IRAN

by

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INTRODUCTION

On the basis of existing evidence* one can claim that Iran is, after Turkey, the second most important country as regards the possession of Islamic manuscripts. Its importance does not lie merely in the fact that Iran possesses a large number of Islamic manuscripts (approximately 200,000). For there are hundreds of very old, unique, rare and precious manuscripts kept in Iranian collections. The collection of Astān-i Quds Rāgāvī in Mashhad alone contains over 11,000 Qur'ān manuscripts, some of them written by the most famous Muslim calligraphers, gilded with marvellous illumination and decorations of high artistic quality.

It is necessary to mention here three characteristics of Iranian collections in relation to this current survey:

1. Traditionally there has been a reluctance in Iran to make any distinction between Arabic, Turkish and Persian manuscripts. Consequently no-one has made a serious attempt to give statistics of the manuscripts according to the languages in which they are written: this is true in big public collections as well as small private ones. Therefore only the total number of manuscripts is given in most cases.

2. Iranian private collections are numerous. Although the contents of several important private collections have been either donated to public or university libraries or purchased by them, there are still many important private collections in Iran.

3. There is reason to believe that there are still collections in private hands, in old Madarasahs and mosques which are not known to researchers. Though every effort has been made to make this survey as comprehensive as possible, it is by no means exhaustive.

As regards cataloguing, the first attempt to catalogue the existing collections systematically started some 70 years ago. There is still a long way to go to catalogue all of the existing collections. The first

* The results of the present survey of Islamic MSS throughout the world give substance to this claim. However, we are not sure about the state and statistics of Islamic manuscripts in India. Though the survey has been completed there, and is published elsewhere in this volume, the results are not comprehensive enough to convince us whether or not India should be considered as the second most important country as regards the possession of Islamic manuscripts.
cataloguers, who were well established scholars in the field of Islamic learning, include: Ürümči, Aβe al-Qāsim Fīrūz al-Mulk, Ibn Yūsuf Ḥaddā'iq (Shirazi), Aβe al-'Azīz Jawāhirī, Muhammād Naqījavārī and then Muhammād Taqī Dānishpažūrī, Ḥajj Afsār, Ḥāfiz Naqīj Munavvī, Aβe al-Husayn Ḥāfīz, Ahmad Gulčīn Ma'erī, Ahmad Munavvī, Mahmūd Vilā'ī, Ahmad Husaynī Ishkvarī, Rāghā Ustādī and others.

Two of the above mentioned scholars deserve particular mention: first, Muhammād Taqī Dānishpažūrī who with his vast and profound knowledge of Islamic manuscripts rendered a great service to the field by cataloguing several important collections, both public and private, in Tehran and other cities of Iran. He also collaborated with other scholars in cataloguing collections. Secondly, Ḥajj Afsār who also pushed the trend of cataloguing Iranian collections forwards in two ways: 1) by cataloguing private and public collections individually or in collaboration with others; 2) by organising cataloguing projects and by encouraging and helping other scholars to catalogue more collections in the country.

Two further things are also worth mentioning in connection with the survey of Iran. All changes of names of collections and libraries which occurred in the wake of the revolution in 1979 in Iran have been recorded wherever possible: the former names are indicated either in footnotes or under the description of the collection. Secondly, as far as the names of collections are concerned, all titles such as: Ayyāt Allāh, Ḥujjat al-Islām, Sayyid, Ḥāji, Mirzā and Doctor, which usually precede the names of the collections, are omitted. When absolutely necessary, in only a few cases, such titles have been put after the name of the collection, in brackets.

We should like to acknowledge the help of Professor Afsār who, during his recent visit to London, kindly went through this survey in its final stage and made a few suggestions. Our thanks are also due to our friend Shahtaram Pāzūrī who provided us with some information about a few collections.

Cambridge, December 1991

Abstractions

FIZ Farhang-i Ïrān-Zanīn
LA Lughat al-`Arab
NDAI Nashrīyāh-i Dānishkhādeh-i Adabīyāt-i Īsfāḥān
NKH Nashrīyāh-ī Khāṭṭī (Nashrīyāh-ī Kitābkhānah-ī Markāz va Markāz-ī Aṣnaad-ī Dānishgāh-ī Tehrān)
RAAD Reuve de l'Academie Arabe à Damas = Majallat al-Majmū`-`Ilmī al-`Arabī bi-Dimashq
RIMA Reuve de l'Institut des Manuscrits Arabes = Majallat Ma`had al-Makhlufat al-`Arabiyya
RK Rāghā-ī Kitāb

UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS


1954. فهرست-ی مصنفانفئت-ی ابن سینا. به یاسین مهدی، تهران، صفحات 413 + 20 اپ.

1956. یاسنیا ها چند نوشته-ی کاتبی. به محمد رسولی تبریزی و رضا یستادی. قم، صفحات 1335. 448 اپ.

1957. نفلین ایل-الماکتیخیت الهه-ی ایل-اسلام فی ایران، به یوسف ایل-ماهفیز، RIMA، صفحات 3–78.

1958. عرفاننامه ایل-رضا بی فارسی. به ایل-ناسی مونزاب، تهران، صفحات 342 + 8 اپ.

1958. کتابکشنی‌های-ی ایران، به ایل-ماهفیز، Majallat-i Kitabkah-yi Māh، تهران، صفحات 52–53.


1960. بازخوان ماهد ایل-المکتیخیت لله ایران، به سلیمان الدین-ال-میمن، RIMA، صفحات 325–332.

1961. فهرست-ی پیش‌تر از قربانی-ی اکثراً و سیاست، به ایل-ناسی مونزاب، NKH، 1، صفحات 140، صفحات 211–227.


1962. کتابکشنی‌های-ی مشهد، به ایل-ناسی مونزاب، NKH، 5، صفحات 991–994.


1964. کتابکشنی‌های-ی شاهر-ی ایران، به ایل-ناسی مونزاب، NKH، 5، صفحات 397–399.

1967. فهرست-ی کتابکشنی‌های-ی اکثراً و سیاست-ی ایران، به ایل-ناسی مونزاب، NKH، 5، صفحات 298–325.


INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

AHVĀZ

Muḥammad Shūshtarī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 32 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The Arabic MSS cover mainly the fields of fiqh, taṣfīr and belief, and the Persian ones are mostly related to literature. Out of 32 MSS, 11 are maṣūmāt MSS in a mixture of Arabic and Persian.
Published catalogues: The collection has been briefly catalogued. The published catalogue is not detailed. It gives in most cases the title and the author for each individual MS. See 1974. Nushkah-hā-yi khaṭṭī-i Sayyid Muḥammad Shūshtarī Ahvāz by ʿAlī Naqī Munzavī, NKH, 7, 1353, p. 795.

ĀMUL

Mirzā Abū al-Ḥasan Pishnамāz Āmulī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 25 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are mostly related to Shiʿīte fiqh and ḥadīth. There is also a MS. on Persian poetry, a couple of MSS on medicine and alchemy, and 2 of them are maṣūmāt MSS.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued. The published catalogue is not detailed. See 1967. Kitābkhānah-hā-yi Aṣā-yi Mirzā Abū al-Ḥasan Pishnamāz Āmulī dar Shahr-i Āmul by Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpazhūh, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 400 – 405.

ARĀK

ʿAb al-Husayn Bayāt Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 75 (Arabic and Persian)*.
Description of collection: The collection contains important MSS on history, taṣkurah, literature and in particular on Persian poetry, i.e. Divāns. A part of this collection has been donated to the Anjumān-i Aṣā-yi Millī Library.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued in part only. Some 75 MSS, mostly Diwāns and a few historical MSS have been described in the following work:

See also 1969–71. Taqkarahhā-yi Fārsī by Aūmad Gulcēn Māʿānī under “Union Catalogues” above.

* The total number of MSS of this private collection is not known. The figure indicates only the number of MSS which have been catalogued.

Kitābkhanah-i Āmūmī-i Shahr-i Arāk

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (Arabic and Persian)*.
Description of collection: Ikhrāṣh Dhīghān donated his private collection to this library. The donation constitutes the main bulk of the MSS of this collection. The MSS mostly cover the fields of fiqh and tafsīr; Persian literature is also represented.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued in part. See 1967. Nuskhahhā-yi khaṭṭi-i Ikhrāṣh Dhīghān by Īrāj Afshār, NKH, 5, 1346, p. 112.

* The total number of MSS is not known. The figure indicates only the MSS which have been catalogued.

ARDABIL
Āstānah-i Shaykh Ṣafī al-Dīn Ardabili

Status: Endowment
Published catalogues:

HAMDĀN
Ārāmghā-i Bū ʿAlī Library

Status: Public/State
Total number of Islamic MSS: 25 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of medicine, logic and philosophy, poetry and prayer. There is also one Turkish-Persian MS. on lexicography, and two are majmuʿāt MSS containing Arabic and Persian treatises.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued by Parvīz Ḍagānī, whose work has been seen, completed and published by Dānishpāzūh. See 1967. Fihrist-i-kitābkhanah-i Ārāmghā-i Bū ʿAlī dar Hamadān, pp. 326–340 in Fihrist-i-kitābkhanahhā-yi āmūmī va khūṣūṣī-i shahr-i Hamadān by Muḥammad Taqi Dānishpāzūh, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 326–387.

Awqāf Library

Status: Public/Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The Arabic MSS mainly cover fiqh. One MS, a Diwān attributed to Iwām ʿAlī, contains a Persian translation under the Arabic lines and Persian commentary in the margin.
Published catalogues: The collection has been briefly described and the catalogue published. See under 1967. Kitābkhanah-i Awqāf, p. 349 in the above cited article by Muḥammad Taqi Dānishpāzūh.

Bahr al-Faṣāʾil Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: 4 MSS, which belong to the owner of the collection, are on Shiʿite fiqh and alchemy. The others, which do not belong to him but are in his keeping, cover the fields of Arabic linguistics, fiqh and logic.
Published catalogues: The 4 MSS belonging to the owner have been
catalogued by Muhammad Taqi Dinishpazhi. The catalogue is not detailed; see

The remainder of the MSS in the collection have been catalogued in detail by Parviz Aqza‘i. See
1974. Nushkah‘a-yi Aqa-yi Bahar al-Fa‘zul, pp. 1662–1671, in Farsi-i nushkah‘a-yi khat‘i-
Published catalogue: The published catalogue, which gives in almost all cases the title and author of each MS., is based on a handlist available in the collection. See 1967. Kitābkhanāh-ī I'ītimād al-Dawlah, pp. 341–346 in the previously cited article by Muhammad Taqi Dānishpazhūh.

Jalāli Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic/Persian; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: The Arabic MSS are on Shi'ite belief and prayer. They also have Persian translations of the texts. The Persian MS. is a Divān of Ḥāfiz.
Published catalogues: The published catalogue is not detailed. See 1967. Nuskha'ā-yi Āqā-yi Dukhtar Jalālī, p. 382 in the above mentioned article by Muhammad Taqi Dānishpazhūh.

Kamāli Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 74 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: There are 62 MSS on fiqh and religious subjects, which were written 80–90 years ago. The older MSS, 12 in number, cover mainly Shi'ite fiqh and belief. Four MSS are majma'ahs containing Arabic and Persian treatises on various subjects.

Madrasah-i Aḵund-i Hamadān (Kitābkhanāh-ī Gharb)

Date of establishment: 1324/1945
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,555 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).
Conditions of access: None
Description of collection: The old madrasah known as 'Madrasah-i Aḵund-i Hamadānī' was refurbished in 1321/1942 and one of its traditional rooms—a Huṣrah—was allocated to the library. The collection of MSS belonging to the late Hājj Muhammad Ja'far Qaraqūzlu known as Māgūr Salīshah Kardar-Asangi, which was kept in a village near Hamadān, was then transferred to the newly established library (most of the MSS in this collection were badly damaged). Through careful repair work approximately 400 MSS were saved and these MSS constituted the first holding of the Madrasah-i Aḵund-i Hamadān. In 1332/1953 a new building was donated to the library and was called 'Kitābkhanāh va Qaraqūzlu-ī Aḵund-i Hamadānī'. More MSS were acquired by the library through purchase and donations from pious people. The MSS are currently kept safely on shelves and are in no danger. The collection covers all fields of Islamic sciences.


