BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Al-Bahrāyn, p. 12, nos. 33–34.
Al-Bahrāyn, p. 8, no. 5.

Al-Bahrāyn, pp. 692–693.


BANGLADESH

by

Muhammad Abdul Haq

1989
UNION CATALOGUES

A cumulative catalogue of Persian MSS drawn from 85 published catalogues giving locations of MSS (73 catalogues from Iran & 12 from elsewhere, including Bangladesh).

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

CHITTAGONG

Chittagong University Library

Chittagong University, Chittagong
Date of establishment: 1968
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 308 (64 Arabic; 112 Bengali; 125 Persian; 7 Urdu).
Description of collection: The manuscripts are kept on good bookshelves, in a suitable building. They are not in danger. All MSS are well-ventilated and carefully kept in modern conditions.
The most important MSS are as follows: Gulshan (3 copies) by Sa'īd, dated 1110 Maghi or Bengali era, written during the period of Sultan Mahmūd of Bengal; Badshah by Sa'īd, 1160 Maghi; Mirmān al-ahbāb, (author unknown), 1193 Maghi; Hātim al-Ṭa'ī, 1213 Maghi/1263 CE; Wusūl al-Najjār, by Ṣaḥḥāḥ ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz, 1252 CE; Durra al-majlis by Ramaḍān Mīvā, 1168 Maghi/1221 CE; Taḥfīz-i Panjā Nāsh, dated 1221 Maghi, (in Urdu); an illuminated Qurʾān; Sharḥ ʿurrān al-Baḥštīn by M. Iw Mānī, dated 1174 CE; Hidāya (2 copies) by ʿAbd al-Ḥayy, dated 1837 CE/1253 AH; Sināj Quṭb by Nūr Muḥammad, dated 1177 Maghi; Musallam al-Suhā bi by Muḥīn Allāh Biṣḥārī, dated 1289 AH; ʿAgīr al-Nasīfī by Ṭūmār al-Nasīfī, dated 1322 AH; Qurʾān with Urdu translation (in Arabic).

Unpublished catalogue: There is a hand-written catalogue containing 285 Bengali MSS, of which 112 MSS are Islamic. These MSS are from one hundred to three hundred years old.
Chittagong University Museum

Date of establishment: 1968
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 159 (40 Arabic; 3 Bengali; 111 Persian; 5 Urdu)
Description of collection: The physical condition of the MSS is good. They are kept on good book-shelves, in a suitable building and are not in danger.

Manuscripts in the collection include: 8 complete and illuminated copies of the Qur’ān; Naqsh-i Sulaymānī by Shaykh ‘Ard al-Wāshī in his own hand; Bistān-i Sā‘id, dated 1161 Maghi; Ṣa‘id-i dānim, dated 1148 AH; Maqāsid al-Qur’ān by Shāh Wāli ‘Allāh Dihlāwī, dated 1148 AH/1264 Maghi; a Persian MS, concerning the healing power of the different Suras of the Qur’ān, n.d., written at the request of Tipu Sultan; Ṣafar al-ṣalāb ii lū biyār al-Mahābīb by Shaykh ‘Ard al-Haqq Muḥādith-i Dihlāwī; Tafṣīl-i Muḥammadiyya (Ampara); and Tāj al-Mulūk wa Bākara in Urdu; Imām sary, concerning ‘Aﬁ, Ḥasan and Husayn, in Bengali.

Unpublished catalogues: There is an incomplete catalogue, typed, in English.

Mohammad Ishaque Chowdhury

Nintalī Dargah, Patiya, Chittagong
Total number of Islamic MSS: 82 (36 Arabic; 45 Persian; 1 Urdu)
Status: Private
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition and not worn-eaten, but not kept in a particularly suitable way; they are kept on open shelves. The MSS are about two to three hundred years old and include: Wahf, dated 1015 AH; Tawāhīma by Muhammad Naṣīm dated 1817 CE; Qasida Banū Shā‘ud by Kā‘īb b. Zayn al-‘Ālā (early 19th C.); Naqsh-i Sulaymānī by ‘Abd al-Ra‘ūf al-‘Adil al-Qāḍī dated 1129 AH; Ṣa‘id-i Firdaws (ca. 200 years old); Rāhbat al-ṣalāb by ‘Aīd al-Dīn, 1148 Maghi; Guṣṭār by ‘A’īf, dated 1185 Maghi; Ladihdhār-i Nisā by Koka Pande (200 years old) and Tūsawwūf (ca. 200 years old).

