Published catalogues: Not available.
Unpublished catalogues: Not available.

Pusat Sejarah (Brunei's Historical Centre)

An unknown number of MSS are also located here. But no description of the collection is available at present.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX

Mat Piah, Harun & Hamid, Ismail, *Kajian dan Dokumentasi Manuskrip*—Manuskrip Melayu dalam Koleksi Brunei, the National University of Malaysia Project 39/82.

BULGARIA

by

Stoyanka Kenderova

1991
UNION CATALOGUES

Bulgarian orientalists are concerned with the preparation of a "Union Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts Containing Data on the Balkans" and a "Union Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts Copied in the Balkan Territory". The initiative for this work was taken up by the group for Oriental manuscripts at the International Center for Information on the Sources of the Balkan and Mediterranean History (CIBAL). The fulfilment of this enormous task presupposes a perusal of all existing catalogues of Oriental manuscripts with the aim of tracing titles in which there is some information concerning the Balkans. Foreign cooperation in the fulfilment of this task would be welcomed. See:

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

PLOVDIV

Ivan Vazov Public Library

ul. N.Y. Vaptsarov 17
4000 Plovdiv
Tel.: 22 28 15
Date of establishment: 1879
Status: Public library
Conditions of access: All categories and age groups of readers; credentials from the reader’s institute are required for the collections of manuscripts and documents.
Opening hours: 08.00 – 20.00; Sundays 08.00 – 16.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 107 (74 Arabic; 1 Persian; 18 Turkish; 10 collections (majma'ān) including works in Arabic and Turkish; 4 diglot and polyglot dictionaries).
Description of collection: The Ivan Vazov Public Library is the second largest library in Bulgaria. Of the 1.2 million library units that it possesses, some 360 are volumes of manuscripts in Bulgarian, Arabic, Turkish, Greek and other languages. Annual readership: 36,000.
The manuscripts are in a relatively good state of preservation and
suitably stored. Thematically most of the codices (total 71) are related to the Islamic religion in the broadest sense (among them two copies of the Qurʾān, four MSS on Ḥadīth, three taṣfīr, etc.). This group includes the earliest dated copy of the collection—a manuscript in Arabic from 854 AH / 1450 CE. A total of 15 codices deal with legal matters. Arabic grammar is represented by nine MSS; medicine by three in Arabic and one in Turkish. The dictionaries of the collection are likewise interesting: Bulgarian-Greek-Turkish-Arabic; Bulgarian-Turkish-Arabic; Turkish-Arabic-Persian with illuminations; and Persian-Turkish. The latter is bound together with two treatises on Persian grammar in Arabic. The first two dictionaries are bound together with a letter-writing manual in Turkish (meşel). Two separate codices, also in Turkish, deal with the same topic.

Unpublished catalogues: The collection has not yet been catalogued, but the manuscripts are listed in an inventory (or register) by year and consecutive number of acquisition. The Islamic manuscripts were either donated or bought in the period 1911–1985. The descriptions try to identify the title of the work with, in some cases, the name of the author, and give incomplete codicological particulars of the manuscript and how it was acquired. The consultants have had different levels of knowledge in this field.

RAZGRAD
State Archives

Holds Islamic MSS, uncatalogued.

RUSE
Museum of History

9 Septemvri 2, Ruse.
Tel.: 3-61-15
Date of establishment: 1904
Holds Islamic MSS, uncatalogued.

SHUMEN
Museum of History

Pl. Alexander Stamboliiski 2
Tel.: 5 75 96
Date of establishment: 1857
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 650.
Description of collection: In addition to the above number of manuscripts the Museum of History keeps about 1400 old printed books in Arabic, Turkish and Persian and about 1280 in Bulgarian; also some documents in Ottoman Turkish. Part of the acquisitions came from the library of the Tombul mosque in Shumen; other acquisitions are donations or purchases by associates of the museum in the town and in the district.

The construction of the mosque is associated with Şerif Halil Paşa, born in the village of Madara or Shumen. He made a brilliant career as a statesman: a kethuda of the Grand Vizier (1149 AH / 1736 CE and 1156 AH / 1743 CE) and Rumâli asâkeri safl kâl vârisâısı (1150 AH / 1737 CE). He wrote verses and translated from Arabic and Persian. Şerif Halil Paşa provided the mosque with a medrese and library. A special hâsfname determined the services at the mosque and how it should be used. He supplied the first books and made donations, the most precious of which is Nazıhat al-mashhāf fir ʿibârāt al-āfâq by Abū ʿAbd Allâh Muhammad al-Idrîsî (493–560 AH / 1100–1165 CE) in a copy of 963 AH / 1556 CE. In 1952 the SS Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia acquired it (OR 3198). The staff of the National Library's Oriental Department have at various times worked on descriptions of the collection of manuscripts. The National Library will carry out the disinfection and restoration of those manuscripts which need such treatment, and will study and describe them.

SOFIA
Elena and Ivan Dujcev Library

Ivan Dujcev Centre for Slavic-Byzantine Studies,
Sveti Kliment Ohridski University,
ul. Znamenisco 18
1618 Sofia
Academician Dujcev’s Oriental collection contains several documents in Ottoman Turkish pertaining mainly to the history of Belogradchik (a town in northwest Bulgaria), as well as printed literature in Turkish.

Published catalogues:

Exhibition catalogue. Nos. 96–106 describe 11 Islamic manuscripts (5 on Arabic grammar; 2 on ritual prayers; one copy of the Qur’an; one on dogmatics—all in Arabic; one religious poem in Turkish and one “Insi” collection also in Turkish). The descriptions contain: the title, the name of the author, synopsis of the work and short codicological particulars of the manuscript.


The volume contains the papers of a scholarly conference devoted to the 80th anniversary of Academician Dujcev in 1987. The material surveys the major Oriental manuscripts and documents from Academician Dujcev’s private library.

Forthcoming. A thorough catalogue of the Centre’s Oriental collection (manuscripts and documents) is being prepared by S. Kenderova. It will be volume IV of III. Series Catalogorum.

SS. Cyril and Methodius National Library

Sofia, Bulgaria

Date of establishment: Library—10 December 1878; the Oriental Collections—1880

Status: State Public Library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,680 (ca. 3,060 Arabic; ca. 120 Persian; ca. 500 Turkish)

Description of collection: The SS Cyril and Methodius National
Library was established on 10 December 1878 as a public library in Sofia. Its foundation at this historic moment bears witness to the longing of the young Bulgarian state for a new economic, political and cultural life. The Library is named after the two brothers Cyril and Methodius who created the Slav—Bulgarian alphabet in 863. This is the biggest academic public library in the country.

It provides scientific and methodical control for all libraries in the country. It holds about 1.5 million documents in Bulgarian concerning prominent Bulgarians and about 500,000 documents in Ottoman-Turkish and approximately 3,000 in Arabic. These documents deal with the history of Bulgaria, the Balkan countries and the Arab provinces of the Ottoman empire for the period between the 15th and the 20th century as well as with the relationship of the central Ottoman authorities with the countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Russia, Iran, etc. The National Library is the largest manuscript centre in Bulgaria. It holds about 1,500 manuscripts in the Slavic languages and about 3,600 in the Oriental languages.

The foundations of the Oriental collections were laid in 1880. In 1900 the collections were organized in the so-called Turkish Department, which, in 1909, was renamed the Oriental Department. Its official name today is Oriental Collections Department. The first Oriental manuscripts received here were from the library of Meşmed Hürev Pasha from the town of Samokov—2,485 volumes of manuscripts and early printed books in all. Later, in 1888, the book-stock was enriched with another 650 manuscripts and early printed books from the library of Osman Pazvand-Ögulu from the town of Vidin. After the manuscripts and books from his library were received in Sofia in 1889 a Bulgarian-Turkish commission was formed. It handed over to the Turkish government 2,014 volumes and the remaining 650 were kept for the Public Library of Sofia. The original catalogue of Pazvand-Ögulu’s library has recently been found. It consists of 69 leaves with dimensions 465 x 175 mm and was compiled on 23 Dhū ‘l-Hijja 1252 (March 31st, 1837). 2,211 manuscripts (2,390 volumes in all) and 73 early printed books were described in it, all of them presented in 22 sections. A paper on this catalogue and the questions it raises was presented by Dr. St. Kenderova at the Scientific session on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Sofronij Vrachanski (1739 – 1813) held in the town of Vratsa in 1989. The title of the paper is “The library of Osman Pazvand-Ögulu at the time of Sofronij (according to a newly found inventory)” (the Acts of the conference are in press). These are the most numerous acquisitions of manuscripts, It is impossible, however, to say even today what proportion of the collections were manuscripts or were early printed books, for they have not been properly studied yet.

During the following years the library received manuscripts (as well as archival materials), found in state and municipal institutions of many Bulgarian towns which were deserted by the former Turkish authorities or by Turks who emigrated from the country. Many manuscripts have been received as donations or through purchase. This practice continues, for example, for the period from 1980 till the end of 1989 inclusive, the book-stock was enriched by 31 manuscripts in Arabic and Turkish mainly through purchase from private owners. Of these 9 are copies of the Qur’an and three of İnşâ in Turkish. By the end of October 1990 the total number of manuscripts in the library amounted to 3,600 codices.

The Oriental manuscripts are preserved in separate store rooms in the Library building itself, a building into which the Library was moved in 1953. The store rooms are equipped for maintaining proper climatic conditions.

They are in cardboard boxes to protect them from dust. On the whole, they are in good physical condition. A few copies have been damaged by humidity or book worm, and such MSS are periodically handed over for restoration to the Scientific Laboratory for Conservation and Restoration in the National Library, where they receive disinfection, mechanical and chemical cleaning. Afterwards they are restored (including the binding), and re-bound by a specialist. The original binding is preserved where possible, but when it is greatly damaged or is not present at all, the manuscripts are bound in leather. During the period 1905 – 1990 (i.e. six years), 54 Oriental MSS were restored. One of the five full copies in existence today of the famous work of al-Iṣâqī’s “Nuzhat al-muṣṭaqfī fi ʾkhṭār[q al-afaq” was restored here in 1981 and is kept in the Library. The restoration was necessary because the ink had a high acid content and had damaged the leaves by yellowing the paper.

A considerable number of the manuscripts are copies (the autographs found up to now are isolated cases) in Arabic—about 3,060 codices. It should be noted, however, that a fairly large number of the manuscripts kept at the National Library are majmu’āt containing several (even tens of) works, preserved entirely or in fragments.
Some are in mixed languages. The Arab manuscripts cover the following subjects: Qurʾān, ca. 115 copies; Qurʾānic sciences, ca. 110 MSS; commentaries on the Qurʾān, ca. 240 MSS; Ḥadith, ca. 200; Islamic Law, ca. 620; dogmatics, ca. 260; prayers ca. 200; sermons, ca. 300; philosophy, ca. 300; linguistics and grammar, ca. 950; history and biographies, ca. 80; geography, ca. 12; literature, ca. 60; others (medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geometry, etc.) ca. 150 MSS.

The manuscripts in Turkish hold the second place numbering about 500 codices. They cover the following subjects: Islamic religion (taṣfiḥ, ḥadīth, etc.) ca. 130 MSS; Islamic Law, ca. 80 MSS; philosophy, ca. 20; linguistics and grammar, ca. 60; history and biographies, ca. 60; literature, ca. 90; diplomatic (mainly Ḥimṣi) ca. 20; medicine, ca. 20; others (geography, astronomy, mathematics, botany, encyclopaedias, etc.) ca. 70 MSS.

The collection of Persian manuscripts is the least numerous—it consists of about 120 codices. Most of these are copies of literary works (see more detailed description in the published Catalogue of the Persian MSS).

The manuscripts of the National Library are predominantly dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is considered that the oldest dated copy in the collection is Ṭāṣfiḥ from 458 Hijriya (1066 CE).

The attribution of the undated manuscripts written on European paper is carried out mainly from analysis of their watermarks.

On the history of the Oriental Department and the setting-up of its collections see:


1971. 90 godini Orientalski sbirki v Narodnata biblioteka “Kivíl i Mетоди” (90 years Oriental collections in the National Library


Published catalogues: The cataloguing of the Oriental manuscripts began soon after they were received in the National Library. An author and topographic catalogue is available on cards. Unfortunately, the first people who prepared them, even though they knew Ottoman-Turkish well, had not had the proper training in Arabic and Persian and, more importantly, they had not had the necessary experience with a similar type of material. For several reasons these catalogues are de facto inappropriate to be used for scientific purposes. Their failings were noted as early as 1909 by Dr. Ivan Dimitrov—the first specially trained in such work when he was head of the department.

A. Shishmanov, most probably drawing information from Dr. Ivan Dimitrov’s descriptions, published in 1913 the first list of a very small part of the manuscripts collection, 37 codices in Arabic and 1 in Persian, with the intention of informing specialized university circles in St.-Petersburg of the presence of Oriental manuscripts in Sofia.

Much later, after 1942, serious work in the description of the Turkish manuscripts was undertaken by Dr. Boris Nadezhdov. Up to 1990, for the time during which he had been the head of the Oriental Department, nearly the whole collection present in Turkish at that time comprising about 450 copies of approximately 330 titles of works had been described on cards. He died in 1975, leaving his catalogue unpublished.

Arabic and Iranian studies (in contrast to the Ottoman studies) were developed in Bulgaria during the last few decades and this is reflected in the work on the Arabic and Persian manuscripts in the National Library. Because of the lack of Bulgarian experts in this field, the authors of the first catalogues are foreigners.

In 1963 Dr. Adnan Darvish from Syria worked for six months in the National Library. As a result he published in 1969 and in 1974 two volumes in different degrees of detail with the descriptions of 1025 codices in all.

Two years later, in 1965, the Iraqi expert Farrat Muhammad Mahdi al-Awâshî was drawn into the work of the National Library. Up to 1967 inclusive he produced about 1830 descriptions of the contents of approximately 900 codices—copies of the Qurʾān,
tafsīr, hadīth, philosophy, Islamic Law, dogmatics, history, geography and literature.

In 1967, the Iraqi scientist Dr. Yūsuf ʿIzz al-Dīn worked in the Library 16 days only. After his return to Iraq he published a catalogue containing the descriptions of 141 selected codices, mainly in the field of history, geography and literature.

Later on the work on the description of the Arab manuscripts was taken up by Bulgarian experts and Fakhr al-Jawāhilī was drawn in as one of the editors. The aim was the complete presentation of the collection in a few volumes arranged according to subject-matter. A scheme for a detailed description of each manuscript was adopted. On the basis of this scheme the first volume of the series, compiled by G. Petkova-Bojanova, was prepared and published in 1977. The volume included 95 copies of the Qurʾān.

On account of the wide interest in the manuscript collection and with the purpose of acquainting scientific circles in Bulgaria and abroad with its contents, it was later decided that cataloguing should continue in the form of shorter descriptions, and the preparation of the detailed descriptions left for a further stage. For this reason a new and shorter scheme of description was proposed, but it contained the most important elements for the cataloguing of a written work. This scheme was applied in the preparation of Volume III of the Catalogue of Arab manuscripts compiled by Dr. Stoianka Kenderova which includes 260 copies of ḥadīth. It is being applied now in the preparation of the volume including all MSS in the field of linguistics and grammar (compiler A. Stoilova); the volume covering history, geography, literature, medicine and the exact sciences (compiler Dr. St. Kenderova), and also in the preparation of the Catalogue of the Turkish manuscripts (compilers: Prof. Dr. B. Nedkov, Dr. St. Kenderova, Z. Ivanova and R. Tomova).

Only the collection of manuscripts in Persian is almost entirely catalogued. The catalogue was prepared by the lecturer in Persian at the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” Dr. Jamsīhī Sayyār and it contains descriptions of 75 works in Persian in 188 volumes. In addition to the titles in Persian the author reveals the contents of 22 other MSS in Turkish and 5 MSS in Arabic. It should be noted that the book-stock contains 30 more works in Persian mainly in majmūʿāt that were not taken into consideration by Dr. Sayyār and have not been catalogued yet.

Published catalogues:

Thirty-seven titles of works, included in 38 volumes, are described in different degrees of detail. All the MSS presented are in Arabic with the exception of one, No. 9, which is in Persian. The works cover mainly historical, geographical, theological and juristic topics. They have come into the National Library from the library of Osman Pāzvand-Əğlu of Viđin. The MSS are arranged in alphabetical order according to the title of the work. The title, as well as the name of the author, is given in Arabic script. The following details are given for each text: number of leaves, number of lines per page, size of the text (in cm), number of quires; sometimes incepit and explicit are given. The date of the copying is stated for only 18 codices, only where present in the copy.

The name of the scribe and the place of copying are noted in only 7 or 8 descriptions. Palaeographic characterization is not widely used. There are data for only 8 MSS concerning the following characteristics: colour of the paper; degree of preservation of the MS.; handwriting (but not the type of script) defined according to external distinctive features (i.e. rough, beautiful, small, etc.); ornamentation; binding.

For every work described there is a basic bibliography giving reference to Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur by C. Brockelmann, Verzeichnis der arabischen Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin by W. Aihwardt, Kāshf al-zunūn by Ḥajji Khalīfī, etc. Reference is made to copies kept in the library of the St.-Petersburg University, giving also their reference numbers.


The total number of 289 titles of works, consisting of 122 volumes, are presented in different degrees of detail in 141 separate descriptions. The works described are selected from history, biographies, geography, and literature. In fact, the catalogue includes most of the Library’s manuscripts related to the fields mentioned. In the descriptions of majmūʿāt, however, MSS covering other topics (grammar, hadīth, Fātūs, sermons, in Turkish, etc.) are noted as
well. 26 literary MSS are presented also in Volume II of Dr. A. Darwis’s Catalogue, 1974.

The descriptions are arranged in alphabetical order according to the title of the work, without regard to subject. There is no subject index either.

The descriptions follow approximately the sequence given below: Name of the author given in comparatively full form, with the year of his death AH; dimensions of the leaves in cm, number of leaves and number of lines per page; Fairly full incipits and explicitis; (in some cases the end coincides with the colophon in which the date of copying is indicated); Palaeographic characterization (in less detail); (the script is characterized on the basis of external features (clear, big, nice) but not on the basis of its type); details concerning the binding and the colour of the ink; bibliographical date are rare. Occasionally the author refers to Kashf al-ṣunna by Hajji Khalifa. For some works it is indicated that they have been published but no bibliographical information on the publication itself is given; the history of the manuscript: names of owners, names of people concerned with dedications to a Waqf, indications of Waqf libraries; some information on the contents of the manuscript: in most cases—very brief, but for certain copies (e.g. Nushat al-mushādīq by al-Idrīsī) they are rather detailed; name of the scribe and date of copying (not present in every description). In some cases there is a general supposition expressed as to the century from which the copy dates, but the grounds for attribution are not given.

The catalogue includes 15 other majmu’at in several codices. In some cases the separate works included in the majmu’at are listed under a serial number with the number of leaves given for each one and the name of the author for some of them. In other cases the data on the works included are more abundant: the dimensions of the text, the number of lines, the beginning and end are also given. In still other cases each work included in the majmu’at is described independently and in greater detail.

The Catalogue has only an Index of the titles of the works.

The Introduction is given also in English translation (in summary) and in Russian. The Catalogue contains also “Brief biographic notes about the writer” in English and Russian.


288 titles of works included in 465 codices are given in 529 descriptions. The volume consists of the following sections: Qur’ān, 79 copies; Commentaries, 81 titles of works in 190 descriptions; recitation of the Qur’ān, 21 titles in 24 descriptions; readings of the Qur’ān, 14 titles in 21 descriptions; general Qur’ānic Sciences, 52 titles in 63 descriptions; Ḥadīth, 39 titles in 152 descriptions.

It would be more appropriate for some titles to be assigned to other subjects, and they should not be in this volume.

The descriptions are arranged in alphabetical order according to the title of the work, with full name of the author and dates of birth and death, full details of the contents of the work and incipits and explicitis; palaeographic information (artistic merits of the copy; the use of red ink and gold; type of script mostly as elegant, ugly, clear, etc.); name of the scribe, date and place of copying only if present in the copy (for undated manuscripts, general information such as “the copy is new” only occasionally); the number of leaves, the dimensions of the leaves in cm (in most cases merely “manuscript of size”,” of small size,” etc.) and the number of lines; references to Geschichte der arabischen Literatur by C. Brockelmann, Kāshf al-ṣunna by Hajji Khalīfa and Hādiyat al-ṣarīfīn by ʿIsrail Pasha Baghdatī.

A notable merit of the catalogue is the marking whether copies of a given title are kept in the Zāhirīyya library in Damascus. If that is so the number and shelfmarks of these works are given. The catalogue has indexes of titles and authors.

The inaccuracies in respect of the descriptions of certain copies of the Qur’ān are corrected in the catalogues by G. Șekova-Bojanova, 1977 and those concerning the Ḥadīth—in the catalogue prepared by Dr. St. Kenderova (in press).


The inventory covers all the 105 manuscripts which present:
75 titles of works in Persian in 118 MSS; 11 titles of commentaries and translations of Persian literary works in Turkish in 13 MSS and 14 titles in Turkish and Arabic published in 7 majmū'at together with some works in Persian. The descriptions of Persian MSS are given in the following sections: astronomy—3 titles in 3 MSS; anthology (biographies of scientists and poets)—1 title in 1 MS; ethics & morals—3 titles in 4 MSS; history—3 titles in 3 MSS; commentaries on the Qur‘ān—2 titles in 2 MSS; lexicography and grammar—15 titles in 21 MSS; pharmacology—1 title in 1 MS; poetry—25 titles in 44 MSS; poetics—1 title in 1 MS; fiction—4 titles in 19 MSS; religious stories—3 titles in 3 MSS; ritual—1 title in 1 MS; theology—3 titles in 3 MSS; Sufism—10 titles in 11 MSS; Fiqh—1 title in 1 MS.

The highest number of copies, 13, are of the poem Gulistan by Sa‘di (d. 691/1292) of which the earliest copy is from 15 Shawwal 872 (May 7th 1468).

The works in Turkish which are included in the seven majmū'at and are given after the description of the Persian titles are on the following subjects: occult sciences—3 titles; metrics—1; commerce in the Islamic world—1; poetry—2; tafsir—1 and history—1.

The works in Arabic included in the same majmū'at are on: Sufism—1 title; grammar—1; Islamic religion—1; Fiqh—1; poetry—1. Seventeen MSS date from the 13th century; 30 from the 16th century; 35 from the 17th century; 30 from the 18th century; 9 from the 19th century; 4 MSS are not attributed yet.

The earliest dated copy is of the historical work Majmū‘-i Faṣḥī by Ahmad b. Muhammad b. Yahyā al-Madī’ī of al-Khawārī (b. 777/1375), completed on 29 Safar 857 (6th March 1453) by the calligrapher Bātā b. Adān.

The descriptions of the separate manuscripts are quite detailed, arranged in the different sections in alphabetical order according to title given in the original script transcribed in the Cyrillic alphabet and then given in Bulgarian translation. The descriptions further include: full name of the author in the original script and Cyrillic transcription, with years of birth and death: information on the work and date of completion, name of the scribe, date and place of copying (if these are not available in the MS. the author states in detail the basis for his dating of the manuscript (watermarks, type of paper, script, etc.)); detailed contents; number of leaves and their dimensions in cm; type of paper; type of script and peculiarities of the handwriting; colour of the ink; binding; decoration and illustrations; incipit and explicits; presence of seals and rendering of their text and date.

A detailed bibliography is given for each title, referring to:


Indexes of titles of proper names in Arabic and Cyrillic alphabets, of the correspondence between the reference numbers of the manuscripts and the serial number of the inventory, and Chronological Index.

The introduction is translated into English as well.


274 titles of works included in a total of 560 manuscript codices are given in 724 descriptions. The volume contains the following sections: linguistics (lexicography and lexicology), 22 titles of works in 41 descriptions; morphology, 58 titles in 160 descriptions; syntax, 107 titles in 359 descriptions; style, 33 titles in 98 descriptions; prosody, 6 titles in 12 descriptions; literature and literary sciences, 48 titles in 34 descriptions.

The descriptions of the MSS follow the order applied in Volume I of Darwisî’s Catalogue, 1969.

In the catalogue which is being prepared now on Arabic manuscripts (linguistics and grammar) by A. Stoilova, some of the inaccuracies in this catalogue are indicated.

The register consists of detailed descriptions of 95 codices in all—copies of the Qur'an only, which at the time of the creating of the catalogue were available in the Oriental Department. From these, 45 manuscripts are completely preserved and 50 partially so.

The catalogue of Ganka Petkova-Bojanova in comparison with the catalogue of A. Darwish gives information about 16 more manuscripts. Since the year of its publication, 1977, the holdings of the Oriental Department have been enriched by 20 more copies of the Qur'an, but these have not been catalogued yet.

The descriptions are arranged in chronological order according to the date of copying, (if it is indicated) or according to the century in which this was done. In cases where the date of copying is not indicated, the attribution is carried out on the basis of its palaeographic characteristics (mainly by means of watermarks, if available, or by means of the type of script) as well as on the basis of differences in their marginal notes on the text (for dedication to a Waqf, for possession, etc.). The manuscripts described in the catalogue can be divided as follows: from the 13th century—1 of 25 Ramadam 669 (May 7th 1271); from the 14th century—9; from the 15th century—8; from the 16th century—23; from the 17th century—15; from the 18th century—20 and from the 19th century—19 manuscripts.

The following details are given for each MS.: number of leaves, dimensions of the leaves and text in cm; number of lines on a page; number of leaves in one quire. The palaeographic data are shown in a rather detailed fashion and they include: characteristics of the paper (its thickness, colour, type, availability of watermarks); binding; condition of the manuscript; colour of the ink; type of script; artistic merits of the volume. According to the author 6 copies were made in the tradition of Ibn Muqla (886–941). The description also includes information typical for a copy of the Qur'an: number of sūras and āyāt for the fragmentary MSS, vocalization, signs for reading recitation, indications for prayers, etc. Data concerning the history of the manuscript are quite detailed: notes concerning the dedication to a Waqf, marginal notes made by scribes, owners, readers, seals available, etc.

The bibliographical reference indicates volume I of A. Darwish's Catalogue and any omissions and inaccuracies there.

The following indexes are included: Bulgarian-Arabic and Arabic-Bulgarian alphabetical list of the Arabic terms and names; transliteration; geographical names; names of the scribes; names of the owners; names of the donors; reference numbers of the MSS and corresponding numbers in the register; chronological table.

The inventory also contains 10 colour illustrations of samples of calligraphy. The Introduction and Preface are translated in Russian, English and Arabic. Further volumes are in preparation.

Forthcoming. Volume III of the new series "Catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts" compiled by Dr. St. Kenderova has been prepared and is about to be published. This volume treats thoroughly the manuscripts on Hadith in the collection of the National Library and there are also included small fragments containing only a few lines. This catalogue presents 130 more MSS than Darwish's earlier catalogue.

