TOGO

by

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INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ADJEDE (KRI-KRI)
Mal. Yakubu Sidiqqi

Madrassatul Nurul Huda
AZ 317
Date of establishment: 1989
Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 86 (Arabic; Hausa).
Description of collection: This collection was established in 1989 when the owner returned from Talata Mafara, Nigeria, where he had worked as an Islamic teacher. About 60% of the MSS were copied by the owner, 30% were bought from booksellers and 10% were said to have been given to him by friends. About 54% of the entire collection is by Nigerian authors, mostly copied by the owner and of historiographical significance. Some 30% of the MSS are anonymous works, on general Islamic subjects, which include fragments of unidentified books as well as common anthologies of the religious texts which are popular or famous among West African scholars. There are some fragmentary copies of the Qur’ān and the Tafsīr fālālayn. The rest of the MSS, representing about 16%, have more to do with charms, medicine and astrology.

There are some very impressive MSS, with illumination and fine calligraphy. The collection is well preserved. Rarities include: Irshād al-sāliḥ by Ibn Ḥaṣib al-‘Arsākir; Uṣūl al-wulūdān by Yahyā ’l-Qurtubi, undated; and Ḥāfiz al-Aṣīda al-saghdā by Al-Sanūsī.

Unpublished catalogue:
A list describes about 72 MSS in the collection.

BAFILO
Qasim Anas

Qasim Anas quarters
c/o the Imam of the Central Mosque of Bafilo
Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 57 (Arabic).

Description of collection: Over half of the MSS were copied between 1830 and 1950 by copyists of different nationalities in West Africa. The collection was bequeathed to Mal. Qasim Anas by his grandfather. The collection is kept on a table and is well preserved.

The collection covers the following subjects: history (6), astronomy (4), medicine (1), Qur'an (incomplete) (2), tafsir (incomplete) (1), Hadith (7), fiqh (6), tafqīla (9), correspondence (10), fatwās (2), sermons (1).

Several MSS are beautifully written and illustrated, but the collection lacks rarities.

The collection is uncatalogued.

KETAU

Alhaji Bukari Ayeva

B. P. 267

Date of establishment: 1968

Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 97 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection is from both Ghanaian and Ivorian sources. The owner, who claims to be a distant relation of a paramount Chief of Sokoode, Alhaji Yusuf Ayeva, studied in Wa (Ghana) and Bondoukou (Ivory Coast), where he acquired these MSS. Some of them are handwritten copies of published works of scholars such as Ahmaddu Baba, Abdullahi Fodio, Sheshu Usmad Fodio and Ali bin Ahmad.

The subjects covered are as follows: prosody (5), praise of the Prophet (5), Qur'an (1), science and occultism (27), fiqh (9), i'tidal (13), poetry (7), education (10), tafsir (incomplete) (1), grammar (1), history (18).

About 25% of the MSS in the collection are undated. The dated MSS were either copied or written between the 18th and 20th centuries. There are only a few items of interest.

The collection is tied together and preserved on a reading table in the study of the owner. It is dusty, and some MSS have been affected by bookworm and termites. The owner, however, claims that the damage was done a very long time ago.

There are two rarities: Majmu' al-khulafa' by 'Ali ibn Ahmad ibn Abu Bakr, undated; and Mukhtasar Khattīb by Khālid ibn Ishāq, copied in 1974.

It is not known whether this collection is catalogued.

Alfa Mustapha bin Ahmad bin Mustapha Saghanugu

c/o Ketu Jumu’ah Mosque

Date of establishment: 1951

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 218 (Arabic; Dyula; Hausa).

Description of collection: Alfa Mustapha, a descendant of the famous Saghanugu family in West Africa, claims to have copied personally about two-thirds of the collection. He purchased some from undisclosed sources in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.

There are a few old MSS in this collection, dating as far back as the 15th century. They are kept on a plastic bookshelf. Some have lost their bindings while others have been affected by damp and bookworm. According to the owner, restoration work on the collection was concluded about two years ago.

The MSS in this collection are on the following subjects: correspondence (26), theology (21), Hadith (13), fiqh (18), tasawwuf (29), jihād (11), Shari'a (18), poetry (13), mathematics (6), astronomy (12), philosophy (10), praise of the Prophet (7), science and occultism (24), medicine (10).

