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IRAQ

by

Usāma Naṣīr al-Naqshbandī

1992

NB: Surveys of Libya, Mauritania and the Philippines will be found in Volume Three.
EDITORIAL NOTE

The political and military vicissitudes of Iraq in the last decade have been such as to render out of date much previously published information on MSS holdings there. The present state of affairs (1992–93) moreover prevents a thorough or comprehensive survey from being commissioned. What follows is an account of the larger institutional libraries and their catalogues. Most private collections, and others of fewer than 100 MSS, have been excluded, as have most Christian monastic and ecclesiastical libraries. For details of these and their catalogues, as they existed in the 1970s and earlier, reference should be made to the works listed under UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS and BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX below, and especially to those of the late and much-lamented Iraqi codicologist and bibliographer, Kûrûkîs ‘Awwād (1908–1992), to which the editing of the whole of this World Survey is much indebted.

G.J.R.
January 1993

INTRODUCTION

Iraq, the heartland of the ‘Abbasid Caliphate, had in former centuries many great libraries of manuscripts assembled by the Caliphs, the educational establishments which they founded, and other patrons and cultivators of knowledge and learning. Unfortunately these libraries were subjected to much loss and damage in the course of subsequent invasions and incursions—Seljuks, Mongols, etc.—and many of those that survived or were replaced were later acquired and removed by European adventurers and diplomats from the 17th century onwards. In the 19th century, however, a number of leading Iraqi scholars began to safeguard their heritage by collecting MSS and establishing libraries, often attached to colleges or mosques where they could be studied. This activity continued into the early part of this century, alongside the growth of public and endowed libraries.

In recent decades, too, there has been a keen awareness of the importance of manuscripts and their study, and a recognition that they
are a national resource which needs to be preserved, protected and
gathered together. The Department of Monuments & Heritage
(Da‘irat al-Athār wa-l-Tawāth) has assumed responsibility for tracing,
collecting and procuring MSS, as well as registering those which
have remained in private, public and state libraries and in the pos-
session of private individuals. It also arranges their acquisition ac-
cording to the applicable antiquities legislation. In this way the
number of MSS in the Department’s Saddam Manuscripts Library
has reached nearly 40,000, and those registered nearly 50,000.

This survey of the major collections in the country has revealed
the prevalence of linguistic, legal and theological schools (madhābīb)
in particular regions: Shāfī’i law books, for instance, proliferate in
the northern cities (and in Basra, along with literary and linguistic
texts), Shī‘i ones in Najaf and Karbalā, and Ḥanafī ones in Mosul.
Some MSS contained standard educational texts, and we have
found hundreds of copies of certain of these texts in college (medrassa)
libraries in particular towns, whereas elsewhere others predomi-
nate: this enables us to trace the local distribution of set texts, the
scholarly standing of their authors and their role in intellectual
movements in different times and places, as reflected in the curricula
and textbooks of these colleges. The study of manuscript collections
can thus play a significant role in intellectual historiography.

UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS

Published:

1919. Nauzūdir al-makhṭūṭāt al-‘Arabiyah wa-anākin suṣuṣidhā. By Ahmad
Tāysmūr. Ed. Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn al-Munajjid. Beirut: Dār al-Kitāb al-
 Jadid, 1980.

Originally published as articles in 1919. Khaza‘īn al-‘Irāq, listed
on p. 127.

1945. Al-‘āhār al-makhṭūta fī l-‘Irāq. By ʿAlī al-Khāqānī. Al-


Includes descriptions of MSS collections in Iraq.


Historical survey of libraries known to have existed before 1000
AH (1591 CE).

1956. Al-maṣāḥif al-ka‘īma fī šadr al-Īslām. By Nāṣr al-
Early Qur‘āns in Iraqi collections.

1958. Al-makhṭūṭāt al-‘Arabiyah fī l-‘Irāq. By Ḥusayn ʿAlī
Māhīfūz. Majallat Ma‘khad al-Makhṭūṭāt al-‘Arabiyah 4, 1378/1958,

Lists of MSS in 15 libraries.

Jamāl. Al-Dīn. Al-Balāgh 1 i, pp. 58–64; 1 v, pp. 73–80; 1 vii,
pp. 46–55; 1 x, pp. 56–61; 1 x, pp. 21–30; 2 iv, pp. 41–58.

Naskhah万辆 yī Khaṭṭī 5, 1346, pp. 405–583.

(Nashriyāh / R.C.D. Publication 14, 21, 22, 33, 38, 41). 5 vols. in

Incl. Mosul, Baghdad & Najaf.

‘Awwād. Majallat al-Majnūn al-‘Irāqī 23, 1393/1973,
pp. 110–156.

Extensive survey of MSS libraries & their catalogues.

63.


Detailed descriptions of 144 important scientific MSS in various Iraqi libraries.

Unpublished:


List of 186 Arabic MSS microfilmed by UNESCO.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ARBIL—see IRBIL

BAGHDAD

General

Published catalogues:


Published catalogues:


Superseded by the 1973–74 catalogue (see below).


Superseded by the 1973–74 catalogue (see below).


Superseded by the 1973–74 catalogue (see below).


The descriptions of selected MSS are superseded by the 1973–74 catalogue (see below).


Turkish MSS, arranged by title. For a critique of this catalogue, see Bīrūnī’s article (in Bibliographical Appendix below), pp. 700–701.


Systematic classified catalogue of 7,597 Arabic MSS.


Systematic catalogue of 273 microfilmed MSS.


Uncatalogued collections: 550 MSS received since the publication of the 1973–74 catalogue.

Imām Ṣādiq Public Library (Maktabat al-Imām al-Ṣādiq al-ʾĀmmā)

Al-Kazimiyya, Baghdad
Status: Waqf library, affiliated to the Ministry of Awqāf and Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 221
Description of collection: This library is one of the oldest in Kazimiyya, and its MSS were acquired by means of donation. Most of the MSS are on Imāmī (Shīʿī) fiqh and ūlum al-Qurʾān; only a few are on subjects such as philosophy, logic and language. The majority were copied after the 12th century AH.
Among the most important MSS are the following:
1) *Nasab al-riyādī*, by Muṣṭafā ibn al-Ḥusayn al-Tafṣīsī al-Ḥusaynī (d. 1021 AH / 1612 CE), a biographical dictionary completed in 1015 AH [1606 CE].
2) *Al-Sāfī*, by Muḥammad ibn Muṣṭafā Muṣṣīn al-Kāšī (d. 1091 AH / 1680 CE), a book of tafsīr, completed in 1075 AH [1664 CE].

Published catalogues:

Unpublished catalogues:
Tahāt bi-makhṭūṭāt Muktabat al-Imām Ṣādiq al-Ṣ̄amīma fi 'l-Kāzimīyya. Typescript. List of 329 MSS.

Jāmiʿat Baghdād: Muktabat al-Dirāsāt al-ʿUlyā (University of Baghdad: Higher Studies Library)

Kulliyat al-ʿĀdab (Faculty of Arts), Jāmiʿat Baghdād (University of Baghdad)

Date of establishment: 1968

Status: University library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,457 (1,321 Arabic; 2 Kurdish; 87 Persian; 47 Turkish), plus microfilms.

Description of collection: The MSS were mostly acquired from notable MS. scholars who sold their collections to the library when it was affiliated to the Islamic Institute of Higher Studies, namely Kūrāl ʿAwwād, Yūsuf Maṣkhūn, Mikhāʾil ʿAwwād and ʿAlī Maṣfūz. The manuscripts are mostly on history, biography, sciences and other Islamic subjects, in addition to some Christian books.

Rarities include:
1) 8 separate folios from a Qurʾān written on parchment in Kufic script, dating from the 3rd century AH.
2) Minhaj al-bayān fīnasāt ar-risālāt li-ʿinsānī, by Al-Kātīb al-Baghdādī (d. 493 AH / 100 CE), a book on medicines, food and drink, compiled for the Abbāsid Caliph al-Muṣṭafā, copied in 621 AH [1224 CE].
3) Waṣīfāt al-dīn wa-anhāʾ al-ṣamān, by ʿAlī Maṣfūz ibn Muḥammad ibn Khalīlān (d. 681 AH / 1282 CE), a rare autograph copy of the fifth volume. (Volumes 3 and 4 of the same copy are preserved in the Ṣaḥdīl Manuscripts Library, q.v. below.)
4) Kanz al-mulūk fī kaṣīfayt al-sulūk, by Sirṭ ibn al-Jawzī (d. 564 AH / 1265 CE), a unique copy from the 9th century AH / 15th century CE.
6) Al-Mālāha bi-ilm al-fisāhā, by ʿAbd al-Ghānī al-Nābulūsī (d. 1143 AH / 1731 CE), a unique autograph copy.

Published catalogues:

Detailed catalogue of 13 MSS formerly in the Girls’ College and subsequently transferred to the Higher Studies Library.

1977. Fihrist makhṭūṭāt Kulliyat al-ʿĀdab fī Jāmiʿat Baghdād: al-muṣawwara-


1979. Fihrist waṣīf in al-makhṭūṭāt fī Muktabat al-Dirāsāt al-ʿUlyā bi-


Alphabetical list of 2,436 titles, incl. 2,241 Arabic, 2 Kurdish, 87 Persian & 47 Turkish. No indexes. Incl. microfilms.

Unpublished catalogues:

Hand-list of 1,514 MSS, without codicological details. No indexes.

Description of MSS: Descriptions of 36 mathematical & astronomical MSS.

Janʾīyat al-Tarbiya al-İslāmīya (Society for Islamic Education)

Al-Mansūr, al-Karkh, Baghdad
Tel.: 5434247
Date of establishment: 1954
Total number of Islamic MSS: 349.

Description of collection: The importance of the collection is due to the fact that it comprises the collections of two distinguished ʿulamāʾ from two old families which have played a distinguished part in the intellectual and scholarly movement in Iraq. They are ʿAbd ʿAl-Wahhāb al-Rawāʾī (d. 1916), whose collection consists of 225 MSS, and the Muftī Shaykh Muḥammad Saʿīd al-Zahāwī (d. 1921), whose family donated his collection to the library. Most of the MSS are well selected, without duplication, and they are mostly on ʿfiqh, usūl al-ʿfiqh and ʿālūm al-Qurʾān. They are in good condition and preserved in a suitable place, with appropriate temperature and humidity.

Rarities include:
1) Al-Zuhdī ʿAbī ʿAlī ʿAbd ʿArūs, by ʿAbd ʿAl-Lāh ibn Muḥammad ibn Ḥusayn ibn ʿAbd ʿAl-Ḥamīd al-Zūlī, a necrological, genealogical and onomastic dictionary. A fine copy written in 716 AH [1316 CE].
3) Al-Jawāhir al-majmūʿa wa-l-nawzūdīt al-masīdī, by Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad al-Sakhwānī (d. 902 AH / 1496 CE), fine copy dated 951 AH [1542 CE].

Published catalogues:

Detailed catalogue of 220 MSS.

