Italy, pp. 248–266, 368 & 407.
Italy, pp. 140–165.

IVORY COAST

by

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UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS


INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ABIDJAN

Archives Nationales de Côte d’Ivoire

*Status:* Public archives

*Conditions of access:* Open to the general public 8.00–16.00 Monday–Friday.

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 1,530 (Arabic).

*Description of collection:* The majority of the MSS in this collection were donated to the Archives by the former French Colonial administration. Some were later purchased from individuals. A number of private collections may also have been transferred.

The MSS are on display in the archives hall. Some are kept in cardboard boxes and others are arranged on metal shelves. This collection contains valuable MSS covering various subjects, and also includes beautiful specimens of Islamic calligraphy, design and binding. They are well preserved.

The majority of the collection is on Islamic subjects: 208 MSS dealing with fiqh; 170 on Qur’anic science; 90 on ‘ugida; 147 on Hadith; 100 on mathematics; 108 on mysticism; 87 on poetry; 71 on grammar, 115 on Sufism; 90 on astronomy; 123 on history; 54 on...
correspondence; 51 on genealogy; 60 on medicine; 6 on tafsir and 50 containing fatawa.

Some of the MSS are either anonymous or undated, thus making it difficult to know when they were actually copied or written. The most important MSS in this collection are:

(i) Muqaddim 't-ulūm ild 't-darā'īn min al-ulūm, undated, by Ibn ʿĀṣim;
(ii) ʿĀṣim ʿr-ˌis-hārist ild masārd al-ślāfīt, anonymous, but copied by
Al-Wâfi ibn Muḥammad in 1918;
(iii) Ḥasy al-ˌa'wā'il fi ma’ānī ˌl-şarā'īl, vols. 1–2, undated, by ʿAbd
Allâh ibn Šāliḥ Fûṣāya.

Unpublished catalogues:
A card catalogue prepared some time ago lists about 1,430 MSS in this collection and gives detailed information about each manuscript, its author, style of script, date of copying, number of lines and type of paper.

Uncatalogued MSS:
Approximately 100 MSS are not listed in the catalogue.

BONDOUKOU
Hañji Abdul Baqî bin Naji

B.P. 22
Date of establishment: 1971
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 486 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Hañji Abdul Baqî, an itinerant Sufi scholar, inherited a collection from his late father, who died in 1970, and enriched it by purchasing about 283 manuscripts from individual owners in Bondoukou and its surroundings. Efforts are still being made to enlarge this collection. It covers a wide range of subjects, distributed as follows: Sufism (30 MSS); tawḥīd (83 MSS); methodology (15 MSS); Qurʾān and related studies (18 MSS); poetry (93 MSS); history (105 MSS); fiqh (120 MSS); Hadith and related studies (22 MSS).

The MSS were either written or copied in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, with only two dating back to the 14th century. There are also some undated ones. They are housed in the study of the owner and packed in a large wooden box. About 30% of the MSS have damaged pages and covers. The rest are in perfect condition. There are some manuscripts of artistic significance, including fine bindings. The rarities in the collection number six, and they include the anonymous Sharḥ ʿr-ˌamāliyya al-Fāsiya, copied in 1794 by Ḥamad ibn Ahmed.

This collection is uncatalogued.

BOUAKE
Sheikh Yousouf Touré Library

Madrasat Iḥyāʾ ʿud din
Date of establishment: 1960
Status: Trust

Conditions of access: Open to students of the Madrassa and the general public.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 76 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection was donated to the school by its founder Sheikh Yousouf. According to him it is a collection of MSS he acquired through purchase and personal copying. The manuscripts are arranged on wooden bookshelves. The majority of them have lost their covers, owing to poor binding. They are, however, well arranged and well preserved. With the exception of seven, dated in the 20th century, all the manuscripts were either copied or written in the 18th and 17th centuries. The subjects are as follows: tawḥīd (10 MSS); fiqh (15 MSS); sîra (36 MSS); philosophy (7 MSS); tafsir (1 MS.); sermons (7 MSS); literature (6 MSS); Usul (4 MSS).

