

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library

The first major text-searchable online archive
of pre-20th century Arabic printed books

14507.d.15

إنه لقرآن كريم

Innahu la-Qur'an Karim

Delhi, 1875

The Qur'an, with marginal notes in Arabic and Persian, and with introductory tracts. Printed by Muhammad Mu'azzam



Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library

From the
collections of

BRITISH
LIBRARY

Bringing the achievements of the Islamic and Arab world into the digital age

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library heralds the start of Gale, a part of Cengage Learning's ground-breaking multi-year program of digitized Arabic primary sources for research and teaching.

Based on A.G. Ellis' catalogue of the British Library's collection, *Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library* represents the first and largest text-searchable archive of pre-20th century Arabic printed books available anywhere online.

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library gives scholars unprecedented access to more than 400 years of digitized historic books printed in Arabic script as well as translations into European and Asian languages from the period. Combined they demonstrate Europe's enduring fascination with, and assimilation of, knowledge from the Arabic-speaking world with its rich heritage of science, poetry, Islamic texts and commentaries.

Bringing a wealth of benefits to libraries in the Middle East and worldwide

This is an essential resource for every major library in the Middle East seeking access to pre-eminent heritage collections to advance scholarly research into the region's remarkable cultural, scientific and intellectual past for local students, researchers, and communities.

The collection is indispensable for research libraries world-wide seeking to enhance teaching, learning and research programs with 24/7 access to such an extensive collection which includes rare Arabic primary sources.

For scholars, the value of the collection lies in its provenance, breadth and the inclusion of both Arabic texts and early European translations of Arabic texts enabling the study of the complex interchange between the Arabic and European world across the centuries.

This collection enriches the study of the Middle East and the Muslim world, generates new paths of enquiry and research, and develops students' confidence with reading and interpreting primary sources of Arabic language and literature.

Supporting multiple disciplines and areas of study

Published in parts by subject, *Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library* covers an extensive range of subjects which bring the wealth and breadth of Arabic culture to scholars worldwide and support inter-disciplinary approaches to teaching, learning and research.

These parts are:

- Religion and Law
- Sciences, History, and Geography
- Literature, Grammar, Language, Catalogues, and Periodicals



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Total collection size

Approx. 7,000 volumes, 2.3 million pages

Date coverage

15th to 19th century

Languages included

Arabic*, Dutch*, English*, French*, German*, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian*, Latin*, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, Spanish*, Syriac and 17 others
(* full-text searchable)

Major printing centres

Beirut, Bulāq in Cairo, Delhi, Istanbul, London, Lucknow, Mumbai and Paris among many others

Contact us at gale.com/support

State of the art technology

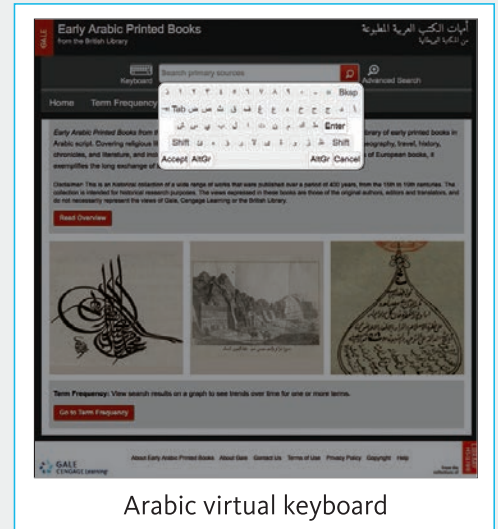
Gale is leading the way in creating the technology that optimizes the discovery of early Arabic primary sources for the global research community

