PALESTINE

by

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Pending a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, and a final definition of the international legal status and boundaries of the territories involved, the whole of historical Palestine has been included in this survey.

INTRODUCTION

Although Palestine has traditionally been overshadowed by the great centres of Islamic learning elsewhere, it has for centuries possessed its own foci of intellectual life which have left valuable collections of Islamic manuscripts to modern times. Important madrasas are known to have flourished in medieval times, but so far as can be determined today these madrasas held or were endowed with rather small numbers of MSS (e.g. only 27 at Al-Madrasia al-Dawdâriya in 938/1531). The collections which survive today are in most cases either personal collections or based on personal collections. Detailed information on such holdings is known as far back as the fourteenth century CE¹; and for the Ottoman period, the Khûlí Library in Jerusalem (see below) possesses numerous daftârs registering the libraries of various family members, beginning in the early eighteenth century and extending to the dawn of the twentieth. Published surveys of the Mandate period not only indicate that many of these collections survived past the demise of the Ottoman Empire, but also attest to the importance of their contents. The large number of unique, rare, or autograph manuscripts which still remain in Palestine is surprising, and continues to be an important bibliographical feature of the country’s libraries.

Some collections eventually became the core for the libraries of Islamic institutions, such as the Shrine of Abraham in Hebron and Al-Aqṣâ Mosque in Jerusalem, but most remained in private hands. As a result, the upheavals which have seen vast numbers of Palestinians dislocated from their homes by expulsion or flight since 1948 have had a predictably deleterious effect on the land’s Islamic

manuscript collections. Many valuable libraries known in the Mandate period have since disappeared without trace: the Ḥasan Sinūq al-Ḍājānī library, the Jār Allāh family library, and the ʿAbd Allāh Mukhlīs library (all in Jerusalem) may be taken as definitely lost as of 1948. Other libraries listed in past literature, such as the Sāʿīb al-Karmālī Library (Tulkarm), have disappeared with the dispersal of their MSS among gradually increasing numbers of heirs. Books from other collections which still survive are now abroad with refugee or expatriate family members, or have also disappeared.

Past surveys tend inadvertently to obscure the scale of this loss, since they have so often been compilations of previously published information, irrespective of whether or not the collections referred to still hold the MSS they once did, or even whether these collections themselves still exist. Almost all Palestinian collections (even that of Al-Aqsā) have suffered the loss of at least some of their Islamic MSS, and researchers consulting catalogues or other literature dating from before 1970 must thus bear in mind that some works listed may no longer be in the collections concerned. This survey includes only collections which the authors have actually seen and confirmed as still extant. Apparently lost collections can be traced through the union catalogues and surveys listed below.

It must also be observed that in the unsettled political climate which has prevailed in the country for several decades now, it is often extremely difficult for owners of private manuscript collections to make their holdings accessible in any regular way. Other owners hesitate to allow persons unknown to them, however impeccable their credentials, to see their libraries, or even to admit that they own Islamic MSS. Rumours as to the existence of several substantial private collections in Jerusalem and the West Bank have been pursued for the purposes of this survey, but without result. Future inquiries, however, may bring to light other collections not listed here.

Islamic manuscripts held by such major Israeli institutions as the Hebrew University and the Israel Museum tend to consist of foreign collections assembled in the West, and later sold or donated to the institutions now holding them. These manuscripts largely represent the interests of their foreign creators, and they are also generally well preserved by those institutions, in controlled conservation conditions.

Palestinian MS. collections, on the other hand, as entirely indigenous libraries, give a more representative view of the interests and priorities of traditional Muslim circles locally over the past 1,000 years: that is, they are usually strongest in the areas where books would have been used for purposes of education—Islamic religious fields and in Arabic language and literature. There is also, however, strong representation in certain other areas, especially medicine and the sciences. But most of these holdings continue to be private collections whose owners lack the funds or detailed professional expertise required for proper conservation and preservation, and even where trained personnel are to hand, funds are desperately short and proper conservation conditions difficult—or impossible—to establish and maintain. This is perhaps an appropriate opportunity to stress that while much important conservation, cataloguing, and microfilming work has been done over the past several decades, many Palestinian MSS continue to deteriorate in condition, with some already beyond recovery. As so much of value is at stake, the need for further work, especially in the area of conservation and preservation, is urgent.

An attempt has been made below to give a meaningful idea of what a scholar’s realistic chances are of gaining access to a collection, and to indicate alternative means of access (i.e. to microfilm or microfiche sets held elsewhere). Opening hours are subject to change or variation, and while a formal letter of introduction is often not specifically required, it is useful to have one. “Closed” means closed, and in all but the most exceptional cases personal inquiries and contacts will not change this situation. Collections in Islamic institutions are best visited by non-Muslims in the morning, as access may be unavailable as the time for the noon prayer approaches.

**UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS**

*Published:*

An account of the history of libraries in Syria/Palestine and their current status in the author’s time, pp. 185–210.


A guide to Palestinian libraries, including those with holdings of Islamic MSS.

A survey discussing eight libraries, with details on numerous significant MSS: 27 from Al-Aqṣā Mosque Library and 108 from the Khalidi Library.


A brief summary of Palestinian libraries, especially the Khalidi Library in Jerusalem.


The author describes a selection of about 50–75 MSS from libraries in Jerusalem which he had microfilmed during an Arab League mission in the 1950s. This collection is extremely important, as some of the MSS have disappeared or deteriorated in condition since Sayyid had them microfilmed.


An account of Islamic tombs, funeral monuments, and cemeteries in Jerusalem, including material on several buildings which are now libraries and on persons who founded them.


A detailed account of public and private libraries in Jerusalem, pp. 369–392.


A republication of four articles by Aḥmad Ṭalās, ʿArūf ʿAlī Maḥmūd, and Muhammad ʿUza Darwaza on manuscript collections in Jerusalem and Nablus. It is especially useful for the additional indexes of libraries, Qur’ānic MSS, titles of MSS, and authors and other personal names.


