

The volume evolved as a side product of the “Zaydi Manuscript Tradition” (ZMT) project, a collaborative undertaking by the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Princeton, in partnership with the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) at Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota, which aims at bringing together the widely dispersed Zaydī manuscript culture in its entirety in a single repository. It focusses on Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ismā‘īl al-Manṣūr (1915-2016), one of the most prominent scholars, bureaucrats, and politicians of twentieth-century Yemen, and his private collection of manuscripts. Based on his ijāza (“licence to transmit”), his own writings, and other documentary materials, as well as his collection of manuscripts and the many handwritten comments and notes added by al-Manṣūr, the book discusses his biography and intellectual milieu and provides insights into the manuscript culture of twentieth-century Yemen. Taken together, the volume contributes to the study of twentieth-century Yemen’s intellectual and social history, and it immediately relates to recent work of historical anthropologists specializing in Yemen.

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Traditional Yemeni Scholarship amidst Political Turmoil and War  
Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ismā‘īl b. al-Muṭahhar al-Manṣūr (1915-2016) and His Personal Library

# Arabo-Islamica

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