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# ПИСЬМЕННЫЕ ПАМЯТНИКИ ВОСТОКА

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## В НОМЕРЕ:

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### ПУБЛИКАЦИИ

- Е.И. Кычанов. Тангутский документ инв. № 6164 из коллекции ИВР РАН 5
- Дай Юань гурун-и судури (История Великой Небесной империи). Фрагмент тетради IV. Перевод с маньчжурского языка Л.В. Тюрюминой, под редакцией и с предисловием Т.А. Пан Имру' аль-Кайс. Му'аллака. Перевод с арабского и комментарий Ф.О. Нофала 9 24
- Имруулькайс. Муаллака. Литературный перевод с арабского языка А.А. Долининой, предисловие Вал.В. Полосина 33
- Сутра Махаяны, именуемая «Наставление [касательно] предсказания, [данного царю] Аджитасене». Предисловие и перевод с санскрита М.И. Воробьевой-Десятковской, С.Х. Шомахмадова 39
- «Повесть о земле Бали» — «искусственная» хроника начала XIX в. Перевод с малайского языка и вступительная статья Л.В. Горяевой 51
- «Апта-ваджрасучи-упанишада» («Полная упанишада об Алмазной игле»). Предисловие, транслитерация, перевод с санскрита и комментарии С.Л. Бурмистрова 65

### ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ

- А.Л. Хосроев. Новый Завет в коптском «Апокалипсисе Петра» (*Nag Hammadi Codex VII. 3: 70.13–84.14*) 79
- Ю.А. Иоаннесян. Некоторые аспекты «возвращения», или «второго пришествия» в религиозных учениях 83
- И.А. Алимов. Заметки о сяошо: «Юй линь» 99
- Н.С. Яхонтова. Санскритско-тибетско-монгольские параллели: эпитеты рек 109
- Р.Ю. Почекаев. «Закон» Мандухай-хатун для ойратов и особенности развития монгольского права в «темные века» 123
- И.Т. Канева. Вставные предложения (на материале текстов позднешумерского периода) 138



<i>И.С. Гуревич.</i> Грамматическая стилистика буддийских текстов: синтаксические ресурсы (связка 是; анафора и эпифора)	149
<i>Д.В. Цолин.</i> Перифрастические формы императива и юссива в арамейском языке таргумов	159

## ИСТОРИОГРАФИЯ И ИСТОЧНИКОВЕДЕНИЕ

<i>М.А. Гизбулаев.</i> Сира в арабской литературе Дагестана. Арабская рукопись XVIII в. «Васаил ал-лабиб ‘ала фадаил ал-хабиб»	170
<i>С.М. Якерсон.</i> Карасубазарский кодекс «Поздних Пророков» в собрании ИВР РАН (D 62). Заметки к его истории, локализации и датировке	176
<i>О.В. Дьякова, А.Л. Ивлиев.</i> Первый эпитафический памятник мохэской культуры (некрополь Монастырка-3)	190
<i>Мунхцэцэг Энхбат.</i> Маньчжурская «парная надпись» из коллекции Национальной библиотеки Монголии	198

## КОЛЛЕКЦИИ И АРХИВЫ

<i>В.Ф. Минорский.</i> Курды — потомки мидян. Публикация, предисловие и комментарии <i>З.А. Юсуповой</i>	206
<i>С.И. Марахонова.</i> Институт Гарвард-Яньцзинь и образовательная политика США в Азии в 1930–1950-е годы (по источникам архивов Кембриджа, США)	212
<i>Т.В. Ермакова, Е.П. Островская.</i> Анонимный перевод первой главы трактата Васубандху (IV–V вв.) «Абхидхармакоша» из Архива востоковедов ИВР РАН	223
<i>С.С. Сабружова.</i> Образцы буддийских грамот из коллекции архивных материалов А.М. Позднеева	236
<i>М.В. Фионин.</i> Греческая рукопись D-227 из собрания ИВР РАН (археографический анализ)	242
<i>Морисита Нобуко.</i> Практические сведения для поиска арабских и персидских рукописей в разных странах (на англ. яз.)	247
<i>Е.В. Гусарова.</i> Вячеслав Михайлович Платонов (1941–2012) — исследователь эфиопских рукописей	258

## НАУЧНАЯ ЖИЗНЬ

<i>А.В. Зорин.</i> Первые петербургские тибетологические чтения	274
<i>В.В. Щеткин.</i> «Невские чтения»: международный симпозиум в честь 120-летия со дня рождения Н.А. Невского	276
<i>А.В. Зорин.</i> V Международный семинар по тибетологии в Пекине	278
<i>Т.В. Ермакова.</i> Шестые всероссийские востоковедные чтения памяти О.О. Розенберга	282
<i>С.Ю. Рыженков.</i> Четвертая международная конференция «Культура Семи мудрецов из бамбуковой рощи» 第四届“竹林七賢文化”國際學術研討會. КНР, Юньтайшань 雲台山 (24–25 ноября 2012 г.)	286
<i>Т.А. Пан.</i> Немецко-русская рабочая конференция по изучению Центральной Азии, 14–15 марта 2013 г., Берлин (Германия)	289

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Г.О. Ковтунович  
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Е.А. Проница

## РЕЦЕНЗИИ

Юрий Рерих: Живое наследие. Материалы к биографии. Вып. 1: Сборник статей и интервью. — М., ГМВ, 2012. — 224 с., илл. ( <i>И.В. Кульганек</i> )	291
<i>Т.Г. Скорородова.</i> Бенгальское Возрождение: Очерки истории социокультурного синтеза в индийской философии Нового времени. — СПб.: Петербургское востоковедение, 2008. — 320 с. ( <i>С.Л. Бурмистров</i> )	293
<i>С.Ф. Ольденбург.</i> Этюды о людях науки / Отв. ред. С.Д. Серебряный; сост., автор предисл. и коммент. А.А. Вигасин. — М.: РГГУ, 2012. — 478 с. ( <i>Е.П. Островская</i> )	297

## IN MEMORIAM

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Евгений Иванович Кычанов (1932–2013) ( <i>И.Ф. Попова</i> )	303
Евгений Александрович Серебряков (1928–2013) ( <i>Д.И. Майцкий</i> )	307

Morishita Nobuko

## Useful Tips for Finding Arabic and Persian Manuscripts in Different Countries<sup>1</sup>

This paper aims to provide useful tips for finding Islamic manuscripts in various countries, especially Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Morocco and India. It is designed to familiarize researchers with effective ways to search for manuscripts. It does not seek to offer the details of all the repositories of each country, nor to comprehensively update lists of new publications. Rather, it focuses on the provision of a range of valuable information, including some fundamental references, important repository details and how to navigate for research purposes, the often perplexing systems used in local libraries.

Locating a manuscript appropriate for our interest among numerous Arabic and Persian Islamic collections is no doubt a laborious task. *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts* reports the presence of approximately three million Islamic manuscripts in over 5000 libraries in 106 countries. These numbers will increase if we include unlisted private collections even if we exclude the manuscripts which were dispersed or lost since the above publication came out. Although visiting all the repositories where manuscript collections are kept and carefully consulting each codex may be desirable, it is physically impossible. On another front, various attempts have been made by researchers institutionally and individually over the years to outline, organize and catalog the manuscript collections. This resulted in countless publications, owing to which we are now relatively, if not comprehensively, well informed about the conditions, availability and the contents of manuscript collections throughout the world.

The problem, however, remains as to where we should start a search in the massive references seeking a particular manuscript of interest. The priority may naturally lie in relation to one's field of research. Nevertheless, it is still very useful to share know-how on effective methods of searching a manuscript in more general terms. It will not only economize our time and costs, but will improve the quality of research. Also one will eventually realize that there are many things we can do just by sitting on the internet.

This paper aims to provide useful tips for finding manuscripts with a focus on Turkey, Iran, Egypt, India and Morocco. Selection of the countries reflects the significance and variety of the collections. Turkey and Iran hold respectively the largest and many of the most

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I will deal with only Islamic manuscripts in this paper, for Christian manuscripts generally require a completely different body of information. The number of manuscripts shown in this paper include manuscripts written in languages other than Arabic and Persian. I tried my best to update the figures and adapted the latest officially published figures.

valuable manuscripts in Islamic languages. Egypt and India follow these two and Morocco enjoys its own uniqueness. Furthermore, I have substantial experience researching manuscripts in each of these countries, and thus am in a position to offer proper guidance. I additionally listed basic references in the beginning, which should acclimate novice researchers. In the end, I also provided searchable links to different collections in other regions. A number of European and American manuscripts are already accessible online.

Needless to mention, this type of information is subject to change and needs to be updated constantly. The data in this paper are based on experience obtained during my research travels between 2005–2011 and through my web research and communications with Middle Eastern librarians until today.

## Basic References

References are numerous. Therefore, here I will list only the most basic ones, so that the initiates will not be lost in heaps of books. Elaborate thematic references for various subjects are available and one should look beyond this list according to their personal interests. Lists of such references can be easily found elsewhere even by a general web search.