Al-Jawādayn Public Library (Maktubat al-Jawādayn al-ʿĀmma)

near Marqad (Mausoleum of al-İmām Mūṣṭafā ʿAlāʾ al-İbādī, Baghdad

Status: Waqf library, belonging to the Ministry of Awqāf and Religious Affairs.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 149.

Description of collection: This is one of the ancient libraries of Baghdad. Most of the MSS are on literature, poetry, Arabic language and Shiʿī fiqh.

Rarities include:
2) Rijāl al-Zaydiyya, by Ṭāhir ibn ʿArūs ʿAbd ʿAbd ʿArūs al-İbnī al-İbnī al-İbnī al-Maḏiḥī al-İbnī al-İbnī al-İbnī, a copy of the original written by Yūnus, the author’s grandson, in 855 AH [1450 CE].

Published catalogues:

Unpublished catalogues:
The library has a classified card catalogue. Each card contains the title, the author’s name, the scribe’s name and the date of copying.

Al-Khullānī Public Library (Maktubat al-Khullānī al-ʿĀmma)

Sāḥib al-Khullānī, Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jumhūrīyya, Baghdad

Status: Mosque library (waqf)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 124.

Description of collection: Most of the MSS were acquired by means of donation, and the fields they cover are mainly ʿArabic fiqh, ʿālūm al-Qurʾān and Arabic language. Among the most important MSS in this collection are:
Jawād al-Baghdādī, 1043 AH [1633 CE]. This copy dates from the author’s time.
Unpublished catalogues:

Al-Majmaʿ al-ʿIlmī al-ʿIrāqī (Iraqi Academy of Sciences)
Al-Wazīrīya, Baghdad
Date of establishment: 1964
Status: Academic library
Conditions of access: Open to researchers involved in the study of MSS. Microfilming service available.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 840 (674 Arabic; 3 Kurdish; 77 Persian; 86 Turkish), plus microfilms.
Description of collection: Most of the MSS were donated to the library; the rest were purchased. The most important collection was that of the late Tawfīq Wahnū (593 MSS). Subjects include Arabic language, literature and poetry, fiqh, astrology and astronomy. Some MSS are from the 9th and 10th centuries AH, but most of them were written after the 11th century AH.

Rarities include:
1) A Qufic Qur’ān leaf (parchment) from the 3rd century AH.
2) Nāṣīr ibn Mūhammad al-Ḥusaynī, on rocks and minerals, rare autograph copy, dated 1020 AH [1611 CE].
3) Rawag al-majālis, by Abū Ḥanīfa Muḥammad ibn Mūhammad al-Ḥusaynī, fine copy written by Muṣṭafā ibn Ilyās in 1066 AH [1655 CE].
5) Rasulat al-ṣāḥib fi irādat al-Naḥwi wa-l-ʿAṣbaḥ, by Ḥāfīz al-ʿIrāqī, fine copy dated 995 AH [1586 CE].

Published catalogues:
425 MSS.

Detailed descriptions of 734 MSS.

Catalogue of 694 microfilms.


Al-Musṭanṣirīya University Library (Maktabat al-Jāmiʿa al-Musṭanṣirīya)
Al-Wazīrīya, Baghdad
Date of establishment: 1973
Status: University library
Conditions of access: MSS available for internal reading; photography permitted for purposes of editing & publishing.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 168.
Description of collection: The MSS are mostly on the following subjects: fiqh (the four schools), literature, poetry and linguistics.

Rarities include:
3) Tāʾī al-ṣāḥib wa-l-anwār, by Ibn Ḥāfīz al-ʿIrāqī, by Ibn Ḥāfīz al-ʿIrāqī, fine copydated 1064 AH [1750 CE].

There is also a collection of microfilms.
Published catalogues:

Unpublished catalogues:

Nājī Mahfīẓ collection
Al-Kāżimīya, Baghbad
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 682 (479 Arabic; 6 Persian; 177 Turkish).
Description of collection: The oldest MS in this uncatalogued collection dates from 589 AH / 1193 CE, and there are others from the 9th and 10th centuries AH, but the majority are later than the 11th century AH. A range of Arabic/islamic subjects is covered, with Hanafi fiqh, fīsūrī and language sciences predominant.

Rarities include:

Qādiriya Library (Al-Maktaba al-Qādiriya)
Jāmi‘ al-Shaykh ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Gilānī, Baghbad
Tel.: 8889465
Date of establishment: 1954
Status: Mosque library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,544 (1,462 Arabic; 17 Persian; 64 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: This library is one of the old libraries of Baghbad, founded originally by Abū Sa‘īd al-Marqamī in 513 AH / 1119 CE. Then Shaykh ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Gilānī, and his sons after him, assumed responsibility for it. Important collections were acquired and some MSS which were endowed to madrasas and tābiyya have been transferred here. The majority of the MSS are works on Hanafi fiqh, ʿulūm al-Qurʾān and Arabic language, and they range in date from the 5th century AH to the beginning of the present century. For a general history and description, see:

Rarities include:
2) Al-Mabūḥ fi sharh al-Waṣīf, by Muḥammad ibn Yaḥyā ibn Maṣṭur al-Nisāʾīnī al-Shāfī (d. 548 AH / 1152 CE), copied from an autograph by Muḥammad ibn Fālāshī al-Khāṭṭān in 749 AH [1348 CE].
4) Suhb al-khayrāt, by Yaḥyā ibn Naṣīr ibn al-Qalāṣ al-Qurṭūbī al-Suḥrālī (d. 422 AH / 1030 CE), copied by Muḥammad ibn al-Suḥrālī in 870 AH [1465 CE].
6) A large-size Qur'an embellished with gilt, azure glaze and various colours, 3 taqūs in the margin, donated by the ruler of Kashmir in 1211 AH [1796 CE].

