Suisse, p. 66.

İşveçre, p. 209, nos. 143–144.


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

Bibliotheken und Sammlungen arabischer Handschriften: Schweiz, pp. 418–419.


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**SYRIA**

by

Yassin Muhammed as-Sawwas

1991


Includes many descriptions of MSS collections in Syria.


The issues contain lists of nearly 1300 microfilms arranged by serial number, with indexes. Most of the MSS were in Aleppo libraries.


Includes MSS from one collection still in Aleppo (Mārūnīyya) and others now in the Asad Library.


Full descriptions of MSS in the Maktaba al-Mārūnīya and others now in the Asad Library in Damascus.


From 2 libraries in Aleppo and one now in Damascus.


Contains descriptions of 425 MSS, mostly selected from the library of the Islamic Awqāf Department.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

Unlocated collections

ʿAbd Allah Marāḥṣ

Status: Private

Marāḥṣ was a journalist and a man of letters. He died in 1900 and left a library and a collection of manuscripts and valuable books. It remained in the possession of his heirs, but its present whereabouts are unknown.

Āl al-Kīkhīyā (or al-Katkhūdā)

Status: Private

Established by Muḥammad Ṣāliḥ Aghā, a member of the family in Aleppo. According to Rāghīn al-Ṭarrābī, it had many rare manuscripts, including: Sharḥ al-Qāmūs al-musammā bi-Tūǧ al-ʿArūs by At-Ẓanībī, which was used in the Egyptian edition of this work. The library used to be kept by the founder’s grandson, but its present whereabouts are not known.

See 1935–36. Ṭalās under Union catalogues above.

Maktabat ʿĀṭa al-Kasm

Status: Private

 Shaykh Muḥammad ʿĀṭa al-Kasm (d. 1938), was the mufti of Damascus. He was interested in collecting manuscripts, and his library contained a great collection of Arabic MSS unlike those which could be found in any other private library. After his death, his son Ḥusnūn, who was an authority on MSS and a director of Al-Zāhīrīya, added the collection to his own. A part of the collection was sold to Al-Zāhīrīya, but nothing is known of the fate of the rest.

ALEPPO

General

The famous old libraries of Aleppo include those of the following schools: Al-Asrafīya, Al-Suṭḥānīya, Al-ʿAṣrūnīya, Al-Ḥulwīya, Al-Rawwābīya, Al-Harawiya and others. The old private libraries include those of Bānī al-Shihna, Bānī al-ʿAdibīn, Bānī al-Khashshāb, Bānī ʿAbd al-Karīm, Āl Ṭalās and others. Many of these collections have been dispersed or have disappeared. Eventually, Dār al-Kutub al-Wataṣ̄ānīya collected the surviving MSS from these schools and mosques, catalogued them and passed them to Maktabat al-Awqāf al-Islāmīya in Aleppo, which later handed them over to Maktabat al-Asad al-Wataṣ̄ānīya in Damascus (q.v. below).


Published catalogues:
Contains descriptions of selected MSS from eighty-three private libraries in Aleppo.

Mentions Arabic MSS by Coptic writers held in eighteen libraries in Aleppo.

Publication of a MS. entitled Al-muntakhāb minnā fī khāṣṣātīn al-kutub bi-Ḥalab.

1955–56. Union catalogue by Taḥla, which lists 16 private libraries.

ʿAbd Allāh Yūrki Hallāq

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300 (Arabic).

Ahmad al-Zarqa

Status: Private
Description of collection: Al-Zarqa acquired a good selection of books and rare manuscripts; those MSS which survived were inherited by his son Shaykh Muṣṭafā al-Zarqa.

Al-Dakahhān

Status: Private
Description of collection: An unknown number of manuscripts, of which 111 were recently sold to the Asad Library in Damascus (q.v.).

Al Taḥla

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 150.
Description of collection: The Taḥla family, one of the oldest in Aleppo, is a family of scholars, and one of its members, Shaykh Muṣṭafā ibn Muḥammad ibn Shaḥīn (d. 1315 AH) came to Aleppo and devoted his life to study and learning. He, and his sons after him, collected so many manuscripts that their library became one of the richest in Aleppo. The MSS cover the following subjects: tafsīr and taḥāwīl al-Qurʾān (15 MSS), Ḥadīth (13), fiqh (28), ʿaqīḍah (8), Sufism and Islamic ethics (24), šīʿah and history (17), language (6), linguistics (32), literature (7).

Published catalogues:


Jibrāʾil al-Dallāl collection

Status: Private
Al-Dallāl was a journalist and poet who died in 1892. He had a
valuable library, but it was dispersed after his death and whatever is left is still in the possession of Al-Antâkî family.

Al-Madrasa al-Manşûriya

Mağalla al-Farâtara

Date of establishment: 1792

Status: Endowment/Public library

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 40.

Description of collection: The library was established by Al-Shaykh Muṣṭafâ ibn Manṣûr al-Sīmâni al-Ḥalabî. Its contents were dispersed and only 70 MSS survived, about half of which were transferred to Al-Maktaba al-Amma li-Dīr rat al-Awnî al-Islâmiya, and subsequently to the Asad Library in Damascus (q.v.).

Published catalogue:


Maḥdî al-Turāth al-Ilimi al-ʿArabî (Institute for the History of Arabic Science)

Status: State university library, affiliated to the University of Aleppo

Total number of Islamic MSS: 464 (452 Arabic; 4 Persian; 8 Turkish), plus ca. 2,400 microfilms of MSS from various libraries.

Description of collection: Includes 255 MSS which were presented to the Institute by George Antâkî. Arabic MSS are as follows: Qur'ān and ʿulûm al-Qur'ān (23 MSS); Hadîth and ʿulûm al-Hadîth (16); fiqh (76); ʿiqâd (19), Sufism and asceticism (26); adârî, adhkâr and aurâd (40); logic and philosophy (13); ethics and wisdom (13); literature (11); poetry (27); language and grammar (49); eloquence (8); history and biographies (9); medicine (11); arithmetic and algebra (2); astronomy (14); chemistry, agriculture and zoology (7); fortune-telling and physiognomy (12); magic (9); miscellaneous works bound together (7); Christianity (56).

Published catalogues:


1983. Article in Akhbâr al-Turâth al-ʿArabî, under Union catalogues above.

Mentions that the institute collection contains 315 original MSS and more than 2,000 microfilmed MSS on medicine and philosophy.


Contains descriptions of 711 microfilmed MSS.

Al-Maktaba al-Mârûniya

Date of establishment: Early 18th century

Status: Monastery library

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,536 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Established by Germanus Farîhû, Archbishop of Aleppo, this is one of the biggest Arabic collections in the Christian libraries of Aleppo. The MSS cover different areas of the humanities. The oldest MS. is dated 1342 CE and the most recent is dated 1800. Among the important manuscripts are: (i) Sharḥ Maqâmât al-Ḥârîrî, by Al-Sharîfî; (ii) Al-Qânûn al-Muḥîfî, by Al-Fâyruzâbâdî; (iii) Sharḥ al-Aṭṭâya, by Abû l-Makârîm al-Muṭarbîzî; (iv) Sharḥ al-Budî’îya, by Ibn Huja al-Ḥamawi; (v) Sharḥ Dîwân al-Mutanâbî by an anonymous author.

See 1947. Ta’râzi under Union catalogues above.

Published catalogues:

1971. Kayyali under Union catalogues above.

1983. Al-makhtūtāt under Union catalogues above.

Maktabat al-Rūm al-Kāthawlik (Greek Catholic Library)

Status: Ecclesiastical library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 212.
Description of collection: The library was destroyed in the great fire of 1850, but these MSS have survived.

See 1947. Survey by Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.

Maktabat al-Rūm al-Urthawdluks (Greek Orthodox Library)

Status: Ecclesiastical library
Description of collection: The library was destroyed in the great fire of 1850, but some MSS survived.

See 1947. Survey by Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.

Maktabat al-Sūriyān al-Kāthawlik (Syrian Catholic Library)

Status: Ecclesiastical library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 346.
Description of collection: The library was destroyed in the great fire of 1850 and most of its Arabic and other MSS were burnt. In the second half of the nineteenth century Jūris Shalāḥ rebuilt it and formed a new collection of MSS.

See 1947. Survey by Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.

Published catalogues:
   Lists 346 MSS.

DAMASCUS

General

   Describes some MSS in private libraries. Arabic translation published in 1936 (see below).


   Translation of the 1874 letter above.

   Lists MSS in three private libraries: Ṭarūṣ al-ʿAbīdīn; Saʿīd Ḥamzah (now in the Asad Library); ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Maghrībi.

ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Maghrībi collection

Status: Private
Description of collection: The palace of Amīr ʿAbd al-Qādir had a
library which contained some valuable Qur‘āns and manuscripts from different Arab countries, especially the Maghrib. After his death it was shared by his many heirs.

