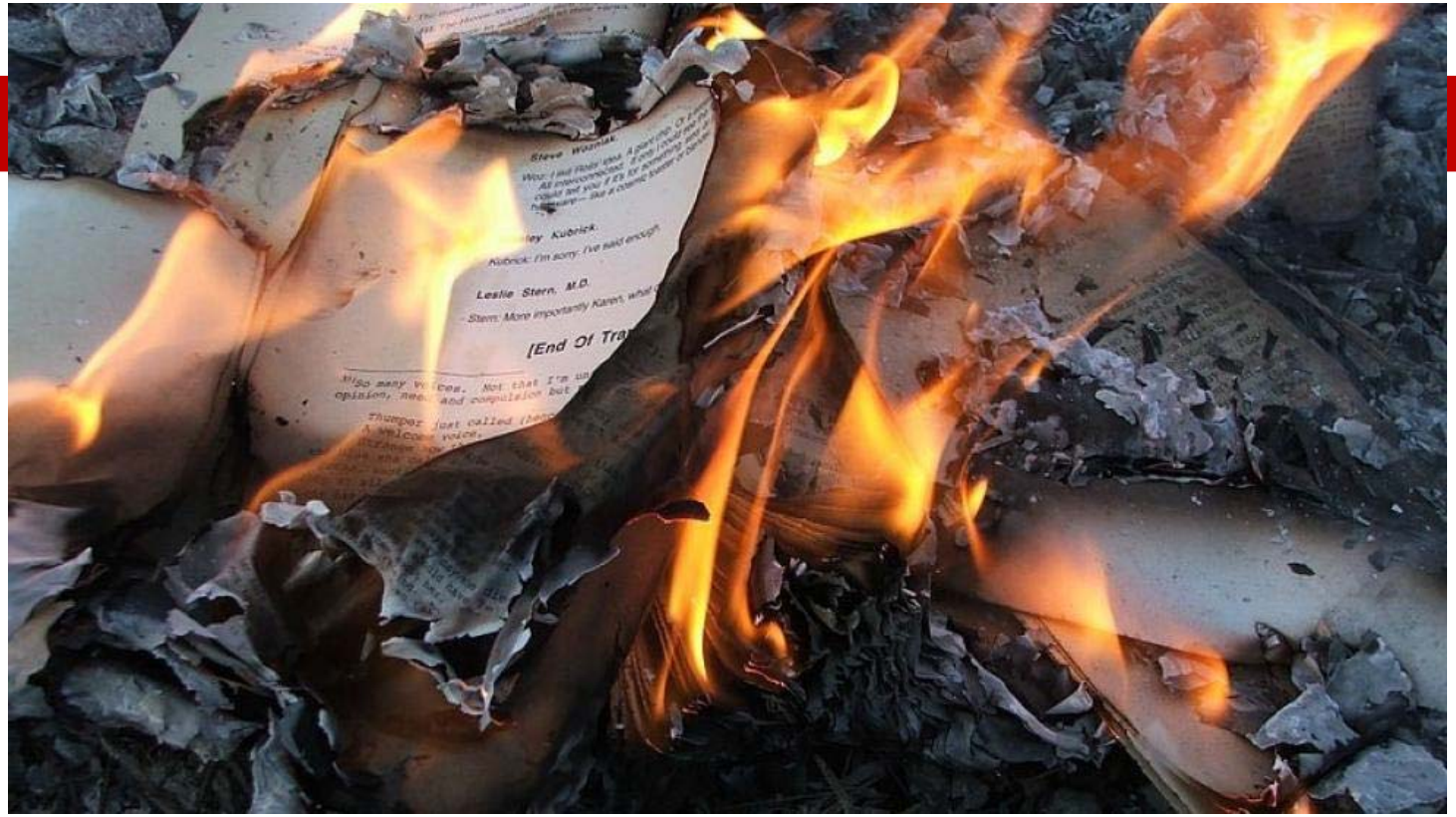
# Salvaging the Rational Heritage of Islam:

## *The Zaydi Manuscript Tradition Project*

*Sabine Schmidtke*

13 October 2017



“The destruction of culture has become an instrument of terror, in a global strategy to undermine societies, propagate intolerance and erase memories. This cultural cleansing is a war crime that is now used as a tactic of war, to tear humanity from the history it shares. This is why the protection of culture must be an integral part of all humanitarian and security efforts, and cannot be delinked from the protection of human lives and the support we owe to all the victims.” (Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/terrorists-are-destroying-our-culture-heritage-it-s-time-to-fight-back/>

