EGYPT

by

A Committee from
Dār al-Kutub al-Miṣriya
supervised by
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

A number of mosque libraries in Egypt contain collections of Islamic MSS. Some, but not all, of these are included in this survey. Further information may be obtained from the Wizārat al-Aqwāl (Ministry of Islamic Endowments) in Cairo.

UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS

List of 1,099 titles, in Arabic.

Originally published as a series of articles in 1919. Arranged by subject, with a list of libraries by country at the end. Egyptian collections receive special attention: the author was a famous Egyptian scholar and collector of MSS.

Contains details of Arabic & Turkish MSS in various Cairo libraries.


**INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS**

**ABU TIG (Abū Tīj)**

Furughli Mosque (Masjīd al-Uṣūdī al-Furughli)

Abu Tig, Asyut Governorate

Status: Mosque library

Known to possess Islamic MSS: for further information apply to the Ministry of Awqāf in Cairo.

**ALEXANDRIA**

ʿAbd al-Razzāq al-Wafāʿī Mosque Library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The MSS are all Qurʾāns. For further information, apply to the Ministry of Awqāf in Cairo.

Alexandria University Library (Maktabat Jāmīʿat al-Iskandariyya)

Ahmad Hasamayn Street, at the back of the Faculty of Agriculture, Shatbi, Alexandria.

Tel.: 597 0755

Date of establishment: 1942

Status: University library

Conditions of access: Admission without payment for students and researchers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,191 (1,051 Arabic; 140 Turkish/Persian).

Description of collection: The MSS are deposited in a narrow passage, kept in wooden glass-fronted cupboards which are always closed. There is no ventilation and some are wormed while others are heavily impregnated with dust. No means are available for care or maintenance.

Topics covered by the MSS include taṣwīr, Ḥadīth, Ḥadīth terminology, fiqh, kalām, logic, philosophy, literature, language, morphology, grammar, rhetoric, prosody, history, geography, medicine, arithmetic, astronomy, alchemy, physics. There are some rare
autograph MSS. Most were copied in the 11th and 12th centuries. Important MSS include the following:
1) Al-Khūtayfū by Aḥmad ʿUmar Naʿm al-Dīn, date of copying 405 AH;
2) Shāhīn al-Makna by Fakhr al-Dīn al-ḥāfiz, date of copying 775 AH;
3) Al-Wādīyūn al-ṣāḥib by Abū Tammām, date of copying 637 AH;
4) Frāīb wa-Shahīn Mughnī al-ṣāḥib by Muhammad al-Amīr al-
   ʿAzharī, date of copying 761 AH;
5) Kanz al-Daqaqīq by Abū ʿAbd Allāh al-Nasafī, date of copying 842
   AH.

There is also a set of modern documents not yet enumerated, which date from 1680 to 1690.

A collection of microfilms was also given to the museum of the
Faculty of Arts in 1960.

There are no printed catalogues.

Unpublished catalogues: There is an enumerative register (ṣijill ḥanṭṣ), which
gives name of author, title and some information about it,
number of volumes, number of leaves, lines, type of ink, date of
 copying, style of script, page size. Arranged by serial no.

A card index is also provided, arranged by author. Particulars:
name of author, title of the MS., subject, style of script, date of copying,
number of leaves, page size. Compiled a long time ago by a
library cataloguer.

Al-Būṣīrī Mosque Library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 17 (Arabic?).

For further information, apply to the Ministry of Awqāf in Cairo.

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Library (Maktabat Batriyarkiyat
al-Rūm al-Urthawdhūkhs)

P.O. Box 2006, Alexandria

Date of establishment: 10th century CE.

Status: Christian religious library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 8 (Arabic).

Description of collection: These few Arabic MSS are part of a large
collection of mainly Greek codices.

Published catalogues:
(By Théodore D. Moskionas.) Alexandria. Reprinted (with
addenda), Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1965 (Studies
and Documents, XXVI), 260pp.

Arabic MSS, nos. 283–295, 398, 414. See Huisman (Bibliographical
Appendix below), p. 11, for corrections to the index.

Municipal Library (Maktabat Baladiyat al-Iskandariya)

18 Mansha Street, near the Muhafazah building, Alexandria.
Tel.: 482 5800 Ex. 418

Date of establishment: 1892

Status: Public library

Conditions of access: Researchers and postgraduate students only. Applica-
tions for photocopying MSS are sent to the Maritime Transport
Academy (Akadēmias al-Naqūl al-Bahrī); the MS. is micro-
filmed and a paper photocopy is given to the researcher, the
microfilm being delivered to the library.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4,624 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).