See 1947. Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.

1959. 21 MSS from this library are listed in the article under General above.

‘Abd al-Razzāq al-Bītār collection

Status: Private
Description of collection: Al-Bītār (d. 1916) was a scholar, historian and poet. In his house in Al-Midān he had 2,000 MSS on history and literature, including the works of Ibn Ṭūlūn al-Dimashqī and other rare MSS. Part of the collection has been lost, but the rest remained in the library of Al-Shaykh Bahjat al-Bītār.

Al ‘Abidin

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: more than 500.
Description of collection: Al ‘Abidin is one of the oldest and most learned Damascus families. They had a great library which was enriched particularly by Asūr ‘l-Yusuf ‘Āmmīn, the mufti of Damascus (d. 1981). It contains very rare manuscripts, in different fields of knowledge. There are no catalogues, although it is considered one of the most important private libraries in Damascus.

See 1947. Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.

Published catalogues:


A description of 14 MSS.

1959. 54 MSS from this library are listed in the article under General above.

Āl al-Qiwatli collection

Status: Private
Description of collection: This family collection contained ca. 800 MSS, including some rare ones, according to ‘Īsā Iskandar al-Ma‘īnī. Recent information is that the major part of the collection is still in the possession of a member of the family.

Asad National Library (Maktabat al-Asad al-Waṭānīya)

POB 3639
Damascus
Tel.: 338255. Telex: 419143
Date of establishment: 1983
Status: National library
Conditions of access: Credentials required.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 19,900 (mostly Arabic; ca. 100 Persian; a few Turkish).
Description of collection: The State is trying to collect as many MSS as possible in this library, which has become one of the leading libraries in the Middle East. Its building is magnificent, well designed and well equipped with modern means of book and manuscript preservation. The library staff, well qualified and properly trained, is engaged in the restoration, maintenance and preservation of the MSS.

The collection is particularly strong in the following subjects: tafsir, ṣū‘ūr al-Qur‘ān, Hadith, history, biographies, language, grammar, Sufism, literature, medicine.

A large proportion of the collection came from the two cities of Damascus and Aleppo, the major centres of Islamic culture in Syria, which had many libraries and MSS, while the rest were transferred from various libraries and cultural centres all over Syria, or were donated to the library or purchased.

The first collection to be merged with the holdings of Maktabat al-Asad al-Waṭānīya in March 1985 was the 11,904 MSS of Dār al-Kutub al-Zāhirīya in Damascus. These retained the original shelf-marks which they bore in al-Zāhirīya. In Maktabat al-Asad al-
Waṭanīya they now bear the numbers from 1 to 11,904. They deal with Qur'anic sciences, Hadīth, figī, history, biography, philosophy, logic, poetry, linguistics, geography, medicine, mathematics, divination and related subjects.

Then the MSS of the private library of Sāmī al-Dāhiān in Aleppo were purchased from one of his heirs. These MSS are numbered from 11,905 to 12,013.

On 4/5/1987 about 722 MSS of the cultural centres of the provinces were merged with Maktabat al-Asad: 137 MSS of Al-Markaz al-ʿArabi al-Thaqāfī in Salāṭun, numbered from 12,052 to 12,118; one MS. of Al-Markaz al-ʿArabi al-Thaqāfī in Kafar Takbar, numbered 12,202; one MS. of Al-Markaz al-ʿArabi al-Thaqāfī in Idlib, numbered 12,203; 583 MSS of Al-Markaz al-ʿArabi al-Thaqāfī in Hamā, numbered from 12,208 to 12,401 and from 12,404 to 12,792. On the same date a large part of the collection of Al-Mudiriyya al-ʿAmm li-l-ʿĀthār wa-l-Matābih, totalling 230 MSS, were brought in: they bear the numbers from 12,793 to 13,031. The expatriate Ubū Salāma also donated more than 24 MSS to the library, where they bear the numbers from 13,064 to 13,072 and from 13,077 to 13,078 and 13,103 to 13,109.