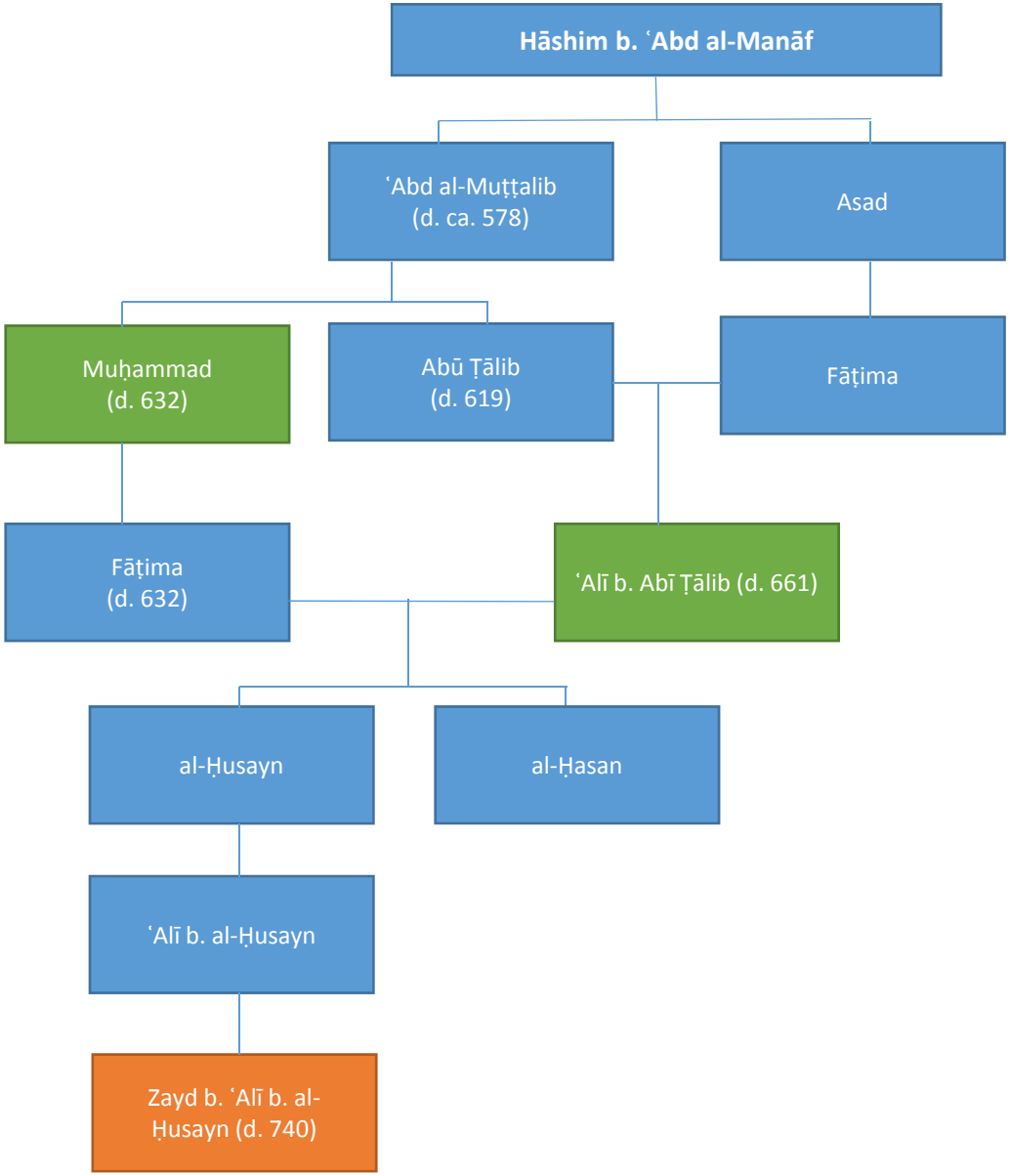
Source: Nautilus—Science Connected

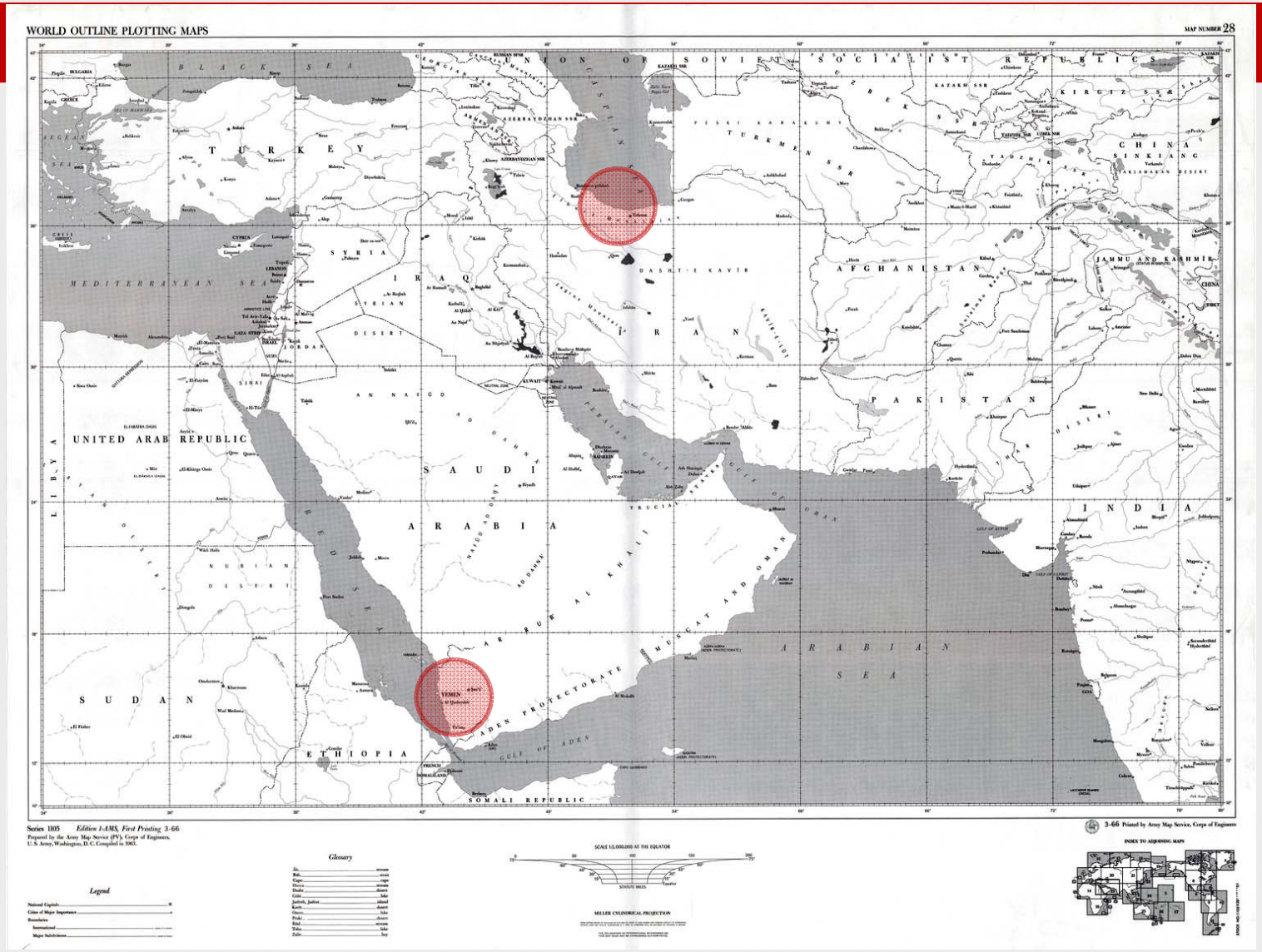
Ṣanʿāʾ, Old City

Source: UNESCO World Heritage Center

Ṣanʿāʾ, October 9, 2015

Source: al-Jazeera

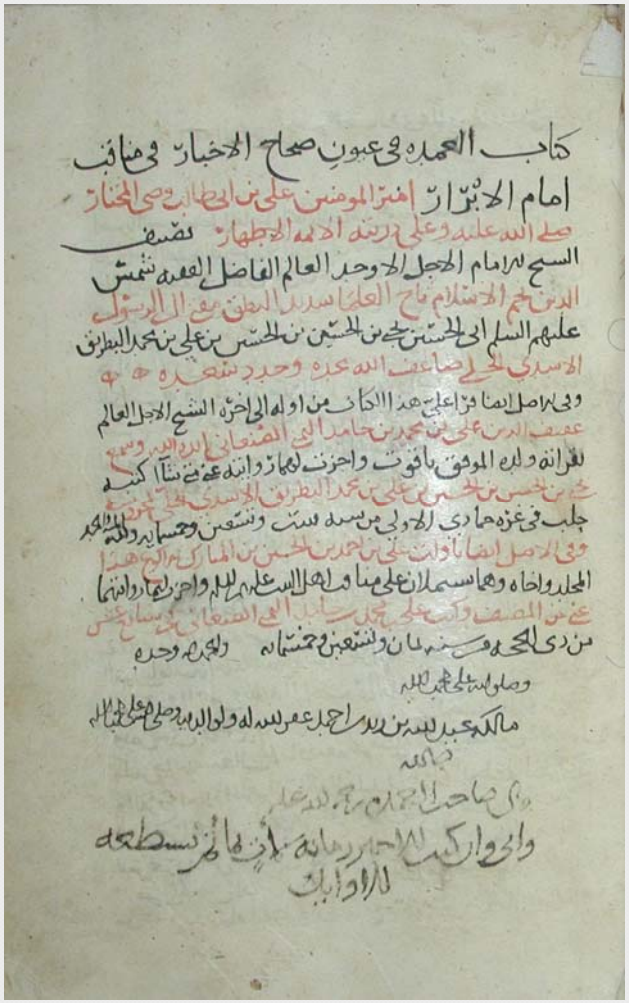

Hāshim b. ʿAbd al-Manāf
ʿAbd al-Muṭṭalib (d. ca. 578)
Asad
Muḥammad (d. 632)
Abū Ṭālib (d. 619)
Fāṭima
Fāṭima (d. 632)
ʿAlī b. Abī Ṭālib (d. 661)
al-Ḥusayn
al-Ḥasan
ʿAlī b. al-Ḥusayn
Zayd b. ʿAlī b. al-Ḥusayn (d. 740)




Source: Oriental Institute Archives Map Collection (The University of Chicago)

# *K. al-ʿUmda fī ʿuyūn ṣiḥāḥ al-akhbār fī manāqib imām al-abrār,*

## by Ibn al-Biṭrīq (d. 600/1203-4 or 601/1204-5)



كتاب العمدة في عيون صحاح الأخبار في مناقب