Published catalogues:
   Detailed descriptions of selected MSS.


   Detailed catalogue, with indexes, of 1,544 MSS.

Unpublished catalogues:
Catalogue of 658 MSS.

Al-Rahbānīya al-Kaldānīya (Chaldean Monastery)

Status: Christian (Chaldean Catholic) monastic library
Description of collection: For a brief description of the Arabic MSS holdings, see:
Published catalogues:
   Detailed catalogue, with indexes, of 196 Arabic & 3 Persian MSS.

Saddam Manuscripts Library (Dār ʿṢaddām li-l-Makhtūtāt)
Shārī Ḥayfā, Baghdad
Tel.: 8840115
Date of establishment: 1988
Status: State library, affiliated to the Department of Monuments & Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Information.
Conditions of access: Open to researchers; photographic services available for purposes of editing, publishing and exchange with MSS centres throughout the world.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 40,211 (36,461 Arabic; 210 Kurdish; 2,757 Persian; 786 Turkish).
Description of collection: Dār ʿṢaddām is regarded as the central authority in charge of MSS in Iraq, and its responsibilities include MSS in public and private libraries and in the possession of individuals. The nucleus of the collection is the MSS library of the Iraqi Museum, which was started in 1940 and grew to nearly 4,000 MSS by 1968. From then onwards special attention was paid to manuscripts, and consequently they increased to 38,000 by 1988, in addition to more than 50,000 MSS which are registered by Dār ʿṢaddām but are kept elsewhere. Such an enormous task required the establishment of a special department for MSS which would be responsible for providing a suitable place and conditions for MSS storage, preservation and restoration, and for making them available to readers. So Dār ʿṢaddām was established and the MSS collection of the Iraqi Museum library was transferred to it.

This is the largest MSS collection in Iraq. It includes many rare, decorated and unique MSS and autograph copies. It also includes a large number of specimens and diplomas (gīzāt) of the most celebrated calligraphers in Islamic history. The MSS date from the first century AH to the beginning of this century. The oldest manuscripts are fragments and pages of the Qurʾān written on parchment in Kūfī script, from the first three centuries AH. The oldest dated MSS are a letter from the ʿAbbāsid Caliph al-Wāthiq in the handwriting of Ibn al-Bawwāb, and a copy of Kišāb al-Majmāʿ fi ʿl-haghā by Ibn Fāris, written in 446 AH / 1054 CE.
The Library acquired by means of purchase or donation several well-known private collections such as those of Father Anastas Al-Karmali, Rashid Ali al-Gaylani, Mullai Sibek Kierkullazda, Al-Shareef Hazim, Abbas al-‘Azzawi, Sadiq Kamalun, Ya’qub Sarkis, Mas’ud, Muhammad and Ahmad ‘Ali al-Balagh, Qasim Muhammed al-Rajab, Hashim al-Alusi and others.

Published catalogues:


Details of 94 Persian MSS.


Lengthy descriptions & analyses of 6 volumes of Isma’ili texts in the Iraq Museum collection.


Detailed descriptions, with indexes, of 327 MSS subsequently transferred to the Iraq Museum, and hence to the Saddam Library.

Catalogue of linguistic MSS.

Lists 55 MSS.

Descriptions of selected MSS from a collection subsequently donated to the Iraq Museum.

Detailed catalogue of 414 MSS.


Detailed catalogue of 134 MSS, with indexes.


Systematic catalogue, with indexes, of 687 legal MSS.


Descriptions of 49 musical MSS.


Detailed catalogue, with indexes, of 132 MSS.


Systematic catalogue, with indexes, of 305 mathematical MSS.


Systematic catalogue, with indexes, of 749 medical, pharmacological & veterinary MSS.


Military MSS.


Detailed classified catalogue.


Detailed catalogue of MSS of travel literature.


Unpublished catalogues:


254 MSS in the possession of the Suhrāwadī family, subsequently acquired by the Iraq Museum.


A collection of 66 MSS acquired by the Iraq Museum.


Al-Sayyid Sulṭān ʿAlī Mosque library (Khizānat Jāmī al-Sayyid Sulṭān ʿAlī)

Shārī al-Rashād, Baghdad
Date of establishment: 1892
Status: Waqf library, under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqāf and Religious Affairs.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 104.
Description of collection: This mosque incorporated, from its foundation, a college (madrasa) with a library containing MSS. These holdings were replenished through the efforts of Anū ʿl-Husnā l-Sayyādī al-Rāfīʿī, who took a special interest in the library. The MSS date from after the 10th century AH, and most of them deal with fiqh, awāl al-Fiqh, ʾulūm al-Qurʿān and the Arabic language.

Published catalogues:
1967–70. 85 MSS were described by ʿImād ʿAbd al-Salām Raʾūf in a series of articles in Al-Maktab (Baghdad), 7 / 57–10 / 68.


Descriptions of 104 MSS.
Unpublished catalogues:
   Descriptions of 104 MSS.


BASRA

General

Published catalogues:
   Incl. descriptions of 40 MSS.


