ALGERIA

by

Mukhtar Hassani

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UNION CATALOGUES & SURVEYS


   Includes a cursory survey of libraries in Algiers, Tlemcen, Constantine, Ouargla and Al-Ḥamîl.

   Mentions 14 MSS on music in Algiers, pp. 11 – 12.

   Includes collections in Wādī Mzāb.


   Al-Jazaʿir, pp. 299 – 300.


Describes MSS in public and private libraries in mosques and zāwiyās in some Algerian cities.

Forthcoming. A handlist of MSS in the Guerara (Qarrāra) region. By Bābā ʿAmm Muhāmmad.

INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ADRAR

Al-Jamʿiya al-Tārīkhīya wa-ʿl-Athāriyya (Historical & Archaeological Society)

Status: Public library, under the trusteeship of the Adrar Government

Conditions of access: Open to researchers and students on normal working days.

Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 30.

Description of collection: The collection contains MSS on fiqh, usūl al-fiqh, logic, history and philology. Their dates of copying range from the 9th to the 14th centuries AH. Their condition is acceptable in the main, except for a number which need attention. The collection contains a number of important MSS, such as the unpublished Abū Dhiya al-Dimma by Muhammad b. ʿAbd al-Karīm al-Maghīlī.

Zawiyat Hannūn

Date of establishment: 13th century AH

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By permission of the owner.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 2 (Arabic)

Description of collection: The MSS treat the disciplines of qiraʾāt and fiqh. They were copied in the 11th and 14th centuries AH, and are in fair condition.

ALGIERS

Bibliothèque Nationale d’Algérie (Al-Maktaba al-Wataniyya al-Jazaʿiriyya)

1 Avenue Frantz Fanon.
Tel.: 631049, 320663. Fax: 610435
Date of establishment: 1251/1835
Status: National library

Conditions of access: Open to the public.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,576 (Arabic; Berber; Persian; Turkish).

Description of collection: A number of private collections have been incorporated into the National Library, including those of Amīr ʿAbd al-Qādir (21 MSS), Ibn Rāshīd (36 MSS) and Ibn Hammūda (219 MSS, collected in Timbuktu), ʿAlī ibn al-Ḥāj Mūsā, Emond Fagnan and Pierre Belart (344 MSS). The collection of Muhammad b. Khalīfa was acquired in July 1993.

The physical condition of the MSS is acceptable in the main, although a number of them are in danger of being lost through lack of means to preserve them.

In addition to the MS, originals, 104 MSS have been microfilmed, 510 have been copied on microfiche and 6 have been photocopied.

Most of the MSS are on the following subjects: Qurʿānic studies, tafsīr, qiraʾāt, Hadīth, kalām, ʿagāʾid, prayers, ṭawwuf, usūl al-fiqh, Mālikī and Ḥanafi fiqh, philology, rhetoric, grammar, politics, logic, mathematics, algebra, astronomy, history. A smaller number are in the following fields: kalām, medicine, alchemy, geography, travel, almanacs, poetry, amulets. The MSS in the collection date
from the 3rd to the 14th centuries AH, with the greatest number dating from the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries.

See:


MSS of scientific or material value in the collection include:
(i) Fragment of a Qurʿān dating from the 3rd century AH, written on parchment in Kufic script;
(ii) Al-Musafat by Mālik b. Anas, one of the oldest MSS of the collection, having been copied in the 6th century AH on parchment, finely decorated, illuminated and gilt;
(iii) Al-Mudawwana al-kubrā by Saʿīd b. ʿUmār, copied in 531 AH (1137 CE) on parchment (from the Ibn Ḥammūda collection);
(iv) A work by Muhammad al-Murtaḍa ʿl-Zarqāʾi on jarḥ and tadhīl (Hadīth science), autograph MS. written in 1195 AH (1781);
(v) Naṣr al-Jawāhir fi sīlah al-baṣīr by Muslim b. ʿAbd al-Qādir al-Kāṭib, copied in 1328 AH (1823) with author’s permission.

Published catalogues:

Systematic catalogue of 1,987 Arabic, Berber, Persian & Turkish MSS.


Unpublished catalogues:


Handlist of MSS in 2 private libraries, ʿAbd al-Qādir and Ibn Raḥbā, followed by an appendix to the previous catalogue, describing MSS 2610–3498.


