


by

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UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS

Published:

484–522; 56, 1912, pp. 267–300, 447–469; 57, 1913, pp. 139–
162.

Full descriptions of Arabic MSS seen, and in some cases copied,
by the author in Senegal. No indications given of locations.

1965–66. Les manuscrits historiques arabo-africaines. (Bilan
provisoire.) By V. Monteil. Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Afrique

For Sénégal, see vol. 27, pp. 539–541 & vol. 28, pp. 671–673.

1975. Supplément au catalogue des manuscrits de l'IFAN. By El-
Hadj Ravane Mbaye and Babacar Mbaye. Bulletin de l'Institut

Full details of works written by Senegalese Islamic scholars, in-
cluding title, subjects, authors, number of pages. Includes
microfilms and photocopies of MSS in a number of Senegalese col-
lections.

1990. La problématique des manuscrits du Sénégal. By Samba
Dieng. Le Chercheur: Revue scientifique de l'Association des Chercheurs du

Unpublished:

Tome 1, by Khadim Mbacké and Thierno Ka. Notes et documents
de l'IFAN.

This catalogue lists 519 titles, but includes printed works, all writ-
ten by Senegalese Islamic scholars. The catalogue gives in French
the title, number of pages, name of author and the region from
which the author came (or alternatively the region in which the MSS
were collected). Includes microfilms and copies of MSS in a number
of Senegalese collections.
INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

DAKAR
Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN)

BP 206, Dakar
Tel.: (221) 250090
Date of establishment: 1965 (with the creation of the Département d'Islamologie of IFAN).
Status: Public
Conditions of access: Open to researchers and students.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 867 (671 Arabic; 11 Fulbe; 110 Pulaar; 75 Wolof).
Description of collection: The collection includes Qur'āns and MSS on the following subjects: tafsīr, Ḥadīth, tawhīd, fiqh, sīra, tasawwuf, hikmat, akhlāq, tāʾrīkh, geography, nabi, 'arid, manṭiq, šibb, ʿilm al-falak, fiqh al-lugha, ši'r, ribā. They were collected during the colonial period by French officers dealing with Islamic affairs, and after independence by researchers of the IFAN. Others were donated by learned men or their descendants. The collection is divided into 8 sub-collections whose names are as follows: Fonds des dix régions du Sénégal, Fonds Amad Samb, Fonds Gaden, Fonds Moussa Kamara, Fonds Vincent Monteil, Fonds Figaret et Brevié, Fonds Cremer, Fonds Vieillard. The MSS are arranged in files stored on metal shelves within the library of the Département d'Islamologie. By and large, the MSS of this collection are in good physical condition and well organised. Most of them were copied during this century and are undated.
Important items include Zuhār al-basātan fi taʾrīkh al-sauwādīn by Mūsā Kamara (translation into French under way); and ʿUqūd al-jawhar fi madh sawyid al-bashar by Muhammad ben Abdallah Niassé.

See
Brief description of collection of MSS and microfilms in Arabic and Wolof at the Département d'Islamologie.

Published catalogues:
1965–66. See Monteil under Union catalogues above.

1975. See Mbaye and Mbaye under Union catalogues above.

Unpublished catalogues:
1989. See Mbaye and Ka under Union catalogues above.

Thierno Montaga Tall

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By permission of the owner, a grandson of al-Hajj 'Umar Tall.
Description of collection: Believed to possess hundreds of MSS in Dakar. No information readily available.

DIOURBÉL
Serigne Mor Mbaye Cissé

BP 18 Diourbel
Tel.: (221) 711405
Date of establishment: 1913
Status: Private
Conditions of access: With the permission of Serigne Bassirou Cissé, the eldest son of the late owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,000 (mostly Arabic; some Wolof).
Description of collection: This is the collection of the library of a centre of learning founded by Shaykh Ibrahim Cissé. It was first located in Tayba Sèye not far from the city of Louga, and moved to its present location in 1913. It became a famous centre of memorisation of the Qur'ān and of Arabic calligraphy. Thousands of masābīṣ and other
MSS have been copied in this centre. Approximately one thousand MSS were found in this library, the majority of which are written in Arabic with a few dozen in Wolof. Virtually all were copied by pupils or former pupils of the centre. The MSS are kept on wooden shelves inside the room of the owner. They are written in remarkably fine calligraphy and have very beautifully designed examples of Senegalese binding. Most of the MSS are maṣāḥif (copies of Qurʾān). There are others on Islamic studies common in West Africa: taṣawwuf, tasāhid, nahl, sāriḍ and fiqh. Most of these latter were written by authors of the 18th or 19th centuries. The oldest MS is an exegesis of the Qurʾān in Wolof copied at the beginning of the 20th century.

KAOLACK

Shaykh al-Islām Al-Hajj Ibrahim Niass

BP 01, Médina Kaolack
Tel.: (221) 411790
Status: Private

Conditions of access: With the permission of Shaykh Al-Hajj ABDOLLAH NIASS, the eldest son of the late owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 168 MSS (167 Arabic; 1 Wolof).

Description of collection: Former Vice-President of the World Muslim League and leader of a very popular Muslim organisation in West Africa, Al-Hajj Ibrahim had travelled widely and in addition to the MSS that he inherited from his father AL-HAJJ ABDOLLAH NIASS (a prominent West African scholar, d. 1922) he bought others, mainly from Morocco and Mauritania, as well as those copied in Senegal. There are some medieval MSS but most were written during the 18th and 19th centuries.

With few exceptions, the MSS are in perfect condition, written in remarkable calligraphy and with fine bindings. Some include several titles. They cover the following subjects: fiqh, Hadith, taṣawwuf, tafsīr, lugha, falsafa, adab, sāriḍ, tawārikh, šiiṣ, sīna, khaṣāṣ, ṭibb.

Rarities in this collection are the original MS of Jawaḥir al-maḍāní wa-hulāgh al-amānī fi jayd al-Shaykh Ahmed Al-Tiyānī by ʿALĪ ḤARĀŠIM; an anonymous Muyassar al-jalli fi sharb muḥtāṣar al-Shaykh al-Khālīl; and Toḥīq al-mabsūṭ, wa-tahrār al-maḍāní min risālat-Ibn Aṣīr ZAYD AL-QADRĀWĪ of ABRĪ ḤASAN AL-MĀLIKĪ. Also worthy of note is a copy of the Nūr al-albāb by UTHMAN B. FŪDĪ, copied during the 19th century.

Published catalogues:

1975. See MBAYE and MBAYE under Union catalogues above.
IFAN has microfilms of some MSS in this collection.

Unpublished catalogues:
A handlist of the MSS was made some time ago, but was not available for consultation.

Al-Hajj Muhammad Niass

Léona Niassene, Kaolack
Tel.: (221) 412278
Status: Private

Conditions of access: With the permission of the family of the late owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 100 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The late owner, a very learned scholar, was fascinated by Islamic MSS, and the majority of his collection was copied between 1951 and 1959. During that period, Al-Hajj Muhammad Niass invited a calligrapher from Mauritania every year who would spend seven months copying not only old MSS but also printed books. The MSS are written in beautiful script and have very fine bindings. They are neatly arranged on wooden shelves in a living room. They cover fiqh, nahl, sāriḍ, adab, taṣawwuf, rīra, Ḥadīth, bayān, maṣāḥif.

Important items in this collection include the Kibrit al-ahmar fi madh al-qub al-akbar by the late owner and a muḥtāṣar of Shaykh al-Khālīl in two separately bound volumes copied during the 19th century.

Published catalogues:

1975. See MBAYE and MBAYE under Union catalogues above.
IFAN possesses microfilms of some MSS in this collection.

Unpublished catalogues:

1989. See MBAYE and KA under Union catalogues above, which lists some MSS from this collection.
LOUGA

Al-Hajj ‘Abbas Sall

Conditions of access: By permission of Dr Mansour Sall, a son of the late owner.

Description of collection: Believed to possess hundreds of MSS in Louga, Saint-Louis and Dakar. No information was readily available.

MATAM

Thierno Mohammed Samasa

Quartier Soubalo, Matam
Tel.: (221) 666133

Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 21 (Arabic).

Description of collection: These MSS were collected by the owner who attended different traditional schools in Mali and Senegal. They were acquired during the last thirty years, given to him in the schools he attended. The MSS cover the following subjects: *adab*, *fiqh*, *tafsir*, *bala‘iga*, *ilm al-nujum*, *nabu‘*, *irshad*, *madh* and *marchiya*. The MSS are stored in suitcases in an old cupboard under unsatisfactory conditions and risk serious damage. Important items in this collection are: *Talhkinat al-mustashhidin* of Al-Hajj Umar Tall; *Adab al-irshad* by Thierno Said Shira, an *’ilm of Futu*; and the *Shurkh al-Imam* by Ibn Bina, a commentary on the *Alfiya* of Ibn Malik. The text of the *Ilmira* is written in red ink while that of the *Alfiya* is written in black ink.

MAKA KOULIBANTAN

Al-Hajj Ibrahima Sorie Diaby

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of Al-Hajj Ibrahim Diaby, a son of the late founder. (For an appointment, contact in Dakar a son of the late owner, Al-Hajj Muhammad Santou Diaby, tel.: (221)-212493.)

Total number of Islamic MSS: 40 (Arabic).

Description of collection: The founder was born in Guinea. He settled in Maka Koulibantan in 1956. He was a peripatetic scholar (*jawwāl*) and during his tours that he collected or copied the MSS of this collection. The MSS are stored in cupboards and suitcases in the study of the late owner, preserved in leather bindings and tied with a rope. They are written in beautiful calligraphy, and cover mainly the following subjects: *usul al-din*, *fiqh*, *taṣawwuf*, *ta’lim*, geography, *’ulam al-arwār*, *sulam al-Qur’ān*, *tārikh*, *tā’lim al-faruq*ī. The MSS are common texts in the region.

Noteworthy are a treatise on syntax with the title *Al-mursīd al-mafud* and two other titles on *taṣawwuf* with the titles *Jawhār al-uns fī aswād ahli al-khuds* and *Bahjat al-ṣulūr fī dhikr rajāl al-būtār*, both written by the late owner. The collection has not been catalogued.

MEDINA GOUNASS

Al-Hajj Muhammad Said Ba

Tel.: (221) 976205

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of the son of the late owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 28 (25 Arabic; 3 Pulaar).

Description of collection: The late owner founded the town of Médina Gounass in 1935. He started the collection later. The MSS cover the following subjects: *al-‘uwaz wa-l-irshād*, Qur’ān, *fiqh*, *taṣawwuf*. Most of them were copied by the disciples of the late owner. They are stored on wooden shelves. Although dusty, most of them are in good condition. They are arranged in hard backs fastened with a rope and displayed in the study of the late owner.

The texts are very common in West Africa, with one exception: an anonymous and undated *Tasfīyat al-sulūk*.

SAINT-LOUIS

Imam Al-Hajj Abdoulaye Fall Magatte

38 rue Blaise Diagne Angle Mage, Nord, Saint-Louis

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of the son of the late owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 67 (Arabic).
Description of collection: This library was started some time in the 1950s. The collection includes 67 Arabic manuscripts on madh, marthiya, fisih, taṣawwuf and history of the Senegalese religious families. The late owner was a Sufi scholar well-versed in Mālikī jurisprudence, and most of the manuscripts are either Sufi or on fisih. Most of them are fastened with a rope and stored in a cupboard in the room of the late owner.

There are quite a few other mediaeval manuscripts. Approximately one third of the manuscripts look somewhat damaged. Others lack some pages, making it impossible to know the date of copying. Some were copied by the late owner himself, others were bought from shayūkh of neighbouring Mauritania or inherited from other Senegalese Muslim scholars. The rarities in the collection are the Kifayat al-rāghibīn on fisih and the Shara khilāṣ al-dhakhāt on madh al-Rasūl, both written by the late al-Hajj Malick Sy, one of the most famous recent Senegalese Islamic scholars.

Muhammad Ma’mun Ndiaye

23 rue Pierre Loti Nord, Saint-Louis
Tel.: (221) 612870
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 52 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Founded at the end of the last century, this could well be the oldest collection in Saint-Louis. The founder came to Saint-Louis at the end of the last century, when it was the capital of French Colonial West Africa. The availability of paper there made it possible for the owner to compile manuscripts. The collection includes 52 Arabic manuscripts predominantly on fisih, Hadīth and taṣawwuf. Covered with a hard back and tied with a rope, most of the MSS of this collection were copied at the beginning of the 20th century.

As a result of unsatisfactory conditions of storage, the majority of the manuscripts are seriously damaged. Worthy of note in this collection are a beautiful musḥaf written in black ink with punctuation in yellow ink; the Lamiyat al-afāf by Badr al-Dīn ʿAbd Allāh al-Dimashqī, a mediaeval work copied during the last century, and the Raʿy al-dhamʿān fi maʿāslat Bani ʿAdhām of al-Hajj Malick Sy.

Published catalogues:
1975. See Mbaye and Mbaye under Union catalogues above.
IFAN has a microfilm of one MS. in this collection.

TIVAOUANE
Cheikh Oumar Nguriane

Quartier Cheikh El Hadji Malick Sy, Tivaouane
Tel.: (221) 551782
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Accessible to scholars by appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 90 (89 Arabic; 1 Wolof).
Description of collection: The library was started in the early 1960s but grew after 1989 when the owner retired. He visited most of the places where he expected to find Islamic manuscripts. The manuscripts are arranged in files and stored in a cupboard in the owner’s room under satisfactory conditions. They cover mainly the following subjects: fisih, naḥaw, madh, adab. Most of the manuscripts were copied either by the owner himself or by his assistants. Some were donated. The collection contains almost all the dānaqūs written by Senegalese Islamic scholars of the last couple of centuries.

The rarities in this collection are: Safinat al-ṣaʿāda of Al-Hajj Umar Tall; and the famous Badiʾ of Al-Hajj Madić Cissé, of remarkable artistic quality.

Family of the late Al-Hajj Malick Sy

Description of collection: Believed to possess hundreds of Islamic MSS, some of which were inherited from the late Al-Hajj Malick Sy. No information was readily available.

TOUBA
Maktabat Al-Shaykh al-Khadim

BP 05, Touba
Tel.: (221) 751139
Status: Trust
Conditions of access: The library is accessible to the public but only some of the MSS are available for consultation.

Description of collection: The city of Touba is the headquarters of the Senegalese Sufi tarīqa, the Muridīya. The Islamic MSS are accessible for consultation, with the exception of the MSS written by Ahmadou Bamba or that belonged to him.

A good number of the non-accessible MSS were collected from disciples of Ahmadou Bamba. Their exact number is not known but there is little doubt that it is one of the most important collections of Islamic MSS of Senegal. The majority of the MSS are in Arabic, some in Wolof. At least 75% are Qur'ān written in very beautiful script with fine bindings. They are stored on several shelves with printed copies of the Qur'ān. Most of the maṣāḥif were copied during this century. The remaining MSS cover the following subjects: tawḥīd, ʿilm al-akhlāq, tażīm, taʿallum, ʿulum al-Qurʿān, Ḥadīth, duʿā, adab, al-wiḍż wa-l-irshād, ḥikam, al-tashakkurāt.

The works of Shaykh Ahmadou Bamba Mbacké and his collection of MSS are stored in trunks made of camphor wood to protect them. The trunks are displayed inside the library in a small room surrounded by a glass wall. They are not accessible for consultation.

Detailed cataloguing of the other MSS (those available for consultation) is being undertaken by the librarians of Maktabat al-Shaykh al-Khadim.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Al-Sinighālī, p. 321, no. 888.


Sénégal, p. 65.