إمام الأبرار أمير المؤمنين علي بن أبي طالب وصي المختار
صلى الله عليه وعلى ذريته الأئمة الأطهار تصنيف
الشيخ الإمام الأجلّ الأوحد العالم الفاضل الفقيه شمس
الدين نجم الإسلام تاج العلماء سديد النطق مفتي آل الرسول
عليهم السلام أبي الحسين **يحيى بن الحسين (؟) بن الحسين بن علي بن محمد البطريق**
**الأسدي الحلي** ضاعف الله مجده وجدّد سعده
وفي الأصل أيضاً قرأ عليّ هذا الكتاب من أوله الى آخره الشيخ الأجل العالم
**عفيف الدين علي بن محمد بن حامد اليمني الصنعاني** أيده الله وسمع
بقرائته ولده الموفّق **ياقوت** وأجزتُ لهما روايته عني متى يشاء (؟) كتبه
**يحيى بن الحسن بن الحسين بن علي بن محمد البطريق** الأسدي الحلي بمحروسة
حلب في غرة جمادى الاولى من سنة ست وتسعين وخمسمائة (596)
ولله المنة والحمد
وفي الأصل أيضاً ناولتُ **علي بن أحمد بن الحسين بن المبارك الأكوع** هذا
المجلد وأخاه وهما يشتملان على مناقب أهل البيت عليهم السلام وأجزتُ لهما (كذا) روايتهما
عني عن المصنف وكتب **علي بن محمد بن حامد اليمني الصنعاني** في سابع عشر
من ذي الحجة من سنة ثمان وتسعين وخمسمائة (598) والحمد لله وحده وصلواته على محمد وآله

MS Ṣaʿda, Maktabat Āl al-Anṭarī (al-ʿAnsī codex), f. 175a

Photographs: Sabine Schmidtke, 2010

# Muʿtazila

= the “People of Justice and Monotheism” (*ahl al-ʿadl wa-l-tawḥīd*)

# Eduard Glaser Collections

**1882-84, 1885-86, 1887-88, 1892-94** Eduard Glaser in Yemen

**1884** K. Vollers, "Mittheilung über einige handschriftliche Erwerbungen der königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin" (23 mss)