Wizârat al-Shu'ûn al-Diniya (Ministry of Religious Affairs)

Status: Public library
Total number of Islamic MSS: 479.
Description of collection: The collections of the Great Mosque and the Barwaqiyâ Mosque of Medéa (249 MSS) are housed here. The Ministry intends to add to its collection by incorporating the holdings of other mosque libraries in the near future. The MSS are arranged by subjects (Qur'an, tafsîr, usûl al-fiqh, Hanafî and Malikî fiqh, ta'wîl, ethics, grammar). Important MSS in this collection include:

(i) Šukh al-Bukhârî, written on parchment, with gilt ornamentation. Only parts 1 and 12 remain; these bear a ta'bi' (waqf) stamp dated Muḥarram 1043 AH [1633];
(ii) Al-Fakîr al-fâkhira fi 'l-nazar fi šumâr al-fâkhira by Šâb al-Ra'îmân b. Mâkhlûf al-Tha'âlîbi, in Mashriqi script;
(iii) Ṭanawir al-maqâila fi ṣâliḥ lafz al-Risâla by Muḥammad b. Īsâhâm al-Tâtî.'

Published catalogues:
Systematic catalogue of 108 MSS.

Khazâ'în kutub al-Jâzâ'îr, pp. 228–266.

1956. See Union catalogue by Schacht.

Unpublished catalogue:
The collection is described in a typewritten handlist of 479 MSS on various disciplines (Qur'anic sciences, Hadîth, fiqh, tasawwuf, philology, grammar, etc.).

'Āṭf (Wâdi Mzâb)
Dâr al-Talamîdh

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 228.
Description of collection: The MSS cover a variety of subjects, including Qur'an, tafsîr, Hadîth, usûl al-fiqh and Ibâdî fiqh. Their dates of copying range from the 6th to the 14th centuries. The general condition of the MSS is reasonable.

Published catalogue:
1956. See Union catalogue by Schacht.

Umar ibn Mas'ûd

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 90.
Description of collection: The MSS cover the study of the Qur'an, tafsîr, Hadîth, Ibâdî fiqh, lexicography, rhetoric, grammar, mathematics, astronomy, history and biography. Their dates of copying range from the 9th to the 15th centuries AH. The physical state of the MSS is satisfactory for the most part, although a number of them have deteriorated owing to a lack of preservation facilities.

Published catalogue:
1956. See Union catalogue by Schacht.

Aulef El Arab
Muḥammad Bâbî al-Balâ'îm

Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to recognised researchers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 50.
Description of collection: The MSS are concentrated in the following subjects: Qur'an, tafsîr, qira'ât, Hadîth, ta'wîl, 'uqûd, usûl al-fiqh,
tasawwuf, Mālikī fiqh, philology, astronomy. Their dates of copying range from the 10th to the 14th centuries AH. Some of the MSS are in good condition, whilst others are incomplete. The collection contains a number of loose folios which need to be reintegrated into the works from which they have become detached.

AWLĀD FĀRIS (Cheleff)

Shaykh Būdāli

Date of establishment: ca. 1900
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 86.
Description of collection: Admittance was not granted, but the owner states that the collection contains MSS in the fields of Qur'ān, qirā'āt, tafsīr, Ḥadīth, tasawwuf, usūl al-fiqh, philology and rhetoric. The dates of copying are of the 12th and 13th centuries AH. The MSS are kept on shelves with a collection of printed books.

AWLĀD JALLĀL—see OULED DJELLAL

‘AYN MĀDĪ

Zāwiyyat ‘Ayn Mādī

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Shaykh of the zāwiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 281.
Description of collection: Subjects include Qur’ān, tafsīr, qirā'āt, theology, Sufism, fiqh, history and biography. They are in fair condition, although many have deteriorated.

Published catalogue:
1885. See Union catalogue by Basset.

‘AYN M’LILA

Zāwiyyat Sidi Khalifa

Date of establishment: 1263/1846

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Shaykh of the zāwiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 200.
Description of collection: Most of the Islamic sciences are represented. The dates of copying span the 9th to the 14th centuries AH. Their condition is generally fair, although they are threatened by a lack of suitable preservation facilities. There is no catalogue or handlist, but 57 MSS are listed in the article given below.

Published catalogue:

‘AYN WISĀRA

Zāwiyyat ‘Ayn Wisāra

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the owners.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 12.
Description of collection: The collection contains MSS in the fields of Qur’ān, tafsīr, qirā'āt, Ḥadīth, ʿaqīqa, usūl al-fiqh and history. Their dates of copying range from the 11th to the 15th centuries AH. The MSS are kept in a cabinet and are generally in acceptable condition, although some have deteriorated owing to a lack of preservation facilities.

BATNA (BĀTINA)

Mufattahiyat al-Shuʿūn al-Diniya (Inspectorate of Religious Affairs)

Status: Public library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Director.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 70.
Description of collection: The MSS in the collection represent the fields of Qur’ān, tafsīr, qirā'āt, Ḥadīth, tasawwuf, philology, rhetoric, and grammar. They have been gathered from a variety of locations. The condition of the MSS is acceptable for the most part, although a
number of them have deteriorated owing to the lack of appropriate preservation facilities.

*Unpublished catalogue:*
A handlist is currently in preparation.

**Al-Shaykh al-Tihāmī al-Ṣahrāwī al-Ḥaydūsī**

*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* By appointment only.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 20.  
*Description of collection:* The MSS represent the fields of Qurʾān, **tafsīr,** **Hadith,** **taṣawwuf,** **uṣūl al-dīn,** grammar, poetry and prose literature. Their dates of copying range from the 11th to the 14th centuries AH. A number of the MSS have deteriorated owing to the lack of appropriate facilities for preservation. The oldest MS. in this collection is no. 80, entitled *Al-Dawr fi sharh Muhazziyar Khudl* by Bahram b. ʿAbd Allāh al-Damirī, copied in 1070 AH (1660).

*Published catalogue:*  

*Unpublished catalogue:*  
A handlist exists for the collection.

**BECHAR (BISHAR)**

**Zawiya Kazzāz**

*Date of establishment:* 10th/16th century  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* By appointment only.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 15.  
*Description of collection:* As with many zawiya libraries, the MSS of this collection were formerly much more numerous, and most of them have been lost or dispersed.

**Zawiya Lawwāt**

*Date of establishment:* 12th century AH  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* By appointment only.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 80.  
*Description of collection:* Most of the MSS represent the disciplines of Qurʾān, tafsīr, Ḥadīth, taṣawwuf, uṣūl al-dīn, grammar, poetry and prose literature. Their dates of copying range from the 7th to the 14th centuries AH. Most of the MSS are in poor condition.

The collection contains a number of MSS of scholarly or aesthetic value, including the Uṣūls of Anṣār ʿUthmān al-Tanāṣ, copied in 635 AH (1238 CE), in the author’s lifetime.

**Zawiya al-Qanādisa**

*Date of establishment:* 7th/13th century  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* By appointment only.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 3.  
*Description of collection:* The MSS were reportedly much more numerous at the time of the foundation of the zawiya, but most of them have been lost or dispersed. Those remaining treat the disciplines of tafsīr, Ḥadīth and fiqh. They are in poor condition and are incomplete.

**BENI ISGUEN (BANI YIZQAN)**

Muḥammad ibn Yūsuf Atfish

*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* By appointment with the owner.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 500.  
*Description of collection:* The MSS cover a variety of fields, notably Qurʾān, tafsīr, ṣaḥīḥ, Ḥadīth, fiqh, grammar, lexicography and history. Their dates of copying span the 3rd to the 14th centuries AH. The MSS are well cared for, although technical facilities are lacking.
Published catalogue: 1936. See Union catalogue by Schacht.

BOUDA (BUDA)

Zawiyat Būda

Date of establishment: 1074 AH [1664]
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to recognised researchers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: approximately 300.
Description of collection: The collection is in deplorable condition. The MSS are illegible for the most part, and loose folios lie scattered. As far as can be ascertained, the MSS cover the following subjects: Qur'ān, Hadith, ta'zhīd, 'aṣīrī, 'uṣūl al-fiqh, ta'awwuf, grammar, and history. Some date from the 8th century AH.

AL-BURJ

Al-Shaykh al-Bashir

Date of establishment: 20th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 400.
Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qur'ān, Qur'ān, tasfi'āt, Hadith, 'uṣūl al-fiqh, philology, rhetoric, history, biography, literature, medicine and astronomy. Their dates of copying span the 9th to the 15th centuries AH.
The MSS are kept in a well-ventilated room and are carefully looked after by the owner. Only a small proportion of them are incomplete. However, they are in need of some restoration.
Valuable MSS in the collection include Al-Anṣār fī āyāt al-Nabī al-mukkāhir by 'Abd al-Rahmān al-Tha'ālī'ī.

