

Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS. Tbilisi, pp. 251–252, nos. 1139–1141.


This is a reference work listing known collections and catalogues, published and unpublished. Tiflis, pp. 302–303.


Bibliotheken und Sammlungen arabischer Handschriften, pp. 311–466: Tiflis, p. 461.

GERMANY

by

Anton Heinen

1991
INTRODUCTION

Since 1958 a grand project has been financed by the central funding organization Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) the goal of which is the complete assessment, and reliable description through specialized catalogues, of all oriental manuscripts in German libraries, private and public (the Verzeichnis der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland = VOHD). Much work has been done with great dedication and painstaking thoroughness. Dr. Feistel is responsible for the project since Dr. Voigt and Dr. George, his two predecessors, died, and grateful acknowledgement is made to the patient work of the scholars associated with this manuscript project. Although it has been possible to gather much additional information over recent months, especially since the re-unification of Germany made travelling easier, it must be admitted, as Dr. Feistel says, that the exact number of Islamic manuscripts, and their precise classification according to language groups, cannot yet be established with definite certainty. As Dr. Voigt, the initiator of the VOHD project, discovered, the proportion of clearly identified and catalogued Islamic manuscripts is small in relation to those still uncounted and unidentified (within a few years the numbers located by Dr. Voigt grew from 14,000 to 40,000). Moreover, the continuing influx of manuscripts into the collections of Germany will cause any survey to be of short and preliminary value only.

Many more German libraries than listed below reported having Islamic manuscripts in their possession (often, for instance, one or more copies of the Qur’an). If such manuscripts could not be identified as historically significant copies, the libraries have not been specially mentioned in this survey.

UNION CATALOGUES


1961–. Verzeichnis der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland. (= VOHD). By Wolfgang Voigt (founder and general editor); then Dieter George; now: Hartmut-Ortwin Feistel. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag. Planned union catalogue of oriental MSS appearing in volumes. All early volumes concern Berlin collections.


A bibliography of known works on music with locations of known copies, including those in German collections.

1966. Fortschritte der Katalogisierung der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland. Marburger Kolloquium 1965. By Wolfgang Voigt. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner. A report on the progress of VOHD. Instead of the original 12–14 volumes planned, the project has widened to 80 volumes; for, the 14,000 MSS reported originally as uncatalogued have increased to some 40,000 MSS.

1973. Urdu-Handschriften. By S. Mujahid Husain Zaidi. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag (= VOHD XXV, Reihe B). In English. Some 3 MSS are Christian. This catalogue tried to cover all Urdu MSS in Germany, i.e., 54 MSS from Staatsbibliothek Berlin, 8 MSS from Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, 5 MSS from Staatsbibliothek München, 2 MSS from Universitätsbibliothek Köln, and 1 MS. from Landesbibliothek Stuttgart. In fact 1 Urdu MS. in Universitätsbibliothek Rostock has been overlooked.

70 MSS (65 individual, 5 collective MSS; i.e., 83 works altogether).


A bibliography of known works (341 texts) with locations of known MSS (1240 MSS) including holdings in Berlin, Gotha, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich & Tübingen.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ANDECHS

Bibliothek des Benediktinerstifts St. Bonifaz

Date of establishment: 1851: The Arabic MSS were acquired from the Franciscan scholar Rehm.

Status: private; but after previous written request the MSS can be examined in Andechs.

Total number of Islamic MSS: Of the 150 MSS all are Christian.

Languages of Islamic MSS: (Arabic, see above).

Physical condition: excellent; beautifully located in a quiet monastic library outside of Munich.—The whole library has a card catalogue.

Fields covered: Christian theology and history.

Particular characteristics: The Arabic MSS belonged to the private library of a former abbot (Haneberg, 1854–1872) who was a specialist of oriental studies and as such professor at the university of Munich.

Unpublished catalogues: Katalog (Staff of the library).

Handwritten identification lists for the use of the reader at the library.

BAMBERG

Staatsbibliothek Bamberg

Date of establishment: 1611 (as modern institution: 1803)

Status: Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (4 Arabic; 3 Turkish).

Description of collection: The physical condition of the MSS is very good; kept in a big collection of other MSS, and thus practically overlooked or lost. But they are mentioned in the general catalogue.
The subjects covered are: Qur’ān, Tajrīs, Fiqh, Kalam, history, Adab, lexicography, astronomy, medicine. Only 2 MSS seem important: The “History of Egypt” by Maqāīṣī, dated 1482 CE (no. 16,1), and a collection of Turkish treatises (no. 20).

Published catalogues:


BERLIN

Deutsche Staatsbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1659, founded as “Churfürstliche Bibliothek”. Divided as a result of World War II; the Staatsbibliothek formerly in East Berlin recently combined with the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz (formerly in West-Berlin), as before.

Status: Public; the MSS can be consulted in a special section.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 11,730 (ca. 7200 Arabic; ca. 40 Kurdisch; ca. 40 Malay; ca. 900 Persian; ca. 1500 Turkish; 54 Urdu).

Description of collection: W. Ahrlewardt, in 1887, counted 6450 volumes of Arabic MSS in 13 different collections. But since then a number of additional collections have been acquired; and they are still growing fast through gifts and purchases. Thus, no exact numbers can be given; perhaps some 9700 Islamic MSS are now in Berlin (a mere estimate because the later acquisitions have not been identified as yet; thus, they may be ascribed to other cultures eventually). An exact count of the number of MSS in one particular collection, and a comparison with another, is impossible also (especially in a big library like the Staatsbibliothek of Berlin) because the numerous authors often have not distinguished between “work”, or “treatise”, and “manuscript” (which often contains several treatises). The MSS are in held in exemplary conditions, in a special, well guarded section of the library.

All fields of Islamic studies are covered.

The MSS come from all periods of Islamic history (obviously with the exception of the first three); but the great majority is not very old (the more recent acquisitions especially often appear to be hardly more than occasional commercial products). A few, however, are quite old and rare. In the re-united Berlin the former Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in the western part of the city has recently been entrusted also with the MSS formerly kept in East Berlin.


Contains most useful information on the historical growth of the collections of oriental MSS in the Staatsbibliothek Berlin.


Includes Islamic Manuscripts.


*Published catalogues:*

1871. *Verzeichnis arabischer Handschriften der königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin aus den Gebieten der Poesie, schönen Literatur, Literaturgeschichte und Biographik*. By Wilhelm Ahlwardt. Greifswald: Bamberg. In German. Very brief descriptions of pieces of Arabic literature, poetry, etc. This seems to have been a preparatory work for his later complete catalogue. Indexes. Covers Nos. 1–1237.


1887. *Kurzes Verzeichnis der Glaser’schen Sammlung arabischer Handschriften*. By Wilhelm Ahlwardt. Berlin: Unger. This collection was greeted with special enthusiasm by the experts because it contained mainly Yemeni MSS, while the other Arabic MSS nearly always reflected Syrian or Egyptian culture only; 264 MSS.

1887–1889. *Verzeichnis der arabischen Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin*. Vols. 1–10 (= *Die Handschriften-Verzeichnisse der Königlichen Bibliothek Berlin*; Vols. 7–9; 16–22). By Wilhelm Ahlwardt. Berlin: Asher & Co; repr. Hildesheim, 1980–B1. 10 vols. in German. This catalogue is regarded as a model MSS catalogue ("... nothing more than what is necessary for the description, and nothing less."). Authors, copyists, dates of writing and copying, titles, languages, styles of writing are carefully identified; short extracts are given to distinguish clearly between similar works; cross-references to other MSS or treatises are presented; indexes. 10,366 entries (but often 1 entry for several MSS).


owned by the librarian Rudolf Haupt; it was later acquired by the Staatsbibliothek.

1908. *Die arabischen Handschriften der Sammlung Martin Hartmann.* By Martin Hartmann. Halle/Saale. Sale catalogue of a collection of MSS which was acquired in 1912; 130 MSS (MSS 112–129 are Christian MSS).

1912. *Catalogue des manuscrits précieux et livres rares arabes composant la bibliothèque de M. Rochad Dahdah.* By M. Bitar. Paris. This catalogue is still useful because such ambitious compilers of new catalogues as G. Schoeler (see below) did not faithfully follow the order of acquisition (as E. Wagner still did), but instead selected those MSS from the total of the Berlin collection which they considered important enough for their ingenuity; “less important” MSS may thus be overlooked in future. Only brief notes. 300 MSS.


1927. *Catalogue des manuscrits orientaux de la collection de feu M. Clément Huart.* By Clément Huart. Paris: private. Typewritten descriptive catalogue prepared for the sale of the private library of Cl. Huart in 1927, hence of little value for the researcher. Some of these MSS were acquired by Berlin. 62 Arabic MSS; 54 Persian MSS; 88 Turkish MSS.

1949. See Siggel’s catalogue of Arabic MSS on alchemy, listed under Union Catalogues above.

1964. *Saray-Alben. Diez’sche Klebebände aus den Berliner Sammlungen.* By Mazhar Şevket İşpoğlu. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag (= VOHD Vol. VIII). This collection of albums (Diez A fol. 70–73) is certainly most important for the history of Islamic art. They are quite disparate, from quite different historical periods; so they are not only concisely described, but also brought into their natural context. 23 magnificent colour plates and 44 black and white photograph reproductions are included.

1968. *Persische Handschriften. Teil 1.* By Wilhelm Heinz. Ed.; Wilhelm Eilers. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag (= VOHD XIV, P. 1). For the Persian MSS also the model of Abhward’s Verzeichnis has been followed; 400 MSS.


At that time the MSS for security reasons were still kept in Tübingen and Marburg; references are, therefore, to the respective collections. Now re-united in Berlin, the numbering is still applicable. 453 MSS.


1970. *Kurdische Handschriften.* By Kamal Fuad. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag (= VOHD XXX, Reihe B). To prepare the ground for this highly specialized subject, the catalogue begins with a concise introduction into Kurdish philology and literature. Then follow the systematic descriptions of the 92 works, almost all of them divans. Most were written in the Arabic-Persian, only about 5 in Syriac script. The oldest MS is dated as early as 1121 H./1709–10, and the newest 1906. In the meantime, some additional Kurdish MSS have been found in Germany (e.g. two in Halle). 92 MSS + Suppl. A1–A5 (Persian MSS of special interest for Kurdish literature).

1971. *Illustrierte islamische Handschriften. Teil 1.* By Ivan Stchoukine, Barbara Flemming, Paul Luft & Hanna


1990. Arabische Handschriften. Teil II. By G. Schoeler. (With the cooperation of H.-C. Graf von Bothmer; T. Duncker Görgen; H. Jenn). Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag (= VOHD XIII, Reihe B, P. 2) in German. Details as in Ahlwardt. 331 treatises in 104 individual or collective MSS acquired by the Staatsbibliothek Berlin in the first half of the 20th century. The authors have explicitly chosen the MSS considered most important—which makes this P. 2 especially attractive, but breaks the high tradition of cataloguing.

Catalogues in preparation:
Arabische Handschriften. Teil III. By Rosemarie Quiring-Zoche. Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag (in press). This part 3 will cover especially the manuscript collection acquired from O. Resch in the thirties.

Arabische Handschriften. Teil IV. By Tilman Seidensticker. With this part 4 it is hoped that also the Arabic MSS in other German libraries than the Staatsbibliothek Berlin will enter the catalogues of the VOHD, in this case mainly those of Göttingen.


Unpublished catalogues: Catalogues and lists of acquisitions are available, but the acquisitions of the last decades are only partially included. The library, however, has handwritten records of acquisition, mostly on cards; but often a correct identification of the MSS is not possible on that basis. The MSS originally belonged to some 13 different collections; their descriptive catalogues still serve as bibliographical guides until the definitive catalogues are completed.

Since 1958 this library in Berlin has been the centre of a special project for the publication of complete and reliable catalogues of all the oriental MSS in Germany. But it will be quite some time before even the Islamic MSS in Berlin are completely described in full catalogues.

The hand-written catalogues formerly held in East Berlin have recently been transferred to the building in former West Berlin, where all the MSS are together.

BONN
Universitätsbibliothek Bonn

Date of establishment: perhaps only in 1799, when J.P. Bech died
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 40 (33 Arabic; 1 Persian; 6 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good physical condition. The collection of Islamic MSS apparently was spared the damage inflicted on the others. They are Qur’ans, tasāfīr, fiqh, Ḥadīth, poetry, mathematics, astrology, all late copies, apparently mainly works used by J.P. Berg for his oriental studies.
Published catalogues:
1864 – 1876. Catalogus librorum manuscriptorum orientalium in Bibliotheca Academica Bonnensi seruatorum. By Johannes Gidemeister. Bonn: Georgi. In Latin. This “catalogue” is really only an inventory; its identification of authors, titles, contents is quite unreliable. Hardly any specifications concerning dates, languages, scripts, etc. are given. 40 MSS (approx. 9 are Christian) on pp. 1–98.

BREMEN
Überseemuseum

Date of establishment: 1902
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are Qur’ans, in excellent condition. Also there are two valuable, but undated, wooden boards from West-Africa (Cameroon).
BUCKEBURG

Staatsarchiv Bückeburg

Date of establishment: 1647 (?); 1961
Status: Semi-public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 13 (9 Arabic; 4 Urdu).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. They cover Qur’an, tasvir, Hadith, Kalām, grammar, Sufism; and astronomy.
The earliest Arabic MS is dated 1047 H./1637. The only catalogue, Codices latini antiquiores: Supplement, edited by E.A. Lowe, Oxford, 1971 (in Latin), gives some information on this Staatsarchiv on p. 4, but the Islamic MSS are not mentioned. No catalogue is available for the Islamic MSS.

COBURG

Landesbibliothek Coburg

Date of establishment: 1547 as private library of the dukes; 1820 public library; 1920 “Landesbibliothek Coburg”
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15 (9 Arabic; 2 Persian; 4 Turkish).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is very good. But the Islamic MSS are so few in number that they are almost lost among 600 MSS from other cultures. They are Qur’an, fiqh, grammar, lexicography, poetry, and Sufism. The collection has received little attention because it has always been overshadowed by the great library of neighbouring Gotha. Moreover, they are rather late (18th century and later). See:
Published catalogues:


COLOGNE

Universitäts- und Stadtbibliothek Köln

Date of establishment: 1602 (the MSS, however, were acquired mostly in 1824, through the legacy of Prof. F.F. WALKRAF)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 60 (32 Arabic; 24 Persian; 2 Turkish; 2 Urdu).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. They are Qur’an, and works on fiqh, Hadith, history and grammar. Most of the MSS are quite late copies, or perhaps only transcripts for the use of researchers and students.
Published catalogues:
1976–. Mitteilungen aus dem Stadtbauk von Köln. Sonderreihe: Die Handschriften des Archivs. Edited by HUGO STEHRKÄMPER. Cologne/ Vienna: Böhlau Verlag. Vol. 1–. A very careful catalogue according to modern standards. Four volumes have been published up to 1990. No Islamic MSS have been included so far; they have been set aside for the VÖHD-project.

The 2 Urdu MSS are described in Zaide’i’s union catalogue, 1973. Unpublished catalogues: A card catalogue is available in the library.

DARMSTADT

Hessische Landes- und Hochschulbibliothek (formerly Großherzogliche Hofbibliothek)

Date of establishment: 1817 (as a public library)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 56 (32 Arabic; 15 Persian; 9 Turkish).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is good. Since the library possesses some 3500 MSS from other cultures as well, the Islamic MSS are in very good company.
Fields covered are Qur’an, fiqh, hadith, history, Sufism; Adab and poetry. The MSS seem to be chance acquisitions through
generous gifts, also rather late in date. See: 1871. Neue Beiträge zur näheren Kenntnis der Großherzoglichen Hofbibliothek in Darmstadt. By Pn. A. F. WALTHER. Darmstadt: Joh. Philipp Diehl. These studies are useful for the historical development of the library. No Islamic MSS are specially described.

No Islamic MSS have been included yet in Die Handschriften der Hessischen Landes- und Hochschulbibliothek Darmstadt. Darmstadt: 1959; Wiesbaden: 1979 – . Vols. 1 – 4 (to date).

Unpublished catalogues: The Islamic MSS figure in the inventory lists of the library, but await special description by the experts of the VOHD project.

DESSAU

Landesbibliothek
(formerly: Fürst-Georgs-Bibliothek now united with Stadtbibliothek)

Date of establishment: 1533 (as private library of Fürst Georg III); 1570 part of the “Fürstlicher Gesamtsarchiv”; 1820 foundation of the “Herzogliche Bibliothek”; 1969 Landesbibliothek and Stadtbibliothek one.

Status: Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (3 Arabic; 1 Turkish).

Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is good. — The few Islamic MSS are heavily outnumbered by the many others in Latin and German. They are Qur’ân (2 copies), and works on Sufism and chronology, but are of no special historical significance. See:


DONAUESCHINGEN

Fürstlich-Fürstenbergische Hofbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1723 (in this location; formerly private library)

Status: Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (5 Arabic; 1 Persian; 1 Turkish).

Description of collection: The MSS are in excellent condition as usual in such “castle-libraries”. They include Qur’ân (3 MSS), fiqh, Hadîth, and poetry. The few Islamic MSS are regarded as museum pieces among the many others. But they are rather late copies.

Published catalogues:

1865. Die Handschriften der Fürstlich-Fürstenbergischen Hofbibliothek zu Donaueschingen. By K. A. BARACK. Tübingen: Kaupp & Siebeck. The Islamic MSS were described by Prof. WEIL of Heidelberg, but rather concisely. Thus only authors, titles, contents, languages, and dates are identified. 7 Islamic MSS (on pp. 3 – 7).

DRESDEN

Sächsische Landesbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1556

Status: Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 471 (118 Arabic; 81 Persian; 272 Turkish).

Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is good. The library apparently suffered much damage in World War II, but not the MSS. Only the old catalogue is available. It may now become easier to gain access and obtain microfilms. The MSS cover Qur’ân, tafsîr, fiqh, Hadîth, history, Sufism, literature, poetry. There are a number of important sources on Islamic history in the collection, which certainly deserves more attention than it has received in the past. See:


Published catalogues:

1831. Catalogus codicum manusciptorum orientalium Bibliothecae Regiae Dresdenensis. By HENRICUS ORTHOBORUS FLEISCHER. Leipzig: Fr. Chr. Guit. Vogel. In Latin. In transliteration, identifications of authors, copyists, titles, contents, dates; but the descriptions are too brief and dated to be of value today; 118 MSS.
1956. The MSS on alchemy are included in SIGGEL’s catalogue, Bd 3. (see Union Catalogues above).

Unpublished catalogues: The old catalogue is available.

ERLANGEN

Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen

Date of establishment: 1743
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 54 (33 Arabic; 2 Persian; 19 Turkish).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is good. Clearly the library already had an old collection of Islamic MSS (with some valuable works among them) to which the later ones (usually less valuable copies from Aarz and other professors, it seems) were added. The fields covered are Qur’ān, fiqh, ʿifār, grammar, poetry, Sufism, medicine; the most valuable MSS are parts of Rāzī’s Ḥāfl. The MSS are quite late; the oldest apparently only dates back to the 11th century H.

Published catalogues:
1829. Diplomatische Beschreibung der Manuskripte, welche sich in der königlichen Universitäts-Bibliothek zu Erlangen befinden, nebst der Geschichte dieser Bibliothek. By JOHANN CONRAD IRMSCHER. Erlangen: J. Palm & Ernst Enke. The historical part is still useful, but the short descriptions of the MSS have been superseded by the later catalogue. Here, however, the Islamic MSS have been distinguished according to the language used. Nos. 20–34 Arabic MSS; 35–36 Persian MSS; 37–55 Turkish and mixed MSS.

1852. Handschriften-Katalog der königlichen Universitäts-Bibliothek Erlangen. By JOHANN CONRAD IRMSCHER. Frankfurt a.M./Erlangen: Heyder & Zimmer. Very brief identifications of authors, titles, contents; dates are usually not given. The language of each MS. is stated, but the MSS are not arranged accordingly. Hence, this work cannot claim to be a catalogue; 38 Islamic MSS (= pp. 7–14, nos. 30–77).

1913. Die jüngeren Handschriften der Erlanger Universitäts-Bibliothek. By ELIAS VON STEINMEYER. Erlangen: K.B. Hof- und Universitäts-

Buchdruckerei von Junge & Sohn (the same descriptions as above); 16 Arabic MSS (= nos. 07b, 2022, 2023, 2029, 2059, 2125–2130, 2138–2144).

FRANKFURT am MAIN

Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt

Date of establishment: 1668
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 34 (24 Arabic; 8 Persian; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are in very good condition. The Islamic MSS are far too few in number in this great library to attract much attention, but they receive good care. Fields covered are: Qur’ān, grammar, Ḥalām, Ḥadīth, fiqh, theology (also Christian). The MSS are quite late and not especially important for Islamic studies. See: 1968 –. Katalog der Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt a.M. Edited by CLEMENS KöTTLERWESCH. Frankfurt a.M.: Vittorio Klostermann. Four volumes have been published so far, but no Islamic MSS are included; they have been left aside for the experts of the VOHD-project.

FRANKFURT an der ODER

Bibliothek des Königlichen Friedrichs-Gymnasiums

Date of establishment: 1758 (through a legacy of Prof. N. WESTER-MANN).
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (Arabic).
Description of collection: No reliable information could be obtained about this library. Probably it was transferred to the Städtische Büchereien when they were established in 1906 as a union library. But confirmation was sought in vain whether the Islamic MSS still exist, and where they are. The Islamic MSS (among 22 others) were apparently rather late, and used as teaching materials only.

Published catalogues:
5 MSS (= nos. 3–7); 30 pages in all (the history of the library on pp. 3–10).

FREIBURG im BREISGAU

Universitätsbibliothek Freiburg

Date of establishment: 1457 (together with the university.—But its transfer to the former Jesuit college documented for 1783).
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 16 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. They are about Qur’ān, fiqh, history, and Adab. They seem to be chance acquisitions; they are rather late and unimportant. The Islamic MSS have not yet been included in the Katalog der Universitätshbibliothek Freiburg im Breisgau. Edited by Wolfgang Kehr. Wiesbaden: 1974–.

FULDA

Landesbibliothek Fulda

Date of establishment: 1776 (opened 1778)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 8 (7 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition, but too few and unimportant to attract much attention. They are on Qur’ān & theological subjects, rather late, and not really valuable.
Unpublished catalogues:
By Amandus Ketz, in Latin. Brief identifications only; not published, manuscript in the library.

GIESSEN

Universitätsbibliothek Giessen

Date of establishment: 1612
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12 (11 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition, kept with the

many others in Latin and German. They cover Qur’ān, grammar, lexicography, fiqh, and poetry. They are rather late and not valuable; apparently they only served as an introduction to the study of Arabic.
Published catalogues:
1840. Catalogus codicum manusciptorum Bibliothecae Academicae Gisens. s. By Johann Valentino Adrian. Frankfurt a.M.: Johann Dav. Sauerlander. In Latin. The individual MSS are only very briefly identified (author, title, contents), but not really described. Nos. 36–38 (mostly grammar); 107 (a Divān); 597–598 (History); 893–898 (Qur’āns).

GÖTTINGEN

Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitäts-Bibliothek Göttingen

Date of establishment: 1737
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 320 (235 Arabic; 39 Persian; 48 Turkish).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is very good. Although the cataloguing of the Islamic MSS has been less than satisfactory in the past, the library pays much attention to their care (probably also because Islamic studies are well established at the university). But it is hoped that a good catalogue of the Arabic MSS, prepared by such a specialist as T. Seidensticker, will appear soon. Subjects covered are Qur’ān, tafsīr, Kalām, fiqh; history (especially abundant because of Prof. Wüstenfeld’s publications), Sufism, medicine and grammar. Some of the MSS are as old as the 13th century; the majority are of the 17th century or later.
Published catalogues:

1956. The Arabic MSS on alchemy are described in Sigel’s catalogue, Bd 3 (see Union Catalogues above).

*Unpublished catalogues:* There are some 180 Arabic MSS in the library which are only recorded on cards.

*Uncatalogued MSS:* Possibly some 60 MSS have not been described.

---

**GOTHA**

**Herzogliche Bibliothek zu Gotha** (lately Forschungsbibliothek)

*Date of establishment:* 1647 (the library); but the main collection of Islamic MSS was acquired by U.J. Suetzen in the Near East between 1802 and 1811.

*Status:* Public

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 3,317 (2891 Arabic; 1 Malay; 1 Kurdish; 131 Persian; 292 Turkish; 1 Urdu).

*Description of collection:* The condition of the MSS is good. The library has always enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best MSS libraries in Germany. Therefore it has been well guarded and cared for. Recently collaboration with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich has started with the aim of better restoration of damaged MSS. The catalogues are very good, perhaps the best ones available in Germany for any MSS collection. All fields of Islamic studies are represented; the collection is especially rich in literature and history. The collection was obviously acquired by a true bibliophile because it contains a considerable number of richly decorated works. See: 1988. *Forschungsbibliothek Gotha: Bücher aus zwölf Jahrhunderten.* By Helmut Roob et al. Gotha: Forschungsbibliothek Gotha (3rd, revised edition). A useful guide, especially for the historical development of the library.

*Published catalogues:*


---

1859. *Die Persischen Handschriften der Herzoglichen Bibliothek zu Gotha. (= Die orientalischen Handschriften der Herzoglichen Bibliothek zu Gotha, 1. Teil).* By Wilhelm Pertsch. Vienna: Kaiserlich Königliche Hof- und Staatsdruckerei. With this volume begins the series of impressive catalogues by W. Pertsch. All the details necessary for a secure identification of the MSS are given quite concisely, short extracts are reproduced and the dates are carefully established. Cross-references to other known works are offered, and good indexes make research easy; 87 MSS.


1893. *Die orientalischen Handschriften der herzoglichen Bibliothek zu Gotha mit Ausnahme der persischen, türkischen und arabischen. (= Die orientalischen Handschriften der herzoglichen Bibliothek zu Gotha, Anhang).* By Wilhelm Pertsch. Gotha: Friedr. Andr. Perthes. This volume covers oriental MSS in other languages than Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, which for this reason were not included in the preceding catalogues; they are neatly organized in language groups; 5 MSS (= no. 37 Urdu; no. 52 Coptic-Arabic; no. 55 Kurdish; no. 55 Malay; nos. 78–81 Syriac-Arabic).


GREIFSWALD

Universitätsbibliothek Greifswald

Date of establishment: University 1456; Library 1604
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 29 (21 Arabic; 8 Persian).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is rather poor. The university was badly damaged in World War II. The Islamic MSS apparently belonged to the legacy of I.G.L. Kossewarten, a professor at the university (till 1860 or 1882), and were kept together in a special section. They are Qur'an, fiqh, history, grammar, Adab, mainly late copies, even of those in other European libraries, and of little value. [W. Ahlwardt was professor of oriental languages here before taking here up his great work in Berlin]. See:
Published catalogues:
Copies of the handwritten catalogues of K.A.F. Pertz.
Unpublished catalogues: Handwritten lists are available in the library.

HALLE

Bibliothek der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft

Date of establishment: 1845
Status: Semi-public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300 (140 Arabic; 2 Kurdish; 80 Persian; 75 Turkish).
Description of collection: Because of war damage the collection has suffered somewhat. Ideological reasons cut off this library from most members of the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft for the last 45 years, but the collections were kept more or less intact. The MSS are on Adab and history (for the most part), Hadith, fiqh, grammar, Sufism. A good number of the MSS came to the library through legacies of former professors and researchers; no new materials, therefore, are to be found there.

Published catalogues:
1881. Katalog der Bibliothek der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft. II. A. Handschriften, Inschriften, Münzen. Verschiedenes. Edited by A. Müller. Leipzig. This is not much more than a preliminary inventory of the library superseded by the Verzeichnis of H. Wehr.
1940. Verzeichnis der arabischen Handschriften in der Bibliothek der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft. By Hans Wehr. Leipzig. 61pp. (Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes, Band 25, 3). This Verzeichnis also includes the manuscripts described by A. Müller in 1881. 136 Islamic MSS.

Hauptbibliothek der Fränkischen Stiftung

Date of establishment: 1698
Status: Semi-public; nowadays a section of the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Halle
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 54 (27 Arabic; 5 Persian; 22 Turkish).
Description of collection: The physical condition of the collection is very good. The MSS are Qur'an and works on kalām, Sufism, fiqh. The founder of the Fränkische Stiftung was a professor of Oriental Languages and Theology. This perhaps explains the special interest of the institution in Islamic Studies.
Unpublished catalogues: No proper catalogue is available, only some inventory lists.

Marienbibliothek (Evang. Pfarramt Unserer Lieben Frauen)

Date of establishment: Unknown
Status: Semi-private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (2 Arabic; 3 Turkish).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is good. Two of the Arabic MSS are Qur'ān; the others are prayers. No description is available. The MSS have little historical significance.

Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Halle

Date of establishment: 1401; 1694 (University)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 53 (27 Arabic; 5 Persian; 21 Turkish).
Description of collection: The physical condition of the MSS is good. But the library had some problems in obtaining a suitable building to make up for war damage. The MSS are rather late copies, perhaps transcripts from other libraries. Fields covered are: Qur'ān, fiqh, history, Adab and poetry.

Published catalogues:
1876. Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften der Bibliothek des Halleischen Waisenhauses. By AUGUST ARNOLD & AUGUST MÜLLER. Halle: Lateinische Hochschule Halle (Off-print from the Programm der Lateinischen Hochschule; pp. 5–11). Nos. 4–30; 31–57; Some of these MSS are now in the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Halle.


1982. Die Handschriften der ehemaligen Stifts- und Gymnasialbibliothek Quedlinburg in Halle. By Jutta Fleige. Halle: Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt, 1982. A supplement (pp. 341–344) on the Orientalia contains brief descriptions of some 9 Islamic MSS in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish by Gudrun Goeske. — This collection of MSS has been transferred to the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Halle. 6 Arabic MSS, 3 Persian and Turkish MSS.

Unpublished catalogues: A dated inventory is available.

HAMBURG

Museum für Völkerkunde und Vorgeschichte

Date of establishment: 1889
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Persian).

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 25 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish: no separate figures available).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is excellent. But no catalogue whatsoever is available for these MSS, which are Qur'ān, history and literature. Apparently this was only a chance acquisition: the MSS seem to be late copies.

Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg

Date of establishment: 1480
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 97 (39 Arabic; 21 Persian; 37 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are in excellent condition. The collection has always received much attention because at the University of Hamburg oriental languages and cultures have been more promoted than elsewhere. Moreover, a good catalogue has made it easily accessible. The MSS are on Qur'ān, taṣfir, Hadith, fiqh, history (a large number), Sufism, Adab, poetry. There are some fairly old and valuable MSS in the collection, although the majority of copies were made only in the last three centuries. Some come from the Maghrib.

Published catalogues:
1908. Katalog der orientalischen Handschriften der Stadtbibliothek zu Hamburg, mit Ausschuß der hebräischen. Teil I: Die arabischen, persischen, türkischen, malaiischen, koptischen, syrischen, äthiopischen Handschriften. By Carl Brockelmann. Hamburg: Stadtbibliothek Hamburg; repr. 1969. This catalogue is very carefully done and contains all necessary information concerning authors, copyists, their dates, styles of writing, titles, references to other catalogues and bibliographical sources. But because of its rather condensed form and layout it is not easy to use. Nos. 1–292; 327–332; 337.

HANOVER

Kestnermuseum

Date of establishment: 1889
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Persian).
Description of collection: In excellent condition. The MSS are not yet recorded in a proper catalogue. They are a Qur’ān and a volume of poetry, from the 15th and 17th centuries. No Islamic MSS are included in the 19th century published catalogues.

Niedersächsische Landesbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1725
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 23 (Arabic; Turkish: no separate figures available).
Description of collection: The MSS collection is in good condition, but no proper catalogue exists. They are on Qur’ān, fiqh, history, Adab. The MSS seem to be rather late copies.

HARBURG

Fürstliche Bibliothek und Kunstsammlung Harburg

Date of establishment: ca. 1540
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15 (8 Arabic; 2 Persian; 5 Turkish).
Description of collection: In very good condition. But the MSS are treated somewhat like museum pieces. They are on Qur’ān, Sufism, history, poetry. Apparently these few MSS date from the wars against the Ottomans in the Balkans.
Published catalogues:

HEIDELBERG

Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg

Date of establishment: 1386 (as university; library first mentioned in 1396); 1560 formal establishment.
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 480 (410 Arabic; 68 Persian; 8 Urdu).

Description of collection: With 5,439 MSS in all, this is one of the biggest research libraries in Germany. The collection of Islamic MSS is rather marginal, but still increases when a chance presents itself. Microfilm copies are quite generously provided on request. But a comprehensive and critical catalogue of the Islamic MSS is still awaited. The MSS are on Qur’ān, Hadith, fiqh, history, Adab, cosmography, astronomy, medicine. They are in good condition, mostly rather late (18th c. and later). There are a few also from the 13th century, and some valuable ones (of Ibn al-Nafis, Nasir al-Din al-Tusi & Jalal al-Din al-Rumi). The Katalog der Handschriften der Universitätsbibliothek in Heidelberg (Heidelberg 1887–1903) does not include the Islamic MSS.
Published catalogues:

The identification of authors, titles, dates (for authors and copyists), styles of writing, etc. is carefully done. But the descriptions are much too brief. Often the contents of the MSS remain obscure. 67 MSS.

1973. 8 Urdu MSS are described in Zaidi’s catalogue (see Union Catalogues above).


JENA

Universitätsbibliothek Jena

Date of establishment: 1549 library transferred from Wittenberg; 1557 university established by the emperor.
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 49 (30 Arabic; 7 Persian; 12 Turkish).
Description of collection: The library suffered badly in World War II; even the catalogue was burned in 1945. The Islamic MSS are still kept in a store at a distance of ca. 3 km from the university in total safety, but under restricted access. The MSS are Qurʾāns (2 nice copies) and works on Sufism, kalām, fiqh, grammar, history, Adab, poetry, prayers, lexic. Most were copied after the 17th century and are not very important, but a few are quite valuable, e.g., a Magawwāl of Rūmī copied 751 H. /1350. The Handschriften und alte Drucke aus den Sammlungen der Universitätsbibliothek der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena. By GEORG KARPE (1976) does not include the Islamic MSS.

Published catalogues:
1746. Memoriablib Bibliothecae Academicae Jenensis, sive Designatio Codicium Manuscriptorum in illa Bibliotheca et librorum impressorum, plerunque rariorum, concinnata potissimum ad usum suorum in collegii litterarum audito-rum. By M. JOH. CHRISTOPH MYLIUS. Jena: Universität Jena. In Latin. Only brief notes about the authors, titles, contents, dates of composition or copying; with short indexes according to subject matters. The 49 Islamic MSS are not in a special category.

Unpublished catalogues: Handwritten list of MSS. In Latin; only brief notes about authors, copyists, titles, contents, places of origin or purchase, languages. 49 Islamic MSS included.

KARLSRUHE
Badische Landesbibliothek

Date of establishment: ca. 1500 (or earlier, then in Pforzheim); since 1765 in Karlsruhe.
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20 (8 Arabic; 12 Turkish).
Description of collection: In very good condition. The MSS are Qurʾāns, history, Sufism, magic; rather late. Most important is probably the collection of documents related to the Turkish statesman Osman Pasha.
Published catalogues:
1892. Die Handschriften der großherzogl. badischen Hof- und Landesbibliothek zu Karlsruhe. II.: Orientalische Handschriften. By S. LANDAUER & P. HORN. Karlsruhe: Ch. Th. Groos. The MSS are described in a rather cursory manner. Only the most necessary details are given (names of authors, titles, dates), on pp. 29–34.

1970. Die Handschriften der Badischen Landesbibliothek in Karlsruhe. II: Orientalische Handschriften. Ed. by WILHELM BRAMBACH. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz. Although the original authors are not mentioned, this is only a re-edition of the catalogue of 1892 (above). Islamic MSS are nos. 15–22.

KASSEL
Landesbibliothek Kassel

Date of establishment: 1562 (1580: official dedication)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 17 (11 Arabic; 3 Persian; 3 Turkish).
Description of collection: In excellent condition, but without a satisfactory catalogue. The MSS are Qurʾāns (several copies) and works on grammar, history, Adab. They are rather late (after 16th century) and not important for Islamic studies. See:

1930. Die Landesbibliothek Kassel 1580–1930. Teil 2: Handschriften- schätze der Landesbibliothek Kassel (& Anhang: Orientalische Handschriften). By GUSTAV STRUCK. Marburg: Elwert (in Comm.). Several Islamic MSS are rather superficially described; for some even the dates are established. But no exact identification is possible on this basis. It is interesting to see that several MSS were brought to Kassel as war booty from the Balkans and Tunisia (in 1535 and in 1686). See pp. 103, 126, 180.

Published catalogues:

1785. Beschreibung der arabischen Handschriften mit maure-
KIEL

Universitätsbibliothek Kiel

Date of establishment: 1781
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30 (7 Arabic; 12 Persian; 9 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: The collection is in good condition; but the catalogues are badly dated and unreliable. The MSS include Qur'an, history, Adab, poetry, and were apparently only chance acquisitions, isolated pieces; they will be included in a comprehensive catalogue of the VOHD project soon to appear.
Published catalogues:

LEIPZIG

Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig—Staatliche Forschungsstelle

Date of establishment: 1869
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 8 (6 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Description of collection: In good condition; but there is no catalogue, only type-written inventory lists. The MSS are on Qur'an, Adab, poetry, astronomy. Of special value is a work on the Astrolabe by Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī.

Stadt- und Bezirksbibliothek Leipzig

Date of establishment: 1677 (1755 transfer to its special building).
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 376 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish: no separate figures available).
Description of collection: The collection is in good condition. For the Islamic MSS there is only an old and somewhat dated catalogue available. The subjects covered by the MSS are: Qur'an, tafsir, grammar, rhetoric, fiqh, kalām, history, philosophy, Sufism, prayers, magic. This is quite a rich collection of MSS with a number of early copies.
Published catalogues:
1838. Catalogus librorum manuscriptorum qui in Bibliotheca Senatoria civicis Lipsiensis asservantur, edictus Arminius Guillelmus Robertus Naumann. Codices orientalium linguarum descripsit Henricus Orthobius Fleischier et Franciscus Delitzsch. Grimm: Julius Mauritius Gebhardt. In Latin. Not only authors, titles, dates, but also contents are carefully identified; often also clarifying texts are reproduced in the original languages. 376 Islamic MSS (pp. 329–596, nos. 1–CCCLXXXVI).

Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig

Date of establishment: 1543
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1056 (898 Arabic; 3 Malay; 102 Persian; 49 Turkish; 4 Urdu).
Description of collection: In good condition. The MSS collection profits from the excellent services of this great library. The catalogue is old, but good. Subjects covered are Qur'an, tafsir, kalām, Hadith, fiqh, Sufism, history, grammar, rhetoric, Adab, poetry, geography, medicine, astronomy, mathematics. This is probably one of the best manuscript collections in Germany.
Published catalogues:
1906. Katalog der islamischen, christlich-orientalischen, jüdischen und sanskritischen Handschriften der Universitäts-Bibliothek zu Leipzig. (= Katalog der Handschriften der Universitäts-Bibliothek zu Leipzig, II). By K. Vollers & J. Leipoldt. Leipzig: Otto Harrassowitz. A very good catalogue, concentrating on the essentials, but all the details are given: authors, titles, dates, contents, style of writing, languages, references, etc. Nos. 1–898 (Arabic); 899–1000 (Persian); 1001–1049 (Turkish); 1050–1053 (Urdu); 1054–1056 (Malay).

1956. The Arabic MSS on alchemy are described in Siegel’s catalogue, Bd. 3 (see Union Catalogues above).

MAINZ

Gutenberg-Museum

Date of establishment: 1900
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 10 (5 Arabic; 3 Persian)
Description of collection: In excellent condition. Although the few Islamic MSS the museum possesses are not described in any catalogue, only recorded on inventory lists, and will be included in the VOHD project. They include Qur’an, Adab, poetry, and appear to be rather late, of value only for the history of Islamic art.

Stadtbibliothek Mainz

Date of establishment: 1477—but looted by a Swedish army; re-established 1650
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (5 Arabic; 2 Persian)
Description of collection: In very good condition. Among the 1120 other MSS the few Islamic MSS are almost lost. They are not yet described in any catalogue, but will be included in the VOHD project. They include Qur’an, fah, Adab and poetry, and seem to be rather late copies.

MANNHEIM

Reiss-Museum

Date of establishment: 1763
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 6 (4 Arabic; 1 Persian; 1 Turkish)
Description of collection: In excellent condition. However, the Islamic MSS are only recorded in inventory lists and await full descriptions in a catalogue. They are Qur’an, history, Adab, poetry, and seem to be rather late copies.

MARBURG

Universitätsbibliothek Marburg

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 18 (Arabic), plus 7 European transcripts.
Description of collection: Most of the MSS were bequeathed to the Library by the Marburg orientalist Johann Wilhelm Schroder (1726–1793). There is little of textual importance: most noteworthy is a 16th-century amulet scroll of Turkish provenance.

Published catalogues:


MUNICH

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek ("STABI")

Date of establishment: 1558 AD: Duke Albrecht V (1550–1579)
acquired the private collection of the great orientalist Johann Albrecht Widmansetter (1506–1557): This was the beginning of the rich MSS collection.

Status: Public; since 1802 property of the state of Bavaria. On request copies, microfilms, etc. are made of the MSS needed for intensive investigation and editions. Modern facilities of telecommunication, computers, etc., have been introduced.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,894 (2,855 Arabic; 1 Baluchi; 1 Kurdish; 22 Pashto; 481 Persian; 14 Sindhi; 512 Turkish; 8 Urdu).

Description of collection: All Islamic MSS are kept in closely guarded depots together with the numerous other MSS. The library takes special care also of the codices that are damaged or have damaged bindings. The subjects covered are: Qur’an, ḥadīth, fiqh, kalām, Sufism, Adab, poetry, grammar, lexicography, history, geography, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, alchemy. Many MSS have calligraphy, illumination and fine bindings. The earliest MSS apparently belong to the Glaser collection, which is also the most important for Islamic history (cf. in particular the K. al-Nasāḥ, ed. by Prof. Madlung). The bulk of this collection came from the Yemen (from G. Caprotti, an Italian merchant in San‘ā), and was acquired in 1902. But all centuries are represented, in increasing numbers for more recent times. See:


Published catalogues:


1956. The Arabic MSS on alchemy are described in Skoel’s catalogue, Bd. 5 (see Union Catalogues above).

1973. 5 Urdu MSS are described in Zaidi’s catalogue (see Union Catalogues above).


*Unpublished catalogues:*
Revatorium der orientalischen Handschriften. By the staff of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Handwritten accession list of all new oriental MSS acquired after Aumer’s catalogues. Bound copies are available in the Reading Room of the manuscript section. Since this is a preliminary list, there are only brief notes about the authors (if identified), titles, contents: sometimes only the accession number and the very honest admission that “the contents have not yet been established”. Hence, a continuation of Aumer’s catalogues is badly needed. Ca. 1,800 new accessions (constantly growing).

**Bibliothek der Benediktinerabtei Sankt Bonifaz**

See Andechs.

**Universitäts-Bibliothek München**

*Date of establishment: 1826*

*Status: Public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (7 Arabic; 4 Turkish)*

*Description of collection: In excellent condition. The MSS are not yet described in any catalogue. They include Qur’ān, prayers, Defers.*

They came from the private collection of the Jesuit scholar Ferdinand Orbán. See:


**NUREMBERG**

**Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg**

*Date of establishment: 1429 (1538: transfer to the present location)*

*Status: Public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 33 (18 Arabic; 3 Persian; 12 Turkish)*

*Description of collection: In good condition. In this very rich library of 3,000 MSS in European languages the few Islamic MSS are almost unnoticed. They are inadequately described in an old, out-of-date catalogue. They are on: Qur’ān, Sufism, *fiqh*, *adab*, grammar, history and poetry. The Islamic MSS are rather late copies, apparently relics of the wars against the Ottomans.*

*Published catalogues:*


There are no Islamic MSS included in *Die Handschriften der Stadtbibliothek Nürnberg*, Wiesbaden, 1965 –.

**OLDENBURG**

**Landesbibliothek Oldenburg**

*Date of establishment: 1792*

*Status: Public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic)*

*Description of collection: In excellent condition. The MSS are a Qur’ān and a work on Sufism, quite late copies and not important for Islamic studies; chance acquisitions.*

*Unpublished catalogues:*

Katalog der Handschriften. By Theodor Merzdorf. Not published; only a handwritten catalogue (a copy is available in Wolfenbüttel). This preliminary catalogue is in the process of being revised.

**POMMERSFELDEN**

**Graf von Schönborn’sche Schlossbibliothek**
(formerly Bibliotheca Gallicansis)

Near Bamberg

*Date of establishment: Between 1655 and 1729 as private library; 1830 transfer to Pommersfelden.*

*Status: Private*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 9 (3 Arabic; 3 Persian; 3 Turkish)*

*Description of collection: In very good condition. The MSS are on:*
Qur‘ān, tafsīr, kalām, history, Adab. The Islamic MSS apparently entered the library as pieces of booty from the wars against the Ottomans in the Balkans.

Unpublished catalogues: Vorarbeiten zu einem beschreibenden Verzeichnis der nicht-abendländischen Handschriften und Inschriften der Graf von Schönbornischen Schloßbibliothek Pommersfelden. By BIEH.-RAT SCHONATH. As the title modestly indicates, this is only a preliminary inventory of the MSS, which can be used in the library. Authors, titles, contents are briefly identified, but the information is not certain. 9 MSS.

REGENSBURG

Fürst Thurn und Taxis-Hofbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1773
Status: Semi-public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: In excellent condition. The Islamic MSS are a Qur‘ān and works on mathematics and adab. The oldest MS is dated 995 H./1617. Apparently the MSS were only chance acquisitions. The published catalogue Die Musikhandschriften der Fürst Thurn und Taxis Hofbibliothek Regensburg: Thematischer Katalog, by G. HAIBERKAMP (Munich, 1981) does not include the Islamic MSS, but gives some information about the history of the library.

Unpublished catalogues: A handwritten list is available in the library.

ROSTOCK

Universitätsbibliothek Rostock

Date of establishment: University: 1419 (probably also date of library)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 115 (76 Arabic; 9 Persian; 1 Tatar; 25 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: The library is located in a rather dilapidated section of the old and beautiful university of Rostock. But the staff are highly motivated and dedicated to the preservation of the old heritage; so, in spite of the poor exterior conditions, the MSS are well cared for. The Islamic MSS include Qur‘ān (several copies, the oldest dated 1694), tafsīr, fiqh, sects (esp. the Druze faith), geography, cosmography, history, adab and poetry. They are mostly late copies (18th century and later); and some are simply transcripts made for Tychen in Gotha, Paris, etc.

Published catalogues:
1817. Catalogus bibliothecae Olai Gerhardi TYCHSEN, celeberrimi nuper in Academia Rostochiensis Linguar. Orientall. Professoris .... By Ant. THEODOR HARTMANN (Preface). Rostock: Rostochii Typis Adlerianis. In Latin. This "catalogue" was composed and published as a bookseller's list after the owner, a professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Rostock, had died. Section 2 (i.e., pp. 20–28), true to the purpose of the book, gives some brief descriptions of the manuscripts in Tychen's collection: Thus authors, copyists, titles, contents, languages of the various works are briefly identified; but a catalogue of the Rostock collection still needs to be done. 76 Arabic MSS (on pp. 20–28); also 5 Arabic copies of MSS in other libraries (apparently made by Tychen himself or some of his contemporaries); 10 Persian, Turkish, Tatar MSS (on pp. 29–30). These MSS are now in the University's collection.

Unpublished catalogues:
Catalogus manuscriptorum. 2: Manuscripta philologica, orientalia, medica, mathematico-physica, varia. In Latin. A handwritten, but bound, inventory list of the manuscripts in several oriental languages. The information on authors, copyists, titles, dates, contents, languages of the various treatises usually does not go beyond the brief remarks in Hartmann's Catalogus. But it seems to cover all the MSS that were acquired by the University of Rostock before and after it became the heir of Tychen.

SIGMARINGEN

Fürstlich Hohenzollerische Hofbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1865 (perhaps older)
Status: Private (but on special request open also for outsiders)
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: In excellent condition. The MSS are treated as museum pieces. They are Qur‘ān fragments and works of fiqh. The oldest MS. is dated 1202 H.1787; none of them seems very valuable.

Published catalogues:
1872. Fürstlich Hohenzollern'sches Museum zu Sigmaringen: Verzeichnis
der Handschriften. By F.A. LIEHNER. Signatures: M. Liehrer. The MSS were identified by Prof. MRRX. Tübingen: authors, titles, dates, contents; all quite brief. Nos. 2–3.

STUTTGART

Linden-Museum, Staatliches Museum für Volkerkunde

Date of establishment: 1884
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (Arabic).
Description of collection: In very good condition. But the Islamic MSS have not yet been properly described: there is no real catalogue, only some inventory lists. The MSS are on Qurān, Sufism, prayers, Hadith, and apparently have little significance for Islamic studies.

Württembergische Landesbibliothek
(before 1901: Königliche Öffentliche Bibliothek)

Date of establishment: 1765
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 123 (69 Arabic; 13 Persian; 41 Turkish).
Description of collection: In excellent condition. This library has a very rich collection of MSS (some 11,000 in all); the Islamic MSS, therefore, are in good care. A critical catalogue is expected to be completed in the course of the VOHD project; for the time being the library only has an inventory list. The Islamic MSS are on Qurān, fiqh, Hadith, history, Adab, poetry. Only a few MSS are older copies and more valuable; but most date from the 18th and 19th centuries. The published catalogue Die Handschriften der ehemaligen Hofbibliothek Stuttgart. 4. 1 (= Die Handschriften der Württembergischen Landesbibliothek Stuttgart; 2. Reihe; 4. 1). By MARIA SOPHIA BÜHL (Wiesbaden, 1972) has only a short note that R. SELLHEIM is expected to produce a catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts (pp. 55–56: codices Arabici).

TÜBINGEN

Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen

Date of establishment: 1477 (together with the university)—But cert-

ainly at the time of Reformation: 16th c.)
Status: Public:
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 550 (ca. 300 Arabic; ca. 80 Persian; ca. 170 Turkish).
Description of collection: In excellent condition. This library specializes in Oriental and Islamic Studies; therefore, it probably has the best facilities of all German libraries for Islamic MSS (among some 4,000 MSS in European languages). There are card catalogues and inventory lists to keep track of the MSS, and also of the numerous new acquisitions; but critical catalogues are expected to be completed in the course of the VOHD project. The MSS cover Qurān, fiqh, Hadith, kalām, Sufism, history, heresiology, grammar, Adab, poetry, medicine, astronomy, mathematics. The MSS collection in Tübingen is especially rich because the University has had a series of eminent experts on Islamic Studies. Thus, the private libraries of authorities such as Th. NöLDEKE, E. LITTMANN, R. PARET (among many others) have entered the Universitätsbibliothek. See:


Published catalogues:


1930. Verzeichnis der arabischen Handschriften der Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen. II. Teil. By M. WEISWEILER. Leipzig. The continuation of Chr. Seybold's first part (he had not even finished the important Wetstein collection), but even more methodical in the description of the MSS and with more cross-references to other catalogues; in addition, extensive indexes help to show a complete view of the whole Tübingen collection. Thus the chronological table shows that only a few MSS date back to the 12th and 13th centuries: most belong to the 17th and 18th centuries. Nos. 47–247.

Jörg Kraemer & Georg Scheja, Tübingen: Tübinger Kunstverein E.V. A very informative exhibition catalogue, with beautiful plates as well as learned philological and historical descriptions of some 73 MSS (for an exhibition in Tübingen from May 31 to June 20, 1956). Nos. 1–73.

Describes several Persian MSS.

WEIMAR
Thüringische Landesbibliothek

Date of establishment: ca. 1690 (1766 transferred to the Green Castle)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 50 (25 Arabic; 9 Persian; 17 Turkish).
Description of collection: In rather poor condition. The MSS contain Qurʾān, history, Adab, poetry. Most of these MSS are rather late copies and of little value for Islamic studies. See:

Published catalogues:

WITTENBERG
Bibliothek des Evangelischen Predigerseminars

Date of establishment: 1817
Status: Semi-public (to be used almost exclusively by the students of this institution).

Total number of Islamic MSS: 13 (5 Arabic; 1 Persian; 7 Turkish).
Description of collection: In good condition. No satisfactory description of the MSS available. They include Qurʾān, grammar, Sufism, literature. This library is the last remnant of the old Kurfürstlich Schloß- und Universitätsbibliothek zu Wittenberg (founded in 1512). It has alphabetical catalogues for the use of the students only, different ones for the different sections.

WOLFENBÜTTEL
Herzog August Bibliothek (Bibliotheca Augusta)

Date of establishment: 1572, formally by Herzog Julius; but the collection was begun in 1550
Status: Now public (property of the state of Niedersachsen).
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 170 (102 Arabic; 12 Persian; 55 Turkish).
Description of collection: This is definitely one of the most beautiful and best kept MSS-libraries in the world. But for the Islamic MSS, the catalogues are quite unsatisfactory, including the old one by Ebert, 1831 (see below). The modern catalogues have left the Islamic materials aside to be covered by the FOHD project (which will take some time to be completed). The Islamic MSS are Qurʾān (some 25 copies), Fiqh, history, Sufism, Adab, poetry, grammar, astronomy, astrology, medicine, philosophy.
It is regrettable that one of the most beautiful libraries in Germany possesses few important Islamic MSS among its extensive holdings. However, it does have a very beautiful copy of the Qurʾān (no. 107), the commentary on the Physics of Aristotle by Ibn Rushd (no. 10), and a good copy of M. R. Aḥī Bakr al-Qazwīnī’s Nuzhat al-Qulūb (no. 53).

Published catalogues:
have to be treated with caution: they are much too brief, and often no dates at all are established for authors and copyists. 76 Arabic MSS; 10 Persian MSS; 29 Turkish MSS.


1972. Die mittelalterlichen Handschriften der Gruppen Extravagantes, Novi und Novissimi. (= Kataloge der Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel; vol. 15). By Hans Butzmann. Frankfurt a. M.: Herzog August Bibliothek. The more recent acquisitions in various European languages. Among the "Extravagantes" there are some 20 works in Arabic, 1 in Persian (Poetry), and 15 in Turkish; among the "Novi" there are some 6 works in Arabic, 1 in Persian (a Shah Name), and 5 in Turkish; among the "Novissimi" there are 3 works in Arabic, and 2 in Turkish.

No Islamic MSS are included in Die neueren Handschriften der Gruppe Extravagantes. By W.-D. Ort (Wolfenbüttel, 1986–87).

ZITTAU

Stadt- und Kreishibibliothek Zittau
(Christian-Weise-Bibliothek)

Date of establishment: 1607 (but existed before as the library of a Franciscan monastery).
Status: Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (5 Arabic; 1 Persian; 13 Turkish).
Description of collection: In rather poor condition. The MSS are on Qur'an, fiqh, kalâm, grammar, poetry, Sufism. Apparently all of these Islamic MSS came as booty from Vienna; the date 1684 CE is clearly mentioned. See:


ZWICKAU/SAALE

Ratsschulbibliothek

Date of establishment: 1537 (formal establishment 1563)
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15 (6 Arabic; 2 Persian; 7 Turkish).
Description of collection: The library has ca. 200 other MSS; the few Islamic MSS are thus "in good company". An official catalogue apparently does not exist, only a handwritten inventory. The Islamic MSS consist of the Qur'an (4 copies) and works on Sufism, kalâm, poetry. All these MSS seem to have belonged to the private library of the orientalist Zeckendorf, who bequeathed them to the Ratschulbibliothek. See:

1911. Handschriftenproben aus der Reformationzeit. Fasc. 1: 67 Handschriftenproben nach Originalen der Zwickauer Ratschulbibliothek. Ed. by Otto Clemens. Zwickau: Ullmann. This is not a catalogue, but rather an introduction as for an exhibition. 67 MSS.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX

Lists 222 catalogues published in 17 countries.

Lists catalogues and publications about Arabic manuscripts all over the world.

Birnbaum, Eleazar. Turkish manuscripts: cataloguing since 1960.
A list of published catalogues of collections of Christian Arabic MSS arranged by town.


A survey of Persian literature which lists catalogues consulted in vols. 1 & 2.


General reference work listing published catalogues of Arabic manuscript collections all over the world.

and manuscripts still uncatalogued. Part 4: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Finland, United States, Canada. Journal of the American Oriental Society 104, 1984, pp. 303–314.

Germany is described on pages 309–310. The article describes the Turkish collections and the state of their catalogues, published and unpublished.


A bibliography of published catalogues dealing only with Arabic MSS.


Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS.


This is a reference work listing known collections and catalogues published and unpublished.


Contains references to published catalogues.