In this catalogue the MSS are described in the following order: Part (I) Persian and Turkish MSS Part (II) Arabic MSS Part (III) Majmā'ahs, containing Arabic and Persian treatises.

The bibliographical-codological details which are given in this catalogue include: title, author, beginning and ending, library classification, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, dimensions, marginal notes, headings and illuminations, particulars of MSS, some sample facsimiles and indexes of titles, which have been given separately for each part.
Madrasah-i Dâmghânî Library

Status: Public/School library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (3 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are on Shi'ite fiqh and tafsîr.

Madrasah-i Zanganah Library

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are on Shi'ite fiqh and tafsîr. One MS. is on science and another is a majmû'ah.

Maṣūr ʿArab


Maḥmûd Izâdî Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Description of collection: The Arabic MS. is a Qur'ân of the 12th/18th century which is illuminated, and the Persian MSS are on ethics.
Published catalogues: The published catalogue is not detailed. See 1967. Nuskhah Āqî-yi Maḥmûd Izâdî, p. 369 in the above quoted article by Muḥammad Taqi Dānishpazhûh.

Muḥammad Najâfî ʿArabzâdah Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: There is only one majmû'ah MS. in this collection which contains Arabic and Persian treatises.
Published catalogues: See 1967. Nuskhah Āqî-yi Sayyid Muḥammad Najâfî ʿArabzâdah, p. 385 in Muḥammad Taqî Dânishpazhûh’s article.

Naṣr Allâh Bâni Śâd Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are on fiqh and prayer.
Published catalogues: The published catalogue is not detailed. See 1967. Nuskhah Āqî-yi Ḥâjj Sayyid Naṣr Allâh Bâni Śâd, p. 380 in the aforementioned article by Muḥammad Taqî Dânishpazhûh.

Qâsim Burüna Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 52 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are of Persian poetry and a few are on fiqh, ethics, history and medicine.

Riţâ Hamrâh Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 49 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).
Description of collection: It covers mostly the fields of fiqh and belief. There are also a few literary and philosophical MSS. Two of the MSS are majmû'ahs.
Published catalogues: The published catalogue gives detailed information on each MS. See

**Taqî Yūsufi Collection**

**Status:** Private  
**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 3 (Persian).  
**Published catalogues:** See  

**Other MSS in private hands**

In the above repeatedly cited catalogue compiled by Muḥammad Raḥshân, Jāvâd Maqṣūd and Parvīz Aqāžî, under the subtitle "Mutararrîqât", pp. 1703–1716, detailed descriptions have been given by Parvīz Aqāžî of 13 MSS which are in the possession of the following private individuals:  
- Fûrūzanmâhâ 2 MSS, ʿAllî Akrâr Mâqûlî 1 MS., Kitâbkâhâh-i Khîrab 1 MS., ʿOdâlé Mâhâr 2 MSS, ʿAbaqâ Zand 4 MSS, Amîr Sâsân Dîghghîn 1 MS., Hâdî Murtâzâvî 1 MS., Hâmîn Sîrîlû 1 MS.

**ĪṣFâhân**

**Caro Minasian Collection**

**Status:** Private  
**Description of collection:** This private collection once contained 2,500 MSS. The owner has died and the collection has gradually been sold; parts of it are now in the libraries of Wadham College, Oxford and the University of California, Los Angeles. It could not be established whether any part of this collection is still left with any of its inheritors.  
**Published catalogues:**  
1967. Kitâbkâhâh-i Āqâ-i Duktûr Kârû Mînasîvân, p. 325 in

Kitâblkâhâh’hâ-yi ʿumûmi va khuṣûṣ-i Īṣfâhân by Muḥammad Taqî Dânishpârîhâ, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 290–325.

**Hasan Jâbirî Ansârî Collection**

**Status:** Private  
**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 67 (Arabic and Persian).  
**Description of collection:** The MSS are mostly Persian works of poetry (dîvâns) and the remainder are on philosophy and history.  
**Published catalogues:** The published catalogue is not detailed.  

**Imâm Šâdiq Library**

Châhâr Bâgh, Avval-i Āmâdâh  
Tel.: 031 237788  
**Status:** Public/State  
**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 1,185 (ca. 700 Arabic, a few Turkish, and the rest Persian).  
**Conditions of access:** Application has to be made in advance to gain admission to the collection.  
**Description of collection:** This is an important collection which covers the fields of fiqh, tafsîr, prayer, belief, philosophy, logic, linguistics, history, geography, Persian poetry (dîvâns) and prose, and sciences. From the Qajar period there are several MSS of translations from European languages into Persian, which are of historic and socio-political value. The collection contains some unique MSS as well as some which are significant for their date of copying, illumination and other artistic qualities. Two important MSS are:  
- Maṣnaqî by Ibn Shahâb âsârûb, copied in 589 AH, and a copy of Diwân-i Mathnâwî by Jalâl al-Dîn Muḥammad Balkhî (Rûmî), copied in the 13th century, which is beautifully decorated and possesses high artistic quality.  
- The collection was first called "Kitâbkâhâh-i ʿumûmi-i Īṣfâhân", and then "Kitâbkâhâh-i Farhang-i Īṣfâhân". After the revolution in 1979 its name was changed to "Kitâbkâhâh-i Imâm Šâdiq".

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The MSS are not kept in an appropriate place. Instead they are kept in boxes. The authorities in charge stated that the MSS were in no immediate danger.

Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued in part. See 1965. Fihrist-i Kitābkhanāh-hā-yi shahrīstānīhā: Tabriz, Kāshān, Yazd, Isfahān, by Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpazhūhī, NKH, 4, 1344, pp. 283–480. See Kitābkhanāh-i Farhang-i Isfahān, pp. 473–474. Only 15 MSS have been briefly described.


1967. Fihrist-i Kitābkhanāh-hā-yi ʿumūmi va khūṣūsī-i Isfahān, by Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpazhūhī, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 298–325. See Kitābkhanāh-i Farhang-i Isfahān, pp. 315–322. 45 MSS have been briefly described.

1970. Fihrist-i nuskah-hā-yi khāṣṣī-i Kitābkhanāh-hā-yi ʿumūmi-i Isfahān. By Jāvād Maqṣūd Ḥamadānī. Vol. 1. Tehran: Wizārat-i Farhang va Ḥunar, 1349. 395pp. In this catalogue the MSS have been described in the following order:


The bibliographical and codicological details which are given in the catalogue include: serial number, title, some details on the life and work of the author, details of the content of the MS., chapters and sections, beginnings and endings, library classmark, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, dimensions of the MS., measurements of the written surface, number of lines per page, number of folios, type of paper, cover and binding, marginal notes, headings and illuminations. There are sample facsimiles and an index of titles. In this catalogue 708 MSS are described.


Unpublished catalogues: For the remaining uncatalogued MSS, a handwritten list is available which gives the titles of the MSS.

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**Kashfi Collection**

*Status: Private*

*Published catalogues:*


**Kitāb Collection**

*Status: Private*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).*

*Description of collection: 1 MS. is on linguistics and the other on Islamic philosophy.*

*Published catalogues:*


**Kitābkhanāh-i Markazī-i Dānishgāh-i Isfahān**

Dānishgāh-i Isfahān

Tel.: 031 40065

*Date of establishment: 1347/1969*

*Status: University library*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,180 (Arabic and Persian).*

*Description of collection: This collection was established in 1347/1969. However, for various reasons the MSS were kept in the library of Dānishkudar-i Adabiyyāt-i Isfahān for some subsequent years. Hence, all catalogues dealing with this collection bear the name of the collection as Dānishkudar-i Adabiyyāt-i Isfahān. All the MSS from this library have been recently transferred to this new collection. Also included are the MSS of Ṣaḥīḥ Hāshimī. In 1500/1971 the MSS of the Kitābkhanāh-i Shahrārāy-i Isfahān were donated to this collection. The collection of Sheikh Muḥammad Bāqir Ulūf was also bequeathed to this collection in his will.*

*The fields of fiqh, logic, philosophy, prayer, history, literature, Arabic grammar and tasawwuf are covered in this collection.*

*The MSS are kept on shelves in a purpose-built library. The valuable MSS are kept in security boxes.*
Published catalogues:


1965. Kitābkhânah ī Dānishkadhâ-i Adabiyyat-i Isfahān (pp. 475-480) and Kitābkhânah ī Shahrîrâ’ī-i Isfahān (pp. 470-472) in Fihrist-i kitābkhânahâ-yi sharîrstânāh: Tabrīz, Kâshān, Yazd, Isfahān by Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpāzūhū, NKH, 4, 1344, pp. 283-480.


Unpublished catalogues: All the MSS in this collection have been catalogued. There is currently a new catalogue in press which is due for release soon.

Muzah-i Kiliṣa-yi Arāminah

Status: Religious (Christian)/Public
Description of collection: This collection contains several Bible MSS from the 10th century onwards as well as some paintings and documents of Safavid kings. The Islamic MSS are Al-Qimān of İrs Sīnā copied in the 11th century, a Qur‘ān translated into Armenian of the 18th century and 1 MS. on prayer in Persian.

Rawżâtī Collection

Status: Private
Description of collection: This collection contains some important MSS, whose number the owner would not divulge. The owner, Mr. M.‘A. Rawżâtī, a well established scholar in the field of Islamic manuscripts, has compiled, amongst others, a catalogue of Islamic MSS in the libraries of Isfahān which gives some information on some of his own MSS. See

1962. Fihrist-i kathi‘ under Union Catalogues above.

Published catalogues:

Rağaviyâh Collection in Madrasah-i Šadr

Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 24 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The fields of fiqh and philosophy make up the main part of this collection. There are also a few MSS on mathematics and medicine.

Published catalogues: The published catalogue is not detailed. See


KĀŠHĀN

ʿAbbās Bihniyâ

A small private collection which covers the fields of fiqh, history, poetry and belief. A couple of MSS were written by their authors. Only 4 MSS of this collection have been described. See

Abū al-Riḍā Library

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS in this small endowment library contain Persian literary and historical texts.
Published catalogues: See Kitābkhānah-i Sayyid Abū al-Riḍā, p. 355 in:

Amīr Kabīr Library

Bāghshāh-i Fin
Status: State/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are mainly on ethics; one is on medicine.

Āḡār-i Millī Library

Status: State owned
Total number of Islamic MSS: 172 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The fields of fiqh, logic, philosophy, literature, history and astrology, etc. are covered.
Published catalogues: 42 MSS have been briefly described in:
Unpublished catalogues: A handwritten list is available in the library which gives the title, author (if known) and some other details of all the MSS in the collection.

Ḥasan ʿĀṭifī Library

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 171 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of fiqh, tafsīr, hadith, Qurʾān, Persian poetry, kalām, philosophy, logic, history, astrology, medicine, linguistics and ethics.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued by the owner in detail. See

Mazār-i Afṣal al-Dīn Kāshānī Library

Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MS. is on ethics and was copied in the 11th-12th century AH.

Rāzāvī (ʿAyāt Allāh) Library

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 100 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The main fields represented in this collection are fiqh, hadith, tafsīr, Shiʿīte belief, philosophy, logic and kalām.
KIRMĀNSHĀH
Nujumi Collection

Status: Private
Published catalogues:

MARĀGHĀH
‘Abd al-Qādir Yazdānpūr


MASHHĀD
‘Abd al-Ḥamid Mawlāvi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 678 (677 Arabic and Persian; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: An important private collection which represents the fields of tafsīr, fiqh, belief, prayer, logic, philosophy, kalām, astronomy, linguistics, history, Persian and Arabic literature, geometry, medicine, and mathematics. There are 145 majmūʿah MSS which contain treatises in Arabic and Persian on various subjects.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued, but the published catalogue is not detailed. See 1967. Fihrist-i nuskhah’hā-yi khaṭṭī-i ‘Abd al-Ḥamid Mawlawi, by Mahfīz Vila’ī, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 7–107.

‘Ali Aṣghar Aṣgharzāda Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 77 (76 Arabic and Persian; 1 Turkish).

Description of collection: Most of the MSS are Persian. They cover the fields of Shiʿite fiqh, tafsīr, literature, belief, prayer and grammar. There are also 4 majmūʿah MSS in this collection.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued by the owner, but the catalogue is not detailed. See 1967. Nuskhah’hā-yi khaṭṭī-i Ḥājj Sayyid ʿĀli Aṣghar Aṣgharzāda, by ‘Ali Aṣghar Aṣgharzāda, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 613–617.


‘Ali Shārī’ati Library

Status: State/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 150 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection was first called ʿKitābkhānāh-i ʿUmūmī-i Farhang va Hunar-i Mashhād”. After the revolution its name was changed to its present name. The collection covers the fields of fiqh, ḥadīth, logic, philosophy, ethics, history, astrology, mathematics, geometry, and medicine.

The catalogue is detailed and provides all bibliographical and codicological information on each individual MS.


Āstān-i Quds-i Rażvī Library

Kitābkhānāh-i Markazi-i Āstān-i Quds-i Rażvī Mashhād, Filkāh-i Hagrāt, Mashhād
Tel.: 20845
Date of establishment: 861 AH / 1457 CE
Status: Endowment/Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 29,000 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).

Note: The last statistics of 1368/1989 give the total holding of the collection as 28,795 MSS. At the time of compilation of this Survey, the number will have undoubtedly risen to over 29,000 MSS as the collection acquires MSS through donation.

Conditions of access: A membership card is required, which can be obtained by submitting an application to the library authorities.

Opening hours: Saturday – Thursday 08.00 – 19.30 (Closed: Friday).

Description of collection: The collection is one of the oldest in the Islamic world and the most important in Iran. Of the 29,000 MSS it possesses, 11,000 are Qur'ans. This is the largest collection of Qur'ans MSS in the world. It is also important in that it contains a large number of magnificent, old and illuminated Qur'ans, including several old Kufic Qur'ans written on deer-skin, others with marvellous illuminations from the 3rd century Hijra (9th century CE) onwards, and some written by famous calligraphers.

Apart from the Qur'an MSS, there are several unique MSS written by the authors themselves, and also some precious illuminated MSS of high artistic quality. A few of the old and precious MSS of the collection are as follows:

Sharḥ Dīwān Tamīm Ibn Moḥḥad, on Arabic literature, written in 308 AH.

A translation of Mukhtar, written by Abū ʿAbbās Moḥammad ibn ʿAbbās al-Maḥāsinī, on Arabic exegesis, written in 308 AH.

Khawāṣṣ al-Aṣḥāb, on medicine, written in the 8th century AH.

Abū Maḥṣūfah al-Jamshīdī, on mathematics, written by the author himself in 827 AH.

The MSS are kept on shelves in a modern building and modern techniques are used for their preservation. The MSS are checked regularly. Damaged MSS have been repaired and any new MS. acquired is systematically checked and, if damaged, is repaired immediately.

This collection includes the collection of “Kitābkhāna-i Madrasa-i Mirzā Ḥajī Jafar’.

Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued. A detailed description of all the MSS has not yet been carried out. However, a handlist of all MSS, except the Qur'an MSS, was published in 1990 and provides concise information on the MSS in the collection.


NB: 1) No author’s name has been given for Vols. I–V of this catalogue, apart from the name of the director of the library, which appears underneath the introductory note. Nonetheless, later sources establish the names of the authors as follows: Abū Ḥamīd Gūlchīn Maʿṣūmī, ʿAlī ʿIrāfīyān, Sayyid ʿAlī Ardabālān, ʿAlī ʿIrāfīyān, ʿAlī ʿIrāfīyān, ʿAlī ʿIrāfīyān. 2) In Vols. 1–11 of this catalogue, which includes MSS on all Islamic subjects, pagination for each subject starts at 1. Under each subject-heading the MSS as well as the printed books are described. Consequently one cannot give a total number of pages for the whole volume.

In this catalogue almost half of the contents of the collection (ca. 9,000 MSS) have been thoroughly catalogued. In Vols. 1–VI the MSS and printed books have been catalogued together, MSS first and then printed books. The description of the MSS has been done by subject.

The bibliographical and codicological details given in the catalogue include: serial number, title, author, some details on the life of the author, contents of each MS., chapters and sections, beginnings and endings, style of script, number of lines per page, number of folios, dimensions, name of scribe, date of copying, cover and binding, name of donor, index of titles, authors, resources, names of people and places.
Note: Vol. XII of this catalogue is already in press and Vol. XIII is ready to go to press.


214 Qurān MSS have been selected and described in this guide. The criteria applied for this selection consist of: present condition, age, value, illumination, script and cover decoration of each Qurān. The cataloguing is done chronologically. The bibliographical and codicological details include: the names of the Suras of each Qurān, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, name of illuminator, type of paper, headings and signs, the details of the illumination and decoration of the first 2 folios, measurements of the written surface, number of folios, cover and binding, and name of the donor. The guide is provided with a general index.


The bibliographical and codicological details given in this catalogue include: title, author, style of script, language, date of copying, and subject.


The collection, which was located in Tehran, was bought by the library of Āstān-i Quds-i Rażvā and moved to Mashhad.


326 Qurān MSS with Persian translation from the Qurān collection of Āstān-i Quds-i Rażvā have been selected and catalogued. These have been translated over a long period of time, from the 4th to the 20th century AH. They are important documents of the development of the Persian language as well as Islamic scripts such as Kufic, Nasẖ, Nastāʿfī, Thuluth, etc. Therein lies the significance of these Qurāns, as well as in their illuminations, their variety of paper and decorated covers.

The bibliographical and codicological details of this catalogue include: names of the Suras, beginnings and endings, date of translation, characteristics of scripts, Arabic technical terms and their Persian equivalents, type and colour of paper, style of script of the
Arabic text and translation, name of scribe, date of copying, illuminations, patterns of seals, number of folios, number of lines on a page of the text and translation, measurements of the written surface and the folios, cover and binding, indexes of names of the scribes, titles of books, names of places, donors and people.


This useful handlist covers all MSS of this collection—Quiran MSS excepted—and gives details of each individual MS. The details include title, author, language, subject, date of compilation or copying, library classmark and style of script.

Dânishkadhâ-i Adabîyat va ʿUllum-i Insâni Library

Dânishkadhâ-i Adabîyat va ʿUllum-i Insâni

Status: University library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 403 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).

Conditions of access: It is used mainly by the university staff. An outsider can also use the collection by applying in writing to the college authorities.

Description of collection: The collection was rather small and contained only a few MSS until 1970, when the private collection of Mâhmûd Farrûkh was purchased by the Faculty. Two years later the private collection of All Akbar Fayyâq was also bought by the Faculty. In subsequent years some more MSS were also acquired.

The collection covers the first place the field of Persian literature, then history, ethics, astrology, fire, medicine, lexicography, alchemy, taṣfîr, mathematics, philosophy, geometry etc.


The bibliographical and codicological details given in the catalogue include: title, subject, language, author, some details of the life of the author, date of completion, details of the content of each MS., chapters and sections, beginnings and endings, style of script, number of lines to a page, measurements of the written surface, number of folios, dimensions of the folios, name of scribe, date and place of copying, patterns of seals, names of previous owners, headings and illuminations, marginal notes, type of paper, cover and binding, dimensions of MS., indexes of titles, titles arranged by subject, names of scribes, titles of MSS according to their date of copying, titles of MSS which are written by their authors, names of places.

Dânishkadhâ-i Ilâhîyat va Maʿârif-i Islâmî Library

Mashhad University Campus
Tel.: 051 719081 4

Status: University library

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 2,000 (Arabic, Persian and a few Turkish).

Conditions of access: The collection is used mainly by the professors of the Faculty. It is not easy for outsiders to gain access. However, one can try by approaching the Faculty authorities.

Description of collection: The collection covers the fields of fire, taṣfîr, hadîth, kalâm, logic, philosophy, Arabic linguistics, ethics, Sufism, history, literature, astrology, etc. The collection contains some unique and valuable MSS.


The bibliographical and codicological details which are given in the catalogue include: title, language, subject, author, some details
of the life of the author and content of the MS., chapters and sections, beginnings and endings, style of script, number of lines to a page, measurements of the written surface, number of folios, dimensions of the MS., name of scribe, date of copying, headings and illuminations, type of paper, cover and binding, library classmark, sample facsimiles and indexes of titles, authors, titles arranged by subject, titles of MSS which are written by their own authors, names of scribes, patterns of seals, names of places. In the 3 volumes of the catalogue 1,986 MSS have been described.

NB: 1) Indexes of all 3 volumes have been put at the end of Vol. 3; 2) 77 photocopies of MSS have been described in Vol. 3, pp. 1275–1349.

Jāmīʿ-ī Gawharshād Library

Fīlḵūh Aḥmat, Mashḥad

Tel.: 051 23276

Date of establishment: 1332/1953

Status: Endowment/Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,006 (Arabic, Persian & a few Turkish).

Conditions of access: One has to apply for a membership card, but no particular requirements are needed to obtain one.

Description of collection: In 1332/1953 Sayyid ʿArafat ʿAbd Allāh Isfahānī donated 2,000 MSS to the Maṭbāʿ-ī Jāmīʿ-ī Gawharshād. This donation made up the first holding of this collection. In subsequent years devoted religious people donated more MSS. The texts are mostly Arabic and cover almost all fields of Islamic science. The MSS are kept on shelves. Their physical condition is good and they are in no danger.

Published catalogues: In the following catalogue the MSS are briefly described:


This catalogue covers 1,200 MSS which have been described in detail. The bibliographical and codicological details given in the catalogue are as follows: library classmark, title, subject, language, author, commentator, some details on the life and works of the author as well as on the content of each MS., beginnings and endings, style of script, number of lines to a page, measurements of the written surface, date and place of copying, heading and illuminations, indexes of titles, authors, titles according to subject, titles written by author, titles according to their date of copying, patterns of seals, names of scribes, names of owners, names of places and facsimiles.

NB: Vol. 4 of this catalogue, which covers another 400 MSS, is ready for press.

Kāẓim Mudīr-Shānāchī Library

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 180 (145 Arabic; 35 Persian).

Description of collection: It covers the fields of fiqh, hadith, logic, kalām, philosophy, history, geography, medicine and poetry.

Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued by the owner. See 1967. Farḥāvest-e farābān-ī Kāẓim Muṭīr-Shānāchī by Kāẓim Muṭīr-Shānāchī, NāK, 5, 1346, pp. 584–611.

Madrassah-ī ʿAbbās Qulī Khān Collection

Status: Endowment/Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 30 (Arabic and Persian).

Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are in Arabic and cover the fields of fiqh, belief and logic.


Madrassah-ī Ḥājj Ḥasan Collection

Status: Endowment/Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 9 (Arabic and Persian).

Description of collection: The MSS are mostly on belief and a couple of them are on history.
Published catalogues:

Madrasah-i Khayrāt Khān Collection

Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 139 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection represents mainly Shi‘ite fiqh, tafsīr and belief. There are also some MSS on logic, kalām and medicine, and 21 majmu‘ah MSS containing Arabic and Persian treatises on the same subjects as the others.

Madrasah-i NAVVĀB Library

Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 712 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection represents Shi‘ite fiqh (219 MSS), hadīth (152 MSS), tafsīr (62 MSS), hijrāh (comprising kalām, philosophy and logic) (103 MSS), Arabic grammar (42 MSS), prayer (44 MSS), mathematics, geometry and astrology (32 MSS), literature (21 MSS), lexicography (11 MSS), Qur’ān recitation (6 MSS), ethics (6 MSS), genealogy (11 MSS) and history (3 MSS).

Madrasah-i Sulaymān Khān Library

Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 133 (123 Arabic; 10 Persian).

Description of collection: This collection covers Shi‘ite fiqh and belief.

MAḤMŪD FĀḠĪ Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 MSS (2 Persian; 1 Arabic).
Description of collection: A Persian tafsīr of the Qur’ān, an Arabic kalām MS., and a Persian religious MS.
Published catalogues: The collection has been described by the owner himself. See 1974. Nuskahah'ā-yi khaṭṭī-i MAḤMŪD FĀḠĪ, by MAḤMŪD FĀḠĪ, NKH, 7, 1353, 759–762.