BŪ SA'ĀDA

'Abd al-Qādir b. 'Ali b. Muhammad Munir

Status: Private

Conditions of access: By arrangement with the keepers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 30.
Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qur'ān, philology and literature. Their dates of copying span the 10th to the 14th centuries AH. Their physical condition is fair.
Valuable MSS include a poem by Muḥammad b. Abī 'l-Qāsim, copied in 355 AH [966 CE].

'Abd al-Qādir b. Shubayra al-Būṣa'ādi

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement.
Description of collection: The collection includes copies of the Qur'ān, and works in the fields of tasfi'āt, Hadith, fiqh, philology and literature. Their dates of copying are the 11th and 12th centuries AH. There are a number of valuable MSS in the collection, but many of their folios are loose and disordered.

Masjid 'Abd Allāh b. Mas'ūd

Date of establishment: 7th century AH
Status: Public mosque library, under the authority of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: By arrangement.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 33.
Description of collection: The MSS are shortly to be moved to the headquarters of the Ministry, where they will be catalogued and stored.

Masjid 'Abd al-Ḥamid b. Bādis

Status: Public mosque library, under the authority of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: By arrangement.
Description of collection: It is difficult to ascertain the number of MSS held in this collection, as their folios are scattered and disordered. However, it is possible to state that the fields of šari'a, fiqh, history, philology, grammar, logic, mathematics and astronomy are represented. The dates of copying range from the 8th to the 14th centuries AH.
CONSTANTINE (QUANSANTA)

General

The mosque libraries detailed below are estimated to contain about 200 MSS on philology, Hadith, history, law, theology & logic. They date from the 10th to the 14th centuries AH and are generally in satisfactory condition, although some damage has occurred for want of the necessary means of preservation.

Other important manuscript collections are known to have existed in Constantine, but it has not been possible to obtain information concerning their present state or location. What follows is a bibliography of some of the earlier published information:


Notice des ouvrages historiques, littéraires et philologiques qui se trouvent dans la bibliothèque du Cid-Hammouda à Constantine, pp. 15–16.


Includes a detailed description of one MS. containing a Sufi text, and a list of the titles of 34 others, in the library of St Hammeda; also mentions the library of Al-Ḥajj ʿAbd al-Mūrāk.


Records the sale and dispersal of this collection.


Systematic description of an important Arabic MS. on local history.

Bilqāṣim Mosque

Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Description of collection: See under General above.

Al-Hasanayn Mosque

Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Description of collection: See under General above.

Husayn Bāy Mosque

Nahj Būd Shīḥ Bīlqāṣim
Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Description of collection: See under General above.

Al-Jāmiʿ al-Kabir (Great Mosque)

Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Description of collection: See under General above.
Sayyida Hafsa Mosque
5 Nahj 'Abd Allâh Bây
Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Description of collection: See under General above.

Sidi Maghraf Mosque
17 Nahj 'Abd Allâh Bây
Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Description of collection: See under General above.

Al-Tawba Mosque
32 Nahj Bidî Luwayza
Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Description of collection: See under General above.

GHARDAYA
Shaykh Bayânû al-Ḥâjj Muḥammad b. Yûsuf
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 130.
Description of collection: This collection covers the study of Qur’ân, tafsîr, Hadîth, and also includes works on Mâlikî and Ibâdî fiqh. A smaller number deal with history, biography, politics, mathematics and astronomy. Their dates of copying range from the 8th to the 14th centuries AH. Their condition is generally satisfactory.

Published catalogues:
1883. See Union catalogue by Motylinski.
1956. See Union catalogue by Schacht.

AL-HÂMIL
Zawiyat al-Hâmil
Date of establishment: ca. 1890
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the owner.
Description of collection: At the time of Basset’s cataloguing, this library contained 53 MSS covering a variety of disciplines (tafsîr, Hadîth, faw’ûdî, grammar). The oldest MS. was copied in 536 AH [1142 CE]; this is no. 51, Al-Jâmi‘ al-Sâhilî by Al-Bukhārî. The collection also contains a copy of Al-Mi‘yûrî by Al-Wânshârî, copied in 889 AH [1494 CE], during the lifetime of the author.

