A bibliography of known works, with locations of known MSS, including holdings in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.


A list of published catalogues of collections of Christian Arabic MSS arranged by town. Dublin, p. 245.

ITALY

by

Paola Orsatti
Bartolomeo Pirone
and
Aldo Gallotta

1991
UNION CATALOGUES & GENERAL SURVEYS


Notes on 47 Arabic MSS in Sicilian libraries.


Collection of very concise handlists by different scholars, with indexes of subjects, titles & authors.


Topographical survey, with statistical index of languages (incl. African, Arabic, Urdu, Malay/Javanese/Madurese, Persian & Turkish). Appendix gives handlists of some otherwise uncatalogued collections.


Very accurate catalogue of 439 MSS, with full codicological details and discussions of identifications, etc. 15 indexes: subjects, non-Persian texts, dated MSS, paper, bindings, calligraphy, ornamentation, miniatures, *manuscript, tables & scientific diagrams, seals, copyists & calligraphers, authors, titles, fāṭrisats kutub.*

**INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS**

**AGRIGENTO (GIRGENTI)**

**Biblioteca Lucchesiana**

*Date of establishment: 1765*

*Status: Ecclesiastical*

*Conditions of access: Open to the public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 31 (Arabic).*

*Description of collection: These MSS, collected by an 18th-century bishop, are mostly of Spanish origin.*

*Published catalogues:*


**AREZZO**

**Biblioteca Consorziale**

*Date of establishment: 1959*

*Status: Public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).*

*Description of collection: The MS is well preserved.*

*Published catalogues:*

1896. See union catalogue by Mazzatinti.

**BARI**

**Biblioteca Nazionale (ex-Consorziale)**

*Date of establishment: 1865*

*Status: Public, though primarily for the use of university students.*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).*

*Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved.*

*Published catalogues:*

1930. See union catalogue / survey by Gabrieli, p. 9.

**BERGAMO**

**Biblioteca Civica Angelo Mai**

*Date of establishment: 1760*

*Status: Public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).*
Published catalogues:

1930. See union catalogue / survey by Gabrielli, p. 9, where 2 Qur'an fragments are mentioned.

BOLOGNA

Biblioteca Comunale dell'Archiginnasio

Date of establishment: 1801
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 711 (460 Arabic; 60 Persian; 191 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved, although a few have dam marks. The Marsigli collection of MSS was collected by Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli (1658–1730) at the end of the 17th century, mainly in Hungary after the fire of Buda in 1686. The relatively recent Mezzofanti (Giuseppe Gaspare Mezzofanti, d. 1849) collection of MSS is less important.

MS. 3014 is an early copy (dated 663 H/1265) of the Mughaddamat al-adab by Zamaikhsharī.

MS. 3283 is an important anthology of Persian poetry of the 12th-13th century.

Subjects covered by the collections include: literature, lexicography, hadith, medicine, Qur'an, sciences, geography, history, and astronomy.

Published catalogues:

Brief note on 18 Arabic, Persian & Turkish MSS in the Raineri Brescia collection.


Incl. catalogue of the Arabic MSS.

1899. See union catalogue by Piemontese, pp. 3–35.

Unpublished catalogues:


BRECIA

Biblioteca Civica Queriniana

Date of establishment: 1747
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved. One is a fifteenth-century Qur'ān and the other is part of Tabari's chronicles. See:

CAGLIARI

Biblioteca Universitaria

Date of establishment: 1792
Status: Public, but primarily for the use of university students and academics
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Although the MSS have been damaged by humidity and termites, they are now well protected.

CATANIA

Biblioteca Universitaria e Ventimigliana

Date of establishment: 18th century, by the Benedictine monk Vito Amico
Status: Public, but primarily for the use of university students and academics
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: Well preserved in a modern building.

Published catalogues:


CORTONA

Biblioteca Comunale e dell’Accademia Etrusca

Date of establishment: 1727
Status: Public library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MS. is well preserved in a modern building.
Published catalogues:

DOMODOSSOLA
Biblioteca Galletti
Date of establishment: 1871
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic) in 7 vols.
Description of collection: 18th-century Qur‘ān.

Published catalogues:

FERRARA
Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea
Date of establishment: 1747
Status: Public library which specializes in humanistic studies.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Qur‘ān and works on fiqh and veterinary sciences.
Published catalogues:
1933. See the 1890—union catalogue of MAZZATINTI, vol. LIV.

FLORENCE
General

Accademia Toscana di Scienze e Lettere “La Colombaria”

Biblioteca
Date of establishment: Early eighteenth century
Status: State library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Persian).
Description of collection: The MS. (no. 234) is a copy of the Masāfi‘ al-‘ījāz, a Persian commentary by As‘ūl Lārījī on the Gulsān-i rāz by MAJMU‘UH SHARISTARI.
Published catalogues:
1989. See the union catalogue by PIEMONTESE, p. 144.

Archivio di Stato
Date of establishment: 1852
Status: State archives
Conditions of access: Open to scholars only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Persian) and some fragments.
Description of collection: The two codices are in good condition. The fragments, mostly from the archives of the Medicean Oriental Press, include Qur‘ānic and literary texts.
Published catalogues:

Biblioteca Marucelliana
Date of establishment: Early 18th century
Status: Public
Conditions of access: Open to students, teachers & scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Mainly grammatical works. Well conserved, in a modernised building.
Published catalogues:
1935. See catalogue by Pinto (under General above), pp. 236—237.
Biblioteca Mediceo-Laurenziana

Date of establishment: 1434
Status: Public library which specializes in MSS
Total number of Islamic MSS: 604 (ca. 430 Arabic; 83 Persian; 91 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved in a restored building. Many MSS were collected during the late 16th / early 17th century for the Medicean Oriental Printing House. The Biblioteca Mediceo-Laurenziana houses one of the richest and most important collections of Islamic MSS in Italy. There is a copy of an ancient Persian dictionary, the Lisân al-su'ara' va ḥāyān al-fuzalā' which, until recently, had been considered lost (see P. Orsatti, Il Lisân al-su'ara': un lessico persiano d'India (sec. XIV), Annali, Istituto Universitario Orientale, 49, 1990).

There are MSS on the following subjects: Qur‘an, fiqh, literature, biography, history, astronomy, mathematics, grammar, pharmacology, historiography, medicine, lexicography, and the Gospels (Persian translations). For a synopsis and bibliography of the history of the collections and their cataloguing, see the 1989 union catalogue by PIEMONTESE, pp. 37–46.

Published catalogues:
Contains many serious errors.


Superseded by the union catalogue of PIEMONTESE, 1989.


Unpublished catalogues:
1666. Registro dei libri orientali del Seren.mo Gran Duca con una succinta esplicazione dei contenuti dei medesimi fatta dal Sig. BARTOLOMEO d'HERBELOT, insigne letterato francese in Firenze l'anno 1666. By B. d'HERBELOT. Ms. Magl.XI (H.4.107), Biblioteca Nazionale, Florence.


For others, see the 1989 union catalogue by PIEMONTESE, pp. 43–46.

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale

Date of establishment: 1747, as Biblioteca Magliabechiana
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 153 (131 Arabic; 14 Persian; 8 Turkish).
Description of collection: Although some Arabic MSS are damaged, the collection is in good condition. Eight MSS come from the Medicean collection at the Biblioteca Mediceo-Laurenziana, and a few others from the library of Antonio Magliabechi (d. 1714).

Many MSS contain notes and copies of Arabic and Persian texts written by GIOVANNI BATTISTA RAIMONDI (d. 1614), superintendent of the Medicean Oriental Printing House.

MS. CI.111.24, discovered by A.M. PIEMONTESE (Nuova luce su Firdawsī: uno "Śāhnāma" datato 614 H / 1217 a Firenze, Annali, Istituto Orientale di Napoli, 40 / N.S. 30, 1980, pp. 1–38 & 189–242), contains the first half of Firdawsī’s Śāhnāma and is the most ancient copy of it in the world. Subjects covered by the collection include: Qur‘an, fiqh, hadith, tafsir, literature, biography, history, astronomy, mathematics, grammar and lexicography.
1742. See under Biblioteca Mediceo-Laurenziana above, for the MSS transferred therefrom.


1898–1903. See 1890–union catalogue by MazzaTinti, vols. 8, 9, 11 & 12.

1935. See catalogue by Pinto (under General above), pp. 237–238.


Biblioteca Riccardiana

*Date of establishment:* 1715, by the Riccardi family of Florence

*Status:* Public

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 50 (38 Arabic; 5 Persian; 7 Turkish).

