The UCLA Islamic Manuscript Collections: An Overview

Luke B. Yarbrough
Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Fifteen principal collections of Islamic MSS

1. Garemani coll. of Pers. and Ar. MSS & books (453)
2. Sami Aintabi coll. of Ar. MSS (833)
3. Coll. of Ar. MSS (895)
4. Coll. of Turkish MSS (LSC.0896)
5. Coll. of Islamic MSS (897)
6. Tekes collection of Ottoman Pers. and Ar. MSS (898)
7. Egyptian MSS in Arabic (955)
8. Qayani coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1053)
9. Minasian coll. of Near Eastern MSS (1147)
10. Wellcome coll. of Near Eastern MSS (LSC 1148)
11. Karubian coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1183)
12. Ilmiyah coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1654)
13. Shaykhiyah coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1655)
14. Exhibit coll. of Near Eastern MSS (1656)
15. Rudolf Gelpke coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1658)
1. Garemani coll. of Pers. and Ar. MSS & books

- 3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)
- 19 MSS in addition to printed books
- Diverse contents: history, sexual health, hadith, astronomy, arithmetic, spirituality, and biography (of Napoleon Bonaparte)
- Open for use
2. Aintabi coll. of Ar. MSS (833)

• 20 boxes + 1 oversize (10 linear feet), ~210 MSS
• Religious sciences, literary prose and poetry
• Partially processed, unavailable for use
3. Coll. of Ar. MSS (895)

• 170 boxes + 1 oversize (85 linear feet)
• Dates and contents unknown
• Partially processed, unavailable for use
4. Coll. of Turkish MSS (LSC.0896)

- 204 boxes + 2 flat (104 linear feet)
- ~350 MSS
- Largely (?) Turkish folk poetry, also religious sciences, copied 15\textsuperscript{th}–19\textsuperscript{th} century
- Open for research
5. Coll. of Islamic MSS (897)

- 66 boxes (33 linear feet)
- ~450 MSS, inventoried only in Daneshpazhuh handlist
- Turkish and Persian
- Open for research
6. Tekes collection of Ottoman Pers. and Ar. MSS (898)

• 111 boxes (55.5 linear feet)
• ~750 MSS, inventoried only in Daneshpazhuh handlist
• Open for research
7. Egyptian MSS in Arabic (955)

• 36 boxes (18 linear feet)
• Dates and contents unknown
• Partially processed, unavailable for use
8. Qayani coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1053)

- 4 boxes (2 linear feet)
- ~50 MSS, copied 1307–1883
- Religious sciences, literature, astronomy, etc.
- Open for research
9. Minasian coll. of Near Eastern MSS (1147)

• 174 boxes (87 linear feet)
• 4,700 MSS
• Open for research
10. Wellcome coll. of Near Eastern MSS (LSC 1148)

- 32 boxes (16 linear feet)
- ~250 MSS
- Arabic manuscripts in philosophy, logic, mathematics, astronomy, astrology, Islamic theology, etc.
- Open for research
11. Karubian coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1183)

• 5 boxes (2.5 linear feet), 18 MSS
• Chiefly Shi‘i theology, jurisprudence, and devotional materials from Qajar Iran, but also a personal notebook and a Syriac MS
• Open for research
12. Ilmiyah coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1654)

• 5 boxes + 1 oversize (2.5 linear feet)
• 43 MSS
• Persian and Arabic manuscripts on language and philosophy, as well as jurisprudence, religion, astronomy, medicine and philology
• Partially processed, unavailable for use
13. Shaykhiyah coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1655)

- 5 boxes (2.5 linear feet)
- 43 MSS
- Autobiography, theology, philosophy, poetry, astronomy, logic, etc.
- Mostly produced by the Shaykhiyah movement in 19th-century Iran
- Partially processed, unavailable for use
14. Exhibit coll. of Near Eastern MSS
   (1656)

- 5 boxes (2.5 linear feet), ~45 MSS
- Persian, Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, and Armenian manuscripts dating from 1492-1848. Includes bound manuscripts, scrolls, manuscript fragments, decorative book covers, and artifacts. Subjects include history, lexicography, belles-lettres, theology, and philosophy.
- Open for research
15. Rudolf Gelpke coll. of Ar. and Pers. MSS (1658)

- 24 MSS
- Astronomy and astrology, belles-lettres, grammar, history, philosophy and theology
- Open for use
UCLA Manuscript Collections: Digital Collections, Catalogs, and Finding Aids

UCLA Bound Manuscripts Collection (UCLA Digital Collections)
"Collection consists of bound manuscripts of varying contents most notable for its early material which includes a papyrus fragment from the 7th century, a velum Breviary (French, 15th century), a North French or Flemish Book of hours (late 15th or early 16th century), Persian and Arabic manuscripts, manuscript books from the 16th through 18th century, commonplace books, Friendship albums, and personal journals..."

UCLA Caro Minasian Armenian Manuscripts (UCLA Digital Collections)
"Armenian manuscripts, gifted to the UCLA Library in 1968 by Dr. Garo Owen Minasian of Tehran, Iran. The collection includes manuscripts of ecclesiastical character such as gospels, psalters, menologies, and ritual books, as well as theological and philosophical works, medical treatises, and anthologies of poetry...

UCLA Caro Minasian Collection of Persian and Arabic Manuscripts Digitization Project
"The Minasian Collection of Persian and Arabic manuscripts consists of works related to the studies of theologians and scholars in centers of learning in Iran from the 10th through the 19th centuries. The manuscripts, which include both bound collections and single works, chiefly date from the 16th to the 17th centuries, and shed light on the social, religious, and political history of Iran and Shi'ism..."

UCLA Exhibit Collection of Near Eastern Manuscripts (UCLA Digital Collections)

Online Archive of California
The OAC brings together historical materials from a variety of California institutions, including museums, historical societies, and archives. Over 120,000 images; 50,000 pages of documents, letters, and oral histories; and 8,000 guides to collections are available. Finding aids and other information for numerous UCLA Library manuscript collections can be found here.

UCLA Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections

Finding Aid for the Richard (Rouhollah) Karubian collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, 1510-1930
Finding Aid for the Collection of Egyptian Manuscripts in Arabic, [dates unknown]
Finding Aid for the Noyan Garemani collection of Persian and Arabic manuscripts and books, ca. 1514-1899
Finding Aid for the Shahryar collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, ca. 1583-1924
Finding Aid for the Rudolf Geipke collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, ca. 1447-1902
Finding Aid for the Collection of Arabic Manuscripts, ca. 1500-1899
Finding Aid for the Elymian collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts, ca. 1516-1893
Finding Aid for the Khwaid Collection of Near Eastern Manuscripts, ca. 1700-1899
Finding Aid for the Qeyani Collection of Arabic and Persian Manuscripts
Finding Aid for the Minasian Collection of Near Eastern Manuscripts, ca. 1900-1899
Finding Aid for the Exhibit collection of Near Eastern manuscripts, 1492-1848
Finding Aid for the Semsi Assad Almtbil Collection of Arabic Manuscripts
Collection Guide

Collection Title: Collection of Arabic manuscripts, ca. 1600-1899
Collection Number: 895
Get Items: No online items

Collection Overview

Description: Boxes 1-142 and 169-171 include materials in Arabic relating to Islam and Islamic law. The entire collection is in Arabic.

Extent: 85.0 linear ft. (170 boxes and 1 oversize box)

Restrictions: Property rights to the physical object belong to UCLA Library Special Collections. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where The Regents do not hold the copyright.

Availability: PARTIALLY PROCESSED COLLECTION UNAVAILABLE FOR USE: except for boxes 1-142 and 169-171. Inquiries regarding these materials should be directed, in writing, to the Manuscripts Librarian, UCLA Library Special Collections.
Catalogues of the Arabic/Persian Medical and Scientific MSS at UCLA


The Minasian Collection of Persian and Arabic manuscripts consists of works related to the studies of theologians and scholars in centers of learning in Iran from the 16th through the 19th centuries. The manuscripts, which include both bound collections and single works, chiefly date from the 14th to the 17th centuries, and shed light on the social, religious, and political history of Iran and Shi’ism.

These records of works within the Minasian Collection, which is not yet fully cataloged, represent a collaboration between the UCLA Research Library (Department of Special Collections) and the Digital Library Program to provide online access to UCLA’s extensive Near Eastern collections, which include many uncataloged works in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish, and Armenian.
The UCLA Islamic Manuscript Collections: An Overview

Luke B. Yarbrough
Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures