   Lists catalogues and publications about Arabic manuscripts all over the world. Afghānīstān, Vol. 1, pp. 149–151.

   Afghānīstān, p. 184, nos. 582–583.

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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: Qur'âns, commentaries on the Qur'ân, melûds 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 Shîrâzî, Ferdawsî, İbrahim Halebi, Nazîf Murta'da of Baghdâd, Dârâsh 'Alî of Medina, Masûd ibn 'Umar, 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Unpublished catalogues: There are three systematic, typed, general catalogues in Albanian at the Library and in the Reading Room of the Archives.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.
Prepared by A. Nika, E. Duka, M. Pela, V. Kita, V. Pachuka.

Prepared by A. Nika, E. Duka, F. Duka, M. Pela, N. Hoxha, V. Kita, V. Pachuka.

- Army. 72pp. Prepared by V. Kita.

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 Veizirs Kara-Mahmut Pasha Bushati or Bushateli (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 Bostân, Cileştan, Bahârîsân, Mâyânî va Layhî, Hadiyat al-Sü'âdî and many Divâns, etc. of authors like Sa'dî, A'dî Târîkî, Qâsim Anvarî, etc.

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

Among the religious items are Qur'ans, tasfîrî, Mevluds, religious advice, etc. Many of them are from the Bektashi order. Most of the juridical items are on property division according to the Shari'a. The philosophical works are devoted mainly to logic and aesthetic problems, including the treatise on logic by Ibn Sinâ (Avicenna), Kitâb al-Ishârât (990 H/1485 CE), 122 leaves. Other authors include Ibrahim Halebi (several MSS); Ibn Malik and Sayyd ʿAlî. The following also may be especially noted:
Al-Sayyid al-Shari'î: Sharh al-Miftâh. 879 H/1473 CE. 217 folios.
Ubayd Allâh ibn Maṣûd: Tâṣbîh al-asâ'il. 3 MSS, 840 H/1436 CE. 178 folios.
Ṣâhîh al-Vâkayî. 997 H/1588 CE. 194 folios.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX

Mikhalkova, I.B. and Khalidov, A.B. Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS. Albania/Albania, p. 27.


Albania, p. 193.