Description of collection: The MSS are housed in an oval room, on open
wooden shelves, and arranged by subject. They are fumigated every
six months, but they are in very bad condition. Some damage has
been caused by heat and humidity and no conservation or repair is
carried out.

The subjects of the MSS include the Qurʾānic sciences, recitation of the
Qurʾān, rasā (design) of the muṣḥaf, taṣfīr, ṣaḥīḥ, terminol-
ogy, principles of jurisprudence, the four schools of Islamic Law,
morphology, grammar, rhetoric, composition, language, prosody and
rhyme, literature, theology, tasawwaf, the Islamic sects, beliefs,
prayer, logic, ḥikma, philosophy, ethics, biography of the Prophet,
history, geography, medicine, veterinary medicine, alchemy and
physics, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, astronomy, astrology, music,
military arts and fortifications.

The collection is of considerable importance. Most MSS were
written between the 11th and 13th centuries AH. Among the impor-
tant MSS of the collection are: (i) Saḥīḥ Muslim (13 parts) by ʿAbd
al-Mušāfi, p. 205
MUSLIM, dated 368 AH; (ii) Al-Fajr wa'ul-Qa'ida by Abū ʿAlī al-Farisi al-Nāṣiri, date of copying 390 AH; (iii) Al-Jamiʿ bi-Akhlaq al-Rāziī wa-Ādāb al-Sāmiʿ by Abū Khatib al-Baghdādī, date of copying 500 AH; (iv) Al-Tudfīn fi Akhār Qaza'īn by Abū ʿAlī al-Rāfī. There are some precious MSS in the handwriting of their authors such as Al-Maqūri and Jaʿlā al-Suyūṭī.

Published catalogues:

   Classified. Gives titles, authors, dates of authors' deaths, number of parts, script styles, copyists, dates of comment on subject matter.


   Classified and arranged by title within each subject. Gives titles, authors, incipits, script styles, dates, copyists.

   Continuation of preceding item.

Most MSS were copied between the 10th and 12th centuries AH. Many of the MSS are in the handwriting of their authors; others are contemporary or early copies. A number of private scholars' libraries were donated to the Library. The collection is highly important. It contains a number of rare MSS, including:

1) Al-Kairisi fi an Ḥaqqīq al-Tanzīl by Zamarshariq (died 538 AH) in the handwriting of al-Mawsīlī, who copied it from the author’s original MS. in 654 AH;
2) Al-Ikmāl fi Ṭuḥfat al-Iṣtiyāḥ by Ibn Mākūlā (died 475 AH), date of copying 607 AH;
3) Al-Jahān wa-l-Ta‘dīl by Al-Rasī (died 327 AH), date of copying 632 AH;
4) Ṣafuṣ al-Anwār by Al-Dhalawi, date of copying 700 AH;
5) Ḥasan al-Sāfīr al-Shaḥīd by Husam al-Din al-Bukhari, date of copying 901 AH;
6) Al-Wajīz by Imām al-Ghazālī, date of copying 573 AH;
7) A Qurʾān in the handwriting of Abū l-Maṣūmīn Ibn Anār l-Naṭīr ibn Naṣr, 528 AH;
8) Dīwān al-Mutanabbī, date of copying 544 AH;
9) Rasūm Dār al-Khiṣāfā by Al-Sa‘īn, date of copying 455 AH;
10) Ṭaj al-Maṣūdī fi Ṭuḥfat al-Muqri, date of copying 661 AH;
11) Shahr Durrat al-Ghaawās by Al-Rāzi, draft by the author, date of copying 823 AH;
12) Addū l-Murādīn by Al-Schraawardi, (died 563 AH), date of copying 659 AH.

Published catalogues:

1858. See Union Catalogues section above.


Gives titles, authors, copies, dates, script styles, number of leaves, ruling; in some cases, especially when the text is unpublished, brief notes on author & content.

N.B.: In addition to the main library, to which all the foregoing information relates, there are also three separate mosque libraries in Al-Azhar. They are those of Masjid al-Atrāk (Mosque of the Turka), which has 3,500 MSS; Masjid al-Maghāriba (Mosque of the Maghribia), which has 4,378; and Masjid al-Shawām (Mosque of the Syrians), which has 883. No further information is available on these holdings.

