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ARABIC COLLECTION

In this issue of Research Review we publish short descriptions of a further forty manuscripts from the IASAR collection. Four hundred and forty manuscripts have been accessioned as at March 1964.

The work of collection is still being carried out mainly by al-Hajj ^cUthmān b. Ishaq Boyo, but greater emphasis is now placed upon the recovery of material of direct importance for the history of West Africa. The first four hundred manuscripts, by contrast, were collected at random, and therefore form a representative sample of works in Arabic script owned by the malams of Ghana. All items are in xerox copy.

Our thanks again go to Dr. B. Martin and Mr. K. Odoom for their assistance in the cataloguing this material.

IASAR/2ARABICAuthor:

°ABDALLĀH b. FUDĪ

TitleTAZYĪN AL-WARAQĀT BI-JAM° BA°D MĀ LĪ MIN
AL-ABYĀT.Description:History of the jihād and early career of °Uthmān
b. Fudī (Dan Fodio).Date of work:

18 Shawwāl 1228 = 14 October 1813.

MS from:

National Archives of Ghana. 22 folios.

Other copies:IASAR/119;/120;/189; Kensdale 82/16; GAL
Supplement II p.894.IASAR/5ARABICAuthor:

°UTHMĀN b. FUDĪ.

Title:

(first verse) HAL LĪ MASTR NAHW ṬAYBA MUSRI°AN

Description:

Qaṣīda ending in dāl in praise of the Prophet

Date of work:

A.H. 1188 = A.D. 1774/5.

MS from:

Accra (?). 4 folios

Other copies:IASAR/25 and IASAR/172; also probably Kensdale
82/104, al-qaṣīda ad-dālīya fī madh an-nabī.Notes:Folio 4b contains a prayer to be said as protection
against loss of faith.IASAR/15ARABICAuthor:

MAHMŪD b. °ABDALLĀH (SULTĀN ḌANFARĪ)

Title:

QIṢṢAT SALGHA TA'RĪKH GHUNJA

Description:Account of the campaigns of Jakpa, king of Gonja;
of the growth of Salaga; and of the civil war in
Salaga, 1891/2.Date of work:

-

MS from:

Konongo. 16 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/1; /261.

IASAR/16 (xvii)ARABIC

Author: ^cABDALLĀH b. FUDT
Title: QAṢĪDA FĪ MADḤ AṢLAḤ ^cIBĀD ALLĀH.
Description: Poem in dāl in praise of the Prophet
Date of work: Jumāda II, 1202 = March/April, 1788.
MS from: Konongo. 4 folios.
Other copies: IASAR/130; /227. Also possibly Kensdale 82/132, al-qasīda ad-dālīya fī madḥ an-nabī.

IASAR/25ARABIC

Author: ^cUTHMĀN b. FUDT.
Title: (first verse) HAL LĪ MASĪR NAḤW TAYBA MUSRI^cAN.
Description: Qasīda ending in dāl in praise of the Prophet.
Date of work: A.H. 1188, A.D. 1774/5.
MS from: Kete Krakye. 3 folios.
Other copies: IASAR/5; also probably Kensdale 82/104, al-qasīda ad-dālīya fī madḥ an-nabī.

IASAR/34ARABIC

Author: ^cABDALLĀH b. FUDT.
Title: Takhmīs on the Qasā'id al-^cashrīyat of ^cAbd al-Raḥmān al-Fazāzī.
Description: Popular poem giving advice on religious questions
Date of work: Thursday, 12 Sha'bān 1235 = 25 May 1820.
MS from: Accra. 30 folios.
Other copies: IASAR/369; for al-qasā'id al-^cashrīyat see Kensdale 82/27; GAL. Supplement I, p. 482-3.

PROJECT REPORTS

11.

IASAR/40

ARABIC

Author:

-

Title:

-

Description:

List of Kings of Asante, with lengths of reigns.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Bale. 1 folio

Other copies

-

Notes:

Said by al-Hājj Qasim to be extracted from a longer work by his father, ^cAbdallāh, formerly qadi of Gonja.

IASAR/65

ARABIC

Author:

-

Title:

ṢIFĀT AL-ḤĀJJ MAḤMŪD

Description:

Takhmīṣ: poem in praise of al-Ḥājj Maḥmūd b. Sayyid Muḥammad, with reference to his īḥād.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Boromo. 2 folios

Other copies:

IASAR/70; /83 (with variants)

IASAR/68

ARABIC

Author:

^cUMAR BAMBA

Title:

MAWHŪB AL-MANNĀN

Description:

Poem in praise of the Prophet, in 28 sections each with a rhyming scheme based on a letter of the alphabet.

Date of work:

3 Ramaḍān 1279 = 21 February, 1863.

MS from:

Kintampo. 31 folios.

Other copies

IASAR/91

IASAR/70ARABICAuthor:

-

Title:

ṢIFĀT AL-ḤĀJJ MAḤMŪD.

Description:Takhmīs: poem in praise of al-Ḥājj Maḥmūd b. Sayyid Muḥammad, with reference to his jihād.Date of work:

-

MS from:

Boromo. 2 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/65; /83 (with variants).

IASAR/71ARABICAuthor:

MUḤAMMAD BELLO

Title:

INFĀQ AL-MAYSŪR

Description:History of the 1804 jihād in Hausaland; general Sudanese history and geography; correspondence of the author and Uthmān b. Fūdī with Muḥammad al-Amin al-Kānīmī of Bornu, etc.Date of work:

5 Dhu'l Qa'da 1227 = 11 November 1813.

MS from:

Accra. 381 folios.

Other copies:

-

IASAR/72ARABICAuthor:

MUḤAMMAD BELLO (ascription probably forged)

Title:

SHAMSIYYAT AL-IKHWAN FI'L-WIRD SHAYKHUNA AḤMAD AL-TIJĀNĪ

Description:A Tijānī manual, explaining the wird, with Tijānī prayers; partly based on the jawahir al-imā'āt (of Aḥmad Harazim b. Barada?). In urjuza form.Date of work:

-

MS from:

Accra. 10 folios.

Other copies:

-

- IASAR/73 ARABIC
- A Author: ^cABDALLĀH GWANDU (?)
- Title: MAWUFAT AL-SUDĀN, described as Ta'rikh li-Shaykh ibn Fudū.
- Description: Historical poem on ^cUthmān b. Fudī, the beginnings of jīhād, the Sayfawa, establishment in Sokoto, etc.
- Date of work: (?) A.H. 1286 = 1869/70.
- MS from: Accra. 11 folios.
- Other copies: Largely the same as Kensdale 82/19, which is attributed to ^cAbd al-Qādir b. Mustafā.
-
- IASAR/77 ARABIC
- Author: -
- Title: -
- Description: Account of the jīhād of al-Hājj Maḥmūd b. Muḥammad told by a shaykh to two young men.
- Date of work: -
- MS from: Bobo-Dioulasso. 1 folio.
- Other copies: Related to IASAR/66.
-
- IASAR/83 ARABIC
- Author: -
- Title: ṢIFĀT AL-HĀJJ MAḤMŪD
- Description: Takhmīs in praise of al-Hājj Maḥmūd with reference to his jīhād.
- Date of work: -
- MS from: Wenchī. 2 folios.
- Other copies: IASAR/65; /70 (with variants).

IASAR/103ARABICAuthor:

CUMAR BAMBA

Title:

(i) -

(ii) FAṢL FĪ DHIKR AL-KHULAFĀ'

Description:

(i) Poem in praise of the Prophet and the four orthodox Caliphs.

(ii) Poem in praise of the four orthodox Caliphs.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Kintampo. 8 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/92; /150; /157.

IASAR/104ARABICAuthor:

CUMAR BAMBA

Title:

SUBUL AL-NAJAH

Description:Poem on the attributes of God, qualities of the Prophet, etc: ṣawḥidDate of work:

-

MS from:

Kintampo. 5 folios.

Other copies:

-

IASAR/105ARABICAuthor:

-

Title:

(i) AL-WIRD AL-LĀZIM

(ii) MIFTĀḤ AL WAZĪFA

Description:

(i) Tijānī Litany

(ii) Tijānī office

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Old Bupe. 2 folios.

Other copies:

-

PROJECT REPORTS

15.

IASAR/106

ARABIC

Author:

-

Title:

-

Description:

Fragments in different hands on worldly achievements, on the relative value of wealth and learning, etc. hadith of ^CUmar, the second Caliph.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Old Buibe. 3 folios.

Other copies:

-

IASAR/107

ARABIC

Author:

-

Title:

-

Description:

Treatise on Abjad - quick reckoning with letters, calendars, names of months, astrological stations, etc.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Kintampo. 8 folios.

Other copies:

-

IASAR/108

ARABIC

Author:

ABU ZAYD ^CABD AL-RAHMAN b. MUHAMMAD b. AMIR AL-AKHDAIR AL-MALIKI.

Title:

KITAB AL AKHDART

Description:

Rules for the performance of prayer.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Kintampo. 62 folios.

Other copies:

GAL. Supplement II, pp. 705-6. Blochet, 5320 (Shurū' al-salāh).

Notes:

This work was written AH 943 = AD 1536/7.

IASAR/109 (ii)ARABICAuthor:

AL-ḤĀJJ ʿUMAR b. ABĪ BAKR

Title:YĀ KHALĪLAYYA FA-ʿAJABĀ IDH RA'AYTA
AL-ʿAJĀ'IB.Description:Poem criticising the missionary activities of one
Musa and his companions, who were growing rich
from these activities.Date of work:

-

MS from:

Kete Krakye. 5 folios.

Other copies

IASAR/135

IASAR/ 109(vi)ARABICAuthor:

AL-ḤĀJJ ʿUMAR b. ABĪ BAKR

Title:

MĀ BALŪ HIND NA'AT ʿANNĀ BI-GHAYR QILĀ.

Description:

Elegy for al-Ḥājj Labbū, son of the poet.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Kete Krakye. 3 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/16(v); /138; /239(vi).

IASAR/110ARABICAuthor:

MUḤAMMAD b. AL-ḤASAN AL-SHAYBĀNĪ.

Title:

AL-ʿAQĪDAT AL-SHAYBĀNĪ.

Description:Qaṣīda in alif, on some important figures of early
Islamic history, founders of the four madhabs, etc.Date of work:

-

MS from:

Dodowa. 4 folios.

Other copies:

GAL. Supplement I, p. 291. IASAR/325.

Notes:

Author died AH 189 = AD 804/805.

PROJECT REPORTS

17.

IASAR/111

ARABIC

Author:

MU^cADHU IBN YAHYA AL-MURTAJI

Title:

MAQS^uURAT AL-JAWHAR

Description:

Takhmis on a poem /IASAR/58; 185/ of Abū Madyan al-Tilimsānī /GAL. I, p.566-77.

Date of work:

(?) AH 1187 = 1773/4.

MS from:

Dodowa. 21 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/98.

IASAR/114

ARABIC

Author:

^cUTHMĀN b. FUDT.

Title:

NŪR AL-ALBĀB.

Description:

List and discussion of the various classes of Muslims and pagans.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Asiakwa. 10 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/374; /395. See also Kensdale 82/58; Vadja, p.230; GAL. II, p.656.

IASAR/115

ARABIC

Author:

^cABDALLĀH b. FUDT.

Title:

KITĀB AL-NASAB

Description:

Fodio genealogy.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Asiakwa. 3 folios.

Other copies:

-

Notes:

Related to Idā^c al-nusukh min akhadhtu min al-shuyukh, Gaskiya, 1957.

IASAR/116ARABICAuthor:

MUHAMMAD BELLO

Title:RAF^c AL-SHUBHA FI TASHABBUH BI'L-KAFARA
WA'L-ZULMA WA'L-JAHLA.Description:Criticism of those who imitate unbelievers, tyrants
and ignorant men, selected from the work of
learned men.Date of work:

Completed A.H. 1216 = 1802 (Kensdale)

MS from:

Asiakwa. 8 folios.

Other copies:

See Kensdale 82/82.

IASAR/117ARABICAuthor:AL-HĀJJ^c UMAR b. ABĪ BAKRTitle:

-

Description:Poetical account of the author's residence in
Gambaga, of his quarrel with the Imam there, and
of his decision to make the pilgrimage.Date of work:

A.H. 1326 = A.D. 1908/9.

MS from:

Asiakwa. 4 folios.

Other copies:

-

IASAR/118ARABICAuthor:^cABDALLĀH b. FUDĪ.Title:

-

Description:Poem in ḥam in praise of Shaykh Jibril b. ^cUmar.Date of work:

-

MS from:

Dodowa. 5 folios.

Other copies:

-

Notes:An extract from Tazyīn al-waraqāt

PROJECT REPORTS

19.

IASAR/119

ARABIC

Author:

^cABDALLĀH b. FÜDT.

Title:

TAZYĪN AL-WARAQĀT BI-JAM^c BA^c D MĀ LT MIN
AL-ABYĀT.

Description:

See IASAR/2.

Date of work:

See IASAR/2.

MS from:

Aslakwa. 45 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/2; /120.

IASAR/120

ARABIC

Author:

^cABDALLĀH b. FÜDT.

Title:

TAZYĪN AL-WARAQĀT BI-JAM^c BA^c D MĀ LT MIN
AL-ABYĀT.

Description:

See IASAR/2.

Date of work:

See IASAR/2.

MS from:

Hohoe. 20 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/2; /119.

IASAR/121

ARABIC

Author:

AL-ḤĀJJ ^cUMAR b. ABĪ BAKR.

Title:

-

Description:

Satirical poem in ṣiḥ alif on a pupil of a Hausa malam
who criticized the author's pronunciation of
al-ḥamdu li-'llah.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Aslakwa. 3 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/137; /421.

IASAR/122ARABICAuthor:(I) AL-HĀJJ^c UMAR b. ABI BĀKRTitle:

(II) SHARĪF YAHYA AL-MAKKI

Description:(I) TARBĪ^c AL-BURDA

(II) -

(I) Poetical elaboration of a poem by Abū
Abdallāh Muḥammad b. Sa^cīd al-Būṣīrī / GAL.
I, 264; Supplement I, 4677.(II) Poem in praise of an imam - presumably
al-Hājj^c Umar b. Abī Bākr.Date of work:

(I) -

(II) A.H. 1339 = 1921.

MS from:

Hohoe. 15 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/24 (without Introduction).

IASAR/123ARABICAuthor:

ABŪ BAKR b. MUḤAMMAD b. AL-HUSAYN b.

DURAYD AL-AZDĪ

Title:

AL-MAQṢŪRAT AL-KUBRĀ

Description:

Well-known devotional poem.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Hohoe. 14 folios.

Other copies:

GAL. I, p.113.

Notes:

Author died AD 933.

IASAR/124ARABICAuthor:AL-ADīb AL AṢMA^cAL-MAWṢILTTitle:

ṢAWI ṢAFIR AL-BULBUL

Description:

Humorous poem praising the voice of the nightingale.

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Hohoe. 2 folios.

Other copies:

IASAR/335.

IASAR/125:ARABICAuthor:

AḤMAD AL MAQQARĪ AL TILIMSĀNT AL AṢḤARĪ

Title:

IDALĀT AL-DUJUNNA LI-KAWHĪHĀ IṬIGĀD AHL AL-

Description:Work of tawhīd.

SUNNA

Date of work:

-

MS from:

Dadowa. 41 folios.

Other copies:

GAL. II, p.383.

Notes:

Author died AD 1631.

IASAS/126ARABICAuthor:

-

Title:

-

Description:Ḥizā given to Malam Bābā by Muḥammad Thānī, with
silsila through al-Ḥājī ʿUmar b. Abī Bakr to al-
Ṣūyūtī /through Katsina and Borno/.Date of work:

22 Jumada II, 1363 = 14 June, 1944.

MS from:

Asiakwa. 1 folio.

Other copies:

-

IASAR/127ARABICAuthor:

AL-ḤĀJJ ʿUMAR b. ABĪ BAKR

Title:

BUSHRĀ MAN ATĀKA BASHĪR.

Description:Poem in praise of Ḥusayn al-Kashnawī, known as
Salaw, Sarkin Zongo of Kumasi.Date of work:

12 Muḥarram 1342 = 25 August 1923.

MS from:

Kete Krakye.

Other copies

IASAR/16 (xiii); /168; /239 (i).

IASAR/128ARABICAuthor:Title:Description:Date of work:MS from:Other copies:Notes:

ʿABDALLĀH AL-KANAWĪ
NUBDHA MIN DHIKR AWṢĀF AL-BILĀD
ADADMĀWĀ.

Compendium of historical and geographical information about Adamawa, including the text of a letter from ʿUthmān dan Fodio to Shaykh Adam instructing him to call for jihad.

-

Kete Krakye

-

ʿAbdallāh al-Kanawī was son of the brother of al-Ḥājj ʿUmar b. Abī Bakr of Kete Krakye. This work was apparently written from Jos and sent to al-Ḥājj ʿUmar.

I.G. Wilks

J.J. Holden