MOROCCO

by

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UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS


Catalogue of an exhibition containing MSS from collections in Rabat, Fez (Qarawiyyīn), Marrakesh (Ibn Yūsuf), Meknes (Great Mosque and Ibn Zaydān), Safi.


Lists MSS held in the Qarawiyyīn Library (Fez), Ibn Yūsuf Library (Marrakesh), Public Library of Rabat, Kattānī Library (Fez), Jalāwī Pasha Library (Marrakesh), and mentions a number of other collections.


Describes MSS in libraries of Tamagrount, Biou, Fez (Qarawiyyīn) and Rabat (Public Library).


54 music MSS in Moroccan collections mentioned, pp. 6–10.


1968. Les manuscrits de l’Occident africain dans les bibliothèques


Incl. survey of outstanding historiographical MSS.


The Hasan II Prizes for the best MSS & archive documents have been awarded every year since 1965. Private MSS entered for the Prize are microfilmed and registered in the Public Library in Rabat, and the list has been published annually.


Describes MSS in Public Library, Rabat, Public Library of Tetuan and Qarawiyīn Library in Fez.


Describes both institutional libraries and major private collections.

AGDZ

Kasbah of Tannougalt Public Library

Agdz, Quarzazate

Date of establishment: 1398 AH / 1978 CE

Status: Open to the public and specialist researchers

Total number of Islamic MSS: 53 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the manuscripts are in fair condition. Some are clearly written and easily read, whilst others have been partially damaged because of lack of maintenance and cleaning. Besides this, a number of them are holed, and some of the manuscripts have begun to disintegrate at the beginning, middle or end.

Most of the MSS held in this library concern Qur'anic studies and exegesis, Hadith, Sufism, literature, biography (of the Prophet), lexicography, grammar and history. A few of the MSS are decorated on the opening pages and in the margins, especially the copies of the Qur'an.

Important manuscripts held in the collection are: (i) Taṣfir al-rû'ya, by Ibn Sirîn (part of a larger work); (ii) Mukhtasar fadżî'îl al-Qur'an, by Al-Wâdiyâshî; (iii) Tagid 'old hadith man haddihaba 'alayya mu'tamidân (etc.), by Al-Hasan ibn Muhammad.

Unpublished catalogues: All of the manuscripts are catalogued in a card-index by author, title, collection and subject-matter.

ASFI—see SAFI

BOUJAD

See:


BZOU

Bzou Library

Bzou, near the city of Demnate

Date of establishment: Sa'dî Dynasty, ca. 1042 AH / 1633 CE

Status: Public library, open to researchers, students and the general public

Total number of Islamic MSS: 70 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the manuscripts are in fair condition, being clearly written and easily read. However, a small number of them have been wholly or partially damaged and are unusable. Generally, the humidity and a lack of cleaning have combined to put this collection in danger. It is housed in an old building in Bzou. The oldest manuscript dates from 836 AH. Broadly speaking, the MSS cover the period between the ninth and 13th centuries AH. The works held in this tumulus library treat a number of subjects, such as the Qur'an and exegesis, Hadith, biography, history, geography, traditional medicine, astronomy, mathematics, grammar and literature. A number of the manuscripts in this collection have been decorated with coloured sub-titles (safarîh) and headings and opening pages illuminated in gold and silver.

Important manuscripts in this collection are: (i) al-Mujama' fi sharh al-Muqaddas, by Muhammad ibn Sa'id Al-Sulî; (ii) Sharh Manzumât 'Abd Allah Al-Hiri, by 'Abû 'l-Qâsim ibn Hajû; (iii) Rîsûla fi 'l-burjî wa-'tabâ'-silâ (Anonymous).

Published catalogues:

1961. See Muhammad Al-Fasî's union catalogue for one MS. noted there.

FEZ

General

In his union catalogue (1959) S. Al-Munajjid noted the following (presumably private) collections in Fez: Al-Shaykh Al-'Arabi Al-Harâshî; Al-'Abid Al-Fasî; Idrîs ibn Al-Mâjî Al-Idrîsî (library sold after his death to Prince Mawlid 'Abbâl Allâh); 'Abbâl Al-'Azîz Al-Siqillî; Jawâd Al-Siqillî. Further information is in the survey by Benjelloun-Larouci, 1990. See also:
Al-Qarawiyin Library

Date of establishment: 750 AH / 1349 CE
Status: Public library, but access restricted to research students and fellows of universities.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,030 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The importance of this library is such that it receives official delegations, scholars and politicians, including kings and heads of state. The manuscripts in this library number 2,030, all of which are in Arabic. In addition to these, there are collections of papers (with numerous gaps and omissions) which still need to be collected, arranged, sorted and catalogued. It should be noted that a significant number of these manuscripts have been completely lost. This much can be deduced by comparing the present contents of the Library with the contents as listed in the original registers.

Some of the MSS are in poor condition, being either completely or partially damaged, and require treatment and restoration. The Library also has a collection of various manuscripts which are still kept in special boxes.

The manuscripts of the famous al-Qarawiyin Library cover all aspects of scholarship and literature, including Qur’anic studies, Hadith, fiqh, literature, grammar, linguistics, history, geography, medicine, astronomy, physics, chemistry, mathematics, music, as well as other branches of knowledge and literature. The oldest MS. in the Library dates from the seventh Islamic century (13th century CE). In general, the MSS date from the period between the 12th and 19th centuries CE. A significant number of the manuscripts are considered rarities on account of their contribution to scholarship, some being the only extant copies in the world. Some are considered artefacts in their own right because of the high quality of their illumination and the beautiful gilded decoration of their opening pages and margins.

Among the important manuscripts of the collection are: (i) al-Bāb fi Ḥim al-Kūhū by Ibn ʿĀdi; (ii) Ḥāfṣ ʿUmar ibn ʿĀdi ibn ʿĀdi al-Ḥasanī al-Dimashqī, in eight parts; (iii) ʿAlī al-Ṭāhirī bi-nā_TDammaduṭah wa-magāṣirī Rāghī bī sāʿāt Allah al-lāmiʿa ʿamīli ʿaṣ-salam wi-magāṣirī al-thalāthā al-Khatūfī, by al-Kilānī Aḥrī ʿl-Rābiʾ Sulaymān ibn Muḥāṣah (d. 634 AH), in two parts; (iv) Ṭawālīʿ al-ʾanwārī on theology, by al-Qaḍī al-Burhān ʿUbayd Allāh ibn Muḥammad al-


Describes the libraries of the Qarawiyin Mosque and of the Raṣūl Mosque.


ʿAbd al-Salām bin Sūda

Ş. al-Munajjī in his union catalogue, 1959, notes the existence of this private library. See also survey by L. Benjelloun-Laroui, 1990.

Unpublished catalogues:


Dār Makhzan

G. Salmon, in 1906, noted that a collection of some 2,000 MSS collected by Mawtāw al-Ḥasan remained in the library of the palace of Fez al-Jadīd. See his article:


Kattānī Library

Ş. al-Munajjī, in his union catalogue, 1959, lists some of the MSS held in this library (pp. 174–189). See also:


L. Benjelloun-Laroui, in her 1990 survey, states that many of these MSS are now in the Hasanīya Library, Rabat, and the Royal Library in Marrakesh; part of this library was confiscated in 1956, after Muḥammad ʿAbd al-Ḥāri al-Kattānī went into exile in France, and this part is now in the Public Library, Rabat.


Describes the collections and also lists 81 MSS.


Describes the Quaraqīyīn collection as well as others in Rabat.


See also Muḥammad al-Fāsī’s union catalogue, 1961, and Benjelloun-Lakou’s 1990 survey.

Published catalogues:


The compiler has taken the full name of the author as his starting point in describing the manuscripts after listing the copies of the Holy Qur’ān. Immediately after the reference number and the full name of the author, and usually the date of his death, are given the title of the manuscript and the number of its parts, basic information about the origin of the manuscript and the dates of its bequest and acquisition, then mīṣrīs and explicts, the copyist and the date of copying, if known, the style of script, and any tears or other kinds of damage; the number of folios, their dimensions and the number of lines on each, and sometimes the date on which the copy was started; finally a summary with notes, information and special remarks about the manuscript and any other copies. All of the works of the first author are given together. There is an index of authors.

Unpublished catalogues: Most of the MSS have been entered in the four-volume catalogue. There are also handwritten registers in which most MSS are recorded, and many loose sheets identify MSS by titles, authors and subjects.

Uncatalogued MSS: A number of the MSS have not been catalogued.
MARRAKESH

General

S. AL-MUNAJJID mentions the existence of the following private collections in his union catalogue, 1959: Al-Rašād al-Fārūqī; al-Fāqīh ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān (but this was dispersed after his death in 1951); AL-TUHAMI AL-NĀSHIRI.

Ibn Yusuf Public Library

Bab Dakalah, Marrakesh

Date of establishment: The Ibn Yusuf Public Library was founded in 537 AH (and is therefore older than the Qarawiyyin Library which was founded in 750 AH).

Status: Public library, affiliated to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, open to specialist researchers, students and the general public.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 732 (730 Arabic; 2 Berber).

Description of collection: The most recent addition to the collection is a manuscript copy of the Qurʾān, acquired in 1984.

The most of these manuscripts are kept in cardboard boxes in a pleasant, historic building, formerly the Jellāw Palace. The Library is to be moved to a modern building in March 1991.

A great number of the manuscripts have been damaged, with many gaps rendering them unusable. They need to be sorted and rearranged.

The subjects covered by the manuscripts are recorded in the catalogue registers and on loose sheets. These follow the same order as the printed catalogues, and have been arranged as follows: Qurʾān and exegesis; Ḥadīth; fiqh and its principles; cases and judgements (al-akhmā wa-l-naṣāʾī); language and literature; history and the sciences.

The oldest Arabic manuscript in the Library (no. 196) was copied in 500 AH (1106 AD). The identity of the author is not known. Broadly speaking, the manuscripts cover the period between the fifteenth and the sixteenth centuries AH.

The margins and the opening pages of a number of the manuscripts have been illuminated and gilded.

As far as the important manuscripts, according to the librarian at the Ibn Yusuf Public Library, the criterion of significance is gauged by the attention which each manuscript receives from the readers. There are manuscripts written in a clear, beautiful hand, gilded and embellished, which scarcely attract anyone. On the other hand, there are manuscripts, written in an executable hand, which are in great demand amongst readers. With this in mind, the following three important manuscripts given in the catalogue may be listed as:

(i) Two parts of an Andalusian copy of the Qurʾān, written in 620 AH in the city of Mālaga, no. 430; (ii) Ḥāji ʿAḥmad al-Dīn, by Anūb ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAbd Allāh al-Mālī, no. 262; (iii) Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿAbd Allāh al-Rasmūkī (part of a larger work), no. 344.

See also:


Published catalogues:


Divided by the subject-matter of the manuscripts held in the Library, listing under each subject heading the works which relate to it. The subjects are as follows: Qurʾān and exegesis, Ḥadīth, fiqh and its principles, verdicts and case histories, language and literature, history and the sciences. The catalogue gives the title of the MS, full name of the author, incipits & explicitis, remarking whether or not it is self-contained or part of a larger work, and whether it is damaged or not, also information about the date of its acquisition, if known, and its bequest; also given are the type of script and its characteristics, information about the copyist and the date on which the copy was completed, if this information is to be found in the manuscript itself or another source, the dimensions and the number of lines per page, ending with the reference number. There is a supplementary index. The catalogue describes 729 MSS: nearly all of the manuscripts in the Library.
Unpublished catalogues:


The list gives the new numbers of the manuscripts, the titles of the works, the full names of the authors, and the number of parts into which each title is divided. There is no information supplied about dates of authorship or the dates of birth and death of the authors, nor about the dates of acquisition of the MSS, the names of the copyists, characteristics of the scripts used and the places and dates of writing. The following headings: The Qurʾān; biographies of the Prophet; ṣaf—there are 61 anonymous manuscripts on ṣaf, which are fragmentary at beginning and end and deteriorating; Ḥadīth; exegesis; Sufism; grammar; variant readings; lexico-graphy; catechisms; logic; medicine; history; literature; arithmetic; etc. There are no supplementary indexes. Total number of MSS: 664 (out of Library’s total of 732).

All of the manuscripts are recorded in handwritten registers and on a card-index. These show the title, the name of the author and the dates of his birth and death according to the lunar and solar calendars. If known, the beginning of the manuscript is noted, and sometimes the end, as well as any useful remarks such as the date in which it was composed or copied.

Jalāwī Pasha Library

The Ibn Yūsuf Library occupies one wing of the former Jalāwī Palace. The Jalāwī collection, formerly property of Jalāwī Pasha, has been described by Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn al-Munajjī on pp. 190–194 of his union catalogue, 1959. Most of this library is now in the Public Library, Rabat.

MEKNES

General


Great Mosque Library

Date of establishment: 1948 CE.
Status: A public library containing manuscripts and historical documents.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 607 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This library was founded in 1948 on the site of an ancient library established in the Saʿdī Dynasty, and inherited its collections. Because of the importance of its collections of printed works and manuscripts, it receives significant numbers of readers and scholars from all countries.

A significant number of manuscripts have been affected by the cold, whilst others are in fair condition. However, a number have been damaged and are in need of restoration. The entire collection is in need of regular cleaning and constant maintenance. Despite this, all of the manuscripts are clearly legible.

The library contains manuscripts dealing with all subjects, including Qurʾānic studies, exegesis, ṣaf, Ḥadīth, principles of Islam (ṣālī al-dīn), philosophy, Sufism, history, geography, literature, linguistics and biography etc. The oldest manuscript dates from the Marinid Dynasty, specifically the reign of al-Nāṣir li-Dīn Allāh Yūsuf ibn Yaḥyāqīb of the thirteenth century CE (1286–1307 CE). Broadly speaking, the manuscript collection of the Great Mosque covers the period of history from the end of the 13th century CE until the 19th.

An important section of the collection deals with the Saʿdī and ʿAlawī kings, and some of them bear their signatures. Some of these manuscripts are ornamented with gilded illumination, especially on the opening pages and margins.

Important manuscripts held here are: (i) Jawāhir al-dhār fī hāl al-mahāsir, by al-Tayyib Mūḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Khalīl (in two parts); (ii) Al-Sīḥāf bi-ṭārīf buqāʾ al-Mustafā, by al-Qādī ʿĪvād ibn Mūsā ʿl-Ḥusaynī al-Sibtī (in two parts).

Published catalogues:

1950–1959. A few MSS from the Great Mosque were published in the union catalogue by M. al-Munāsī.

Unpublished catalogues:

The list contains the sequential numbers, the names of the authors, the titles of the works and the number of parts held. There is no information about the dates of acquisition, the subject-matter of the manuscripts, the names of the copyists, the styles of script used, or place and date of copying. No index. No. of MSS described 493.

Ibn Zaydān

A few MSS from this collection were included in M. al-Manūṣi's union catalogue, 1958–1959. The existence of this private collection is mentioned by S. al-Munajjid in his union catalogue, 1959 and by L. Benjelloun-Laroui in her 1990 survey, where she states that many of these MSS are now in the Library of Prince Mawlāy ʿAbd Allāh b. Muḥammad b. Yūsuf, Rabat.

Al-Manūṣi Library

The existence of this collection is mentioned by S. al-Munajjid in his union catalogue, 1959 and by L. Benjelloun-Laroui in her 1990 survey.

QUEZZANE

Library of the Great Mosque

Date of establishment: In the ʿAlawi period, ca. 1127 AH / 1715 CE.
Status: Public library, open to all readers and researchers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,248 works in Arabic, but this figure includes lithographs.
Description of collection: Some MSS are completely or partly damaged, whilst others are in urgent need of maintenance and repair. However, the majority of the manuscripts are in fair condition and easy to read despite some holes and cracks in a few works.
This rich collection of manuscripts was placed in the tomb of Mawlāy ʿAbd Allāh al-Shārīf. The overseers of the tomb were themselves in charge of this library; the volumes were placed inside the tomb itself, kept in eight wooden lockers. In 1368 AH/1947 CE this treasure was moved to its present location, which was furnished with wooden shelving on which the works were arranged. This building is located immediately in front of the Great Mosque at Quezzane.

The Library contains a collection of seminal works on Qur’anic exegesis, Ḥadīth and fiqh, as well as biographies of the Prophet and others. There are also works on linguistics and astronomy and medicine etc.

A number of the MSS are bound in leather; some of the bindings have been worn, and some have been tooled with gilded patterns and letters, all of which have become faded and indistinct. Some of the pages and margins have also been embalmed.

Important manuscripts are represented by: (i) Urjūṣa fi ʿirāqat al-ʿanāl bi-qaṣṣa muḥājrat al-Ilāhām, by the astronomer Muḥammad ibn al-Muḥājrat ibn Kibīn al-Fāṣir, 1380 AH, pp. 359; (ii) Kāūṣa fi ʿaṣwāq al-šāfī, by Ibn al-Khāṭīb, in one volume. It is said that the author met his demise before completing the work, as one of the margins reads: ‘the original has the following: “the work ends here, giving us to suppose that the author might have passed away before its completion, but the Almighty knows best.”’ [No reference no. given]; (iii) Dakhīrat al-mūḥājrat by Shaykh Muḥammad al-Muẓīr ibn al-Ṣāliḥ al-Shārīf al-Umr. [One] volume of pt. 48, being the first in order of appearance.

See:

QASR AL-MAʿIZ

L. Benjelloun-Laroui in her 1990 survey reports that the family of Awlād Sādī ʿAbd al-Jabbār al-Faqīrī, at Qasr al-Maʿiz in the province of Figuig retain one important private library.

See:

most part, they are in the mid-Maghribī calligraphic style. Important manuscripts in the collection are: (i) Marginal Notes by Imam Muhammad al-Ruhūnī on the sharḥ al-Zarqālī on Maksūqar Shaykh Khalīl; (ii) Fayḍ al-Fatāh ‘alā nār al-Qāhidh, by the jurist Sīdī ʿAbd Allāh ibn al-Ḥājj Ibrāhīm al-ʿAlawī al-Shanṣītī.

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Library

Bab al-Raywa quarter, Rabat

Date of establishment: The library was founded in 1921 CE. From the time of its foundation, it was affiliated to the Moroccan Institute for Higher Research, until the establishment of the Muhammad V University, at which point the library was incorporated into the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

Status: University library, attached to the Faculty of Arts of the Muhammad V University at Rabat. Open to students and researchers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 508 (ca. 500 Arabic; 4 Berber; 1 Persian; 1 Swahili).

Description of collection: Generally speaking, the manuscripts are in fair condition and most are clear and legible. However, some of the manuscripts have been partially or completely damaged, and need regular maintenance, disinfection and cleaning.

All the MSS have been reproduced on microfiche or microfilm. They are arranged on iron shelves, whilst the documents are kept in special wallets inside plastic folders; the library is located in the Faculty’s modern building. There are also loose sheets arranged according to the manuscript numbers.

The core of the collection is formed by MSS purchased by the staff of what used to be the Institute of Higher Studies, before it became the Faculty of Arts in a programme of enlargement and restructuring. This collection of manuscripts had been deposited in the library of the Institute without being recorded or arranged. Some of them had begun to be studied, as is clear from notes made on their margins. The Faculty Administration has tried to enrich and enlarge this store of MSS in the past few years by acquiring another collection of MSS. These are made up of the following: Documents, bundles, and folders containing various subjects (some fragmented) and including a variety of correspondence; notebooks, folios
and reports which have yet to be enumerated; miscellaneous works; and a number of MSS treating a single subject.

The collection includes the following subjects: Qur'ān, exegesis, Qur'ānic studies, Ḥadīth, fiqh, as well as Sufism, biographies of the Prophet and others, history, historical geography, language, literature, the art of shooting, medicine (in abundance), alchemy and traditional sciences, oceanography, agriculture, astrology and amulets and much colloquial poetry (ṣāḥib al-madhīn).

Some of the MSS are decorated and illuminated with ornamental patterns, particularly the titles. Most of them are in the Maghribi calligraphic style, some in the Eastern (Mashriqī), and some in a quasi-Maghribi style. Important manuscripts are: (i) Faṭḥ al-bayy al-qayyim bi-sharh Rawaḍ al-fihim fi naẓm niṣābī al-ʾulūm, by Shihāb al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Salām; (ii) Manāṣib min ghrib khālīm al-Saʿīd, by an unknown author, generally thought to be the work of Karāʾ al-Nāṣr al-Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Muḥammad, nos. 17–18; (iii) al-Ḥadiyya al-maṣṣūla li hilāl al-tūḥ al-maṣhīla, by Abū ʿAbbās ʿAbd al-Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Muḥammad, nos. 29.

Published catalogues:

Unpublished catalogues:

This catalogue is a comprehensive record of the collection of manuscripts at the Library of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at Rabat.

Most of the MSS are arranged according to subject headings such as: alchemy, medicine, fiqh, Ḥadīth, literature, lexicography, grammar, Qur'ān and exegesis, biographies of the Prophet, prayers, invocations, history, biography, folklore literature and various sciences in miscellaneous MSS.

The reference number of the manuscript is followed by the titles and authors. The name of the author is usually verified by the date of death according to the Islamic and Christian calendars. A short summary of the content is then given, with inājīt, number of pages, and the pages on which the work begins and ends. The number of lines per page and the dimensions, the script and its characteristics, date of copying and the name of the copyist if known. Whether the MS. has been edited, lithographed or printed, with sources and reference works. No index. Approximately 300 MSS, with the exception of some packages and documents.

All MSS are also recorded in a handwritten catalogue. A project is under way to revise, print and publish the catalogue by a group of researchers at the Faculty.

The Ḥasaniya Library

Date of establishment: 17th century CE (reign of Sultan Maḥmūd Ismāʿīl al-Salāḥī). Status: Private library opened to the public in 1961 (previously the Royal Library).

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 6,000 (Arabic); approximately 20,000 volumes, comprising about 6,000 titles.

Description of collection: Most of the manuscripts are in good condition. They are cleaned regularly and kept on wooden shelves. About two thousand of the manuscripts have been affected by holes and various defects and await treatment and restoration. The library is in the Royal Palace (Museum) and is constantly supervised. A large number of the manuscripts are compendia.

The Ḥasaniya Library contains manuscripts which deal with science, philology and religion, including the Holy Qur'ān and valuable sources on Qur'ānic sciences, the principles of Islam, and more generally, fiqh (all branches), Sufism, ethics, Arabic lexicography, history, geography, astronomy, mathematics, ʿudūf, astrology, medicine, pharmacy, veterinary surgery, biology, botany, music, statecraft (naẓm al-dawla), modern sciences and encyclopaedias, alchemy, the interpretation of dreams and the occult, as well as various other subjects. The oldest MS. in the library is a copy of the Holy Qur'ān, written on gazelle vellum. It was probably copied at the beginning of the 3rd century AH. The MSS cover the period between the third century AH (9th century CE) and the 19th century CE.

A number of the MSS are autographs. Others were written spe-
cially for the Royal Family. They contain special features and many are considered outstanding examples of ornamentation; this is especially true of opening pages, and the copies of the Qur'an which have been illuminated in gold.

Most of the MSS are copied in agreeable Maghribi and original Andalusian styles, as well as Eastern (Mashriqi) scripts and Kufic. Some of the MSS have been embellished with very attractive forms and patterns (e.g., Kātība wa-Dīma, copied in a Sharqi hand in the reign of the Caliph Abū Ja'far al-Manṣūr. Another example is the illumination of surgical instruments in al-Tasrif li-man 'ajiz 'an al-taqīf) by Abū 'l-Qāsim Khālaq ibn Abūs al-Zahrāwī al-Andalusi (d. 427 AH).

Important manuscripts in the collection include: (i) Qur'an, in a fair Maghribi hand, clear, vowelled, coloured and corrected; illuminated, with various explanatory notes (jarrīj) at beginning and end and at the start of each half-part (fisīb) and sûma. It was copied in 984 AH by Mūbarak Abū al-Kārin ibn Dawūd. No. 90; (ii) Kitāb al-Shihāb al-Muḍallī min Hadith Rasūl Allāh sallallahu alahi wa-sallam fi-l-ḥakīm wa-l-maṣūm wa-l-waqīj wa-l-adab, by al-Qadi Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muhammad ibn Salāma al-Qudārī (d. 545 AH/1052 CE, No. 1810; (iii) Kitāb al-tasrif fi-l-mudāwād wa-l-tadbir, by Abū ʿl-ʿAlā Zahr ibn Abū al-Malik ibn Zahir al-Iṣhārī (d. 525 AH/1131 AD). Written in a beautifully embellished, tight and compact Maghribi hand, illuminated in gold. Thought to date from the Sa'di Dynasty. No. 2/1338.

See:


Published catalogues:


This is a catalogue of a few selected manuscripts held in the Ḥasanūniya Library. These include copies of the Holy Qur’an, and exegetical, Hadith, biographies of the Prophet, fahṣ, and its associated sciences, dogmatic theology, language, grammar, literature, history, genealogy, geography, travel, politics, mathematics, physics, agriculture, alchemy, astronomy, astrology, medicine, music and other sciences.

The subject is given with titles of the MSS and reference numbers, followed by the full name of the author, and the date of his death according to the Islamic and Christian calendars, type of script, its quality, and any distinguishing characteristics, copyist and the date of copying if known, the date of composition, sometimes referring to reference works.

There are no supplementary indexes, although it does contain sample documents from the Royal Archives (reproductions of some of the official correspondence, writs, records and reports). 245 MSS only.

1979. See Union Catalogue by Aḥmad.


Each volume has been devoted to the description of MSS in particular fields: Vol I – History (944 MSS); Vol II – Medicine, pharmacy, veterinary science, biology, botany (289 MSS); Vol III – Mathematics, astronomy, astrology, geography (589 MSS); Vol IV – Literature, music, administration, encyclopaedias (411 MSS); Vol V – Alchemy, psychology, occult (567 MSS); Vol VI – Sciences of the Holy Qur’an (1,091 MSS).

The MSS in Vol I follow Moroccan Alīf-Bāʾ alphabetical order listing titles followed by name of the author, number of pages, size and number of lines per page, style of handwriting, subject, and some general information about contents, copyist, if known, and
date on which the copy was completed, if it occurs in the manuscript or a reliable source. No information is given concerning dates of acquisition or provenance; the date and place of publication if relevant and reference number in the Ḥasanîya Library are cited. In Vols. II–VI, which follow the same arrangement, are added the date of death of the author, *incipits* and *explicita*, condition of the manuscript, and libraries of the world in which copies of this manuscript are to be found. Indexes of title, author, copyist.


A shelf list of the MSS.


Text in French, Arabic & English.

*Unpublished catalogues:*

There are registers in which are recorded the titles and authors, as well as the places of origin of the MSS.

Each manuscript has its own loose reference sheet, which is divided into three sections: subject (various arts and sciences); title; author.

Muḥammad al-Mukhtār al-Sūsī

The private library built up by this scholar, which included many of his own works, is now owned by his son. See:


A guide to works written by al-Mukhtār al-Sūsī (published and still in manuscript) and other works owned by him and inherited by his son, the author.

1990. *Survey by Benjelloun-Laragoul*

Bah al-Rawāh, Rabat

Date of establishment: 1926 AD

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11,087 (11,061 Arabic; 20 Berber; 6 Persian).

*Description of collection:* The manuscripts are kept on iron shelves, although some are in wooden boxes. Most of the documents are kept in cardboard boxes. Some of the manuscripts are in good condition, especially those which date from the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries CE. Some others are damaged throughout in various parts of the beginning, middle or end sections. A number of manuscripts are blemished and a large number of them are badly damaged. These manuscripts are kept in a modern building, under guard day and night. Air conditioning is to be installed soon.

The manuscripts are distributed in approximately 7,000 volumes.

It should be noted that most of the manuscripts which are disintegrating or badly damaged have been copied onto microfilm. Readers are not allowed to use the originals of these manuscripts.

The subjects which are covered by the manuscript collections and units can be briefly summed up as follows: Qurʾān, Hadīth; Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*); Qurʾānic exegesis (*taṣfīr*); biography (*sīṣar*); transactions (*muʿāmalāt*); geography; astronomy; mathematics; history; Sufism (*taṣawwuf*); anthologies of poetry; literary studies, history of literature; medicine; linguistics; military strategy (such as a manuscript translated from Spanish, illustrated with technical drawings of war machinery); a few miscellaneous MSS.

The oldest Arabic manuscript in this large library dates from the third Islamic century (9th century CE). It consists of three parts of the Qurʾān, written on gazelle velum, illuminated and gilded. It is written in a large, clear hand; but the copy is not complete. It is located under letter ǧīm, no. 1.

Generally speaking, these manuscripts date from the period between the 3rd and 14th Islamic centuries (9th–20th centuries CE). Several formerly private collections have come to the Public Library in the 20th century through confiscation.

All of the manuscripts in the ǧīm section (al-Jalāwī) are illumi-
nated and gilded. Most have gilt margins, such as the copies of Qur’an and [al-Jazuli’s] Dalà’il al-Khayrat. A considerable number of the other MSS are beautifully illuminated and decorated, especially on the margins and opening pages. Most MSS are written either in the Maghribi or the Andalusian calligraphic style, with the two sometimes being used in combination. A few are in the Kufic or the Persian style, and some are written in the Eastern (Mashriqi) style.

Among the important manuscripts in the Public Library are:
(i) Three parts of the Qur’an, gazelle vellum, Kufic script, jin: no. 1; (ii) al-Iṣṣa wa-l-muḥājir bi-l-majhūdun bi-l-mādhūf, by Ḥusayn ibn Ahmad ibn Qāsim ibn al-Shawk al-Ḥaṣāri al-Andalusi, the biographer of Sūlān Zaydān ibn al-Maṣūr al-Saḍī. He finished his biography in 1048 AH. This is the first copy to have been made of the book, written and signed by the author (jin, no. 87); (iii) Al-Bayṣān wa-l-ṣuyūr wa-l-ṣamayyān, by al-Jāhiz.

See:


Published catalogues:

This collection is now in the Public Library.


The manuscripts are described briefly with only the title and the author in Arabic. The reader is then referred to the French section of the book, which gives the title in Arabic, full details about the author, subject-matter and language, date of copying and the name of the scribe (usually); information about the type of script is given only occasionally. Index. 544 MSS. These MSS are now in the Public Library.


A precise description of the Arabic manuscripts in the Public Library. The reference number is given, then full title, author and subject, incipit and explicit, copyist and date of copying, if known. Information about the author (dates of birth and death), number of folios, lines per page and dimensions of the paper, the style of script references, index of authors, and of works cited. 1,780 titles in pt 1; 984 in pt 2.

Subject headings of Part 1: Holy Qur’an; variant readings; exegesis; Hadith; biographies of the Prophet; Taṣawwuf; Sufism; prayers; fiqh; grammar; philology and lexicography; prosody; style. Subject headings of part 2: history; genealogy; biography; geography and travel; logic; politics; mathematical sciences; agriculture; alchemy; astronomy; astrology; science of correspondences and tables; medicine; music.

Part 3i describes accessions of 1954–1957 giving reference no., full title, full name of author, name of copyist only if present in MS., and rarely place and date of copying; incipits and sometimes explicita are given. Indexes of authors and works cited; 955 titles are described.


1961. See union catalogue by ʿAl-Fāsī.


Describes and lists some MSS in the Jalāwī, Kattānī and Ḥajawī collections.

1962. Liste de manuscrits arabes, sélectionnés parmi ceux qui sont conservés à la Bibliothèque Générale et Archives du Maroc, reproduits par l’Unité mobile de microfilm de l’Unesco. (Rabat)

1968. Catalogue by Joseph Schacht (under General above) lists some MSS in the Public Library.

1979. See union catalogue by Ahmad.

Unpublished catalogues:


The catalogue gives serial number, reference number, title; full name of author; date of birth and death if known; incipits; first and last pages; number of lines per page and dimensions; type of script used, and any special characteristics; name of copyist, if known. Refers to reference works.

The subject-matter is indicated only occasionally; no dates of acquisition; no supplementary index of authors or works; 404 MSS all headed Kāf, signifying those manuscripts which were previously in the Kattānī collection, but does not cover all of them; there is no copy of it in the Public Library at Rabat.

There is also a handwritten list of 3,371 MSS from the Kattānī collection which is now in the Public Library.

A handwritten list of 263 MSS belonging to al-Faṣih al-Ḥajawī collection is also available.


Unpublished list, of which a photocopy is held in the Saddam Manuscripts Library, Baghdad (no. 47827).

Only some of the groups have been catalogued, handwritten on loose sheets of thick paper.

The titles of some of the manuscripts, the names of their authors and the dates of their acquisition, together with their purchase price and the number of parts and extant copies, in addition to other relevant information, are set out in large registers. The collection is divided into five stacks, each beginning with the number one and designated by a particular letter: jin indicates MSS of al-Jalāwī collection; dīl indicates the original collection of the Public Library; hāʾ indicates MSS of al-Ḥajawī collection; ṣāḥ indicates ʿAnb al-Ḥānūn al-Kattānī’s collection; qāf indicates MSS left as public endowments (daqrīf), formerly the property of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.

Uncatalogued MSS: Some MSS remain uncatalogued.

SAFĪ

Some MSS from Safi (Ṣafī) have appeared in exhibitions.

Published catalogues:


1971. See under union catalogues above.

SAŁĒ

Ṣubaybiya Library

Date of establishment: 1976

Status: Private library endowed by the Subaybi family in 1965, open to specialist researchers, students and general readers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 4,000, in addition to about 250,000 literary and historical documents (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the MSS held in this library are in good condition, and are kept on wooden shelves in a modern building. A number of the MSS have been damaged, especially those which have not been catalogued, and a few manuscripts are fragmentary.

This library contains valuable manuscripts including Qur’ān, exegesis, and Qur’ānic sciences. In addition, there are manuscripts of Ḥadīth and its related sciences, biographies of the Prophet, taqādum, logic, fiqh, and its principles, religious duties, Sufism, etc.

There is one part of a manuscript which was written in the second century AH. It is only fragmentary, and has been dated by the author’s reference to his teacher. The oldest complete manuscript dates from the same century. Broadly, the manuscripts in this library cover the second to the fourteenth centuries AH.

A number of the books have been decorated and gilded, particularly on the opening pages. Some of the manuscripts are considered valuable works of art, a number of them have been embellished and illuminated. Important manuscripts include: (i) Ṣaḥīḥ of Al-Bukhārī in four parts; (ii) al-Iḥāṣāt al-waqīfāt (history of the two river banks), by Muḥammad ibn ʿAlī al-Dākkaī; (iii) Kunānah al-Qāṭīnī Ahmād Bānnānī, and of al-Sā[yīd Bū Shuntūf and al-Sayyīd ʿA[ymād al-Ṣubayyī.

For a description, see L. Benjelloun-Laroui, 1990 survey.

Published catalogues:

The catalogue gives the reference number, title, the full name of the author (usually with date of his death), incipits and explicitis, number of parts, number of folios, number of lines on each, type of script, name of the copyist (if known), only occasionally indicating the place and date of copying, and reference number in the collection, without specifying the date of acquisition or the origin of the manuscript. However, most of the manuscripts held in this Library are part of the bequest of the ʿṢubayyī family, made in 1963, which included as a condition of the endowment that a member of the family be appointed keeper of the Library. Supplementary indexes: titles, authors, copyists. At the end, there is a list of the most important sources and reference works.

This catalogue contains the following subject headings: Qur’ān and its sciences; Ḥadīth and its sciences and biographies of the Prophet; tajābūd: including logic, fiqh; Sufism; language, grammar, syntax, rhetoric, prosody and literature; history, biographies, hagiographies, genealogy, autobiographies, certificates of initiation into Sufi orders (jāzār), travel and geographical works; arithmetic and sciences; medicine, botany, biology, ornithology and music; alchemy and magic; miscellaneous; 1,337 MSS only.

Uncatalogued MSS: The library has a notebook in which most of the MSS have been entered.

Uncatalogued MSS: Approximately half of the collection has not been catalogued. The library is working on a number of MSS and more will be sorted, catalogued and repaired.

Al-Faqih al-Tīṭwānī

Ṣ. al-Munajjī reports, in his union catalogue, 1959, that this family has a private collection. See also L. Benjelloun-Laroui, 1990 survey.

SIDI HAMZA

Library of al-Zāwiya al-Ḥamziyya

Sidi Ḥamza, Al-Rāshidiyya

Date of establishment: 1735 AD

Status: Private library of jurists and Shāykh al-Zāwiya al-Ḥamziyya

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,202 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Formerly called Zāwiya ʿAyyāshīya. The library is situated in a very damp historic building, and the manuscripts have not been arranged with any care. The Zāwiya is constantly supervised. Some of the manuscripts have been damaged in places or throughout, and are in need of restoration and treat
The manuscript, its subject-matter(s), origin, whether a translation or original, name of copyist, if known, type of script, and various other details. The place and date of copying are rarely given. This register has no index, and its pages are unnumbered. Total: 212 microfilms and 259 photographed manuscripts. Not all the MSS are recorded in the handwritten registers.

TAMGROUT

Dar al-Kutub al-Nāširīya

Tamgrouet, Zagora, Quarazate

Date of establishment: 1408 CE

Status: Public library, affiliated to the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, open to the public and specialist readers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4,184 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A valuable collection covering a variety of subjects. A large number of the manuscripts are in fair condition, although some are mutilated at the beginning, middle or end, and some are damaged throughout. In recent years, a new building has been constructed, which is situated near Bab al-Rizq, south-west of the Zāwiya.

The present building contains a relatively large hall, in which the manuscripts are stacked on wooden shelves, fronted with glass to protect this important collection. However, the hall has a number of windows, admitting light and air, and is furnished with two large tables and chairs for readers. A number of the manuscripts have been damaged.

The subjects covered by the collection are: Qur’ānic exegesis; variant readings of Qur’ān (Qr’ān); Ḥadith; biographies of the prophet; other biographies; fiqh; logic; tawḥīd; ethics; linguistics; grammar; literature; mathematics; chronology (tawqīīm) and astronomy; medicine.

In addition to these, there are a number of copies of the Qur’ān and studies on various subjects. What seems likely to be the oldest manuscript in this ancient library dates from the beginning of the 9th Islamic century (11th century CE). It is Mushkil Frāh al-Qur’ān, by Marākī ibn Abī Tālīb al-Qaysī al-Qaysrawī thūnī al-Qurtubī (d. 437 AH). It is complete, copied in Eastern (Shārījī) style and bound in one volume numbered 1717. In general, the manus-
scripts in this Library cover the period of time from the fifth Islamic century to the beginning of the 14th (1303 AH).

A large number of the manuscripts in this historic Library have been artistically illuminated. Some of the manuscripts and collections have been gilded, especially in the margins and the opening pages.

Among the important manuscripts are: (i) Musûlûn Frâh al-Qu'ân (see above); (ii) Lasa'lî al-izhârât fi 'ilm al-qir'ât, by Ahmad b. Muhammad al-Qasâ'îlînî al-Misârî (d. 923 AH). There are two copies of the second part: the first is in the Maghribi calligraphic style, numbered 2561, and the second is in the Sharqi style, numbered 2931; (iii) al-Muntâkîb fi 'l-ahkâm al-qadîrîyâ, by Muhammad b. 'Abd Allâh b. ˓Abbâs al-Qâmil al-Qurtubî (d. 399 AH), copied in the Maghribi style, final portion damaged, numbered 2816 in the collection.

Published catalogues:


The guide carries an introduction of forty-two pages written by the author, giving the history of the Nâṣirîya Library, and presenting documents in the Library.

Generally, the list contains the series number [for the Guide], the manuscript’s [reference] number in the collection, the title of the manuscript or smaller treatise within a larger work, full name of the author, number of parts, date of copying, if known, type of script, either Maghribi, Mashhurî or Turâisi, sometimes giving the incipit; no information concerning the subjects of the manuscripts, nor the dates of acquisition; nor names of the copyists or place of copying. No supplementary index. Total 4,184 MSS including the first appendix (ca. 352 MSS which are not listed in the old register) and the second appendix (ca. 15 MSS which are in the register, having been found after being thought lost). It can be said, therefore, that the guide covers all of the manuscripts in the Library.

Unpublished catalogues:
1973 – 1974. Lâ'îhat al-makhtûsût al-mahfûza fi khûzâât Tamâgrût bi-


The list gives the following information about the MSS: serial number; manuscript number; title of work; name of author; number of parts; date of copying (rare); notes, usually concerning the type of script, and sometimes indicating fragmentation or damage. 1,786 MSS in pt 1, 2,397 MSS in pt 2. The MSS are recorded in the old handwritten registers.