Surveys Turkish MSS in five libraries in Jerusalem and Haifa.


A bibliography of Islamic manuscripts on Sufism in libraries in Palestine, compiled from published catalogues.


A history and survey of Palestinian libraries, including those holding Islamic MSS, with observations on important texts.


A summary account of libraries and museums in Jerusalem, pp. 449–452.


An important historical and architectural study of Mamluk Jerusalem, including many of the buildings which now house collections of Islamic MSS.

An account of family libraries in Palestine and Muḥammad al-Budayrī (d. 1220/1805) in particular, pp. 3–24.


Includes important information about microfilming and cataloguing of Palestinian manuscript libraries, particularly mosque collections, sponsored and published by the University of Jordan’s Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathā’iq wa-l-Makhtūṭāt).

Unpublished:


A handwritten survey of rare manuscripts in various Jerusalem libraries, in particular the Khalidi Library, which Al-Jaṣṣārī (1851–1920) helped to catalogue.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ABŪ SINĀN

‘Abd Allāh Kayr Library

Date of establishment: 1930s
Status: Private library.
Conditions of access: Closed, no public access.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 131 (Arabic)
Description of collection: The manuscripts are stored on shelves in a building which also contains a wide variety of plant samples, clothing, and costumes collected during the British mandate. The manuscripts are in generally good physical condition, but some lack first or last folios (so that the titles and authors so far remain unknown) or suffer from missing folios elsewhere in the text block.

The oldest MS. is dated 793/1390, but the majority of the collection consists of MSS copied in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries AH. The subjects covered include the Qurʿān, Qurʿānic exegesis, jurisprudence, linguistics, mathematics, history, and tales of the prophets (qiṣaṣ al-anbiyā’). The most important MSS are: 1) a Qurʿān in naskh script, gilded and decorated to a very high standard; 2) Al-Muqaddima al-mawsūma fi qāḥ al-ghubār, by Ahmad b. Muḥammad ibn al-Hāʾim; 3) Tafsīr al-fiqh al-Ḥanābī by ‘Uthmān b. Aḥmad al-Naqī; Published catalogue: 1964. Fūris muṣṭaḥqāt maṣlubat al-Shāqī ʿAbd Allāh Khayr mīn Bani Sinān by Nuʿaym Shahrabānī. Jerusalem: Hebrew University. 48pp.

This catalogue was prepared on the basis of lists of the manuscripts made in 1963 by Mosshe Shalon (cited at the end of the catalogue). The catalogue gives only authors and titles, with some citations from modern reference works, and has two indexes.

ACRE

Library of Aḥmad al-Jazzār Pāshā Mosque

Old City
Date of establishment: 18th century
Status: Mosque library.
Conditions of access: Closed, but all MSS in the collection are available on microfilm (see below).
Total number of Islamic MSS: 86 (78 Arabic; 8 Turkish)
Description of collection: The MSS are stored on wooden shelves in a room off the courtyard of the mosque; though a few are slightly damaged, for the most part by worms, the majority are in good condition. Subjects covered include jurisprudence and Arabic grammar in the first instance, with Qurʿānic exegesis, Hadith, fiqh, Sufism, literature, and mathematics also represented. The oldest MS. is a copy of Al-Nawawī’s Ḥilyat al-aḍwar wa-shirār al-akhyār fi talakīj al-dhāʾimāt wa-l-talaqāt, from 733/1332.


See:

Describes one MS. in the library comprising a collection of 13 essays, with transcriptions of samā'āt, jāzā, and other notes.


Describes a MS. of this book by Zayn al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Abī Bakr al-Rāzī, held in the Al-Āhmadiya Library, with an account of the author.

Full microfilm copies of the MSS in this collection are available for consultation at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathā'iq wa-l-Makhṭūṭāt), University of Jordan, in Amman. See:


Published catalogues:


The MSS are not arranged according to any principle of organization. Each entry provides the title and catalogue number, full name of the author, subject, inscription and explicit, number of folios, measurements and number of folios in the MS., and any specified date of copying. There are indexes of subjects, titles, authors, copyists, and proper names.

**BURQAYN**

Burqayn Mosque Library

Burqayn, near Jinnīn

**Date of establishment:** 1882

**Status:** Mosque library, the contents of which belong to the Awqāf Administration of Jinnīn.

**Conditions of access:** Closed, no public access.

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 11 (all Arabic).

**Description of collection:** The MSS in the collection all date from late Ottoman times, and consist of two Qurʾān codices (one complete, the other of juz′ 14) and nine works on Sufism and several devotional topics. There is no published or unpublished catalogue or other record of the MSS, and no mention of the collection in previous scholarly literature.

**HAIFA**

Haifa University Library

According to Birnbaum, 1983 (see Bibliographical Appendix below), p. 705, there were 46 Turkish MSS in this library in 1979. There may have been Arabic MSS there also. But recent enquiries have elicited a denial of the existence of any such holdings.

**HEBRON**

Al-Ḥaram al-Ībrāhīmī

City Centre

**Status:** Mosque library under the authority of the Awqāf Administration of Islamic Affairs

**Conditions of access:** Closed, but all MSS in the collection are available on microfilm (see below)

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** 147 (142 Arabic; 5 Turkish).

**Description of collection:** The library is located in a room in Al-Ḥaram al-Ībrāhīmī in Hebron. Some of the manuscripts are in good condition, but many others are much deteriorated or almost beyond saving. In 58 cases the authors are as yet unknown, and the titles of 21 MSS are still undetermined. Subjects covered include Ḥadīth, jurisprudence, general religious sciences, astrology, mathematics, and Arabic language and literature. The oldest MS. in the library is a copy of the Al-Muḥawwul 'alā 'l-talḥīqi fī 'l-maṣāni wa-l-hayān by Mārūf b. ʿŪmar al-Takfaẓānī, written in 791/1389 (i.e. within the author's lifetime).

Full microfilm copies of the MSS in this collection are available for consultation at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathāʾiq wa-l-Makhṭūṭāt), University of Jordan, in Amman. See:


On microfilming and cataloguing by the University of Jordan’s Centre for Archives and Manuscripts.

Published catalogues:


A first edition of the author’s catalogue of the collection, describing 86 MSS. It has since been superseded by the revised catalogue (next item).


The catalogue gives the reference number, title, full name of the author (usually with the date of his death), the incipit and explicit of the MS., number of folios and lines per page, and the name of the copyist (if known). There are also indexes of subjects, titles, authors, copyists, and terms and book titles mentioned in the text.

JAFFA

Islamic Library

Great Mosque of Jaffa, Yafet Street

Date of establishment: 1923

Status: Mosque library founded under the British mandate by the Higher Islamic Legal Council in Palestine.

Conditions of access: Closed, but all MSS in the collection are available on microfilm (see below).

Total number of Islamic MSS: 339 (307 Arabic; 4 Persian; 28 Turkish).

Description of collection: The MSS range in date from 596/1199 to 1309/1991, and cover the following subjects:

 jurisprudence 134
 Arabic language 80
 Ḥadīth 25
 Qurʿanic sciences 23
 biography of the Prophet and other tarājim 19
 logic 14
 Sunnism 9
 dogmatics 7

Other areas, such as mathematics, politics, law, and waqf are covered in only one or two MSS each.


Full microfilm copies of the MSS in this collection are available for consultation at the Library of Al-Najāḥ University in Nablus, and at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathāʾiq wa-l-Makhṭūṭāt), University of Jordan, in Amman. See:


Published catalogue:


The catalogue arranges the MSS in no particular order. For each MS., the compiler cites the title, serial number, full name of the author with date of death, and subject. Incipits and explicitis are given, as well as the number of folios, measurements of the MS., number of lines per page, and the date of copying. There are seven indexes: proper names, place, books, titles, subjects, authors, and copyists.
JERUSALEM

General

A number of Christian Arabic MSS exist in monastic and ecclesiastical collections in Jerusalem, but it has not been possible to obtain up-to-date information about them. For lists of catalogues and surveys of them published earlier in this century, see the works by Huisman, Mikhailova & Khalidov, Awadh and Dessemaux & Briquel-Chatonnard in the Bibliographical Appendix at the end.

Al-Aqṣā Mosque Library

PO Box 19004
Al-Haram al-Sharif, Old City
Tel.: (02) 285708. Fax: (02) 273164
Date of establishment: 1922
Status: Public Library under the authority of the Aqṣā Administration of Islamic Affairs.
Conditions of access: The library is open to researchers and university students, who should present themselves to the Curator upon arrival.
Open: 08:00–14:30 Sat. – Thurs.; closed Fri.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 666 (Arabic), plus a few Turkish.

Description of collection: Al-Aqṣā Library was founded through a decree by the Higher Islamic Legal Council in Palestine, under the name Dar Kutub al-Masjid al-Aqṣā. Parts of this collection were subsequently lost. In 1976 the Aqṣā Administration in Jerusalem reopened the library in the newly restored Al-Madrasa al-Ashrafiya built by the Mamlūk Sultan Qāṭīr Bāy (r. 872–901 / 1467–1496). The surviving parts of the mosque library collection were transferred to this new facility, as also were the collections of MSS which once belonged to Shaykh Ḥasan b. ʿAbd al-Latīf al-Ḥusaynī (d. ca. 1226/1811) and Shaykh Khālid al-Khālidī (d. 1360/1941). With this last transfer the library gained the MSS surviving from the collection of Shaykh Muḥammad al-Khālidī (d. 1147/1734, see the separate entry on this collection below).

Most of the manuscripts are in good condition, but some have suffered serious damage throughout or in part, most often from former storage under adverse humidity conditions. The oldest MS. is dated 577/1181, and a few MSS are finely decorated. Subjects include Qurʾānic studies and exegesis, Ḥadīth, dogmatics, Sufism, jurisprudence, Arabic language and literature, history, biography of the Prophet and other tārīḫī, mathematics, and logic.

Among the important MSS are the following: 1) Al-Nawādir al-sulṭānīya wa-l-maḥāsin al-Yāṣīfīya, by Bahāʾ al-Dīn Yūṣuf b. Rāfiʾ ibn Shaddād, copied 626/1228, six years before the author’s death; 2) Tālāq al-muṭashābih fi l-rasāl wa-himāya mā ʾuskhilā minhu an nawādīr al-taḥṣīf wa-l-wahām by Ṣafī al-Dīn ʿAli b. ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Subkī (d. 749/1349), copied in 871/1466.

See:


A historical and architectural study of the library.

On microfilming and cataloguing. Full microfilm copies of the MSS in this collection are available for consultation at the library itself and at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathāʾiq wa-l-Makhtūṭāt), University of Jordan, in Amman.

Published catalogues:
Each MS. entry provides the following: name of the work, full name of the author (with dates for his birth and death in both Islamic and Gregorian calendars), subject (with short extract), incipit and explicit, number of folios and lines per page, measurements of MS., text area and margins, and date of copying with the place and name of the copyist (where possible). A section of observations in each entry considers the physical state of the MS., owners’ or readers’ notes or seals, and the style of script. There are indexes of titles, authors, copyists, and proper names mentioned in the observations.

Unpublished catalogues:
Part III of the above catalogue, covering 231 MSS, is completed but remains unpublished.

Al-Budayrī Family Library

Old City, just outside Al-Nāẓir Gate of Al-Ḥaram al-Sharīf, in Al-Zāwiyah al-Wafāʾiya on the south side of the street.

Date of establishment: late 18th century

Status: Private family library
Conditions of access: Closed, but all MSS in the collection are available on microfilm (see below).
Total number of Islamic MSS: 636 (all Arabic).

Description of collection: This library was established by Muḥammad b. Budayr b. Muḥammad, also known as Ibn Budayr, al-Budayrī, and Ibn ʿUbayyīsh (ca. 1160–1220/1747–1805). It contains only manuscripts, which have recently been arranged on metal shelving in the Zāwiyah. With the exception of a few badly deteriorated cases, most of the MSS are in good condition.