The rarities in this collection include Fawʾ al- frameborder="auto" height="80" src="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Bouake_Madrasa.jpg" width="220"/>
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 54 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The manuscripts in this collection were either purchased or copied by the owner. They are kept in a wooden box in the owner’s study. They are well preserved, but about five MSS are damaged by bookworm. This collection contains very old manuscripts dating back to the 15th century. Some MSS are anonymous and undated. Almost all of them show beautiful Islamic calligraphy. The subjects covered are: Qur’an (1 MS.), genealogy (5 MSS), fiqh (9), usul (20), Sufism (16) and philosophy (3).

Rarities in this collection are:
(i) Fawâ'id min ghâhib al-akhlâq fi târikh al-duwal wa-usûl al-ansâb by Muhammad al-Sâlik ibn Khayyâ, undated.
(ii) Khiith ummah fi al-wahdâ’î, fi ilm al-fiqh by Al-Yamâlî Dâwûd, undated.

Unpublished catalogues:
A handlist of this collection is available.

BOUNDIALI
Ahmad bin Uthman

c/o Central Mosque
Date of establishment: 1920
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 970 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection is perhaps the largest in the city. It serves as the library of members of the Tijaniya order there. Some of the MSS were purchased from local and foreign sources; others were donated by individuals. The owner and his students have copied some themselves. About 20% of the MSS were copied in the 19th century, 40% in the 15th and 16th centuries, 25% in the 20th century and 15% in the 18th century. The collection is housed in a spacious room and kept on a large reading table. The MSS are in good condition and are covered by a cloth to protect them from dust.

Subjects covered by the collection are: philosophy (22 MSS); history (100 MSS); rhetoric (19 MSS); methodology (28 MSS); Sufism (292 MSS); fiqh (292 MSS); usul al-din (215 MSS); medicine (102 MSS).

Among the several rarities in this collection are:
(i) Kitâb takmil al-ma’ahij ilà usîl al-madâkhâb by Mâ Âl-Muhammâd ibn Âl-Mukhtâr, copied in 1368 by Muhammad ‘Abd al-Rahmân; (ii) Sharh mawâli al-Sâlikânî fi ’l-intîjâr by Al-DamânîÎr, undated.

This collection is uncatalogued.

Alimamy Foudi Ibn Abbas
Zango, B.P. 94
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 49.

Description of collection: ALIMAMY FOUDI IBN ABBAS, a Sufi Shaykh in Odienné, initiated this collection. It was bequeathed to his children after his death some twenty-eight years ago. About 15 of the manuscripts were sold to a bookseller a few years ago.

Almost all the MSS were copied in the 19th and 20th centuries. Five of the MSS contain hadith; 15 are on Qur’an and hadith and related studies; 7 on biography of the Prophet; 8 on Sufism; 4 on mysticism; 1 on history; 7 on fiqh and 2 are on ‘aqida. The MSS are well preserved in a wooden box in a small room. This collection has only one rarity and four MSS are of artistic importance. The rare manuscript is the Ihya’ ulum al-din of Imam Ghazâlî, copied in 1810 by Sûfî Muktâr.

This collection is uncatalogued.

DABAKALA
Suleiman al-Alawi
Cercle de Tagouana, B.P. 417
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 228 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection is of some significance, and contains a number of old Islamic manuscripts which are autograph copies. About half of the MSS were written in the 15th and 16th centuries, and the rest were either copied or written in the 17th, 18th
and 19th centuries. The collection was acquired from Fez, Morocco, where the owner lived and studied for about 20 years. It contains MSS on the following subjects: Qur'an (8); Sharī'a (11); Sufism (15); rhetoric (9); logic (4); fiqh (30); usūl (19); grammar (5); astronomy (13); Hadith (48); mysticism (41); 'aqīda (25).

The collection is well preserved and kept in a room which serves as the study of the owner. They are arranged in a large wooden box together with printed Islamic books. About 13 MSS have been damaged by bookworm. The owner claims, however, that they were damaged in Fez long before he completed his studies there.