There is no catalogue in any form. Some descriptions have been made by the author of the survey.

Haji Muhsin College

Chittagong, Bangladesh
Total number of Islamic MSS: 45 (17 Arabic; 28 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are Qur’āns, Tafṣīl, Ḥadīth, Fiqh, Tūsawwūf, and literature.

They are one or two centuries old. The physical condition of the MSS is not satisfactory. Many are worn-eaten, and they are not kept in good conditions and not well looked after.

They have not been catalogued.

DACCA

Bangladesh National Museum

DACCA

Total number of Islamic MSS: 390 (112 Arabic; 57 Bengali; 209 Persian; 12 Urdu).
Description of collection: The MSS are Qur’āns, Tafṣīl, Fiqh, Medecine, Tūsawwūf, Wahf, Tājīd, history and Persian literature. The MSS date from 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th centuries AH.

They are all in good condition and kept in modern and clean conditions. Among MSS in the collection are: Kfiṣāyat al-ṣawāqī by Shaykh Mustalıḥ, dated 1856 AD (A Bengali MS. In Arabic Script); Tafṣīl al-Qur’ān; Türk̲h al-Tahri; Rū’f al-t‘ālāmī, dated 1835 CE; Pandīna by Fārūq al-Dīn Attār, dated 1223 AH; Naṣīḥat al-‘Aṣr by Mulla ‘Ard al-Ra‘īsī, dated 1281 AH; Raujū al-Sūfī by Mīr Khwānī Shāhī, dated 1139 AH; Shāhīma by Firdawsi, dated 1677 AD; Sīfāt al-Salāh; Daqīq al-Haqqāq; ‘Alī Laylā; Qīṣās al-Aḥbāb; and Yūsuf Zulaykhā in Bengali.

Unpublished catalogues: There is a hand-written catalogue, and also a typed copy in English.
Dacca University Library

Dacca University, Dacca.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 695 (116 Arabic; 13 Bengali; 471 Persian; 95 Urdu).

Description of collection: The MSS are kept under good, modern conditions. Most of them are well-preserved, but a few are worn-eaten. The subjects covered by the MSS are Persian and Urdu literature, religious works, Islamic law, natural sciences.

Among important MSS held in the collection are: Earliest recorded copy of the Mir'āt-i 'Afsā Name by ʿAbd al-Rahmān Nawāz Kān, transcribed for the author during his lifetime in 1804 CE; Shahjahan Nama, a rare history of Shahjahan's reign by Shyakh Muhammad Jāhoī, completed in 1667; Fatḥulāt-i 'Umar, a unique versified history of 'Umar, the second caliph of Islam, in the author's own hand-writing, by one Aṣāf in 1211/1796 for presentation to Zamān Shāh, grandson of Ahmad Shāh Abdali; Divān-i Khādīm, collected Persian and Urdu Poems of an unknown poet named Ghāzī Beg Mū'īm, completed in 1696 CE; Mathnawī Shah Shāh va Jāhān Bābu, an unrecorded Urdu Mathnawī by Rāja Rajṣhān Dev of Calcutta, a pupil of Mirza Jān Tapash, written around 1807; Dīwān-i Luwali, an interesting collection of Urdu-Hindi and mixed Brajbhā, Urdu-Sanskrit Persian verses in the Lawmi metre, by Ibrāhīm Bāshī, Rani of Dacca, completed in 1877; Laghāt Aḥādīth, an unrecorded manuscript of the Appendix (Zayl wa-Takmila) to the Majma` al-Bihār, a dictionary of rare words in the Qur'ān and Hadith by Muhammad Tāhir b. ʿAli al-Ṣaddūq of Pan, Gujarāt, written in the 16th century. No other copy is known; An unknown commentary on the Hadith Nahāb of Taftazānī, by Yūsuf b. Aḥf ʿAṣrī al-Husaynī of Lahore, dedicated to the emperor Jāhāngīr.

Sec. 1983. Old manuscript collection in the Dacca University Library.

By Afif Rzāmān. Libri, 33, pp. 61–66.

Published catalogues:


Introduction to Islamic Folk-Tale MSS in Bengali. This catalogue describes 585 MSS in Bengali written on mixed topics of Islamic history and culture.


A detailed catalogue describing 365 Persian, 70 Urdu, and 92 Arabic MSS giving subject matter, language, type of script, full name of author and title of work.

Unpublished catalogues:

Pahlavi-Bihārī: By Muhammad Shaikh Ahmad. A hand-written catalogue of MSS of folk-tales in Bengali. Five Islamic MSS are included.

Uncatalogued MSS: 163 MSS (24 Arabic; 8 Bengali; 106 Persian and 25 Urdu) are still uncatalogued. They date mostly from the 11–13 centuries AH.

Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh

Baitul Mukarram, Dacca

Total number of Islamic MSS: 35 (15 Arabic; 19 Persian; 1 Urdu).

Description of collection: The MSS are Qur'āns, Tafsīr, Fiqh, Logic, Medicine, religious works & theology, Persian Prose. There are no important manuscripts here; the collection has not been catalogued.

Madrassah-i-Alia Authority, Dacca

Date of establishment: Founded in Calcutta. In 1947, India was divided and the Madrasah was shifted to Dacca, the capital of the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 445 (236 Arabic; 204 Persian; 5 Urdu). This is the number listed in the published Arabic catalogue. It is not known if it is the total number of MSS in the collection.

Description of collection: The MSS are on Tafsīr, Hadith, Fiqh,
Published catalogue:  

RAJSHAHI
Rajshahi University Library

Rajshahi, Bangladesh
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. They are Tajvetir, Fath, and poetry, and date from the 10th and 11th century AH. They are preserved in good conditions. There is no catalogue, but the MSS are: Tajvetir Ahmad, by Mullakh Ahmed Joopersi, a voluminous work, dated 1099 AH and written during the reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb; Mumtaz-ul-Akhbar by Isha Tawhid, dated 1105 AH; Al-Muhiuti, Rasul al-Maghbim by Imaam, dated 1098 AH.

Varendra Research Museum

Rajshahi University, Rajshahi, Bangladesh
Total number of Islamic MSS: 47 (21 Arabic; 20 Bengali; 6 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are kept in good, modern conditions. There are 14 Qur’ans. The other MSS are about rhetoric, prayer, Persian literature and Tajwir. One of the Qur’ans has a Persian translation.

Published catalogues:  

This English-language catalogue contains 19 Islamic MSS in Bengali. They are Islamic historical narratives. There is no index. The most important manuscripts are: Jus Kalandar; Dejilul Nama, by Muhammad Khan; Shakh Seifur Rasul, by Shaheed; Yusuf Zulfiqar, by Shih Nama Sahib; Ansarib, by Hayat Mahmud; Jarga Nama, by Hayat Mahmud; Lati Muzna, by Bahrin Daudat Uzair.

Most of the manuscripts of this catalogue are non-Islamic.

Uncatalogued MSS: 28 MSS (21 Arabic; 1 Bengali and 6 Persian) are uncatalogued.

SYLHET
The Central Muslim Sahita Sangsad, Sylhet

Dargha Gate, Sylhet
Date of establishment: 1936
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 42 (2 Arabic; 30 Bengali; 10 Urdu).
Description of collection: The physical condition of the MSS is not bad, but the building is not suitable, nor is there satisfactory acclimatization.
Uncatalogued catalogues: There is a hand-written catalogue.

TANGAIL
Sa’dat University College, Karatia, Tangail, Bangladesh

Tangail, Bangladesh
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: The condition of the MSS is very good. They are both beautifully ornamented, about 100–200 years old. They are a Qur’an and a Persian Shajarah. There is no catalogue or description.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX

Describes 199 MSS in Bengali.

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

A bibliography of published catalogues dealing only with Arabic MSS.

Describes some MSS acquired for the proposed Cultural Museum of the National Bank of Pakistan in Dacca.

Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS.

Contains references to published catalogues.

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

BELARUS

by

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1990