Cairo University Library

Giza
Date of establishment: 1927
Status: State university library
Conditions of access: Reading and photocopying for students, researchers and teachers without conditions.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 5,000 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish; 20% are photocopies, not original MSS).
Description of collection: The collection is valuable and includes rare MSS. Most were written between the 11th and 13th centuries AH. Rare MSS include: Al-Murshida fi 'Ilm al-Hisāb by Ibn al-Haytham, date of copying 783 AH; Al-Wafya: Sharh al-Kāfiya by Al-Astakhārābādī, date of copying 848 AH; Siyāsat al-Badān wa-Fiqīh al-Sharābī by Al-Kāzarūnī, date of copying 860 AH.

These were part of the library of Prince Ibrāhīm Hilmi, which he gave to the University Library.

The MSS are kept on shelves in wooden cupboards with glass doors and curtains; their condition is excellent, although there are some slight defects requiring conservation and repair work.
Published catalogues:

Forthcoming. A bibliographical list has been completed by the Documentation Section in the Library under the supervision of Fātimah Ibrāhīm, and is in the press. It includes 2,000 texts embodied in the Library’s Arabic MSS, arranged by subject, then by title, with names of authors (& dates of their deaths), incipits, explicit, number of leaves, script styles, ink colours, descriptions, rulings, dimensions, copyists, dates. A similar list of Turkish & Persian MSS is also in press.

Unpublished catalogues: Fihrist biẖārāt al-kutub al-makhlūqā wa-'l-maḥfūzā fi maqāṣid fi jāmi'a al-Qāhirah. Available in the main library of the University; a copy is held by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilization Research (Al Albait Foundation), Amman, Jordan.
Uncatalogued collections: According to Bronbaum (see Bibliographical Appendix below), p. 701, there is in this Library ‘a great hoard of uncatalogued Turkish MSS, estimated . . . to number about 4,000 items’.

Coptic Museum (Al-Mathaf al-Qibti)

Mari Girgis, Miṣr al-Qaḍīma (Old Cairo)
Tel.: 363 9742 or 362 8766
Date of establishment: 1920
Status: State museum library
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and postgraduate students.
Description of collection: Arabic and Coptic (sometimes bilingual) MSS predominate, and the subject-matter is mainly Christian (Bible, liturgies, hagiography, etc.), but there are also some on medical and scientific subjects. They date mostly from the 16th – 19th centuries.

The MSS are generally in good condition, and are kept in glass-fronted cupboards. Conservation and repair work is carried out by the Egyptian Antiquities Service, to which the Museum belongs.
Published catalogues:
1934. See Union Catalogues section above.
1939 – 42. See Union Catalogues section above.
1986. See Union Catalogues section above.

Unpublished catalogues:
1. Card index, arranged according to serial numbers, in the storage room, prepared by the catalogues department under the supervision of Samīr al-Masīhi and Naḥīj Wahba. Particulars: title, author, number in the Library, incipit, explicit, number of leaves, language, page size, ruling, copyist, date of copying, number in the 1939 – 42 union catalogue, and a study of the MS. together with a physical description.
2. Analytical (card) index, arranged by names of persons; on each card reference is made to the title of the MS, in which the person is mentioned (page, line, book). Prepared by Şāmiya ʿAbla al-Shaḥīf and Nābir Wāhba.

Coptic Patriarchate (Dār al-Batriyarkiya)

P.O. Box 9035, Cairo

Status: Christian religious library

Description of collection: The Patriarchate library holds a number of Christian Arabic and Arabic/Coptic MSS.

Published catalogues:

1934. See Union Catalogues section above.

1939–42. See Union Catalogues section above.

1986. See Union Catalogues section above.

Dar al-Kutub al-Qawmiya (al-Miṣriya) (Egyptian National Library)

Corniche al-Nil, Ramlat Bulaq, Cairo

Tel.: 775 228 or 775 000

Date of establishment: 1870, in Darb al-Gamamiz; moved in 1904 to Ahmad Mahir Square, Bab al-Khalq; in 1876 the Qawalla Library and the Mustafa Faṣıl Library were incorporated into it; subsequently a number of private libraries were incorporated, the most important being Al-Khiāna al-Taymūriya, Maktabat al-Sulāqīya, Maktabat al-Ḥusaynīya, Maktabat al-Shaykh Muhammad ʿAbla al-Maktaba al-Zakiya, Maktabat Ḥalim Pasha, Maktabat Khalīl Aqā, Maktabat Makram.


Conditions of access: The library can be used by any Egyptian or foreigner without any conditions.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 50,755 (47,065 Arabic; 996 Persian; 2,150 Turkish).

Description of collection: The MSS are in a separate storeroom, placed on metal stands. The Repair Centre of the Organisation undertakes continuous conservation work and the treatment of any damage which becomes apparent in the collection. In the storeroom there is a need to install air-conditioning and ventilation equipment and also to deal with the level of relative humidity, which exceeds the average required by MSS.

The MSS collection in Dār al-Kutub is regarded as one of the largest and most important in the world. It contains priceless and rare MSS from the Islamic heritage, especially from the first four centuries AH, as well as extremely rare illustrated MSS unmatched anywhere else in the world. There is a high proportion of MSS copied in the early centuries of Islam.

Nearly all subjects are covered.

Published catalogues:


Incl. Arabic, Persian & Turkish MSS.


Arranged by subject, then by title within each subject. Incl. titles, authors (with dates of birth & death), incipits, brief information on subject-matter, numbers of volumes, styles of script, copyists, dates, numbers of leaves.


Incl. Turkish & Persian MSS. The Malay (fawṣiya) section contains only printed books. Gives titles, authors (with date of death), incipits, subject-matter, number of leaves, scripts, rulings, dimensions, copyists, dates. Index of authors' names.

1894. Quelques mots sur les manuscrits arabes de la Bibliothèque


1924–42. Fihrīt al-kutub al-ʿArabiyya al-maṣūjūdā bi-Dir al-Kutub al-


Classified. Vol. 1 gives only titles & authors; Vols. 2–8 give also authors’ dates, brief details of subject-matter, incipits, script styles, numbers of vols., copyists, dates, numbers of leaves, rulings & dimensions. Vol. 9 lists only printed books.


Descriptions of 7 MSS (6 Arabic and 1 Turkish).


The first separate catalogue of MSS, prepared in the Department of MSS, established in 1952 after the physical separation of MSS from printed books in 1951. Gives titles, authors (with dates of births & deaths), incipits, explicit, some information on subject-matter, scripts, copyists, dates, dimensions, leaves, rulings.

Detailed descriptions of 70 Persian illustrated MSS, arranged chronologically, with indexes.


Descriptions of 23 Arabic MSS on coffee, tea, tobacco, cannabis, etc.


1986. A survey of the scientific manuscripts in the Egyptian National


Catalogue of selected MSS in Dār al-Kutub.

Unpublished catalogues:
- There are also card catalogues of the Khalīl Āghā and Ḥalīm collections.

Imam al-Husayn Mosque Library

The holdings include a large-format Qur'ān dated 1070 AH and other Arabic MSS.

Institute of Arabic Manuscripts (Maḥad al-Makhṭūṭūt al-`Arabīyya)

1 Shihab Street, Mohandisseyn, Cairo
Date of establishment: 1947
Status: Affiliated to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
Conditions of access: All researchers may use the library and make copies of what they require.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20,000 (Arabic) on microfilm.

Description of collection: The Institute photographs the rarest and most important MSS all over the world and catalogues both private and public libraries not yet catalogued, combining all of them into a unified catalogue. To this end it has been sending missions to photograph MSS, has requested photographs to be sent by post, and has managed to acquire them also through exchange of gifts in its contact with other bodies and organisations.

The microfilmed MSS cover nearly all subjects.

Published catalogues:
- Classified catalogue of microfilms.

Unpublished catalogues: Card catalogues of titles, authors and subjects.

Qasrīyat al-Riḥān Church

Miṣr al-Qadi̇m (Old Cairo)
Status: Christian (Coptic) church library
Published catalogues:

Saint Menas Monastery (Dayr Mār Mīnā)

Miṣr al-Qadi̇m (Old Cairo)
Status: Christian (Coptic) monastic library
Published catalogues:

Sayyida Zaynab Mosque Library
Sayyida Zaynab, Cairo
The holdings include Qur’âns and works on fiqh.

Al-Sultan al-Hanafi Mosque Library
The holdings include Arabic MSS.

DAMANHUR
Public Library
Miidan al-Sa’a, Damanhur
Tel.: 337 824 and 337 844
Date of establishment: 1928
Status: Public library
Conditions of access: Researchers and students must provide a formal letter of introduction.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 255 (Arabic; Turkish/Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection contains Qur’âns and MSS on anatomy, ethics, fiqh, grammar, Hadith and Hadith terminology, language, literature, maqam, maqarir, rhetoric and Sufism.
Although the collection is not a big one, it contains some relatively old MSS. Most of the MSS, however, were written in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries AH. There are no published catalogues.
The collection is kept in wooden cupboards with glass fronts. There are no arrangements for conservation, fumigation or repair. Some of the MSS are worm-eaten.
Among the important MSS of the collection are: (i) Ta’rîfât al-Sayyid al-Sharif al-Jurfâni, dated 926 H; (ii) Al-Mishk fi ‘l-Nahw by Abu l-Fatih Nasir al-Dîn b. ʿAbd al-Shahid b. ʿAlî al-Mišrî, dated 964 H; (iii) Ḥâshiya ‘alâ Sharh al-Adab by al-Mašâ’ûnî, dated 997 H; (iv) Fath al-Malik al-Jawâd bi-Sharh Manzûmat Ibn al-Imâm by Muḥammad al-Râmid al-Ansârî, dated 997 H.

Unpublished catalogues: According to the librarian, an attempt is being made to prepare a card index, but this is still in its very early stages. There is a register in which MSS and printed books are listed in no particular order.

DAMIENTTA
Al-Bahr Mosque Library
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30 (Arabic).

Religious Institute (Al-Ma’had al-Dini)
Corniche al-Nil, Dimyat (Damietta)
Tel.: 324 265
Date of establishment: 1894; but according to Sezgin (see Bibliographical Appendix below), p. 323, the Library was founded in 880 AH [1475/76 CE]
Status: Seminary for boys, affiliated to Al-Azhar in Cairo.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 3,325.
Description of collection: The Institute of Arabic Manuscripts has photographed a number of MSS, including the following: 1) Dîwân al-Sarraj al-Warrag, 10th century H; 2) Al-Muharrîr min Shîrî Miynâr al-Dâwâmâ, selected by Ibn al-Sawrafi, 6th century H; 3) Al-Risâla al-Hâtimiyyah, by Al-Hâtimi, 6th century H; 4) Kütâb fi ’l-Maṣarrât al-Tibbiyya, 6th century H; 5) Kütâb al-Adab al-Jami, by Ibn al-Muqaffâ, copied in 532 H.
Published catalogues:
1957. See Union Catalogues section above.

Unpublished catalogues: Handwritten, listing 3,325 MSS.
FUWAH

Tubal Mosque (Masjid Tūbal)

Fuwah, Kafr al-Shaykh Governorate
Status: Mosque library
Description of collection: Includes a Qurʾān and commentaries. For further information, apply to the Ministry of Awqāf in Cairo.

MANSURA

Arbaʾīn Mosque Library

The holdings include part of a MS. Qurʾān.

Dār al-Kutub al-Ṣāmma (Public Library)

Shāriʿ al-Jumhūriya, Corniche el-Nil, Mansura
Date of establishment: 1918; based on the collection of Muḥammad Naʿm al-Dīn which he bequeathed to the library.
Status: Public library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 335 (332 Arabic; 1 Persian; 1 Turkish; 1 Arabic and Turkish).
Description of collection: The collection contains Qurʾāns and MSS on astronomy, fiqh, general knowledge, grammar, Hadith, language, literature, medicine, Oriental languages, philosophy, qiraʿat, rhetoric, prosody and rhyme, Sufism, tafsīr, inshāʾ and theology.

Most of the MSS were written in the 11th and 12th centuries AH. The collection is kept in wooden glass-fronted cupboards. There are no measures for their conservation and preservation; the level of humidity is very high; the MSS are in very poor condition and many are wormed.

Among the important MSS of the collection are: (i) a Qurʾān in the hand of Yūsuf ibn ʿAbd al-Rahmān, dated 988 H; (ii) Tafsīr Ghārīb al-Qurʾān by Muḥammad ibn ʿAzīz al-S̱uṣṭānī, dated 572 H; (iii) Sharḥ Tālqīḥ al-Mīṣāb, in the hand of Khīrūr ibn Yūsuf, dated 874 H; (iv) Sharḥ ʿalāl al-Dīn al-Islām by Yaḥyā ibn al-Bursawī, dated 945 H.
Published catalogues: 1939 – 42. See Union Catalogues section above.