QAZVIN

Khāndān-i Mir Ḥusayn-ya Qazvinī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,500 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection has been in use since the first owner, Amir Sayyid MUḤAMMAD ḤUSAYN TABBIRĪ-QAZVINĪ, a famous Shi‘ite scholar of the 12th century AH / 18th century CE, was still alive. The collection must have been much bigger than it is now. However, ca. 1,500 MSS have been left with the descendants of the first owner. They cover the field of fiqh (particularly Shi‘ite), tafsīr, hadīth, history, logic, philosophy, ethics, medicine, etc.
Published catalogues: Only 112 MSS have been catalogued. See 1969. Kitābbkhānahah-i Khāndān-i Aqā Mir ḤUSAYN-YA QAZVINĪ, by MUḤAMMAD TAQĪ DANIŠPĀHZICH, NKH, 6, 1348, pp. 334–335.
QUM
Ahmad Zanjáni (Āyat Allāh) Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 146 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers mostly Shi‘ite fiqh, hadith and genealogy, tafsīr, etc.

‘Ali Khunsārī (Hujiyat al-Islām) Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 150 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of fiqh, hadith, tafsīr, belief and prayer.

Āstānah-i Muqaddasah-i Qum Library
Kitābkhanah-i Āstānah-i Muqaddasah-i Qum
Tel.: 0251-32333
Date of establishment: 1330/1951 (This date indicates the reestablishment of the library in recent times. The origin of the collection, which was called Gangānah, goes back to the year 594 AH. But hardly any MSS have been left from the old collection.)
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 859 (Arabic and Persian).
Conditions of access: Special permission of the authorities of the Āstānah is needed to use the collection.
Description of collection: The significance of the collection lies in the fact that it possesses several precious and rare MSS mostly donated to this religious shrine by Safavid kings and princes. Some old, decorated and illuminated Qur‘āns as well as other unique and valuable MSS are part of the holding of this collection. A few important MSS are as follows:
The collection covers mainly the field of Qur‘ān, fiqh, tafsīr, hadith, kalām, philosophy, logic, linguistics and astrology.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued in detail, except for a few MSS which have not been catalogued yet. See 1967. Kitābkhanah-i Āstānah-i Qum, pp. 397–398 in Fihrist-i kitābkhanahā-yi ‘Alībābā-i Shah-i Qum, by Muhammad Taqī Dānishpāzhūh, NKH, 5, 1346, pp. 397–399.

The catalogue is in three parts: Part I, Qur‘ān MSS, pp. 1–72; Part II, Other MSS, pp. 73–182; Part III, Majma‘at MSS, pp. 182–233.
The codicological details given in Part I include: style of script, date of copying, rubrics and illuminations, number of folios, number of lines to a page, type of paper, cover and binding, measurements of the cover and the written surface, names of donors, patterns of seals, name of scribe, marginal notes.
Those in Parts II & III include: title, author, subject, language, some details on the author, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, headings and illuminations, number of folios, number of lines, type of paper, cover and binding, dimensions, name of donor, name of previous owner, patterns of seals, some sample facsimiles, indexes of titles, authors, names of scribes, donors, owners and the names of persons and places.

Gulpāygānī (Āyat Allāh) Library

Madrasah va Kitābhānāh-i Āyat Allāh Gulpāygānī
Eram Street
Tel.: 0251-33078
Date of establishment: 1354/1975
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 5,000 (Arabic and Persian).
Conditions of access: By applying to the authorities of the library.
Description of collection: The collection came into existence on the basis of the donation of 1,200 MSS to the library by Hājj Shaykh ‘Amd al-Rāzīq Kitābchī Īṣfahānī. Later he donated further MSS to the collection, and the library gradually acquired more.
It covers the field of Qur'ān, tafsīr, fiqh, hadith, prayer, kalām, philosophy, logic, ijtihād, medicine, linguistics, history, astrology. The bulk of the MSS are of a religious nature, i.e. tafsīr, hadith and fiqh.
The bibliographical and codicological details given in the catalogue include: serial number, title, subject, language, author and his date of death, some details of the content of each MS, date and place of compilation, chapters and sections, beginnings and endings, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, headings and illuminations, marginal notes, particulars of MS., certificate of permissions (jāzah-nāmeh), name of previous owner, patterns of seals, cover and binding, number of folios, number of lines, dimensions, indexes of titles, subjects and authors.

NB: The title index includes only MSS which have been described in Vol. II & III. Altogether 2,370 MSS have been described in this catalogue. Vol. IV will be published soon.
Unpublished catalogues: For the rest of the MSS which have been left uncatalogued, a handwritten list containing brief information on MSS is available in the library.

Mahdi Lājvardī Qumī (Hujjat al-Islām)

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 40 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of history, logic, literature, Sufism, medicine and kalām.

Madrasah-i Fayzīyah Library

Madrasah-i Fayzīyah, Qum
Date of establishment: 1349/1970
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,100 (Arabic; Persian; 4 Turkish).
Conditions of access: The collection is used mainly by the students and scholars of the Madrasah. Outside users should apply to the authorities of the Madrasah to obtain admission to the collection.
Description of collection: The bulk of the MSS are related to fiqh, hadith, tafsīr and belief, in particular Shi‘ī fiqh and belief. Nevertheless kalām, logic, philosophy, history, ethics, genealogy, linguistics and medicine are represented as well.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued, apart from a dozen MSS which have not been described yet. The published catalogues are detailed. See 1958–59. Fīhrist-i Kitābhānāh-i Madrasah-i Mubārakāh-i Fayzīyāh-i Qum. By Hājj Āqā Muhābāt ‘Arāqī. Qum, 1337–38. 2 vols. 475; 495pp.
The bibliographical and codicological details include: serial number, title, language, name of the donor, type of paper, dimensions, number of leaves, number of lines, style of script, headings and illuminations, name of scribe, date of copying, beginning and ending, author, some details of the life and work of the author, date of compilation, chapters and sections, indexes of titles and names.
NB: In this catalogue 2,950 printed books and MSS have been described.

The bibliographical and codicological details include: title, subject, author, some details of the life of the author and the content of each MS., chapters and sections, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, number of folios, dimensions of leaves, number of lines to a page, and index of titles.

NB: Vol. I is devoted to the description of Arabic MSS; Turkish, Persian and magribāli MSS are described in Vol. II.

Madrasah-i Hujjatiyāh Library

Madrasah-i Hujjatiyāh, Eram Street, Qum
Date of establishment: 1329/1950 (The date is approximate.)
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 720 (Arabic; Persian; 3 Turkish).
Conditions of access: The collection is used mainly by the students and scholars of the Madrasah. Outsiders need to apply to the authorities of the Madrasah for permission to use the collection.
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are on fīqh, tafsīr, ḥadīth, belief, prayer and history. The fields of Arabic grammar and linguistics, ḥadīth, kalām and medicine are also represented.
Published catalogues: The published catalogue is detailed. See
The bibliographical and codicological details given in this catalogue include: title, subject, author, date of compilation, some details on the content of each MS., chapters and sections, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, dimensions, number of folios, number of lines, index of titles.

Madrasah-i Razaviyāh Library

Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 100 (Arabic and Persian).
Conditions of access: The collection is used by the students and scholars of the Madrasah. Outsiders should apply to the authorities of the Madrasah to obtain admission.
Description of collection: The MSS are on fīqh, tafsīr, ḥadīth, belief and prayer.
Published catalogues: The collection has been entirely catalogued. See
72 + 54pp.
The bibliographical and codicological details include: title, subject, author, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, name of previous owner and donor, patterns of seals, particulars of each MS., marginal notes, cover and binding, dimensions, number of folios, number of lines, index of titles, bibliography.

NB: The description of Persian MSS comes first, and then that of Arabic MSS.

Mar’ashī Najafī (Ayat Allāh) Library

Eram Street, Qum
Tel.: 0251-25033, 26633
Date of establishment: 1335/1956
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 25,000 (Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu MSS. There are a few Hebrew and English MSS as well. Over half of the total number of the MSS are in Arabic.)
Conditions of access: A ticket is required, which can be obtained on application.
Description of collection: This important collection possesses the largest number of MSS in the fields of fīqh, tafsīr and ḥadīth in the country. It contains several rare and unique autograph copies, as well as MSS which are valuable for their artistic quality. The collection covers all fields of Islamic sciences.
The MSS are kept on shelves in a proper building. A modern, technically equipped building for the library is in the process of construction.
Published catalogues: Just over one-third of the collection has been catalogued so far. See 1969. Nuskahâ-yi khatfi-i Kitâbbkânah-i Āyat Allâh Marvin, by Muhammad Taqi Danišhpazhûh, NKH, 6, 1348, pp. 355–425.


The bibliographical and codicological details include: library classmark, title, subject, language, full name and date of the death of the author, particulars of each MS., chapters and sections, beginning and ending, indication of missing pages, volumes of each title, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, headings and illuminations, marginal notes, certificate of permissions (fâzînah-nâmâh), name of previous owner, measurements of folios, cover and binding, number of folios, number of lines to a page, index of titles.

NB: Altogether 8,000 MSS have been described in the already published volumes of this catalogue. Each volume covers 400 MSS.

The detailed, alphabetical indexes of titles, titles of MSS according to subject, and authors will be put in a special volume, when all volumes, over 50, which contain the descriptions of all the MSS, have been published.

Masjid-i 'A'âm Library

Masjid-i 'A'âm-i Qum

Date of establishment: 1380 AH

Status: Endowment/Public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,955 (Arabic and Persian).
Conditions of Access: By application to the authorities of the Masjid.
Description of Collection: The collection incorporates the private collection of Hâjî Muhammed Muqaddas which was transferred to this library according to his will. Another private collection, that of Hâjî Muhammed Ramâznî, which contained some 2,000 MSS, also came to this library after his death.

The collection covers all the subjects of the Islamic sciences. There are several rare, unique and precious MSS in this collection. The MSS are kept on shelves in a suitable place.

Published catalogues:


The bibliographical and codicological details include: title, subject, language, author, date of compilation, some details on the content of each MS., chapters and sections, beginning and ending, number of folios, name of scribe, date of copying, index of titles.

NB: The catalogue includes two Parts. Part I (pp. 1–426) is devoted to the description of single MSS; Part II (pp. 427–648) contains the descriptions of majmu’ah MSS. Of the total, some 700 are majmu’ah MSS.

Mirzâ Husayn Nûrî Collection

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 501.

Description of Collection: The collection covers mainly the fields of Shi'ite fiqh, hadith, genealogy, tafsîr, logic, history, and Qur’ân MSS. Some of the MSS have been copied by the owner. Most belong to recent centuries.

Published catalogues:

Muḥammad Ḥujjat (ʿAyāt Allāh) Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 125 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are on fiqh and hadith; there are also some on logic, belief etc.

Riḍā Uṣṭādī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 164 (107 Arabic; 30 Persian; 27 majmūʿah MSS).
Description of collection: The majority of MSS are related to the fields of fiqh, hadith, taṣfīr and belief.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued by the owner, who is an established scholar in the field and has compiled several catalogues for other collections. See 1956. Chan d nuskha az yak kitābkānāh-i shakhṣī, pp. 105–116 in Asḥāri bā chan d nuskha-i khaṭṭī, op. cit.


The details given in this catalogue are as follows: title, author, some details of the author and the content of each MS., date of compilation, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date and place of copying, number of leaves, dimensions, number of lines, indexes of titles and authors.

Ṭabāsi Ḥāʾirī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 480 (Arabic and Persian).

Rāmsar

ʿAbd al-Wahhāb Farīd Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 72 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: This small private collection covers the fields of fiqh, taṣfīr, belief, linguistics, logic, kalām and irfān.

Rasht

Kitābkānāh-i Millī

Maydān-i Shahrārī, Khīyābān-i ʿIlm al-Hudā
Tel.: 0231-22302
Date of establishment: 1927
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 642 (332 Persian; 309 Arabic; 1 Hebrew).
Conditions of access: By application to the director of the library.
Description of collection: This library was previously called ʿKitābkānāh-i ʿUmūmi-i Jamʿiyat-i Nashr-i Farhang-i Rasht`. The fields of Shiʿite fiqh, taṣfīr, medicine, genealogy, Persian poetry and prose, history, astrology, logic, alchemy and philosophy are represented in this collection. A few translations from European languages are also available. 76 MSS are majmūʿahs which contain Arabic and Persian treatises. There are also some unique MSS.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued but not totally.


The bibliographical and codicological details given in the
catalogue are as follows: title, author, language, date of compilation, date of author’s death, subject, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, heading and illuminations, names of the previous owner, patterns of seals, number of folios, measurements of the leaves and the written surface, number of lines, cover and binding, index of titles.


Unpublished catalogues: A handlist is available in the collection, which provides information about those MSS which have not yet been catalogued.