A new and shorter scheme of description is adopted in this volume so that the scientific study of the collection of manuscripts should be facilitated. This scheme has also been applied in the study of the other Arab manuscripts and in the preparation of the Catalogue of the Turkish manuscripts. It consists of the following elements: Title of the work in Arabic and Cyrillic alphabet; name of the author in contracted variant in Arabic and Cyrillic alphabet with indication of the date of his death or the years during which he had lived and worked; short description of the work (if necessary); incipit and explicit if they are not indicated by W. Ahlwardt or if there is any deviation from his information, (in cases of fragmentary MSS the indication of the beginning and end is always given; name of the scribe, place and date of copying, if the year is not mentioned in the original, only the century is indicated, with more details if possible (beginning, end, middle, first quarter, etc.); number of leaves, dimensions of the leaves and the textual margins in mm, number of lines per page; number of hands that have taken part in the copying of the work, type of script and external features (if necessary), colour of the ink, "unwān" present or other artistic merits of the copy, binding (if it is leather); name of the person who had made a dedication to a Waqf, date of the dedication to a Waqf, seals of such libraries present; bibliography arranged in the following order: publications on the work; other catalogues in which the given work is described with indication of any inaccuracies; other copies of the work described given in Verzeichnis des Arabischen Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin, B.II. Berlin, 1889 by W. Ahlwardt, in Arabic manuscripts of the Institute of Oriental Studies, USSR Academy of

The descriptions of the manuscripts are arranged in chronological order—according to the year of death of the author of the work; and if it is not known—according to the years when he had lived and worked or according to the year of compilation of the work itself. If several works are known for one and the same author, their descriptions are arranged alphabetically.

The catalogue includes: indexes of the names of the authors in full; of the titles of the works; of the names of the scribes; of the geographical names; of the names of the people who made dedications to a Waqf; of the Waqf libraries; the indexes are rendered in systematic transliteration into the Latin alphabet.


Unpublished catalogues: A Topografski Katalog on slips is available, but not reliable for scholarly work.

Uncatalogued MSS: Approximately only 36.4 per cent of the Arabic MSS, ca. 2.6 per cent of the Turkish MSS and about 87.5 per cent of the Persian MSS have been catalogued.

About 63.6 per cent of the manuscripts in Arabic are not described in printed catalogues. These are works on Islamic law, philosophy, dogmatics, ritual and prayers, medicine, mathematics, geometry, astronomy, etc. Certain copies of the Qur’ān, tafsīr, linguistic, grammatical and literary works have not been described yet. Some of them were received in the Library after the publication of the catalogues cited above. Others escaped the authors’ notice as the latter did not work for a sufficient period of time in the National Library and were not acquainted with the whole collection.

VELIKO TURNOVO

SS. Cyril and Methodius University Library

ul. Teodosii Turnovski 1
Veliko Turnovo

Tel.: 26 11
Date of establishment: 1963
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Open to students, lecturers and staff of the University; citizens of Veliko Turnovo.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 08.00–20.00; Saturday, 08.00–17.00; Sunday, 08.00–13.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12 (3 Arabic; 3 Turkish; 6 collections (majmuā) including works in Arabic and Turkish).
Description of collection: The Library possesses about 300,000 volumes on subjects taught at the University. The Islamic manuscripts were bought in 1990; previously they were in private ownership. All the codices are in the field of Islamic religion in the broadest sense.
Uncatalogued.

VIDIN

Museum of History

3700 Vidin
Tel.: 2-44-21
Date of establishment: 1910
Holds Islamic MSS, uncatalogued.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Bulgaria is described on pages 529–530. The article describes the Turkish collections and the state of their catalogues, published and unpublished.

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Sagin, Fuat. Geschichte des arabischen Schriftums. Band VI. Leiden:
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CAMEROON

by

Peter Nkangafack Chathe

1991