

BRIEF NOTES ON SOME OF THE RARER OR UNIQUE ARABIC AND PERSIAN-ARABIC MANU- SCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

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LIBRARY.

IT has been decided to print, from time to time, in these pages, brief descriptive notes on some of the rarer works to be found in the collection of Arabic, Persian and other Oriental Manuscripts preserved in the John Rylands Library.

The whole of the items dealt with in the present issue have been already fully described in the manuscript catalogue, which has been prepared with a view to publication when the cost of book-production becomes more normal. In the meantime students who are interested in such studies may have ready access to the full catalogue, and also to the manuscripts.

The object of these notes is to direct attention to a number of works of importance in this particular field of research, the very existence of which would otherwise remain unknown, since the whole of the items at present dealt with are either unique, or of such rare occurrence in the public libraries of Europe as to render them almost so.

To have dealt with the whole of such manuscripts in the collection would have taken up more space than can well be spared. We have therefore confined our attention to those coming under the head of Theology.

In subsequent issues it is our intention to deal in the same manner with other rare items in the departments of History, Natural Science, Philosophy, Literature, Language, Prayers, Charms, etc.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY.

No. 96. "TUḤFAH'AMMĪYAH." It contains quatrains on the twelve months of the Christian year, their beauty and their defects, in the

form of a dialogued dispute. The author is Philippos Faḍūl, of the second half of the eighteenth century. The MS. was written at Damietta in 1769, one year after its composition in Cairo.

No. 100. "KITAB UT-ṬUBB UR-RUḤĀNI." An anonymous work on Christian mysticism in general. It consists of thirteen faḥṣ dealing with various vices affecting human life. The MS. seems to be of Spanish origin and is written on European paper; the binding is also of European origin. Eighteenth century.

No. 802. ISAAC OF NINEVEH. Arabic version of the works of the Syrian mystic, Isaac of Nineveh, who died towards the end of the seventh Christian century. The MS. has no date but it may be ascribed to about A.D. 1450. It belonged to a certain Athanasius Ṭabutka, who dedicated it to the monastery of St. Anthony in Egypt.

The works of Isaac of Nineveh, which were translated from Syriac into Arabic in the ninth Christian century, exercised a great and lasting influence on Christian mystics and Muslim Ṣūfis of later generations

MUSLIM THEOLOGY.

I. KUR'ĀN.

Nos. 760-773. KUR'ĀN. This beautiful manuscript, in fourteen volumes, contains, in a fifteenth century script, the translation of the Kūr'ān into Persian and Turki (Eastern Turkish) languages. Every page of it is trilingual. The first line contains, in thick Naskhi characters, the text of the Kūr'ān and below every Arabic word is written, in much thinner letters, its Persian equivalent, and immediately below the Persian word comes its Turki equivalent. Both translations being very literal, the Eastern Turkish version furnishes the handiest text for the study of the imperfectly known dialect of Turki in its relation to that used in *Kudatku Bilik* and in Rabghūzi's works.

No. 347. "ḤUJJAT UL-ISLAM." A work on the writing and pronunciation of the Kūr'ān arranged in sections under Sūrah headings. The author is called Muḥammad Badr ul-Islām and the date of the composition is given as 1157 1744. The MS. is either an autograph of the author, or written under his direct supervision.

No. 438 C. "SIRĀJ UL-ḤUFFAZ." A treatise in Persian about the distinction and interpretation of doubtful words in the Kūr'an. The author is Haddād b. 'Abd ul-Hakīm, and the date of the transcription of the MS. is apparently 1002 1593.

No. 601. Glosses on Baiḍawī's commentary on Sūrah XIV (Nur) by

Shihab ud-Dīn Khafājī, who died in 1069/1659. The MS. is an autograph, and the text that it contains is different from that of Khed. Libr. (I, 181).

No. 337. "BAḤR UL-'ISHK." A commentary on Sūrah XII (Yūsuf). The work is anonymous, and the manuscript is dated 1233 1817.

No. 650 D. "SHARḤ WAJĀWAZNA." A commentary on Sūrah X, 90-92, written in 1133 1720 by Khalil b. Muṣṭafa Istanbuli, called Fā'id, who died about 1140 1727. The MS. is dated 1134/1721, a year after the composition of the book.

No. 650 L. "MABAḤITH AS-SAYID MA'Ā TAFTĀZĀNI." A record of a discussion which took place at the court of Amīr Taimūr (Tamerlane) between Jurjāni, who died in 816/1413, and Mas'ūd b. 'Umar Taftāzāni, who died in 791 1389, on the force of Qur'anic comparisons.

2. TRADITIONS.

No. 800. "IRSHAD US-SĀRI FI SHARḤ BUKHĀRI." An autograph of Kaṣṭallāni. The famous commentary of Shihāb ud-Dīn Kaṣṭallāni on the *Ṣaḥīḥ* of Bukhāri. The MS. contains many additions on the margins and erasures in the text, all in the handwriting of the author, who died in 923/1517.

No. 679. "TAJZI'AT of KHAṬĪB on the SUNAN of A. DA'ŪD." The MS. contains the famous "Sunan of A. Dā'ūd," but the text that it exhibits is different from that with which we are familiar. From the indications of the MS. we are given to understand that this text is the one edited by Khaṭīb al-Baghdādi, who died in 463/1070. (The date 403 given by Brockel. (I, 329) is a misprint.) The MS. is dated 1117/1705, and contains in the handwriting of the Kaḍī of Macca a long note specifying the chain of authorities by which the text preserved in this Maccan MS. was guaranteed to be genuine.

No. 414 L. "AḤĀDĪTH FI FAḌĀ'IL AL-MADINAH." A work containing forty-one traditions on the merits of Madīnah, by 'Alī b. Sultan Muḥammad Kaṣi Harawi, who died in 1014/1605.

No. 735. "SHARḤ SHAMĀ'IL NABAWĪ." A commentary in Persian upon Ibn Ḥajar's Arabic commentary on Tirmidhi's well-known *Shamā'il*. The author is Rājī Ḥajjī al-Ḥaramain, who composed his work in 978 1570. This precise date is formed from the numerical value of the letters of the title, as counted on the margins of fol. 217^b.

Rājī was a follower of the famous Sayid 'Alī Hamdāni, who, having incurred the wrath of Amīr Taimūr (Tamerlane) fled from Hamdan to Kashmere, where he arrived in 782 1380. He was also a pupil of Ibn

Ḥajar, whom, on fol. 3^a, he calls "my teacher and my sheikh". The MS. is dated 1225/1810.

No. 540. "FUTŪḤĀT KUBRA." A work on traditions, with uncommon divisions. The first division comprises traditions of the Prophet in which the authorities of *six* traditionists are in agreement. The second those of *five*, the third those of *four*, the fourth those of *three*, the fifth those of *two*. Then proceed the traditions for which only a *single* authority can be cited. The author is Muḥammad b. 'Abdallah Ḥasani, who prefixes to his work the profession of faith of his Sayid Muḥammad b. Zaid Ḳairawāni.

The MS., which may be ascribed to about A.D. 1740, contains statements by judges who had read the book in Madīna in 1199/1784.

No. 452 B. "JAWĀHIR UL-UṢŪL FĪ 'ILM HADĪTH I R-RASŪL." An anonymous work on the science of traditions, their value, and the history of traditionists. It is the handiest of all the treatises we have read on the science of traditions.

In order of date the latest author quoted in the text seems to be Muḥammad Shami, who died in 942/1535. The MS. was copied in 1184/1770.

No. 554. "MUNYAT US-SĀLIKIN WA BUGHYAT UL-'ĀRIFĪN." A work on the forty traditions of the Prophet, related, commented upon, and interpreted after a legal and theological fashion. The book is mentioned by Ḥaj. Khal. (VI, 226) but without its author's name and its date. The present MS. gives the author as 'Abd ul-Ḥaḳḳ b. Ḥasan Miṣri, and the year of his death as 838/1434. It was written about A.D. 1550.

No. 545. "TARJAMA' I ḲUṬB SHĀHI." A free translation into Persian of the forty sayings of the Prophet, as edited by Bahā' ud-Dīn 'Āmuli, who died in 1030/1621. The author is another 'Āmuli: Muḥammad b. 'Ali 'Āmuli, called Ibn Khātun, who died about A.D. 1680.

The work, as the title implies, has been undertaken at the instance of Sultan Muḥammad Ḳuṭb Shāh b. Ḳuṭb Shāh, who reigned A.D. 1612-1621. He was the fifth ruler of the Ḳuṭb Shāh dynasty of Golkanda, and succeeded his more famous brother Ḳūli Ḳuṭb Shāh.

The MS. is dated 1087/1676, and is, therefore, contemporary with the author.

No. 740. "SHARḤ 'AHDNĀMAH." The book professes to contain advices or instructions given by 'Ali b. a-Ṭālib to Malik b. Ḥarith Ashṭar, when he sent him to take over the government of Egypt. The text is in Arabic, whilst the Commentary is in Persian. The MS. presents an Indian Ta'liḳ of about A.D. 1680.

No. 639 C. "KANZ UL-AKHYĀR." A collection of sayings of the Prophet. About A.D. 1780. It is in every respect different from that mentioned by Brock. (II, 183), as by 'Imad ud-Dīn.

3. SUNNI THEOLOGY.

No. 631. "KITAB UD-DĪN WAD-DAULAH." A semi-official defence of Islam written at the court, and by order, of the Caliph Mutawakkil (A.D. 847-861). The author is 'Ali b. Rabban Ṭabari, who died before 250 864. The MS. is dated 616/1219. We are glad to be in a position to announce that an English translation, accompanied by a critical apparatus, of this important work will be published very shortly.

No. 632. "KITĀB UL-IBĀNAH." A work concerning the life and the Caliphate of the four pious Caliphs, by 'Ubaidallah b. Muḥammad b. Hamdan b. Baṭat, who died about 460 1065. The MS. is very important, and was written not later than 510 1116, and may be considered as part of one of the copies made by the disciples of 'Ali b. Ubaidallah b. Zāghūni, who died in 527 1134, from his own original.

No. 428 C. "RISALAT MAULĀNA ṢŪFI." Glosses on some phrases of an anonymous commentary upon the 'Aḳā'id of 'Adu d-Dīn Ījī, who died in 756 1355. The author is Ṣūfi Kamān (?) Karrāti, a man absolutely unknown to us. The MS. is dated 1218/1803.

No. 449. "ḤASHIYAT 'ALA SHARḤ 'AḲĀ'ID NASAFI." The author is given as Mulla 'Iṣmat Allah, a man about whom little is known. The MS., which is undated, may be ascribed to about A.D. 1600.

No. 262. "ḤADĀ'IK UL - ḤAKĀ'IK FI MAWĀ'IZ AL - KHALĀ'IK." A curious work of an eschatological and ethical character. The author is given as Fakhr ud-Dīn Rāzi, who died in 606/1209, but the indications of the copyist are probably erroneous, because the MS. seems to contain the work of Tāj ud-Dīn Rāzi, who died after 720/1320. See Haj. Khal. III, 20. The MS. is dated 1156/1743.

No. 422. "WĀJIB WA SUNNAH." A treatise on the duties of Muslims and on the best way of performing prayer. The author's name is given as Kidani, doubtless Lutf Allah Nasāfi Kidani, who is presented in Haj. Khal. IV, 368, as the writer of a work on Faṭāwi. He lived about 900 1494.

No. 373 "TUḤFAT UL-MUTAKALLIMIN." A dogmatic work on points of faith according to the Sunnis, with the refutation of the principal sects opposing their belief, such as the Khārījites, the Mu'tazilites, the Kadariyahs, the Murjiyahs, the Karāmiyahs, the Jabriyahs, and the Rafidites.

The author is Burhān Ḳuraishi 'Abbasi, who cannot be identified with certainty with any other writer known to us. The book is divided into sixty-five bābs, and the MS. may be ascribed to about A.D. 1750.

No. 446 A. "ITHĀF UL-HUDŪR BI SĀTI'NŪR." A theological and ethical explanation of Sūrah XXIV, 35-45. The author, whose name is purposely obliterated, was probably 'Abd ul-Ḳadir b. 'Abd ul-Wāḥid Maghribi. The MS. is an autograph, and is dedicated to Aurangzib 'Ālamgīr, who reigned A.D. 1659-1707.

No. 614 B. "SHARḤ WAṢĪYAH." A commentary on the *Wasīyah* of the imam Abu Ḥanifa by Mahmūd b. Aḥmad Bābarti, who died in 786/1384.

No. 614 C. "TAḌKIRAH LI ŪLI N-NUHA." An anonymous treatise by a Hanafite Doctor, on some Ḳur'ānic and theological points. Dated 1053/1643.

No. 414 A. "FAID UR-RABB FI L'KHALḲ WAL KASB." An anonymous commentary on a work on the power and prescience of God and the free will of man, by Sayid Muḥammad Kumaljanawī.

No. 414 B. "SHAWĀRID UL-FARA'ID." An incomplete treatise on religious beliefs, by Abu Ḥasan Sindi Athari, who died in 1136/1723.

4. SHĪ'AH THEOLOGY.

No. 362. "THAWĀB UL-A'MĀL." A work upon the rewards and punishments of human deeds. The author is Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. Bābūyah al-Ḳummi, who died in 381/991.

It should here be stated that No. 14522, b. 14 (Vol. II, p. 163) in A. G. Ellis's *Cat. of Arabic printed books in the Brit. Mus.* entitled "Amali" contains a work which exhibits a text which, if not always identical with, is at least very similar to, that contained in the present MS. It may be ascribed to about A.D. 1780.

No. 686 A. "RISALAT UT-TAUHID." A treatise on the Unity of God, based on Ḳur'ān cxii, 1, the author of which is Muḥammad b. Muḥammad Bakīr Dāmād Ḥusaini, who died in 1041/1631. This precise date is taken from Muḥibbi's *Khulāṣat al-Athar* (Vol. IV, p. 302, Cairo, 1284 A.H.). We do not know on what authority Brockel. (II, 341) and others assign the year of his death to about 1070/1659.

No. 686 B. "RISĀLAH KHAL'ĪYAH." Another work by the same author, in which mention is made of a mystic vision in 1023 1614.

No. 686 C. "RISĀLAH 'ALAWĪYAH." A third work, written in 1024 1615, by the same author, on a saying of the Prophet concerning 'Alī.

No. 686 D. "ŞAHĪFAH MALAKŪTĪYAH." A work written in 1012 1603 by the same author on philosophical, theological and mystical subjects.

No. 686 F. "RISĀLAT UL-KHILĀAH." A treatise written in 1034 1624 by the same author on the creation of the world by God.

No. 686 H. "KITĀB UT-TAĀDĪSĀT." A work by the same author on the divine ordination of human nature and existence.

No. 686 J. "RISĀLAH MAKKIYAH." A mystic treatise by the same writer on the spiritual value of Macca and the Ka'bah.

5. ŞŪFI THEOLOGY.

No. 87 A. "ISFĀR 'AN NATA'IJ AL-ASFAR." A work on spiritual journeying, and on the mystical communication with Heaven of many prophets. The author is the very famous Muḥyi d-Din ibn 'Arabi, who died in 638/1240.

No. 399 J. "KITAB UL-JUMAL." A tract giving in short phrases the quintessence of religious beliefs and duties. The author is Muḥammad b. 'Ali b. Ḥasan (not Ḥusain, as in Brockel, I. 199) Ḥakīm Tirmidhi, who died in 255 868. This date is taken from *Safinat al-Auliya* (in Ethé's *Cat. of Pers. MSS. in Ind. Off.*, p. 293, no. 182). We do not find any good reasons for adopting the date 320 932, given by Brockel. (*ibid.*), Ahlwardt, and others.

No. 399 P. "UMMAHĀT UL-MA'ĀRIF." A treatise on the leading principles of Şūfism, by the above Muḥyi d-Din b. 'Arabi.

No. 399 R. "NATA'IJ UL-ADHKĀR FI L'MUḤARRABIN WAL-ABRAR." A historical and theological treatise on the *Dhikrs*. The work is important for the study of Şūfi practices, and is also from the prolific pen of Muḥyi d-Din b. 'Arabi.

No. 399 cc. "KITAB UL-YAĀIN." A treatise on the meaning of the word *YaĀin* as revealed in its letters, by the same Ibn 'Arabi.

No. 399 dd. "RISALAT UL-INTIŞAR." Answers to various questions on mysticism asked by 'Abd ul-Laţif b. Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Hibatallah. The author is again Ibn 'Arabi.

No. 395. "RISALUT UL-MAKR WAL ISTIDRĀJ." Cf. *Qur'an* VII, 181, and XIII, 42. A work on the gradual progress of the Saints in the companionship of God. The treatise is anonymous, but on the back of the first page a Persian note states that it is a copy of some marginal notes edited by Khwaja 'Ali from Khwāja Abū Bakr. Undated, but probably the end of the eighteenth century.

No. 634. "RIYĀD UL-ADHKĀR." A Ṣūfī treatise upon the Muslim formula of faith and reverence and the esoteric value of each, with special emphasis on the worship *Dhikr* of the Dervishes. The author is Auḥad ud-Dīn 'Abd al-Aḥad Nūrī, who died in 1061/1651. The work was composed in 1034/1624, and the MS. is dated 1180/1766.

No. 734 G. "MIR'ĀT UL-MUḤAḤKĪKĪN." A treatise in Persian on the knowledge of God and of the soul. The work, which is anonymous, is different from 418, III, in Rieu's *Brit. Mus. Pers. Cat.*

No. 734 I. "RISĀLAT MĪR KHAWĀND." A treatise in Persian on the minutiae of spiritual study and on the belief of the Ṣufīs. The author is Muḥammad b. Khawand Shah b. Maḥmūd (called Mīr Khawand) who died in 903/1498. About the author see E. Browne's *Hist. of Persian Lit. under Tartar Dom.*, pp. 431-433, in which, however, there is no mention of the present work.

No. 418. "MAJĀLĪ ILĀHIYAH." A treatise on Ṣūfī tenets by Mīr Muḥammad 'Alī who died about 1175/1761. The MS. is an autograph and is dated 1154/1741.

No. 397 A. "SAWĀ'US-SABIL." The work, which has nothing in common with Barzanjī's book mentioned by Brock., II, 389, deals with existence in general, but with special relation to God, to the created worlds, and to the soul. It was composed in 1134/1721 by Kalīm Allah b. Nur Allah, the mystic writer, who died in the eighteenth Christian century. The MS. is dated 1184/1770.

No. 397 B. "UṢŪL ḤAFĪZĪYAH." A collection of Ṣūfī doctrines, mostly in Persian. The MS. is dated 1193/1779. The author is not mentioned, but he was probably the above Kalīm Allah.

No. 397 D. "RISĀLAT AYYAM AL-'ASHRA." A work on Ṣūfī doctrines and practices for ten days, written in 1092/1681 by the same Kalīm Allah.

No. 397 E. "FAḤARĀT." A work, in Persian, on the exposition and explanation of some Ṣūfī doctrines and practices, by Khwāja 'Ubaid Allah Aḥrar, who died in 895/1490. See reference to him in *Safīnah* (*ibid.* no. 87) and *Haft Iḳlīm* (*ibid.* no. 1533). The MS. is dated 1193 1779.

No. 397 F. "'ILM AT-TAṢAUWUF." A short treatise on Ṣufism. The work is headed "Naḵshband," referring doubtless to Baha'ud-Dīn Naḵshband Bukhāri, the founder of the Naḵshbandī order, who died in 791 1389 (*Safīnah*, no. 82, and *Haft Iḳlīm*, no. 1489).

No. 439 D. "SHARḤ KĀFIYAH." A mystical work in Persian which brings into the Ṣūfī sphere the grammatical terminology of some Arabic

sentences dealing with *tauḥīd* and *'ishk*. The author is 'Abd ul-Wāḥid Ibrahim b. Ḳuṭb. Seventeenth century.

No. 439 E. "IBARĀT MAKTŪBAT." A Ṣūfī treatise in Persian on the words of mystic love, by Ḳuṭb 'Ālam Makhḍūm Shaikh akhi Jamshīd.

6. WAHHĀBI THEOLOGY.

No. 618 A. "RISĀLAH MADANIYAH FI MA'RIFAT BAHĀ' AL-ILAHĪYAH." A treatise written and sent to Madīna by Muḥammad b. 'Abd ul-Wahhāb, the head of the Wahhābi movement, who died in 1207/1792. This date is taken from Daḥlān's *Khulaṣat ul-Kalām* (p. 229 of Cairo edit., 1305).

No. 618 B. A lengthy refutation of the Wahhābi tenets by Muḥammad Abu Su'ūd Shirwāni, who died in 1230 1814. The author wrote it in 1211/1796, and the MS. is dated 1220 1805. It has no title.

7. NUṢAIRI THEOLOGY.

Nos. 721-722. Two different MSS. containing the prayers and the theological beliefs of the Nuṣairis. Undated, but about 1750. The best treatise on this sect is still that by C. Huart in *Journal asiatique*, 1879, pp. 190-261.