ʿAbbāsī Library (Al-Maktaba al-ʿAbbāsīya)

Dār Bāsh A‘yān al-ʿAbbāsī, Suq al-Khuḍār, al-Baṣra
Tel.: 312065
Status: Waqf library, under the administration of the Bāsh A‘yān family.
Conditions of access: Open to readers; provides microfilms to scholars through the University of Basra.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,500 (1,487 Arabic; 3 Persian; 10 Turkish).
Description of collection: This library is one of the oldest in Iraq, and has been a cultural landmark of Basra for centuries. It has been handed down through the family of Bāsh A‘yān, and early in this century MSS from some madrasahs of Basra were added to the library collection. The MSS are for the most part specially selected and there are few duplicates. They include a good number of rare, unique and illuminated MSS. The collection covers all aspects of scholarship, but the majority deal with religious and legal studies

and literature. They date from the 6th century AH onwards: the oldest was copied in 540 AH [1145 CE].

Important manuscripts include:
1) Al-Hawwāfī fi suhūk al-sawā'irī, by Ibrāhīm al-Dunya (d. 281 AH / 894 CE). A unique and precious copy, written in naskhī script in 885 AH [1480 CE].
5) An exceptionally fine illuminated copy, in 2 vols., of the Shāhānāmah of Firdawsī, with 13 miniatures.

Published catalogues:


   Brief descriptions of 791 MSS.

Published catalogues:
Detailed catalogue of 491 MSS.

Unpublished catalogues:
494 MSS.

Descrptions of 63 Arabic MSS.

Detailed catalogue of 491 MSS, arranged by title within broad subject categories, without author or title indexes. Each of the 491 entries has details (where known) of the author, incipit, copyst, date of copying and a physical description of the manuscript.


IRBIL
Jāmīʿat Salāh al-Dīn: al-Maktaba al-Markaziyya (Saladin University Library)

Date of establishment: 1977
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Available for internal reading; microfilms provided for editing and research purposes.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 472 (over 400 Arabic; 25 Persian; Kurdish; 9 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS were acquired by means of purchase or donation. The biggest collection, donated to the library when the university was in Sulaymānīyā, was that of Qādir ʿAqīl Ḥążī Mūḷā Sāʿīd Kirmākālī-Zāḏān. The manuscripts are mostly on
linguistics, logic, philosophy, invocations and dhikr. They include a number of works by Kurdish ṣalamān. The oldest manuscript is dated 682 AH / 1283 CE, but most of them are from after the 10th century AH.

Important MSS include:
2) Taḥkīr al-īmān li-l-Akrūd, by Muḥammad ibn Ābī al-Karīm Jawāhīr-zādah BīnJaṿīnī al-Qāṣī (d. 1358 AH / 1938 CE). This is the first complete ṭafṣīr in Kurdish. 8 volumes, large size. A unique autograph copy, completed in 1351 AH [1932 CE].
3) Shaḥr Qulūsīn, by Al-Mawālī Muṣṭafā ibn Shābān Surūrī (d. 969 AH / 1561 CE). An Arabic translation and commentary on Ḥāfīz, made for the Ottoman Sultan Mustafa in 957 AH [1550 CE]. A fine copy, made by Ābī al-Raḥīm ibn Ḥusayn in Istanbul in 973 AH [1565 CE].

Published catalogues:

Detailed catalogue, with indexes, of 472 MSS. Published before the university was transferred to Irbil.

KARBALA'

General

Published catalogues:


Brief historical accounts of 22 former private collections, followed by detailed catalogues of two existing ones.


Particulars of 10 public & 38 private libraries, with details of selected MSS.


Lists of 491 MSS in 35 collections.

Abū l-Faḍl al-ᅠAbās Library (Maktabat Abū ‘l-Faḍl al-ᅠAbās)

Al-Rawḍa al-ᅠAbbasīyya, Karbala'

Date of establishment: 1963

Status: Affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 210.

Description of collection: The MSS were collected mainly by means of donations. Most of them date from the 12th century AH, but some are from the 9th and the 10th. Apart from the early Qur‘āns (see below), the oldest MS. is dated 677 AH [1278 CE] and the most important are on fāshī, ṣīfī, ‘ṣīfī and kālam.

Rarities include:
1) 3 Kufic Qur‘āns on parchment from the 2nd & 3rd centuries AH. One is complete, the others fragmentary.

Unpublished catalogues:

List of 105 old and valuable Qur‘ān MSS.
IRAQ—KARBALA

‘Abd al-Ḥusayn Āl Tu’ma Library (Maktabat ‘Abd al-Ḥusayn Āl Tu’ma)

Maḥallat al-‘Abbāsīya al-Gharbīya, Karbala.  
Date of establishment: 1333 AH / 1915 CE  
Status: Private library, under the administration of Al-Sayyid ʿĀdil  
Ṣāliḥ al-Kulaydār.  
Total number of Islamic MSS: 116 (90 Arabic; 26 Persian).  
Description of collection: This is one of the most valuable collections in  
Karbala. It was affected by a fire in 1915, but the owner Al-Sayyid ʿAbd al-Ḥusayn  
al-Kulaydār salvaged some of the MSS and then added more. Today his grandson is looking after the library. The  
MSS are carefully selected and are in good condition. They include a  
number of MSS on divination.  
Rarities include:  
1) Ṭaḥṣil al-aḍād, by Abū ‘l-Walīd Muḥammad ibn Al-Mu’alla.  
A unique work by an otherwise unknown author, written in 630 AH [1232 CE].  
2) Sawwar al-aqālīm, by Abū Zayd Ahmad ibn Sahl al-Balkhi (d. 323 AH / 934 CE). A precious copy containing 21 coloured maps, written in 1086 AH [1674 CE]. (The Berlin copy contains 19 maps only.)  
3) Sharḥ al-Riḍā’ā’ al-nāfṣa fi ‘l-dalā’il al-wāhiqa, by Abū ʿAlāʾ ibn  
Ḥamza ibn Sulaymān ibn Ḥamza al-Īmām al-Mansūr bi’llāh, one of the Zaydis Imams of Yemen (d. 614 AH / 1217 CE). A fine copy made by ʿAlī ibn Muḥammad al-Murtadhā in 1085 AH [1674 CE], bound with 7 other works.  
Published catalogues:  
1973. See union catalogue by Al-Ṭu’ma (under General above),  
pp. 38 – 86, for detailed descriptions.  

