A HAND-LIST
OF THE
MUHAMMADAN MANUSCRIPTS,
INCLUDING ALL THOSE WRITTEN
IN THE ARABIC CHARACTER,
PRESERVED IN THE LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BY
EDWARD G. BROWNE, M.A., M.B.,
FELLOW OF PEMBROKE COLLEGE, LECTURER IN PERSIAN,
AND SOMETIME CURATOR OF THE ORIENTAL MSS.,
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

CAMBRIDGE:
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.
1900

[All Rights reserved.]
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addenda and Corrigenda</td>
<td>xviii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part I</td>
<td>Titled Manuscripts, arranged in alphabetical order of titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supplementary List of Titled Manuscripts, acquired too late for insertion in their proper place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II</td>
<td>Untitled Manuscripts, arranged in order of subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part III</td>
<td>Class-marks of all Manuscripts described in this Hand-list, arranged consecutively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Most recent additions, acquired too late for description in the Hand-list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IN the Introduction to my Catalogue of the Persian Manuscripts in the Library of the University of Cambridge, published by the University Press in 1896, I traced with some detail the history and growth of this department of our Library from 1625, when the munificence of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, secured for us the precious Erpenius collection, down to the date of publication, since which period we have acquired (mostly by purchase) about 140 MSS. written in the Arabic character. I do not deem it necessary to repeat in this place what I there set down on this head, and I shall therefore pass at once to other matters.

The cataloguing of manuscripts, though one of the most useful tasks of the Orientalist, is at the same time one of the most irksome and tedious, especially in the case of a collection formed less by deliberate selection and purchase than by fortuitous gifts and bequests. When, therefore, I had completed my Persian Catalogue, and had realised how large a proportion of unselected manuscripts are practically devoid of worth or interest, I earnestly hoped that some one else, better qualified for such work than myself, would undertake the cataloguing of the remaining Muhammadan MSS., a task for which I felt but little inclination. It soon became plain, however, that, unless I chose to continue the work myself, there was but little likelihood of its being finished at all in the near future; and as an uncatalogued collection of MSS. is practically useless, especially to scholars at a distance, I resolved to work up the rough notes of all MSS. written in the Arabic character (whether Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Urdu,
Pakhto, Malay or Panjâbi) which I had already made when engaged in the construction of my Persian Catalogue and issue them, in a compact and condensed form, as a Hand-list of Muhammadan Manuscripts; in order that, pending the production of a proper Catalogue raisonné, some clue to the contents of this department of our Library might be available to other Orientalists.

The plan which I decided to adopt in the construction of this Hand-list aimed primarily at concision, but proved in practice much more troublesome than I had anticipated. By arranging all the books of which the proper titles could be ascertained in alphabetical order (according to the plan adopted by that great bibliographer Hâji Khalifa) it seemed to me that a considerable economy of space might be effected, both by removing the need of a separate Index of titles, and also by avoiding any repetition of the bibliographical references. Moreover it appeared to me to be a matter of perfect indifference to one who was in search of a particular work whether it happened to be bound up in the same cover with others or not, so that I decided in the case of composite MSS. to treat each portion as an independent unit, and to describe the volume as a whole only under one article (generally the earliest in the volume). Thus, for instance, the Bakarkandt manuscript marked Qq. 141 comprises three separate treatises by al-Maqâra, to wit (1) adh-Dhahabî-mashuk, (2) Ahadîn nahl, and (3) Lf Fustatî; ghârînî. Each of these is described separately, according to alphabetical order of titles, the first under 3 (No. 442), the second under 5 (No. 664), and the third under 3 (No. 655), by which plan the first is called Qq. 141a, and the third (Qq. 141b) are respectively associated, each in its own place, with another copy of the same work, while the whole composite MS. is only described once, under article 442, to which a reference is made in the subsequent articles.

Of course it was evident from the first that there would remain a considerable residue of “untitled” MSS., manuscripts, that is to say, which in the nature of things lacked a title (such as collections of letters, memoranda, common-place books, miscellaneous and the like), or which were so mutilated as to render identification impossible, or which had accidentally been left untitled, and which I could not identify with the means at my disposal. These “untitled manuscripts,” therefore, to be arranged according to subjects (the system employed by Dr Rieu in his British Museum Catalogues being generally followed) in a separate class, which constitutes Part II of this volume.

Lastly, for the Library officials (whose point of view must necessarily be bibliographical rather than literary, and by whom one work in four volumes is regarded as four manuscripts, while one volume containing four separate works is regarded as one) it was necessary to arrange all the MSS. according to order of class-marks, and to indicate opposite each the article or articles under which its description might be found. This portion constitutes Part III of this volume, which concludes with an Index of proper names (those of authors, scribes and former owners being distinguished by appropriate signs, according to the plan adopted in my Persian Catalogue), including some titles of books mentioned out of the alphabetical order adopted in Part I, and a few references of a more general character.

Such was the plan of the Hand-list as it shaped itself in my mind, but in practice I have not been able to carry it out with entire consistency. In the first place, some of the titles in Part I are, I must confess, more or less fictitious (e.g. Nos. 174, 186, 206, 247, 270, 438 &c.), being descriptive rather than specific; while the bringing together of most of the Epistolary Manuals under the heading Inshâ in Part I instead of under “Collections of Letters” in Part II is, strictly speaking, a violation of the original scheme. Moreover, some
volumes containing a dozen or more separate small treatises have, even when all or most of these treatises had titles, been described in Part II under "MSS. of mixed contents" (pp. 336–341 infra), contrary to a consistent adhesion to the original plan, and, as I am bound to admit, mainly to avoid the trouble of so many separate entries. Lastly, while the Hand-list was passing through the Press I was appointed for one year (June 1899—June 1900) to the newly-established post of Curator of the Oriental MSS. in the University Library, and naturally took advantage of this circumstance to add by purchase, so far as our funds allowed, as many desirable manuscripts of this class as possible to our collection. Many of these were acquired too late for insertion under their titles in Part I, and for them a supplement (pp. 260–272 infra) had to be added; while the "most recent additions" (acquired during the course of this year) had to be merely recorded at the end (pp. 397 et seqq.) with a few brief words of general description.

The title of this Hand-list, again, is open to criticism, since it includes a good many Christian and some Hindu and Parsee works. The epithet "Muhammadan" is, therefore, to be understood as meaning "written wholly or partly in the Arabic character," which character is essentially the vehicle of Muhammadan literature. Some such brief epithet was needed for purposes of definition, and this was the best that suggested itself. A more accurately descriptive title would have been too cumbersome for ordinary use, and the classification of manuscripts in a library according to the character in which they are written is evidently the most convenient. Of all MSS. written with Arabic letters, which came within my ken I was bound to take note, but it would have been impossible for me to wade through those written in the Syriac or Hebrew character, on the chance of coming upon Karshün treatises in the former or Judaeo-Persian or Arabic compilations in the latter. I have also included in

the Hand-list two MSS. written chiefly in the Pahlavi script (Add. 328 and Add. 329), and one ancient Egyptian fragment (Add. 1859), as well as certain others (e.g. Mm. 4. 11 and Mm. 5. 26), which, though essentially Muhammadan, are written in Latin or some other Western language.

The obvious defect of the plan which I have adopted in the construction of this Hand-list is that, while it is easy for any student to ascertain at once whether or no a given work or a particular author is represented in our collection, it is not possible to see at a glance to what extent the literature of a given subject is represented. This, however, is of less consequence in a collection like ours (which, compared to those of the British Museum, the India Office and the Bodleian, is poor and meagre) than it would be in the case of one more ample and more representative; and it may, perhaps, be to some extent remedied by the following brief list of some of the rarer works which we possess. Only the more important of these are here mentioned, and, for simplicity, they are arranged under a few headings.

LIST OF SOME OF THE RARER WORKS DESCRIBED
IN THIS VOLUME.

Religion. No. 36, an account of holy places and shrines, composed before a.h. 611. Nos. 247 and 1474, two pretty extensive collections of Persian te'zīya poems for recitation in the month of Muharram. No. 254, the now celebrated anonymous old Persian Commentary on the second half of the Qur'an. No. 267, a transcript from the author's autograph of Qâdi Muḥammad-Din al-Hamawi's Ta'zīya-i-ayat. No. 294, a good copy of the rare heretical work entitled Jāmī'a-i-Kuhar, containing the doctrines of the Hurufī sect, with portions in a West-Persian dialect. Nos. 878 and 879, portions of al-Khayrî's great collection of Shi'ite traditions. No. 896, the Kitâba'i-Rahmat of the early Shi' Ahbâ Musâ Jābir b. Ḥayyān. Also a fairly large collection of Druze books (Nos. 1356–1366).

History and Biography. No. 134, the Biṣālir-ul-Qudum, composed before a.h. 380. No. 165, the unique MS. of al-Ya'qûbî's important history, edited by Houtsma in 1883. No. 166, a rare history of Akbar. No. 169, one volume of an immense biographical dictionary of eminent
natives of Baghdad, composed early in the seventh century of the hijra. 
No. 170, the Eunice Chronicle of N.D.. No. 171, fragments of an 
extensive history of the Caliphs, composed subsequently to A.H. 507. 
No. 186, a rare history of Shah Hankel the Yaravi. No. 206, a general 
history down to A.H. 679 containing a pretty full account of the Crusades. 
No. 229, an autograph copy of As-Sarasa's history of Egypt entitled 
Targhit al-Mustahsa, which, though quite modern, appears to be rare. 
No. 232, supplement to the 'Uyun al-Jaunu. No. 300, the Falsakhs 
Sadr. No. 329, a biographical and necrological work entitled 
Hawwadat al-Zaman. No. 360, Ibn al-Shu'a's History of Aleppo. No. 365, 
Maghsa's history of the Dynasties of Islam down to the fall of the 
No. 701, the Qiyasit al-asr al-darajat al-mustahsa. No. 1201, the rare 
Nihayat al-ihab fi alhassar wali'Arab, of which I have described 
the contents in the J.R.A.S. for April 1900, pp. 195-215. No. 1277, 
a Muslim Martyrology and Necrology entitled Kitab al-milhan. 

Geography and Topography. No. 200, a geography of Egypt, 
compiled in A.H. 777. 

Science. No. 50, a fine old MS. of an Arabic version of Eratosthenes. 
No. 307, an Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, Theology, and Law, entitled 
No. 330, part of the 'Ishqat al-bayram of al-Jahidih. No. 1168, a treatise 
on marriage, etc. entitled Nuzhat al-khawar. No. 1239, the Proph., 
a grammatical treatise by Abū Sa'dī al-Suyūti, of which I have described 
the contents in the J.R.A.S. for April 1900, pp. 195-215. No. 1277, 
the Adab al-jazari, a treatise on conduct. No. 1276, part of the 
Kamili al-San'at al-Majusi (d. A.H. 943), a noted work on Medicine. 
Nos. 1388 and 1398, two other early medical works. 

Bibliography. No. 345, the supplement to Hay' Khalaf's great work. 

Belles Lettres. No. 241, a fine old MS. of al-Biruni's Arabic 
translation of the Shadonnna, made about A.H. 650. No. 328, the 
Ishqat al-hadis, a large Arabic anthology. Nos. 395 and 396, two fine 
old copies of the Humayin, dated A.H. 517 and 694 respectively. No. 423, 
the Qusur of Ibn Tiqay of Damascus, d. A.H. 292. No. 650, a Persian 
work on Rhetoric, based on Wasit's Kadhiyia, etc. Nos. 757, 761, 869, the fine MS. of 
the Kusur of al-Mubarak, dated A.H. 372, used by Dr Wright in the preparation 
of his edition. No. 916, a very fine and complete copy of al-Mahabib's 
book on Arabic poetry, unique in the collection. No. 918, the six 
unique Kitab al-muṣaffarat and Kastabat duṣṣanat of the historians 
Said and Shahrastani. No. 1116, an Anthology of Arabic poetry down to the 
beginning of the eleventh century of our era. No. 1294, a Persian 
treatise on rhyme by Ayn al-Din. No. 1295, an interesting 
collection of letters made by Ibn Nubata. No. 1296, a fine old copy of 
AṭṬār's Muṣḥat al-munaw. 

Stories and Anecdotes. No. 136, the Bughyat al-musāmir of al-
Milawi. No. 872, another collection of stories and miscellaneous 
information, entitled al-Qamaratī-falq. No. 1200, another similar 
collection of witticisms and anecdotes, compiled about A.H. 656, 
entitled Nusawdarat al-munaw. 

The following MSS. also deserve notice. No. 1347, 
a large collection of as-Suyūti's minor writings. No. 1348, 
a fine specimen of the Spanish-Arabic literature known as 
'textos Aljamiaos.' No. 1479, a collection of Turk (KIRGHIZ) legends in verse. 

Of the more ancient undated MSS., and of MSS. dated 
early than A.H. 900, a list is here appended.

List of MSS. Dated before A.H. 900 (A.D. 1495).

Qq. 285 (Nos. 918, 927) a. A.H. 492 Qq. 42 (No. 885) a. A.H. 562
Qq. 213 (No. 396) a. A.H. 568 Qq. 296 (No. 396) a. A.H. 593
Qq. 244 (No. 757) a. A.H. 597 It. 6. 9 (No. 760) A.H. 600
Qq. 230 (No. 738) a. A.H. 600 Add. 776 (No. 117) a. A.H. 757
Qq. 218 (No. 119) a. A.H. 617 Gh. 6. 35 (Nos. 276, 295) a. A.H. 764
Add. 3173 (No. 33) a. A.H. 627 Mn. 4. 15 (No. 254) a. A.H. 768
Qq. 294 (No. 1200) a. A.H. 753 Add. 3453 (No. 1317) a. A.H. 768
Qq. 286 (No. 1200) a. A.H. 753 Add. 172 (A.H. 671)

Dd. 5. 35 (Nos. 1190, 170) a. A.D. 727 A.H. 671
Dd. 2. 38 (No. 639) a. A.H. 673 Gh. 5. 27 (No. 67) a. A.H. 684
Qq. 92 (No. 36) a. A.H. 692 Qq. 286 (No. 1128) a. A.H. 694
Gg. 3. 20 (No. 104) a. A.H. 708 Add. 3289 (No. 1295) a. A.H. 710
Dd. 4. 28 (Nos. 31, 514, 1055, 440) a. A.H. 749 Add. 1292 (No. 72) a. A.H. 710
Add. 3044 (No. 1298) a. A.H. 1353 = A.H. 754

Dd. 3. 135 (Nos. 1073) a. A.H. 766 Add. 3540 (No. 1294) a. A.H. 768
Qq. 80 (No. 594) a. A.H. 772 Add. 6. 28 (Nos. 996, 1020) A.H. 775
Gg. 5. 15 (No. 191) a. A.H. 781 Dd. 10. 6 (No. 1422) a. A.H. 790
Qq. 237 (No. 1088) a. A.H. 792 Add. 774 (No. 605) a. A.H. 797
Add. 3181 (No. 1124) a. A.H. 806 Qq. 38 (No. 751) a. A.H. 808
Qq. 787 (No. 1164) a. A.H. 809 Add. 3522 (No. 722) a. A.H. 816
Qq. 775 (No. 610) a. A.H. 818 Qq. 6. 25 (No. 623) a. A.H. 823
Add. 776 (No. 629) a. A.H. 831 Mm. 3. 10 (No. 1000) a. A.H. 840
Qq. 84 (No. 1189) a. A.H. 840 Add. 2996 (No. 182) a. A.H. 845
Mm. 6. 2 (No. 1429) a. A.H. 850 Qq. 277 (No. 910) a. A.H. 850
Qq. 40 (No. 327) a. A.H. 853 Add. 682 (No. 676) a. A.H. 856

PREFACE.
B. M. T. C. (also cited as “Rieu's Turkish Catalogue”). Catalogue of the Turkish Manuscripts in the British Museum, by Charles Rieu, Ph.D. (London, 1888). I cannot refrain from again expressing in this place my profound admiration for these splendid monuments of Professor Rieu's wonderful erudition and industry, which will ever remain the exemplar and model of all future cataloguers.


H. Kh. (= “Hajj Khalifa”). Lexicon Bibliographicum et Encyclopaedicum a Mustafa Ben Abdullah, Katib Jedei dicio, et nomine Hajji Khalifa celebri compositorum... Dr Gustav Flügel's edition of the valuable Kashif al-Dunya 'an asami'l-Kutub wil-Fusus (7 vols., Leipzig, 1835-1838). The different articles are cited by the numbers prefixed to them in this edition, without reference to the volume or page.


Other works less often cited, and with less abbreviated titles, are:—

Berl. A. C. (or “Cat. of Berlin Arabic MSS.”). Zeitschrift der Arabischen Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin, by W. Ahlwardt (Berlin, 1887—).


Berl. T. C. (or “Cat. of Berlin Turkish MSS.”, or “Berlin Turk. Cat.”). Zeitschrift der Türkischen Handschriften, etc., by Wilhelm Pertsch (Berlin, 1889).

The titles of the other books most frequently cited are, I think, sufficiently clearly indicated. Chief amongst these are:—

Carl Brockelmann's Geschichte der Arabischen Literatur (Weimar, 1897—); A. G. Ellis's Catalogue of Arabic [printed] Books in the
It is, I confess, with no little satisfaction that I pen these last lines of the *Handlist*, which, defective and faulty as it may be, represents the labour (intermittent, it is true, but seldom interrupted for long during term time) of some eight years. That this labour was by no means merely mental will be readily understood when I mention that during this period I have not only numbered with my own hand the pages of most of these manuscripts, but have carried almost every one of them at least once from the Library to my rooms and back.

What the whole collection weighs I do not know; but, taking into consideration the staircases at both ends of the transit, I should imagine that the number of foot-pounds of physical labour which this volume represents would (were it worth calculation) be very far from insignificant.

Yet for all the weariness of the task, it was not without compensations: the occasional discovery of some mementable treasure; the wider knowledge of Oriental paleography, bibliography and literary history which it compelled; the growing admiration of that great civilisation of Islam which we are even now but beginning to comprehend. In the midst of that disgust which would at times overpower me as I waded through the crabbed characters of some particularly dirty, disreputable document, incapable, as it would seem, of awakening any spark of interest, how often would it happen that some utterly human voice would reach me from the dead scribe, bidding me be ashamed to grudge a few brief moments to the monument of his long labour. Of such echoes from the past, one especially runs in my mind with insistent iteration, and with it I am fain to conclude*.

"This book of mine I copied fair and clear, With much endeavour, and with labour long. When Death one day shall call me hence, I fear My book shall scarce be bartered for a song!"

EDWARD G. BROWNE.

CAMBRIDGE,
August 3, 1900.

---

* The verse occurs on the concluding page of *Gg. 2. 11*, the fourth and last volume of a manuscript of the *Şībāh* of al-Jawhari, transcribed at Brousse in a.d. 968 (A.H. 1561) by Ḥasan the son of Ḥasan.
Page 21, after “MS.,” in the penultimate line, add:—“of which this portion occupies ff. 146-166.”

39. the class-mark opposite No. 224 should be “Li. 6. 14” instead of “Li. 5. 25.”

55. at the end of article 288, add:—“Another incomplete copy of this work, containing part of the preface and the first chapter, occupies ff. 111<sup>b</sup>-123<sup>a</sup> of Add. 242. See P. C., p. 406.”

59. between Nos. 304 and 305, should stand the notice of the Hāl- māna of ‘Arifī, actually entered on p. 255, No. 1249.

83. between Nos. 448 and 449, should stand the notice of the Rubā‘īyat of ʿUmar Khayyām, actually entered on p. 259, No. 1263.

129. at the end of article 715, add:—“(If. 55, of which ff. 45-55 are blank, of 210 x 152 c. and about 9 lines of the page in the Turkish portion).”

139. in article 757, the name of the author of the first portion (ff. i-37<sup>a</sup>) should be given as ʿAlī b. Ṭāhir b. ʿAmm Ṭāhirī; and the title of the second portion as قوانيين الدواوين للهجاتي.

141. at the end of article 765, add:—“(If. 194 of 295 x 200 c. and 18 ll.”)

154. at the end of article 862, for “(of the Martyrs)” read “(of the Greeks).”

174. at the end of article 918, add:—“The text has now been published, with notes, indices etc., by Dr Ignaz Goldziher as vol. ii of his Abhandlungen zur Arabischen Philologie (Brill, Leyden, 1899).”

198. in article 1018, for “Dr Van Vloten” read “Dr Van Roskel.”

225, for “1311,” read “1131.”

241, 9th line from the bottom, for “in A.H. 828” read “about the year A.D. 828 (A.H. 214, 216 or 217).”