The subjects covered in the collection extend over a considerable range, as follows:
- Qurʿānic sciences and exegesis
- Ḥadīth and related subjects
- Dogmatics
- Sufism and related subjects
- Jurisprudence and related subjects
- Prophetic biography and panegyric
- Arabic language
- Arabic literature
- History
- Logic
- Mathematics
- Medicine

The remaining MSS are isolated texts on such subjects as hunting, flowers, birds, animals, etc.


See:


On the Zawiya and the founder of the Budayri Library.


A historical and architectural study of the Library.

Microfilm copies of the MSS are available for consultation at the Al-Aqṣā Mosque Library in Jerusalem and at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathīqa wa-l-Maṭbaṣṭūr), University of Jordan, in Amman.

Published catalogues:

The catalogue provides the title of the work, the author’s full name and death dates in the Muslim and Gregorian calendars, subject (with extracts from the work), and the copyist’s name and the date and place of copying, if specified. It also comments upon the physical condition of the MS, and gives measurements of the page size and written area, incipits and explicita, ownership details (including notes, ijāzāt, iqraʾ, and iṣmāʾ). There are five indexes: manuscript titles, authors’ names, copyists’ names, names mentioned elsewhere in the editor’s comments, and names of places where manuscripts were copied. The introduction also gives an account of the founder of the Library.

Al-Husaynī Library
Shaykh Jarrāḥ, Centre for Islamic Studies (Markaz al-Abḥāṣ al-Islāmiyya), PO Box 19377
Tel.: (02) 828962
Date of establishment: ca. 17th century
Status: Private family library
Conditions of access: The library is now housed in the Centre for Islamic Studies, and is open to students and researchers. Open: 08:00–14:30 Sun.–Thurs.; closed Fri.–Sat.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 178 (172 Arabic; 2 Persian; 4 Turkish)
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS are in good condition, although some have suffered damage and stand in urgent need of conservation. Of the Arabic MSS 71 are majāzī, and the collection thus contains many more titles than the total number of MSS would suggest. The subjects include Qur’anic sciences and exegesis, Ḥadīth, jurisprudence, Sufism, ḥadīthī, dogmatics, Arabic literature (especially poetry) and lexicography, logic, astronomy, medicine, history and fāṣīlī. The oldest MS. is a copy of Sharḥ al-siyar al-kabīr by Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Ṣāliḥ as-Salīhi, dated 480/1087, but most of the MSS were copied in the seventeenth century CE and after. The pages and margins of some works have been finely decorated.
In addition to the work named above, important MSS include: 1) Risāla fi ṭadbīr al-Šiʿa wa-l-maḍābiḥ wa-l-faḍīlāt ʿalā ʿAbd al-Wahhāb as-Salāhi by Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. ʿAlī b. Ismāʿīl; 2) a majāzī containing documents and comments concerning Muḥammad al-Tafālānī (d. 1191/1777), Muḥammad Ibn Ḫudayr (d. 1220/1805), ʿAbd as-Salām (d. 1226/1811), and others; 3) Al-Fatāwā al-Tamartāshīya by Muḥammad b. ʿAbd Allāh al-Tamartāshī al-Ghazālī.

Unpublished catalogues:
1975. A 94pp. handwritten hand-list of the MSS in this collection was prepared by ʿIshāq al-Ḥusaynī, Jāmāl Jār Allāh, and ʿAzīz Jār Allāh. It indicates titles, authors, subjects, number of folios, and the date of copying.

Islamic Museum
PO Box 19004
Old City, in the south-west corner of Al-Haram al-Sharif
Palestine — Jerusalem

Tel.: (02) 285708. Fax: (02) 273164
Date of establishment: 1923, by the Islamic Legal Council in Palestine.
Status: Museum affiliated to the Aqsa Administration of Islamic Affairs.

Conditions of access: The museum is open to the public, but access to the manuscript collection is restricted to advanced researchers with prior approval from the Aqsa Administration.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 644 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The manuscript collection of the Islamic Museum consists entirely of Qur’ans, donated over the centuries to Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Some were presented by rulers or private individuals, and others have been donated by such Palestinian cities as Hebron and Nablus.

The Qur’ans vary in type, age, and size. Many are naf’ba (i.e. they were copied in thirty fascicles and stored in a chest, or naf’ba). The oldest is Kufic, from the end of the second century AH, while the most recent is a copy from the end of the thirteenth century AH. Sizes range from 16 x 11.5 cm to the massive second volume of the Qur’an of the Mamluk Sultan Qutayba (r. 872-901 / 1468-1496), which measures 110 x 90 cm and is 15 cm thick. The majority of the Qur’ans are splendidly illuminated and decorated, the exceptions being for the most part copies of the late Ottoman period.

The most important Qur’ans are 1) the Kufic copy of the second half of the Qur’an, the transcription of which is attributed to Al-Hasan b. al-Husayn b. Ali b. Ali b. Tahab. The pages are beautifully illuminated, with each Sura heading bearing its own distinct style of decoration; the covers are also decorated on both sides, but are of the Mamluk period; 2) the Maghribi naf’ba, of which 24 original sections are still in the museum (five others are recopied, and the last section was reported missing in the 1930s). The original naf’ba was copied in 745/1344 in Fez by the Marinid Sultan Abu l-Hasan Allah Ali b. Ali Sa’id Qutayba. In Maghribi Kufic style on gazelle skin. The covers are spectacularly decorated, each section begins with elaborate gilded plates, and the work is preserved in an exquisite box covered with leather and decorated with silver and geometrical designs inlaid with mother-of-pearl and blue and red enamel; 3) the naf’ba of the Ottoman Sultan Murad III, endowed in 1001/1595. The work is complete and very finely decorated.

The museum also holds an important collection of 883 documents (855 Arabic, 28 Persian) from the eighth/fourteenth century.

See:


An account of the Islamic Museum and its holdings, including the Qur’an MSS, pp. 302-324.


Historical and architectural study of the buildings now comprising the museum, pp. 258-260.

Unpublished catalogues:


This study in five chapters covers the history and contents of the Islamic Museum and describes and studies the calligraphy and illumination of the Qur’ans, covering 366 sections of rab’āt and three other Qur’ans.

Israel Museum Library

PO Box 71117
Newe Shanan, West Jerusalem
Tel.: (02) 708834. Fax: (02) 631833
Date of establishment: The Israel Museum was opened in 1965; the
library was donated by the German publisher Axel Springer and opened in 1968.

**Status:** Independent museum consisting of a number of separate entities, of which the library is one.

**Conditions of access:** Access to the manuscript collections is available to qualified scholars by prior arrangement with the Curator.

Open Sun.—Mon., Wed.—Thurs. 10:00–17:00; Fri.—Sat. 10:00–14:00, Tues. 16:00–22:00.

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** ca. 40 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).

**Description of collection:** The Museum has collected Islamic MSS for their artistic merit and importance, including codices containing miniatures and works with high-quality decoration or calligraphy—some of the MSS are the work of eminent calligraphers, especially of the Ottoman period. In addition to MSS, the Museum holds many miniatures which once formed parts of MSS, including, for example, 48 miniatures from an eighteenth-century Indian MS. of the *Aṣīr al-makhliṣayt* by Zākārīyāʾ b. Mūhammad al-Qazwīnī. The bulk of the collection came from a bequest by the late Yuhanna Da'wūd (d. 1969), an Iranian-born scholar and collector of Islamic art. All of the materials in the Museum are maintained under strictly controlled conservation conditions.

Important MSS include: 1) five superbly decorated Qur'āns of the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries CE, including a finely decorated Kashmiri codex of 1000/1669 written on silk paper with a lacquered flap binding bearing rich floral designs outside and flowering trees against a red background inside; 2) four richly decorated *makrama* copies of the popular *Dala'il al-khayrāt* by Mūhammad b. Sulaymān al-Jazā'ī, originating from North Africa, Turkey, and Iran in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries; 3) *Lajūt al-Majnūn* by Mawlawī 'Abd Allāh Hātīfī, from the author’s Khamsah; the MS. is a spectacularly executed copy, richly decorated and bearing eight original and heavily symbolic miniatures; 4) *Yūsuf a Zulaykhah* by Nūr al-Dīn 'Abd al-Rahmān Jamfi, a Bukhara MS. of 980/1570 on blue and yellow paper with eight miniatures and illuminations done in gold and cartouche applications; 5) *Al-Kulliyāt* by Jamāl al-Dīn ʿUmar, a finely executed *makrama* dedicated to the Safavid Shah Saiy I (r. 1038–1052/1629–1642), written in beautiful *nastaʿlīq* script and decorated with six splendid double-page plates and tasteful marginal multi-colour rules and designs throughout.

The Israel Museum is presently considering transfer of its Islamic manuscripts to the Jewish National and University Library at Givat Ram.

Sec:


Summarizes some of the main features of the Turkish materials on p. 704.

**Published catalogue:**


This catalogue, prepared for the "A Window to Islam" exhibition at the Museum, covers 19 literary MSS in Arabic and Persian, as well as a number of albums (*murasqāt*) and many miniatures from MSS. There are 60 colour plates (several double-page) and numerous monochrome illustrations, and the catalogue is especially valuable for its attention to artistic considerations. MS. entries provide title and author, name of the scribe and date of copying (if known), number and size of folios, and precise details on decoration (script, illumination, miniatures, binding, etc.). Entries are presented within the framework of a chronological history of Islamic painting, with useful biographies of authors, a glossary of technical terms, bibliography, index of book titles and personal names, and a map.

**Unpublished catalogue:**

There is no systematic record (cards or handlist, for example) for the collection as a whole, but numerous notes, often quite detailed, were prepared by Yuhanna Da'wūd and were transferred to the Museum along with the items bequeathed from his collection.

**Jewish National and University Library**

Department of Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 303

Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University, West Jerusalem 91004

Tel.: (02) 585055. Fax: (02) 511771
Date of establishment: 1892 (Hebrew University 1925)
Status: University and national library.
Conditions of access: Access to the manuscript collection is open to qualified scholars upon presentation of proper identification and letter of introduction to the Curator. Orders for MSS are filled upon written agreement that the applicant will undertake no publication of the copied material in whole or in part without prior permission, proper identification of the MS., and presentation of two copies of the final publication to the library.
Open 09-00 – 15:30 Sun. – Thurs.; closed Fri. – Sat.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,143 (1,860 Arabic; 1 Gurani; 234 Persian; 45 Turkish; 3 Urdu).
Description of collection: There are three different collections of Islamic MSS at the JNUL. The original collection (call no. Ms. Ar.) consists of 465 MSS; others deposited by the government (call no. AP. Ar.) amount to 543 MSS; and a major bequest (call no. Yah. Ms. Ar.) by the late scholar and collector A.S. Yahuda (1877–1951) contains 1,135 MSS. The MSS in the collection contain more than 5,000 titles, and many of the majāms listed as Arabic MSS also contain works in Turkish or Persian. All MSS are maintained under professionally controlled conservation conditions, and the Library has its own conservation department.
The MSS cover all fields of the Islamic and Arabic sciences. There are more than 120 Qur’ān MSS, dating from the third century AH to modern times; most of these codices, as well as ca. 120 Persian illuminated MSS of the Ottoman period, are of artistic interest.
About 500 works contained in the MSS do not exist in other collections, so far as has been determined at present. There are also numerous autographs by such important authors as ʿAard al-Ǧāhi ʿal-Nābulūsī, Muḥammad ʿl-Zanjīnī, Shams al-Dīn ibn al-Jazari, and ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm al-Ḥalabī.
See:


The Inter Documentation Company (IDC) has microfiche the entire Yahuda collection, and copies of the complete microfiche set or of individual MSS or works are available directly from the Company, PO Box 11205, 2301 EE Leiden, Netherlands (Fax: 31-71-13 17 21), or from the library.

Published catalogues:
List of titles of Persian MSS.

Despite its title, this includes MSS in the JNUL.

Forthcoming. A computer printed catalogue of the Yahuda Collection (in Arabic) is in preparation by Efraim Wust.

A shelf-list of the Yahuda Collection is available on microfiche from IDC, Leiden, either with or without the microfiches of the MSS (see above).

Unpublished catalogues:
There are detailed card catalogues (in Arabic) of all three of the Islamic collections, according to the following subjects: Proper names (authors, scribes, owners, etc.), in alphabetical order; Titles and minor subjects, in alphabetical order; Dates of MSS (both specified and estimated), in chronological order; Names of places where MSS were copied, in alphabetical order; Major subjects, according to the order of Al-Azhār Library; Incipits, in alphabetical order.
All of these catalogues are available for consultation by visitors.

Khālīd Library
Ṭārif Bāb al-Silsila, Old City, at the top of Ṣaqabat Abī Madyan PO Box 19724
Date of establishment: The library was formally endowed in its present building in 1900, but had already been a distinct family institution at least for fourteen years prior to that date.
Status: Private family library, operated under the terms of a family
endowment (sawaf dhari).

Conditions of access: The Library is presently closed for major renova-
tion, cataloguing, and conservation work planned for completion in
1994. Regular opening hours are not presently envisaged, but access
will be available to qualified researchers by advance appointment with
the curator and upon presentation of proper identification or a letter of introduction.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,257 (ca. 1,200 Arabic; 18 Persian;
36 Turkish). These figures are provisional, pending completion of
cataloguing work on the collections.

Description of collection: The Khalidi Library, one of the most impor-
tant private Islamic libraries in the world, is located in a thirteenth-
century Maniluk building known as the Turba of Barakat Khân
(built after 644/1246), in Tariq Bâb al-Silsila near the Bâb al-Silsila
gate of Al-Haram al-Sharîf. The building is presently being reno-
vated, and the library's collections will soon be moved into quarters of
a high professional standard, with books and manuscripts stored on
metal shelving under controlled climatic conditions and protected
from insect and other damage. The most important 120 MSS are
now being conserved and microfilmed, and all the MSS are in
course of cataloguing.

The MSS are the holdings of a prominent Jerusalem family, based
on various personal collections established at least as far back as
the eighteenth century CE, and consolidated from the late
nineteenth century onwards. MSS were still being incorporated into
the library from the holdings of family members into the 1930s. The
oldest MS. can be dated to the fourth century AH / tenth century
CE on the basis of the script, and the oldest specifically dated MS.
is a work from 418/1027. There are numerous makramas, or presenta-
tion copies, as well as several which were originally copied for roy-
al libraries, and others gilded and decorated to a very high standard.
Of particular importance is the rather high proportion of unique
MSS which the library contains.

Of the unique MSS, some important examples are the following:
1) Al-Akhbâr al-mamhûra, by Muhammed b. Al-Hasan b. Durayd,
a MS. of the fourth century AH; 2) a majnûn of unique essays,
drafts of essays, and notes by Taqiy al-Din 'Ali b. 'Abd al-Kâfi
al-Surki (autograph, wr. 741/1340–48); 3) Qisas al-anbiyâ, by
Aâmid b. Muhammed b. 'Umar b. 'Abd al-Qudsi (auto-
graph, wr. 856/1452); 4) Al-Kiyyâra fi aqâm al-rijâfa, by Yusuf b.
Mehrez b. Ahmad b. Isâm al-Sâyidwi (autograph, wr. 884/1479);
5) the first volume of Fiwâd al-qâbr fi irrat al-mukhâr, by Muhammed
b. Ibrahim al-Bilwâsi (autograph, wr. 986/1520). Other auto-
graph MSS include 6) Manâdih al-mamâdîh wa-sawâqat al-ma'dâshir wa-
'l-nâfâkhâr fi khâji'ât al-Malik al-Nâsir, by 'Abd al-Munîm b. 'Umar
b. Hassân al-Jûlânî, dated 598/1201 and apparently the copy
originally presented to Salâjî al-Dîn al-Ayyûbî (r. 564–589 / 1169–1193).
The library's copy of 7) Kitâb Shâhîqa fi sumûm wa'-l-
tirjâq by the ancient Indian physician Cânakâ, translated through
Pahlavi and Syriac into Arabic, is a richly decorated royal copy from
the library of the Zengid Akrân Shâh I (r. 589–607 / 1193–1211).
See:

1926. Khazâ'in al-kutub al-'Arabiyya: nafâ'is al-Khizâna al-
Khâlidiyâ fi 'l-Quds al-Sharîf. By 'Abd Allâh Muhîlîs. Majallat al-
Majmû'a al-Imâmî al-'Arabî bi-Dimashq 4, pp. 366–369, 409–413.
An account of 47 rare MSS in the library, seen on a visit in 1917.

1928. Khîyat al-Shâm, VI. By Muhammed Kurd 'Alî. Damascus:
Ma'thâ'at al-Mufid, pp. 201–202.

1945–1946. Dîr kutub Filisîn wa-nafâ'is makhtûtâtâhî. By
As'ad al-Talas. Majallat al-Majmû'a al-Imâmî al-'Arabî bi-Dimashq 20,
A survey of 108 important MSS.

kutub al-'Arabiyya fi 'l-khîafîqayn. I. Beirut: Wizarat al-Tarbiyya wa-
'l-Funûn al-Jumila, pp. 142–143.

al-âbudîh fi Filasîn. By Nasîr al-Dîn al-Asad. Cairo: Ma'had al-

Contains much important information on the foundation of the
library and details of the Islamic MSS, especially in several useful
appendices.
   An account of the library building, with plans and numerous photographs.

   An account of the library building and the three tombs there.

   A long account of the library, with details of numerous MSS.

   Reprints the 1926 survey by Mukhlis and the 1945–1946 survey by Talas, with useful indexes. See pp. 10–11, 23–71.

   Khalidiyyah Library, p. 705.


   Reports on current work at the library.

   On aspects of current manuscript conservation work at the library.


   Surveys the history of the foundation of the library and provides details on numerous unique, rare, autograph, or otherwise noteworthy MSS in the collection.

On the family members whose MSS are now deposited in the library, or who helped to establish and organise it, see (in addition to the study by Al-Asad listed above):


A handwritten register of the contents of the library, divided into sections on books in Arabic and Latin characters. Arabic, Turkish, and Persian MSS are listed together with printed books in these languages, with the sigla makhtu‘ū (makhtū‘ū) and ma‘(mā‘ū) being used to distinguish between them. The purpose of the list was to provide a basic inventory after the 1967 war, and it gives authors and titles as stated in the MSS. Lithographs and MSS are both indicated as makhtu‘ū, and works in Turkish and Persian are sometimes listed as Kitāb Turki or Kitāb Fārsī.

A full catalogue of the Arabic MSS is in preparation by Lawrence I. Conrad, and prior to its publication provisional entries may be consulted at the library. A catalogue of the Turkish and Persian MSS has been completed by Barbara Kellner-Heinkele and will be published in Manuscripts of the Middle East; a draft of this catalogue is also available at the library.

The library also holds registers of MSS incorporated into its collections since 1900, and numerous defters listing books owned by family members in the eighteenth to early twentieth centuries, and now incorporated into the library.

Library of Shaykh Muḥammad al-Khalīlī

Al-Madrasa al-Baladiyya, Bir al-Silsila, Old City

*Date of establishment:* This collection comprised the private holdings accumulated by Shaykh Muḥammad al-Khalīlī (d. 1147/1734). After his death the MSS were handed down in the family until 1979, when one of his heirs endowed it to Al-Aqṣā Mosque Library.

*Status:* Public library

*Conditions of access:* Open to all readers, students, and researchers, though some MSS are unavailable by reason of their condition (see below).

Access to the library is through Al-Aqṣā Mosque Library, where further information may be sought. The manuscripts in the library have all been microfilmed, and these copies may also be consulted at Al-Aqṣā Mosque Library, or at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Watā‘iq wa-l-Makhtu‘ūt), University of Jordan, in Amman.

*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 360 (Arabic).

*Description of collection:* The condition of the collection is poor, with considerable worm and humidity damage; were the required funds...
available, conservation of this collection would be an urgent priority. The original owner worked in many places during his life, and the wear of travel has resulted in the loss of incipits and explicitis from more than a hundred MSS.

The collection is currently arranged on wooden shelving at the house where the Shaykh lived and is buried, Al-Madrasa al-Baladiya. Subjects covered include Qur’anic sciences and exegesis, jurisprudence (fiqh), dogmatics, Sufism, biography, Arabic literature and lexicography, history, astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. The oldest MS in this library is Al-Arib fi ma‘ani ‘l-gharib by ‘Abd al-Ra‘im b. Ali Ibn al-Jawzī.

Important MSS include 1) Sharḥ Muqāna al-‘Albānī, by Mūhəmmad al-Maghribī al-Tabarī; 2) Tafsīr al-Qur’an by Aḥū ‘l-Layth al-Samarqandī.

Sec:


Published catalogues:

Unpublished catalogues:
There is a handwritten list for this collection, prepared by Khader I. Sa‘me, listing titles, authors, and dates of copying. A scientific catalogue by the same researcher is in preparation.

Kulliyat al-Daw‘wa wa-Uṣūl al-Din Library

PO Box 21402
Beit Hanina
Tel.: (02) 853918
Date of establishment: 1976
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Open to students and researchers, 08:00–14:00 Sat.–Thurs.; closed Fri.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 110 MSS, containing 249 texts (190 Arabic; 4 Persian; 55 Turkish).
Description of collection: The majority of the MSS were purchased from Fārāh al-Anṣārī. Most are lacking folios from the beginning and/or end, and many have suffered some significant damage. One MS is dated 830/1426, but most are works copied in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries CE. Subjects covered include Qur’anic studies and exegesis, jurisprudence, Ḥadīth, dogmatics, Sufism, Arabic literature and language, logic, and mathematics.


Full microfilm copies of the MSS in this collection are available for consultation at the Department of the Survival of the Islamic Heritage (Qism ‘Ilāh al-Turāth al-Islāmī) in Abu Dis.

Inquiries: Library Curator, Department of the Survival of the Islamic Heritage, PO Box 19004, Jerusalem, Tel.: (02) 265473.
Published catalogues:


For each MS, the author provides the title, author, subject, incipit and explicit, number of folios, measurements, date of copying, style of script, and the dates of the author’s birth and death. There are also indexes of titles, subjects, authors, and copyists.

I.A. Mayer Memorial Museum and Institute for Islamic Art

PO Box 4088
Ha-Palmach 2, West Jerusalem 92542
Tel.: (02) 661292. Fax: (02) 619802
Date of establishment: 1974

Status: Privately run museum and institute for the study of Islamic art, based on the collections of the late scholar and art collector L.A. Mayer (1893–1959).

Conditions of access: Prior permission from the Curator is required before access to the collection is available to researchers.

Open 10:00–17:00 Sun. – Thurs.; closed Fri.; 10:00–13:00 Sat.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 19 (7 Arabic; 12 Persian).

Description of collection: The collection consists of four partial Qur’āns, two complete Qur’āns, and one Arabic and twelve Persian literary MSS. All of these were acquired at public auctions in the United States and Europe, and all are illustrated or illuminated MSS in excellent condition. They are kept under carefully controlled climatic conditions both when on display and in storage.