*Description of collection:* MS. 216 contains a beautiful copy of the Divan of Amir Khosrow, dated 992 AH / 1587–88 CE. The Biblioteca Riccardiana also has Al-Futuḥat al-Makkiyya by Ibn al-ʿArabi. Subjects covered include literature, lexicography and history.

*Published catalogues:*


1930. Codices arabici Bibliothecae Riccardianae. In the union catalogue by Gabrieli, pp. 71–74. Incl. also Persian and Turkish MSS.

1989. See union catalogue by Piemonte, pp. 131–137.

*Unpublished catalogues:*


Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies

Villa “I Tatti”

*Status:* Private

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 3—a few fragments (Persian).

*Description of collection:* The Bernard Berenson collection was gathered at the beginning of the twentieth century. There is a beautiful copy of the Shāhnāmah with 33 miniatures.

*Published catalogues:*


Seminario Arcivescovile

Biblioteca

*Date of establishment:* Late 19th century

*Status:* Ecclesiastical

*Conditions of access:* Open to scholars

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 8 (5 Persian; 3 Turkish).

*Description of collection:* These MSS, which were a bequest of Agostino Bausa (1821–99), Archbishop of Florence, all date from the 18th and 19th centuries and contain literary and historical texts. The collection is well preserved.
Published catalogues:

GENOA

Biblioteca Fronziana

Date of establishment: 1927
Status: Ecclesiastical, but open to the public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MS. was damaged during the Second World War.
Unpublished catalogues:
There is a library catalogue available.

Biblioteca Universitaria

Date of establishment: 1801
Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 17 (15 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Description of collection: Well preserved in a restored building.

Published catalogues:
Describes 6 Arabic MSS.


GIRGENTI—see AGRIGENTO

GORIZIA

Biblioteca Provinciale

Date of establishment: 1850
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Published catalogues:

Seminario Teologico Centrale

Date of establishment: 1757
Status: Ecclesiastical, but open to the public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS were damaged during the Second World War.
Published catalogues:

GRAVINA DI PUGLIA

Biblioteca Pomarici-Santomasì

Date of establishment: 1917
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: Well preserved in a new building.

GROTTOAFERRATA

Biblioteca della Badia Greca

Date of establishment: 1004
Status: Public, but entrusted to the Basilian Monks.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MS. was damaged during the Second World War.

GUBBIO

Biblioteca Comunale Sperelliana

Date of establishment: 17th century
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic) in 3 vols.
Description of collection: Arabic Gospels and Arabic-Latin dictionary.
Published catalogues:
1890. See union catalogue of MAZZATINTI, vol. I, p. 122, nos. 17–18. The section on Gubbio was also published separately in 1891.

IMOLA
Biblioteca Comunale
Date of establishment: 1747
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Arabic).

Published catalogues:


LECHORN (LIVORNO)
Biblioteca Comunale Labronica
Date of establishment: 1816
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

LONATO
Biblioteca della Fondazione Ugo da Como
Date of establishment: 15th century
Status: Public, but primarily for the use of scholars
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

LUCCA
Biblioteca Governativa
Date of establishment: 1877

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Well preserved in a renewed building. These MSS came from a local Franciscan convent (see 1930 survey by GABRIELI).

MANTUA
Biblioteca Comunale
Date of establishment: 1780
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Well preserved in a modernised building.
Published catalogues:

MILAN
Biblioteca Ambrosiana
Date of establishment: 1609
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to the public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,355 (2,222 Arabic; 33 Persian; 100 Turkish).
Description of collection: Some MSS are damaged; others are well preserved. The old collection has been at the Ambrosiana since its foundation; a new collection was bestowed on the library on its third centenary and came from GIUSEPPE CAPROTTI’s (d. 1919) collection of Arabic MSS. The library houses an important collection of Persian MSS, some of which are extremely beautiful (e.g. MS. S.P.10, Tuhfat al-ahmar by JAMI, with miniatures and illumination), an anonymous disn of the 7th century, and a copy of the Tafsir al-Qur’ân by AL-BAYDAWÎ. Subjects covered include: theology, literature, tafsir, linguistics, sciences, philosophy, rhetoric, grammar, lexicography, riddles, and occultism. See:
Published catalogues:

1826. See union catalogue by HAMMER, 42, 1826, pp. 27 – 36.


Arabic MSS from Yemen.


Incl. some Persian & Turkish MSS, as well as Arabic. Reissued in one volume in 1920 (see above).


Reissue of the 1910 – 19 “Liste” articles (see above) in one volume.


In Arabic, with introduction also in French (this was also published in *Institut Dominicain d’Etudes Orientales du Caire: Mélanges [MIDEO]*, 6, 1959 – 61, pp. 347 – 351).


A bibliography of works on music with locations of known copies, incl. the Ambrosiana.


Includes 29 films of Arabic MSS.


Incl. full codicological descriptions.


Incl. 7 Ambrosiana MSS.

1989. See union catalogue by PIEMONTESE, pp. 147 – 175.

Biblioteca Comunale

Date of establishment: 1890

Status: Public library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Description of collection: Donated by G. Arcoli (1829–1907). Not catalogued. See:

Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense (Biblioteca di Brera)

Date of establishment: 1786
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 23 (17 Arabic; 2 Persian; 3 Turkish; 1 Persian-Turkish (AG.XI.55)).
Description of collection: Well conserved in a new building. The two valuable Persian MSS of Fondo Castiglioni (22 and 23) are copies of Nizāmī’s Khamsah and the Ḥādīṣ-i Ḍānish of Abū ‘l-Fażl ʿAlī Mīr, with fine illuminations and miniatures. There is also an illuminated Qur’ān.

Published catalogues:


Unpublished catalogues:
Manuscript in four volumes by G. Cossa from the second half of the 19th century.

Biblioteca E. Rotondi

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Turkish).
Description of collection: The MS. is in good condition.

Biblioteca Trivulziana

Date of establishment: The noble Trivulzio family started the library toward the end of the 18th century; in 1935 most of it was acquired by the municipality of Milan.
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10 (9 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: Although there was some damage during the Second World War, the collection has been well preserved. The Persian MS. (MS. 845) is an unfinished yet elegant anthology of lyric poetry (with large extracts from the Diwān of Jāmī), with two miniatures and illumination.

Published catalogues:

Persian item on p. 132, no. 134 & plate CCXIV.


Istituto Lombardo, Accademia di Scienze e Lettere

Biblioteca
Date of establishment: 1812
Status: Academic library
Conditions of access: Open to scholars
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).

Professor Gabriele Mandel

c/o Istituto di Discipline Artistiche
Istituto Universitario di Lingue Moderne
Piazza dei Volontari, 3, 20145 Milano

Status: Private collection

_Total number of Islamic MSS:_ 11 (10 Persian; 1 Turkish), plus 2 fragments (Arabic).

_Description of collection:_ The Persian MSS contain literary and Sufi texts; the Turkish one is a translation of _Kaiila wa-Dinma_, dated 999 AH [1590/91 CE]. The two fragments are from an early Qur'an, on papyrus.

The owner's intention is to bestow this collection on the Selçuk Üniversitesi in Konya, Turkey.

Università Cattolica del S. Cuore

Biblioteca

_Date of establishment:_ 1921

_Status:_ University library

_Total number of Islamic MSS:_ 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Turkish).

MODENA

_Biblioteca Estense_

_Date of establishment:_ 14th century CE

_Status:_ Public, but primarily for the use of scholars

_Total number of Islamic MSS:_ 31 (27 Arabic; 4 Persian).

_Description of collection:_ The MSS are in good condition. Three of the four Persian MSS come from the collection which PIETRO DELLA VALLE brought from Iran in the 17th century (the majority of which are now in the Vatican library). They then came into the possession of Marquis GIUSEPPE CAMPORI and entered the Estense library as part of the Campori collection. Notable MSS include: an illustrated _Dieēn of Jānī_, dated 1062 AH / 1652; notes concerning the study of Persian language by the Italian traveler PIETRO DELLA VALLE (1586 – 1652); and the _Pad-nāma_ by QADIRI ŞİHRZĀD, which seems to be the _unicum_ (MARIA CRISTINA PUDOLI, Un inedito manoscritto persiano nella Biblioteca Estense di Modena, _Contributi alla storia dell'Orientalismo_, a cura di G.R. Franci, Bologna, 1985, pp. 39–44, describes this MS., reproduces the last leaf and announces her intention to provide an edition of the text).

Published catalogues:


1875. _Catalogo dei codici ed autografi posseduti dal Marchese GIUSEPPE CAMPORI_. By L. LODI. Modena.

See Parte Terza, pp. 220 & 299–301, for Islamic MSS.


MONREALE

_Biblioteca Comunale_

_Date of establishment:_ 1609

_Status:_ Public

_Total number of Islamic MSS:_ 1 (Arabic).

Published catalogues:

1836. See union catalogue by MORTILLARO, p. 191.
MONTECASSINO

Biblioteca dell’Abbazia di Montecassino

Status: Ecclesiastical
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition.

Published catalogues:
1869. I codici e le arii a Monte Cassino. Vol. I. By A. Garavita.
Montecassino.
Islamic MS., pp. 142–144.

1930. See union catalogue/survey by G. Gabrieli, p. 29.

NAPLES

Biblioteca Nazionale

Date of establishment: 1804
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 151 (101 Arabic; 17 Persian; 33 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved, though a few
have old traces of damp. Most of the Persian MSS entered the collec-
tion during the 17th century. There are two richly decorated
and illustrated MSS of the Shāhānūsh (MS.G.68. and MS.G.68.bis.), a
MS. (MS.111.f.22) containing 7 miniatures of the poem Yûsuf ve
Zalikha by Jâmi’, and copies of letters exchanged between Shâh
‘Abbâs I and European governments. The Islamic MSS cover the
following subjects: literature, astronomy, mathematics, Perso-
Christian literature (there are works of religious controversy and a
Persian translation of the Psalms), Qur’ân, fiqh, history and ling-
guistics.

Published catalogues:
1827. See 1826–39 union catalogue by Hammer, 45, 1827,
pp. 32–41.

1839. Regiae Bibliothecae Borbonicae codices Arabici descripti . . . . By

1843. Index manuscriptorum orientalium qui in R. Bibliotheca Borbonica

1880. Catalogo dei codici arabi della Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli. By L.

1882. Les manuscrits orientaux de la Bibliothèque Nationale de
by G. Barone, p. 472.

1956. George Strachan: memorials of a wandering Scottish scholar of the
Spalding Club.
Includes descriptions (pp. 73–106) of 12 MSS now in this library.

1884. I manoscritti arabi cristiani della Biblioteca Nazionale di
Napoli. By R. Di Miglio. Oriente Moderno N.S. 3 / 64, 1984,
pp. 41–50.

1885. I manoscritti turchi della Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio
Emanuele III di Napoli. By A. Gallotta. La conoscenza dell’Asia e
141–175.

1889. See the union catalogue by Piemontese, pp. 185–210.

Unpublished catalogues:
1877. Catalogo dei manoscritti orientali. By A. Miola. (MS. available
in the Reading Room.)

Istituto Universitario Orientale

Biblioteca del Dipartimento di Studi Asiatici
Date of establishment: 1732 (the Istituto); 1973 (the Dipartimento)
Status: Public, but primarily for the use of university students and
academics.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 221 (218 Arabic; 1 Swahili; 2 Turkish).

Published catalogues:
Detailed descriptions of 8 Arabic MSS.


NARO
Biblioteca Comunale

Date of establishment: 1876
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Unpublished catalogue:

PADUA
Biblioteca Antoniana

Date of establishment: 13th century
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (3 Arabic; 1 Persian; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved. The Persian MS. (MS.571), dated 1055 AH [1626] is a Turkish-Persian dictionary by Halim.

Published catalogues:

See p. 595.


Biblioteca Seminareile

Date of establishment: 1671
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to scholars
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (7 Arabic; 1 Persian; 6 Turkish).
Description of collection: The Turkish MSS are in poor condition. The Persian MS. (MS.214, Divan of Jami) has been well preserved, but the final section is missing.

Published catalogues:
1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabrieli, p. 31.

1989. See union catalogue by Piemontese, p. 211.

Biblioteca Universitaria

Date of establishment: 1629
Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (Arabic).

PALERMO
Archivio di Stato

Date of establishment: 1815
Status: State archives
Conditions of access: Open only to scholars and officials.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).
Biblioteca Comunale

Date of establishment: 1760
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 28 (9 Arabic; 13 Persian; 6 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved. Covering literature and history, the Persian collection features some very rare pieces: the مساجد-i Qaybštah-i Mażūmī (MS. 2Q3 E 204 bis), a history of Safavid Iran in the early 17th century; the مساجد al-tabayyīn (MS. 2Q3 E 206), an anthology of Persian poetry by Ḥaydar Qūlī Mirzā Khāvār; and a copy of Tuhfat al-ahārīr by Jāmī (MS. 2Q3 E 215) from the second half of the 16th century.

Published catalogues:

Biblioteca Nazionale

Date of establishment: 1778
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 36 (29 Arabic; 7 Turkish).
Description of collection: Well preserved in a new building. The most important Arabic MS. in this collection is کیاک al-Nakhl.

Published catalogues:
Includes six Qur‘āns.


PARMA

Biblioteca Palatina

Date of establishment: 1762
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 50 (42 Arabic; 6 Persian; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: Used to belong to the Hebrew scholar Gian Bernardo De Rossi of Parma (1742–1831). Although some MSS were damaged during the Second World War, the collection is in good condition. There is a MS. of the دیوان of Kamāl al-Dīn ʿAṣrāhānī (MS. 2789); other MSS cover subjects such as Qur‘ān, fiqh, hadith and lexicography.

Published catalogues:

PAVIA

Biblioteca Civica Bonetta

Date of establishment: 1833
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Well preserved in new buildings.
ITALY—PIACENZA

Biblioteca Comunale Passerini Landi

Date of establishment: 18th century
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (5 Arabic; 1 Turkish).

PIUZA

Biblioteca Universitaria

Date of establishment: 1742
Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (4 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. MS.974 is an Ottoman copy of the Būṣānān of Sā‘īd, dated 935 AH (1545), with Turkish glosses.

Published catalogues:


RAVENNA

Biblioteca Comunale Classense

Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Published catalogues:
1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabrieli, p. 35.

RIMIN

Biblioteca Civica Gambalunghiana

Date of establishment: 1619
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Published catalogues:

1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabrielli, p. 36.

**ROME**

**Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei**

Biblioteca
*Date of establishment: 1754*

*Status: Public*

*Total number of Islamic MSS: 233 (157 Arabic; 1 Fulbe; 1 Hausa; 61 Persian; 12 Turkish; 1 Urdu)*.

*Description of collection: Most of the MSS in this collection were bestowed on the Academy in 1911 by Prince Leone Caetani (1869–1935), the founder of the important Caetani Foundation for Islamic Studies (1924). The MSS are kept in a large metal bookcase; there are no humidity or temperature controls.*

Published catalogues:

Incl. lists of 32 Arabic, 54 Persian, 2 Turkish & 1 Urdu MSS.


Includes catalogue of 197 MSS in Arabic, Fulbe, Hausa, Persian, Turkish, Urdu & other (non-Muslim) languages.


Incl. 3 Arabic & 6 Turkish MSS.


**Archivio Storico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri**

*Date of establishment: Late 19th century*

*Status: Governmental archives*

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

*Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. There are a few Persian decrees and documents about the relations between the Italian state and Qajar Iran.*

Published catalogues:


Biblioteca Alessandrina Universitaria

Date of establishment: 1661
Status: University library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (3 Arabic; 1 Persian; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: Particularly noteworthy is MS. 244, a composite MS. containing two dictionaries (Arabic-Turkish and Persian-Turkish) and a Persian-Turkish conversation manual.

Published catalogues:


Unpublished catalogue:

Biblioteca Angelica

Date of establishment: 1614
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20 (16 Arabic; 4 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition.

Published catalogues:

Biblioteca Casanatense

Date of establishment: 17th century
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 114 (63 Arabic; 16 Persian; 35 Turkish).

Description of collection: The Oriental collection was originally gathered in the second half of the 18th century and has been well preserved. A few MSS belonged to the founder of the Biblioteca Casanatense, Cardinal Giorlamo Casanate (1620–1700). Fields covered include: literature, lexicography, astronomy and Per求婚-Christian literature (e.g. two works of religious controversy between Islam and Christianity, and Persian translations of the Gospels). There are beautiful copies of the Shāhnhāmeh (MS. 4893: with 52 miniatures), of the Maznavi of Rūmī (MS. 1791, dated 849 AH [1446]), and of Yaṣaʿ va Zaḵkhā by Jāmī (MS. 2002: with 5 miniatures).

Published catalogues:


Biblioteca Lancisiana (Pio Istituto di S. Spirito)

Date of establishment: 1711
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: There is a text of Ibn Sīnā.

Published catalogues:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Vittorio Emanuele II

Date of establishment: 1876
Status: National library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 120 (78 Arabic; 10 Persian; 31 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition and are kept in the manuscript store under controlled conditions. One of the
oldest is a little work of Persian epistemology, *Kitāb-i Tarassul*, dated 790 AH [1388]. Many of the majmūʿas are miscellaneous and multi-lingual: Arabic-Persian-Turkish, Persian-Turkish or Arabic-Persian. A few of these MSS came from the libraries of convents and of religious orders at the end of the nineteenth century. Fields covered include: theology, epistemology and lexicography (some written by missionaries, whose translations can also be found in this collection).

**Published catalogues:**

1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabriele, p. 75.


**Biblioteca Vallicelliana**

*Date of establishment:* 1581
*Status:* Public
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 1 (Arabic).

**Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (IsMEO)**

Biblioteca, Via Merulana 248, Roma
*Date of establishment:* 1931
*Status:* Academic library
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 250 (Arabic).
*Description of collection:* These MSS, which have not yet been catalogued, include Qur’ānic and legal, historical, grammatical and medical texts.

**Ospizio-Collegio dei Maroniti Antoniani**

Biblioteca
*Status:* Ecclesiastical library (Maronite)

*Description of collection:* Mostly Christian Arabic MSS of the 18th century.

*Published catalogue:*


**Pontificia Università Gregoriana**

Biblioteca
*Status:* University library
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 6 (5 Arabic; 1 Persian).
*Description of collection:* The Persian MS. (no. 86) is a copy of the translation of the Four Gospels made at Agra in 1605. There are also 5 Arabic MSS, according to:
1930. Union catalogue/survey by Gabriele, p. 47.

*Published catalogues:*

**Pontificio Ateneo Antoniano dei Frati Minori**

Biblioteca
*Date of establishment:* 1888
*Status:* Ecclesiastical
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 2 (Turkish).
*Description of collection:* The MSS are in good condition. The collection came from the library of Luigi Bondi (1865–1947), the Orientalist and Turologist.
*Unpublished catalogues:*
There is a typewritten catalogue.
Pontificio Istituto Biblico

Biblioteca
Date of establishment: 1909
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (Arabic).
Published catalogues:
Descriptions of 17 Arabic MSS.

Scuola Orientale dell'Università

Biblioteca
Status: Academic library
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 10 (Arabic).

Società Geografica Italiana

Biblioteca
Date of establishment: 1867
Conditions of access: Open only to members and scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (Arabic).
Published catalogues:

SIENA

Biblioteca Comunale degli Intronati

Date of establishment: 1758
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12 (8 Arabic; 1 Persian; 2 Turkish; 1 polyglot, incl. Arabic, Persian, Tatar & Turkish).
Description of collection: The Persian MS. contains, beside other texts, the Aṣ̄ār al-shāhīd, a poem by Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā Nūrī Shībī, known as Aṣ̄ārī Lāḥījī (d. 912 AH / 1506); this early copy, dated 1000 AH [1592], is a unicum in Western collections of Islamic MSS.

SYRACUSE

Biblioteca Seminarile e Alagoniana

Date of establishment: 1757
Status: Ecclesiastical
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: The Arabic MS. features 14 sūras of the Qurʾān.
Published catalogues:
Arabic MSS, p. 80.

TRENTO

Seminario Teologico

Biblioteca
Date of establishment: 1748
Status: Ecclesiastical
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Turkish).
Description of collection: The MS. is in good condition.

TURIN

Accademia delle Scienze

Date of establishment: 1757
Status: Academic library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10 (8 Arabic; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: Some MSS were damaged during the Second World War, but most are in good condition.
Published catalogues:
Archivio di Stato

Biblioteca

*Date of establishment:* 15th century
*Status:* Public
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 2 (Arabic).

**Biblioteca Nazionale Universitaria**

*Date of establishment:* 1720
*Status:* Public
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 126 (67 Arabic; 16 Persian; 43 Turkish).
*Description of collection:* A great number of MSS were destroyed by a fire on 25–26 January 1904 (19 Persian MSS, for example, were burnt) and some surviving MSS are partially damaged. Otherwise, the collection has been well preserved. Fields covered include: literature, biography and historiography. See:


1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabrieli, pp. 75–76, for a list of Arabic MSS of the Fondo Lanzione.


**Biblioteca Reale**

*Date of establishment:* 1831
*Status:* Public, but primarily for the use of specialists, scholars, teachers and students.
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 111 (54 Arabic; 15 Persian; 42 Turkish).
*Description of collection:* The Islamic MSS were gathered under King Carlo Alberto (1831–1849). Well preserved and kept in the special manuscript repository, the collection features some beautiful and valuable Persian MSS—notably the copy of Mantiq al-tavar by Ḥāfiz al-I’bar, dated 857 AH [1453], with 6 miniatures (see A.M. Piemontese, *Un codice miniato del ‘Mantiq al-tavar’ di Ḥāfiz al-I’bar* (857 H/1453) a Torino, *Rendiconti dell’Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*, VIII/39, 1984, pp. 55–78).

*Published catalogues:* 1876/77. I manoscritti orientali della Biblioteca del Re a Torino. By V. Promis. *Bollettino Italiano degli Studi Orientali*, 1, 1876/77, pp. 86–92.


Facoltà di Lettere (Dipartimento Orientale)

Biblioteca
Date of establishment: 1887
Status: Public, but primarily for the use of university students and teachers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 156 (Arabic).

UDINE
Biblioteca Arcivescovile e Bartoliniiana
Date of establishment: 1709 – 11
Status: Ecclesiastical
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are well preserved.

Published catalogues:
1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabrielli, pp. 53 – 54 and plate.

VENICE
Biblioteca Armena della Congregazione dei Mechitaristi
Isola di S. Lazzaro
Date of establishment: 18th century
Status: Ecclesiastical
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (3 Arabic; 10 Persian; 1 Turkish) plus 3 Arabic fragments and some Turkish firman.
Description of collection: The MSS are in good condition. One of the Arabic MSS is an illuminated Qur’an, the gift of Sultan Murad; the fragments are Kufic, on parchment. The Persian MSS are of the 16th – 19th centuries AH (16th – 19th centuries CE) and a few have miniatures and illuminated frontispieces. Some of these MSS came from the library of Artin Pasha (d. 1919).

Published catalogues:
1930. See union catalogue/survey by Gabrielli, p. 57.

Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana
Date of establishment: 15th century
Status: Public
Total number of Islamic MSS: 216 (106 Arabic; 3 Malay; 46 Persian; 61 Turkish).
Description of collection: Kept in a special manuscript repository, the collection is in good condition. Many Oriental MSS kept in this library came from the collection of the Nani family and were bequeathed on the library in 1797. Another group came from the libraries of convents and religious orders (in particular, from the monastery of SS. Giovanni e Paolo in Venice) in the 19th century. The Orientalist Emilio Teza contributed further MSS in 1912. Fields covered include the Qur’an, history, literature, medicine, pharmacology, mathematics, lexicography and Perso-Christian literature. There is an important collection of Persian MSS, including a beautiful copy of the Qur’an with a Persian fûlmânah (MS. Or. LXVIII, dated 943 AH [1537]) and of the Tûrkh-i Bâzâmî (MS. Or. CXXVIII; see A.M. Piemontese, Il codice mariano della Târîkh-i  tabindexi, Annali, Istituto Orientale di Napoli 37, 1977, pp. 363 – 474).

Published catalogues:


Despite its title, this article contains descriptions of 10 MSS in the Biblioteca Marciana only.


Detailed account of 2 Malay MSS in the Biblioteca Marciana.


*Unpublished catalogues:*

*1877. Codices Orientales Bibliothecae ad D. Marci Venetiarum*. By G. Vivaldo. (MS., available in the Reading Room.)


Civico Museo Correr

Biblioteca d’Arte
*Date of establishment*: 1830
*Total number of Islamic MSS*: 2 (Arabic).

Seminario Patriarcale

Biblioteca
*Date of establishment*: 1819
*Status*: Ecclesiastical
*Conditions of access*: Open to scholars.
*Total number of Islamic MSS*: 13 (2 Arabic; 11 Turkish).
*Description of collection*: The collection is well preserved. The Turkish MSS are Ottoman documents. See:


VEROLI

Biblioteca Giovardiana

*Date of establishment*: 1773
*Status*: Public
*Total number of Islamic MSS*: Several (Arabic).
*Description of collection*: The MSS are well preserved in a modern building.
*Published catalogues:*


VERONA

Biblioteca Civica

*Date of establishment*: 1802
*Status*: Public
vokia, Poland, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Finland, United States, Canada. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 104, 1984, pp. 303–314.

Italy, pp. 310–311.


Italie, pp. 47–53.


Pearson, J.D. *Index Islamicus: Second Supplement 1961–1965*. A cata-


Italy, pp. 248–266, 368 & 407.


Italy, pp. 140–165.