List of 338 MSS.

Unpublished catalogues: Card catalogue of MSS & printed books, giving subjects, titles, authors, number of parts, number of vols., dates, number of pages, dimensions.

Dūkī Library (Maktabat al-Dūkī)

The holdings include MSS on grammar and tafsīr.

Husayn Bey al-ʿUmri Mosque Library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 12 (Arabic).

Mahmūdiyya Mosque Library

The holdings include a MS. Qurʾān.

QUSIYA

Al-Muharraq Monastery (Dayr al-Muharraq)

Status: Christian (Coptic) monastic library
Description of collection: Christian Arabic & Coptic MSS.
Published catalogues: 1939 – 42. See Union Catalogues section above.

ST CATHERINE

St Catherine Monastery Library (Dayr Sānt Kāṭarīn)

South Sinai
Tel.: 770 945
Date of establishment: Officially established in 1950, but it has been part of the Monastery since it was built in 540 AD.
Status: Christian (Greek Orthodox) monastic library
Conditions of access: Researchers and scholars can use the Library with prior approval from the Archbishop. Total number of Islamic MSS: 757 (756 Arabic; 1 Persian) + 1,742 documents in Arabic & Turkish.

Description of collection: The MSS include Bibles, ecclesiastical writings, theological writings, exegesis, testimonies of the Fathers, essays, historical writings, biographies of saints and general histories of the Church.

The MSS are preserved in metal cupboards and safes, or on open metal shelves. Continuous conservation and repair work is carried out by a number of well-trained monks. The MSS are in good condition.

The Library contains a valuable collection, including old Arabic MSS written on parchment and the earliest Arabic texts of the Bible. There is also a collection of Arabic and Turkish documents which are of historical importance. Two important MSS are: 1) The Four Gospels in Arabic, on parchment 859 H; 2) Kitāb Tibb al-ʿUyun by ʿAli ibn ʿIṣā, in quasi-Kufic script.

Published catalogues:


List of 319 titles in Arabic, with notes in Russian.


1973. Illustrated manuscripts at St. Catherine’s monastery on Mount Sinai.


1986. See Union Catalogues section above.

Unpublished catalogue:
An Arabic translation was published in 1970—see above.

SHIRBIN al-KAWS
Public Library of the Palaces of Culture (Al-Maktabat al-`Āmma li-Qaṣr al-Thaqâfa)
Tel.: 321 648
Date of establishment: 1927
Status: Public Library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 198 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection contains Qur’āns and MSS on most of the religious and legal sciences, education, grammar, history, literature, logic, philosophy, principles of research, rhetoric, mathematics, Sufism and composition (waqf). They were mostly written in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries AH, but a few are from the 10th and 11th centuries. The collection is kept in a large hall which houses all the holdings of the library. The MSS are in a wooden cupboard with glass doors and are occasionally fumigated. Apart from that there is no conservation or repair work, and some MSS have been affected by worms.

Among the important MSS of the collection are: (i) ʿUddat al-Ḥijj al-Ḥāfīz min Qaṭūr al-Mursafín, by Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Jazarī (d. 833 H), dated 879 H; (ii) al-Fawāʾid al-Diyāʾīyya by ʿAbd al-Ḥajmān al-Jāmī, dated 945 H; (iii) Sharḥ Kamāl Bāḥaʾ al-Šīrījī al-Šīrījī fi l-Partūn by Kamāl Bāḥaʾ al-Shāhī, dated 970 H; (iv) Durān al-Hukmā fī Sharḥ Ḥurūb al-Aḥkām bi-Muḥaṣṣal Khusraw, dated 995 H.

Published catalogues:
List of 199 MSS.

Unpublished catalogues:
Register (ṣijīl) listing MSS nos. T1–T199 (lacking T45).
Card catalogue including both printed & MS. material. This is in a state of disorder because there are no professional staff in the Library.

SHIRBIN
Maktabat Shams al-Dīn al-Shirbīnī
Shirbin, Daqahlia Governorate
Status: Mosque library
Known to possess Islamic MSS: for further information apply to the Ministry of Awqāf in Cairo.

SOHAG
Balashūra Library
Status: Private; owned by Shaykh Jamāl al-Dīn Bādhr.
Description of collection: Known to include an autograph copy of Part VI of Al-Maghrīb fī bālā l-Maghrīb by Ibn Saʿīd al-Maghrībī; no further information available.
Rifa’a Râfi‘ al-Ţahâwî Library

Tel.: 3015
Date of establishment: 1932. Established when Muḥammad Badawi Rifa’a bequeathed the library of his grandfather, Rifa’a Bey al-Ţahâwî, to the Municipality of Sohag.
Status: Municipal
Conditions of access: Access to MSS granted only to researchers and post-graduate students, who need a formal letter of introduction from their research institution. Photography has been suspended for lack of microfilm and xerox equipment.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,067 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection is of some significance and contains a number of MSS written in the 7th and 8th centuries AH. Most, however, were written in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. Some of the MSS are in the hand of the author.

The collection is kept in glass-fronted wooden cupboards or on metal shelves in a separate room from the printed material. Some MSS have been affected by damp and by worms; there are no facilities for conservation or repair.


The numbers of MSS dealing with each subject in the collection are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qur’ans</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjugation</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiqh</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadîth</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Published catalogues:
Incl. list of 25 MSS.
Unpublished catalogues:
Register (sijil) divided by subject.
Card catalogue, prepared long time ago by a committee from Dâr al-Kutub in Cairo. Classified but poorly arranged, giving titles, authors, dates of copying, numbers of parts, pages, dimensions.

TALKHA
‘Afîf Mosque (Masjid al-‘Afîf)
Nashâ, Talkha, Daqahliya Governorate
Status: Mosque library
Known to possess Islamic MSS: for further information apply to the Ministry of Awqaf in Cairo.

TANTA
Ahmadi Institute Library (Maktabat al-Maḥd al-Aḥmadi)
Tanta Secondary Institute, near the Railway Station, Tanta.
Date of establishment: 1898
Status: Religious Secondary Institute, affiliated to Al-Azhar.

Conditions of access: The Library requires a formal letter of introduction from the institution to which the researcher or scholar is affiliated. Requests to photocopy must be approved by the Secretary-General of Majma‘ al-Bujūth al-Islāmiyya (Islamic Research Academy).

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 3,000 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection contains Qur‘ān’s and MSS on fiqh, grammar, Ḥadīth, history and Sūra, language, literature, tafsīr and taqwīd. Medicine, chronometry, arithmetic and algebra are classified under “Miscellaneous Subjects”.

The collection is of moderate significance and contains some old and rare MSS. Most of them, however, were written in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries AH.

The MSS are kept in wooden cupboards in a dark and unventilated room. There is no kind of conservation or repair. Some MSS have been affected by damp and by worms.

Among the important MSS of the collection are: (i) Qurṭ al-‘Uṣūn al-Nawzīr by Ibrāhīm al-Jawzdī, dated 616 H; (ii) Muntakhab al-Imām al-Sadūqī by Al-Fākhr al-Rażī, in a rare and valuable edition dated 699 H; (iii) Shahr ‘Uṣūn al-Halab by Al-Fākhr al-Rażī, dated 775 H; (iv) Shams al-‘Uṣūn by Al-Qaḍī Nasir al-Din b. Sa‘īd (parts II and III), dated 780 H; (v) Kāshf al-Asrār fi ‘l-Mantiq by Al-Khwāṇī, dated 987 H; (vi) Al-Mukaddimah fi mā Waqī‘a fi ‘l-Qur‘ān min al-Ma‘rūb by Al-Suyūṭī, written in his lifetime.

This collection was previously kept in the Ahmadi Mosque. Published catalogues:


1957. See Union Catalogues section above.


This is the catalogue of the Institute’s collection, which used to be housed in the Mosque. Systematic list of 2,271 MSS, arranged by subject, then alphabetically by title. Gives titles, authors (with dates of their deaths), copists, dates, numbers of leaves, dimensions. Index of authors.

Unpublished catalogues: Register (jiṣīl), in 16 vols., of both MSS & printed books, divided by subjects but not arranged in any order within subjects.

Aḥmadi Mosque Library (Maktabat al-Majlis al-Ahmadi)

Tel.: 3219

Date of establishment: ca. 1898

Status: Mosque library, affiliated to the Ministry of Aqwāf.