Madrasah-i ʿIlmiyâh-i Mahdaviyâh-i Rasht Library

Bâzâr, Jânb-i Masjîd-i Kâshafûrûşân
Tel.: 0231-22749
Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 500 (Arabic and Persian).

Conditions of access: The collection is mainly used by the religious students and scholars of the Madrasah.

Description of collection: The Madrasah, and consequently the collection, was previously called Madrasah-i Ḥâji ʿAlî Akbar.

It covers the fields of fiqh, logic, philosophy, Arabic grammar, belief, tafsîr, ethics, geology, etc.

Published catalogues: Only 5 MSS have been briefly described in the following article:

Unpublished catalogues: For all MSS a handlist has been prepared which gives brief information about them.

Shâd-i Qazvûnî Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10 (Arabic and Persian).

Description of collection: The first owner of this private collection has passed away and most of his MSS have been sold. The majority of those still in the collection are of recent centuries and cover the fields of Qur’ân, fiqh and poetry. One of them is a majmû’âh MSS.


SÂRÎ

Muhammad Ṭahîrî Shahâb Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 44 (Arabic and Persian).

Description of collection: The majority of MSS have been copied in recent centuries and cover mainly Persian poetry and prose and history. A few MSS are on medicine, fiqh, tafsîr and astrology. 9 of the MSS are majmû’âhs.

Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued in detail. See 1969. Fihrist-i nuskhah-hâ-yi majmû’âh-i Ṭâhîrî Shahâb (Sârî), by Ṭâhîrî Shahâb, NKH, 6, 1348, pp. 613–636.

SHIRÁZ

ʿAllāmah-i Tabâtabâ’î Library

Khâyābân-i Zand, Jânb-i Ustândârî
Date of establishment: 1362/1983
Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 870 (Arabic and Persian).

Description of collection: The library has been recently established. Its objective is to collect works in the field of Islamic studies. The same objective applies to the collection of Islamic MSS. As a result the collection of Islamic MSS covers all branches of Islamic learning. The collection has not been catalogued yet.

Amin Allâh Kawşar

A small private collection which contains 1 Persian MS. and several documents. See

Āstânâh-i Hagrat-i Ahmad Ibn Mûsâ (Shâh-i Chirâgh) Library

Fîlkâh-i Shâh-i Chirâgh, Tel.: 071-221158
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS.: ca. 3,000 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The significance of this collection lies first of all in its holding of Qur'ân MSS. There are several Qur'âns, complete or incomplete, gilded and with fine illumination and beautiful calligraphy. There are also some important tafsîrs, as well as rare and unique MSS of which some are written by the authors.

The collection covers all fields of Islamic sciences and almost all centuries of Islamic history.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued in detail. See 1967. Kitâbkhânah-i Āstânâh-i Mâzar-i Shâh-i Chirâgh Yî Ahmad Ibn Mûsâ, pp. 251–244 in Fihrist-i kitâbkhânah-hâ-yi 'umûmi va khusûsî-i Shîrâz, by Mâhmmad Tâ'î Dânishpažhûhî, op. cit.


The bibliographical and codicological details given in this catalogue include: classmark, title, language, indication of existing translations (in the case of Qur'âns), indication of missing pages, headings and illuminations, beginning and ending, measurements of MS. and its written surface, number of folios, number of lines, style of script, type and colour of paper, marginal notes, particulars of each MS., name of commentary and the commentator, and indexes of names of persons, places & titles.

NB: Vol. I of this catalogue is entirely devoted to the description of Qur'âns, tafsîr and prayer MSS. Vol. II covers the MSS on fûkh, belief, kaâtîm, ethics, taqawwuf, logic, philosophy, metaphysics and medicine. Vol. III, which has not been published yet, covers MSS in the fields of literature, lexicography, linguistics, history, geography, astrology, astronomy, mathematics and alchemy.

'Âynî (Duktûr) Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS.: 16 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: A small private collection which covers mainly the field of medicine in connection with the profession of the owner who is a surgeon.
Published catalogues:

Dânishkadâh-i Adabîyât Library

Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS.: 3 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are on history. Two of them were written in the present century and one was copied in the 10th century AH.
Published catalogues:

Farvardîn Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS.: 7 (Persian).
Description of collection: It contains Persian literature and the MSS are of recent centuries.
Published catalogues:

Khândân Nûr al-Dîn Hâshîmî Husaynî Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS.: 25 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are on fûkh, tafsîr and belief and have been written in recent centuries.
Published catalogues:

Khānqāh-i Ahmadiyah Library

Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 187 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers mainly the field of ṭasaawwuf; Persian literature, fīṣḥ, philosophy, ethics, medicine etc. are also represented. 31 of the MSS are majmu‘ahs.
Published catalogues:

Khāvāri (Duktur) Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are quite diverse and cover various subjects.
Published catalogues:

Masjid-i Jāmī-i ʿAtīq Collection

Status: Endowment/Public
Published catalogues: 3 MSS of this collection have been described. See 1967. Kitābkūkhānah-i Khudāykhūkhānah-i Masjid-i Jāmī-i ʿAtīq-i Shirāz, pp. 207–208 in the above mentioned article by M.T. Dānishpazhūh.

Muhammad Javād Vājid Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic and Persian).

Description of collection: The MSS are on fīṣḥ and philosophy. Three of the MSS were copied in the 13th century and one in the 10th century AH.
Published catalogues:

Muhammad Khalili Collection

A private collection which contains a poetical MS. See 1967. Nuskhāhā-yi Ḥājj Muhammad Khalilī, p. 266, in the above mentioned article by M.T. Dānishpazhūh.

Muḥammad Taqī Mir (Duktur) Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 29 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: This is a small specialised collection: almost all the MSS are on medicine, except one which is a fine Qurān. Three are majmu‘ah MSS which contain several treatises, mostly on medicine.

Mūzah-i Pārs

Khīyābān-i Zand
Tel.: 071-24151
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: The authorities of the collection do not disclose the total number.
Description of collection: This small public collection was called previously “Mūzah-i Ma‘ārif-i Shirāz”. It is significant because it contains some old, illuminated and very precious Qurān MSS. One of the most important is a Qurān written in an excellent thuluth script in 745–746 in Shiraz by the celebrated calligrapher Pir Yāhva Jāmālī Šuṭfī.
Published catalogues:
1967. Some 20 MSS of this collection are described in the above-mentioned article by M.T. Dânishpazhûhî. See Mîzâh-i Ma‘ârif-i Shîrâz, pp. 258–262.

Nûrânî Vişâl Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 45 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The majority of MSS are in Persian and are of a literary and poetical nature. Music is also represented. There are also a few MSS on fiqh and philosophy. Most of the MSS are of recent centuries.

Şadr al-Din Mahallati Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 18 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS cover various subjects, and most of them were copied in the 11th – 14th centuries AH.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued by Dânishpazhûhî. See 1967. Kitâbkhânâh-i Aqâ-yi Şadr al-Din Mahallâtî, pp. 271–274 in the above mentioned article.

Shahid Dastghayb Library

Khâyûhî-i Zand,
Tel.: 071-24164
Status: National library/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 900 (Arabic, Persian and a few Turkish).
Conditions of access: An admission ticket is required, which can be obtained by application.
Description of collection: This rather small public collection, which previously bore the name of “Kitâbkhânâh-i Millî-i Fârs”, contains some important and precious MSS and covers the fields of fiqh (mainly Shi‘ite), philosophy, logic, linguistics, mathematics, medicine; also literature, history, astrology etc. The majority of the MSS have been copied in the 9th – 13th centuries AH.

The bibliographical and codicological details given in this catalogue include: serial number of each MS., title, classmark, language, subject, author, translator (if the MS. is a translation), some details of the author and the content, date of compilation, name of donor, beginning and ending, cover and binding, dimensions, number of folios, number of lines, style of script, type of paper, headings and illuminations, date of copying, name of scribe, place of copying, marginal notes, indication of missing pages, indexes of persons, titles and places.

Unpublished catalogues: There are some 120 MSS which have not been catalogued yet. For these a handlist is available in the library.

Other MSS in private hands

In the above mentioned article by M.T. Dânishpazhûhî (1967), under the subtitle “Chand nuskahâh-i khuşûş-i digar”, pp. 295–296, 6 more MSS are briefly described which belong respectively to: Aqâ-yi Muntazîr Sâhib (1 MS.), Aqâ-yi Sayîfî (2), Aqâ-yi Kâzîmî (1), Aqâ-yi Fâli (1) and Mazâr-i Rûzbân Bâqî (1).

TABRÎZ

Dânishkadah-i Adabiyât Library

Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 30 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of poetry, history, literature and ethics.
Published catalogues: Only 12 MSS of this collection have been briefly described. See 1965, Dānishkodah-i Adabiyat-i Tabrīz, pp. 323 in Fihrist-i kitābkhānah-hā-yi shahristānāh: Tabrīz, Kāshān, Yazd, Isfahān, NKH, 4, 1344, pp. 283–480.

Husayn Āqā Nakhjavānī Library

Status: Private
Description of collection: An important collection, which used to contain over 1,000 MSS. It covered mainly the fields of poetry and prose, history, ethics, tafsīr etc. Several important Divāns of famous Persian poets were amongst the holdings of this collection, before the largest part was donated to the Kitābkhānah-i Millī-i Tabrīz (see below).
Published catalogues:

Kitābkhānah-i Millī Collection

Khāyābān-i Hunarstān, Tabrīz
Tel.: 041-52109
Status: National library/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,600 (ca. 2,000 Persian; 10 Turkish; the rest Arabic).
Conditions of access: An admission ticket is required, which can be obtained by application.
Description of collection: On the basis of a donation of some 1,500 MSS by Muḥammad Nakhjavānī this collection came into existence. Then his brother Hājj Husayn Āqā Nakhjavānī donated the largest part of his private collection to this library, and the holdings of Kitābkhānah-i Dawlati-i Tarbiyat were also transferred to this collection. The first donor was particularly inclined to collect MSS related to Persian literature, which is why a considerable number of the MSS of this collection are of Persian poetry and prose. After
Muhammad 'Ali Ṭabātabā'ī Qāżī Tabrizi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 144 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: An important private collection which contains a few hundred MSS and covers the fields of fiqh, logic, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astrology, etc.
Published catalogues:
Describes some 144 MSS.

* The figure indicates the total number of the MSS which have been catalogued. The collection should contain several hundred MSS.

Muḥaqiq Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the field of ḥikmat, medicine and astrology.
Published catalogues: 14 MSS of this collection have been catalogued by M.T. DĀNISHPAZHĪ. See 1965. Nuskhah-hā'-yi Āqā-yi MUḤAQIQ, pp. 329–335 in Fihrist-i kitābkhānah-hā'-yi shahrīstān-hā: Tabrīz, Kāshān, Yazd, Īsāfān, op. cit.

Mūzah-h-i Āgbāyjān

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are on literature and figh.
Published catalogues:

Siqat al-Īslām Library

Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 202 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection covers the fields of figh, belief, philosophy, logic, history, linguistics, ethics, etc. 23 of the MSS are majmuʿāhs.
Published catalogues: Only 33 MSS are briefly described in the following catalogue:

Vāʾiz Charandābādī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of figh, kalām and history.
Published catalogues: Nuskhah-hā'-yi Āqā-yi VĀʾIZ CHARANDĀBĀDĪ, p. 337 in Fihrist-i kitābkhānah-hā'-yi shahrīstān-hā: Tabrīz, Kāshān, Yazd, Īsāfān, op. cit.

TEHRAN
ʿAbd al-Rāhmān ʿIṭīmādī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of history, Sufism, medicine and ethics. 2 of the MSS are majmuʿāhs. Most of them were copied in the 11th–13th centuries AH.
Published catalogues:
Ahmad Afsâr Shirâzî Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 560 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers various subjects and contains some rare and valuable MSS, such as a Dīwān of Anvari copied in the 7th century AH and a complete copy of Jawâīm al-Lughât wa-Laurâmâ’ al-Iṣṭilâhât copied in 641 AH.
Published catalogues: Only 4 MSS of the collection have been described. See 1978. Nuskhah-e-yi hazr-e Ahmad Afsâr Shirâzî, by Iraj Afsâr, RK, 21, 1357, pp. 694–695.

* After the death of the owner the collection has been dispersed.