Ḍār al-Makhtūṭāt, Karbala. (Karbala Manuscripts Library)  
Al-Sahn al-Ḥusaynī, Karbala.  
Date of establishment: 1980  
Status: Public, affiliated to the Ministry of Awqāf and Religious  
Affairs.  
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,400 (1,183 Arabic; 217 Persian).  
Description of collection: This collection was formed from MSS  
gathered from certain madrasas, such as Al-Madrasa al-Jaf’ariyya  
(901 MSS), plus the collection of Muḥammad Mahdi al-Tābātānī (411 MSS), in addition to other collections donated by  
individuals. The MSS of this library are mainly on Imāmī fiqh and its  
nāṣil, ʿulūm al-Qur’ān, logic and philosophy.  
Rarities include:  
1) Al-Makhzdīkh, by Ībrāhīm al-Firuzābādī (d. 476 AH / 1083 CE), a precious copy, dated 631 AH [1233 CE].  
2) Kariṣṭ al-rumāz, by ʿĪz al-Dīn al-Ḥasan ibn ʿAbī Ṭalib al-Yūssuf  
al-ʿAbbāsī, completed in 672 AH [1273 CE]. A fine copy made by  
Ḥasan ibn ʿAlī al-Tābātānī in 711 AH [1311 CE].  
3) Māhaj al-maqsūq fī tabḥīq alwāl al-rijūl, by Muḥammad ibn ʿAlī ibn  
Ībrāhīm al-Astārabādī (d. 1028 AH / 1618 CE). A fine copy dated  
1069 AH [1658 CE].  
4) Tadbhīrat al-suṣqaṭ, by Al-Ḥasan ibn Yūsuf ibn al-Muṭṭahhar  
al-Ḥilī (d. 726 AH / 1325 CE). 2 volumes, one dated 719 AH  
[1316 CE].  
Apart from the Tābātānī collection (see below), the holdings are  
uncatalogued.  
Published catalogues:  
Ṣalām ʿAbd al-Ṭu’ma. Kuwait: Maḥmad al-Makhtūṭāt al- 
Detailed catalogue, with indexes, of a former private collection of  
411 MSS, now in this library.  

Al-Māzandarānī (Muhammad Mahdi)  
Status: Private family library  
Total number of Islamic MSS: 134 (120 Arabic; 14 Persian).  
Description of collection: The MSS were inherited within the family,  
most of them being recent copies. They include the works of the  
collection’s owner (18 books), written in his own handwriting. The  
olesdest MS., dated 713 AH [1313 CE], is a copy of Sharḥ al-Īslām,  
by Jaṣṣāb al-Ḥasan al-Muḥaqqiq al-Hilli (d. 676 AH / 1277  
CE). Most of the other MSS are also on Imāmī fiqh and kalām.  
There is no catalogue.
MOSUL
General
Published catalogues:

Aqwāf Library (Maktabat al-Aqwāf al-ʿĀmma)
Tel.: 776889
Date of establishment: 1974
Status: Public library, affiliated to the Ministry of Aqwāf and Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and scholars; photographic services available.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5,708 (5,479 Arabic; 134 Persian; 95 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS in this library were collected from madrasas and mosques in Mosul during the period 1972–1974. More collections were donated to the library by some notables of Mosul. The MSS range in date from early 5th century AH to the beginning of the present century. The oldest is dated 403 AH (1012 CE). Most are on the Ḥanafi school of law (385 MSS), but other fields of Arabic and Islamic sciences and knowledge are covered.

Published catalogues:
Classified list of 275 MSS bequeathed to the Aqwāf Library.


Arranged by collections, with overall indexes of titles, authors & other names. Separate sequences for Persian & Turkish MSS—for a critique of the latter, see Birnbaum’s article (in Bibliographical Appendix below), p. 701.
Descriptions of 106 MSS.


Jālīlī Library (Maktabat al-Jālīlī)
Al-Rawwāsā
Tel.: 7623125
Date of establishment: 1241 AH / 1825 CE
Status: Family waqf library
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and scholars; photographic services provided through the University of Mosul.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 398 (383 Arabic; 3 Persian; 12 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS belong to the Jālīlī family who have played a leading political, social, and intellectual role in Mosul. The collection was endowed to the family and its offspring and a special building was allocated to it. At present Dr. Māmūd al-Jālīlī is in charge of the library, and his own collection is placed in the same building: therefore it has been included here. Most of the MSS deal with ʿālim al-Qurʾān, Arabic language and history. The MSS were specially selected and their copying dates range from the 8th to the 13th centuries AH.
Rarities include:
1) Duwār al-ʿawqūf al-furūda fi tarjīm al-dīyān al-mufīda, by Taqī al-Dīn Aḥmad al-Maqūrī (d. 845 AH / 1441 CE), a valuable copy of volumes 1 and 2, dated 878 AH [1473 CE].
Published catalogues:

Unpublished catalogues:
Descriptions of 460 MSS. Available at the Saddam Manuscripts Library, Baghdad.

Al-Maktaba al-Markaziya al-ʿĀmma (Central Public Library)
opposite Qīṭar Ibn al-Athīr
Tel.: 816303
Date of establishment: 1930
Status: Public library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 401 (376 Arabic; 5 Persian; 20 Turkish).
Description of collection: Mostly donated from local families, such as Al-Naqib, Bāsh ʿAlīm and Al-Jālīr. Some were purchased from individuals. The dominant subjects are Shāfiʿī fiqh, ṣaḥīḥ and ḥadīth. Most of the MSS are from after the 11th century AH. The oldest is dated 811 AH [1408 CE]. The collection is well preserved, in a suitable place.
Rarities include:

Published catalogues:
Classified hand-list of 203 MSS. Lacks codicological details.

Descriptions of 301 MSS. Lacks a uniform approach.
NAJAF

General

Published catalogues:


List of 276 MSS in Najaf libraries.

Amīr al-Muʿminîn Library (Maktabat Amīr al-Muʿminîn)

Tel.: 428163
Date of establishment: 1954
Status: Public library, endowed to the scholars and researchers of Najaf.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,874 (2,340 Arabic; 531 Persian; 3 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS were acquired by purchase or donation. Most were written after the 11th century AH; the oldest dated MS. is from 496 AH [1102 CE]. The major subjects are Imāmī

fiqh, its usûl and related themes, in addition to a proliferation of school-books.

Among the most valuable items are:
1) Part of a Kufic Qurʾān on parchment.

Published catalogues:
1974. See article by Al-Jâlîlî (under General above), pp. 31–49.

Unpublished catalogues:

Bayt al-Ḥikma Library (Maktabat Bayt al-Ḥikma)

Al-Saḥîn al-Ḥaydari, al-Najaf
Date of establishment: 1977
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,410 (2,127 Arabic; 278 Persian; 5 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS of this library were gathered from madrasahs and private libraries, such as Madrasat al-Bârîjardî al-Kubrâ, and Khânîzânât al-Shâykh ʿAlî al-Ḥârî al-Ghârî, in addition to other important private collections which were acquired by purchase. The majority of the MSS deal with Imâmî fiqh and its usûl, philosophy, kalâm and invocations. The earliest MSS belong to the 7th century AH, but most were written after the 11th century. The collection is kept in some rooms in the mausoleum of ʿAlî ibn Abî Tâlib, waiting for the availability of a new and suitable building. Many MSS need restoration and preservation.
Rarities include:

No catalogues.

Gharawi Collection (Al-Khizāna al-Gharawiyya)—see Al-Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya below.

Al-ʿImām al-Ḥakim Public Library (Maktabat al-ʾImām al-Ḥakim al-ʾAmma)

opposite the tomb of ʾImām ʾAlī, ʾSuq al-Qaysariyya, al-Najaf
Date of establishment: 1337 AH / 1957 CE
Status: Endowed to the city of Najaf.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,322 (2,334 Arabic; 186 Persian; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS were collected by purchase or donation. The starting point was the collection of Shaykh Muḥammad al-Samāwī, then the library received from one of its founders, Shaykh Muḥammad al-Rashtī, his own collection as a gift. The majority of MSS are on ʾImāmī fiqh, kalām, ʿaqīdāt and other Arabic and Islamic subjects.

Rarities include:
1) ʾDustūr al-ʾlughah (al-kullāt), by  Widgets ʿUsayn ibn ʾIbrāhīm ibn ʾAbd al-ʾNajānī al-ʾIṣfahānī, known as ʾDūh ʿl-Bayḥānayn, or ʾDūh ʿl-

2) ʾAl-Dalāʾil, by ʾAbū Muṣṭafā Jāʿfar ibn Muḥammad ibn ʾUmar al-Bakhtī (d. 272 AH / 885 CE). A work on astrology, copied in 822 AH [1421 CE].

Published catalogues:
Lengthy descriptions of 44 MSS. No indexes.


Jāmī‘at al-Najaf al-Diniya (Najaf Religious University Library)

Tel.: 363858
Date of establishment: 1955
Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 303 (269 Arabic; 34 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS were collected by Sāyyid Muḥammad Kalandar, the founder and dean of the University. 75 of them belonged to Sāyyid Abū ‘l-Ḥasan al-Ḥusaynī. The dominant subject is Imāmī fiqh (142 MSS); others are on language, 'aqli‘d and kalām. Most of the MSS are dated after the 11th century AH; only a few were written in earlier periods. The oldest is dated 717 AH [1317 CE]. A small exhibition is on display in the entrance of the library, in which ornamented and unique MSS are displayed.

Rarities include:

Unpublished catalogues:
A catalogue is available to readers, arranged by subjects and titles. There are also lists of the contents of this library in the Saddam Manuscripts Library in Baghdad.

Kāshīf al-Ghiṭā? Public Library (Maktabat Kāshīf al-Ghiṭā? al-ʿĀmma)

Madrassat al-Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ḥusayn Āl Kāshīf al-Ghiṭā? al-ʿĀmma
Tel.: 376716
Date of establishment: 1300 AH / 1882 CE
Status: Waqf library
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,800 (1,679 Arabic; 1 Kurdish; 110 Persian; 10 Turkish).
Description of collection: The nucleus of this library is the collection of Shaykh Muhammad al-Hasayn al-Kashif al-Ghita (666 MSS), which he endowed to his madrasa. More collections were acquired by means of purchase or donation. The dominant subject is Imami fiqh (368 MSS). There is also an important collection of biographical and genealogical works, among other subjects. Dates range from the 5th century AH to the present century.

Rarities include:
1) 8 parchment leaves with Kufic writing, 3rd century AH.
4) Salawat al-Qur'an wa-us-nas al-mashahib, by Ibn Khalaf Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Malik ibn Khalaf al-Sulami al-Tabari (d. ca. 470 AH / 1077 CE), on Sufis, compiled in 459 AH [1066 CE]. This copy was written during the author's life and may be an autograph.
5) Al-Dalail, by Abu Muhammad al-Jarir ibn Muhammad ibn 'Umar al-Balkhi (d. 272 AH / 885 CE), on astrology. A fine copy written in 822 AH [1419 CE].

Published catalogues:


Unpublished catalogues:
666 MSS.

The general classified catalogue of the library also includes details of the MSS.

Al-Rawda al-Haydariya Collection (Khizanat al-Rawda al-Haydariya)
also known as Al-Khizana al-Gharawiya

Marqad (Mausoleum of) al-Imam 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, al-Najaf
Date of establishment: 8th century AH
Status: Waqf library, under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,253 (1,214 Arabic; 39 Persian).
Description of collection: This library is remarkable for its outstanding collection of rare and valuable Qur'an and other MSS, which has been accumulated over a period of more than a thousand years. In 760 AH / 1358 CE Sahir al-Din al-Awfi assumed responsibility for it and added many MSS to its holdings. The collection contains some of the finest and most valuable Qur'ans in the world, including several on parchment in Kufic script. Others, in large format, are the work of famous calligraphers such as Yaqut al-Musta'si, Ahmad al-Suhrawardi, 'Abd Allah al-Sayrafi, Ahmad al-Tahiri; and others; many are richly illuminated.

The library also has unique and rare MSS on a variety of subjects, with the emphasis on fiqh, philosophy, logic and kalim. There are a number of autograph copies, including especially 25 works of 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Muhammad al-Ata'qi and the works of Sa'id ibn Mansur ibn Kammuna (d. 682 AH / 1283 CE). The oldest dated MSS is from 370 AH [980 CE], but the majority are from the 8th/14th century or later. In 1977 the collection of Sayyid Hisham Baqir al-Ula'a (532 MSS) was endowed to the library.

Rarities include:
Published catalogues:
List of 82 MSS.

Detailed catalogue, with indexes, of 153 MSS. Qur’ans omitted.

Unpublished catalogues:

NASIRIYA
Maktabat Usrat Al Jamâl al-Dîn (Jamal al-Din family library)
Nâhiyât Karbât Banî Sa’did
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 282 (270 Arabic; 12 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS have been passed down in the family. The dominant subjects are literature, language and Imami fiqh. Most MSS were copied around the 11th/17th century. The oldest is dated 687 AH [1288 CE].
Rarities include:

SULAYMANIYA
Awqâf Library (Maktabat al-Awqâf al-‘Âma)
Date of establishment: 1978
Status: Public library, affiliated to the Ministry of Awqâf and Religious Affairs.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,785 (3,611 Arabic; 42 Kurdish; 119 Persian; 13 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS were gathered from mosques and takûfâs throughout the province of Sulaymaniyya. Some individuals have also donated their collections to the library, the most significant being that of the Bâbâni family, who ruled Qal‘at Jawlân from 1669 to 1784, then Sulaymaniyya until 1851. The collection was transferred from Qal‘at Jawlân to the Grand Mosque in Sulaymaniyya. The MSS are from the 8th century AH and later. They cover various Arabic and Islamic fields of knowledge, but the dominant subjects are Shi‘i fiqh and its usûl (414 MSS), followed by language, ta’âfu‘î, kalâm and Sufism. There are multiple copies of some textbooks which were used in madrasas.
Rarities include:
3) Al-Tibîyân fi ilm al-ma’dûnî wa-‘l-ba’dî wa-‘l-hayân by Husayn Shiraf al-Dîn al-Tâyyirî (d. 743 AH / 1342 CE). An important and unique copy, written in 738 AH [1337 CE] and read before the author.
4) Iṣâh al-futâwîn min ṣaḥâb harâ’ib al-bâwi by Husn Allâh Ibn al-Bârîzî (d. 730 AH / 1337 CE). A precious copy of volumes 1 and 2, written...
IRAQ—SULAYMANIYA

by ʿUmar ibn ʿUmar al-Wardī in 726 AH [1325 CE]. Important owners’ inscriptions.


Published catalogues:
Arranged by collections. Indexes.

Al-Khāl (Shaykh Muḥammad)

Date of establishment: 1973 (as an organised library)
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to readers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 645 (333 Arabic; 37 Kurdish; 71 Persian; 4 Turkish).

Description of collection: These MSS were inherited by Shaykh Muḥammad from his forebears and he added to them more items which he purchased during his lifetime. Most of the MSS are carefully selected rarities, some of them autograph copies. The oldest was written in 621 AH [1224 CE]. Various subjects are covered, but most of the MSS are on Arabic language (296 MSS) and Shāfiʿī fiqh. The library also contains the works of some well-known Kurdish authors such as Muḥammad Maʿrūf al-Nūdāhī al-Barzanjī, ʿĀbd Allāh al-Ǧayyūsī, Ibn Hīdāyat Allāh al-Kurṭī, ʿĀbd al-Qādir al-Takhtī, etc.

Rarities include:
1) Al-Kaṣīf, by Majīmūd ibn ʿUmar al-Zamakhšarī (d. 528 AH / 1133 CE). A precious copy in 4 big volumes, written by Muḥammad ibn Maṣʿūd ibn al-Ḵuẓafar in Tabrīz in 729 AH [1328 CE].
3) Al-Sīra al-mardiyah fi sharḥ al-Fāṣfaḍ, by ʿĀbd Allāh ibn страива ibn
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