UNITED KINGDOM

by

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1990
PREFATORY NOTE

This survey is based on data gathered in early 1990, but it has been partially updated from information published or otherwise obtained since then. We are grateful to Jill Butterworth, who compiled most of the information on the Cambridge collections, and to David James, who supplied the entry for Belfast.

UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS

Published:


Includes specimen facsimiles and descriptions of Arabic and Persian MSS in London (British Museum [now British Library] & Royal Asiatic Society [one now in Nasser D. Khalili Collection]), Oxford (Bodleian Library) and Cambridge (University Library).


Detailed descriptions, with extensive quotations, of the contents of Deccani Urdu MSS in London (British Library, Royal Asiatic Society), Cambridge (University and colleges), Oxford (Bodleian Library) and Edinburgh (University Library).


SOAS (London), Royal Asiatic Society (London) and the author’s own collection now dispersed. Detailed descriptions.


1967. Persian miniature painting from collections in the British Isles. By B.W. Robinson. London: Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, [for the] Victoria and Albert Museum. 120pp. 52 plates. Includes items from 9 British collections. Describes paintings rather than manuscripts as such; references are given below only under collections for which published catalogues are not otherwise available.


Includes MSS in Achehnese and Malay in Arabic script. Descriptions are of variable length, with short notes for minor items. Full entries contain full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying; index. Not all of these are codices. Covers collections in Oxford (Bodleian Library, Institute of Social Anthropology), Bristol (City Museum), London (British Library, India Office Library [now British Library], Royal Asiatic Society, SOAS), Edinburgh (University Library), Glasgow (University Library), Manchester (John Rylands University Library) & Cambridge (British & Foreign Bible Society [now University Library], Emmanuel College, University Library). An important supplement was published in 1982 (see below).


Includes items from 16 British collections. Describes paintings rather than manuscripts as such; references are given below only under collections for which published catalogues are not otherwise available.


A survey of Urdu manuscripts held by the major Oriental libraries in the UK.


Incl. holdings in British collections: Birmingham (Selly Oak); Cambridge (University Library); London (British Museum [now British Library], India Office Library and Records [now British Library]); Manchester (John Rylands Library); Oxford (Bodleian Library).


Lists holdings and collections of private papers and documents, but a few Islamic codices are mentioned in places.


Important and substantial additions and amendments to the 1977 Union catalogue (see above), covering Malay and other Muslim Indonesian MSS in London (British Library, Wellesie Institute, SOAS, Royal Asiatic Society), Cambridge (University Library) and Manchester (John Rylands University Library).


Includes a descriptive survey of Arabico-Malagasy MSS in British institutions.


Includes manuscript collections.

Includes a survey of Arabico-Malagasy MSS in British collections.


Unpublished:
*Union catalogue of Urdu manuscripts*. By Salim Quraishi. In preparation at the British Library (Oriental & India Office Collections), q.v. under LONDON below.

**INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS**

**ABERDEEN**

**Aberdeen University Library**

Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Library, Kings College, Aberdeen, AB9 2UB
Tel.: (01224) 272598. Telex: 73458 UNIBIN G. Fax: (01224) 487048
Date of establishment: 1495
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing or by telephone to the Head of the Department of Special Collections and Archives. Appointment required.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 34 (7 Arabic; 16 Persian; 2 Turkish; 9 unknown).
Description of collection: The collection includes many classics of Persian literature, and a varied assortment of Arabic MSS, of which two are Qurāns. In addition to the items listed in James’s catalogue, the library has a note of two Turkish MSS: a 19th-century tract on the months (MS. 1,074) and a Persian grammar bound with a copy of poems by Jalālī, both 17th-century (MS. 1,075); also a copy of Sā’ī’s works dated 1822/3 (MS. 2,051), a 19th-century Arabic writing-book (MS. 1,076), and a 17th-century Arabic commentary on the Qurān (MS. 1,073).

**ABERYSTWYTH**

**National Library of Wales**

Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 3BU, Wales
Tel.: (01970) 623816. Telex: 35165. Fax: (01970) 615709
Date of establishment: 1907
Status: National library
Conditions of access: Reader’s ticket or temporary reader’s pass may be obtained on production of official identification. Appointment not required.

Open Monday to Friday 09.30–18.00, Saturday 09.30–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 27 (5 Arabic; 21 Persian; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: Most of the collection is composed of the 17 Persian MSS brought from India by Archdeacon Benjamin Mulingsham. These are mainly late 18th-century in date and literary in content, or miscellanies. There is also an excellent and artistic copy of *Maʿāshih-i ʿAliyah*, the famous Persian commentary on the Qurān by Ḥusayn Vāʿez Kāšīrī, dated 1581. There is also NLW minor deposit 1410A: Arabic MS. Qurān in the Tunisian style of Maghribi script, dating from the late 18th or early 19th century.

Published catalogues:
Describes 21 Persian, 2 Arabic, 1 Urdu giving full title and

Describes 2 Islamic MSS received at Aberystwyth after publication of Erró’s catalogue: no. 4,423 (a Qur’ān) and no. 109,981 (a dictionary of names in Arabic and Persian).

Unpublished catalogue:
1972. Hand-list of MSS in the NLW in or relating to the Semitic languages. Typescript.

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth: Hugh Owen Library

University College of Wales, Penglais, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 3DZ, Wales
Tel.: (01970) 622391. Telex: 3518 ABYWCW G. Fax: (01970) 617172
Date of establishment: 1872
Status: University library

Conditions of access: Non-members of the College may, on written application to the Librarian, be permitted to use the Library for reference purposes. Appointment not required, but 24 hours’ notice should be given before MSS are to be consulted.

MSS may not be consulted on Saturdays nor after 17.00.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 6 (4 Persian; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: 3 MSS (17th–18th centuries) are parts of the ‘Iyār-ī Dānish of Asūr ‘l-Fā‘al ibn Mubārah. One of the Turkish MSS is a book of inshā’, chiefly correspondence between the French Ambassador to the Sublime Porte and various officials, 1709–1723. There are also an autograph letter from Sultan Pasha, and 5 Arabic, 1 Persian, and 1 Turkish fragments.

Unpublished catalogue:
These MSS are listed in the inventory of the Library’s manuscript collection.

ALNWICK

Duke of Northumberland’s Collections of Manuscripts

Estates Office, Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1NQ
Tel.: (01665) 510777. Fax: (01665) 510876
Status: Private collection

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Archivist, with letter of introduction from an academic institution. An appointment is necessary, and at least 14 days’ notice is required.

Open Thursday and Friday 10.00–16.30.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (5 Arabic in numerous volumes; 2 Persian), plus leaves & documents.
Description of collection: A copy of Al-ʻUkāb al-zākhir wa ʿl-lubāb al-fākhīr by Al-Saghānī dated 653 AH, in ten volumes. Also the manuscript copy of Lakh’s Lexicon in 40 volumes, and a brief Arabic treatise on Coptic grammar (19th-century). The Persian MSS are Yūsuf ‘al-Zalaykā by Jāmī (a 17th-century copy), and Behr-ī Dānish of ʻInāvat Allah Kamū (also 17th-century). The collection includes a Turkish firman and some calligraphic leaves and handwriting exercises.

Unpublished catalogue:
Typescript catalogue.

BELFAST

Queens University Library

Special Collections, The University Library, Queens University, Belfast, BT7 1LS
Tel.: (01232) 245133
Status: University library

Conditions of access: Access is normally obtainable by writing in advance. The material is available 5 days a week, 09.00–17.30 in term time, 09.00–17.30 in vacation. The Collection is closed on Saturdays, but arrangements can be made to examine MSS then by special appointment.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 54 (1 Arabic; 53 Persian).
Description of collection: The Islamic manuscripts are part of the general manuscript collection in the Main Building of the Library. They are kept in scientifically controlled conditions and are in good condition. They are either Persian or Indo-Persian, and the collection seems to have been formed in India during the 19th century. For an analysis of subjects covered, see the particulars of the catalogue below.

The earliest manuscript is dated 1031 (1626) (Tafsīr of Khaḍżānī, MS. 3) and the latest 1220 (1805) (Muḥammad Abūn, Kūh al-Māzān, MS. 43). Also of interest is MS. 27: Volume 3 of the Iṣḥāqīsāf al-Jahānīsī by Muḥammad Khān, which deals with the reign of Jahāngīr (1605–27). This volume was copied in Awrangzīb in 1078 (1667). The work was published in the Bibliotheca Indica series in 1865. There is also a copy of the Raqqāt-i Ṭālamūsī, an extensive collection of the official correspondence of Awrangzīb (1658–1707), completed in 1683. The copy is dated 1199 (1687), MS. 42.

There is in addition a copy of the Qurʾān, which is undated but of 18th/19th-century appearance. A work on calligraphy is bound in with MS. 22.

Unpublished catalogues:
There is an unpublished typewritten catalogue, which gives author, title, details of copying and provenance, if known, and occasional bibliographical details. The author is unknown, and the catalogue, although brief, is competently produced. It is divided into the following sections: Poetry and Stories: 24 MSS; History and Geography: 7 MSS; Ethics and Sufism: 9 MSS; Insha and Grammar: 3 MSS; Medicine and Cookery: 5 MSS; Unclassified: 5 MSS.

These last must be later acquisitions because they fall into the above categories: one manuscript on history, a medical work and three literary manuscripts.

BIRMINGHAM
Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham

PO Box 363, Birmingham, B15 2TT

Description of collection: The Centre has an uncatalogued collection of microfilms of Arabic MSS.

Selly Oak Colleges Library
Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham B29 6LQ
Tel.: 0121-472–4231
Date of establishment: 1929
Status: Privately funded academic research library
Conditions of access: Appointment not essential, but advance notice would be helpful.
Open Monday to Friday 09.00–17.30 in term-time; Monday to Friday 09.00–17.00 in vacations.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,307 (2,286 Arabic; 17 Persian; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: This is the largest collection of Islamic MSS in Britain, and the most important item is a copy dated AD 830 of the Acts of Thomas. The Islamic MSS cover a wide field of Islamic learning: among the more interesting are:
(i) Kufic Qurʾāns dated 8th/9th and 9th/10th century CE (both incomplete);
(ii) an apparently unique copy of a prose Tafsīr by Al-Ghazzī al-
Ṣāmı';
(iii) the only known copy of Frāh al-qiraḍāt al-shawwādhī by Al-
Ukbarī;
(iv) possibly the oldest known copy of Al-Bukhārī's Sahīh;
(v) an apparently unknown commentary by Al-Sūrūṭi on Al-
Rajhi's Al-wujūza al-Rahbīya.

See 1961. The Islamic Arabic manuscripts in the Mingana collection.

General description of the Islamic collection, with a note on the most interesting items.

The collection has been published on microfiches as The Mingana collection of Syrian and Arabic manuscripts by Inter Documentation Company, Leiden, Netherlands (Christian and Islamic Arabic MSS available separately).

Published catalogues:
1936. Catalogue of the Mingana collection of manuscripts now in the possession of the Trustees of the Woodbrooke Settlement, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Detailed descriptions of 120 Arabic and 15 Syriac MSS (nos. 607–622): full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, with indexes and *incipits*.


Detailed descriptions of 152 Arabic (nos. 121–272) and 40 Syriac (nos. 623–662): full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, with indexes and *incipits*.


2,016 Arabic MSS. Less detailed than the preceding volumes, but gives full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, style of script, date of copying, index, *incipits*; no copyists’ names or places of copying.

1967. See Union catalogue by Robinson for three Persian illustrated MSS.

1977. The exhibition catalogue by Hillebrand (see under Union catalogues above) describes three illustrated leaves from the Persian MSS.

1979. See Union catalogue by Shiloh for Arabic musical MSS.

Uncatalogued MSS:
Persian and Turkish MSS are uncatalogued, apart from the exhibited leaves mentioned above.

**BRISTOL**

Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery

Queen’s Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL.
Tel.: (0117) 39223571
Status: Municipal museum
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Malay).
Description of collection: Copy of *Hikayat Nabi Allah Yasuf*, dated 1229 [1814].

Published catalogue:

Bristol University Library

Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, BS8 1TJ
Tel.: (0117) 39303030. Telex: 449174
Date of establishment: 1909
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Proof of identity and academic status required.
No appointment necessary.
Open weekdays 09.00–17.00, or by prior appointment.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 7 (4 Arabic; 1 Persian; 2 unknown).
Description of collection: The collection contains Quraʾān, a commentary on the preface to the *Miṣbāḥ* by Al-Muṭarrijī on grammar, a 17th-century MS. of Al-Wardī, and a *Sharefūmah* of Nīzāmī. These MSS are not catalogued; one is incomplete and unidentified.

Unpublished catalogue:
A sketchy list is available at the library.
CAMBRIDGE

General

Published catalogue:
1922. *A supplementary hand-list of the Muhammadan manuscripts, including all those written in the Arabic character, preserved in the libraries of the University and Colleges of Cambridge*. By E.G. Browne. Cambridge.

Includes 812 University Library manuscripts and 773 from 13 different Colleges of the University. The codicological details given are: title, author in reasonable detail, subject usually indicated, language, date of compilation, name of scribe, style of script, data and place of copying. Arrangement is by title in Arabic script; indexed by author in roman script; further indexed by classmark.

Unpublished catalogue:

Describes 446 MSS, of which 169 are not in the published catalogues.

Ancient India and Iran Trust Library

Brooklands House, 23 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, CB2 2BG
Tel.: (01223) 358641. Fax: (01223) 61125
Date of establishment: 1978
Status: Private research library
Conditions of access: Readers admitted on application by letter or telephone.

Open daily by arrangement.
*Total number of Islamic MSS: 109 (12 Arabic; 7 Malay; 1 Pashito; 84 Persian; 1 Turkish; 4 Urdu).*
*Description of collection: The Library's holdings consist of the personal collections of Sir Harold Bailey and the late Professor Joan van Lothuzen. One of the Persian MSS is a fine illustrated copy of Firdawsi's *Shahnamah*. The Malay MSS are of the 19th century and formerly belonged to D.F.A. Hervey (1849–1911); some were copied by him.*

Cambridge University: Faculty of Oriental Studies Library

Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA
Tel.: (01223) 335111 or 335112. Fax: (01223) 335110
Status: University departmental library
Conditions of access: Apply to Librarian with credentials.

Open: Monday – Friday 08.45–17.30, Saturday 09.30–13.00 (term-time); Monday – Friday (only) 09.00–13.00, 14.00–17.00 (vacations).
*Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Turkish).*
*Description of collection: These manuscripts were acquired recently as part of the Niyazi Berkes collection. One is a Sufi text, with marginal notes on the Naqshabandi order, dated 1240 [1824/25].*

Unpublished catalogue:
1990. See the union list by Beller-Hann (under General above).

Cambridge University Library

Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR
Tel.: (01223) 333000. Telex: 81395. Fax: (01223) 333160
Date of establishment: ca. 1425 CE
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Reader's ticket issued to scholars presenting an academic introduction and official identification. To consult the MSS of the British & Foreign Bible Society (see below), an appointment should be made with the Society's Librarian at the Library.
Open Monday – Friday 09.30–18.45 (for Manuscripts Reading...
Room; Admissions Office normally 09.30–12.30, 14.00–16.30, Saturday 09.30–12.45.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 4,300 (ca. 1,910 Arabic; 103 Malay; 8 Pashto; 1,733 Persian; 451 Turkish/Turkic; 85 Urdu; ca. 10 others), plus thousands of fragments and documents.

NB: These figures include four collections belonging to other institutions but permanently housed in the Library (see below).

Description of collection: The collections have been built by donation and purchase since 1632, and represent most branches of learning in the Islamic world. Many of the noteworthy items are described in the published catalogues. Some particular areas of interest are: the manuscripts collected by the Dutch scholar T. Erpenius, including an early Persian 10g5, approximately 300 codices collected by the Swiss Arabist J.L. Burckhardt, including early and elegant copies of Arabic classical literature and history; approaching 500 manuscripts collected by E.G. Browne, including many diwans of Persian poetry which he used in writing A literary history of Persia (London & Cambridge, 1902–24; several reprints), and medical texts; and, in general, many codices used in the edition of published texts.

There are also two major collections of fragments: ca. 996 Arabic papyrus and paper fragments in the Michaelides collection, and an as yet unknown number of items of Islamic interest being identified among the 140,000 fragments of Judaico-Arabic and Hebrew from the Cairo Genizah. For an account of some of the latter, see


The Library also houses, on permanent deposit, the collections of the British and Foreign Bible Society (including an early Kufic fragment, later Qur’ans, the Turkic Tarikh-i Rasid of Mirza Haydar and Bible translations in a number of Muslim languages); Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (the Francis Hodder collection, of 19th-century South Asian provenance, in which poetical and historical texts predominate); Eton College (the Pott collection—but some MSS remain at the College, q.v. under ETON below); and King’s College, Cambridge (also the Pott collection, which was divided between the two colleges by the eponymous donor: it was originally assembled in India in the 18th century by A.-L.-H. Polier and contains

diwans of Persian poetry and some important historical texts).

For further information on the history, provenance and cataloguing of the Library’s Islamic MSS, see


Includes much information on the acquisition of Islamic MSS.


Includes some information on the acquisition of Islamic MSS.


Summary of information arranged according to provenance or previous ownership.


Leaflet listing published catalogues of the Library’s Arabic, Malay, Pashto, Persian, Turkish and other MSS, and giving a key to unpublished information available.

Published catalogues:


Inaccurate and inadequate; superseded by the 1900 Hand-list of Browne (see below).

1875–83. See Facsimiles (under Union catalogues above).


These MSS were acquired by Browne and are now in the University Library (see 1932 below). The introduction to this catalogue gives an account of their previous owners and the manner of their acquisition.

1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above) for 812 University Library MSS, plus some then in Corpus Christi and King’s Colleges, now kept in the University Library.


1932. See Union catalogue by Hashim for details of Deccani Urdu MSS in the University Library, Corpus Christi & King’s College collections.

This covers Arabic and Persian manuscripts in the University Library only (despite title). It is arranged by classmark, with an index by author and title in roman script. Codicological details given are: title, author in reasonable detail, subject usually indicated, language, date of compilation, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying.

1965. See Union catalogue by Blumhardt & MacKenzie for the Pashto MSS.

1972. See Union catalogue by Taib bin Osman for a list of Malay MSS.


1977. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve for Malay & other Indonesian MSS.

British & Foreign Bible Society, p. 105; Cambridge University Library, pp. 111–120.

1979. See Union catalogue by Shiloah for Arabic musical MSS.


Substantial descriptions, including watermarks, etc.


1982. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve, pp. 310–311, for further Malay MSS.


Includes identifications and descriptions of ca. 800 leaves and fragments from Arabic-script codices, as well as numerous Judeo-Arabic transcriptions of texts by Muslim authors.

Unpublished catalogues:

For Arabic (ca. 150), Persian (ca. 77) and Turkish (ca. 169) MSS, new acquisitions postdate the published catalogues. Brief descriptions on cards are available for virtually all the Arabic and Persian titles (the Persian are also in a computerised listing); detailed descriptions of all the Turkish titles have been prepared and are currently available in manuscript form (see also the unpublished union list under General above).

For Malay, Panjabi, Pashto and Urdu MSS, listings are available in manuscript form with greater or less detail on individual titles.

Christ's College

St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3BU
Tel.: (01223) 354950
Date of establishment: 1505
Status: College library

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 63 (14 Arabic; 44 Persian; 3 Turkish; 2 Urdu).
Description of collection: Includes several historical texts and some fine Persian divans, many from the gift of John Hutton. Cambridge and College Arabists, such as W. Wright and W. Robertson Smith, are among the other donors.

Published catalogues:

1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), pp. 310–315 and by individual titles, for 58 of these manuscripts.
1932. See Union catalogue by Ḥāshimī for details of the Urdu MSS.

Unpublished catalogues:
Brief descriptions are available of the 5 MSS not in the 1922 Hand-list.

Clare College
Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TL
Tel.: (01223) 332020
Date of establishment: 1326 CE
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Turkish).

Published catalogue:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), p. 290 and under individual titles.

Corpus Christi College
Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RH
Tel.: (01223) 338025
Date of establishment: 1356 CE
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Latin/Arabic).
Description of collection: Most of the College's Islamic MSS (the Hodder collection) are kept in Cambridge University Library (q.v. above), but one Maghribi MS, remains in the Archbishop Parker Collection, which has been in the College since the 16th century; there is also a fine copy of Kalila wa-Dimna.

Published catalogues:

No. 384 is a Latin MS. with 5 leaves in Arabic, not mentioned in Browne’s Union list of 1922; no. 401 is Arabic, listed by Browne but without the note on provenance supplied here.

1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above).

Emmanuel College
St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AP
Tel.: (01223) 334233
Date of establishment: 1584
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20 (13 Arabic; 1 Malay; 6 Persian).

Published catalogues:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), pp. 322–323 and under individual titles.

1977. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve, p. 111, for the Malay MS.

Fitzwilliam Museum
Department of Manuscripts and Printed Books, Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RB
Tel.: (01223) 332944
Date of establishment: 1837
Status: University museum
Conditions of access: Admission to Manuscripts and Rare Books on written application to the Department of Paintings, Drawings and Prints, by appointment made 7 to 10 days in advance.
Reading Room open: Tuesday – Thursday 10.00 – 12.30, 13.30 – 16.30; Friday 10.00 – 12.30, 13.30 – 16.15.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 24 (13 Arabic; 11 Persian), plus ca. 64 miniatures.
Description of collection: Illustrated and illuminated manuscript codices and miniatures separated from codices.

Published catalogues:
1876. The illuminated manuscripts in the library of the Fitzwilliam Museum,


1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above).

1975. Details of three copies of Ferdawsi’s Shāhnāmah are given in the Union catalogue by Rozānī & Jāvin, p. 6, nos. 28–30. However, a fourth which is listed under the Fitzwilliam Museum is in fact in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.


Unpublished catalogue:
Current sheaf catalogue of the separate miniatures in the Department of Paintings, Drawings and Prints, arranged by classmark, often with full details of miniatures, and, wherever possible, details of the text to which they belong. Includes ca. 64 items, largely from the late 16th or early 17th century, and is kept up to date with current accessions.

Girton College

Huntingdon Road, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0JG
Tel.: (01223) 338970. Fax: (01223) 338896
Date of establishment: 1869
Status: College library
Description of collection: The Mary Frere collection includes a number of Arabic manuscripts, most of which contain Biblical commentaries, almanacs and texts relating to Samaritan law, ritual and history.

Published catalogue:

Jesus College

Jesus Lane, Cambridge, CB5 8BL
Tel.: (01223) 68611 (ext. 251). Fax: (01223) 324910
Date of establishment: 1496
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 18 (7 Arabic; 11 Persian).
Description of collection: Miscellaneous; includes a good copy of the Kalīfūt of Khāqānī.

Published catalogue:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), pp. 308–309 and under titles of individual manuscripts.

Uncatalogued MSS:
One Persian copy of the Four Gospels.

King’s College

The College’s Islamic MSS are kept in Cambridge University Library (q.v. above).

Magdalene College

Magdalene Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AG
Tel.: (01223) 392100
Date of establishment: 1542
Status: College library

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Persian).

Description of collection: An elegant copy of the Dīwān of Anvārī, apparently undated.

Published catalogue:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), p. 290 and under individual titles of manuscripts.

Newnham College

Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DF
Tel.: (01223) 335740
Date of establishment: 1871
Status: College library

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 18 (Arabic; Persian; 10 Turkish).

Description of collection: All but one of these MSS are in the Skilliter Library, bequeathed to the College by Susan Skilliter (1930–85). The College Library has an uncatalogued Qur’an.

Unpublished catalogues:
Full catalogue of the Turkish MSS and draft catalogue of the other Skilliter MSS. Available from the Skilliter Librarian.

1990. See also the Union list by Bellér-Hann (under General above).

Pembroke College

Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RF
Tel.: (01223) 338121. Fax: (01223) 338163
Date of establishment: 1347 CE
Status: College library

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Turkish).

Published catalogue:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), p. 307 and under titles of individual manuscripts.

Queens’ College

Queens’ Lane, Cambridge, CB3 9ET
Tel.: (01223) 335549. Fax: (01223) 335533
Date of establishment: 1448
Status: College library

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 13 (8 Persian; 5 Turkish).

Description of collection: The Persian texts are standard, the Turkish more varied.

Published catalogues:
See pp. 997–999.

1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), p. 307 and under titles of individual manuscripts.

St Catherine’s College

Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RJ
Tel.: (01223) 338343
Date of establishment: 1473
Status: College library

Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (2 Arabic; 2 Persian).

Published catalogue:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), p. 307 and under titles of individual manuscripts.
St John’s College

St John’s Street, Cambridge, CB2 1TP
Tel.: (01223) 338661
Date of establishment: 1511
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 34 (22 Arabic; 9 Persian; 2 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: There is a 16th-century illuminated Khamsah of Nizami.

Published catalogues:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above), pp. 315–319 and under titles of individual manuscripts.

Skilliter Library—see Newnham College

Trinity College

Trinity Street, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ
Tel.: (01223) 338488. Fax: (01223) 338564
Date of establishment: 1546
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 87 (53 Arabic; 26 Persian; 8 Turkish).
Description of collection: Good and varied holdings.

Published catalogues:
1922. See the Hand-list by Browne (under General above).

DURHAM

Durham University Library

Palace Green Section, University Library, Durham, DH1 3RN

Tel.: (0191) 374-3032 (for Sudan Archive (0191) 374-3028).
Telex: 537-351 DURLIB G. Fax: (0191) 374-3740
Date of establishment: 1832 (Sudan Archive 1957)
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Application in writing should be made to the Keeper of Oriental Books for an appointment to see Islamic manuscripts.
Open Monday to Friday 09.00–17.00; and in term-time, additionally, Saturday 09.00–12.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 52 (ca. 28 Arabic; 15 Persian; 8 Turkish; 1 Urdu/Persian/Arabic).
Description of collection: There are two collections at Durham University, both housed in the Palace Green Section of the Library, but organised and administered separately. The Sudan Archive has a few Arabic MSS and a large number of documents and other manuscript material, relating to the Mahdist period in the Sudan. There is also a small collection of Oriental MSS, most of which were presented by F. Rahman: a very diverse collection, including a number of scientific works, a couple of Shi’i works, and several MSS in West African Maghribi hands.
For a description of the Sudan Archive, see

Includes a brief mention of the manuscript holdings.

Published catalogues:
Describes 3 MSS, formerly the property of Sir Reginald Wingate, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe.

Unpublished catalogues:

1973. *Hand-list of Arabic manuscripts and lithographs.* By R.L. Hill. 3rd draft, 1966; revised & amended by D. Grimwood-Jones. Describes the MSS in the Sudan Archive only, many of which are documents and letters.

Uncatalogued MSS:
11 Arabic MSS are uncatalogued.

**Oriental Museum**

Elvet Hill, Durham, DH1 3TH
Tel.: (0191) 374 2911
Status: University museum
Conditions of access: Anyone wishing to examine the MS. should write to the Keeper of the Museum to make an appointment, giving one week’s notice.

The Museum is open to the public 09.30–13.00, 14.00–17.00. Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Persian).
Description of collection: 19th-century copy from Kashmir of a work by Ḥāfiz.

**Ushaw College—see under Ushaw**

**EDINBURGH**

**EDINBURGH University Library**

George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ, Scotland
Tel.: 0131-667-1011. Telex: 727442 UNIVED G
Date of establishment: 1580
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian, Special Collections. Appointment preferred.

Open Monday to Friday 09.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 535 (131 Arabic; 3 Malay; 372 Persian; 23 Turkish; 6 Urdu).

Description of collection: The Islamic MSS collection belonging to New College, Edinburgh is housed in the University Library. The biggest single collection within the Islamic MSS holdings is that formed by Lt-Col. Jon Bailleie of Leys, presented to the Library in 1876. A number of rare and particularly fine or interesting items are listed at the end of the 1925 catalogue (see below). Especially noteworthy is the 14th-century copy of Rashīd al-Dīn’s *fāmū al-Tawārīḵh* which is a major surviving example of early Persian painting (see also under the Nasir D. Khalili Collection in London below). For general surveys, see


Oriental languages; Oriental manuscripts; Berriedale Keith Collection, pp. 150–151.


Published catalogues:


Curious list of the Persian MSS.

A fairly detailed catalogue giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, *incipit*. 114 Arabic MSS are listed, 300 Persian, and 6 Urdu (individual volumes of multiple sets have been numbered separately in the catalogue). This catalogue does not include MSS transferred from New College.

1932. See Union catalogue by Hāṣimī for details of Deccani Urdu MSS.


This hand-list describes 17 Arabic, 72 Persian and 4 Urdu MSS, briefly listing authors and titles, and sometimes *incipits*. These are housed with the Edinburgh University collections.


This article gives full descriptions of 20 MSS with full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, *incipits* and *explicit*. These are housed with the Edinburgh University collections.


1977. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve for Malay MSS.


Arabic translation, with corrections, of the entries in the 1925 catalogue for the Arabic MSS only.

Uncatalogued MSS:

According to Pearson in 1971, the Library had acquired 10 Arabic, 12 Persian and 2 Turkish MSS since the publication of the 1925 catalogue. No more information is available, but it seems that these MSS may not have been catalogued.

**National Library of Scotland**

George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EW, Scotland

Tel.: (0131) 226 4531. Telex: 72638 NLSDE. Fax: (0131) 220-6662

Date of establishment: 1682 (as Advocates’ Library); 1925 (as National Library)

Status: National library

Conditions of access: Identification required for temporary (1–5 days) or long-term (3-year) reader’s ticket.

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 09.30 – 20.30; Wednesday 10.00 – 20.30; Saturday 09.30 – 13.00. Manuscripts must be ordered for evening reading before 16.30.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 35 (8 Arabic; 18 Persian; 8 Turkish; 1 Urdu).

Description of collection: Many are 18th- or 19th-century MSS, but there is a 16th-century copy of the *Shāhnāmah* of Firdawsi. The most important MS is the “Eliphistone Codex” of the *Bābur-nāmah* of Zahir-al-Din Bābur, a 16th-century copy in Eastern Turkic, near contemporary and substantial, but not complete.

Published catalogues:


Brief descriptions, with full title and author, language, style of script, date and place of copying—barely enough to identify a work—are given of the following Islamic MSS: nos. 738 (Persian); 1,893, 1,896–7, 2,563 (Arabic); 2,734, 5,179, 5,185 (Persian); 2,753 (Turkish), 5,783 (Persian), 5,784 (Urdu). The other volumes in the series contain no Islamic MSS.

Unpublished catalogue:
Typescript.
This hand-list is referred to in the preface to the 1938 catalogue.

Uncatalogued MSS:
4 Arabic and 3 Persian MSS are not catalogued.

ETON
Eton College Library
Eton College, Windsor, SL4 6DB
Tel.: (01753) 869991
Status: Private college library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing or by telephone to the Librarian.
Appointment required.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 20 (Arabic; Persian).
Description of collection: The collection includes two fine illuminated Persian MSS and various Qur'āns, one of which is rather early and from the Maghrīb. Uncatalogued, apart from the exhibited leaves mentioned below.
NB: The Porr collection belonging to the College is kept in Cambridge University Library (q. v.).

Published catalogues:
1967. See Union catalogue by Robinson for one Persian illustrated MS.
1977. The exhibition catalogue by Hillenbrand (see under Union catalogues above) describes two illustrated leaves from the Persian MSS.