FEATURES

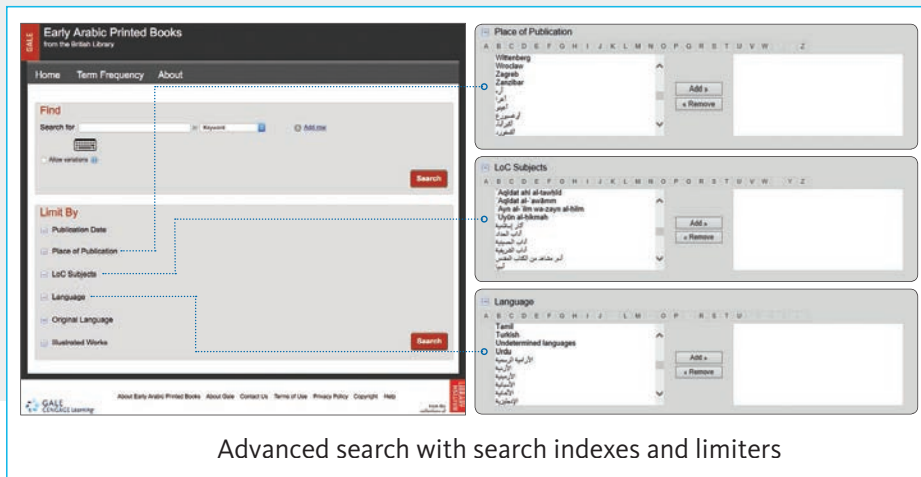
- ▶ **Full-text searching** across the Arabic language materials created with newly developed optical character recognition software (OCR) for early Arabic printed script
- ▶ **An Arabic virtual keyboard** at every search box
- ▶ **A complete and selectable Arabic-Language User Interface** with right-to-left read text and navigation to fully meet the research needs of Arabic speakers
- ▶ **Library of Congress Subject Indexing** to facilitate discovery and research of content by subject
- ▶ **Search Limiters in both English and Arabic** and metadata in both Arabic script and transliterated Arabic to refine results
- ▶ **User-generated Tags & Annotations** to allow users to create and add their own metadata
- ▶ **User Accounts** to enable users to save and edit tags and annotations
- ▶ **Image Viewer** to permit zooming, full screen mode, rotation, hand navigation, and right-to-left navigation for Arabic texts
- ▶ **A Textual Analysis Tool** to identify and visualize patterns, trends, and relationships, and explore content in new ways
- ▶ **MARC Records** available to increase discoverability of the collection from your library's online catalog



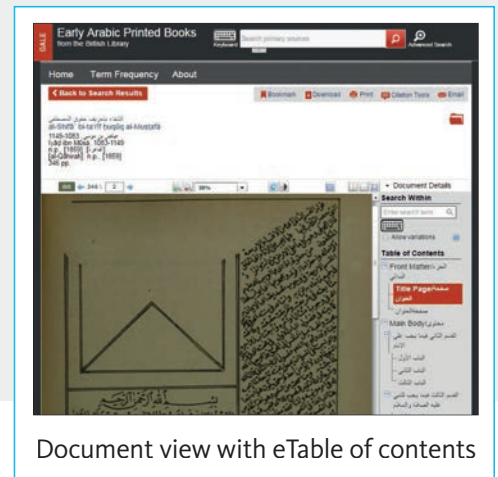
Dual interfaces: English and Arabic language



Arabic virtual keyboard



Advanced search with search indexes and limiters



Document view with eTable of contents

Religion and Law

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library: Religion and Law is a digital archive of early Arabic printed books on Islamic literature, traditions (hadith), works of the religious life, and Islamic law texts such as fiqh, statutes, and rulings.

Islamic literature includes editions of the Qur'an and commentaries, Hadith, doctrine and Sufism. Central are the over 50 Qur'an printed in Arabic script dating from 1694 to 1890. Highlights of which are the 1694 Hamburg edition, an 1830 Shiraz edition, 1832 Kazan edition, 1834 Leipzig edition, Bülâq editions of 1864 with a commentary by al-Zamakhsharî (d.539/1144) and 1867 with a commentary attributed to Ibn al-'Arabî (d.638/1240), as well as many editions printed in India from the 1830s onwards. There are nine editions in Arabic, Hindustani and Persian, and bilingual Arabic editions in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindustani, Latin, Persian, Sindi, Tamil and Turkish.

