / Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale
Steenweg op Leuven 13,
1980 Tervuren
Tel.: (02)7675401

Date of establishment: 1897
Status: Museum
Description of collection: A few Arabic MSS and documents from Africa.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX
Belgium, p. 308.
Brussels, p. 55.
Belgique, pp. 9–10.
Belgica, p. 199.
Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS. Belginya/ Belgique/Belgium, pp. 33–35, nos. 84–91.
This is a reference work listing known collections and catalogues published and unpublished. Belgium, pp. 193–197; 400–401.

Bibliotheken und Sammlungen arabischer Handschriften, pp. 311–466: Belgien, p. 333.


BENIN

by

Amidu Sanni

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