


Sweden, pp. 279, 371, 416.


J.C.i. Catalogues & surveys of collections; exhibitions, pp. 48–56.


Bibliotheken und Sammlungen arabischer Handschriften: Schweden, p. 418.


Uppsala, p. 262.
UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS


   Catalogue of an exhibition held in 1985, which included many items from private collections in Switzerland and abroad.

   Includes calligraphic specimens and individual MS. leaves from public and private collections in Switzerland and abroad which were loaned for an exhibition.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

BASLE

Öffentliche Bibliothek der Universität Basel

Schönbeinstrasse 20
CH-4056 Basel

Date of establishment: 1461
Status: Public university library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 649 (Arabic; Persian; Turkish).
Description of collection: By far the most important collection of Islamic manuscripts in Switzerland, covering all sorts of subjects (history, law, religion, science, poetry, etc.). The most remarkable manuscript is Abū TAMMĀM’s Hamāja, a 654/1257 copy by ‘UTHMĀN IBN AL-MUJĀHIDĪ. This manuscript and many others belong to the Tschudi Fund. The MSS cover the period from the 13th to the 19th centuries.

The manuscripts are in good condition and kept in an air-conditioned building.

Knowledgeable scholars who may be consulted about the collection are the Curator, Prof. Dr. MARTIN STEINMANN; GUDRUN SCHUBERT; and Prof. Dr. GREGOR SCHÖNLER of the Orientalisches Seminar, Missionistraße 64a, CH-4055 Basel.

Published catalogues:

Describes a mixed Arabic/ Malay/ Javanese/ Latin MS. in the Basle University Library on pp. 87–89.

Forthcoming. A catalogue is being prepared for publication by GUDRUN SCHUBERT.

Unpublished catalogue:
Handwritten description of half of the MSS by FRITZ MEIER, GERTRUD SPIESS & HEIDWIG ÜZBECK-DIJEDJIKAR.

BERNE

Bernisches Historisches Museum

Helvetiaplatz 5
CH-3000 Bern
Date of establishment: 1892–94 (Society founded in 1837)
Status: Public museum

Total number of Islamic MSS: 39 (18 Arabic; 1 Pashto; 19 Persian; 1 Turkish-Arabic).

Description of collection: The MSS belong to the Moser collection which also contains miniatures and specimens of calligraphy (see PEARSON, 1971). The physical condition of the manuscripts is average to good and they are kept in good conditions.

Published catalogues:

Detailed and comprehensive descriptions giving, when possible, the title, the name of author, the subject and physical description of the manuscripts. No index.

1975. Rūjānī (see Union catalogues above) notes a copy of FIRDAWĪ’s Shāhānāmah in this collection.

Burgerbibliothek

Münstergasse 63
CH-3000 Bern
Date of establishment: 1951
Status: Public library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 27 (19 Arabic; 1 Arabic/Turkish; 1 Hebrew/Arabic (lexicon); 3 Persian; 3 Turkish).

Description of collection: PEARSON in Oriental Manuscripts of Europe and North America notes these MSS on page 282 (see Appendix) under "Bern, Stadt und Universitätsbibliothek". In fact, all the manuscripts dated before 1951 have been transferred to the Burgerbibliothek. The physical condition of the manuscripts is average to good, and they are kept in a good environment.

The fields covered by most of the texts are wide (history, poetry, law, religion, science, etc.). The MSS belong to the last few centuries. Dr. CHRISTIAN VON STEIZER is the Curator of MSS.

Published catalogues:

Catalogue in Latin. The descriptions of oriental MSS are inadequate and sometimes wrong. Some manuscripts classified as Arabic are Persian or Turkish and vice versa. Separate index in Latin on page 651: (no. V—Arabic, Turcica, Persica, Aethiopica). The total number of Islamic manuscripts described in the catalogue is 27 (the entire collection).
Unpublished catalogue:
Katalog zu den Hagen-Nachträgen by Dr K.J. Lüthi.

title, name of author, subject, description, date of MSS not always given. Often the manuscript is only briefly mentioned. Cod. 727–8, 731, 733, 755, 766–7, 780, 786–8, 793–4, 797, 806, 816–19, 822 & 825 are 14 Arabic, 5 Persian & 1 Turkish MSS which have been added to the collection since Hagen’s time. Handwritten in German.

COLLONGE

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Château de Bellerive
Collonge-Bellerive
CH-1243 Geneva
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (1 Arabic; 1 Arabic/Persian; 4 Persian), plus various individual leaves & miniatures.
Description of collection: The manuscripts are in excellent condition, kept in an air-conditioned building. The subjects include religion, poetry, and astronomy.

Published catalogues:
Four volumes describing the whole art collection. The 6 manuscripts are described in vol. II (pp. 34–36, 50, 62, and 69). Further descriptions of individual leaves & miniatures are given in the other volumes. Complete information: title, name of author, subject, date of compilation, name of scribe, physical description of manuscript, style of writing. This catalogue was published in a limited private edition.

Catalogue of an exhibition held in New York in 1982–1983 with full descriptions of the 80 items on display. Most exhibits were individual leaves or miniatures, but MSS are included. References are given to the catalogue of the collection published in 1972–1978. The preface contains a short history of the collection.

1988. Some leaves & miniatures from this collection are included in the Union catalogue by JAMES.

COLOGNY

Bibliotheca Bodmeriana (Martin Bodmer Foundation)
19–21 route du Guignard, Cologny
CH-1223 Geneva
Date of establishment: 1971
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 52 (14 Arabic; 35 Persian; 3 Turkish).
Description of collection: The director, Dr Hans E. Braun, has stated that the Bodmeriana intends to publish its collection of oriental manuscripts.
The MSS are kept in an air-conditioned environment. Two manuscripts are of specially outstanding quality, according to Dr Braun: (i) cod. 518: Hāfiẓ: Laylá wa Majnūn, Bukhara (1545); (ii) cod. 530: Saʿdī: Gulistān, Herat (1500).

EINSIEDELN

Stiftsbibliothek Benediktinerabtei
CH-8840 Einsiedeln
Date of establishment: 934
Status: Monastery
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (4 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: According to the Librarian, Dr Odo Lang, the collection of Islamic manuscripts was important, but in the 19th century Napoleon’s troops besieged the Abbey and took away the most beautiful of them. The MSS are all on religious subjects, and kept in perfect conditions.

Published catalogue:
Codological details: incomplete information is given. Nos 340–342 are a Qur'ān and two prayer-books in Arabic. No. 343 is a book of Turkish legal decisions.

GENEVA

Bibliothèque Publique et Universitaire

Promenade des Bastions
CH-1211 Genève 4
Date of establishment: 1562
Status: Public university library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 119 (83 Arabic; 25 Persian; 8 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: The physical condition of the manuscripts is satisfactory, and they are kept in a suitable building.

Published catalogues:

Very detailed catalogue of 112 Arabic MSS (83 vols.), giving titles, authors, subjects, dates, scribes, dates & places of copying, incipits, explicitis, styles of scripts, paper, foliations, dimensions, lines per page, bindings, owners, provenance, information on texts, publication details, etc. Indexes of dates, illuminated MSS, autographs, subjects and authors (with titles of anonymous works).

The Van Berchem collection will be included in this catalogue, which will contain the same details as in the 1968 Arabic catalogue (see above). The number of manuscripts described will be 26 (25 Persian, 1 Urdu).

Unpublished catalogue:
Théophile Dufor compiled an inventory of Islamic MSS in the 19th century. It remains the only catalogue for the Turkish MSS. [Pearson, 1971 & Birnbaum, 1984. Pearson notes also that new acquisitions have been registered since Dufor's inventory.]

Dauphin (S.A.)

CH-1211 Geneva 3
Date of establishment: 1977 (?)
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30 (Arabic; Persian).
Description of collection: The Curator, Mme Ursula Ferrare-Rochat, states that the owner of the Dauphin collection is unwilling to supply details. The manuscripts, which include Qur'āns and Persian miniatures, are in excellent condition, in an air-conditioned building.

Published catalogues:
1985. Descriptions of 8 items from this collection were published in the Union catalogue by Welch. See nos 66, 69, 193–196.

LAUSANNE–DORIGNY

Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire

Palais de Rumine
CH-1015 Lausanne-Dorigny
Status: Public university library
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 22 (12 Arabic; 10 Persian).
Description of collection: The library is in possession of a few Islamic manuscripts, most of them donated in 1971 by Jean Hermette, who became French Ambassador to Moscow and Spain.
The manuscripts are on the following subjects: religion, language, poetry, mathematics. Unfortunately some of them are incomplete. The physical condition of the manuscripts is from average to good, and they are kept in an air-conditioned library.

Unpublished catalogue:
A typed description of the manuscripts is available in the library.
NEUCHÂTEL

Bibliothèque Publique et Universitaire

3 Place Numa-Droz
CH-2000 Neuchâtel
Date of establishment: 1788
Status: Public university library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Description of collection: The manuscripts donated by Paul Humbert: Sā‘ī’s Gulsīān, Persian (1838); Bānī’s Work of devotion, Persian (19th century); Ṭuhfāt al-a‘lāh, Arabic. No catalogue.

ST GALLEN

Stiftsbibliothek St Gallen (Abbey Library of St Gall)

Klosterhof 6
CH-9000 St Gallen
Date of establishment: 612 CE
Status: Monastery library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The library has only 3 Arabic MSS (two of which are Qurʾāns); they are kept in good conditions.

Published catalogue:
The three Islamic manuscripts are described in the catalogue, but the information is inadequate and unreliable. Codex 1313, p. 446; codices 1714–1715, p. 505.

ZÜRICH

Zentralbibliothek Zürich

Zähringerplatz 6
CH-8001 Zürich
Date of establishment: 1914 (Stadtbibliothek 1629; Cantons Bibliothek 1835. The two merged to become the Zentralbibliothek in 1914)

Status: Public library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 81 (55 Arabic; 6 Persian; 19 Turkish; 1 mixed).
Description of collection: The manuscripts cover: medicine, religion, grammar, astronomy and astrology, literature, etc. Most of them belong to the later centuries. They are in average condition, in a good environment. Codex Bp2 is a fine naskhi Qurʾān with a brown leather binding and gilt decoration (does not figure in Prof Forrer’s or W. Reinhart’s notes); Or. 118: Shafrāt’s Sharḥ Maqāmāt al-Ḥašāni, dated 619 [1222], written in a large naskhi with beautiful thuluth for titles, deserves more study (153 folios of 16.5 × 21.5 cm, black ink with red notes in the margins, titles in red).

Unpublished catalogues:
Handwritten descriptions by Prof L. Forrer are available (Or. 1–8, 10–19, 25, 28, 171, 174, 176–8) in the Orientalia register. Typed descriptions (Or. 101–131) added to the same register by W. Reinhart of Winterthur are more precise and elaborate.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Switzerland, p. 310.


Suisse, p. 66.


Suwiṣara, Mulḥaq, pp. 131–132, no. 217.


İşveşre, p. 209, nos. 143–144.


1.C.I. Catalogues & surveys of collections; exhibitions, pp. 48–56.


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Bâle, p. 241, Berne, p. 242, Zürich, p. 263.

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SYRIA

by

Yassin Muhammed as-Sawwas

1991