Ahmad Khân-i Malîk Sâsâni Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (1 Arabic; 3 Persian).
Description of collection: The Arabic MS. is a maz+hâ on geometry and the Persian MSS are related to history. The collection possesses several important documents.

Ahmad Sadid al-Sal’tanah Kabâbî Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 13 (Persian) and 37 Persian treatises.
Description of collection: It covers miscellaneous subjects. Almost all the MSS were copied by the late owner of the collection, who was also the author of 4 of the MSS and all the treatises.
Published catalogues: 1975. Aṣâr-i Sadid al-Sal’tanah-yi Kabâbî, by Iraj Afsâr, RK, 18, 1354, pp. 53–57; also in Majmû‘ah-i kaminah, 1354, pp. 345–349.

Akbar Şûbût

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 80 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of Shi‘ite fiqh and hadith, Arabic grammar, logic and astrology. The collection has been catalogued by the owner.

‘Alî Akbar Fayyâq Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 166 (Arabic, Persian and 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: The fields of logic, philosophy, kalâm, literature, history, mathematics, astrology, medicine and fiqh are represented in this collection. 21 MSS out of the total number are mazhûrs.

Anjuman-i Aṣâr-i Millî

Khâyân-e Valî-i ‘Aṣâr Sar-i Pul-i Amir Bahâdur
Tel.: 021-580416
Date of establishment: 1347/1968
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 46 (Arabic, Persian and 1 Kurdish).
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS, i.e. 38, belonged to ‘Arab al-Husayn Bayât and were donated in 1969 to this collection. It covers mainly Persian literature and history, but there are a couple of MSS on tafsîr and medicine.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued. The published catalogue is detailed.

The details given in the catalogue include: serial number, title, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, type of paper, number of lines, number of folios, measurements, cover and binding, subject, some details on the content of each MS., author, chapters and sections, beginning and ending, some sample facsimiles, indexes of titles and names of persons.

**Asad Allâh Khâkõpur Collection**

*Status:* Private

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 101 (Arabic and Persian).

*Description of collection:* The majority of MSS are on Persian poetry and prose; also history, medicine, etc.

*Published catalogues:* The collection has been very briefly catalogued. In the following catalogue, apart from 6 MSS which have been described, only the titles of the MSS are given:


**Asghar Mahdavi Library**

*Status:* Private

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 869 (Arabic, Persian and a few Turkish).

*Description of collection:* An important collection which covers mainly Persian literature, *ʿirfân,* alchemy, history, ethics, philosophy, logic and medicine. Some very valuable MSS are part of this collection.

*Published catalogues:* The collection has been briefly described. See 1962. *Fihrist-i nuskhâhâ-yi khaṭṭî kitâbkhânâh-i khusûṣî-i Asghar Mahdavî,* by Muhammad Taqī Dânishpazhûhûn, *NKH,* 2, 1341, pp. 59–181.


**Âstânâh-i Imâmzâdah ʿAbd al-ʿAzîm Library**

*Date of establishment:* 1324/1945

*Status:* Endowment/Public

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 419 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).

*Description of collection:* The old library which was attached to this shrine existed some 400 years ago. In 1037 Shâh ʿAbârâs of the Safavid dynasty presented 119 MSS as an endowment to this collection. Only 3 of these MSS are still in existence. The library underwent many changes; for a long while there was no trace of it. In 1945 the library was reestablished and started to function again.

The MSS represent mainly the fields of *fuṣûl* and medicine; also logic, history and lexicography. Some are rare and unique.


**Bâqirzâdah Collection**


**Bunyâd-i Pîzhûshhâ-yi ʿIlmi-i Frânsavî Library (Institut Franco-Iranien)**

*Status:* Academic

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 46 (Arabic and Persian).

*Description of collection:* The collection contains some important MSS on philosophy, *ʿirfân,* logic, *tafsîr* and alchemy. 15 of them are *majmuʿah* MSS which include Arabic as well as Persian treatises.

Dā'irat al-Ma‘ārif-i Buzurg-i Islāmi Library

Khāyābān-i Shahid Bāhnār (Niyāvarān), Khāyābān-i Shahid Ağā?
Status: Public
Conditions of access: Open to scholars and researchers on production of a letter of reference from a relevant institution.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 5,000 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Description of collection: This library has been established recently. Its collection contains some 5,000 MSS which are mainly reference works. Nevertheless other branches of Islamic learning are also represented. The collection has not been catalogued.

Gulistān Library

Description of collection: This library used to be called “Kitābkhānah-i Salṭanāti” in the time of the previous regime in Iran; this name is no longer used since the revolution in 1979. The collection is located in a Qajar palace called the Gulistān. Since the collection was called Gulistān, before the name was changed to “Kitābkhānah-i Salṭanāti”, the old name is used here. But at this stage no one knows what the ultimate name of this very valuable collection will be. The library has been closed down since the revolution, and so far no definite decision has been made as to the future of the collection. A couple of governmental organisations lay claim to it, but it is not yet clear to which of them it will be attached.

The collection is extremely valuable, and includes many precious MSS with beautiful illumination and decorations, as well as some which contain very valuable miniature paintings. It contains several thousand MSS and covers the fields of Qur’ān (222 MSS), literature (particularly poetry—the holding of poetical works, i.e. Dīwāns, amounts to 852 MSS), fiqh, hadīth, logic, kalam, history, geography, etc.

Published catalogues:

The details given in this catalogue include: dimensions, type of paper, style of script, date of copying, name of scribe, patterns of seals, particulars of the beginning pages, illumination and decoration, name of illuminators, number of folios, number of lines, cover and binding, sample facsimiles of all catalogued Qur’āns. No index.

222 Qur’ān MSS have been described in the catalogue.


The bibliographical and codicological details given are as follows: serial number, title, dimensions, type of paper, style of script, author, date of compilation, name of scribe, date of copying, some details of the content and subject of each MS., illumination, particulars of the first pages of each MS., marginal notes, patterns of seals, number of leaves, number of lines, beginning and ending, cover and binding, some sample facsimiles, indexes of translators, illuminators, scribes and titles.

502 MSS have been described in this catalogue.


In this catalogue altogether 250 pieces of calligraphy, paintings and artistic illuminated works have been described.


Vol. I contains descriptions of 296 MSS and Vol. II 556 MSS.

1977. Fūhrīst-i tārīkh, safawnāmah, sīyāh-hānamah, rūznāmah, jughrāfī-yi
**Description of collection:** Most of the MSS are Persian and cover the fields of literature, history and medicine.

**Published catalogues:**


**Humāyūn Šaft ‘ātizādah Collection**

**Status:** Private

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 10 (Persian).

**Description of collection:** The MSS are related to Persian literature and were copied in recent centuries.

**Published catalogues:**


**Ḥusayn Miṣfāh Collection**

**Status:** Private

**Description of collection:** Once the collection contained over 1,435 Arabic and Persian MSS. The owner sold part of his collection to the Maqlib-i Sanā’ library and to the National library (Kitābkhānah-i Millī). After the death of the owner some more MSS were sold. Consequently it is hard to establish how many MSS are still left with the inheritors of this collection.

**Published catalogues:** The whole collection was catalogued before it was dispersed. See 1974. Kitābkhānah-i Dukhtar Ḥusayn Miṣfāh, by Muḥammad Taq̨i Dānishpazhūh, *NKH*, 7, 1353, pp. 95–150.

**Ibrāhīm Muṣṭamīd Collection**

**Status:** Private

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 2 (Persian).

**Published catalogues:**

Khānqāh-i Ni'mat Allāhī Library

Status: Endowment

The following details are given in the catalogue: title, subject, language, author, some brief details on the life of the author and the content of each MS., chapters and sections, date and place of copying, name of scribe, marginal notes, patterns of seals, names of previous owners, beginning and ending, cover and binding, type of paper, style of script, number of folios, number of lines, headings and illuminations, indexes of authors and titles.

Kitābkānāh-i Markazi va Markazi-i Asnād-i Dānishgāh-i Tīhrān Collection (Central Library of Tehran University)

Dānishgāh-i Tīhrān, Khīyābān-i Inqilāb
Tel.: 021-666199
Date of establishment: 1328/1949
Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14,203 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Conditions of access: The library is used mainly by the students and staff of Tehran University. Outside researchers and scholars can also be admitted to the collection on condition that they apply for a ticket which will be issued by the authorities of the library.
Description of collection: Sayyid Muḥammad Mīshkāt, a learned scholar and professor of Tehran University, donated his very valuable collection to Tehran University in 1329/1950. This donation constituted the first holding of MSS of the library. Gradually other persons followed his example and donated their collections to this library. These include: Zīvād al-Dīn Nārāqī (11 MSS), Vladimir Ivanov (8 MSS), Dukhtar Ibrāhīmī (9 MSS), Shahrūzā Qūrgān (221 MSS), Wāzīrāt-i Amūrīsh va Parvarīsh (113 MSS), Ḥasan ‘Alī Ghafūrī Muḥsin al-Dawlah (30 MSS), Dr Rā’ī Ḍāfī (13 MSS), Khāndān-i Sayyid Jalāl Jāzārī (43 MSS), Huṣayn Fīrūz (11 MSS), Dukhtar Aḥṣārār Māhdāvī (7 MSS), Khāndān-i Shāykh Muḥammad ‘Abduh (70 MSS), Ṣādīq Raḥīmī (18 MSS), Muḥammad Sangalār (8 MSS), Hāvæyat Allāh Afkhami Ardaḵānī (21 MSS), Khāndān-i Muḥammad ‘Alī Shāhī al-Saltanāh Kārābī (66 MSS), Allāhā’rār Šāhī (11 MSS), Hūmāyūn Šāhīn (14 MSS), and a few others who have donated 3 to 7 MSS.

The library has also made serious attempts to acquire more MSS. It managed on several occasions to purchase the entire collections of private individuals. Some of the important collections which have been purchased are as follows: Parviz Šiddiqi (23 MSS—this collection belonged to Dāšt al-’Ilaml), Majdī Muḥammad (62 MSS), Fakhr al-Dīn Naṣīrī Amīnī (550 MSS), Muḥammad Taqī Mūdarārīn (74 MSS), Ḥasan ‘Alī Bāstānī Rād (2735 MSS), Kitābkānāh-i Barāšt (228 MSS), Sā’dī Nafīṣī (11 MSS), Shāykh ‘Alī Ulūmī Yazdī (631 MSS), Bādī al-Zamān Furūzānsfār (172 MSS), Muṣṭafā Fāvī (46 MSS) and a few others.

The collections of the following Faculties of Tehran University were also transferred to this central library: Dānishkāhā-ī Adabī-āt, Dānishkāhā-ī Huqūq va Ulūm-ī Siyāsī va ʿIqtīsādī, Dānishkāhā-ī Ilāhīyāt va Māʿārīfī-ī Islāmī va Dānishkāhā-ī Pīzāškī.

This important collection contains old, rare and unique MSS and includes items from the second century of Islamic history till the last one. All Islamic disciplines and fields are represented in this collection. It also contains very valuable illuminated and decorated MSS of high artistic quality. The library building is modern and is technically equipped with all the necessary facilities for preservation of MSS.


1962. Fihrist-i nuskah<h3>hā-yi khatṭī-i kitâbkhānah-i Dānishkâh-dâh-ı Adab-yâti- Majmûʿah-i Vaqfi-i ʿAlî Aṣghâr Hîmât. By MUHAMMAD TAQĪ DĀNISHPAZHÛH. Tehran: Tehran University Press, 1341. 104pp. The total number of the MSS which have been described here is 345.


1967. Majmûʿah-ī kutub-ī khatṭī va čâpî va asnâd va ʿâsî-ī Hâsan
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30 MSS are briefly described.


1,320 MSS which were donated by Sayyid Muhammad Mishkât to this collection are recorded in this handlist.


Madrasah-i 'Ali-i Shahid Mu'tahhari Library*

Maydân-i Bahârîstân
Tel.: 021-366166-9
Date of establishment: 1297 AH
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7,925 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Conditions of access: A Waqf (Endowment) institution must, in principle, be open for public use. The physical and special circumstances of each endowment library, however, can cause difficulties in the application of this general principle. Such is the case with this Madrasah. The physical conditions of the library and the lack of facilities do not allow the collection to be used by outside readers, and it is mainly used by students and scholars of the Madrasah. However, outside readers can also sometimes use the collection if they obtain permission from the authorities of the Madrasah; but the granting of such permission is by no means automatic.
Description of collection: This important collection came into existence on the initiative of Sipahsâlâr Sharq-i 'Askârî Husayn Khan
* Before the revolution it was called "Kitâbkhânâh-i Madrasah-i 'Ali-i Sipahsâlâr".