TAMSILA

Library of the Qâdirî Zâwiyya

Tamsila, Ouarzazate

Date of establishment: unknown

Status: The Zawiya library belongs to the Qâdirî Order.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 489 (Arabic);

Description of collection: Some of the manuscripts are in good condition, clearly written and easily legible, whilst others are in various conditions of damage and worn in part or throughout. A number of the manuscripts need cleaning and restoration. There may be some deficiencies in obtaining the manuscripts. Most of the manuscripts deal with the following subjects: Qu'ân and exegesis; fiqh; general religious sciences; language and grammar; literature; memoirs of local scholars. The oldest manuscript in the collection dates back to 560 AH. Broadly, the manuscripts cover the period between the 6th and the 14th centuries AH. Some of them are illuminated. Important manuscripts include: (i) Tashîl al-majâlî fi ta'dîl al-kawâkib, by Ahmad b. Qunfudh al-Qusayntînî; (ii) Sîlah al-Mu'min, by 'Abd Allâh b. Muhammad Za'nîn al-Umayî; (iii) al-Dalâla al-kuliyâ li-l-arâbî al-nâzîrî, by Ahmad b. Qunfudh al-Qusayntînî; (iv) al-l-Ulûm al-fâhihîn, by 'Abd al-Rahmân al-Thâ'alîbî.

Unpublished catalogues: There is a handwritten register for some of the MSS.

TANGHIMALT

Ş. al-Munajjûd, in his union catalogue, 1959, mentions the existence of one MSS collection in the Zawiya.
Unpublished catalogues:

The list gives the number of the work, the title, name of the author (not always in full, such as al-Suyūṭī, etc.), date of copying, if known. There is no information about the subject-matter nor any indication whether it is a self-contained manuscript or within a larger work, nor dates of acquisition or names of copyists, type of script or the place of copying. There is no supplementary index. Total 799 MSS.

TANGIER

Great Mosque Library

Tangier (Old City)
Date of establishment: Alawi Dynasty, ca. 1700 CE
Status: The library is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic affairs.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 100 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Some of the manuscripts have been damaged, whilst others are completely worn and destroyed. Some have been kept in good condition. The manuscripts held cover the following: history; ṣufi; Sufism; literature; medical science; astrology; astronomy and chronology; miscellaneous. The oldest manuscript dates from the Marinid period. Broadly, this collection covers the period of history between the Marinid and Alawi dynasties. A number of the manuscripts are embossed. The calligraphic styles used are either Maghribi, Andalusian or Mashriqi. Important MSS are: (i) Sharh al-wathiqi al-Qilībīyya by al-Wansharisī; (ii) its Maḥṣūs as-Safīr, by Abū ʿAbd al-Muʾmin al-Maqhtūlī; (iii) Sharḥ muqaddimat Ṭabarīyya by Abū ʿAbd al-Rahmān ibn Muhammad al-Makhtūlī; (iv) Kāh dh-iʿamal al-hadīṣ, by Ṣāḥib al-Muḥadhdhīn. See:


Short description of the library, followed by the text of its statutes.

Unpublished catalogues: There is as yet no published catalogue for this collection. However, there are registers for the manuscripts held, as well as cards and loose sheets which have been made out recently according to the titles of manuscripts and works and the names of their authors.
TAROUDANNT

Imam 'Ali Library

Taroudannt, Taroudannt

Date of establishment: 1957 AD

Status: A public library attached to the Muhammad V Institute of Primary Education, open to members of the Institute, specialists and general readers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 190 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Some of the manuscripts have been damaged throughout or in part as a result of neglect. A small number have deteriorated beyond legibility. Others are in good condition and are of a relative, though uneven, clarity. The oldest manuscript is dated 1076 AH. Broadly speaking, the manuscripts cover the period between the 11th and 14th centuries AH. The manuscripts are arranged on shelves according to their size, from small to large.

The manuscript works in this library treat the following subjects: Qur'an and exegesis; fiqh; literature, especially strophic poetry (masnavi); language and grammar; medicine; law.

Some of the manuscripts are illuminated in various designs and colours. The important manuscripts are: (i) Al-Shafi'i, by Abū Bakr al-Ashrafī; (ii) Al-Hāfiẓ Ibn Ṭarābulṣī, by Al-Ṭabīb Abū ʿAbd Allāh ibn Sālim Muḥammad al-Baṣrī; (iii) Fakhr al-Dīn, by Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Amīr Abū l-Ḥasan 'Ali ibn Muḥammad.

Unpublished catalogues: The collection has been catalogued on loose sheets by author and title.

TAZA

Great Mosque Library

Date of establishment: Marinid period, approximately 751 AH/1351 CE

Status: Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs. Open to general readers and researchers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 703 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the manuscripts are in fair condition, although they are in need of regular cleaning and maintenance. However, some have been wholly or partly damaged and require immediate attention in order to be salvaged.

The oldest manuscript in the collection is dated 730 AH / 1330 CE. The manuscripts in this important collection cover the period of history between the 14th and 13th centuries CE. The MSS cover various scientific and religious subjects, including some rare and valuable works. These include Qur'an, exegesis, fiqh, Sufism, biography, astronomy, legal cases, history, mathematics and medicine.

A number have been illuminated. Important manuscripts include: (i) Shārīf al-klāb al-μabsūs of Khalil ibn Ishaq, by Abū l-Barakāt Yaqūb ibn Abī l-Barakāt; (ii) Al-Iṣbaṣ al-mawṣūl li-l-hukkam, by Ibn Sālix ibn al-Kattānī; (iii) Hāshiyā 'alā shahr klāb fiqh (anonymous).

Unpublished catalogues:

There is also a register which contains information about the MSS in the collection.

TETUAN

General


Daʿidiya Library

Bab al-Toute, Tetuan

Date of establishment: 1935 CE

Status: Private library founded by the jurist Sheikh Muḥammad Dāʾūn (1901–1984, died in Tetuan). It is open to students and specialist researchers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 209 (Arabic) as well as a number of official and legal documents.

Description of collection: Most are in good condition, and are kept on wooden shelves, in a well-maintained and recently renovated period building. There are no special security arrangements for the manuscripts. There are fifty-three items containing a number of works, as well as some which contain one treatise or part thereof. Some are damaged and fragmentary at the beginning, middle or end. Some MSS have suffered some damage, some requiring treatment and restoration. The subjects covered by these MSS are as follows: Qurʾān, Ḥadīth, fiqh, Qurʾānic exegesis, logic, kalām, literature, anthologies of poetry, biography, history, geography, chronology, astronomy, mathematics, Sufism and music. The oldest manuscript in the library is dated 997 AH. This collection covers the period of history between the 10th and 14th centuries AH. Some of the manuscripts have been vividly illuminated. Of particular interest is one part of a Granada Qurʾān, copied on gozelle vellum.

Most of the scripts are Maghribī, some Andalusian and a few are Maghribi. Important manuscripts are: (i) One part of a Granada Qurʾān; (ii) ʿUmdat al-rāwīn fi taʾrīkh Tiwān, by the jurist Aḥmad al-Ruhūnī; (iii) Kannāsh ṣanāʾī al-āla al-Andalusīyya, by Muḥammad ibn al-Husayn al-Hāʾūnī (several copies). Unpublished catalogues: All MSS have been catalogued by hand in a special register, but without dates of acquisition, except for some documents and badly damaged items.

Great Mosque Library

Tetuan, at the Great Mosque

Date of establishment: 1650 CE

Status: Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 80 (Arabic).

Description of collection: A significant number have been damaged in various ways as a result of humidity and lack of care and cleaning. However, most of the manuscripts are still legible. All are arranged on wooden shelves in a period building, in the middle of the Old City, in a side-street near the Great Mosque. The building, which is not always guarded, is housed in the bottom floor of an old house, the other storeys of which are inhabited. The MSS are Qurʾāns and exegesis, Ḥadīth, fiqh, Sufism, biographies, history, geography, autobiography, and mathematics and astronomy. The oldest MSS was copied in 791 AH. Broadly speaking, the works in this collection cover the period between the eighth century AH and the beginning of the 14th century. A few MSS have been decorated. Important manuscripts include: (i) An anonymous work on arithmetic; (ii) Dirar al-Lauwānī, by Ibn al-Mujrād; (iii) al-Futūḥat al-wāhīyya fi aḥādīth khayr al-bārīyya, by Sultān Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd Allāh.

The Higher Institute of Religion (Al-Maʿhad al-Dinī al-ʿIlmī)

Date of establishment: 1890 CE

Status: Reserved for the shaykhs, staff and students of the Institute, but also open to readers and researchers who have registered at the Institute.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 100 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the manuscripts are in fair condition, kept on iron shelves in the Institute’s modern building. Some are damaged and are showing signs of wear. All are in need of cleaning,
and some require treatment and restoration. The oldest manuscript in the collection is dated 887 AH. Broadly speaking, the manuscripts cover the period between the ninth and the 16th centuries AH. The manuscripts treat the following subjects: Qur'ān, exegesis, fiqh, Hadith, Islamic law, biographies of the Prophet, Sufism, and general religious works. A number of the manuscripts are bound in leather. Some have been tooled in silver and gold, as have some of the opening pages and the margins, whilst others have been beautifully illuminated. Important manuscripts include: (i) al-Muḥājir, by al-Wanshārī; (ii) an anonymous work of fiqh; (iii) Sīlah al-durar fi dhikr al-qafā wa-‘l-qadīr, by Jāmī ‘Aṭīja.

Unpublished catalogues: All the MSS have been catalogued on loose sheets by titles and authors.

Moulay Hasan Research Library

Date of establishment: 1937 CE

Status: Under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, open to researchers, students and the general public.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 41 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The manuscripts in the collection are in fair condition, except for a small number which have been damaged, torn or are showing signs of wear.

These manuscripts treat a number of subjects, including Qur'ān, exegesis, fiqh, Hadith, biography, history and literature. The earliest manuscript is dated 1020 AH. Broadly, the collection covers the period between the 17th and 19th centuries CE. A number of the manuscripts have been bound, and are starting to wear with age. A few are decorated. Important manuscripts are: (i) al-Durrat al-makānūna li-l-qālī, by al-‘Arafi ibn ‘Abd al-Salām al-Jazuli; (ii) Sharh tawdith Ibn Hisīm (anonymous); (iii) Sharh Qasāda fi ‘l-af‘al (anonymous).

Unpublished catalogues: All the manuscripts have been catalogued on loose sheets according to their titles and authors.

Public Library (Maktabat al-Khizāna al-‘Amm wa-‘l-Makhtūtāt)

Tetuan, City centre
Date of establishment: 1939

Status: Public library, open to all readers and specialist researchers

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1880 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most MSS are in good condition, and are kept on iron shelves. Documents are kept in an iron chest under supervision in a modern building. Some of the manuscripts have been damaged, or are starting to deteriorate.

The manuscripts in the Public Library in Tetuan cover the following subjects: Qur'ān, Qur'ānic exegesis, Hadith, fiqh, biography, history, geography, astronomy, mathematics, Sufism, literary studies and anthologies of poetry, literary criticism. In addition, there is a collection of documents describing international treaties, diplomatic and ministerial correspondence etc. These are kept in an iron chest which contains 167 folders. Copies are available for use.

The oldest manuscript in the collection is dated 747 AH. Generally, the copyist archive material covers the period of history from the mid-eighth century to the beginning of the 15th century [AH].

Many of the manuscripts are brilliantly illuminated, sometimes gilded. Some of the copies of the Qur'ān and the commentaries are particularly striking in this regard, being lavishly illuminated with decorative patterns.

Most of the calligraphic styles are Muqīrī, though some are in the Andalusian style and a few in the Eastern. Some of the works have been autographed by their authors, particularly those from the same region.

Among the important manuscripts are: (i) A collection by Kāẓim al-Rushdi on the Kashfīya and Shāfi‘iyya sects, from which the Babis and the Bahr ‘in originate, with marginal glosses by al-Rūḍānī on the taqwīf; (ii) Naqīm al-Durūr, by al-Wanshārī, in his own hand; (iii) Nuṣrat al-nāṣir wa-hāyjat al-qadd al-nāṣir, by Ahmad ibn ‘Abd al-Qādir al-Shaṭūrī, in two volumes, collated by Ahmad ibn ‘Ashir al-Ḥāfi‘.

Published catalogues:
Details of the contents of 9 MSS in the Bibliotheca General and one in private hands, pp. 109–119.

1979. See union catalogue by Ahmad.

Part 1 devoted entirely to works connected with the Holy Qur’ān and its sciences, Part 2 to Ḥadīth and zāra. The order number is followed by the reference number, the title, full name of the author or authors if known, name of the copyist, if known, date of copying, sometimes explanatory notes; Part 2 has incipits and explicits, and type of script as well.

Supplementary indexes of authors and titles, copyists and sources are provided; 278 MSS in pt 1, 263 MSS in pt 2.

Unpublished catalogues:
1973. Qā'imat al-makhfiyat bi-'l-Maktaba al-'Amma bi-Tīwān, Rabat, in 5 parts, 2,411 MSS.

The MSS have been recorded in printed catalogues and are in the process of being transcribed by hand on to cards by title and author.

Yazid ibn Ṣāliḥ

Ṣ. Al-Munajjid in his union catalogue, 1959, notes the existence of this private collection in Tétuana. See also L. Benjelloun-Laroufi, 1990 survey.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Incl. Morocco.


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Maroc, pp. 58–60.


Fez, p. 16; Marrakesh, Meknès, p. 18; Rabat, Tamgrout, Tanaghmalt, Tétuana, Wazzān, pp. 19–20.


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by

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