

Date of establishment: 1931

Status: National library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 310 (139 Arabic; 26 Chaghatay; 67 Kazakh; 60 Persian; 4 Tatar; 5 Turkish; 9 Uzbek).

Description of collection: No details available.

Unpublished catalogues:

Card catalogues by languages and titles.

Handwritten inventory book.

Valikhanov Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography

Ul. Kurmangazy 29, 480021 Alma-Ata

Status: Academic library

Description of collection: Several hundred documents dating from the 16th–20th centuries in Persian and Turkic (gathered mainly in the shrine of AHMAD YASAVI).

PAVLODAR

Historical Museum

637021 Pavlodar

Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Arabic).

Description of collection: No details available.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX

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Alma-Ata, p. 74; Pavlodar, p. 75.

Mikhaĭlova, I.B. and Khalidov, A.B. *Bibliografiya arabskikh rukopiseĭ*. Moscow: Nauka, 1982. 302pp.

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KENYA

by

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INTRODUCTION

A literary Islamic tradition came relatively late to the Swahili world. Though Muslims settled on the East African coast in the early centuries of Islam, there is no evidence for literacy among Swahili-speaking peoples before the 16th century. The earliest known Arabic text related to East Africa, the *Kitāb al-Sulwa fī Akhbār Kilwa*, is from the middle of the 16th century, while the earliest known Swahili poem, AIDARUSI's *Hamziyya*, has been dated to the middle of the 17th century. The earliest known prose texts in Swahili are 18th-century letters in the Archives of Goa.

By the end of the 17th century, literacy was increasing in both Arabic and Swahili, particularly in the Lamu archipelago area. During the 18th century, a strong tradition of Swahili epic verse (*Utendi* or *Utenzi*) emerged. The literary tradition has, until modern times, been confined to a small number of scholars, administrators and scribes. Even at its peak in the 19th century, the number of persons and texts involved was far less than in the great centres of Islamic learning.

There is good evidence that the number of Islamic manuscripts extant in Kenya has been steadily declining since the beginning of the 20th century, and is now far less than even some thirty years ago. For example, the originals of many Kenyan manuscripts which were copied and deposited in the University of Dar-es-Salaam Library in the 1960s as a part of the East African Swahili Committee Collection can no longer be traced. (For details of this collection, readers are referred to J.W.T. ALLEN, *The Swahili and Arabic manuscripts and tapes in the Library of the University College, Dar-es-Salaam: a catalogue*, Leiden: Brill, 1970.)

The decline in the number of Islamic manuscripts can be attributed in large part to the fact that most manuscripts are privately owned by Swahili families and institutions. Many private owners are unaware of the importance of manuscripts: they often do not know what manuscripts they own, nor whether their manuscripts have any special value. Indeed, with the availability of printed texts, many persons now consider manuscripts to have little or no value. As a result, manuscripts are kept haphazardly, often under adverse conditions, and there is little attempt to preserve them. It is not sur-

prising that few manuscripts have survived, and that many of the few that have survived are in a poor state of preservation.

Though most of the manuscripts known to exist in Kenya are of well-known Islamic texts, it should be noted that the manuscripts in Swahili are particular to this part of the world, and represent a unique aspect of the cultural heritage of Islam. Steps are now under way to identify and photograph manuscripts which have special literary, artistic or historical value, and to encourage the owners of manuscripts to deposit them in a library or museum where they can be kept under controlled conditions.

Finally, it should be noted that because of prevailing circumstances, it has not yet been possible to undertake the survey of manuscripts in the Somali-speaking parts of Kenya.

CHUNDWA-FAZA

Ustadh Abu Bakr 'Abdi

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A text of *tafsīr*, copied at Chundwa in 1233 AH, and a copy of *Kitāb al-minhāj*.

Sharif Muhammad 'Umar Sabir

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection includes three texts of *manṭiq*, three of *naḥw*, and two of *fiqh*; among the texts of *manṭiq* is *Kitāb 'Ilm al-dunyā*, copied at Chundwa-Faza in 1162 AH, one of the oldest manuscripts known to exist in the Lamu archipelago.

FAZA

Shaykh Bakari Salilu

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 17 (Arabic).

Description of collection: More than half of the collection consists of

manuscript copies of the Qur'ān, all copied at Faza; other texts are of *fiqh*, *naḥw*, *du'ā'* and *qaṣīda*.

LAMU

Sa'id 'Ali

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Swahili).

Description of collection: An original treatise on navigation by MUHAMMAD ABU BAKR AL-BAKRI KIJUMWA of Lamu, written in the hand of the author.

Sayyid Ahmad 'Alwy Badawy

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: One of the oldest known extant manuscripts of *fiqh* in the Lamu archipelago, copied at Lamu in 1184 AH.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Bakthir

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Swahili).

Description of collection: The collection comprises one text of *naḥw*, a copy of MUHAMMAD AL-BŪṢĪRĪ's *Al-Hamziya* and an original epic poem in Swahili; *Utendi wa Ya'kub*.

Twalib Mbarak Hady

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic).

Description of collection: One manuscript each of *khuṭba*, *naḥw*, *ṣarf* and *tafsīr*.

Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali Khatib

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection includes two copies of *Tabāraka*, and a manuscript containing several *khuṭbas* pronounced at Lamu for the *Ād* and other celebrations.

ʿAbdallah Muhammad ʿUthman Lami

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic and Swahili).

Description of collection: The manuscript contains two distinct works, *Kitāb al-Witrīya* in Arabic and a poem (*Utendi*) in Swahili, both copied at Lamu in 1255 AH.

Lamu Museum

P.O. Box 48, Lamu

Status: Public museum

Total number of Islamic MSS: 25 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection consists mainly of texts of the Qurʾān (fifteen manuscripts), together with various texts of *fiqh*, *naḥw* and *duʿāʾ*.

Sharif ʿAlwy Husni Jamal il-Layl

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (Swahili).

Description of collection: One of the largest known private collections of Swahili manuscripts. Nine of them contain epic poems, including the *Utendi wa Mwana Khadija na Sayyidnatu ʿAisha* and the *Utendi wa qarnayn*; of the two others, one contains popular Swahili poetry and the other, *Tarikh ya Pate, Siyu na Lamu*, is a history of the Lamu archipelago.

Shaykh Muhammad ʿUmar Khatib al-Maʿawy

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The manuscript is entitled *Mulḥat al-īrāb*, being a text on *naḥw wa-ṣarf*, copied at Lamu in 1267 AH.

Muhammad ʿAbdallah Mzee

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (3 Arabic; 1 Arabic with Swahili translation).

Description of collection: The collection comprises manuscripts of *qaṣida*, *tawḥīd* and *duʿāʾ*, and includes a copy of MUḤAMMAD IBN ʿABD AL-ʿAZĪZ AL-WARRĀQ's *Tabāraka* with a Swahili translation.

Shaykh ʿUmar ʿAli Mzee

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A single copy of AL-GHAZĀLĪ's *Iḥyāʾ ʿulūm al-dīn*, copied in Lamu in 1254 AH.

Nʼnalalo Mosque

Status: Mosque library (*waqf*)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 9 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection comprises two copies of the Qurʾān, four copies of ABŪ ʿABD ALLĀH MUḤAMMAD IBN ABŪ-BAKR AL-BAGHDĀDĪ's *Witrīya fī madḥ khayr al-barīya*, and individual manuscripts on *tawḥīd*, *fiqh* and *naḥw*.

Raskop Mosque

Status: Mosque library (*waqf*)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection comprises six copies of AL-BAGHDĀDĪ's *Witrīya fī madḥ khayr al-barīya*; one of the six manuscripts contains the text of *Tabāraka* in addition to *Witrīya*.

Rawda Mosque

Status: Mosque library (*waqf*)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 25 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the collection (fifteen manuscripts)

consists of various texts on *fiqh*; in addition the collection includes two copies of the Qur^ʿān, four texts of *naḥw*, two texts of *tafsīr*, and one *qāmūs*, being the only manuscript copy of a *qāmūs* known to exist in the Lamu archipelago.

Riyada Mosque

Status: Mosque library (*waqf*)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 75 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection, the largest known to exist in Kenya, is kept in the Library of the Riyada Mosque College of Lamu; in addition to 12 manuscripts of the Qur^ʿān, it includes 17 texts of *fiqh*, a variety of texts of *naḥw* (7), *du^ʿā* (6), *qaṣīda* (6), *taṣawwuf* (5), *ṣarf* (3), *waṣīya* (3), *nasab* (3), *mawlid* (2) and *tārīkh* (2), and individual manuscripts of *madḥ*, *khuṭba*, *shajara*, *sharḥ*, *alfāz*, *shī^ʿr*, *Ḥadīth* and *tawḥīd*.

MALINDI

Shaykh ʿAbdallah Muhammad Shaykh

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The manuscript is an original copy of *Kitāb majma^ʿ al-baḥrayn* by the late SHAYKH AL-AMIN AL-MAZRU^ʿI, Chief Qadi of Kenya, in the hand of the author.

MAMBRUI

Sayyid Muhammad Sharif Saʿid al-Baydi

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 17 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection comprises five texts of *madḥ*, five texts of *khuṭba*, three texts of *tabārūk*, as well as various texts of *du^ʿā* and *qaṣīda*, and one dealing with *khatm al-Qur^ʿān*.

MOMBASA

Anwar Mzee Ahmad

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: One of the oldest extant manuscripts of the Qur^ʿān known to have been copied in the Lamu archipelago, copied at Pate in 1221 AH.

Fort Jesus Museum

P.O. Box 82412, Mombasa

Status: Public museum

Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (Arabic).

Description of collection: In addition to one copy of the Qur^ʿān, the collection includes four texts of *qaṣīda* and three each of *du^ʿā* and *falak*, as well as various texts of *fiqh*, *mīrāth*, *naḥw*, *Ḥadīth* and *dhikr*.

ʿAbdur Rahman al-Hatimy

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Nine of the manuscripts are from Barawa (Somalia); included among them are two texts on morphology, *Muthallath QUṬRUB* and *Sharḥ Lamīyat al-afʿāl*.

Fahmy Mbarak Hinawi

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection comprises four copies of the Qur^ʿān, all written at Siyu (Lamu archipelago).

Sharif Khitamy

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Three of the manuscripts originate from Lamu; one copy of *Al-miʿrāj*, and other texts of *qaṣīda*, *duʿāʾ* and *falak*.

Sayyid Hasan Muhammad

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Two copies of the Qurʾān, both written at Lamu.

Sharif ʿAbdur Rahman ʿAlwy Saqqaf

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection comprises two copies of *Kitāb at-Taṣawwuf* by AL-ʿĀRIF BI-ʾLLĀH SHAYKH ʿALĪ IBN NAḤF ʿAL-MAZRŪʿI and two historical texts, *Tārīkh al-Mazāriʿah* and *Tārīkh Mumbāsa*.

Thabit Mukhtar Thabit

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Both manuscripts deal with *sihr*.

Muhammad Twaha

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection includes two texts by DARWĪSH JUMʿA ʿUMAR AL-MAḤRŪQĪ: *Kitāb fī ʿilm al-farāʿid min al-mīrāth* and *Al-dalāʾil ʿalā ʾl-lawāzim wā-ʾl-wasāʾil*.

NAIROBI

Ismail Rahimtulla Library

PO Box 40333, Nairobi

Status: Public library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 23 (22 Arabic; 1 Arabic with Swahili translation).

Description of collection: The manuscripts form part of the Allen Collection, bequeathed by the late J. DE VERE ALLEN, Curator of Lamu Museum; almost half of the collection consists of texts of *fiqh*, with three texts each of *madh* and *nahw*; all the manuscripts are Arabic, except for one dealing with *falak*, which includes a Swahili translation of the Arabic; the collection includes two Qurʾāns, one of which is unusual in that it has several pages without vowel signs.

Kenya National Archives

PO Box 49210, Nairobi

Status: Public archives

Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (Swahili).

Description of collection: The manuscripts, all in Swahili (in Arabic script) are part of the JOHN WILLIAMSON Collection; five of the manuscripts are works of MUHAMMAD ABU BAKR AL-BAKRI KIJUMWA of Lamu.

PATE

Rahama Faruq

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A copy of *Mawlid sharaf al-anʿām*, copied at Pate.

SIYU

Mwanja Mosque

Status: Mosque library (*waqf*).

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A copy of *Kitāb witrīya fī ʾl-madh*, copied at Siyu.

Muhammad Shaykh Nabhany

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A copy of *Kitāb witrīya fī 'l-madh*, copied at Pate.

Sayyid 'Umar 'Abdallah Saggaf

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Three copies of *Kitāb witrīya fī 'l-madh*, all copied at Barawa (Somalia).

Nasir Sayyid 'Umar 'Abdallah Saggaf

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The collection comprises nine Qur'āns, all copied at Siyu, and ten copies of *Kitāb witrīya fī 'l-madh*.

KUWAIT

by

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1992