Important MSS in this collection include: Sharīḥ Afīṣyat Inn Mālik, anonymous, but copied by Ḥasan ibn Muḥammad al-Ṭāhir in 1857; and Nāzim fā'il Inn Rustād by 'Abd al-Raḥmān, dated 1768.

It is not known whether this collection has been catalogued.

FERENTELA

Yacoub Ibn Mousah

B.P. 250

Date of establishment: 1900
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 128.
Description of collection: This collection was established by Alīmāmou Mousah, who died about 60 years ago, and it was inherited by his son, Yacoub, after his death. Some MSS from the original collection have been sold.

It contains some very old MSS, the oldest dated 1497. The rest are of 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th-century origin. The following subjects are covered: poetry (2 MSS); history (17); philosophy (4); Qur'an and related subjects (35); Hadith (8); medicine (15); fiqh (22); 'aqīda (15); correspondence (6); astrology (4).

The collection is kept in a wooden box in the owner’s house. About half of it is damaged by bookworm and requires restoration.
Rarities in this collection include: Kitāb Wasiṭa al-rulš by ʿAḥmad ʿĀbārī Sānūsī, undated; Tūrīkh Khulagīa ʿl-ʿFatīmah by ʿAbd al-ʿĀbār al-Jārāʾīnī, undated; and Rīṣālah fi l-ṯamal bi-ṣ-rāb al-majīb by Al-Mārūṣīnī Badr al-Dīn, copied in 1790.

This collection is uncatalogued.

GUENTEGUILA

Abu Hasan Muhammad

Maḥdīl Islamiyya

Date of establishment: 1945
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 70 (Arabic).
Description of collection: This collection was purchased from local sources. The owner himself copied four MSS, the others were either copied or written in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The collection is kept in a glass-fronted wooden book-case. The MSS are neatly arranged and well preserved; only two have torn covers. They cover the following subjects: astrology (5 MSS); Qurʾān (2); Hadith (9); tafsīr (2); biography of the Prophet (1); history (4); Sufism (25); methodology (8); medicine (11); sermons (3).

The Dīwān al-taʾwil, Vols. 1–8, by ʿAbd Allāh Fūdīyā, undated, is the most outstanding MS. in this collection for its orderliness, beautiful calligraphy and superb binding.

Unpublished catalogues: A register of the library lists all the MSS in this collection.

KONG

Ibn Umar Kong

B.P. 7

Date of establishment: 1967
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Accessible to students of the owner and to scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 110 (Arabic).
Description of collection: This collection contains MSS which were written some 100–150 years ago. They are arranged by subject on a prayer mat of the owner, and are well preserved. Only 16 MSS have lost their covers. Few possess fine artistic quality. Eighteen of the manuscripts are on Qurʾān and related subjects; 4 on Hadith; 10 on fiqh; 25 on 'aqīda; 22 on Sufism; 17 on medicine; 5 on methodology; 3 on history; 5 on grammar and 1 is on mysticism.

Rarities in the collection are: the anonymous Kitāb jawāhir
al-biṣām, undated; ‘Aqidat al-imān, anonymous and undated; and Matn al-jami‘ al-ṣaghīr by Sanūsī Ibn Ahmad, dated 1884.

Unpublished catalogues:
A handlist describes all the MSS in this collection.

KORHOGO

Masjid al-Jāmi‘ (Great Mosque)

Status: Mosque library
Conditions of access: Open to the general public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The MSS were donated to the mosque by pious individuals. Four of the MSS are beautifully written texts of the Holy Qur‘ān and Tafsīr Jalālīyīn.

There are also copies of Imam Mālik’s Musannaf and Sahih al-Bukhārī. The rest are fiqh texts. The MSS are well preserved and are kept in a small wooden book-case in the mosque.

It is not known whether this collection is catalogued.

Muhammad Baba Korhogo

c/o B.P. 75
Date of establishment: 1957
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 230 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection was created by Muhammad Baba, at a time when French scholars were purchasing MSS from their original owners in Korhogo. He says that he felt that the only way to prevent the transfer of their Islamic heritage to Western scholars was to purchase the MSS. This he did with the few resources at his disposal. The collection is kept in a large animal-skin bag in the bedroom of the owner and is well preserved.

The MSS cover the following subjects: theology (10 MSS); poetry (22); Sufism (30); fiqh (15); ‘aqidah (13); grammar (10); ḥadīth (25); Qur‘ān (2); history (41); mysticism (19); Hadith (23); medicine (8); Shari‘a (12).

The MSS date back to the 19th, 18th and 17th centuries. The collection also possesses MSS with artistic significance and a few rarities, including Maṣāḥih al-Sunnah by Imām al-Baghawī, dated 1790. Unpublished catalogues:
A handlist prepared by the owner lists all the manuscripts in the collection.

MANKONO

Alimamou Fofana Ibn Said Karamoko

c/o Masjid al-Jāmi‘, Cercle de Ouorodougou
Date of establishment: 1915
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Access granted only to bona fide researchers, students and scholars.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 324 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Founded by the late Alimamou Fofana, a scholar and calligrapher, who copied most of the MSS himself. According to the children of the late owner, the MSS were collected from local sources in the Ivory Coast and Guinea. The majority of them were written in the 16th and 17th centuries, but copied in the 19th and 20th centuries. About 90 MSS deal with Qur‘ān and Hadith, and related studies; 49 works are on fiqh; 8 on iṣra‘; 30 on ‘aqīda; 16 on history; 20 on Shari‘a; 90 on mathematics; 6 on mysticism; 3 on Sufism; 2 on poetry and 10 on philosophy.

The collection is housed in a spacious room and is on display on a large reading table. Almost all the MSS appear in good condition and are well preserved.


Published catalogues:
1922. Catalogue des bibliothèques d’Alimamou Fofana et de Said Karamoko à Mankono (Ouorodougou), in the survey by Marty (see under Union Catalogues above); Annexe IX, pp. 477–480. Reproduction of the handwritten list.

Unpublished catalogues:
An undetailed and poorly prepared catalogue by the late owner lists 100 of the MSS.
Uncatalogued MSS: Over two-thirds of the MSS are uncatalogued.
The manuscripts are well preserved and arranged on a small plastic shelf in the study of the late owner’s private residence. Most of the MSS in the collection date back to the 16th century, and the rest are of 19th and 20th-century origin.

The number of manuscripts dealing with each subject is: fiqh (23); ʿaqīda (19); poetry (2); medicine (10); astronomy (8); logic (16); mathematics (2); history (5); philosophy (20).

Rarities include: Kitāb ʿakhbār al-zaman, anonymous and undated; Al-burda by Muḥammad al-Markāsī, undated; and Maʿdīn dhahab by ʿAḍr Allāh ibn ʿUmar Ṭaj al-Dīn, dated 1875.

Published catalogues:

Facsimile of a partial handwritten list, in Arabic, of titles & authors.

Sheikh Hudo Salim

Hudo Salim’s residence, Sofon Zongo
Date of establishment: 1948
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 251 (Arabic).
Description of collection: This collection was established with the help of the owner’s students and children, because of the dearth of genuine Islamic books in the country. He himself, his students and children, visited various shaykhs in the country in order to copy any manuscripts they could find for a period of six years, during which they copied 150 valuable Islamic texts. They purchased the rest of the MSS from booksellers.

The collection covers a wide range of subjects, as follows: tafsīr (3 MSS); Ḥadīth (56); literature (18); fiqh (80); usūl (39); history (14); mathematics (11); medicine (30).

The manuscripts are neatly arranged on a prayer mat in the owner’s living room. They are constantly dusted, well preserved and in perfect condition. There are some old manuscripts in this collection dating back to the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries; others are of 18th, 19th and 20th-century origin. About 12 MSS have artistic and calligraphic merit.
Rarities are: an undated and anonymous Kitāb tafsīr al-Baydāwī, the Tafsīr by Sīnī Muḥājīn al-Dīn al-Nasārī, undated; and the undated Mukhtasār bidāyat al-mujtahidīn, by Ibn ʿAlī Muḥammad Yahyā.

This collection is uncatalogued.

SAMATIGUELA

Ahmad Sina

Madrasat Ulumud-din

Date of establishment: 1979

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 100 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection was established to serve the library needs of the students of the owner. The MSS were bought from sources in Guinea and the Ivory Coast. The collection is still being enriched.

The MSS are arranged on a wooden table in a room which serves as the classroom of Madrasat Ulumud-din. Twenty-three MSS have torn covers. Generally, they possess artistic value, and fine Islamic calligraphy, and date from the 16th to the 18th centuries. The subjects covered are as follows: tafsīr (1 MS.); Ḥadīth and related subjects (20); Qurʾān (4); biography (2); medicine (16); mysticism (20); Sufism (13); grammar (5); fiqh (8); ʿaqīda (1); Sharīʿa (2).

The rarities of this collection are: Kitāb tafsīr, undated and anonymous; Nāṣirī fi sharʿ Allāh al-Dīn al-Kabīr bi-Tunḥulāt by Al-Mawādī Muḥammad ibn ʿUmar, dated 1924; and Muqaddima fi ʿl-fiqh al-Mālikī by Al-ʿAshmāwī ʿAbd al-Bārī, undated.

Unpublished catalogues:

A poorly prepared register maintains the list of MSS and names of authors in this collection.

TIENE

Muhammad bin Lima

Madrasat Nurul Islam, B.P. 343

Date of establishment: 1962

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 91 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Muḥammad bin Lima, a prominent Islamic scholar, established this collection when he returned from a study mission to Guinea, where almost half of the MSS came from. He purchased the rest from individual collectors within Ivory Coast. They are kept in a wooden box, housed in the owner’s study. The MSS are well preserved and appear to be in good condition. Most were copied in the 18th century, some in the 19th century, and the oldest dates back to the 15th century. A few have artistic significance and beautiful Islamic calligraphy.

The collection covers the following subjects: fiqh (30 MSS); philosophy (5); methodology (14); Qurʾān (1); Ḥadīth (6); history (26); medicine (7); mysticism (2).

Among the rarities therein are: Kitāb al-maraqʾi ʿl-hisn by ʿAbd Allāh ibn Ṭāhir ʿAbd Allāh, undated; Tahdīl maraqʾi ʿl-Suhḍ, undated; and Maktūb fi ʿl-taqawuf by Al-Dāvānī Muḥammad ibn Al-Mukhtar, dated 1819.

This collection is uncatalogued.

TOUBA

Alhassan Ibrahim

B.P. 18

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 249 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection was inherited from a Moroccan scholar who settled in Touba some decades ago. A couple of collections containing about 50 MSS were later transferred here. The MSS date from the 17th to the 20th century. With the exception of a few which have been damaged by bookworm, all the MSS are in perfect condition and are well preserved. They are housed in a small room which serves as the owner’s study. The subjects are as follows: poetry (19 MSS); literature (10); history (1); genealogy (35); fiqh (50); ʿaqīda (70); Qurʾānic science (7); mysticism (25); Ḥadīth (3); philosophy (7); medicine (18); Sharīʿa (16). Two MSS have fine bindings. Of interest are: Al-Naṣṣaḥ al-mahuṣūd wa-ʾl-izāza al-
masmūda by Al-Kuntī Muḥammad, dated 1757; Al-Najība al-
muḥimma li-ḥan yūrid al-sunn al-Muḥammadiyya by Ibn Ṣaʿīd
Muḥammad, dated 1923; and Maṭn al-manān wa-sharhahu Shukr
al-ḥāṣan by ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿUthmān ʿUthmān Fūdīya, dated 1828.

Unpublished catalogues:
A handlist describes all the titles in this collection.

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Bibliotheken und Sammlungen arabischer Handschriften,

JAPAN

by

Toru Horikawa and others

1992