EXETER
Exeter University Library
Old Library
Prince of Wales Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4PT

Tel.: (01392) 264051
Date of establishment: 1937
Status: University library
Conditions of access: The Islamic MSS are available for consultation only on application to the responsible librarian, Paul Achterlonie, at the above address, 09.00 – 17.00 weekdays.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (2 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: The Arabic texts are Kitiš al-Majārahā by Ahmad b. 'Umar al-Dāvraīnī (an 18th-century treatise on magic, also known as Fath al-malik al-majīd); and what appears to be a commentary on Birkawi's Al-sawāmil al-jadida by Yusuf (?) al-Majīd. The Ottoman Turkish MS. is Hikayat-i Dibyanus, a treatise on the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus; a handwritten note in English attributes it to 'Syed Mohammed', Persian Secretary to the Baghdad Residency, March 1821'; formerly the property of D.C. Bell, with his signature. The MSS are uncatalogued.
Published catalogues:
     Cursory list of the texts, without codicological details other than dates.


     Oriental MSS are listed pp. 451–523; they include 30 Persian, 61 Arabic, 30 Turkish. Descriptions are rather brief, but give full title and author, subjects, date of composition, language, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, and some incipits.

     Includes descriptions of 41 MSS (19 Arabic, 19 Persian, 3 Urdu, 1 Persian/Turkish, 1 Coptic/Arabic, 1 Malay) with full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, style of script, date of copying, and most incipits and explicits.

1977. See Union catalogue by RICKLEFS & VOORHOEVE for Malay MSS.

HULL
University of Hull: Brynmor Jones Library

Cottingham Road, Hull, North Humberside, HU6 7RX
Tel.: (01482) 46311. Telex: 592530
Date of establishment: 1928

Status: University library
Description of collection: A number of Malay and other South East Asian documents and MSS, including a Cham (Cambodian) Sufi text with annotations and addenda in Malay.

Published catalogues:
1977. See Union catalogue by RICKLEFS & VOORHOEVE.

1982. See Union catalogue by RICKLEFS & VOORHOEVE. The Cham/Malay MS. is described on p. 306; further Malay MSS on p. 310.


LEEDS
University of Leeds: Brotherton Library

Special Collections, Brotherton Library, The University, Leeds, Yorkshire, LS2 9JT
Tel.: (0113) 2335518. Fax: (0113) 2334381
Date of establishment: 1936 (present building) Status: University library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian.
Appointment required for Special Collections readers.
Open (Special Collections—rare books & MSS) Monday to Friday 09.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 545 (376 Arabic; 1 Kashimir (?); 1 Malay; ca. 150 Persian; 8 Turkish; 8 Urdu).
Description of collection: All except three of these MSS (two Qur`ans and a copy of Part 8 of BUKHARI`S Sahih) belong to the collection formerly kept in the University's Department of Arabic Studies (previously Department of Semitic Languages & Literatures). It covers almost the whole field of traditional Islamic literature, and also includes some Christian Arabic MSS. The strongest area is Islamic law. The oldest dated MS. is a copy of the grammatical work

Gives MSS numbers under various subject headings and mentions items of special interest (Arabic & Turkish only).


Brief analysis by subject of the Arabic MSS, and a note of the most interesting items.

Published catalogues:


xii. Urdu MSS 1–9, Malay MS. 1, Turkish MSS 8. By M.J.L. Young. 1990. 18pp.

In progress. Persian MSS 51– , by W.A. Lockwood, has been completed and is being prepared for publication.

Detailed catalogues giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, incipits, explicit.


Full descriptions of Arabic MSS 301–306, which are only briefly listed in part vii [1979] of the Catalogue above.


Full descriptions of Arabic MSS 307–316, described only briefly in part vii [1979] of the Catalogue above.

Unpublished catalogues:
A catalogue of the three Arabic MSS in the Library before the accession of the Departmental collection is available at the Library.

Uncatalogued MSS:
2 Arabic and a few other MSS are uncatalogued. It is hoped that cataloguing of the remaining Islamic MSS will be completed soon.

University of Leeds: Department of Modern Arabic Studies—see University of Leeds: Brotherton Library above.

LINCOLN

Lincoln Cathedral Library

The Cathedral, Lincoln, LN2 1PJ
Tel.: (01522) 525158 or 544544
Date of establishment: ca. 1100 CE
Status: Cathedral library
Conditions of access: Letter of recommendation required from an academic authority.
Appointment necessary: open by arrangement.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 5 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The MSS are of the 16th century, three of them on medicine.

Published catalogues:

Brief descriptions of 5 Arabic MSS (nos. 271–275) give basic title, author and date of copy only.
NB: R.M. Thomson’s Catalogue of the manuscripts of Lincoln Cathedral Chapter Library, 1989, does not include these MSS.

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool City Museum

The Museum’s Islamic MSS are all deposited in the University of Liverpool’s Sydney Jones Library (see below).

University of Liverpool: Sydney Jones Library

PO Box 123, Liverpool, L69 3DA
Tel.: 0151-709-6022. Telex: 627095 UNILPL G. Fax: 0151-708-6502
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Letter of introduction and identification from academic institution or library required. Appointment necessary.
Open Monday to Friday 09.00–13.00, 14.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 26 (8 Arabic; 15 Persian; 2 Turkish; 1 Arabic/Turkish).
Description of collection: The University Library’s collection contains 2 Qur’an, a Shi’i text and a Turkish magnit, all 19th-century. In addition, 6 Arabic, 1 Turkish and 15 Persian MSS are on deposit from Liverpool City Museum.

Published catalogues:
Lists very briefly 1 Arabic, 2 Arabic/Turkish and 1 Turkish MSS belonging to the University Library.

range of subjects is well represented, this collection is particularly important for its Indo-Muslim historical and religious works.

For surveys and historical accounts of the collections and their catalogues, see


Describes Claudius Rich’s MSS, which formed one of the major collections of the British Museum, and their cataloguing.


Contains brief histories and descriptions of the collections in each language (not including those of the India Office) and details of the principal catalogues.


Sketches the manuscript and book collections and includes lists of available catalogues.


Includes lists of catalogues.


Oriental collections are described on pp. 60–69.


Gives a list of catalogues and brief notes on the collections by subject, noting important items.


Describes the collections and the catalogues available.


This paper describes the new automated summary catalogue, which includes full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying. Covers MSS not in the printed catalogues.


Published catalogues:


Pioneering attempt to provide scholarly descriptions of the
contents of the early holdings; superseded by the 19th-century catalogues below.


Summary list, including 68 Persian, 32 Arabic & 1 Urdu MSS.


Descriptions of over 1,000 MSS in Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Turkish, giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, style of script. 390 of these volumes were acquired by the India Office Library.


Rich’s own catalogue of his collection, acquired by the British Museum in 1825.


A detailed catalogue of 1,653 Arabic MSS giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, date and place of copying, indexes (in supplement) incipits, explicitis, colophonics. Script is not described except in terms of ‘African’ or ‘Western’ characters.

1849. Kort verslag van de Maleische handschriften in het East-
composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying and most incipits; indexes. 2,536 MSS described.


Note 2, pp. 52–53, lists 4 MSS in the India Office Library. Revised version of the 1866 article (see above).


A detailed catalogue of 483 MSS giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes and incipits.


A detailed catalogue of 1,303 MSS giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, incipits, colophons.


A detailed catalogue of 425 MSS giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes and incipits.


A detailed catalogue, giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, incipits and colophons. 113 Urdu and

14 Panjabi MSS (in ‘Persian characters’) are described among a total of 221 MSS.


These are the two Royal Society collections (Jones & Ashburner) which were deposited in 1876. There are fairly brief descriptions including full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, incipits, some explicitis, colophons. 280 MSS (211 Persian, 46 Arabic, 5 Urdu, 4 “Zoroastrian”).


A detailed catalogue, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, incipits, explicitis. 3,076 MSS described.


Includes Catalogue of Pushtu and Sindhi manuscripts (50pp.). A detailed catalogue of 62 Pushtu and 11 Sindhi items (including 1 Sindhi MS. in Gujarati characters), giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, and indexes. For Pushto, this catalogue has been superseded by the 1965 Union catalogue, but it is still valid for Sindhi MSS.


A brief listing of ca. 900 MSS giving full title & author, subjects and date of copying; indexes.
1913. Arabic and Persian manuscripts lent by the Secretary of State for India. By T.W. Arnold. *Journal of Indian Art* 15, 1913, pp. 87–90.
Descriptions of India Office exhibits in the Imperial Exhibition, 1911.

Contains English summaries of the 1849 and 1871 catalogues above.

Describes 98 MSS of which 61 Arabic and 10 Persian went to the British Museum. Gives title, author, brief description of subject, style of script, and date of copy.

A detailed catalogue describing 269 Urdu MSS, giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, incepts, explicit, and colophon.

Briefly describes four important acquisitions (3 Persian, 1 Turkish) among the gift of 9 MSS in Persian, Arabic and Turkish, giving title, author, and date of the copy.

Briefly describes a gift of 47 Persian, 1 Arabic, and 9 Turkish MSS, and lists 6 items of particular importance among the Persian MSS.

Briefly describes 5 new acquisitions of which 3 are in Arabic and 1 in Turkish.

Brief notices of 3 Persian and 8 Turkish MSS.

Brief notices of 4 new Arabic MSS, 1 Persian and 2 Turkish MSS with title, author, and date of copy.

Notes 10 MSS (9 Persian and 1 Arabic) recently given, with title, author, and date of copy.

1932. See Union catalogue by Hāshim for details of Deccani Urdu MSS in the India Office & British Museum collections.

Briefly describes 1 Turkish and 2 Persian MSS recently acquired.

Briefly describes 7 Persian manuscripts.

Briefly describes 3 Arabic manuscripts.
Brief notices of 11 MSS (6 Arabic, 2 Persian and 3 Turkish).

Descriptions of 4 Arabic MSS.

Short descriptions of 76 MSS (32 Arabic, 32 Persian, 1 Turkish, 11 miscellaneous), giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, and some *incipits*.

Describes 17 recently acquired MSS (11 Arabic and 6 Persian), giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date of copy and *incipits*.

Brief notices of 27 Arabic MSS acquired in 1948, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, date of copy.

Descriptions of 4 Persian MSS.

1956–57. See Union catalogue by Winter for Arabic optical MSS in the India Office Library.

1959–60. Londra ve Tahran'daki İslâmî yazmalardan bazılarına
This article describes 9 Arabic, 24 Persian, and 10 Turkish MSS in the British Museum on pp. 134–151, with author, title, and contents.

Provides corrections and additions to entries for MS. Or 7698, 8499, 7958 in list of 1912. An Arabic translation was published in 1978 (q.v. below).