Arabic commentaries on the Qur'an include those by the great names in early exegesis, 'Abdullâh ibn 'Abbâs (d.68/688), al-Razi (d.312/925), al-Zamakhshari (d. 538/1144), Zakariyyâ al-Ansarî (d. 927/1520), al-Suyûtî (d.911/1505), Abd Allâh ibn 'Umar Bayḍâwî (d.686/1285) and ibn Kathir (d.775/1373).

In addition to the many Sunni and Shi'a works of Hadith and doctrine, there are over 80 Sufi texts by authors such as Ibn al-'Arabî (d.638/1240), Şadr al-Dîn al-Qûnawî (d.673/1274), 'Abd al-Qâdir al-Jîlânî (d 561/1166), Muḥammad ibn 'Uthmân Balkhî (d.829/1426), al-Ghazzâlî (504/1111), Muḥammad ibn Sulaymân Jazûlî (d.869/1465) and 'Abd al-Wahhâb ibn Aḥmad Sha'rânî (d.972/1565).

On law, the collection contains many works of Hanafi law, including numerous works by Abû Ḥanîfah (d.150/767) such as editions of *al-Fiqh al-akbâr* and the *al-Waṣīyyat*, or Muḥammad al-Shaybânî's (d.189/804) *al-Hujaj*; works of Maliki law including those of Mâlik ibn Anas (d.179/795); over 40 works of Shâfi'i Law, and a similar number on Shi'ah law including *Sharâ'i' al-Islâm* by Najm al-Dîn al-Hillî (d.676/1277), as well as editions of the *Muntaha al-makâl* by Muḥammad ibn Isma'îl Abû 'Alî (d.1159/1746).



14509.b.7
جلال الدين محمد بن أحمد محلي، التفسير الموسوم بتفسير الجلالين
Jalāl al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad Maḥallī, al-
Tafsīr al-mawsūm bi-tafsīr al-Jalālayn
Mumbai, 1865

Reprinted from the Calcutta edition of 1841



14507.d.12
فَسْتَعِينُوا بِذِكْرِ الْكَرِيمِ
إِنَّهُ لَقُرْآنٌ كَرِيمٌ فِي كِتَابٍ مَكْنُونٍ
Innahu la-Qur'an Karim fi kitab mahnun
Bareilly, 1876

The Qur'an, with notes in Persian from Bahr al-'ulum. Edited by Muḥammad Aḥsan Şiddiq



14507.b.4
قد حصل الفراغ من هذا القرآن المجيد
Qad ḥaṣala al-farāgh min hādha al-Qur'an al-Majīd
Bombay, 1853



14507.c.13
قرآن نوا ترجمه کجراتی زبان ما
Qur'an in Arabic and Gujarati
Mumbai, 1879

The Qur'an, with translation and notes in Gujarati, by 'Abd al-Qādir ibn Luqmān

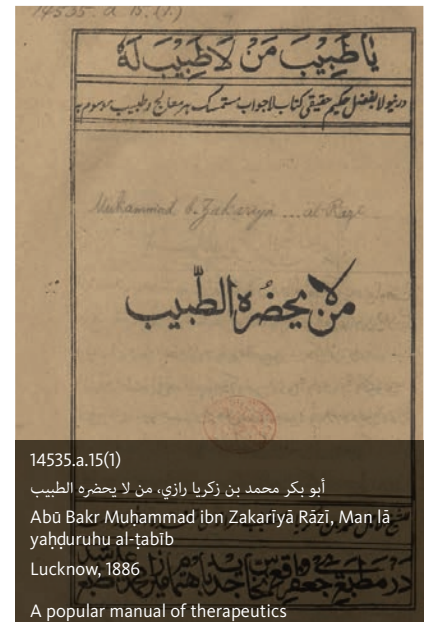
Sciences, History, and Geography

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library: Sciences, History, and Geography presents the range of Arab learning that influenced scholarship and scientific development in Europe through the Middle Ages and Early Modern period. It features works on medicine and physiology, classical sciences, mathematics, astrology, chemistry, natural history, philosophy, logic and ethics, politics, history and genealogy, biography, travel, geography and topography.

The largest group of the scientific texts are the over 300 works on medicine and physiology which include, for example, many editions of Ibn Sīnā's (d.429/1037) *al-Qānūn fī al-tibb* from the Weidenbach 1470 Latin printing, and the 1593 Rome edition in Arabic. There are 90 works on astronomy and astrology, 74 on mathematics, 53 on alchemy, over 200 on philosophy and nearly 300 on ethics. Works by all the great Arab scientists are included such as al-Haytham (d.430/1040), al-Fārābī (d.340/951), and al-Battānī (d.316/928).

The collection includes around 400 different historical works as well as over 200 histories in biographical form. These range from printings of works written in the 9th and 10th centuries such as al-Wāqidi's (d.207/822) *Futūḥ al-Shām*, the *Kitāb Al-ṭabaqat al-kabīr* of Ibn Sa'd (d.230/845), the *Ansāb al-ashrāf* of al-Balādhurī (d.279/892) and the *Murūj al-dhahab* of al-Mas'ūdī (d.345/956). From the 13th to 15th centuries are editions of the *Al-Mukhtaṣar fī ta'rīkh al-bashar* by Abū al-Fidā (d.732/1331), 'Izz al-Dīn Ibn al-Athīr's (d.630/1233) *Ta'rikh al-kāmil*, Ibn Khaldūn's (d.809/1406) *Kitāb al-'Ibar* and the *Muqaddima*. Representative of the 19th century are the histories of Rifa'a Rāfi' al-Tahtāwi (d.1290/1873).

Works of geography and travel writing provide insight into the economic and intellectual orbit of the inhabitants of the Islamic world, and include many major works such as the *Kitāb 'Ajā'ib al-Hind* on India, al-Mas'ūdī's (d.345/956) *Kitāb al-tanbīh wa-al-ishrāf*, the *Nuzhat al-mushtāq fī ikhtirāq al-āfāq* of Ibn Muḥammad al-Idrīsī (d.561/1165) and the *Masālik al-abṣār* of Ibn Faḍl Allāh al-'Umarī (d.749/1349).



Literature, Grammar, Language, Catalogues, and Periodicals

Early Arabic Printed Books from the British Library: Literature, Grammar, Language, Catalogues, and Periodicals showcases early Arabic printed books of folktales, pre-Islamic literature, Islamic poetry and prose, proverbs and sayings, language and lexicography, dictionaries, grammar, syntax, rhetoric, manuscript catalogs, and periodicals.

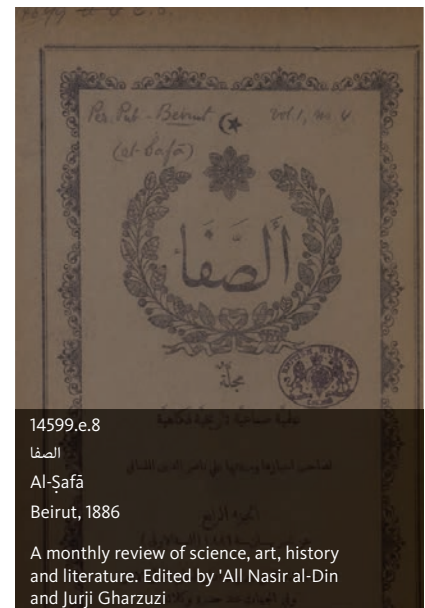
Poetry was the most favored literary form of the Arabic world, a preference that is reflected in the over 400 works of poetry included in the collection. These texts include many *Diwan* by different authors, the *Mu'allaqāt*, *al-Mufaḍḍaliyāt*, *The Romance of Banū Hilāl*, *Luqman's Fables*, and many other works and collections in Arabic and translated into English, French, German, and other languages. However, internationally, the most famous literary work was *Alf layla wa-layla* or *The Thousand and One Nights*, of which there are nine editions in Arabic including the Calcutta 1814-18 edition, 28 editions in English translation, 13 in French, 6 in German, and 39 editions of selections in various languages.

The collection includes over 130 works of grammar and over 100 lexical works critical for the study of linguistics and language, as well as 175 works of bibliography and catalogues which include 19th-century catalogues of collections of Arabic and other 'Oriental' manuscripts in libraries across Europe and the Middle East.

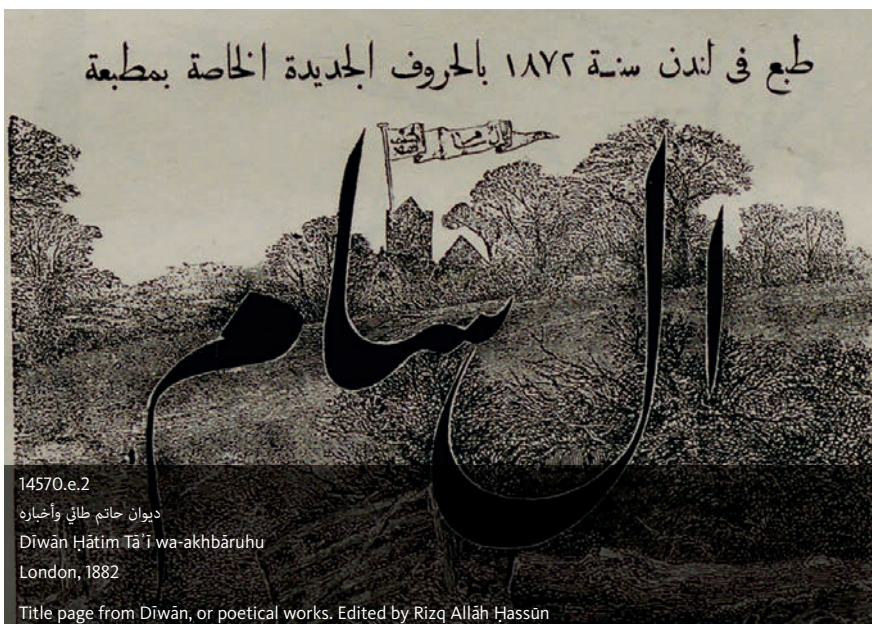
Finally, 42 19th-century periodicals, the majority printed in Beirut, Cairo, London, and Paris, provide insight into the cultural, intellectual, and social lives of people in the Middle East. These periodicals range from general weeklies covering arts, culture, politics, commerce and science to literary monthlies, specialist medical magazines, orientalist serials, and the Egyptian daily, *El-Qahira*. The earliest included periodical is the *al-Waqā'i' al-Miṣriyah*, the official gazette of the Egyptian government, printed in Būlāq from 1829.



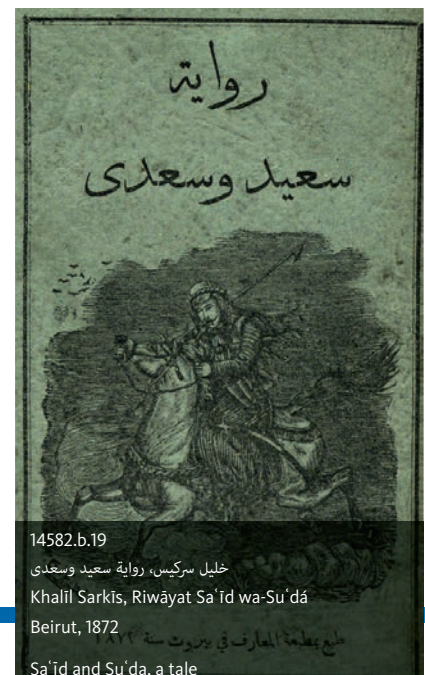
14570.a.6
أبو عبيدة معمر بن المنثري التيمي، قصة فرس العقيلي جاسد وماجرى لابوزيد
Abū 'Ubaydah Ma'mar ibn al-Muthannā al-Taymī, Hādhihi qiṣṣat faras al-'Uqayli Jābir
Egypt, 1865
An episode from the *Sīrat Banī Hilāl*



14599.e.8
الصفاء
Al-Ṣafā
Beirut, 1886
A monthly review of science, art, history and literature. Edited by 'All Naṣir al-Dīn and Jurji Ghazuzi



14570.e.2
ديوان حاتم طي وأخباره
Diwān Ḥatīm Tā'ī wa-akhbāruhu
London, 1882
Title page from *Diwān*, or poetical works. Edited by Rizq Allāh Ḥassūn



14582.b.19
خليل سركيس، رواية سعيد وسعدى
Khalil Sarkis, Riwāyat Sa'īd wa-Su'dā
Beirut, 1872
طبع بمطبعة المعارف في بيروت سنة 1872
Sa'īd and Su'da, a tale

About Gale's Arabic program

Guided by an international Advisory Board, the program will include some of the most important collections of Arabic-language materials for research and teaching—from historic newspapers and periodicals to early printed books and manuscripts—dating from different time periods and provenance. Unprecedented in scale and scope, the program will preserve Arabic heritage for generations to come and transform the historical and cultural study of the Arabic-language world.

The Advisory Board comprises scholars who are specialists in the fields of Arabic, Middle East, and Islamic Studies or librarians with extensive knowledge of Arabic collections and cataloguing.

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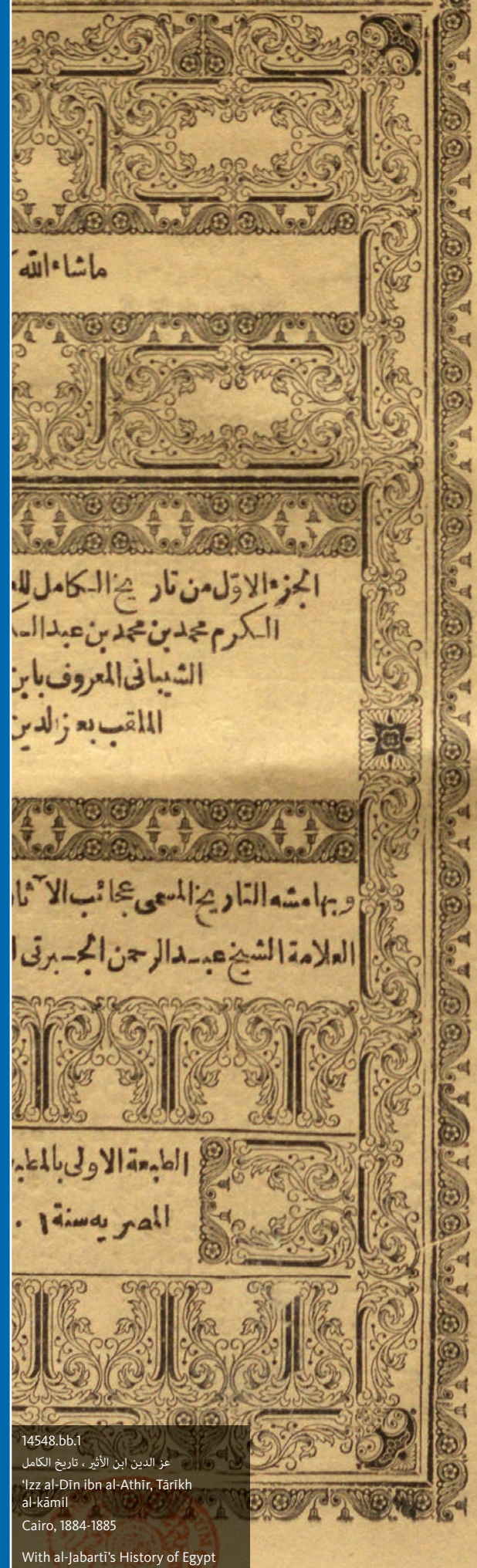
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Duke University, USA*

Professor Richard Jacquemond

*Professor of Modern Arabic Language and Literature,
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14548.bb.1

عز الدين ابن الأثير ، تاريخ الكامل

'Izz al-Dīn ibn al-Athīr, Tārīkh
al-kāmil

Cairo, 1884-1885

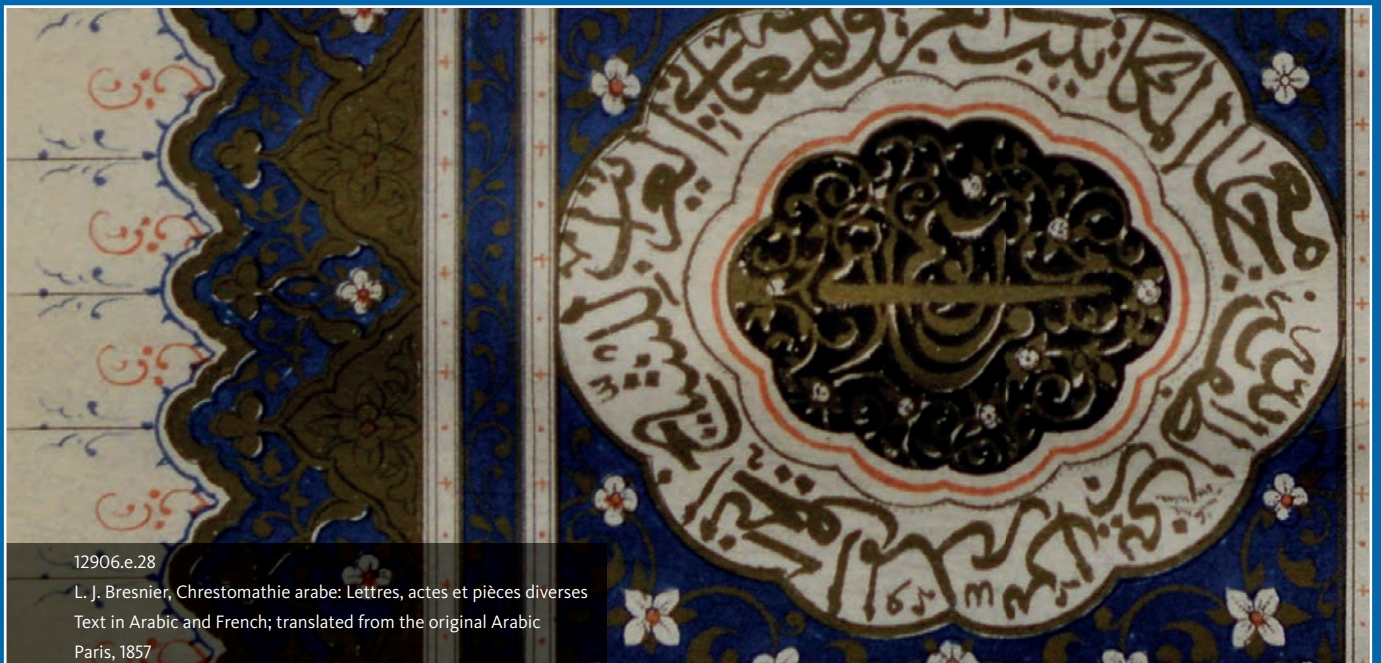
With al-Jabarti's History of Egypt

Preserving treasures of the Arab world

Gale is committed to ensuring the conservation and preservation of the original works as a standard part in Gale's digitization process. Gale funds British Library conservators to assess and prepare each work for imaging and offer advice on the handling and imaging of particularly fragile or recently repaired items.



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12906.e.28

L. J. Bresnier, *Chrestomathie arabe: Lettres, actes et pièces diverses*
Text in Arabic and French; translated from the original Arabic
Paris, 1857