Then on 20/8/1986 the MSS of the awqāf libraries of Aleppo, numbering about 3,672 MSS, were merged with the Library. These MSS were made up of the following collections: 1,643 MSS of Al-Madrassa al-Athmādiyya—previous shelfmarks 1 to 1,476—which now bear the numbers from 13,111 to 14,741 and from 18,911 to 18,913; 1,319 MSS of Al-Madrassa al-Uthmāniyya—previous shelfmarks 1,477 to 2,622—now numbered from 14,742 to 16,060; 1,168 MSS of Maktabat al-Awqāf al-Islāmiyya (which included MSS from Al-Madrassa al-Manṣūriyya and Al-Tākīyya al-Ikhāsīyya)—previous shelfmarks 2,623 to 3,792—which bear the numbers from 16,065 to 17,228; 203 MSS of Al-Maktaba al-Sidqiyya—previous shelfmarks 3,792 to 3,992—now numbered from 17,229 to 17,430; 126 MSS of Al-Maktaba al-Rifīqyya—previous shelfmarks 3,993 to 4,116—which bear the numbers from 17,431 to 17,556; 870 MSS of Al-Maktaba al-Khusravīyya wa-l-Mawlawīyya—previous shelfmarks 4,117 to 4,974—which are now numbered from 17,557 to 18,427; about 341 MSS of Al-Maktaba al-Waṭanīyyah—previous shelfmarks 4,975 to 5,246—which bear the numbers from 18,427 to 18,767. Additions to the awqāf register are 2 MSS from Al-Maktaba al-Uthmāniyya and 9 MSS from Al-Madrassa al-Athmādiyya.

Also merged were 13 MSS of the Ministry of Information, which bear in Maktabat al-Asad the numbers from 18,915 to 18,927; and a further 500 MSS donated or purchased were added to the collections of the library. These MSS bear dispersed numbers.

The MSS acquired by the Majmaʿ al-Lughā al-ʿArabiyya were moved with the Zāhirīya collections.

Former private collections which have come either intact or in part to the Asad Library are those of:
Abū ʿAbd Allāh al-ʿUlaymī (Damascus);
Abū al-Hādi Ḥashim (Damascus);
Abū al-Muhāsin al-Uṣūvānī (Damascus);
Abū ʿIṣā ʿAbd al-Ḥasanī (Damascus);
Abū al-Ghazzī (Damascus);
Abū al-Kuzbārī (Damascus);
Abū al-Ṭantāwī (Damascus).

Abū Dār al-Dīn al-Ḥasanī (Damascus);
Bayt al-Khaṭbī (Damascus);
Fakhr al-Dīn al-Ḥasanī (Damascus);
Ibn Badrān (Damascus);
Khaṭṭāt Mārūšā bend (Damascus).
Muhammad Saṭūr Ḥamāma (Damascus);
Rasūl al-Shāmī (Damascus).
Abū al-Sayyāb al-Jazzār (Aleppo).
Tāhir al-Jazzārī (Damascus).

See

1947. Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.


See the chapter: Dār al-Kutub al-Zahiriyya on pp. 16–17.


Published catalogues:


This catalogue describes most of the manuscripts which were accumulated from the ten libraries whose collections were united in the Zahiriyā library when it was founded in 1878: Al-Maktaba al-‘Umariyya, 662 MSS; Maktabat ‘Abd Allāh Pasha


al-Majma' al-İmîn min kull min al-kutubiyîn al-sûda: 'Ubayd, wa-
Hâshim wa-l-Qaraybih fî Tammûz 1927. Majallat al-Majma' al-
Includes a list of 52 MSS.

1928–32. Naﬁsî is Maktabat al-Tâkiyâ al-İkhlâsiyâ bi-Ḫalab. By
MUHAMMAD RÁGHIB AL-TâBáKH. Majallat al-Majma' al-İmîn al-
Lista 45 + 56 MSS now in the Asad Library.

1929. İhdâ' majmû'a makhtûţa ahdâhâ 'l-sayyid ÂMÎN AL-KHANJÎ
al-kutubî lâl Maktabat al-Majma'. By 'ABD AL-QÅDIR AL-MAGHIRÎ.
13 MSS.

1930. İhdâ' Maktabat al-Shaykh 'ABD ALLAH AL-KUSBARÎ lî-Dâr al-
Kutub al-Zâhirîyâ. Majallat al-Majma' al-İmîn al-İrâbî 10, 1930,
pp. 63–64.
Mentions 15 rare items of 115 MSS donated.

By ÂHSA AL-KASÂM. Majallat al-Majma' al-İmîn al-İrâbî 10, 1930,
pp. 251–252, 317–318 & 633–634; 11, 1931, pp. 119–120; 12,

1931. Al-makhtûţat allâfî 'tânâhâ al-Majma' al-İmîn al-İrâbî fî
hidâhî 'l-sana. By 'ABD AL-QÅDIR AL-MAGHIRÎ. Majallat al-Majma' 
Describes 5 MSS.

1931. Aus orientalischen Bibliotheken (III). By J. SCHICHT. Berlin (Ab-
handlungen der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1931: 
Phil.-Hist. Klasse, 1), 57pp. Reprinted in Beiträge zur Erschließung
der arabischen Handschriften in Istanbul und Anatolien. Dirâsât fîmâ
tahtuwañî maqtâackets İstanbul was-l-Anâdîl min al-makhtûţat al-İrâbîyâ.
Erster Band. Hrsg. Fuat Sezgin, Frankfurt am Main: Institut für
Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissenschaften an der Johann
Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, 1986 (Veröffentlichungen des Instituts
für Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissenschaften, Reihe B: Nachdrucke; Abteilung Handschriftenkunde, 1/1), pp. 666–721.
Includes descriptions of MSS in the Zâhirîyâ Library.

1931. Beiträge zur islamischen Literaturgeschichte. I. Studien zu
arabischen Handschriften aus Stambul, Konîa und Damaskus. By
der Erschließung der arabischen Handschriften in Istanbul und Anatolien.
Dirâsât fîmâ tahtuwañî maqtâackets Istanbul was-l-Anâdîl min al-makhtûţat al-
Arabîyâ. Erster Band. Hrsg. Fuat Sezgin, Frankfurt am Main: Insti-
tut für Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissenschaften an der
Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, 1986 (Veröffentlichungen
des Institutes für Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissen-
schaften, Reihe B: Nachdrucke; Abteilung Handschriftenkunde, 
1/1), pp. 749–785.
Includes 5 MSS in the Zâhirîyâ Library.

By 'ABD AL-QÅDIR AL-MAGHIRÎ. Majallat al-Majma' al-İmîn al-
İrâbî 12, 1932, pp. 319–320.
6 MSS.

1932. Makhtûţat al-Madrasa al-Uthmâniya bi-Ḫalab. By
MUHAMMAD RÁGHIB AL-TâBáKH. Majallat al-Majma' al-İmîn al-
İrâbî 12, 1932, pp. 470–477.
Includes a description of 13 MSS on taqísir and 25 MSS on Ḥudîth.

Majallat al-Majma' al-İmîn al-İrâbî, 12, 1932, p. 443.
Mentions 7 MSS.

1937. Hadiya karima li-makhtûţat qadîma. Majallat al-Majma' al-
İmîn al-İrâbî 13, 1937, p. 481.
22 MSS donated by MUHAMMAD BĀJAT AL-Þârî to Al-Khizâna
al-Zâhirîyâ.


The catalogue contains a detailed description of 445 MSS.


1955 – 56. Ṭalas (see Union catalogues above) lists many MSS from collections which are now in the Asad Library.


1999. See “Nawādir” under General above, which includes the library of Saʿīd Ḥamza, now in the Asad Library.


Full descriptions of 971 MSS: Qurʾān (maṣāḥif) 32, taṣawwā 137, ʿaraḍ 155, taṣfiṣ 427; ʿulūm al-Qurʾān 220.


The catalogue contains full descriptions of 654 MSS.


Full descriptions of 641 MSS.

1966. Medicinalia Arabiae: Studien über arabisches medizinische Hand- 
schriften in türkischen und syrischen Bibliotheken. By A. Dietrich. Gö-
tingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (Abhandlungen der Akademie 
der Wissenschaften in Göttingen: Philologisch-Historische Klasse, 
   Incl. detailed descriptions of Arabic medical MSS from Aleppo 
and Damascus, now in the Asad Library.

1966. Medical manuscripts at the Zahiriyah National Library. By 

1968–75. Mashaq maktahiyah . . . (see under Union catalogues above).

1969. Fihrist makhtuṣūt Dar al-Kutub al-Zahiriyah: ʿilm al-hay’a wa-
   Full descriptions of 403 MSS, including 382 Arabic, 16 Turkish 
and 5 Persian.

1969. Fihrist makhtuṣūt Dar al-Kutub al-Zahiriyah: al-tibb wa-l-
saydala. By SĀMĪ KHALAF HĀMĀRĪNA. Damascus. 652pp. [English 
title-page: Index of manuscripts on medicine, pharmacy, and allied 
sciences in the Zahiriyah Library, by SAMI K. HAMARNEH].

1969. Fihrist makhtuṣūt Dar al-Kutub al-Zahiriyah: ʿilm al-jughrāfiyya wa-
   Full descriptions of 198 Arabic & 2 Turkish MSS.

manuscripts. By AHMAD MUNZAVĪ. Tehran: Mu’assassah-i Farhangi-
i Miṣṭaqah’ī Regional Cultural Institute, 1348–1353 / 1969–1974
(Nashiriyah / R.C.D. Publication 14, 21, 22, 33, 38, 41). 5 vols. in 
   Incl. the Zahiriyah Library.

makhtuṣūt al-Hadith. By MUḤAMMAD NASĪR AL-DĪN AL-ALBĀ’I. 
Damascus. 526pp.

Brief descriptions of about 2,100 MSS, giving author, title, number 
of pages, and some remarks. It includes some manuscripts on 
other subjects such as: history, šī‘a, etc.

1970. Fihrist makhtuṣūt Dar al-Kutub al-Zahiriyah: al-falsafa wa-l-
   Descriptions of 377 Arabic and 3 Turkish MSS: philosophy 95, 
logic 186, ādāb al-belth 72 and history of philosophy 27.

1971. Notes on some public and semi-public libraries in the Near 
and Middle East containing Persian and other Moslem manu-
   Describes 3 Persian MSS in Zahiriyah collections.

   Detailed descriptions of 650 MSS, which cover the following sub-
jects: linguistics 199, eloquence 230, šarī’ah 67 and ṣafī 154.

   Detailed descriptions of 740 MSS.

   Descriptions of 153 MSS.

1973. Fihrist makhtuṣūt Dar al-Kutub al-Zahiriyah: al-tārīkh wa-
   Descriptions of 652 Arabic, one Persian and 12 Turkish MSS. 
At the end of the catalogue is a summary of the catalogue of YUSUF AL-
USHISH (1947) which is considered to be the first volume.

1975. Makhtuṣūt qayyima fī Maktubat Majmāʿ al-Lughah al-
706.
   80 MSS from the library of Shaykh MUḤAMMAD BAḌR AL-DĪN 
AL-HĀSĀN (d. 1935).
1976. See Union catalogue by Qata'īya.


1983. See “Al-makhtūṭat . . .” under Union catalogues above.


1984–86. Fihrist makhtūṭat Dār al-Kutub al-Ẓāhirīya: al-majāmī. By Yāsīn Muḥammad al-Sawwās. Damascus. 2 vols. 544; 488pp. Vol. 1 contains descriptions of 200 collective volumes, consisting of 1,124 books and treatises, including 563 mentioned for the first time; Vol. 2 describes ca. 238 volumes, consisting of 1,044 books and treatises, including 616 mentioned for the first time.


1986. See Al-munakah . . . under Union catalogues above. Most of these MSS are now in the Asad Library.


Reproduction of the general register of the Library’s manuscripts (11,904 MSS). It contains MS. number, title, author’s name, number of folios, date of copying (if known) and some remarks. It lists more than 700 majmi‘as of which 586 have been catalogued.


Unpublished catalogues:

Descriptive catalogue of 1,372 Arabic and 95 Persian MSS arranged by subject. Description includes title, author, dimensions, number of volumes and date of copying. Persian MSS are listed in an appendix. A microfilm copy is available in the Institute of Arab Manuscripts.

1956. Fihris makhtūt al-Madrasa al-ʾAbnadiyya fi Ḥalab. Dr Muhammad ʿAbd al-Ṭālās told Kūrēs ʿAwwād that he had completed this catalogue and that it was printed by the French Institute in Damascus, but a dispute between the Institute and Dr Ṭālās led to the burning of all copies.
A general register of the MSS of Al-ʾAbnadiyya library containing titles and authors.
A general register of the MSS of Al-Zāhiriyya library according to accession date and serial numbers, printed recently with additional remarks (see 1987 item above).
An incomplete author card catalogue of Al-Zāhiriyya library.
An old, undated catalogue of the anthologies in Al-Zāhiriyya library, compiled by members of the library staff. 48pp. The catalogue gives details of the titles of books and treatises in each anthology, their authors, number of pages, dimensions and remarks.
A comprehensive card catalogue is being prepared.

Badr al-Dīn al-Ḥasanī collection

Status: Private
Description of collection: Muḥammad Baqr al-Dīn al-Ḥasanī (d. 1935) was the greatest muḥaddith (traditionist) in Damascus. His library contained a number of MSS and valuable books. Muḥammad Riyyād al-Malīḥ listed 79 MSS of the collection, which were all donated to Al-Zāhiriyya. There remained 32 more manuscripts, but these may have been sold by now.

Maktabat al-Batḥiyarkiya al-Urshawḥulkiyya (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate library)

Status: Ecclesiastical library
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 447.
Description of collection: The library had at one time about 400 MSS, some of them on parchment, but in 1860 a fire burnt Al-Kanīsā al-Maryamiyya (St Mary’s Church) in Damascus and destroyed all of them. Archibishop Malautus II (d. 1906) ordered that the church should be renovated and reorganised. Manuscripts of all kinds, whether religious, literary or historical, were gathered into it. A part of the collection was later donated to Maktabat al-Majmaʿ al-ʿImrābī and a number of the MSS were presented to the Russian Tsar and are now in the Institute of Oriental Studies in St Petersburg (q.v., Vol. II, p. 683). Meanwhile, the Church received private collections as donations from various people including Patriarch Grēgorios, Archbishop Makariyuv Samʿān and Dimitri Shaḥjāda al-Šaḥbāzī. The latter’s collection consisted of more than 600 MSS, according to ʿĪsā ʿl-ʾMaʾlūf. Most of the MSS are on the Christian faith.

See
1947. Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.

Published catalogue:

Unpublished catalogue:
1981. Al-makhṭūṭāt al-ʻArabīya fi Maktabat Baṭrīyarkhāyat Aṭṭālqā ṭa wa-
Arranged according to serial numbers, and indexed according to
subjects, writers, translators and scribes. It consists of: the Bible (6
MSS), rituals (17), Popes and church fathers (90), biographies of
saints (9), theology (20), history and miscellaneous topics (37), juris-
diction and dogma (25), literature (30), philosophy and logic (6),
and sciences (12).

Ḥāmid ibn ʻAdīb al-Taqī collection

Description of collection: Al-Taqī (d. 1967), was a jurist and man of let-
ters. He was a disciple of Jamāl al-Dīn al-Qāsimī. His library con-
tains an unknown number of MSS.

Jamāl al-Dīn al-Qāsimī collection

Status: Private
Description of collection: Al-Qāsimī (d. 1941) was an active ḥilāl, tradi-
tionist, jurist and theologian. He was selective in his purchase of
MSS. Recent information is that al-Qāsimī’s collection, including
its rare items, is in the possession of one of his heirs, Sād al-
Qāsimī, and consists of more than 200 MSS in different fields of
knowledge.

Jāmi‘at Dimashq (Damascus University)

See
1990. Al-makhṭūṭāt al-ʻArabīya fi maktabat Jāmi‘at Dimashq. Al-

Al-Maktaba al-Ajurriya

In front of Jāmi‘ al-Tawba in ʿAyyub al-ʻUqayba.
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are on Ḥanafī fīq.

Unpublished catalogue:
A special catalogue was made by Muḥammad Riyād al-Māliḥ.

Muḥdiriyat Iḥyā’ wa-Nashr al-Tūrāth al-ʻArabī

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,300 (microfilms).
Description of collection: Most of the originals were in collections in
Aleppo which are now in the Asad Library.

See
1968–75. Nashra maktabāt (under Union catalogues above).

Muhammad Riyād al-Māliḥ

Status: Private

Unpublished catalogue:
1984. Lāḥa bi-fihrist maktabat Muḥammad Riyād al-Māliḥ al-
khaṣṣa bi-Dimashq. Damascus.
A handwritten catalogue.

Muḥsin al-ʻAmin al-ʻĀmilī al-Husaynī collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 23.
Description of collection: The owner was one of the notable Shi‘i
scholars (d. 1952), a jurist and poet.

Published catalogue:
1944. Baṭr al-kutub al-makhṭūṭa allati fi biyāzatinā. By Muḥsin al-
ʻAmin al-Husaynī. Majallat al-Majma‘ al-ʻIlmi al-ʻArabī 19, 1944,
pp. 566–567.
Lists 16 MSS.

Sharīf al-Khaṭīb collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30.
Description of collection: Sharīf ibn ʻAbd Allāh al-Khaṭīb (d. 1950)
was a scholar and a revolutionary patriot.
Most of the MSS are on Ḥanafī fīq.
HAMÁ

In Hamá there used to be a large number of MSS, but the greater part of them are now in the Asad Library in Damascus (583 MSS). The most important collections were those of Al-Maktaba al-Khayriya al-ʿAmma (97 MSS), Al-Maktaba al-Nuriya (ca. 200 MSS), Maktabat Dar al-ʿIlm wa-ʾl-Tarbiya, Muhammad Hāniʿ al-Kilâni al-Hamawi and Saʿīd al-Naṣīni (The Mufti of Hamâ, whose library contained 64 MSS on various subjects).

These are also other private libraries kept by some of the old families of Hamâ such as Adib al-Ḥawrâni, Muṣīd Luṭf, Al-Kilâni and Al-Shaykh ʿArif al-Qushajî.

See
1947. Ṭarakāli under Union catalogues above.

1976. Taqrîr ... under Union catalogues above.

HIMS (HOMS)

General

The libraries of Hims were abundant, but only a few of the MSS have survived in the possession of some old families of the city.

See
1920. Zayyāt under Union catalogues above.

1947. Ṭarakāli under Union catalogues above.

Al al-Atâsî

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 400.
Description of collection: These manuscripts treat a number of subjects, including literature, history, medicine, linguistics, astronomy and religion.

Al-Hâkimi collection

Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: more than 200.
Description of collection: The manuscripts cover various subjects.

Al-Maktaba al-Jamâliya


Al-Maktaba al-Jundiya

Description of collection: This library contains old and rare MSS.

Muṭrâniyat al-Rûm al-Urthawdhuks (Greek Orthodox Archbishopric)

Status: Ecclesiastical library
Description of collection: The manuscripts in this old library were on history and literature, but part of the collection has been dispersed inside the country and abroad.

Maktabat al-Sûrâni al-Kathawliks (Syrian Catholic Library)

Description of collection: A modern library which was established by the archbishop Theophilos Yûsuf who supplied it with a number of books. It contains an old MSS collection which was kept a long time ago in the monastery of Mâr Mūsâ in the city of Al-Nabk.

Published catalogue:

Maktabat al-Sûrâni al-Urthawdhuks (Syrian Orthodox Library)

Description of collection: One of the rarest and biggest private collec-
tions of MSS and books, but its contents were abused by many. Whatever could be saved of the MSS of Dayr al-Za'farān were taken to this library after the Turks seized it in the First World War.

**Maktabat al-Thānawiyya al-Shar'iyya**

*Status:* Public
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 9.

**Latakia (al-Lādhīqiyya)**

**General**

See 1976. Taqīr ... under Union catalogues above.

**Al-Ashari collection**

*Status:* Private family library
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 300.

**Al-Imām collection**

*Status:* Private family library

**Al-Mahmūdi collection**

*Status:* Private family library
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 50.

**Muḥammad al-Tawīl**

*Status:* Private
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 10.
*NB:* These MSS may have been sold.

**Al-Šāfi collection**

*Status:* Private family library

**Ma'lūlā (Maaloula)**

There used to be many valuable MSS in this village, but a large number have been sold or otherwise dispersed, and only a few now remain in private houses and zabijas. Most are psalters or liturgical books.


1947. Ṭarrāzī under Union catalogues above.


**Sīdnapā (Saidnaya)**

Dayr Sīdnapā 'Ī-Baṭriyarkī (Patriarchal Monastery; formerly Dayr al-Shaghūra)

*Status:* Monastic library
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 16 (Arabic).
*Description of collection:* Biblical, liturgical and hagiographical texts.

This library once possessed about 150 MSS, but most have been destroyed, sold or otherwise dispersed.

See 1902. Zavyāt (under Union catalogues above), pp. 113–120.


The section “Makhtūţat al-Daŷr”, pp. 257–268, describes the 16 MSS.

Published catalogues:

YABRŪD
Maktabat Matrāniyyat al-Rūm al-Kāthawli (Greek Catholic Archbishop’s Library)

Status: Ecclesiastical library
Description of collection: Mostly Christian religious texts, from the library of Archbishop Gharayghawriyaws (Grégorios) ‘Aṭā (1815–99), including a number of his own works. Much of the former collection, however, has been destroyed, sold or lost.

Published catalogues:
1902. Zayyāt (under Union catalogues above), pp. 177–188.

Catalogue of 32 Christian Arabic MSS.

More descriptions and discussion of the MSS.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


I.d. Catalogues, descriptions of manuscripts. I. Manuscripts: general, pp. 27–33. Syria, p. 33, no. 1034; also 1041.


Sûrîya, p. 45.


Sûrîya, pp. 149–155.

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