The oldest MS is the one Arabic literary text, the important Rīsālat al-‘amr al-‘adjibb by Abū Mūkhtār b. Abī Ḥasan b. ‘Abd al-Rahmān b. ‘Abd al-Husayn b. Būṭlān, copied in the thirteenth century CE. Others include: 1) Futūh al-haramayn, by Muḥṣīn al-Dīn ʿAbbās al-Māshāri‘i; 2) Ghusl al-Qudūs, by ʿAbd al-Majīd al-Qandil; 3) Judaeo-Persian MSS containing the Persian text of Niẓāmī’s Khamsa; 4) Sūrūn in Iranian-Hebrew square script, copied in the seventeenth century CE.

See:


Unpublished catalogue:
The Institute has descriptive cards for all of the MSS, each giving the author, title, MS, measurements, number of folios, and a description of the MS and its decoration.

Rockefeller Museum Library (Palestine Archaeological Museum)

PO Box 386
Sultan Suleiman Street, Jerusalem 91004
Tel.: (02) 282251. Fax: (02) 292628
Date of establishment: 1927

Status: Reference library, under the management of the Israel Museum.

Conditions of access: Open to researchers and students, 10:00–17:00 Sun. – Thurs.; 10:00–14:00 Fri. – Sat.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 20 photostats and transcripts (Arabic).

Description of collection: The Rockefeller Museum holds no original Islamic MSS, but in the 1940s it undertook a programme, headed by S. Hanna Stepan, to identify and copy important MSS in local libraries. A number of photostatic copies and handwritten transcripts were made, and were deposited in the Museum’s Library. As these copies predate the losses of 1948 and after, they are extremely important. Significant MSS include 1) Niẓāmī’s Khamsa, by ’Umar b. Muhammad al-Shāmī, and 2) Tārīkh al-Qūdūs, by Ḥasan b. ʿAbbās al-Latīf al-Husaynī. Both of these are photostatic copies made from the Khalidi Library MSS (q.v. above), now missing from that collection.

Unpublished catalogues:
The Rockefeller photostats of Islamic MSS are not listed in any separate catalogue, but rather have card entries in the library’s general card catalogue. On the photostats themselves Stephan attached cover sheets bearing the following information about the original MS, from which the copy had been made: provenance and current owner of the MS; language, author, and title of the MS; description and size of paper and watermarks (if any); style of script and colour of ink; date of copying and name of scribe (if stated); and description of contents and other marks on the significance of the book.
Library of Al-Hājī Nimr Mosque

Date of establishment: 1930s

Status: Mosque library

Conditions of access: Closed, but all MSS in the collection are available on microfilm (see below).

Total number of Islamic MSS: 98 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the MSS are in fair condition, with some missing folios in different places. The subjects covered are as follows:

- Arabic language and literature 32
- Qur’anic sciences 20
- Jurisprudence 18
- Hadith 9
- Falsafa 7
- Tarajim 7

The other MSS cover dogmatics, medicine, and other topics. The oldest MS. dates from 948/1541, and the most recent was copied in 1349/1930.


A full microfilm record of the MSS in this library is available for consultation at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathāʾiq wa-l-Makhṭūṭāt), University of Jordan, in Amman.

Sec:


Published catalogues:


Each MS. entry gives the title, serial number, name of the author (with death date), subject, incipit, explicit, number of folios, measurements of the MS., number of lines per page, and date of copying. There are seven indexes: proper names, places, book titles, manuscripts, subjects, authors, and copyists.

Al-Jawhariyya Library

Date of establishment: ca. 19th century

Status: Private library, founded by the Al-Jawhari dynasty

Conditions of access: Closed, but all MSS in the collection are available on microfilm (see below).

Total number of Islamic MSS: 52 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Most of the MSS are in good condition,
although some have suffered damage or have lost folios at some place in the text (usually at the beginning or end). Subjects covered are as follows:

- jurisprudence 35
- other religious topics 6
- Arabic language 6

There are also isolated MSS in history, mathematics, and other areas. The oldest MS. is a text of 837/1434, and the most recent dates from 1292/1875.


See:


A survey of 5 MSS (one a majmūʿa of 5 works) of particular importance.


Corrects an error in the 1924 survey by Darwaza.


A full microfilm record of the MSS in this library is available for consultation at the Library of Al-Najāh University in Nablus and at the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts (Markaz al-Wathāʾiq wa-l-Makhtūṭāt), University of Jordan, in Amman.

Published catalogues:


The compiler has arranged this catalogue by titles, giving the full name of the author (with date of death according to the Islamic and Gregorian calendars), the subject, incipit and explicit, style of script and copyist (if mentioned), number of folios, lines per page, measurements, and the serial number of the MS. There are indexes of authors, titles, copyists, proper names, places, and books.

TÉL-AVIV

Tel-Aviv University Library

Bibliography Department, University Central Library, Tel-Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Tel-Aviv 69978

Tel.: (03) 640-8423. Fax: (03) 640-9598

Date of establishment: 1957

Status: University library.

Conditions of access: Proper identification or letter of introduction is required in order to gain admission to the library.

Open Sun.–Thurs. 9:00–20:00; Fri. 9:00–12:30; closed Sat.

Inquiries to the Curator, Rare Books Room.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 49 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Manuscripts at the University are kept in climatically controlled conditions in the Rare Books Room of the Central Library; the Islamic MSS are part of a collection of North African provenance which also includes lithographs. One MS. of importance is the second part of Al-Kashf wa-l-bayān ʿan taṣfīr al-Qurʾān by Ahmad b. Ibrāhīm al-Thaʿlabī.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Israel and Palestine, pp. 704–706.


Incl. Palestine.


Al-Urduna wa-Filaṣṭīn, pp. 1–10, nos. 1–31; Mulḥaq, pp. 5–6, nos. 1–4.


Some of the Jerusalem libraries & catalogues mentioned also contain Arabic MSS.


Israel, p. 46; Jordanië [= Palestine], p. 64.


Filaṣṭīn, p. 48.


Bibliotheken und Sammlungen arabischer Handschriften: Israel [incl. all Palestine], pp. 384–386.