Conditions of access: The Library requires a formal letter of introduction from the institution to which the researcher or scholar is affiliated.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,292 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection contains Qur‘ān’s and MSS on ‘Aqīdah, education, furū‘ah, falsa, fiqh, grammar, Ḥadīth, history and Sūra, interpretation of dreams, language, magic and the occult, mantiq, medicine, philosophy, principles of research, psychology, qira‘ah, rhetoric, prosody, sociology, Sufism, tafsīr and taqwīd.

Most of the MSS were written in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries AH. The collection is relatively important and contains some autograph MSS.

The collection is kept in cupboards, some wooden and glass-fronted and some metal. They are not in good condition as there are no facilities for their care or conservation; many of them are worn-eaten.


Unpublished catalogues: There is a register which is arranged by sub-
ject—although the classification is not completely reliable, particularly in the last pages.

Dār al-Kutub al-Baladiya (Municipal Library)

Qaṣr al-Thaqāfa, Shārī al-Maṭḥaf, Ṭanṭā

Date of establishment: 1913

Status: Public library

Conditions of access: MSS may only be consulted with the permission of the Directorate of Palaces of Culture in Gharbiya Province.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 129 (124 Arabic; 1 Persian; 4 Turkish).

Description of collection: The collection contains MSS on ʿAqīdah, ḥadīth, ḥikmah, history, language, maṭnīq, principles of research, rhetoric, Sufism and tasfīr.

Most of the MSS were written in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries AH. The oldest MS. in the collection is Al-Nasafi’s Kan zb-d-Daqqīq dated 847 H.

The collection is of great significance and is badly neglected. It is kept in a glass-fronted cupboard in a state of chaos. A lot of the MSS are badly worm-eaten.

Published catalogues:


List of 292 MSS.

Unpublished catalogues: Register (sijill), in no particular order, giving titles, authors, language, copyists, dates, number of pages.

WADI ʿ-INṬRŪN

St. Macarius Monastery (Dayr Abū Maqār)

Status: Christian (Coptic) monastic library

Published catalogues:

1939 – 42. See Union Catalogues section above.


Classified listing of 490 MSS, the great majority in Arabic.

ZAʿFARĀNA

St. Anthony’s Monastery

Status: Christian (Coptic) monastic library

Published catalogues:

1939 – 42. See Union Catalogues section above.

St. Paul’s Monastery

Status: Christian (Coptic) monastic library

Published catalogues:

1939 – 42. See Union Catalogues section above.

ZAQAʿIQ

Dār al-Kutub (Public Library)

11 Shārī Taʿfāt Harb, Zaqāiq

Tel.: 323 108

Date of establishment: 1924

Status: Municipal

Total number of Islamic MSS: 232 (228 Arabic; 1 Turkish; 3 Arabic & Turkish).

Description of collection: The collection contains MSS on ʿAqīdah, ethics, ḥadīth, ḥikmah, grammar, Ḥadīth and Ḥadīth terminology, Kalām, logic, principles of research, rhetoric, Sūrah, Sufism, tasfīr.

Most of the MSS were written in the 12th and 13th centuries. Some are autograph copies.

The collection is kept in wooden glass-fronted cupboards. There is no conservation or repair except occasional fumigation. Some of the MSS are very poor shape and many are worm-eaten.

Among the important MSS of the collection are: (i) Majmuʿ al-Balḥayn (Part II) by ʿAbd al-Sāʿīd, dated 863 H; (ii) Maktābat al-Fatūḥa by an unknown author, written in the hand of Amīr b. Jābir al-Qushuṭārī, dated 875 H; (iii) Al-Fawāʾid al-Ḍiyārīa by ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Jāmiʿ in the author’s hand, dated 897 H; (iv) Mutaqqa ʿl-Akhar by Ibrāhim b. Muḥammad b. Ibrāhim al-Ḥalābī (d. 956) in the author’s hand, dated 923 H; (v) ʿAbd al-Malik, dated 943 H; (vi) ʿAbd al-Ṣāʿīd
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Mīr, p. 51, no. 170.


Egypt, pp. 251–254.


Cairo, p. 701.


Egypt, pp. 11–13.


Mīr, p. 215, no. 190.


Cairo, p. 15.


Bibliography of catalogues and surveys of Arabic MSS. Égitet/Égypt, pp. 80–92, nos. 332–400.