Published catalogues:
Detailed descriptions of the contents of 53 MSS.

Shaykh Hamû b. Ba‘âdâmad Ya‘qûb al-Wârjalânî
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 54.
Description of collection: The MSS in the collection cover several Islamic disciplines, and include a number of works on Ibâdî fiqh. Their dates of copying range from the 6th to the 14th centuries AH. Their condition is generally satisfactory; however, the library lacks the means to carry out restoration work.

Published catalogues:
1883. See Union catalogue by Motylinski.
1956. See Union catalogue by Schacht.
HĀŚĪ

Zawiyaat al-Abdāb

Status: Private
Condition of access: By appointment.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300.
Description of collection: The MSS cover a variety of fields, including Qurāʾ, qiraʾāt, tafsīr, Hadith, usūl al-fiqh, ʿaqīḍa, taṣawwuf, grammar, logic, philology, rhetoric, history, biography and astronomy. Their dates of copying span the 8th to the 14th centuries AH. The MSS are kept in cabinets and have suffered some deterioration owing to the lack of proper preservation facilities.

KHATTĪ

Al-Ḥājī Mubarak b. Ṣāliḥ

Status: Private
Condition of access: Open to recognised researchers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300.
Description of collection: The collection was founded by the father of the owner, the Qāḍī Muhammad b. Siwārim, in the 19th century. It covers the following disciplines: Qurāʾ, tafsīr, qiraʾāt, tawḥīd, ʿaqīḍa, usūl al-fiqh, taṣawwuf, philology, rhetoric, grammar, politics, logic, mathematics and algebra. The dates of copying of the MSS range from the 8th to the 14th centuries AH. Most of the MSS are in a lamentable state, and only a hundred are usable. They are kept in old cardboard and wooden boxes, many of which have been exposed to excessive heat. Many of the title pages and colophons are missing. Valuable items include Risāla fi l-tawḥīd by Muḥammad b. Yūsuf al-Ṣāḥibī.

KUNTA

Zawiyaat Kunta

Status: Private
Condition of access: By appointment with the Skaykh of the zawiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 64.
Description of collection: The MSS of the collection cover the following fields: Qurāʾ, tafsīr, qiraʾāt, Hadith, taṣawwuf, ʿaqīḍa, usūl al-fiqh, taṣawwuf, Maḥākkī and ʿAṣāfī fiqh, prayers, philology, grammar, logic, mathematics, astronomy, history and biography. Their dates of copying range from the 8th to the 14th centuries AH.

The MSS are kept in a metal cabinet. Their condition is fair, in comparison with those of other collections in the region, but some have been damaged. The collection contains a number of MSS of scholarly or scientific value, e.g.

(i) Sharḥ al-Thiqāt al-Naqīṣa al-kāfiya by Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Rahmān al-Zikrī;

Zawiyaat Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-Karīm al-Maghīlī

Date of establishment: 10th/16th century
Status: Private
Condition of access: By permission of the owner.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 300.
Description of collection: The collection was established by the founder on his return from the western Sudan. The MSS cover the following fields: Qurāʾ, tafsīr, qiraʾāt, Hadith, taṣawwuf, usūl al-fiqh, taṣawwuf, grammar, logic and algebra, history and biography. The MSS in the collection were copied between the 10th and 14th centuries AH. The MSS are in good condition, with sound bindings, but are on open display in a long room. There is evidence that they are cared for by their owner, but they would benefit from appropriate preservation and repair work.

Valuable MSS include the following:

(i) Kitāb al-rahma fi l-tībīb wa-l-hikma by ʿAlī b. ʿIbārīhī al-Sādi al-Hindi, copied in 1062 AH [1652];

MASCARA (MUʿASKAR)

Masjid al-Kurṭ

Date of establishment: 17th century
Status: Mosque library
Conditions of access: Open to the public.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 4.
Description of collection: The MSS treat the fields of Qur'ān and Hadith. Their dates of copying range between the 10th and 14th centuries AH. The MSS lack their title pages and colophons, making identification difficult.

Zawiyyat al-Shaykh Shantūf

Date of establishment: 19th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Shaykh of the zawiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 30.
Description of collection: The MSS treat the disciplines of Qur'ān, qira't, Hadith, tasawwuf, usul al-fiqh and 'aqīdah. They are kept in a cabinet. Some of them are in good condition, but others have deteriorated, and the classification numbers of some are illegible.

MILIANA
Masjid Sidi Ahmad b. Yusuf al-Miliani

Date of establishment: 1529
Status: Public mosque library, under the authority of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: By appointment with the imām.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 86.
Description of collection: Access was not granted, but according to the keepers the MSS cover the fields of Qur'ān, tafsīr, tawhīd, usul al-fiqh and Mālikī fiqh. The dates of copying are reported between the 3rd and 14th centuries AH, with the majority being concentrated in the 12th and 13th centuries AH. The condition of the MSS is stated to be fair.

MUTĀRIFA
Zawiyyat Muṭarifa

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment.

ORAN (WAHRĀN)
Zawiyyat Baṭiwa (al-Mahdi al-Bū'abdali)

Date of establishment: 10th/16th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Shaykh of the Zawiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 230.
Description of collection: Most of the MSS treat the study of the Qur'ān, tafsīr, Hadith, usul al-fiqh, tasawwuf, lexicography, grammar, logic, astronomy and history. A small proportion of the MSS treat kalām, geography and travel. Their dates of copying range from the 5th to the 14th centuries AH.

The MSS are still largely in a state of disorder. They are divided into three sections, the first being for bound volumes, the second for old works and the third for letters and historical and legal documents. In general, the MSS need to be put in order and properly maintained.

The library contains a number of MSS of scholarly or artistic value, including a copy of Fath al-Bābī by IbN Ḥajar al-‘Asqalānī, copied in the 7th century AH.

See:


Unpublished catalogue:
Fohris Khizānat al-Mahdi al-Bū'abdali (handlist).
OUARGLA (WARJALÂN)

Zāwiyyat ʿAjāja

Date of establishment: 19th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the Shaykh of the Zāwiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 100.
Description of collection: The MSS deal mainly with Qur'anic studies, thecology, philology, logic, astronomy, history (of north-west Africa, Tunisia and the eastern Arabs), biography, Ḥadīth, Mālikī fiqh, literature and grammar. At the time of cataloguing, the collection contained 281 MSS, which suggests that a significant proportion of the collection has since been damaged, lost or dispersed.

Published catalogues:
1885. See Union catalogue by Motylinski.
1885. See Union catalogue by Basset.
1956. See Union catalogue by Schacht.

Zāwiyyat Bani Ibrāhīm

Date of establishment: 11th/17th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the owners.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 48.
Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qurʾān, ṭafsīr, qirāṭ, Ḥadīth, ʿaqīd, usūl al-fiqh, fiqh, taṣawwuf, philology, rhetoric and logic. Their dates of copying range from the 9th to the 14th centuries AH. The physical condition of the MSS is fair, but some are incomplete and have suffered from a lack of preservation facilities.

Zāwiyyat Bani Sisish

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the owners.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 25.
Description of collection: The MSS represent the disciplines of Qurʾān, ṭafsīr, qirāṭ, Ḥadīth, Mālikī fiqh and taṣawwuf. Their dates of copying span the 9th to the 14th centuries AH. The MSS are in need of repair and restoration.

Zāwiyyat Bani Wāfin

Date of establishment: 11th/17th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the owners.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 73.
Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qurʾān, ṭafsīr, qirāṭ, Ḥadīth, ʿaqīd, usūl al-fiqh, fiqh, taṣawwuf, philology, grammar, rhetoric and logic. They are in reasonable condition, but the library has no facilities for preservation or restoration.

Zāwiyyat Warjalân

Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the Shaykh of the Zāwiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 49.
Description of collection: The collection contains MSS in the fields of Qurʾān, ṭafsīr, qirāṭ, Ḥadīth, ʿaqīd, usūl al-fiqh, fiqh, taṣawwuf, lexicography, grammar, ʿirā, astronomy, literature and history and biography. Their dates of copying span the 11th to the 14th centuries AH. The MSS are in reasonable condition, but the library has no facilities for preservation or restoration.

Published catalogue:
1885. See Union catalogue by Basset.

OULED DJELLAL (Biskra)

ʿAbd al-Hamid Tatānī

Date of establishment: ca. 1900
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the owner.
Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qurʾān, Hadith, kalām, ʿulūl al-fiqh and taṣawwuf. They were copied between the 11th and 14th centuries AH. Important material in the collection includes:

(i) Al-Ṭarīqā al-Muḥammadīya by ʿAlī b. Abī Bakr b. ʿAbd al-Jalīl, copied by Ibrāhīm b. ʿAmīr al-Qusaynī in 1229 AH [1814];
(ii) Taḥārī al-ghāfīṭīn by Abū ʿl-Layth al-Samarqānī, copied in 1064 AH [1654].

Muḥammad al-ʿAbīd

Status: Public mosque library, under the control of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Ministry or the imām of the mosque.
Description of collection: The MSS treat the disciplines of Qurʾān, qiraʿāt, tafsīr, logic, astronomy and history. The dates of copying range from the 10th to the 14th centuries AH. The MSS are kept in three cabinets, two of which are locked. Some of the folios of the MSS in the third cabinet have been mixed up and they are all covered in dust. However, the condition of the MSS is generally satisfactory.

Muḥammad Waqqād

Date of establishment: ca. 1900
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 30.
Description of collection: The MSS treat the disciplines of Qurʾān, qiraʿāt, tafsīr, Hadith, kalām, taṣawwuf, ʿulūl al-fiqh, philology and literature. The dates of copying range from the 11th to the 15th centuries AH. The MSS are bound and are in reasonable condition. The valuable MSS of the collection include Bughyat al-ṭālibīn bīnā tadbir-ninuwa Umun al-barāikhīn by Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Miṣrī, copied in 1066 AH [1656].

Samātī ʿAbd al-Ḥafīm

Date of establishment: ca. 1900
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 30.
Description of collection: The MSS represent the fields of Qurʾān, qiraʿāt, tafsīr, Hadith, ʿaqīdah, taṣawwuf, history and biography. They were copied between the 11th and 12th centuries AH. Most of the MSS are in fair condition, but a number of them have suffered from a lack of essential preservation facilities. The collection includes some MSS of scholarly or scientific value, including Al-Iṣṭiḥāra ʿl-ḥadīth muʿātirī ʿl-Shīffī by Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Dalīlī.

Al-Zāwiya al-Muḥtiṣariyya

Date of establishment: 1276/1860
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment only.
Description of collection: This is reportedly a large collection of MSS covering the fields of Qurʾān, qiraʿāt, tafsīr, Hadith, ʿaqīdah, taṣawwuf, ʿulūl al-fiqh, grammar, rhetoric, politics, logic, mathematics, astronomy, history and biography.

Qāṣr al-Bukhārī

Zāwiya al-Maṣṣūm Būghār

Date of establishment: 1865
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By appointment with the Shaykh of the zāwiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 33.
Description of collection: Most of the MSS are works about taṣawwuf. They were copied in the 12th and 13th centuries AH.

Sirāyānā

Al-Shaykh Būzayd

Date of establishment: ca. 1900
At that time the MSS of the zarwia were more numerous than they are today, as many of them have now been lost or dispersed. The remaining MSS cover the fields of Qur’an, tafsir, qira’at, hadith, tawhid, Usul al-fiqh, Fiqh, tasawwuf, philology and biography. The dates of copying of the MSS range from the 8th to the 14th centuries AH. Most of the MSS are in good condition, and are bound together in collections and kept in cabinets.

The collection contains a number of MSS of scholarly or artistic value, e.g.

(i) Risala fi ‘i-Yahudi by ʿAbd al-Karim al-Maghili;

TIMĪ
Khizānat Kūsān

Date of establishment: 12th century AH
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the keepers.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 300.

Description of collection: Most of the MSS of this collection are on Qur’ān, tafsir, qira’at, hadith, tawhid, Usul al-fiqh, Maliki fiqh, tasawwuf, grammar, philology, rhetoric, logic, astronomy, mathematics, algebra, and biography. A small proportion treat kalām, medicine, geography and travel. The dates of copying range from the 7th to the 15th centuries AH. The condition of the MSS is generally satisfactory, although a number of them have suffered from a lack of proper preservation facilities.

The collection contains a number of MSS of scholarly or aesthetic value, including part of Siḥaḥ al-Bukhārī, copied by ʿAlī b. ʿAbd Allāh b. Maṣūd in 662 AH [1264 CE].

Zawiyat Qasr Mallūka

Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to recognised researchers, by appointment.  
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 300.

Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qurʾān, tafsīr, qirāṭ, ḥadīth, ṭawḥīd, ʿaqīḍah, ʿuṣūl al-fiqh, taṣawwuf, grammar, logic, astronomy and biography. Some of the MSS date from the 9th and 10th centuries AH. They are kept in a purpose-built, ventilated room and the condition of most of them is satisfactory.

TÁMMÁN
Zāwiyat Sidi Bilqāsim

Date of establishment: 18th century
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment with the Shaykh of the zāwiyā.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 100.

Description of collection: The MSS cover the fields of Qurʾān, tafsīr, qirāṭ, ḥadīth, ṭawḥīd, ʿaqīḍah, grammar, astronomy and biography. A number of the MSS were copied in the 9th century AH. Most are in good condition, but some need remedial care.

TÁLMÁCEN (TÁLIMAŚÁN)
Thānawiyat Ibn Jarjab

Status: Public library, under the authority of the Ministry of Education.

Conditions of access: By appointment with the keepers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 64.

Description of collection: Deposited here is the collection of the Tlemcen Madrasa (al-Qādī Shuʿayb). The 1907 catalogue describes 110 MSS, leading us to assume that a number of MSS have been lost or dispersed. The disciplines treated by the MSS are: Qurʾān, ḥadīth, si̇ra, ṭawḥīd, kalām, taṣawwuf, ʿuṣūl, philosophy, logic, mathematics, history and biography. Their dates of copying span the 12th to the 14th centuries AH. Most of the MSS are in good condition, but a few have loose and disordered folios and are not numbered.

Under no. 63 in the catalogue we find a description of Buḫyāt al-sażālik fi ʾashraf al-masālik by Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-ʿAṣḥāb al-Ṣājjī, of which the only known copy is in the British Library.

Published catalogues:


TOŁQA (TULQA)
Shaykh ʿAbd al-Qādīr al-ʿUthmānī

Date of establishment: 19th century
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 500.

Description of collection: Most of the MSS represent the fields of Qurʾān, qirāṭ, tafsīr, ḥadīth, ʿaqīḍah, taṣawwuf, ʿuṣūl al-fiqh, grammar, rhetoric, politics, logic, mathematics, astronomy, history and biography. Other disciplines are also represented. The dates of copying of the MSS range between the 8th and 14th centuries AH. The condition of the MSS is generally satisfactory, as they are carefully looked after. They are kept in a well-ventilated room and are regularly dusted.

The collection contains a number of valuable MSS, including:
(i) Fadd ḫāṣṣa wax man dakhālah min al-Ṣaḥāba wax ʾl-tālbīn by ʿIsā b. ʿAlī al-Bisqābī;

Shaykh Abū Šāliḥ al-ʿUthmānī

Date of establishment: ca. 1900
Status: Private

Conditions of access: By appointment only.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 89.

Description of collection: The MSS are in the disciplines of Qurʾān, tafsīr, ḥadīth, ʿaqīḍah, taṣawwuf, ʿuṣūl al-fiqh, philology and grammar. The dates of copying span the 6th to the 15th centuries AH. The
TOUGGOURT

Zawiyaat Tamasín (Temacin)

Date of establishment: 19th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the Shaykh of the zawiya.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 100.
Description of collection: At the time of cataloguing, 12 MSS were recorded. The collection has been expanded since then, and now numbers over 100 MSS. A high proportion of the MSS are on tasawwuf.

Published catalogue:
1885. See Union catalogue by Basset.

WADI JUM'A (GHALIZAN)

Sidi 'Abd al-Baqi

Date of establishment: 19th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: By arrangement with the Shaykh of the zawiya.
Description of collection: The MSS represent the fields of Qur'an, tafsir, Hadith, 'aqida, usul al-fiqh, tasawwuf and history. Their dates of copying range from the 9th to the 14th centuries AH, with the majority dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. The MSS and their bindings are generally in good condition, but are likely to deteriorate with the lack of suitable means of preservation.

The collection contains a copy of Tawwir al-maqala by Muhammad b. Ibrāhīm al-'Atā'ī, copied in 993 AH [1879].

   Alger, p. 1, nos. 5–6; Tlemcen, p. 32, no. 261; Algérie, p. 35, nos. 2–5.

AUSTRALIA

compiled by

G.J. Roper

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