Three MSS, which, according to the author, “are each listed in the Museum’s handwritten List of Oriental manuscripts, together with very brief notices. Only one of them has been adequately described, by Rieu, in the *List of Persian manuscripts in the British Museum*”. The paper gives notes on author, language, subject, style of script, dates and date of copy.

Lists 14 Arabic MSS recently acquired.

Lists 14 Arabic, 2 Persian, and 11 Turkish MSS.

Lists 16 Arabic and 4 Turkish MSS.
Lists 11 Arabic and 5 Turkish MSS.

Brief notices of 7 Arabic, 4 Persian and 2 Turkish MSS.

Brief notices of 3 Arabic and 5 Turkish MSS.

1965. See Union catalogue by Blumhardt & Mackenzie for 129 Pashto MSS (British Museum and India Office Library).

Lists 5 Arabic, 3 Turkish and 1 Eastern Turkic MSS.

Lists 4 Arabic and 3 Turkish MSS.

Brief information on some important acquisitions during the period 1895–1958, with the emphasis on Indo-Persian MSS.

Lists 1 Persian and 6 Turkish MSS.

Lists 3 Persian and 3 Turkish MSS.

Lists 1 Amharic/Arabic/Latin, 3 Persian and 3 Turkish MSS.

Lists 1 Persian and 9 Arabic MSS.

Lists 3 Arabic, 1 Persian and 3 Turkish MSS.

A supplement to the 1879–83 & 1895 catalogues (see above); supersedes the typescript *Temporary hand-list of Persian manuscripts 1895–1958*. Gives brief descriptions of 973 MSS (including 45 in Hebrew script), with full title and author, subjects, date of composition, date and place of copying.

Lists 3 Arabic, 2 Persian, 3 Turkish and 1 Uruu MSS.

List 1 Arabic, 2 Persian and 1 Turkish MSS.


List 3 Arabic, 4 Persian and 2 Turkish MSS.


Contains detailed descriptions of two Belorussian/Polish/Arabic/Turkish MSS (Or. 13054 & Or. 13020), with facsimiles.


Superseded by the expanded & revised edition of 1980 (q.v. below).


List 4 Arabic, 1 Persian and 1 Turkish MSS.

1972. See Union catalogue by Tāb bin Osman, pp. 78–82, for a list of Malay MSS.


Discusses the MSS and their importance, authorship, etc. The catalogue gives full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, but no indexes, incipits or other information. It is arranged by author and work, with descriptions and references to the British Library’s MS of each work. Of the 380 items included in this catalogue, 90 were acquired after the publication of the 1912 Descriptive list.


The first list notes only 15 of the 150 Arabic MSS acquired during the period, as well as 1 Malay, 4 Persian, 3 Turkish and 1 Urdu; the second list notes 1 Arabic, 3 Persian and 5 Turkish MSS.


Describes the most important copies of the Qurʾān in the collection.


A detailed catalogue describing 87 MSS, of which 34 are Muslim Panjabi and 16 are Sindhi, in Arabic/Persian script. Descriptions give full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, and colophons, and sometimes incipits and explicit's are given. This supersedes Blumhardt's Hand-list of the Panjabi manuscripts (MSS. Eur.D.498) compiled in 1911.

1977. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve for Malay and other Indonesian MSS (British Library and India Office Library listed separately).

1977. See Union catalogue by Munthe, pp. 104–105, for Malay MSS.

A catalogue of MSS with paintings, giving full title and author, date of composition and list of illustrations. There are indexes by author and subject, with extra indexes of artists, styles, titles, etc. Not easy to estimate the number of MSS in the volume.


A detailed catalogue of 113 MSS under 85 headings, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, extensive incipits, explicits and colophons.


Translation of the 1960 article listed above.


Descriptions of 11 Persian MSS.

1979. See Union catalogue by Shiloah for Arabic musical manuscripts.


Briefly lists newly acquired Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu MSS. (Not arranged by language.)


Expanded & revised edition of the 1971 article listed above. Enumerates Arabic geographical works, with brief references to British Library MSS of them.


Lists 4 Arabic, 2 Arabic/Urdu, 4 Persian, 1 Persian/Urdu, 6 Turkish, 6 Urdu, 1 Urdu/Persian MSS recently acquired.


A catalogue of MSS by Yemeni authors in the British Library, arranged by subject. A brief biography of each author is followed by descriptions of the MSS of his work held in the British Library. The descriptions give full analysis of the subjects of the MSS, but only brief details of the date and style of script. Full indexes are supplied.


Full descriptions of 61 illustrated MSS.


An abridged Urdu translation, with corrections, of BLHARDT’s Catalogue of Hindustani manuscripts (1926).

1982. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve for further Malay and other Indonesian MSS (British Library and India Office Library listed separately).


Lists 2 Arabic, 1 Malay, 2 Panjabi in Arabic script, 1 Pashto,
16 Persian, 1 Persian/Arabic, 2 Turkish and 5 Urdu MSS recently acquired.


Unpublished catalogues:


Contains entries 3077–4052. Style, form and description of entries is the same as in the published volumes (see 1903–37 above).

1957. *Temporary hand-list of the Urdu manuscripts.* Typescript containing brief descriptions of 140 items acquired since 1897.


*Catalogue of the Persian Delhi manuscripts.* By S.A. Bilgrami. IOR: Photo. EUR. 177. Photocopy of a typescript belonging to the Royal Asiatic Society. The descriptions and numbers are often inaccurate.

*Hand-list of Persian manuscripts in the Delhi Collection.* IO 4601–4603. A very scant listing, neither complete nor very accurate.

*Hand-list of Arabic manuscripts in the Delhi Collection.* IO 4604–4606. A similar list to the preceding item.

*Abstract and index of the Arabic and Persian manuscripts in the Delhi Collection. IO 4609.* A title index abstracted from the previous two lists.

*Supplementary catalogue of Persian and Turkish miniature paintings in the British Library Oriental Collections.* By M.I. Waley & N. Titley. Card catalogue which describes the contents of 35 MSS.

Lists 73 MSS.

Supplementary catalogue of the Urdu manuscripts in the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books. By Q.M. Haq.

Hand-lists of Arabic manuscripts relating to the Qurʾān, Hadith and fiqh acquired since 1912. By Rodgeric Vassie.


In preparation, but still at the planning stage.

A card catalogue of manuscripts is available for all Arabic MSS acquired since the 1912 catalogue was published. It contains approximately 1,600 items, arranged in title order.

Classed Inventories list titles of MSS in each language.

Blue-slip catalogues describe all Arabic MSS acquired since 1912, Persian since 1966, and Turkish since 1888 (these include some 450 Turkish items acquired since 1930).

Computerised Summary Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts.

This includes MSS not listed in published catalogues.

Uncatalogued MSS:

About 50 Arabic, 10 Persian, 5 Turkish, 1 Malay MSS are uncatalogued, but many more have only brief outline descriptions.

11 Swahili MSS in Arabic script are recorded only in a Classed Inventory.

Francis Skaryna Byelorussian Library and Museum (Belaruskaya Bibliyateka i Muzei imya Frantsishka Skaryny)

37 Holden Road, North Finchley, London N12 8HS
Tel.: 0181-445-5358 or 7774
Date of establishment: 1950 (reconstituted 1971)
Status: Charitable trust
Conditions of access: Open by appointment only, after written application to the Librarian.

Total number of Islamic MSS: Unknown (Belorussian; Arabic/Polish), plus photosstats.
Description of collection: The Library has originals and photocopies of rare MSS of the Tatars/Muslims of Belarus, written in the Arabic script. One is a Qurʾān with interlinear Polish translation (tefsir), dated 1725, which also contains a preparatory treatise in Belorussian, with Arabic and Turkish prayers. It is described, with two facsimiles, in


See also

Byelorussian Tatar tefsir mentioned on p. 8.


Tefsir mentioned on p. 14.


Tatar tefsir mentioned on p. 17.


Mention of the Library’s holdings of “Byelorussian Tatar materials”, p. 16.

Al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation (Mu’assasat al-Furqān li-l-Turāth al-Islāmi)

Eagle House, High Street, Wimbledon, London SW19 5EF
collection of manuscripts in Indic languages comprises texts in several scripts, and prominently represented is the religious literature of the Indian subcontinent’s Isma‘ili community, including the ginans (see unpublished catalogue below).

The Library’s collection is continually being strengthened through acquisition of original manuscripts, as well as microfilms or photocopies of Isma‘ili manuscripts held in other institutional libraries and private collections. Microfilms of Isma‘ili Arabic manuscripts from Tübingen University Library, as well as those at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) in London have been acquired, and part of the Fyzee Collection, now housed at Bombay University, has been obtained in photocopy.

For a brief note on the manuscripts collection, see


Published catalogue:

A very detailed catalogue, arranged alphabetically by title, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, extensive incipits, explicitis, and colophons, as well as technical and paleographical observations. Vol. 1 describes 167 titles (339 volumes) of Isma‘ili literature. Vol. 2 contains descriptions of 249 volumes of non-Ismaili literature.

Unpublished catalogues:
Preliminary catalogue of part of the Indic-language collection (see above). Typescript.

Uncatalogued MSS:
Approximately 40 MSS are unidentified.
Keir Collection

The Manor House, Ham, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7HA
Tel.: 0181-940-5411

Status: Private collection

Conditions of access: Apply in writing, enclosing credentials. Appointment required.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 72, plus leaves & fragments.

Description of collection: Primarily an art collection, with many illustrated and illuminated MSS. One of the most interesting items is a copy of Niṣāmī’s Khamsah dated 1443–45, produced at Yazd.

Published catalogues:


A catalogue of paintings in this collection, with cursory descriptions of MSS if they have text attached; also includes descriptions of unillustrated MSS giving author, title, subject, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, and indexes.


The arts of the book: Persia, Turkey and pre-Mughal India, by B.W. Robinson, pp. 1–31; The arts of the book: Sultanate and Mughal India, by R.W. Skelton, pp. 33–48. Miniatures are reproduced from a number of MSS, which are very briefly described.

Khalili Collection—see Nasser D. Khalili Collection

Lambeth Palace Library

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU
Tel.: 0171-928 6222

Date of establishment: 1610

Status: Ecclesiastical library

Conditions of access: Identification and letter of introduction needed; no appointment necessary.

Open Monday to Friday 10.00–17.00. Closed 10 days over Easter and Christmas.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (9 Arabic; 2 Arabic/Turkish).

Description of collection: Quranic and MSS on Christian subjects.

Published catalogues:


This catalogue gives very brief statements of titles and authors. It lists 5 Arabic MSS (nos. 548, 575, 1201, 1210, 1211), 2 Arabic/Turkish (nos. 576, 576b), and 1 Arabic dictionary of the New Testament in 2 vols (nos. 834, 835).


Gives a brief statement of title, author and date of 2 Arabic Qur’ans (nos. 2093, 2096), and 1 Arabic/Coptic MS. (no. 2093). The other catalogues (1972 & 1983) contain no Islamic MSS.

London School of Economics and Political Science

Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE
Tel.: 0171-405-7686. Telex: 24653

Date of establishment: 1895

Status: Part of the University of London

Description of collection: A small number of early 20th-century MSS from Somalia, mainly relating to the Qədiriya and Ǧāhiliyya tariqu, collected by Professor I.M. Lewis. See


Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art

c/o Nour Foundation, 15C Clifford Street, London W1X 1RF
Tel.: 0171-439-8437 or 0171-734-4202. Fax: 0171-494-0277
1875–83. Facsimiles . . . (under Union catalogues above).


Published catalogues:


National Maritime Museum
Park Row, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF
Tel.: 0181-858-4422
Date of establishment: 1934
Status: National museum
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Head of the Manuscripts Section. In the first instance readers are asked to look at microfilms; if it is essential to consult original MSS, an appointment should be made in advance.

Open Monday to Friday 10.00–17.00; Saturday by appointment only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: A manuscript atlas, thought to be 13th-century, with maps and text of Arabia and the Middle East by Iṣṭakhrī, and a Turkish volume dated ca. 1800 on astronomy, architecture and geography.

Published catalogue:

Mentions the Arabic and Turkish MSS on pp. 107 & 131 respectively, but without details.

Unpublished catalogue:
Hand-list available in the Library.

Nour Foundation—see Nasser D. Khalili Collection

Royal Asiatic Society Library
60 Queen's Gardens, London W2 3AF
Tel.: 0171-724-4741/2
Date of establishment: 1823
Status: Learned society
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment preferred.
Open Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00–17.00; Tuesday 10.00–21.00. Closed Friday—Sunday incl. Closed throughout August.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 550 (77 Arabic; 438 Persian; ca. 180 Malay; 47 Turkish; 14 Urdu). [Information from Pearson (1971); more up-to-date figures not available.]

Description of collection: A wide-ranging collection of Arabic and Persian works, both in terms of subject and matter. The Raffles collection of Malay MSS is one of the earliest and most important Malay collections in Europe. For an account of the history of the Society and its library, as well articles about four of its Persian MSS, see


The Society sold its finest Islamic manuscript, the famous 14th-century copy of Rashīd al-Dīn’s Jami‘ al-tawārikh, in 1980, and it is now in the Nasser D. Khalili Collection in London (q.v.).

Published catalogues:


Very full descriptions of contents of 4 Arabic and 154 Persian MSS, including full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, style of script, date of copy and indexes.


Revised version of the 1866 article (see above).


According to the preface to this article, fuller descriptions of many of the MSS may be found in the 1838, 1854, and 1881 catalogues. Brief descriptions of 48 Arabic, 351 Persian, 13 Urdu & 43 Turkish MSS are given, including full title and author, style of script, date of copy and indexes.


Mostly manuscripts.

1932. See Union catalogue by Häshimi for details of Deccani Urdu MSS.

1948. See Union catalogue by Mundy for one Turkish MS.


1977. See Union catalogue by RICKLEFS & VOORHOEVE for descriptions of the Malay MSS.

Unpublished catalogues:
1838. A catalogue of the manuscripts in the Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hindustani languages, preserved in the libraries of the Royal Asiatic Society and the Oriental Translation Fund of Great Britain and Ireland. By WILLIAM H. MORLEY.
MS. copy available in the Library.

1881. A rough additional catalogue of the Oriental manuscripts belonging to the Royal Asiatic Society. By GUY LE STRANGE.
MS. copy available in the Library.

There is also a card catalogue describing all the MSS.

Royal Astronomical Society
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0NL
Tel.: 0171-324-4582. Fax: 0171-494-0166
Date of establishment: 1820
Status: Learned society
Conditions of access: Consultation of MSS is strictly by appointment.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (1 Arabic; 2 Persian).
Description of collection: A 17th-century Arabic calendar/almanac, with catalogue of stars, by MUHAMMAD AL-ARSIASI AL-MUWAQQUT (MS.Add.14); a copy of the tables and catalogue of stars by ULUGH BEIG, dated 1225 [1839] (MS.Add.15); and a volume of tracts, probably of Indian origin (MS.Add.123). The first two are described in


School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Library

Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
Tel.: 0171-637-2388. Telex: 291829 TLX-G SOASP.
Fax: 0171-436-3844

Date of establishment: 1917

Status: Academic library, part of the University of London

Conditions of access: Letter of recommendation required from a member of a recognised institution of University standing. Fee may be payable.

Open Monday–Thursday 09.00–20.45, Friday 09.00–19.00, Saturday 09.30–17.00; in Summer vacation Monday–Friday 09.00–17.00, Saturday 09.30–17.00.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,080 (5 Achenehese; 400 Arabic; Kashmiri; 135 Malay; Panjabi; 10 Pashto; 400 Persian; 9 Shilha; 75 Swahili; 46 Turkish).

Description of collection: The MSS embrace a wide range of literature, the most interesting items being: (i) Anwar-i Sahayri, by Huseyn Va’iz Kashi, dated AH 978: an Indian Mughal MS. with 27 fine miniatures; (ii) The Tarikh of Abu ‘l-Faraj, copied from the author’s autograph in Cairo in AH 1026; (iii) The poems of Ibns Al-Na’im (copy dated AH 484) and Ibn al-Matruk (copy in the hand of the famous calligrapher ‘Ala’ al-Din Ibn Shams al-Halabi); (iv) A volume containing the public and private correspondence of Ibn al-Arabi, dated 14th century CE; (v) Muqaddim al-awliyya by Faryabi, Persian, 18th century. See


NB: Reproductions of the entire collection of Arabic MSS are available on microfiches as The Arabic manuscripts in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London from Inter Documentation Company, Leiden, Netherlands.

Published catalogues:
1827. Bibliotheca Marsdeniana philologica et orientalis: a catalogue of books and manuscripts collected with a view to the general comparison of languages,


Catalogue of manuscripts, pp. 301–308. Includes Arabic, Persian, Malay & other Indonesian MSS now in SOAS.


Systematic descriptions of 11 Arabic MSS acquired by the School; formerly the property of a Bohra mullah in India.

1948. See Union catalogue by Mundy for one Turkish MS.


Exhaustive descriptions and analysis (much fuller than in his 1977 Union catalogue).


Descriptions vary from full title and author, date of composition, style of script, date of copy to just title and author. MSS include items in Achenehese, Arabic, Persian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu.

1965. See Union catalogue by Blumhardt & MacKenzie for 10 Pashto MSS.


Catalogue of manuscripts and microfilms, vol. 3, pp. 657–668, lists 5 Arabic, 16 Malay, 4 Persian, 5 Swahili & 4 Urdu MSS.


Catalogue of manuscripts and microfilms, vol. 3, pp. 841–848, lists 1 Persian & 4 Swahili MSS.
1977. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve for Achchne, Malay and other Indonesian MSS.

Includes brief identifications and descriptions of 1 Panjabi (Arabic script) and 19 Urdu MSS.

Catalogue of manuscripts, vol. 4, pp. 803–809, lists 3 Persian & 2 Swahili MSS.

A detailed catalogue of 394 MSS, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying; indexes, all incipits and explicit.

Superseded by the Fifth Supplement, 1992 (q.v. below).

This article is a translation into Arabic of the introduction to Gacek’s 1981 catalogue (see above), together with descriptions of 5 medical MSS (nos. 38, 321, 364, 371 [wrongly cited as no. 361] & 389).


Includes the contents of the Fourth Supplement, 1986. Manuscripts, fiches 693–694. Lists Achchne, Arabic, Malay, Pashto, Panjabi, Persian, Shilha, Swahili, Turkish/Turkic & Urdu MSS.

Unpublished catalogues:
A hand-list only, in which the descriptions of Arabic MSS are superseded by Gacek’s 1981 catalogue (see above).
There is also a card catalogue of manuscripts listed under languages, and all other manuscripts catalogued appear in the main author/title/subject catalogues.

Uncatalogued MSS:
Some dozen MSS in various languages remain uncatalogued.

Sion College

Sion College, Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DN
Tel.: 0171-333-7983
Date of establishment: 1630
Status: Independent Anglican theological library
Conditions of access: Letter and/or identification required. Appointment necessary.
Open Monday to Friday 10.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 20 (10 Arabic; 1 Persian; 8 Turkish; 1 unknown).
Description of collection: The collection has not been fully catalogued, but contains a Turkish translation of the third volume of Tabari’s History, a history of the Turkish empire in Turkish, some Qur’āns and a variety of other items, including some not positively identified. Proper descriptions of the MSS are currently being prepared by staff from the British Library.

Unpublished catalogues:
There is also a sketchy handwritten hand-list in Latin.
Victoria and Albert Museum: National Art Library

Brompton Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL
Date of establishment: 1837
Status: National museum library
Conditions of access: For MSS, readers must have a ticket endorsed “Valid for Special Collections”. Appointment required for the illuminated MSS collections.
Open Tuesday–Saturday 10.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 61 (35 Arabic; ca. 25 Persian; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: Principally an art collection, including many documents, single leaves, and a large number of Qur’āns, some dating from the 11th and 12th centuries CE.

Published catalogues:
1967. See Union catalogue by Robinson for one Persian illustrated MS.
1975. Details of one copy of Firdawsī’s Shāhnāmas are given in the Union catalogue by Rūghānī & Jávid, p. 61, no. 26.

1977. The exhibition catalogue by Hillembrand (see under Union catalogues above) describes 5 illustrated leaves from Persian MSS.


Unpublished catalogues:
A card catalogue exists for the Oriental MSS, but its descriptions are slight, and provenance and language are sometimes confused.
There is also a hand-list, which does not altogether tally with the card catalogue.

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

Library, 183 Euston Rd, London NW1 2BN
Tel.: 0171-383-4414. Fax: 0171-611-8545
Status: Research institute
Conditions of access: Proof of identity and academic status required. Appointment advisable: write to the Curator of Oriental Books and Manuscripts.
Open Monday to Friday 09.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,250 (600 Arabic; ca. 15 Malay; 625 Persian; 23 Turkish; 15 Urdu).
Description of collection: The Library holdings are essentially oriented towards medical subjects, but many other areas of human endeavour are represented in the collections. One of the finest Arabic MSS is a copy of Al-Qānūn fī l-ṭibb by Ibn Sīnā dated 1042/1632. The Persian MSS include most of the classical Persian medical texts along with many non-medical texts from Persian literature, and one of the most distinguished is the horoscope of Prince Iskandar, grandson of Timur Lang. It was copied in 813 [1410–11] and is finely illustrated. The small group of Turkish MSS includes a unique MS, in Arabic and Turkish of the Qaṣidat al-Burda dated 1055 [1643]. See

Briefly describes the collections of MSS and books, and catalogues available.
In 1987 the Wellcome Institute acquired most of the Arabic medical MSS in the collection built up by Šamī Haddād in Beirut (94 MSS). See the 1984 published catalogue below; also


Published catalogues:
1967. A catalogue of Arabic manuscripts on medicine and science in the

A succinct catalogue of 197 MSS giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, and place of copying, indexes, all incipits & explicits. An extensive introduction comments on some of the more important MSS in the catalogue.


Describes 9 Malay MSS, some partly in Roman script.

1982. See Union catalogue by Rickles & Voorhoeve, pp. 312–315, for descriptions of the Institute’s Malay MSS.


Catalogue of the whole Ḥaddād Collection, then in Beirut. Most of these MSS are now in the Wellcome Institute.


A catalogue of MSS exhibited, including descriptions of 1 Malay, 1 Urdu and 5 Turkish MSS belonging to the Institute and not described in printed catalogues elsewhere. Brief descriptions include full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script and date of copying.


A very detailed catalogue, giving full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, all incipits and explicits. The preface notes some important works among the 617 MSS described.


Concise list of titles, with authors & their dates, no. of pages, style of script and references to other copies.

Unpublished catalogues:
A card catalogue is available.
A supplementary catalogue for the Arabic MSS is in preparation.

MANCHESTER

Bosworth—see under STOCKPORT

Chetham Library—see John Rylands University Library below

John Rylands University Library

Deansgate Building, 150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
Tel.: 0161-834-5343/6765. Telex: 66651 UNIMAN G.
Fax: 0161-273-7488
Date of establishment: 1900
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Reader’s ticket must be obtained by personal application (letter of recommendation normally required). Appointment preferable.

Open Monday to Friday 10.00–17.30; Saturday 10.00–13.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 2,050 (868 Arabic; 11 Malay; 5 Panjábi; 16 Pashto; 936 Persian; 183 Turkish; ca. 30 Urdu).
Description of collection: This is one of the more important Islamic manuscript collections in Britain. The Arabic collection is notable, covering about 1,000 years with a wide subject range. It includes many unique and rare codices and an important collection of Qur’anic literature; several items are in Kufic script. The Persian MSS range in date from the early 13th century to the 19th, and the subject range is wide. The Turkish collection includes several of the most celebrated books in the literature. See

Describes the collections of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Panjabi, Pashto and Malay MSS, and the availability of catalogues of them.

**NB:** The Arabic, Persian and Turkish MSS of the Chetham Library were bought by the John Rylands University Library in the early 1980s.

*Published catalogues:*


The information on Oriental manuscripts is terse and often incorrect. The Persian and Turkish MSS are listed in Vol. 2, p. 621, and Vol. 3, pp. 162–163. For Arabic MSS see the 1976 catalogue by Bosworth below.


Briefly describes 1,851 MSS (of which 912 are Persian and 773 Arabic), giving title, author, and date of copy, with occasional comments on subject-matter. The manuscripts of the Bibliotheca Lindesiana of the Earl of Crawford passed to the John Rylands Library in 1901 (except for 4 Persian MSS previously sent to the India Office).


A detailed catalogue, giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, indexes, all *incipits*, some colophons, *explicitis*; describes 818 MSS.


Discusses 22 Persian MSS, with essential descriptive information.

1956–57. See Union catalogue by Winter for Arabic optical MSS.


1965. See Union catalogue by Blumhardt & MacKenzie for 16 Pashto MSS.


Short descriptions of 50 MSS supplementing Mingana’s catalogue of 1934, giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, some *incipits* and *explicitis*. Arabic cataloguing was completed by this article, which includes the Arabic MSS previously held in the University Library of Manchester before its amalgamation with the John Rylands Library.


Catalogue descriptions of 7 Arabic MSS now in the JRULM, with full title and author, subjects, date of composition, name of
scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, incipits and explicit.

1977. See Union catalogue by Ricklefs & Voorhoeve for Malay and other Indonesian MSS.

1979. See Union catalogue by Shiloah for Arabic musical manuscripts.

   This catalogue of paintings gives brief descriptions of the 31 Persian and 1 Turkish MSS included. Short title and author entries are followed by brief indications of subjects, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, place and date of copy.

   Islamic MSS from the collection, with the emphasis on calligraphy, illumination and illustration.

Unpublished catalogues:
1892. Catalogue of the Turkish manuscripts belonging to the Earl of Crawford. By Michael Kerney.
   This unpublished catalogue contains fuller descriptions of the Turkish MSS than the published catalogue of 1898.

   This unpublished catalogue contains much fuller descriptions than the published 1898 catalogue, and is available at the Library.

Catalogue of the Turkish MSS at JRL. By J.R. Walsh. Covers 46 MSS.

Uncatalogued MSS:
16 Turkish MSS have never been catalogued.
All Souls College

Codrington Library, All Souls College, Oxford, OX1 4AL
Tel.: (01865) 279318. Fax: (01865) 279299
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Credentials not required, but appointment necessary.
Open Weekdays 09.30–18.30 in term; 09.30–16.40 in vacation.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 16 (3 Arabic; 13 Persian).
Description of collection: The collection includes a life of Timūr in Persian and a 16th-century copy of Firdawsi’s Šāhnāmah.

Published catalogues:
Includes MSS up to no. 296, with only very basic brief descriptions of Arabic and Persian MSS.

Includes the All Souls Šāhnāmah.

Unpublished catalogues:
Entries for later acquisitions have been added to the College Library’s copy of the 1842 catalogue (see above). Further details are also being added to the published entries and a new edition is envisaged.

Balliol College

Oxford, OX1 3BJ
Tel.: (01865) 277777
Date of establishment: 13th century CE
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian, with evidence of identification and a letter of recommendation. Appointment required.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 20 (6 Arabic; 7 Persian; 5 Turkish; 1 Urdu).
Description of collection: There are several 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century MSS. The Persian works are mostly poetry, but one is a treatise on medicine. The Arabic works are on Christian as well as Islamic subjects, and the Turkish MSS include a work on Turkish history.

Published catalogues:
In this catalogue are listed 5 Turkish MSS (nos. 269, 323, 324, 326, 374), 6 Arabic (nos. 325, 327, 328, 365, 376, 446), 7 Persian (nos. 368–370, 447, 448–450) and 1 Urdu (no. 428). Brief indications of title, author, date and subject are given. All Balliol’s Islamic MSS are included.

Bodleian Library

Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG
Tel.: (01865) 277000. Telex: 83656. Fax: (01865) 277182
Date of establishment: 1398
Status: University library
Conditions of access: The application form for a reader’s ticket must be signed by a responsible person whose credentials may be readily verified.
Oriental Reading Room open Monday–Friday 09.00–19.00, Saturday 09.00–13.00. No book service after 16.00 on weekdays and none at all on Saturday.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 5,460 (2,350 Arabic; 1 Baluchi; 1 Kurdish; 20 Malay; 5 Pashto; 2,528 Persian; 480 Turkish; 75 Urdu).
Description of collection: One of the most important collections of Islamic MSS in Britain. The earliest MSS came with the LAID, POCOCKE, GREAVES and MARSH collections, and in the 19th century were added MSS from the OUSELEY collection. There are many fine, rare and early items. See

1954–55. The Oriental manuscript collections of the Bodleian
A description of the collection and available catalogues.

Cursory account of the catalogues of Arabic MSS, and a very brief description of holdings.

NB: The collections of Brasenose, Hertford, Jesus, New and University Colleges in Oxford are kept in the Bodleian.

Published catalogues:

1787. Bibliotheca Bodleiana codicum manuscriptorum orientalium videlicet hebraicorum, chaldæicorum, syriacorum, epirothicorum, arabicorum, persicorum, turcicorum, copticorumque, Pars prima (Codices christiani literae et sermones arabici expressi I – CV; Codices manuscripti arabici I – MCCXIX).
Brief descriptions in Latin, giving author, title, date, index, of 105 Christian Arabic, 1,299 Islamic Arabic, 178 Persian and 85 Turkish MSS.

This catalogue gives more information than Uri’s Part One (see 1787 above). Describes, in Latin, 504 Islamic MSS (including 82 Christian Arabic), with full title and author, date of composition, indexes and incipits. This catalogue covers Arabic MSS only.

More than 555 Persian, 36 Arabic, 4 Turkish/Turkic & 15 Urdu MSS, now in the Bodleian.

1852. The catalogue by Coxe (under General above) includes the Islamic MSS of five colleges which have since deposited them in the Bodleian (see note above).

A detailed catalogue, giving full title and author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying, index of titles (also names in Part 3), incipits. Part 1 describes 2,038 Persian MSS; Part 2 describes 269 Turkish, 42 Urdu, 4 Pashto; its supplement 60 Persian, 11 Turkish, 1 Urdu, 1 polyglot; Part 3 describes 369 MSS including 6 on Zoroastrian literature. Accessions to 1952 are covered by this catalogue.

The entries for Oriental MSS are very brief. References are given to the previous published catalogues, where applicable.

Includes descriptions and partial texts and translations of one codex and some letters in the Bodleian Library.


Aeds about 320 entries to the 280 in the Turkish sections of the 1889–1954 catalogue (see above).

NB: Newly acquired Islamic MSS are occasionally listed among the notable accessions in the periodical Bodleian Library Record.

Unpublished catalogues:
For all Arabic MSS a card-catalogue is available, arranged by author and title; also for Turkish MSS received since Ethê’s catalogue was published.

Catalogues for parts of the Bodleian Library’s Arabic MSS collection have also been compiled by P. Kahle and A.F.L. Beeston.

Brasenose College
The College’s Islamic MSS are kept in the Bodleian Library (q.v. above).

Christ Church
Oxford, OX1 1DP
Tel.: (01865) 276169
Date of establishment: 1546
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Letter of recommendation required. Appointment needed.

Open Monday to Friday 9.00–13.00, 14.00–17.00. Saturday 09.00–13.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 32 (29 Arabic; 2 Persian; 1 Turkish).
Description of collection: The MSS are mostly 18th-century in date, with a few earlier ones. One copy of the Qurʾān is 15th-century. There are 6 Qurʾāns in all, several Christian Arabic MSS, and an odd assortment of other works, some barely identifiable from the catalogue entries. The only Islamic MS. added since Kitchin’s catalogue was published is MS. 629: a 17th-century copy of Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī’s Mānavī, copied in Kirman.
Published catalogue:
This catalogue gives very brief descriptions of 29 Arabic MSS (nos. 202–230), 1 Turkish (no. 231) and 1 Persian (no. 232), including title, author, subject, language, date and sometimes an indication of script style.

Unpublished catalogue:
A typed list is available at the Library.

Corpus Christi College

Oxford, OX1 4JF
Date of establishment: 1517
Status: College library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic).
Description of collection: A Qurʾān and a Psalter.
Published catalogue: 1852. See catalogue by Coxe under General above.

Exeter College

Oxford, OX1 3DP
Date of establishment: 1314 CE
Status: College library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Arabic).
Published catalogue: 1852. See no. 8 in the catalogue by Coxe under General above.

Hertford College

The College’s Islamic MSS are kept in the Bodleian Library (q.v. above).

Institute of Social Anthropology

Tylor Library, 51 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6TE

Tel.: (01865) 274671
Status: University departmental library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment required.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 14 (Malay).
Description of collection: The Skeat collection contains bound volumes collected in Malaya, as well as some scrolls and documents. There are also various texts among the boxes of papers and manuscripts of W.W. Skeat kept at the library.

Published catalogues:
1972. See Union catalogue by Thabit bin Osman, pp. 65–70.

1977. The collection is fully described in the Union catalogue of Ricklefs & Voorhoeve.

Jesus College

The College’s Islamic MSS are kept in the Bodleian Library (q.v. above).

Merton College

Oxford, OX1 4JD
Tel.: (01865) 276310
Date of establishment: 1264 CE
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment required.
Open Monday to Friday 09.00–17.00 in term-time.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 11 (9 Arabic; 2 Turkish).
Description of collection: The Arabic and Turkish MSS were gifts from Robert Huntington and William Fane, and are of the 15th and 16th centuries. They have not been fully catalogued. No Islamic MSS have been added since the 1852 catalogue was published.

Published catalogue: 1852. See catalogue by Coxe under General above.
Museum of the History of Science

Old Ashmolean Building, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ
Tel.: (01865) 277280
Date of establishment: 1924
Status: University museum
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment required.

Open Monday to Friday 10.30–13.00, 14.00–16.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 29 (25 Arabic; 3 Persian).
Description of collection: An important collection of MSS assembled by H.E. Stapleton on Islamic and Indian alchemy and pharmacy. Only 11 of the volumes are genuinely antique MSS: the oldest is dated 1678, a treatise by Muhammad ibn Umayl al-Tamimi. There is also a compendium of works on science which includes texts by Ibn Sinâ and Al-Ghazâli, of which parts date from 1678 and 1723. The non-antique volumes are mostly transcriptions (or in two cases, photocopies) made in the early 20th century by Stapleton's assistants, from originals in Indian and Middle Eastern libraries. Stapleton's own papers, which are mostly in English, complement this collection, but are not yet fully catalogued. See the Report of the Museum for 1947–8, pp. 1–2.

Unpublished catalogue:
An unpublished typed hand-list with manuscript corrections and additions; a copy has also been deposited in the Bodleian Library.

New College

The College’s Islamic MSS are kept in the Bodleian Library (q.v. above).

Pitt Rivers Museum

Balfour Library, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PP
Tel.: (01865) 270927
Date of establishment: 1939
Status: University museum

Conditions of access: Those not connected with Oxford University must apply in writing to the Librarian. Open 09.00–17.00 in term-time, 09.00–13.00, 14.15–16.00 in vacation.
Description of collection: Basically an ethnological collection, with a few documents in a traditional Cameroonian language, and two Arabic texts of the Fulani.

Published catalogue:
Translations of the two texts of the Fulani.

Queen's College

Oxford, OX1 4AW
Tel.: (01865) 279121
Date of establishment: ca. 1290 CE
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment required.
Open 09.00–22.00 in full term, 09.00–13.00, 14.00–17.00 in vacation.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Copies of the Qur'an and the New Testament. There is also an unidentified MS, thought to be an Arabic novel.

Published catalogue:
1852. See catalogue by Cokr under General above.

St John's College

Oxford, OX1 3JP
Tel.: (01865) 277300
Date of establishment: 1555
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment required.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 15 (12 Arabic; 3 Persian).

Description of collection: Several of the MSS came from ARCHBISHOP LAUD (17th century), and are of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. Some are scientific works. Two of the Persian MSS contain Christian texts.

Published catalogue:
1832. The catalogue by Cox (see under General above) lists 9 Arabic MSS (nos. 72, 83, 103, 122, 145, 154, 156b, 186, 201), 1 Arabic/Persian (no. 33) & 3 Persian (nos. 105, 133, 151).

Unpublished catalogue:
St John’s College Oxford. Summary catalogue of manuscripts 213–310, being a supplement to H.O. Cox’s catalogue of 1832. Typescript.
Lists 2 Arabic Qur’āns (nos. 215, 304). The second supplement (1966–1979) has no Islamic MSS.
The manuscripts are currently being recatalogued.

University College

The College’s Islamic MSS are kept in the Bodleian Library (p.v. above).

Wadham College

Oxford, OX1 3PN
Tel.: (01865) 277900
Date of establishment: ca. 1610
Status: College library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Fellow Librarian. Appointment required.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 780 (3 Arabic; ca. 777 Persian).
Description of collection: Nearly all the Persian MSS were given to the College in 1972. They were part of the collection of Dr Caro Minasian, and include texts on theology, fiqh, history and a few literary works. The Arabic MSS include a Qur’ān, written possibly around 1500, a work on grammar, and a religious text.

Published catalogues:
1852. The catalogue by Cox (see under General above) lists 3 Arabic MSS (nos. 42, 43, 45) & 2 Persian (nos. 41, 44).

Lists 351 items.

Unpublished catalogue:
The Minasian collection is listed in several notebooks available at the library.

PENRYN
Dr Russell Jones
Little Antron, Antron Lane, Mabe, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9JD
Tel.: (01326) 376376
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 5 (Arabic).
Description of collection: These MSS are from Java; none is of any great significance.

ST ANDREWS
St Andrews University Library

North Street, St Andrews, KY16 9TR, Scotland
Tel.: (01334) 76161. Telex: 76213
Date of establishment: 1611
Status: University library
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Keeper of Manuscripts. Appointment preferred.
Open Monday to Friday 09.00–13.00, 14.00–17.00.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 43 (22 Arabic; 10 Persian; 1 Turkish; 2 Urdu).
Description of collection: Little information is available, but one MS. has been described in

Unpublished catalogues:
A catalogue of the Islamic MSS was compiled by D.M. Dunlop, listing 22 Arabic and 15 Persian MSS.
A card catalogue is also available at the library.

SHREWSBURY
Shrewsbury School Library
The Schools, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 7BA
Tel.: (01743) 62926
Date of establishment: 1606
Status: Private school library
Conditions of access: Written application needed, with a letter of introduction from an academic institution.
No regular opening hours; by appointment only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4 (3 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: A small collection containing a miniature Qur'an probably dating from the 15th or 16th century, a Qur'an dated AH 1154 [1731], an Arabic grammar of Shaykh Khalid al-Azhari dated AH 960 [1553], and a copy of Taṣkirat al-awliyā', in Persian, dated AH 706 [1307].

Unpublished catalogue:
The Islamic MSS are not listed in the published catalogue, but brief descriptions are available at the library.

STOCKPORT
Professor C.E. Bosworth
11 Prince's Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 3NQ
Tel.: 0161-432-6464
Status: Private

Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (1 Arabic; 1 Persian).
Description of collection: A fine late (probably 19th-century) copy of the third and fourth qiṣn of Tīmūrī's Yāsīn al-dahr, and a copy of the Buṣānī of Sādī, with marginal and interlinear glosses in Persian and Turkish, dated 982 [1574]. The former is described in

Private collection of C.E. Bosworth, pp. 185–187.

TRURO
Royal Institution of Cornwall
Museum, River St, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2SJ
Tel.: (01872) 72205
Status: Public museum
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian. Appointment required.
Description of collection: A very few Islamic MSS, one of which is a Qur'an, exist among the muniment papers. They are not kept as a separate collection, and the only descriptions available are kept with the codices themselves.

USHAW
Ushaw College
Ushaw, Durham, DH7 9RH
Tel.: 0191-373-1254
Date of establishment: 1794
Status: Roman Catholic seminary
Conditions of access: Apply in writing for an appointment. No fixed opening hours.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1 (Turkish).
Description of collection: A unique and important copy of almost the whole of the Hamse of Bintiṣrī, probably made in the second half of the 16th century. See

Unpublished catalogue:

WINDSOR
The Royal Collection
Royal Library, Windsor Castle, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ
Tel.: (01753) 868286. Fax: (01753) 854910
Date of establishment: 1835
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Apply in writing to the Librarian for permission.
Appointment required.
Open Monday to Friday 10.00 – 13.00, 14.00 – 17.00. Closed at Easter and June Court periods.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 32 (8 Arabic; 19 Persian; 3 Turkish; 2 Urdu).
Description of collection: An assorted collection, including some fine illumination and calligraphy. Several MSS are 16th-century in date, and a few 17th-century. There is a copy of the Qur’an mounted on a scroll, probably from south India of the 18th or 19th century, and Tīrī Ṣūlān’s personal Qur’an with annotations in Persian. There are also some documents and albums.

Published catalogues:
1967. See Union catalogue by Robinson for three Persian illustrated MSS.


Descriptions give short title, author, subjects, language, date of composition, name of scribe, style of script, date and place of copying; there is also a section on the illustrations.

Unpublished catalogues:

Revised for publication (see Forthcoming above).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


Bibliography of catalogues & descriptions of Persian MSS. Angliya, p. 238.


Birnbaum, E. Turkish manuscripts: cataloguing since 1960 and manuscripts still uncatalogued. Part 4: Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Finland, United States,


Grande Bretagne, pp. 53–57.


Manuscripts in British libraries, pp. 199–201.


Grande-Bretagne, pp. 27–33.


Birmingham, p. 15; Durham, p. 16; London, Manchester, p. 17.


Al-Mamlaka al-Muttahida (Britānīyā), pp. 51–52.


Britain and Ireland, pp. 1–57.


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


Aberystwyth, p. 1, no. 1; Birmingham, pp. 4–5, no. 25; Cambridge, pp. 7–8, nos. 50–55; Cheltenham, p. 8, no. 61; Edinbouirg, p. 10, no. 77; Eton, p. 10, no. 79; Glasgow, p. 11, nos. 88–89; Londres, pp. 20–21, nos. 152–160; Manchester, p. 22, no. 172; Oxford, p. 26, nos. 204–206.