Rarities are: (i) Sharh li-nazma fi 'l-ikhtilaf al-ωaq'a fi farsī al-fiqh by ibn Salīm Muḥammad Yaḥyā, undated; (ii) Fath al-waliyīn fi sharh al-naskh wa'l-namādīj by Mukhtār al-Kūnī ibn Ahmad, undated; and (iii) Risāla l-ilā Fandukhī: Sallām Ma'inī by Mukhtār al-Kūnī ibn Ahmad, undated.

Unpublished catalogue:
A list describes 400 MSS by prominent scholars of West African origin, although this collection numbers only 218 MSS.

LOME

Sarkin Hausawa

Zongo
Although the letters belong to different centuries and treat widely different matters, they are compiled in similar style, and show the wide range of problems that confronted the rulers, and their relationship with the ‘ulama’. Fifteen MSS concern biography, while only 8 are on purely religious subjects, including two volumes of a 19th-century 30-volume tasrif, written by Ma Diaramate Kala, the Qadi of Lat Dior.

The collection is well preserved, and is housed in a mud-brick room. It is kept, together with printed Arabic texts, in the owner’s trunk which now serves as his book container. Two MSS require repair work, however, as they have been affected by damp.

The collection is uncatalogued.

SOKODE
Alhaji Abdullah Taraore collection

Date of establishment: 1850
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By permission of the late owner’s family.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 252 (Arabic; Dyula; Fulbe; Hausa).
Description of collection: According to family sources, the collection was established in the 1850s by Imam Abdullah Taraore, the Imam of Dedreau, now part of Sokode, who pioneered the Islamisation process in Kotokoli. There is no information about the source of the collection, which is retained as a family heirloom.

The MSS are mainly standard classical texts of Muslim education, such as poetry, fiqh, ta’wil, Qur’an and grammar. MSS on Mālikī and Hanafi fiqh number 78; followed by ta’wil (39); pre-Islamic poetry (20); Qur’an and related studies (18); and grammar (16). There are also texts on Sufism (19) and in praise of the Prophet (12). There are fragmentary texts on charms, medicine, etc. It is interesting to note that most of the MSS are written in Egyptian or Eastern hands.

The collection is neatly preserved in a wooden box in a spacious room in the late owner’s family residence. Almost all of the MSS are in perfect condition. Most were written in the 19th and 19th centuries. They are well illustrated, with fine calligraphy.

Rarities include: Tuhfat al-hukmām by Ibn ʿAbī Daʿūd; Al-Muqaddima by Al-ʿĀshimūnī, copied in 1840; and Qawā'id al-salā (anonymous). It is not known whether this collection is catalogued.
Alhaji Sufyan Armaya‘u

B.P. 207

Date of establishment: 1930

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 127 (Arabic; Hausa).

Description of collection: Alhaji Sufyan Armaya‘u’s collection was acquired from various sources within Togo and Ghana. Some MSS were bequeathed to him by his late father and teacher, Mal Armaya‘u, who had lived in Ghana for decades. He also purchased or copied MSS in Togo and Ghana.

The collection is in mixed languages and possesses unique manuscripts which have a bearing on northern Ghanaian and Togolese history.

The MSS are on the following subjects: history (15), Sufism (21), fiqh (19), ‘aqida (8), science and occultism (25), philosophy (1), adab (6), poetry (11), praise of the Prophet (3), hadith (10), sermons (7), ta’zir (1).

The collection is well preserved, and housed in a study room. There are five manuscripts of artistic significance, and some old ones dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. A few MSS are undated.

The rarities in the collection are: Tajrid Jalidah by Al-Mahalili and Al-Suyuti and Al-Shafi‘ by Iyad ibn Musa.

It is not known whether the collection has been catalogued or not.

Shaykh Yusuf Galadima

c/o B.P. 10

Date of establishment: 1974

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 64 (Arabic).

Description of collection: This collection is preserved on a wooden bookshelf in the owner’s living room. With few exceptions, the MSS are in perfect condition. Some are said to have been donated to him by his students, who might have copied the MSS themselves. They are mostly dated between the 16th and 15th centuries, but some are not dated.

The subjects are as follows: astrology (3), philosophy (2), Sufism (15), praise of the Prophet (2), poetry (7), mathematics (4), ta’zir (12), fiqh (9), Qur’ân and related studies (2), Hadith (1), grammar (7).

Rarities are: Akhbar waala, Zabarna da sawar, anonymous, dated 1952; the Mawwath of Imam Malik ibn Anas, copied in 1895; and Fiqhat Asma‘ al-Awaliq, anonymous and undated.

This collection is uncatalogued.