(1241–1298 AH / 1826–1881 CE), the prime minister of Nâshr al-Dîn Shâh Qajar. He founded the Madrasah in 1296 (1879) and named it after himself, Madrasah-i Sipahsâlâr. Immediately after the revolution the name of this Madrasah was changed to its present name.

The first holding of this collection amounted to 3,370 MSS which were donated by Sipahsâlâr. This figure includes some documents, pieces of calligraphy and astrolabes. Gradually other people started to donate MSS to this collection, and the authorities of the Madrasah also acquired more MSS in subsequent years.

The contents of two other collections have also been transferred to this library. They were respectively "Kitâbkhânâh-i 'Sad' and "Kitâbkhânâh-i Mushîr al-Sâlânah". The total number of the first collection was 57 MSS which were officially delivered to Sipahsâlâr collection in 1315/1936. In the same year the entire contents of the second collection, 605 MSS, were also delivered to the Sipahsâlâr library.

The collection covers all fields of Islamic sciences, and there are several unique, rare and highly valuable MSS. Some possess very high artistic quality, with beautiful illumination and decorations. Autograph MSS are also available in this collection. Among other very precious MSS there is a Khamsah of Nizâmi written in 570 AH. Published catalogues: The collection has been repeatedly catalogued, but not every catalogue has been published. Here are some published ones:

Qur'an, tafsîr, prayer, hadîth and fiqh.

Prose, encyclopaedias, linguistics, rhetoric and poetry.
Altogether 1,295 Arabic, Persian and Turkish MSS have been described in these two volumes. The author has applied a detailed method of describing the MSS and gives all necessary bibliographical and codicological information on each individual MS., as well as indexes of places, books and sources, persons and titles.

1947. Nafa'is al-makhzûtât al-'arabiyya fi khizânat Madrasat
Ispahsālār, by ʿAṣād ʿAlāl, RAAD, 22, pp. 405–417 and 501–
516.

MUḤammad Taqī Dānishpāzhūh and ʿAli Naṣīr Munkāzī. 
Teherān: Anjuman-i Īrānī-ī Falsafah va ʿUlūm-i Insānī, 1340,
546pp. Bakhsh-i Chaḥārum, 1346, 560pp. Bakhsh-i Panjum, 1356,
771pp.
The details given in this catalogue include: library classmark,
title, author, subject, language, beginning and ending, style of 
script, name of scribe, date and place of copying, type of paper,
cover and binding, dimensions, number of folios, number of lines.

NB: Though this catalogue, which consists of 3 volumes, gives the 
impression of being the continuation of the catalogue by ʿAbd Yūsuf 
Shīrāzī (see above), this is not really the case, as it covers all the 
MSS of this collection, including those previously catalogued by ʿAbd 
Yūsuf Shīrāzī.

Madrasah-i Chihi Sītūn Library

Date of establishment: 1380 AH
Status: Endowment

Total number of Islamic MSS: 319 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The library was founded by Shaykh Ḥasan 
Ṣaʿīd. The collection contains some important MSS in the fields of 
Qurʾān, Shiʿite faṭḥah, taṣfīr and ḥadīth, logic, genealogy, mathematics, 
medicine, history and ethics. It contains 39 majmuʿāt MSS.

Published catalogues:
1956. Fihrist-i nuskahā-yi khaṭṭī-i kitābkhānah-i madrasah-i 
Chihi Sītūn, by Rīzā Ustādī, in Ashnakī hā chand nuskahā-i shakhsi, 
by Rīzā Ustādī and Muḥammad Taqi Ṭabarqāṭī. Qum 1335.

Mahdī Bayānī Collection

Status: Private (dispersed after the owner’s death)

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300 (Arabic and Persian).

Published catalogues:
1961. Makḥṭūṭāt al-Dukhtūr Mahdī Bayānī fī Tīhrān, by Ḥasan 
ʿAlī Maḥfūz, RIMA, 7, pp. 3–6.

1961. Majīmūʿāt-i munshaḥāt, by Mahdī Bayānī, RK, 4, 1340,
pp. 239–244.

1961. Fihrist-i mujmah’ī az manẓūmāt-i Fārsī, by Mahdī Bayānī,
NKH, 1, 1340, pp. 8–17.

1969. Chand nuskah az marhum-ī Bayānī, by Muḥammad Taqī 
Dānishpāzhūh, NKH, 6, 1348, pp. 691–695.

Maḥmūd Farhād Muʿtamd Collection

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 370 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).

Description of collection: The original collection belonged to the Qajar 
prince Farhād Mīrzā Muʿtamd al-Dawlah who possessed a very 
valuable collection of Islamic MSS. Many of these have left the 
country and gone to libraries abroad. Fortunately, the son of the 
first owner who now possesses the collection has been able to keep 
a good number of the MSS. The present collection still covers almost 
all branches of Islamic learning. There are several old and precious 
MSS in the collection, including some rare and unique items, as well 
those of artistic value.

Published catalogues:
1963. Fihrist-i Kitābkhānah-i Maḥmūd Farhād Muʿtamd, by 
Ghulāmīrza Farzanahīfūr & Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpāzhūh,

1977. Nuskahā-yi tāzah, by ʿĪrāq Afshār, RK, 20, 1356,

Majlis-i Shūrā-yi Islāmī Library (Shumārah-i Yak)*

Maydān-i Bahārīstān
Tel.: 021-393257
Date of establishment: 1302/1923

* Before the revolution the name of this library was “Kitābkhānah-i 
Majlis-i Shūrā-yi Millī”.
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 16,000 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Conditions of access: A ticket is required to enter the collection; this can
be obtained by application to the director of the library.
Description of collection: This is another important Iranian collection
which contains very valuable illuminated manuscripts of high artisti-
craft quality, and several unique and rare items. It is notable also for
its many important MSS on mathematics and medicine.

The library contains the collections of Muḥammad Taqī Bahār,
Imām Jumāh-ī Khāt, Ḥirmāwar Tāhir Ṭūnakārūnī and Majd Frīdz
Naṣīr al-Dāwlah Fārnānī, Sayyid Muḥammad Šādīq Ṭabāṭābāi and Raḥīμ Muʿāyyrī. All of them are very valuable col-
lections.

The collection covers all fields of Islamic sciences and the MSS are
from the earliest centuries of Islamic history till recent times.

The preservation and arrangement of the MSS are related to their
value: the most precious MSS are kept in safes and security boxes and
the ordinary ones are put on shelves.

Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued, except for
some 300 MSS which have been acquired in recent years.


This volume covers 788 MSS and includes all those described in
Vol. I.


In this volume only Persian MSS are described; it was revised and
completed by ʿAbd al-Husayn Haʿīrī and re-published by the same


1949. Kiābkhānāh-ī Majlis-i Shūrā-yi Millī, by ʿAbd Azāz Zarrāb

Only 26 selected MSS of Sayyid Muḥammad Šādīq Ṭabāṭābāi’s
donation to this collection have been treated in this catalogue.


1965. Maktubat Majlis al-Umma al-Irānī, by Ṣāḥīḥ al-
Shahrūstānī, Majallat al-Maktūba, 5, pp. 10–11.


Persian MSS on various subjects.


MSS on kalām and philosophy.

Afsāhī, Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpāzūh & ʿAlī Naqqā Mūznāvī.
Tehran, 1345, 461pp.

Afsāhī, Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpāzūh & ʿAlī Naqqā Mūznāvī.
Tehran, 1346, 439pp.

Afsāhī, Muḥammad Taqī Dānishpāzūh & ʿAlī Naqqā Mūznāvī.
Tehran, 1346, 438pp.


In this article 207 majmūʿat MSS are briefly described.

1967. Fihrist Ṭiḥqān-ī Majlis-i Shūrā-yi Millī, by ʿUmar Rīdā
Kuḥālā, LA, 42, p. 355.

This volume is devoted to the description of Imām Jumʿah-i Khūṭbi’s donation to this library, comprising 260 Arabic and Persian MSS.


The Persian poetical MSS are described in this volume.


In this volume MSS and books donated by Rāhī Moḥfīzīn to this collection have been described. The 26 MSS are on pp. 1–33.


This volume covers the MSS on mathematics and medicine, which will be continued in Vol. XX, not yet completed.


This volume is devoted to the 368 MSS of the late Majd Fīrūz Naṣīr al-Dawlah, which were donated to this library.

NB: 1) Various experts, independent of each other, were involved in the cataloguing process: as soon as they completed their work, their catalogue volumes were published. That is why Vol. VI has been published before Vol. V and Vols. XI, XII and XIII have been published before Vol. VIII.

2) Vol. XXII is in the press. The remaining volumes, another 20, will gradually be published. At present no definite publication dates are available.

3) This catalogue is detailed. Though the different authors who have compiled these volumes have not followed the same pattern, nevertheless they have given all the bibliographical and codicological details and indexes. The only exception is Vol. X, Part 4 (Bakhsh-ī Ghaḥūm), which is not provided with an index.

*Unpublished catalogues: A handlist is available in the library, which contains information on some 500 MSS which are uncatalogued.*

*Majlis-i Shūrā-yi Islāmī Library (Shumārah-ı Dū)*

Khiyābān-i Imām
Tel.: 021-667930

* Formerly called “Kitābkhānah-ı Majlis-i Sanāʾ”: the name was changed after the revolution.
Date of establishment: 1329/1950
Status: Governmental/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,750 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Conditions of access: Though the library is officially public it is open only to researchers and scholars, who can obtain admission by applying to the director of the library.
Description of collection: The collection contains mostly important MSS on literature and history, though other fields such as medicine, astrology, ethics, ʿifḥ and tafsīr are also represented. It contains some rare, unique and precious MSS.

The library is housed in a modern building and the MSS are well preserved.

Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued, except for some 250 MSS which have been acquired in recent years.
76 MSS are described.

300 MSS are described.

246 MSS are catalogued.

The details given in this catalogue include: style of script, name of scribe, date and place of copying, headings and illumination, patterns of seals, name of previous owner, number of folios, number of lines, measurements of the cover and written surface, type of paper, cover and binding, title, language, subject, author, date of compilation, beginning and ending, some sample facsimiles, indexes of titles, authors, scribes, subjects and names of persons.
Altogether 650 MSS are described in this catalogue.

This catalogue is Vol. II of the preceding item. The only difference lies in the name of the library, which has been changed. The details given in this volume are the same as those in Volume I.
Altogether 868 MSS are described in this volume.

Unpublished catalogues: A handlist is available which provides information about some 250 MSS which are not covered in the published catalogues.

Masʿūd Muḥṭashimi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 8 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: A small collection which covers the fields of literature, belief and prayer.

Millī Library

Kitābkānah-i Millī-i Īrān
Khiyābān-i Niʿāvarān, Kuchāh-i Khānsafid
Tel.: 021-282222
Date of establishment: 1316/1937
Status: National library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 11,877 (Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Kurdish).
Conditions of access: Open to the public. However, one needs a ticket to enter the library: this can be obtained by applying to the authorities of the library.
Description of collection: The significance of this library lies in the fact that it contains the most substantial collection of MS. translations. They include the first Persian translations of some European languages. Amongst them are the translations of Dār al-Tarjāmāh-i Humāyūnī (the Royal House of Translation) which was founded by Nāṣir al-Dīn Shāh Qājār (1264–1312 / 1848–1895). The Shah

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made notes in his own handwriting on the margins of several of these translations, stating that the entire text had been read by him. (See the introduction to Fihrist-i nasakh-i khaṭṭi-i kitābbānâh-i Millî, Vol. I, 1965, details below.) There are also other very important translations from the Qajar period in this collection.

Another group of MSS is highly significant, namely a collection called Majmū’-i Juhfrūfay-yi Tārīkh (the historical geography collection). This consists of Safarnāmāhs and descriptions of various areas of Iran which were written by high officials sent by Naṣīr al-Dīn Shāh to these areas with instructions to observe and write down what they saw and found. These MSS are highly important documents on the history and sociology of the Iranian people in recent centuries.

