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ALBANIA

by

Gazmend Shpuza

1991

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

TIRANA

General Directorate of State Archives

Ruga "Jordan Misja"

Tel.: (00355) (42) 28107; 28090, 25104, 22978. Telex: AB/DPASH 2190

Date of establishment: 1949

Status: State archives

Conditions of access: Credentials required. Written application through an Albanian scientific, academic or university institution, based on a scientific, cultural, educational or archival agreement between two countries.

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 08.00–14.00.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 158 (113 Arabic; 31 Turkish; 7 Persian; 7 mixed; incl. Albanian).

Description of collection: In general this collection is not classified. Religious texts predominate: Qurʿāns, commentaries on the Qurʿān, *mevluds* and some texts of the Bektashi order, very widespread in Albania. There are also juridical, linguistic, literary and philosophical MSS, the latter concerned mainly with logic and aesthetic problems. Some are in Albanian, written with the Arabic alphabet, mainly on religious subjects or themes. One manuscript belongs to the 15th century, 10 to the 17th century, 15 to the 18th century, 28 to the 19th century and 2 to the 20th century; but the majority are undated.

The majority of authors of the MSS are Albanian; but there are also many copies of known Arabic, Persian and Turkish authors such as SHĪRĀZĪ, FIRDAWSĪ, IBRAHIM HALEBI, NAZMĪ MURTAḌĀ of Baghdad, DARWĪSH ʿALĪ of Medina, MASʿŪD IBN ʿUMAR, etc.

Unpublished catalogues: There are three systematic, typed, general catalogues in Albanian at the Library and in the Reading Room of the Archives. These catalogues give, under different headings, brief indications of the contents of documents (regardless of their language) from the Ottoman period in Albania up to 1912, and may serve as an orientation for access to oriental MSS, mainly in Turkish.

1976–1978. General Directory of State Archives. Albanian National Renaissance. Vol. 1 (Catalogue of records of personal collections). 481pp. 1976. Vol. 2 (Catalogue of records of collections of clubs, organizations and societies). 144pp. 1978.

Prepared by A. NIKA, E. DUKA, M. PELA, V. KITA, V. PACHUKA.

1979. General Directory of State Archives. *Systematic Catalogue of Records* (6th century–1831). Vol. 1 (6th century–1506), pp. 1–343; Vols. 2–3 (1506–1831), pp. 344–817.

Prepared by A. NIKA, E. DUKA, F. DUKA, M. PELA, N. HOXHA, V. KITA, V. PACHUKA.

1981–1982. General Directory of State Archives. *Systematic Catalogue of Records* (1832–1912).

– *State organization and Law*. Vols. 1–4. 1322pp.

Prepared by E. DUKA and N. NAIDENI.

– *Economy*. Vols. 1–4. 1646pp.

Prepared by V. KITA and V. PACHUKA.

– *Politics*. Vols. 1–3. 868pp.

Prepared by N. HOXHA.

– *Education, culture and science*. Vols. 1–2. 760pp.

Prepared by V. KITA.

– *Army*. 72pp.

Prepared by V. KITA.

– *Clergy*. Vols. 1–3. 880pp.

Prepared by A. NIKA, N. NAIDENI and V. PACHUKA.

– *Public Health*. 57pp.

Prepared by A. NIKA.

National Library of Tirana

Sheshi "Skenderbeg".

Tel.: (00355) (42) 25887 or 24373

Date of establishment: 1920

Status: National library

Conditions of access: Credentials required. Written application by an Albanian scientific or university institution, based on a scientific, cultural, educational or library agreement between two countries.

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 08.00–20.00

Sunday 08.00–14.00.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 479 (370 Arabic; 132 Turkish; 38 Persian; incl. 61 Arabic & Turkish, Arabic & Persian, Turkish & Persian and Arabic, Turkish & Persian).

Description of collection: Two MSS date from the 11th and 14th centuries, 21 from the 15th century, 31 from the 16th century, 47 from the 17th century, 111 from the 18th century and 65 from the 19th century. The others are undated.

In these collections are Islamic MSS of the last quarter of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 19th century collected by the autonomous rulers of Shkodra, the Vezirs KARA-MAHMUT PASHA BUSHATI or BUSHATASI (BUSHATLLI) (1749–1796) and MUSTAFA PASHA BUSHATI (1796–1860). These include very ancient and interesting MSS, of artistic value for their bindings, illustrations and calligraphy. They indicate the existence of a very old tradition of creation, copying and preservation of Islamic MSS in the Albanian territories.

Among the Persian MSS, literary texts predominate, mainly poetry, such as the well-known *Bustān*, *Gulistān*, *Bahārīstān*, *Majnūn va Laylā*, *Ḥadīqat al-Su'adā'* and many *Dīvāns*, etc. of authors like SA'DĪ, ADĪB ṬIFLĪSĪ, QĀSIM ANVARĪ, etc.

Religious, juridical and philosophical subjects also predominate among the Arabic and Turkish texts, but there are literary and linguistic writings, too, as well as some on natural sciences.

Among the religious items are Qur'āns, *tafsīrs*, Mevluds, religious advice, etc. Many of them are from the Bektashi order. Most of the juridical items are on property division according to the *Sharī'a*. The philosophical works are devoted mainly to logic and aesthetic problems, including the treatise on logic by IBN SĪNĀ (AVICENNA), *Kitāb al-Ishārāt* (890 H/1485 CE), 122 leaves. Other authors include IBRAHIM HALEBI (several MSS); IBN MĀLIK and SAYYID 'ALĪ. The following also may be especially noted:

AL-JĀRABARDĪ, AḤMAD: Commentary on IBN AL-ḤĀJIB's *Al-Shāfiya*. 976 H/1568 CE. 160 folios.

AL-SAYYID AL-SHARĪF: *Sharḥ al-Miftāḥ*. 879 H/1473 CE. 217 folios.

'UBAYD ALLĀH IBN MAS'UD: *Tanbīh al-uṣūl*. 3 MSS, 840 H/1436 CE. 178 folios.

Ṣerḥ-i Vakayi. 997 H/1588 CE. 194 folios.

EMIN, ABDULLATIF: *Şerh-i Macma ul-Bahreyn*. Amasya, 869 H/1464 CE. 515 folios.

AL-SUYŪṬĪ, ʿABD AL-RAḤMĀN. *Al-jāmiʿ al-ṣaghīr*. 907 H/1501 CE. 123 folios. *Hāshiyat al-SAYYID ʿALĪ ʿalā Sharh-i Dībājah-i Mişbāh*. Elbasan, copied by SAYYID QĀSIM, 976 H/1567 CE.

JĀMĪ, ʿABD AL-RAḤMĀN: *Sharḥ ʿalā ʿl-Kāfiya*. 165 leaves.

Many MSS are distinguished by their calligraphy, and some have illumination, illustrations or fine bindings.

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ARMENIA

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