Includes quotations from Somali Arabic MSS.


SOUTH AFRICA

by

Muhammed Haron

1993
UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS

   Incl. survey of manuscript literature in Malay, Arabic and Afrikaans (Arabic script).


INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

CAPE TOWN

South African Library

Department of Manuscripts, Queen Victoria Street, PO Box 496, Cape Town 8001
Tel.: (021) 246320 & 246331. Telex: 5722604 SA. Fax: 244848

Date of establishment: 1818
Status: National library

Conditions of access: Credentials required: The user has to fill in a visitors’ book to indicate the name of the institution to which he or she is attached and the purpose of research. Appointment required for special collections.

Opening hours: Mondays to Fridays: 09:00–18:00
   Saturdays: 08:00–12:00.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (5 Afrikaans in Arabic script; 3 Arabic; 2 Javanese; 1 Malay).

Description of collection: There are two bound volumes of 18th-century Javanese religious writings (MSB 683 & 789) penned by Imam 'Ardullah bin Qadi 'Abdul Salaam (commonly known as ‘Tuan Guru’, d. 1807) in the Arabic script. The first deals with theology and mysticism and the second with medicine and occultism. The Afrikaans MSS in the Arabic script are notebooks of students; these deal with theological matters and have been dated from 1906 to 1909. The library has also acquired an Afrikaans 1909 translation in the Arabic script—prepared by Shaykh Taha Gamidien—of Abu 'l-Layth al-Samarqandi.
The Arabic MSS are an Arabic-Hebrew dictionary compiled by the Rev. W. Norton in Zanzibar, ca. 1910, an Arabic dictionary (MSB 364) and a collection of Arabic poems dropped from an aircraft in 1942, previously kept in the South Africa National Museum of Military History.

Published catalogue:

DURBAN
University of Durban-Westville: Documentation Centre
Private Bag X54001
Durban 4001
Tel.: (031) 820-2351/0. Telegrams 'udwest'. Telex: 6-23228 SA.
Fax: (031) 820-2383
Date of establishment: 1979
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Credentials required; apply in writing or by telephone to the Director. Appointment required.
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 08:00 – 13:00, 14:00 – 16:00
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20 (11 Arabic; 9 Persian) in 9 vols.
Description of collection: Subjects include tafsir, tawsif, jurisprudence, theology and invocations.

There is a copy of Kanz al-‘Irifan by Muhammad Jamal ibn Muhammad Ja'far, dated 1013 [1604]. The rest are undated.

Published catalogue:
1993. Arabic and Persian manuscripts—Documentation Centre, University of Durban-Westville. By Suleman Essop Dangor. Al-
Ilm (Durban) 13, 1993, pp. 77 – 82.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX
Chambert-Loir, H. Catalogue des catalogues de manuscrits malais.
Afrique du Sud, p. 48.