The collection also contains unique, old and rare MSS as well as some of high artistic quality.

Two important collections have been transferred to this library:

The first was Kitābbānâh-i ‘umūmi-i Ma’ārif which contained 348 MSS and was one of the oldest libraries of Tehran in modern times. The second was Kitābbānâh-i Pahlavi which contained 6,316 MSS of which many are very valuable. Part of the collection of Muḥammad ʿAlī Rīḍā’ī Zafarrānī was also donated to this library.

The building where the MSS are kept is adequate, but it is not purpose-built. Nevertheless the MSS are preserved properly.


The details given in the catalogue include: title, language, author, some details of the author, detailed description of the content and subject of each MS., chapters and sections, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, number of folios, number of lines, headings and illuminations, cover and binding, dimensions, library classmark, indexes of titles and authors.

The number of MSS which have been described is 348.


The details which are given in this catalogue include: library classmark, subject, title, author, translator, date and place of compilation, some details of the content of each MS., beginning and ending, style of script, date of copying, headings and illuminations, cover and binding, dimensions, type of paper, number of folios, number of lines, measurements of the written surface, indexes of persons and titles.

Altogether 5058 MSS (3083 Persian, 1975 Arabic) have been described in the catalogue.

NB: Vol. X is not provided with any index. Vols. 1–V have been published in a revised edition, 1986–90 (see below).


This is the revised edition of the 1965–74 catalogue volumes listed above. The revision covers Vols. I–V only.

Unpublished catalogues: A handlist is available in the library which provides information on the uncatalogued MSS.

The cataloguing of these has already started and is progressing.

Millī Malik Library

Khiyābān-i Pāndzah-i Khurda, Bāzār-i Bayn al-Ḥaramayn, No. 37
Tel.: 021-524492
Date of establishment: 1316/1937
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6,650 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Conditions of access: No particular requirement, open to readers.
Description of collection: This important collection is housed in a traditional Persian building, located in the Bazar of Tehran. The library was founded and funded entirely by the late Ḥājī Ḥusayn Aḡā Malik, a learned businessman who used to work in the Bazar. The collection is famous for its old and very precious Qur’ān MSS which are gilded and beautifully illuminated, as well as other old and very important MSS, some of them of high artistic quality, and some rare and unique MSS written by their authors. The MSS are kept on shelves, except for some which, because of their high value, are kept in security boxes. There is no problem of dust or humidity and the temperature is controlled. The present building is rather old, but the collection will be moved within two years into a new and modern purpose-built library in the centre of Tehran.

The collection covers all branches of Islamic learning.
Published catalogues: The collection has been catalogued completely in detail. See


The details given in this catalogue include: title, author, some details of the life and work of the author, date of compilation, subject, beginning and ending, style of script, name of scribe, date of copying, headings and illumination, name of previous owner, number of folios, type of paper, cover and binding.

The total number of MSS described in the 8 volumes amounts to 5,742.

NB: Vol. IX covers the rest of the MSS of the collection. It is ready for publication. A few more volumes containing the indexes for the whole catalogue are also being prepared for publication.

Mīrāg Farhangī Library

Tel.: 021-9500914
Date of establishment: 1360/1981
Status: Governmental
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: A newly established library which possesses only a few MSS, none of which have been catalogued yet.
Mu’assasah-i Pizhūshīsh va Mutāla’āt-i Farhangī
Khıyābān-i Valī-i ‘Āsr, Khıyābān-i Fīrishtah
Tel.: 021-264037-8
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 700 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection came into being after the revolution. The holdings consist of approximately 300 Qur’ān MSS and another 400 MSS which cover various subjects. The collection is in the process of being catalogued in its entirety. Most of the MSS have already been catalogued and are being prepared for publication. The cataloguing is very detailed. The first catalogue of Qur’ān MSS, with 99 entries giving a detailed description of each MS., has already been published (see below).
Published catalogues:

Mujtabā Mināvī
Status: Private (under the supervision of the Mu’assasah-i Mutāla’āt va Tāhqīqāt-i Farhangī)
Total number of Islamic MSS: 160 (Arabic and Persian) and some 300 microfilms of MSS.
Published catalogues:
Describes a part of the collection.
NB: A catalogue which contains descriptions of all the MSS in the collection is in press and will come out soon.

Mūzah-i Hunarhā-yi Tazyini Collection
Status: Governmental
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are on literature, particularly poetry; there are also some on astrology and prayer. Most of the MSS are of high artistic quality.
Published catalogues:
Müzah-i Mardumshiniş Collection

Status: Governmental
Description of collection: The MSS covers the fields of medicine and zoology. Most of the MSS are illustrated with drawings, and are very valuable.
Published catalogues:

Sa'id Nafîsi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 77 (Arabic and Persian) plus 160 MSS written by the late Sa'id Nafîsî.
Description of collection: The late Sa'id Nafîsî, a well-known Persian scholar, possessed a substantial collection of important MSS, numbering ca. 1,200. The largest part of the collection, i.e. 1,108 MSS, was purchased, in the lifetime of the owner, by Kitâbkânah-i Markazî va Markaz-i Amsâd-i Dânishgâh-î Tîhrân. The collection was described in Vol. XVI of Fâhrist-i nuskhah-hâ-yi khatî-i Kitâbkânah-i Markazî va Markaz-i Amsâd-i Dânishgâh-î Tîhrân (see under Kitâbkânah-i Markazî above).
What is now left with the inheritors of the first owner are some 77 MSS on various subjects which have been handlisted.
Published catalogues:

Şâlih Library

Pâr-kî Shahr, Hûsainiyah-i Amir Sûlaymânî
Tel.: 021-533151
Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 70 (Arabic and Persian).
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are on Sufism and the significance of the collection lies in the fact that it contains some
valuable texts on this subject. The collection has not yet been catalogued.

Šāmini Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 13 (Arabic and Persian).
Published catalogues:

Sāzmān-i Lughat’-nāmah-i Dihkhuďā Library

Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 302 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Description of collection: The compiler of the Lughat’-nāmah-i Dihkhuďā, i.e. ʿAlī Aḵbar Dihkhuďā, collected all the MSS of this collection. It covers mainly the fields of Persian literature, lexicography, ethics, Ǧīfān, history, medicine, etc. The majority of the MSS are Persian.
Published catalogues:
In Part One 197 MSS and in Part Two 105 MSS have been described.

Vizārat-i Dārā’i Library

Status: Governmental
Total number of Islamic MSS: 8 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS were written during the reign of Naṣīr al-Dīn Śāh Qājār and contain geographical descriptions of various parts of Iran, with information on population, tribes etc.
Published catalogues:

Vizārat-i Umūr-i Khārijah Library

Status: Governmental
Total number of Islamic MSS: 33 (1 Arabic; 32 Persian).
Description of collection: The collection contains two categories of MSS. The first comprises documents and correspondence of the Qajar period, in many volumes; but the second includes a few MSS on history, diplomatic relations with other countries, a couple of Duwāns, a couple of translations from Western languages, a text on philosophy and another on medicine. These have been briefly described in the catalogue below.
Published catalogues:

Yahyā Zukā’ī

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 27 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Description of collection: It covers the fields of history, literature, fiqh and Sufism.
Published catalogues:

YAZD

Abū al-Faḍl Šā’īdī Rayhān Yazdi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 28 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers various subjects. The majority of the MSS were copied in the 10th–13th centuries AH.
Published catalogues:
\'Ali Asghar Khujastah Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Published catalogues:

\'Ali \'Atashi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 400 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The fields of fi\'qh, ta\'fi\'r, philosophy, logic, history, music, astrology and belief are represented in this collection.
Published catalogues:

\'Ali \'Ulu\'um Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,000 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: An important private collection which contains several rare and valuable MSS and covers the fields of fi\'qh, ta\'fi\'r, history, linguistics, etc.
Some 631 MSS of this collection, most of them rare and precious, have been sold to Kit\'abkh\'anah-i Markaz\'-i va Markaz\'-i Asn\'ad-i D\'anishg\'ah-i Tehran.
Published catalogues: Only 81 MSS of the collection have been described in the following catalogue:

See also Fihrist-i naskhah\'i\'yi hafiz\'-i kit\'abkh\'anah-i Markaz\'-i va Markaz\'-i Asn\'ad-i D\'anishg\'ah-i Tehr\'an, under Tehran: Kit\'abkh\'anah-i Markaz\'-i above.

\'Ali Ri\'a\' Asf\'pur Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 24 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The owner acquired the MSS from India. There are 9 Qur\'\'ans; the others are on ta\'fi\'r, belief, history, literature and kal\'um. The MSS are in poor condition, almost all of them worn.
Published catalogues:

Hasan Mahm\'ud\'abadi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 38 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: It covers mainly the field of Shi\'i fi\'qh and kal\'um.
Published catalogues:

Jav\'ad Mudarris\'i Yazdi Collection

A small private collection which contains 1 mag\'al\'a consisting of 8 Persian and Arabic treatises.
Published catalogues:

Madr\'asah-i Kh\'a\'n-i Buzurg Library

Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 34 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are on fi\'qh and belief.
Published catalogues: 11 MSS of the collection have been catalogued in 1965. Kit\'abkh\'anah-i Madrasah-i Kh\'a\'n-i Buzurg, pp. 433–434 in the above mentioned article by M.T. D\'anishpaz\'uh.
Maḥmūd ʿUlūmī Yazdī Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 70 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are mainly on tafsīr, fiqh, history and philosophy.
Published catalogues:

Muḥammad ʿAli Farhang Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 9 (mostly Persian).
Published catalogues:

Muḥammad Bāqir ʿAjamīn Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Both MSS are on fiqh.
Published catalogues:

Saryazdī Library

Date of establishment: 1376
Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 275 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection consisted originally of the MSS which belonged to a traditional religious scholar called Ḥājj Mirzā Muḥammad Saryazdī, after whom the collection is named. It was founded by Ḥājj Shaykh Muḥammad Ṣadegh Yazdī and located in an old traditional building called “Madrasah-i ʿAbd al-Raḥīm Khān”. The MSS are mainly on fiqh and belief.

Published catalogues: Only 11 MSS of the collection have been catalogued. See 1965. Kitābkūhānā-hī Saryazdī, pp. 417–432 in the above mentioned article by M.T. Dānīshpazhūh.

Sharaf al-Dīn ʿAlī Yazdī Collection

Status: Endowment
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4.
Description of collection: The MSS are on fiqh and kalam.
Published catalogues:

Vazīrī Library

Date of establishment: 1333/1954
Status: Endowment/Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 4,000 (Arabic, Persian and Turkish).
Conditions of access: Admission is usually granted on application to the authorities of the library.
Description of collection: The collection was founded by Sayyid ʿAlī Muḥammad Vazīrī who opened his private library to the public in 1954. It was first located in Masjid-i Jāmī-i Kabīr-i Yazd and some 10 years later a new building was made for the library, to which the contents were transferred.

The collection covers almost all branches of Islamic learning. It is particularly significant for its important MSS on the local history of the Yazd area, as well as some MSS of translations from the Qajar period. It also contains several rare and unique MSS.

The majority of the MSS were copied in the 9th–12th centuries AH.
Published catalogues:

The details given include: serial number, title, language, subject, date of compilation, some details of the content of each MS. and of the life and works of the author, beginning and ending, sample facsimiles, style of script, date of copying, name of scribe, headings and illuminations, patterns of seals, name of previous owner, marginal notes, number of leaves, number of lines, cover and binding, type of paper, dimensions, indexes of authors and titles. (NB: Indexes of Vol. IV and V have been put together at the end of Vol. V.)
Total number of MSS which have been described in all five volumes amounts to 3,950.

ZĀHIDĀN
Amīr Tavakkul Kāmbūzīyān Kurd Zafrānlū Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are on history, astrology and philosophy.
Published catalogues:

ZANJĀN
Muḥammad ʿĪz al-Dīn Husaynī Musavi Collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300 (Arabic and Persian).
Description of collection: The collection covers mainly the fields of fiqh, logic, kalām and philosophy.
It contains some valuable MSS. The collection has been catalogued in part only.
Published catalogues:

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX
Nuskhahā-yi khaṭṭ-ī, pp. 36–49.
Section on Iran, pp. 39–43.
Section on Iran, pp. 124–152.
The bibliographical details on catalogues related to Iran are given in the following volumes: