AL-ZÅWIYA

Approximately 1,000 privately owned MSS exist in Al-Zâwiya.

Zliten

Many families in this city have private collections which include MSS copied by their forefathers, and some of them are rare works. Among these families are the following: Bin Ganûnû, Andisha, Juwân, al-Mahjûb, Bin Mas‘ûd, Aţfayyish and al-Sâwi.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX


See nos. 33, 95 & 132 for items relating to Libya.


EDITORIAL NOTE

The acronym IMRS used in this survey stands for Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique (Al-Ma’had al-Mawritānī li-l-Baḥth al-‘Ilmi) in Nouakchott, which since its foundation in 1975 has been carrying out a programme of collecting and microfilming manuscripts all over Mauritania. The Institute has regional centres in Boutlimit, Chinguetti and Tichitt for the same purpose, and the gathering together of MSS collections continues.

PREFACE

This survey is a tentative investigation: it is the result of fieldwork and gives first-hand information about collections which have been seen personally. When information is derived from secondary sources, the source is indicated. Several collections have not been mentioned here because of the difficulty of access and research.

It was possible to conduct this survey because of the cooperation and warm welcome accorded by the high authorities of the Ministère de la Culture et de l’Orientation Islamique, the Secrétariat d’État à l’Alphabétisation, the researchers and the tutors of the Faculté de Lettres et Sciences Humaines of Nouakchott and the owners of libraries. I thank them sincerely for their hospitality and cooperation.

UNION CATALOGUES AND SURVEYS

Published:

Includes the description of 6 MSS seen in southern Mauritania.

Includes descriptions of 3 MSS copied in Mauritania (pp. 673–674).

This provisional catalogue in Arabic covers a period of four and a half centuries of learned production and presents a list of nearly 600 names of Mauritanian authors whose best-known works it surveys.


Describes the catalogue project & authors of Mauritanian MSS.


Los manuscritos, pp. 32 – 55: list of 50 MSS in Mauritanian collections, with very brief details and a few colour reproductions.


Notes in an appendix work done by HEYMOWSKI on cataloguing MSS in Mauritania.


Describes the project led by U. REBSTOCK at Tübingen University to produce a catalogue of Arabic MSS in Mauritania, and lists some of the MSS by noted authors.


Catalogue in Arabic and German of 100 MSS with indexes of names, titles and MSS from collections in Shinjūt & Nouakchott.


Short descriptions of MSS. On pages 187 – 194 a list of libraries is given. Their manuscript collections have been or will be microfilmed by the Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique in Nouakchott and the University of Tübingen.


Unpublished:
Typescript, listing 492 titles.
INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

ABĪR AL-TAWRIS (ABAR AL-ATROUS)

Sīdī Ibn al-Tāh

Bibibih & Hamdān ibn al-Tāh’s residence
Date of establishment: end of 18th century
Status: Private
Conditions of access: On application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,000.
Description of collection: The collection was founded by the present owner’s great-grandfather, Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad al-ʿAskī. Its MSS are mixed up with the library’s three thousand-odd printed books. Some of the MSS are kept in Nouakchott, where the owners work.

The MSS are kept in cabinets and boxes in rooms which are used for purposes other than MS. conservation. The collection is in danger of being damaged by rain, as the roof of the building is not sound. Some of the MSS have been encased in worn-out dust-wrappers as a temporary measure. Some are incomplete and have been partially damaged, whilst others are kept together in collections of up to a hundred MSS, ranging from single documents to complete compositions.

Most of the MSS are of local provenance, and reflect various aspects of Mauritian cultural life in the last three centuries. They cover the following subjects: fīqh, usūl, Hadith, biography, literature, astronomy, fatwāt, logic and correspondence. Their decorated leather bindings and the types of ink used in their preparation are the products of original techniques now lost.

The MSS are written in Arabic, in the Maghrībi script. Most of them are easily legible. Some are very carefully and neatly written, whilst others are penned more crudely, and are overlaid with glosses in neater hands.

The oldest MS. in the collection is an autograph collection of fatwāt on social issues by Muḥammad (?) ibn al-Māh ibn al-Muḥarrār, an ancestor of the library’s present owners. It was written in the middle of the nineteenth century in a good hand, using local (iron-based) ink on thick paper.

Unpublished catalogue:
An incomplete handlist exists for the collection.

AKJOÛJT

Ahī Muhammad wuld Muḥammad Śālim

Al-Qādi Muḥammad al-Amin wuld Būlahī
Tel.: 611 15 Aṭār
Date of establishment: 1863
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 400 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection contains part of the library of the scholar Muḥammad wuld Muḥammad Śālim as well as works acquired by one of the sons of the founder, Al-Qādi Aḥmad al-Qādir. There are original works by North African writers as well as copies; binding was done locally; the works cover all subjects.

AṬĀR

Dahhā wuld Sīdī Ahmad wuld al-Bashīr

Al-Qādi Dahha wuld Sīdī Ahmad Bashir
Date of establishment: ca. 1883
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Works available on loan and for photocopying.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 10.
Description of collection: The collection for the most part contains MSS of the Qur’ān. There is a commentary, Sharḥ al-Khatīl, by Aḥshāḥī al-Khatītāt.

Maktabat al-ʿIrfa ni-l-Dirāsā al-Islāmiya

Maryam Mint Abaydnā
Hay Touïnda, no. 274
Date of establishment: ca. 1883
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Open to students, teachers and researchers upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 40 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection was established by the father of the present custodian. Some MSS in the collection originate from
Andalusia; there are a few MSS of the Qur’an; most MSS are in bad condition; there is one autograph copy.

Ahmadu wuld Sidi al-Khalil

Date of establishment: ca. 1922
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 50.
Description of collection: The collection contains 32 items which once belonged to the Imam Sidi wuld Khalil (d. 1920), who travelled and studied in North Africa and the Middle East.
Unpublished catalogue:
A handlist.

BOUTILIMIT
Shaykh Sidiya al-Kabir

Baba wuld Harun
B.P. 4261
Nouakchott
Date of establishment: ca. 1826
Status: Private
Conditions of access: On application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 2,000 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection covers all fields and includes part of the collection of the Mauritanian scholar and leader of the Qadiriya fraternity, Shaykh Sidiya al-Kabir, who played an important religious and political role during the French penetration. The collection has expanded through the writings and acquisitions of his sons and grandsons. A noteworthy item is a hitherto unedited MS. of 6,150 pages on history by the grandson of Shaykh Sidiya, father of the present owner of the collection.

Published catalogues:
Description and catalogue of the library of Shaykh Sidiya.


Describes the collection and the microfilming project which will entail depositing copies of the microfilms at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA.

News of the progress of the microfilming project.

Unpublished catalogue:

CHINGUETTI (SHINQIT)

General

In an appendix there is a list of libraries of Chinguetti by M. Ould Hamidoun which gives the names of owners, number of works, style
of script and remarks. Many of these collections have been gathered at a central location in Chinguetti.

1988. Reisch (see under Union catalogues above) includes MSS from 9 collections in Chinguetti, but some of these collections have been transferred to the IMRS in Nouakchott.

Ahl ʿAbd Hamīd

*Date of establishment:* 1834  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* Closed at present.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 200.  
*Description of collection:* The collection, whose proprietor died recently in Hijar, includes some very old MSS. It is in a very bad state inside metal safes in a locked house.

Ahl Aḥmad Sharif

Muhammad wuld Mā al-ʿAynī  
Hôtel du Bien Étre, Chinguetti  
*Date of establishment:* 1863  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* Upon application.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 500 (Arabic).  
*Description of collection:* The collection contains part of the library of Aḥl Sharif belonging to the scholar Aḥmad Sharīf. It is housed together with the collection of Minna Wuld Hamuni (q.v.) in the latter’s house in Old Chinguetti. The owner of the collection realises the need for preservation of the collection, part of which is in very bad condition. The works are kept in boxes placed on shelves. The collection was listed by M.O. Hamdoun (see *General*, 1950, above).  

Ahl Muḥammad Ṣāliḥ wuld al-Hanshi

ʿAbd al-Rahmān wuld al-Ḥanshi

Chinguetti

*Date of establishment:* 1863  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* Upon application.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 150 (Arabic).  
*Description of collection:* The collection, covering all subjects, is old (8th century AH). It was surveyed by M. wuld Hamdoun. Part of the collection may have been microfilmed by the team of the University of Tübingen. It is in the process of being merged with other collections at a common location in Chinguetti.

*Published catalogue:*  
1989. Reisch (see under Union catalogues above) lists some MSS believed to be from this collection. See nos. 1069 – 1071; 1073 – 1085.

Ahl Ludāʿa

Wālī wuld Ludāʿa  
Chinguetti  
*Date of establishment:* 1834  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* Upon application.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 60 (Arabic).  
*Description of collection:* Covers all fields. The collection is in the process of being merged with other collections of Chinguetti.

Ahl Ahmad Mahmūd

Aḥmad wuld Aḥmad Mahmūd  
Chinguetti  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* Upon application.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* ca. 150 (Arabic).  
*Description of collection:* The collection is in good condition. It covers all subjects. Some MSS of the collection were microfilmed by the University of Tübingen. The collection is in the process of being merged with other collections of Chinguetti. It was surveyed by M.O. Hamdoun. See
1950. Curiosités ... under General above.

Published catalogue:
1988. Reistock (see under Union catalogues above) lists 4 MSS from this collection.

Shaykh wuld Hamûni

Minna wuld Ḥamûni
B.P. 1920
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 528 88/522 06
Date of establishment: ca. 1820
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 150 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Collection belonging to the descendants of the scholar Shaykh wuld Ḥamûni. It is also rich in archives. All subjects are covered. Several MSS are in bad condition. The collection contains several MSS of the Qurʾān. Among the rare MSS of the collection are the first volume of Abū Qasim ibn Naṣīr al-Ṭânīkhī’s Māʾalim al-tānim fi maʾrifat riyūḍ al-Qurʾān, and Būzīnī Siyyījāb al-Raʾūjūl Aḥmād al-Ḥādārī’s Rawdat al-azhar fi ṭalim waṣīq al-lugāt wa-t-irāz.

Note: The collection of Aḥmad Sharīf (q.v.) is housed with this collection.

Unpublished catalogues:
Handwritten catalogue in Arabic compiled by G. Simon-Kchedis and Mohamed Ould Tbéll.

Computerized list in preparation of 78 titles surveyed in June 1992; arranged according to number, giving notes, title, number of volumes, subject, author, copyist, date, pagination, physical condition of the MS., incipit, colophon, remarks.

Ṣūdī Muḥammad wuld Ḥabat

Aḥmad wuld Ḥabat

B.P. 494
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 517 78
Date of establishment: 1782
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 1,000 (Arabic; Persian).
Description of collection: Library of the scholar Muḥammad wuld Ḥabat (1748–1668) who encouraged copying and sent his children abroad to Egypt & al-Ḥijāz. The collection is kept in metal cupboards in a building in Chinguetti. It comprises ca. 1,500 titles covering all fields, and includes illuminated MSS. It gathers together several collections owned by the family. There are rare & old works on astronomy, mathematics and traditional medicine. A Foundation was created in 1986 to evaluate the collection and undertake editing, microfilming, etc. Several MSS of the collection were microfilmed by IMRS and the University of Tübingen. Among the rare works in the collection is a 9th-century MS. of Ṭuḥbīh al-unwād was-ṣan`ā`ir min Kitāb Allah by Abū Hīlāl al-Ṣākārī. See

1950. Curiosités ... under General above.

Unpublished catalogue:
Typed catalogues in several volumes arranged alphabetically according to authors. In the list of 1991, one finds in numerical order numbered notes containing title, author, subject, copyist, format, pagination, script and remarks.

Ṣawāiya of Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ḥāfīz

Conditions of access: On application.
Description of collection: The ṣawāiya houses the collections of Aḥl al-Ḍāḥa, Aḥl Dīrī and the library of Aḥl Ṭulba. This last, which now belongs to Muḥammad wuld Aḥb al-Ṭayyib Ṣawāiya al-Ḍāḥa, was established ca. 1883 and contains about 50 MSS, including Qurʾāns and texts on traditional sciences. It is in the process of being merged with the other Chinguetti collections.
**Published catalogue:**
1950. Curiosités ... under General above.

**‘ILBĀDRIS**

Ahl Ahmad Fāl

*Date of establishment:* before 13th century AH  
*Status:* Private  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 700 (Information from IMRS).

**MAʾṬ MAWLĀNA (TRĀRZA)**

Muḥammad wuld ʿAbd Ṣamad wuld ʿAbd al-Malik

Muḥammad wuld ʿAbd Ṣamad  
Nouakchott  
*Status:* Private  
*Conditions of access:* Upon application.  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 336 (Arabic; Hassaniya).  
*Description of collection:* The collection belongs to the scholar Muḥammad wuld ʿAbd Ṣamad in whose hand some MSS were copied. The collection is in good condition.

*Unpublished catalogue:*  
Handlist of 336 items (which include printed works) arranged according to number giving title, author, copyist, subject and remarks.

**MEDERDRA**

Ahl al-ʿĀqil

Hamdān wuld Tah  
Conseiller juridique à la BAMIS  
B.P. 650  
Nouakchott  
Tel.: (222-2) 513 21  
*Date of establishment:* 1829  
*Status:* Private

**Conditions of access:** Open to students, teachers and researchers upon application.

**Total number of Islamic MSS:** ca. 50.

**Description of collection:** The library bears the name of the founder, a religious scholar. More recent copies are separated from old ones. All subjects are represented, with several old and rare works, *faṭūḥa* and *alghāz*. Among the collection is an autograph copy of a work on logic by Khādiya Bint ʿĀqil.

*Unpublished catalogue:*  
Incomplete handwritten list and catalogue cards.

**NÉMA**

A. wuld Mawlāy

*Status:* Private  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 39 (IMRS information).

**Bābā wuld Qāsri**

*Status:* Private  
*Total number of Islamic MSS:* 34 (IMRS information).

**Mawlāy Muḥammad wuld Sidāṭi**—see under NOUAKCHOTT

**NOUAKCHOTT**

IMRS: Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique  
(Al-Maḥḍ al-Mawrīṭāni li-I-Baḥth al-ʾImāni)

Ministère de la Culture et de la Recherche Scientifique  
B.P. 5055  
Nouakchott  
Tel.: (222-2) 537 22. Fax: (222-2) 532 44  
*Date of establishment:* 1975  
*Status:* Public  
*Conditions of access:* Open to researchers, students and teachers upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 6,000.

Description of collection: Brings together the collections of 72 libraries of the country, mainly from the Tarza region in the southwest. The collection is very rich in Mauritanian authors, Oriental works in Arabic on all subjects, and works from Andalucia. Of particular interest are ornamented MSS and bindings. The collection includes 2,000 microfilms, of which 600 are preserved in the section. About 500 MSS are uncatalogued. Half the collection is in a dreadful condition. 252 MSS were restored in Spain and one in France.

Library collections housed at IMRS (identified by niska and manuscript record numbers in the catalogue):
Ahl 'A'mar [record numbers] 1784–1790
Ahl Abba b. al-Bukhari: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; La’mam) 1513–1517
Ahl Abi al-Ma’ali: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; La’mam) 1458–1469; 1503–1512
Ahl Ahmad Baya 1761
Ahl Ahmad al-Mahi: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub) 1652
Ahl Ahmad b. ‘Abd Allah 1815–1816
Ahl Ahmadu Fala: al-Tandaghi 156–234; 1656–1660
Ahl Agdawbak: al-Kumlayl (Ikumlayn) 753–778
Ahl Aighshummut: Ahl Ahmad ‘Ali: al-Majlis (Midliss) 1755; 1809–1814
Ahl Ajabay / Ahl Yadmusi: al-Shamsawi (Idghabannah; Tashumsha) 1961–1962; 2091–2245
Ahl Aminu: al-Tandaghi 687–705; 1579–1607; 1817–1846
Ahl ‘Ammi / Muhammad b. ‘Ammi: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; La’mam) 222; 236–239; 1882–1890; 2227–2282
Ahl Al-Basiri: al-Maliki (Idaghmaji) 1561–1571
Ahl Bazaydi: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub) 1076–1199; 2653–2655
Ahl Bukum: al-Kumlayl (Ikumlayn) 1616–1634; 1749–1754
Ahl Butubayni: al-Tandaghi (Rkaka) 221; 235; 855–856; 1532–1560
Ahl Bullah 1797–1803
Ahl Ghallawi: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub) 1639–1644
Ahl Haylali: al-Hanasi (Idalibhasan; Idawgadshalla) 1250–1264
Ahl Hamduni: al-Daymami 1265–1280
Ahl Lali: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; La’mam) 857–1068; 1282–1431; 1756–1760
Ahl Labbas: al-Jakani (Tajakanat; Shurfa) 1527–1531

Ahl al-Loh / Muhammad Yahya b. Loh: al-Majlis (Midliss) 1762–1783; 3071–3081
Ahl Mibla: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; La’mam) 1496
Ahl Muhammad Bawba: al-Aghali (al-Tahidibti) 1518–1526
Ahl Muhammad al-Amin 1693–1696
Ahl Muhammad al-Mustafa: al-Izayqi 1573–1578; 1804–1808; 2297–2298; 2437–2444
Ahl Muhammad Sali: al-Majlis (Midliss) 260–268; 1913–1923
Ahl Muhammad al-Mami: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; La’mam) 1791–1796; 2421–2423; 2635–2645
Ahl Muhammad b. al-Bukhari: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub) 779–854; 861; 1647–1650
Ahl al-Nihb: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub; Idawdam) 1069–1075
Ahl Ntafa 1495; 1497–1502
Ahl al-Rabban: al-Tandaghi 2303–2324; 2431–2436; 2476–2479; 2490–2492; 2500–2502; 2596–2634; 3037–3049; 3064
Ahl al-Sahir: al-Kumlayl (Ikumlayn) 706–732
Ahl al-Sofah: al-Kumlayl (Ikumlayn) 635–686; 1651
Ahl al-Shaykh Muhammad ‘Askir: al-Aghali (al-Tahidibti) 1–155; 550; 556; 3084–3129
Ahl al-Shaykh al-Mustafin: al-Kumlayl (Kumlayn) 269–634; 733–752; 2488–2489
Ahl Ubbata: al-Majlis (Midliss) 1697–1723
Ahl al-Watih: al-Maliki (Idaghmaji) 1478–1494
Aqimad b. Ali Muhammad 2738–2740
Aqimad b. al-Fadha A’mar: al-Yaqubi (Izayqub) 1635–1638
Aqimad b. Muhammad al-Muqtari 2424–2426
Aqimad b. Muhammad al-Mujtaba: al-Shamsawi (Idaghfagha; Tashumsha) 1901–1904; 2283–2288; 2456–2475
Aqimadu: Barmah b. al-Sufi: al-Shamsawi (Idaghfagha; Tashumsha) 1892–1900; 1941–1948
‘Abd Allah b. Barbarah 3062–3063; 3067–3068; 3132–3133
Isma’il b. ‘Abd Allah 3018–3036
Muhammad al-Amun b. Muhammad al-Hafiz 2299–2300; 2401–2420
MUHAMMAD ʿAbd Allāh b. Ummī: al-Majlisī (Midlish) 1572
MUHAMMAD ʿIshaq b. MUHAMMAD ʿUmarī: 3069 – 3070
MUHAMMAD Fāṭih b. Aḥma: al-Shamshawī (Idābahānāni; Tashumsha) 2542 – 2595
MUHAMMAD Fāl b. Ḥabrān: al-Tandaghi 1949 – 1960; 2088 – 2090; 2493 – 2499
MUHAMMAD Fāl b. Aḥmēyīd 2246 – 2256
MUHAMMAD al-Taqī b. Ballāl: al-Ḥasanī (Idābihāsan) 2265 – 2269
MUHAMMAD b. Abī Bakr 1924 – 1933
MUHAMMAD b. Aḥmad Bamra 1905 – 1912; 2289 – 2290
MUHAMMAD b. MUHAMMAD al-ʿAzīz: al-Jākānī (Tajākanat) 1448 – 1457
MUHAMMAD b. al-Shaykh 2301; 2449 – 2455
MUHAMMAD b. Sīd Aḥmad: al-Majlisī (Midlish) 2058 – 2087
MUHAMMADAD b. Hmaynā: Yadān Idāwyd (Tashumsha) 2427 – 2430; 2341; 3057 – 3061; 3065 – 3066; 3082 – 3083; 3134
AL-Mukhtār al-Sālim: al-Ḥasanī (Idābihāsan) 1645 – 1646
AL-Mukhtār b. Abī al-Ḥaqūq 3050 – 3056
MUṢṬAFA b. Bābānā: al-Majlisī (Midlish) 2296
AL-Raḥil b. Abyāh: al-Tandaghi 1724 – 1748
AL-Sawīd b. Aḥmad b. Aḥmē: al-ʿAlawī (Idāwālī) 2291 – 2295
SĀLĪM b. al-Sālīm: al-Ḥasanī (Idābihāsan) 1661 – 1692
AL-Shawāh b. Aḥmad Nāfī 3130
AL-Sawīd b. MUHAMMAD al-Mālik 2302

Unidentified: Nos. 1432 – 1448; 2325 – 2400; 2480 – 2487; 2502 – 2540; 2646 – 2737; 2741 – 3017.

Published catalogues:
1965 – 66. Catalogue provisoire (see under Union catalogues above) contains many MSS housed at IMRS.

1981. Exposition ... (see under Union catalogues above) includes descriptions of 8 MSS lent by the Institute, p. 58.


1988. Reborn (see under Union catalogues above) includes the following collections on deposit on the Institute: Aḥl al-Sharīf al-Mukhtārī (Ticheti); MUHAMMAD al-Mukhtār b. Māʾūr (Mededra); MUHAMMAD Yahuṣā b. Sīd Aḥmad al-Majlisī.

Unpublished catalogues:
A handwritten register notes the original owners of the MSS.


ISERI: Institut Scientifique d’Enseignement et de Recherches Islamiques

Ministère de la Culture et de l’Orientation Islamique
B.P. 53 656
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 536 66
Date of establishment: 1978
Status: Public
Conditions of access: Credentials required.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,975 (Arabic; Hassaniya).
Description of collection: Has acquired numerous collections, on all subjects. Includes works from Andalusia. One MS. dates from 1006
Ahl wuld ʻAddūd

MUHAMMAD SĀLIM WULD ʻADDūD
B.P. 5949
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 572 53
Date of establishment: 12th century AH
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 100.
Description of collection: The library was established by the scholar ʻAbd Allāh al-Ḥāj wuld al-Mubārak (in the region of Trārza). Several works were imported; there are autographs & illuminated MSS on traditional subjects. The owner (ex-Minister for Culture and Islamic Orientation, now chairman of the Haut Conseil Islamique) has excellent knowledge of the collection.

Ahmad Hamdan wuld Tah

Nouakchott (Carrefour)
Date of establishment: 1960
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 18 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection covers traditional subjects. It is in good condition. There is a copy of Mukhtar wuld Jinīk's (1230 AH) Shārīʿ al-Sāʿīda Mukhtar wuld Bana.

Ibrahim Sih

Nouakchott
Date of establishment: before 14th century AH
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 300 (information from IMRS sources).

Al-Imām Badāh wuld al-Baṣāri

Date of establishment: before 14th century AH
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 1,000 (information from IMRS sources).
Mawlay Muhammad wuld Sidati

Directeur de l’Ecole Schams Eddine
B.P. 519
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 571 73 or (222-2) 542 18
Date of establishment: ca. 1950
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 40 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection is divided between Néma and Nouakchott. Some works are in the hand of Muqaddam M. Muhammad wuld Sidati (d. 1978). A large part of the collection is in bad condition. Subjects include adab, grammar, tasawwuf and fatwâs.

Muhammad wuld Muhammad Sâlim

Qâdi Dabbâ Sâlim wuld Ḥâbib Allâh
B.P. 30015
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 545 71
Date of establishment: 1220 AH
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 550 (Arabic).
Description of collection: The collection was established by MUHAMMAD wuld MUHAMMAD SÁLIM (1207–1302 AH). It is rich and very significant, containing MSS in large format, and with interesting bindings; numerous photocopies are available for frequent use. The collection is in moderate condition.

Muhammad Sidî ‘Abd al-Hayy

E 2-6 El-Sebkha

Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 532 21
Date of establishment: 1930
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 70.
Description of collection: The collection is in good condition. It contains some beautiful exemplars including one by a woman copyist. Some MSS have Mauritanian ornamentation and locally made bindings.
Catalogue under preparation.

Al-Maktaba al-Wataniya (Bibliothèque Nationale)

B.P. 20
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 518 63
Date of establishment: 1965
Status: National library
Conditions of access: Open to students, teachers and researchers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 47.
Description of collection: The MSS are kept in a metal cupboard in the section for old books in the library. There are also photocopies of MSS.


Sidî Ibn al-Tâh—see under Abîr al-Tawrîs above.

Zâwiyyat al-Shaykh Muhammad al-Mâmî

Nouadhibou/Nouakchott
Date of establishment: 1983
Status: Private
Total number of Islamic MSS: 250 (information from IMRS sources).

Zâwiyyat al-Shaykh Muhammad Fal wuld Mutâli

Date of establishment: 1982
Zawiya Sidi Mukhtar al-Kunti

B.P. 44 36 Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 542 14
Date of establishment: 1990
Conditions of access: Open to students, teachers and researchers.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 140 (Arabic).
Description of collection: Currently housed in the buildings of the
ISERI (q.v.). The famous library bears the name of the religious
scholar Shykh M. al-Kunti, contains traditional sciences in Arabic.
It includes works by numerous Mauritanian authors. There is a
Taifir dated 1247 AH by Shykh Mukhtar al-Kunti, Kashf al-niqab
‘an asfar Fath al-Khitab (Ref. 165 x., IMRS/Tübingen).

Unpublished catalogue:
An alphabetical author catalogue giving author, title, copyist, date
of copying, subject, pagination and remarks.

OUADANE (WADAN)

Ahl Dahi

Saliik wuld al-Imam wuld Dahi
Ouadane
Date of establishment: ca. 12th century AH
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: ca. 60.
Description of collection: The MSS are stored in a metal cupboard in
a former grocery. Some were filmed by the University of Tübingen.
Fields covered include traditional subjects, and copies of the
Qur’an.

Published catalogue:
1989. Rerstock’s Sammlungen (see under Union catalogues above)
includes some of these MSS: Nos. 995–1011.
OUALATA (WALĀTA)
Maktabat Dār al-Makhtūṭāt

Muḥammad Nāh wuld Ābd al-Rahmān
B. P. 679
Nouakchott
Tel.: SMCPP (222-2) 526 51 or 526 61
Fax: (222-2) 525 42
Date of establishment: 1981/1982
Status: Private collective
Conditions of access: Open to students, teachers and researchers upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,000 (Arabic; Hassaniya; Persian).
Description of collection: The library brings together several private collections: Aḥl Ṣidī Athman; Ṭālib Būbakar, Dah wuld Dayda, Ābd Allāh wuld Ābd al-Rahmān. Other collections are constantly being incorporated. The University of Tübingen has started to microfilm some works. The collection covers all subjects. It is very rich and contains MSS from the East, Andalusia and the Maghrib.

Unpublished catalogues:
Computerized list of 1,351 references.
Work on catalogues is in progress.

SHINQĪT—see CHINGUETTI

TICHITT (TĪSHĪT)
Aḥl Fāṣīl

Tichitt
Date of establishment: 11th century AH
Status: Private
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,000 (IMRS information).

Aḥl al-Imām Ābd al-Mūmīn
Muḥammad wuld al-Imām al-Ṣharīf
Tichitt
Date of establishment: 1985
Status: Waqf
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 3,000 (IMRS information).
Description of collection: Contains several collections, rich in Mauritanian authors & old and rare works. Some works were microfilmed by IMRS and the University of Tübingen. Among interesting works in the collection are: Miṣāʿ al-taʿrīf bi-faḍl al-ṣīḥ al-ṣharīf, by Aḥmad Bābara 'l-Tinμukrī; and Ikhtisār Aḥmad Bābara li-Manaqīb al-Sanūsī.

Published catalogue:
1989. In REBROCK's Sammlungen (see under Union catalogues above) some MSS are listed (nos. 333–396; 399).

Maktabat al-Awqāf

Daddah wuld al-Dayda
Tichitt
Date of establishment: 11th century AH
Status: Private collective
Conditions of access: Upon application.
Total number of Islamic MSS: 2,000 (IMRS information).
Description of collection: Brings together several collections, rich in Mauritanian authors. All subjects are covered. There is one very old copy of Al-Bukhārī’s Ḥadīth collection and the first book of fiqh by Muḥammad Abū Bākār al-Wadanī. There is in the collection a copy of Kifāyat al-mubātāj fī nāṣifat man lāyas fī 'l-Dībāj by Aḥmad Bābara 'l-Tinμukrī dated 1102 [1691]. Some works were microfilmed by the University of Tübingen.

Published catalogue:
1989. REBROCK’s Sammlungen (see under Union catalogues above) lists some of these MSS: Nos. 270–288; 306–312; 465–468; 494/5.
TIJKJA

Sidi 'Abd Allah wuld Hajj Ibrahim

Hadrami wuld Khattri
Ilot O / Villa 46
Nouakchott
Tel.: (222-2) 557 69
Date of establishment: 1987 (the Foundation Hadj Brahim)
Status: Private waqf
Conditions of access: Open to students, teachers and researchers upon application.

Total number of Islamic MSS: 120.

Description of collection: Preserves the work of the scholar Sidi 'Abd Allah wuld Khattri (d. 1918) who studied and taught at Al-Azhar, Kairouan, Fes & Meknes, and contains works of jurisprudence, rhetoric, literature, and history. In the collection is a copy of Sidi 'Abd Allah's Nauzil, very much used in law.

TRARZA—see MA'T Mawlana

WADAN—see OUADANE

WALATA—see OUALATA