For the currently known works written in Arabic, **Brockelmann's GAL**<sup>2</sup> and **Sezgin's GAS**<sup>3</sup> are standard references. They offer bio-bibliographic data about Arabic books and their authors along with information on manuscripts and repositories. **Storey-Bregel's Persian Literature**<sup>4</sup> and **Monzavi's Fehrestvāre**<sup>5</sup> serve the same purpose for Persian works. The most remarkable reference concerning the manuscript repositories of the world is **World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts** edited by **G. Roper**.<sup>6</sup> It offers a list of union catalogues and repository details for 106 countries. Some data, however, are outdated due to the elapsing of more than seventeen years since publication, and are thus utterly misleading. Other problematic issues apply as well, such as anomalous arrangement, absence of necessary information and incomplete bibliography, which in my opinion, are not so fatal. For more details, see reviews: Smith 1993, Norris 1993, Smith 1994, Wakefield 1994, Norris 1995, Smith 1996-1, Smith 1996-2, Wakefield 1996, McChesney 1997.

The above-mentioned basic references can be supplemented with numerous articles, research books, reference books, manuscript catalogues etc. Related materials are often freely distributed on the internet, so one is encouraged to conduct a general web search with relevant keywords. The following are some key publications, communities and organizations that should be noted for regular consultation: Manuscripts of the Middle East, Manuscripta Orientalia,<sup>7</sup> Middle East Librarians Association (MELA),<sup>8</sup> Comparative Oriental Manu-

<sup>2</sup> Carl Brockelmann, *Geschichte der Arabischen Literatur*. 2 vols. 1st edition, Weimar: Felber, 1898 & 1902 (2nd edition, Leiden: Brill, 1943–49). *Supplement Band*, 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1937–1942.

<sup>3</sup> Fuat Sezgin, *Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums*. 13 vols. to date. Leiden: Brill, 1967.

<sup>4</sup> Storey's *Persian Literature: A Bio-bibliographical Survey* was translated and supplemented by Bregel with some assistance of Yu.E. Borschhevski. Ch.A. Stori, *Persidskaya literatura: Bio-bibliograficheskiĭ obzor. V trekh chastyakh. Perevel s angliĭskogo, pererabotal i dopolnil Yu. E. Bregel'*, pt. I: *Koranicheskaya literatura; Vseobshchaya istoriya; Istoriya prorokov i ranniiĭ islam* [p. 1–693]; pt. II: *Istoriya Irana, Kurdistana, Sredneiĭ Azii, Afganistana, Turtsii, Kavkaza, arabskikh stran, Evropy i Ameriki, Kitaya i Yaponii* [p. 697–1314]; pt. III: *Ukazateli; Addenda* [p. 1315–1884]. Moscow, 1972. For details of Storey's *Persian Literature: A Bio-bibliographical Survey*, see Bregel's article in *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (<http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/storey-charles-ambrose>).

<sup>5</sup> Ahmad Monzavi, *Fehrestvāre-ye ketābhā-ye fārsī*. 10 vols. Tehrān: Anjuman-e Āthār va Mafākhir-e Farhangī, 1374 [1995].

<sup>6</sup> Geoffrey Roper (ed.), *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts*. 4 vols. London: al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation; Leiden: Brill, 1992–1995.

<sup>7</sup> <http://manuscripta-orientalia.kunstkamera.ru/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.mela.us/>

script Studies (COMSt),<sup>9</sup> Oriental Manuscript Resource (OMAR),<sup>10</sup> The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA),<sup>11</sup> Ma‘had al-makhtūtāt al-‘arabīya,<sup>12</sup> Juma Al Majid Centre for Culture & Heritage,<sup>13</sup> al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation,<sup>14</sup> Library, Museum and Document Center of Iran Parliament,<sup>15</sup> Markaz-i pāzhūheshī-yi mirāth-i maktūb,<sup>16</sup> The Islamic Heritage Revival Center,<sup>17</sup> T.C. Ministry of Culture and Tourism,<sup>18</sup> Noor Microfilm Center India.<sup>19</sup>

## Search By Country

Now we proceed to look into Turkey, Iran, Egypt, India and Morocco. These are not the only countries worth mentioning. However, they definitely deserve close attention because of the size, quality and variety of their collections. Government projects to centralize information about manuscripts and related researches have been undertaken, which make them particularly worthy of mention. Recent projects are not mentioned in *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts*.

### Turkey

Turkey has the largest Islamic manuscript collections in the world: approximately 250,000 MSS, out of which 146,000 MSS are in Istanbul, 38,000 MSS in Ankara and the remaining 66,000 MSS in other cities in Anatolia. For the history and outline of Turkey’s collections, see Bilgin 1992 and Özgüdenli 2005.<sup>20</sup>

The best place to start a search is **İslâm Araştırmaları Merkezi Kütüphanesi (İSAM)** in Istanbul.<sup>21</sup> This *waqf* library was built in 1984 for the purpose of preparing Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi, or Turkish Encyclopedia of Islam, and promoting scientific research in Islamic studies and Turkology in general. Although İSAM has no manuscript collections, their **Turkish Libraries’ Search Engine** database, containing 264,489 manuscript records in 123 Turkish libraries (confirmed in March 2012),<sup>22</sup> is the most updated source of information about manuscripts of Turkey. The *yazma* (manuscript) search engines which are available on the websites of İSAM, and some other sites,<sup>23</sup> and accessible from anywhere in the world, offer only partial data of the entire body of this database. For more complete searches, send an email to the librarian at [kutuphane@isam.org.tr](mailto:kutuphane@isam.org.tr) with your brief self-introduction and keywords.

The major problem about *Turkish Libraries’ Search Engine* is that the transcription system is not standardized. The database is built in Turkish while the contents are originally

<sup>9</sup> <http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/COMST/index.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://omar.ub.uni-freiburg.de/index.php?id=homepage>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/Home.html>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.makhtutat.net/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.almajidcenter.org/arabic/Pages/default.aspx> (a union catalog of various collections worldwide: <http://www.almajidcenter.org/english/Pages/SimpleSearchManuscripts.aspx>).

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.al-furqan.com/>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.ical.ir/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.mirasmaktoob.ir/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.mirath.net/start.php>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.yek.gov.tr/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.noormicrofilmindia.com/index.htm>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/persian-manuscripts-1-ottoman>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.isam.org.tr/>

<sup>22</sup> The database is still expanding and the latest library list should be obtained from the librarians of İSAM. You can find the older list at <http://www.yazmalar.gov.tr/kutuphane.php>

<sup>23</sup> [http://www.yazmalar.gov.tr/detayli\\_arama.php](http://www.yazmalar.gov.tr/detayli_arama.php)

written in Arabic script. The data were being input by many people over many decades without any unified standard. Although the librarians are usually aware of this, it is helpful to remind them to apply several variants upon your search request so as to ascertain the best results.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has attempted to prepare a unified catalog in *The Union Catalog of Turkey's Manuscripts* (3 CDs) published by National Library of Turkey in 2004 and 2005. These three CDs contain partial data of the above-mentioned *Turkish Libraries' Search Engine* database and cover the contents of the 24 volumes of *Türkiye Yazmaları Toplu Kataloğu* (TÜYATOK) previously published in print from 1979 to 2000. For the details, see <http://www.mkutup.gov.tr/menu/102>; and the general information and the catalogues of fifteen libraries are available online: <http://www.yazmakutup.gov.tr/index.html>.

### Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi

This library in Istanbul holds the largest collection of Islamic manuscripts in the world.<sup>24</sup> It has approximately 73,000 manuscripts (200,000 including *majāmī'*) in digital format available on the on-site computers. Their database consists of three elements: (1) Digital copies of expanding Süleymaniye's holdings, with original codices available on request; (2) Digital copies of the collections at other repositories in Istanbul such as Atıf Efendi (3,228 MSS), Köprülü (3,847 MSS), Nuruosmaniye (5,052 MSS), Ragıp Paşa (1,274 MSS), Hacı Selim Ağa (2,952 MSS) and Murat Molla (2,337 MSS), with original codices accessible in each library rather than in Süleymaniye, but reproductions for these manuscripts must be ordered at Süleymaniye; and (3) Index data for the collections of İstanbul Üniversitesi Merkez Kütüphanesi (18,602 MSS), Beyazıt Devlet Kütüphanesi (11,120 MSS), Millet Yazma Eser Kütüphanesi in Istanbul (8,765 MSS),<sup>25</sup> Topkapı Sarayı Müzesi Kütüphanesi (13,073 MSS) and others, with original codices and reproductions to be made in each library.

Other libraries with large collections in Turkey are İstanbul Türk ve İslam Eserleri Müzesi (TİEM) (16,381 MSS),<sup>26</sup> Ankara Üniversitesi Dil ve Tarih — Coğrafya Fakültesi Kütüphanesi (14,811 MSS),<sup>27</sup> Milli Kütüphanesi in Ankara (27,384 MSS),<sup>28</sup> and Bursa Yazma Eser Kütüphanesi (13,875 MSS).<sup>29</sup>

### Iran

Iran possesses around 200,000 MSS, which constitutes the second largest Islamic manuscript collection in the world to the best of our current knowledge. The precise number of manuscripts is unknown and seems only increasing due to new arrangements and findings. The figures of major libraries' manuscripts have drastically risen since Sharifi 1991, and smaller private collections and the mosque collections have added to the total as well. Teheran is full of important libraries and contains almost half of Iran's entire collections. It is followed by Mashhad and Qom with 45,000 MSS and 40,000 MSS re-

<sup>24</sup> The following numbers of manuscripts include handwritten texts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish and others languages.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.milletkutup.gov.tr/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.tiem.gov.tr/yazi-ve-yazma-eserler.asp>, <http://www.kulturvarliklari.gov.tr/TR,43833/istanbul---turk-ve-islam-eserleri-muzesi-mudurlugu.html>

<sup>27</sup> <http://yazmalardtcf.ankara.edu.tr/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://yazmalar.mk.gov.tr/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.yazmakutup.gov.tr/inebey/giris.html>

spectively. The remainder is spread at various locations throughout the country. For the general introduction, see Sharifi 1991 and <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/bibliographies-index>.

The *Aghabozorg* Database<sup>30</sup> is the best place to start from. It contains not only indices but the entire contents of approximately 400 volumes of manuscript catalogs published in print. It is the largest union catalog covering most of Iran's major collections such as Teheran University Central Library and Documentation Center (17,000 MSS),<sup>31</sup> Malek National Library and Museum Institution (19,000 MSS),<sup>32</sup> small part of Parliament Library (more than 30,000 MSS),<sup>33</sup> National Library & Archives of I.R. of Iran (11,877 MSS),<sup>34</sup> Mar'ashī Najafī Library in Qom (25,000 MSS),<sup>35</sup> Markaz dā'irat al-ma'ārif bozorg islāmī (5,000 MSS)<sup>36</sup> and many others (see the *ma'khaz* on the search engine for more details<sup>37</sup>). The data are retrievable from any place in the world.

There are two things to bear in mind at *Aghabozorg*. First, use just one keyword or two at most, with several spelling variants. It has no approximate string matching function and so it searches only exact matches. Unlike *Turkish Libraries' Search Engine*, the database is built in Arabic script but in the Persian language. *Tā' marbūtah/hā'* and *yā'alif maqsūrah* are interchangeable, the definite particle *al-* is often omitted, *hamza* is missing or replaced by *yā'* etc. Scroll down for the results. Secondly, save or print out the whole data of the results you use. The MS number retrieved at *Aghabozorg* does not even comply with the numbering system of each library and is thus inadequate. Classifications are also very complicated for beginners.

This database is the outcome of tremendous efforts made by the government of Iran over the years to create a unified catalog. Unfortunately, the project terminated before completion in 2010 due to lack of funds and the database is no longer updated. Many libraries in Iran continue cataloging and digitizing manuscripts, so the latest information should be sought at each library.

## Category and Manuscript Number

One ought to present *a name of the category if any, plus a manuscript number* when ordering any manuscripts from any library. In some libraries, this is not a simple task. The structure of certain collections exhibits some complications in the classification and the catalogs as well. This problem is commonly caused by centralization of collections from various repositories and is not peculiar to Iranian libraries. However, in Iran, it can assume extreme forms. A typical example is that of Teheran University Central Library and Documentation Center.<sup>38</sup> This collection has five major categories: *markazī*, *adabīyāt*, *ilāhīyāt*,

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.aghabozorg.ir/>

<sup>31</sup> <http://ut.ac.ir/en/contents/Library-Documentation/Central.Library.and.Documentation.Center.of.the.University.html>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.malekmuseum.org/en/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.ical.ir/moshar.html>

<sup>34</sup> <http://dl.nlai.ir/UI/Forms/Index.aspx>. Part of the collection is published online.

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.marashilibrary.com/english/index.html>

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.cgie.org.ir/>. Dā'irat al-ma'ārif bozorg islāmī, or Encyclopedia of Islam in Persian is compiled at this institute.

<sup>37</sup> *Nashriye* refers to 12 volumes of supplement to 18 volumes of manuscript catalogues of Teheran University Central Library and Documentation Center. Dānesh Pajūh et al., *Noskhehā-ye Khatī: Nashriye-ye Ketābkhāne-ye Markazī va Markaz-e Asnād Dāneshgāh-e Tehrān*, 12 vols, Tehrān: Teheran University, 1339–1363[1960or1–1984or5]. It offers descriptions of selected manuscripts in other libraries in Iran and abroad.

<sup>38</sup> There are also complicated procedures before you access this collection. For the instruction of how to obtain permission, see [http://ricas.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng/asj/html/guide/tehran/tehran\\_If.html](http://ricas.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/eng/asj/html/guide/tehran/tehran_If.html). After you obtain a letter of permission at the International Department located outside the university campus, make a copy of it in any copy

*pezeshkī* (*bā'*, *jā'*, *dā'*) and *ḥuqūq*, all of which represent department names of Teheran University. *Markazī* consists of two subordinate categories: *fehrest ketābkhāne-ye markazī* and *mishkāt*. *Adabīyāt* consists of three subordinate categories: *khod adabīyāt* (*bā'*, *jā'*, *dā'*), *emām jom'e* and *ḥekmat*. Their numbering system is the most complicated. In the catalog, you will find two to four numbers for a single manuscript. The best strategy is to seek assistance from the librarians. If your search result is retrieved from *Aghabozorg*, make sure that you have the print-out at hand. Finally, whichever library you visit, try to clarify the structure of the collection first, so that it will facilitate the rest of your work drastically. Cataloging and classification have been major issues and vigorous discussions thereof are held in recent years.

### Other Important libraries and Institutions

It is difficult to summarize Iranian libraries, for the collections are vast and most of them are valuable, besides, the library activities are constantly in progress. Among them, **Āstan-e Qods-e Razavī Library**<sup>39</sup> is a name to be remembered. Built before 1457 and located inside the *haram* of Imam 'Alī Rezā in Mashhad, it is a huge library which hosts 35 branches in and outside Iran. It keeps 40,254 MSS, the richest collection in Iran. Cataloging is still in progress and the most updated database is available on the on-site computer. Another institution worth mentioning is **Markaz ehyā-e mīrāth-e eslāmī**.<sup>40</sup> Established in Qom by Dr. Eshkevari, it attempts to collect all the manuscript copies in digital format or in the form of microfilms from all the libraries in Iran and around the world. **Markaz-e pzhū-heshī-ye mīrāth-e maktūb**<sup>41</sup> is a research center in Teheran specializing in editing manuscripts, cataloging manuscripts and studying related codicological issues.

Additionally, other libraries which hold a large number of manuscripts are: Gharb Library (3,000 MSS) in Hamadan, Tabriz National Library (3,200 MSS), Golpāyegān Library (5,000 MSS) and Public Library of A'zam mosque (4,000 MSS) in Qom, Mu'assasah-e Bunyād-e Inqilāb-e Eslāmī Collection (3,000–4,000 MSS) and 'Madrasesh-e 'Alī-ye Shahīd Mutahharī Library (8,000 MSS) in Teheran, Āstan-e Hazrat-e Ahmad Ebn Mūsā (Shāh-e Cheragh) Library (3,000 MSS) in Shiraz, Vizārī Library (4,000 MSS) in Yazd.

### Egypt

There is no authoritative estimate of the exact number of manuscripts in Egypt. Sarhān 1992 reports Egypt has 83,900 MSS and this may be corrected to 110,000 MSS mentioned on the website of Egyptian National Library. Media report the existence of 130,000 MSS<sup>42</sup> and informal statistics of 2010 give 150,000–300,000 MSS.<sup>43</sup> The latter three figures must represent the total number of manuscripts including newly acquired microfilms and digital duplicate copies of domestic and foreign collections. The actual number of Egypt's manuscripts was, thus, perhaps around 100,000 MSS and now the total counts around 170,000 MSS.

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service center near the campus. At the gate of the campus, a security guard will ask you to leave the letter. Leave the copy and keep the original, otherwise you will have to return to the International Department once more to apply for the same permission letter.

<sup>39</sup> <http://80.191.111.99/simwebcilt/WebAccess/SimWebPortal.dll?LANG=2>

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.mirath.net/start.php>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.mirasmaktoob.ir/>, Iranology Foundation (Bonyād-e eslām-e shenāsī): <http://91.98.46.102:8081/>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.arabicnews.com/ansub/Daily/Day/031001/2003100110.html>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.manuscripts.ir/documents/egopt.html>. The source is unknown.



Alongside minor collections in Tanta, Damietta and Sohag, most of Egypt's manuscripts are kept in Cairo: Egyptian National Library (60,000 MSS),<sup>44</sup> Arab Manuscripts Institute (ca. 20,000 MSS or more including *musawwarāt*, copies of foreign collections)<sup>45</sup> and Al-Azhar University Library (42,164–50,000 MSS).<sup>46</sup> Unfortunately, the largest Egyptian National Library collection is available on-site only in the microfilm form. However, the entire Al-Azhar collection is now available online<sup>47</sup> and the microfilms of Arab Manuscripts Institute collection are also kept in Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria is one of the most important institutions. It now houses the total number of 40,000 MSS including microfilms acquired from The Juma Al Majid Centre for Culture & Heritage in Dubai, The Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts at the Egyptian Ministry of Endowments,<sup>48</sup> Monasterio de El Escorial in Spain,<sup>49</sup> Tübingen University Library in Germany, the British Library and many others.<sup>50</sup> Acquisition of duplicates of the collections worldwide has been promoted by BA under "The 100,000 Manuscripts Project" for the purpose of providing scientific research resources and establishing academic cooperation. BA has also actively engaged in preservation of cultural heritage including manuscripts and historical documents. The collections of Bibliotheca Alexandrina are searchable online on the website ([http://www.bibalex.org/bacatalog/catalog\\_en.aspx?skin=default&lng=en](http://www.bibalex.org/bacatalog/catalog_en.aspx?skin=default&lng=en)).

## India

India possesses more than 100,000 Islamic MSS spread over many libraries in various parts of the country. For the overview, see Khan 1992, Biswas 1998 and Khalidi 2002–2003. A number of precious manuscripts currently housed in the British Library, Institute of Ismaili Studies and Bibliothèque nationale of France are of Indian origin. Despite the significance of these collections, India is one of the most unfavorable places to conduct an inclusive search in terms of dispersed locations, conditions of repositories as well as of manuscripts. Insufficient funding is a serious problem as the Indian climate is detrimental to old handwritten materials. Many manuscripts are damp, worm-eaten and badly damaged yet still retain in poor conditions without proper care.

Juma Al Majid Centre for Culture & Heritage has addressed this situation and supported Indian libraries to digitize their collections. A set of digitized manuscripts is kept at the library and also in Dubai. Some Indian collections are searchable on the website of Juma Al Majid Centre for Culture & Heritage and clear digital copies are available in Dubai.

The government of India has also acted to correct this situation. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture established The National Mission for Manuscripts<sup>51</sup> in 2003 and launched the project called *National Database of Manuscripts (Kritisampada)*<sup>52</sup> to create a comprehen-

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.darelkotob.org/>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.makhtutat.net/>

<sup>46</sup> [http://www.azhar.edu.eg/lib/hand\\_writing.htm](http://www.azhar.edu.eg/lib/hand_writing.htm)

<sup>47</sup> The website should be either [www.alazharonline.org](http://www.alazharonline.org) or <http://alazharlibrary.gov.eg/> but both sites are currently inaccessible.

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.awkafmanuscripts.org/>

<sup>49</sup> The microfilms of El Escorial Monastery collection were donated by the Queen of Spain to Bibliotheca Alexandrina in 1997. The catalogue of this collection prepared by BA counts 3,343 MSS and this is the correct number while the catalogue published by El Escorial counts only 1,954.

<sup>50</sup> [http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/Museum/collections/Microfilm\\_Collection.asp](http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/Museum/collections/Microfilm_Collection.asp)

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.namami.org/index.htm>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.namami.org/Database.htm>

sive database of all manuscript collections of India and abroad. The database is incomplete but it is expanding. Even though the inaccurate English transcription limits the ability for keyword search, it is a useful tool for manuscript research. *Kritisampada* incorporates the data of National Survey followed by Post Survey, Manuscript Resource Centres, Manuscript Partner Centres of Private Collections, partial data of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA),<sup>53</sup> National Informatics Centre (NIC) and foreign institutions with collections of Indian manuscripts. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts also has digital copies of manuscripts from all over India, however, the contents are available only on-site. When you use these sites, bear in mind that, unlike other countries, “manuscripts” in India often refer to those written in Sanskrit and other native languages. Khalidi 2002–2003 provides the most comprehensive list of and detailed observations on Indian manuscript repositories, though with many mistakes.

As for the major manuscript repositories in India, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library (21,000 MSS)<sup>54</sup> in Patna offers complete catalogs of their collection on the website. Noor Microfilm Center<sup>55</sup> (10,000 MSS) in Delhi has microfilmed manuscripts of 22 libraries all over India and the catalogs are partially available on their website. Andhra Pradesh Government Oriental Manuscripts Library & Research Institute<sup>56</sup> (23,000 MSS) in Hyderabad compiled 4 volumes of handwritten inventory, whose photocopied version is also available online.<sup>57</sup> This library is currently working on the digitization of catalogs. Rampur Raza Library (17,000 MSS including all kinds)<sup>58</sup> has only partial catalog data on the website. Salar Jung Museum Library<sup>59</sup> (10,000 MSS, 4,700 MSS in Arabic and Persian) in Hyderabad, and Ketābkhānah-yi Nasiriya (30,000 MSS) in Lucknow have nothing available on the website, but their MSS will hopefully be incorporated into the *Kritisampada* database soon.

## Morocco

Morocco possesses around 108,000 MSS. Moroccan manuscripts are uniquely characterized by the density of Mālikī school related works and quality copies of al-Andalus thinkers and local Sufis, particularly with their distinctive Maghribi script. Unfortunately, Moroccan repositories are less likely to be digitized than those in other countries. Cataloging is still in progress at many libraries, therefore, it is not possible to be fairly well prepared before reaching Morocco, unless the library you are using has been avidly collecting the published catalogs and copies of handwritten inventories. Fortunately, a number of tasks can be accomplished in Rabat alone.

Firstly, Rabat and the adjacent Salé have the total number of ca. 81,000 MSS, which constitutes 75% of Morocco’s entire collection. The Hassaniya Royal Library (40,000 MSS), the Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc<sup>60</sup> (34,000 MSS), ‘Allāl al-Fāsī Library<sup>61</sup>

<sup>53</sup> <http://ignca.nic.in/>

<sup>54</sup> <http://kblibrary.bih.nic.in/>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.noormicrofilmindia.com/>

<sup>56</sup> <http://manuscriptslibrary.ap.nic.in/>

<sup>57</sup> Vol. 1: <http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian>; Vol. 2: [http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian\\_385](http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian_385); Vol. 3: [http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian\\_190](http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian_190); Vol. 4: [http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian\\_285](http://archive.org/details/OrientalManuscriptsLibraryAndResearchCenteromlriArabicAndPersian_285)

<sup>58</sup> <http://razalibrary.gov.in/>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.salarjungmuseum.in/html/library.html>

<sup>60</sup> <http://bnm.bnrm.ma:86/>. Some catalogs and selected manuscripts are available online.

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.allalelfassi.ma/issdaratte.htm>. The catalogs are distributed for free on the web.

(2403 MSS), Subayhīya Library (4,000 MSS) and some smaller libraries are all in this metropolitan area.

Secondly, in the manuscript reading room of the Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc, there are manuscript catalogs of various repositories in Morocco and abroad.

Thirdly, some catalogs are available at a few branches of the *waqf* bookshop in Rabat, including 2 volumes of the *waqf* union catalog<sup>62</sup> which records manuscript data of 13 *waqf* repositories including mosque and madrasa libraries, and the catalog of Dār al-Kutub al-Nāsiriya (4,184 MSS) in Tamegroute, the historical centre of the Nasiriya Sufi order; the access to them is extremely difficult. A permission letter from the *waqf* office in Rabat may be necessary in order to visit these *waqf* repositories.

King ‘Abd al-‘Azīz al-Sa‘ūdī Foundation (1958 MSS) in Casablanca also offers the complete searchable catalog online.<sup>63</sup> For more detail, see Boushouk 1991 and Hendrickson 2008.

## Other Resources

Now I will list some more useful links for searchable catalogs or manuscript databases.

- A list of 45 open access Islamic Manuscripts collections:  
[http://amirmideast.blogspot.com/2010/12/alphabetical-list-of-open-access\\_10.html](http://amirmideast.blogspot.com/2010/12/alphabetical-list-of-open-access_10.html)
  - A list of 15 open access Islamic Manuscripts collections:  
<http://www.kasnazan.com/sites.php?cat=1>
  - King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies:  
<http://213.150.161.217/kfcris/login.htm>
  - Germany: <http://kohd.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/index.html>
  - Mauritania, West Africa: <http://westafricanmanuscripts.org/history.htm>
  - Library of Congress, USA: <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/oclcsearch.html>
  - Bibliothèque Nationale de Tunisie: <http://www.bnt.nat.tn/>
  - Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau in Morocco: <http://www.sac.org.ma/culture/ccs582.asp>
  - Leiden University:  
<http://hum.leiden.edu/lias/research/news/news-brill-ub-oriental-digitisation-memo1.html>
  - Mustafa Library contains some Saudi Arabian manuscripts:  
<http://al-mostafa.info/books/htm/disp.php?page=list&n=44>
- The following links are useful gateways to manuscript related research.
- American University of Beirut: <http://aub.edu.lb/libguides.com/manuscriptreference>  
<http://aub.edu.lb/libguides.com/content.php?pid=271487&sid=2239289>
  - University of Michigan Library:  
<http://guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=18162&sid=179938>
  - Middle East Medievalists (MEM):  
<http://www.middleeastmedievalists.org/Manuscript.html>
  - UCLA: <http://guides.library.ucla.edu/content.php?pid=22907&sid=997329>
  - Access to Mideast and Islamic Resources (AMIR): <http://amirmideast.blogspot.com/>

<sup>62</sup> Wizārat al-Awqāf wa al-Shu‘ūn al-Islāmīyah. Dalīl makhtūtāt al-khizānāt al-hubusīyah. 2 vols. Rabat: al-Mamlakah al-Maghribīyah, Wizārat al-Awqāf wa al-Shu‘ūn al-Islāmīyah, 2001.

<sup>63</sup> [http://www.fondation.org.ma/fondation\\_ang/manuscrit.html](http://www.fondation.org.ma/fondation_ang/manuscrit.html)

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## Summary

Морисита Нобуко

### **Практические сведения для поиска арабских и персидских рукописей в разных странах**

Цель этой работы — предоставить полезную информацию о том, как найти рукописи в разных странах с акцентом на Турцию, Иран, Египет, Индию и Марокко. Она составлена таким образом, чтобы ознакомить исследователей с эффективными способами поиска рукописей. В задачи не входит освящение исчерпывающих деталей ни всевозможных хранилищ в каждой стране, ни обновления новых публикаций. Скорее фокус направлен на выявление ценной информации, фундаментальные источники и основные хранилища. Надеюсь, что она станет полезным руководством для исследовательской деятельности в местных библиотеках, в которых порой система организации очень запутана.