**1886** 2nd Glaser collection (242 mss) sold to Königliche Bibliothek zu Berlin

**1887** W. Ahlwardt, *Kurzes Verzeichnis der Glaser'schen Sammlung arabischer Handschriften*, Berlin

**1887-99** W. Ahlwardt, *Verzeichnis der arabischen Handschriften der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin*

**1894** C. Rieu, *Supplement to the Catalogue of the Arabic Manuscripts in the British Museum*, London (328 mss)

**ca. 1894** M. Grünert, M., *Kurzer Katalog der Glaser'schen Sammlung arabischer Handschriften* [unpublished manuscript], Vienna (265 mss)

Source: Werner Daum (ed.), *Jemen*, Innsbruck / Frankfurt 1987, p. 15

# Giuseppe Caprotti Collections

Caprotti (left) with Hermann Burchardt (1857-1909) in Caprotti's house in Sanaa

The National Archives UK/ Ing. Robert Deutsch
Catalogue reference: CO 1069/673/10

**1902** Caprotti collection (157 mss) sold to the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich

**1909/14** Caprotti collection (1,792 mss) sold to the Ambrosiana library in Milan ("Nuovo Fondo")

**1922** Caprotti collection (ca. 280 mss) donated to the Vatican library

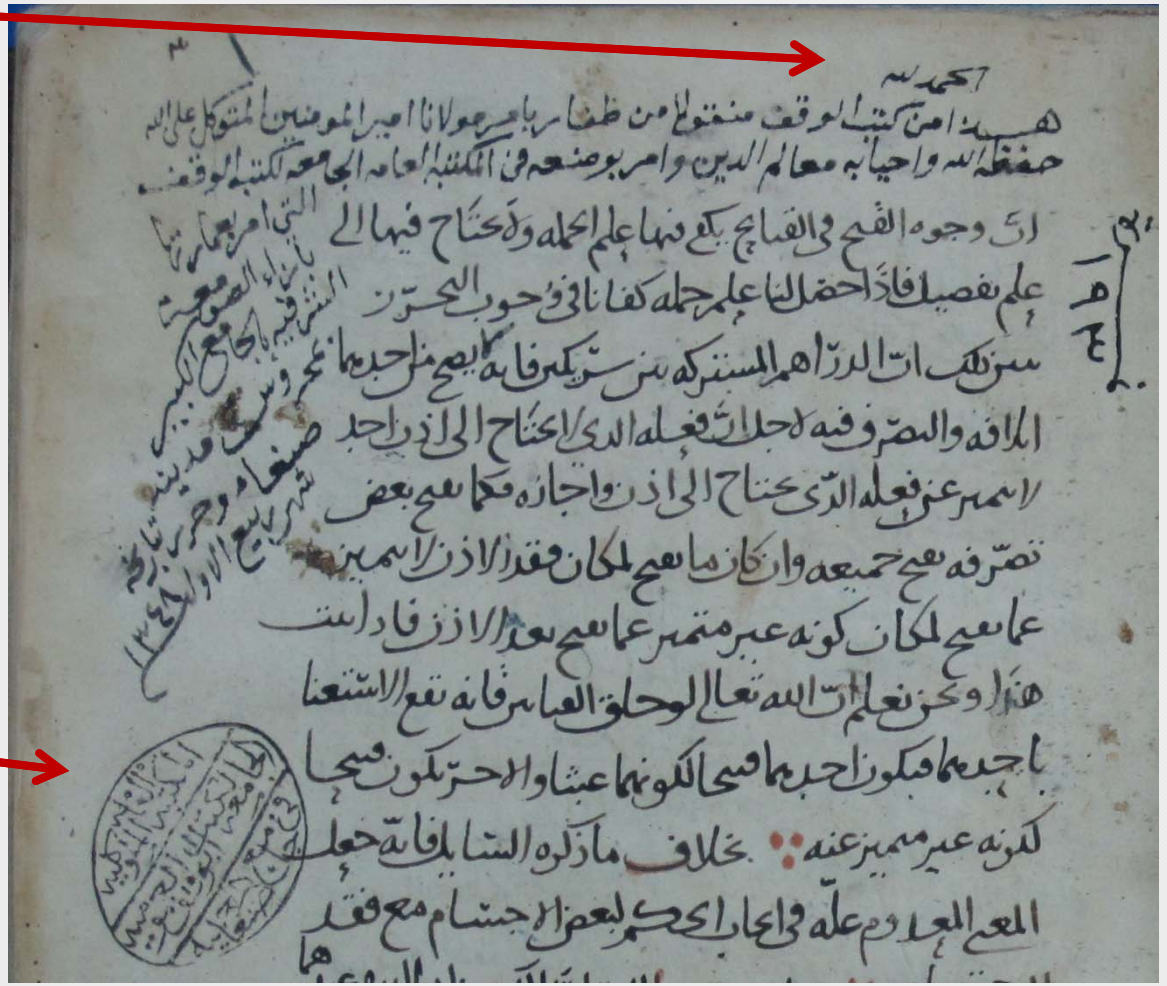
**1935, 1965** catalogues Levi della Vita (Vatican)

**1975-2015** Löfgren, Oscar and Renato Traini, *Catalogue of the Arabic Manuscripts in the Bibliotheca Ambrosiana* 1-4, Vicenza.

**2007** F. Sobieroj, *Arabische Handschriften der bayerischen Staatsbibliothek zu München*

# MS al-Maktaba al-sharqiyya no. 541

الحمد لله / هذا من كتب الوقف منقولاً من ظفار بأمر مولانا أمير المؤمنين المتوكل على الله / حفظه الله وأحيا به معالم الدين وأمر بوضعه في المكتبة العامة الجامعة لكتب الوقف / التي / أمر بعمارتها بإزاء الصومعة / الشرقية بالجامع الكبير / بمحروس مدينة / صنعاء بتاريخه / شهر ربيع الأول سنة 1348.



المكتبة العامة المتوكلية الجامعة لكتب الوقف العمومية في جامع صنعاء المحلية

Photograph: Sabine Schmidtke, 2010

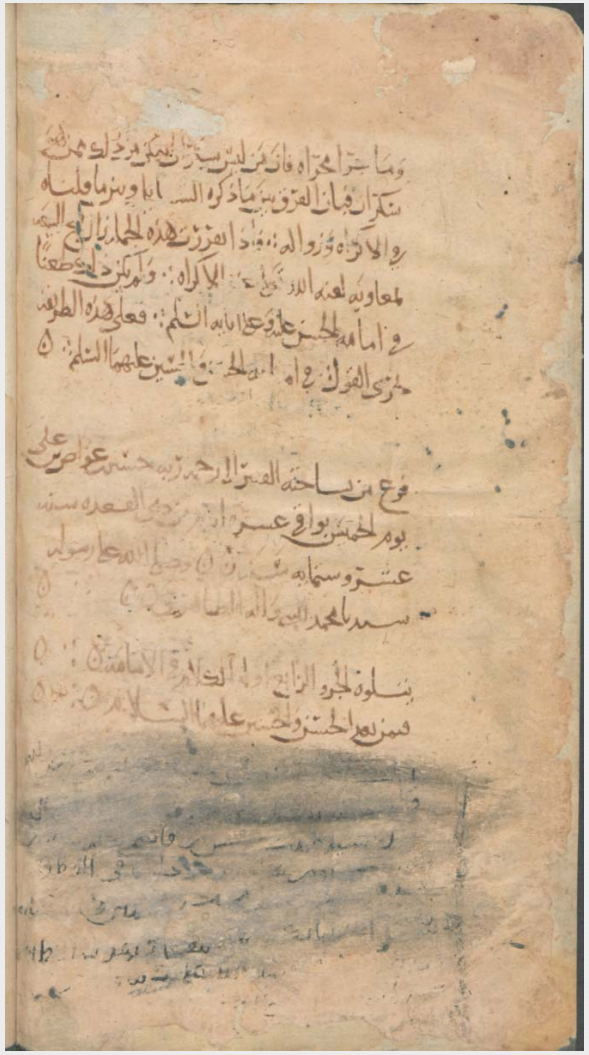
# MS Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Glaser 12 (titlepage)

نسخ لخزانة الفقيه العالم الفاضل جمال الدين / عمران بن الحسن بن ناصر العُذْري الهمداني / الزيدي وفقه الله توفيق الصالحين بحق محمد وآله

MU'TAZILISM AFTER 'ABD AL-JABBĀR 267

Fig. 4: MS. Glaser 12, f. 1a. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.
(© Courtesy of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin-Preussischer Kulturbesitz-Orientabteilung)

# MS Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Glaser 51

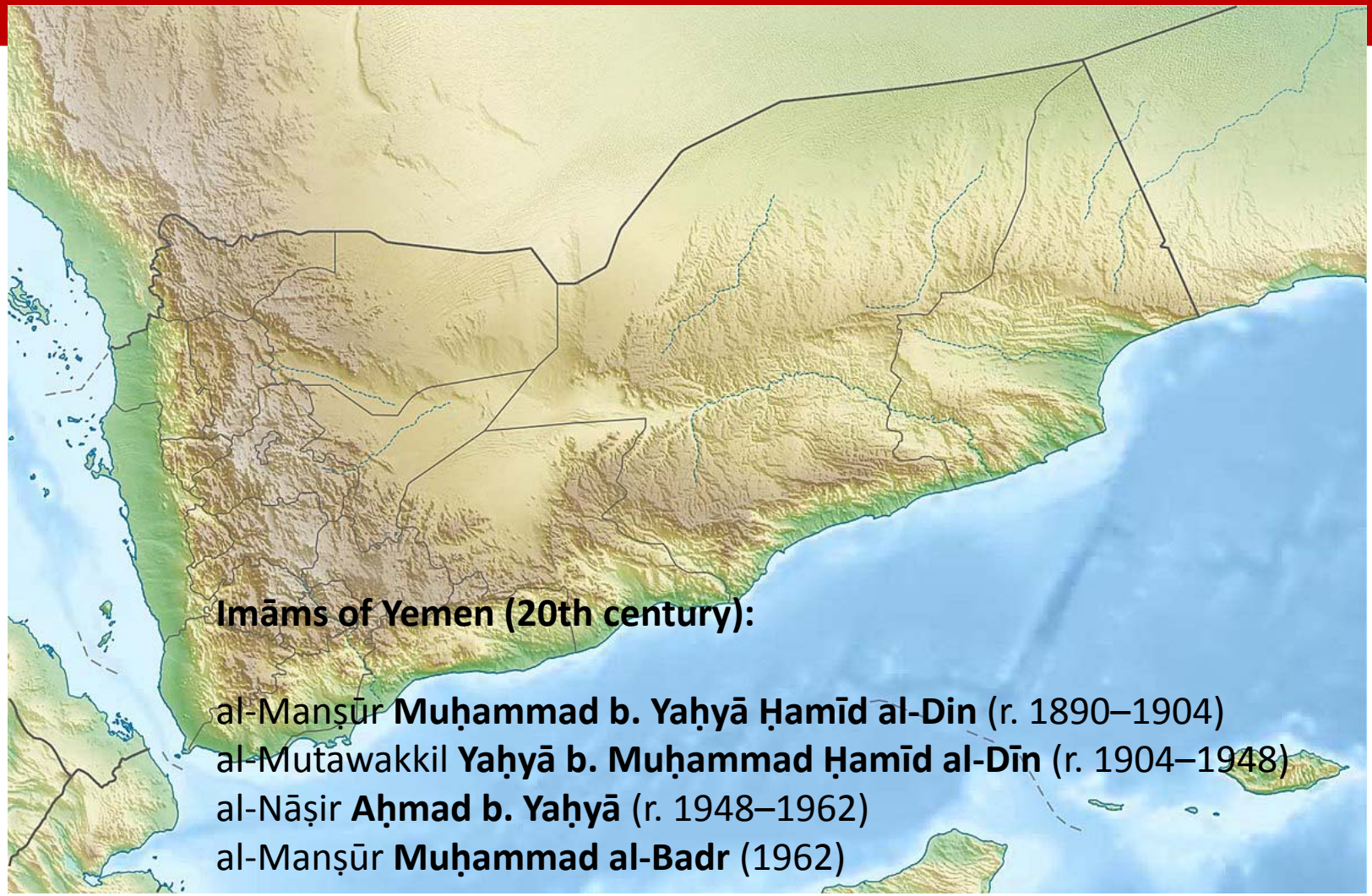


Volume Three of *al-Tafṣīl li-jumal al-taḥṣīl*, by Sulaymān b. ʿAbd Allāh al-Khurāshī (fl. late 12th/early 13th century CE)

Copyist: Ḥusayn b.ʿAwāḍ b. ʿAlī, copy completed in 1214 CE, in Sanaa

# Dār al-makhṭūṭāt (“House of Manuscripts”), Ṣanʿāʾ

Photographs: Sabine Schmidtke, 2009



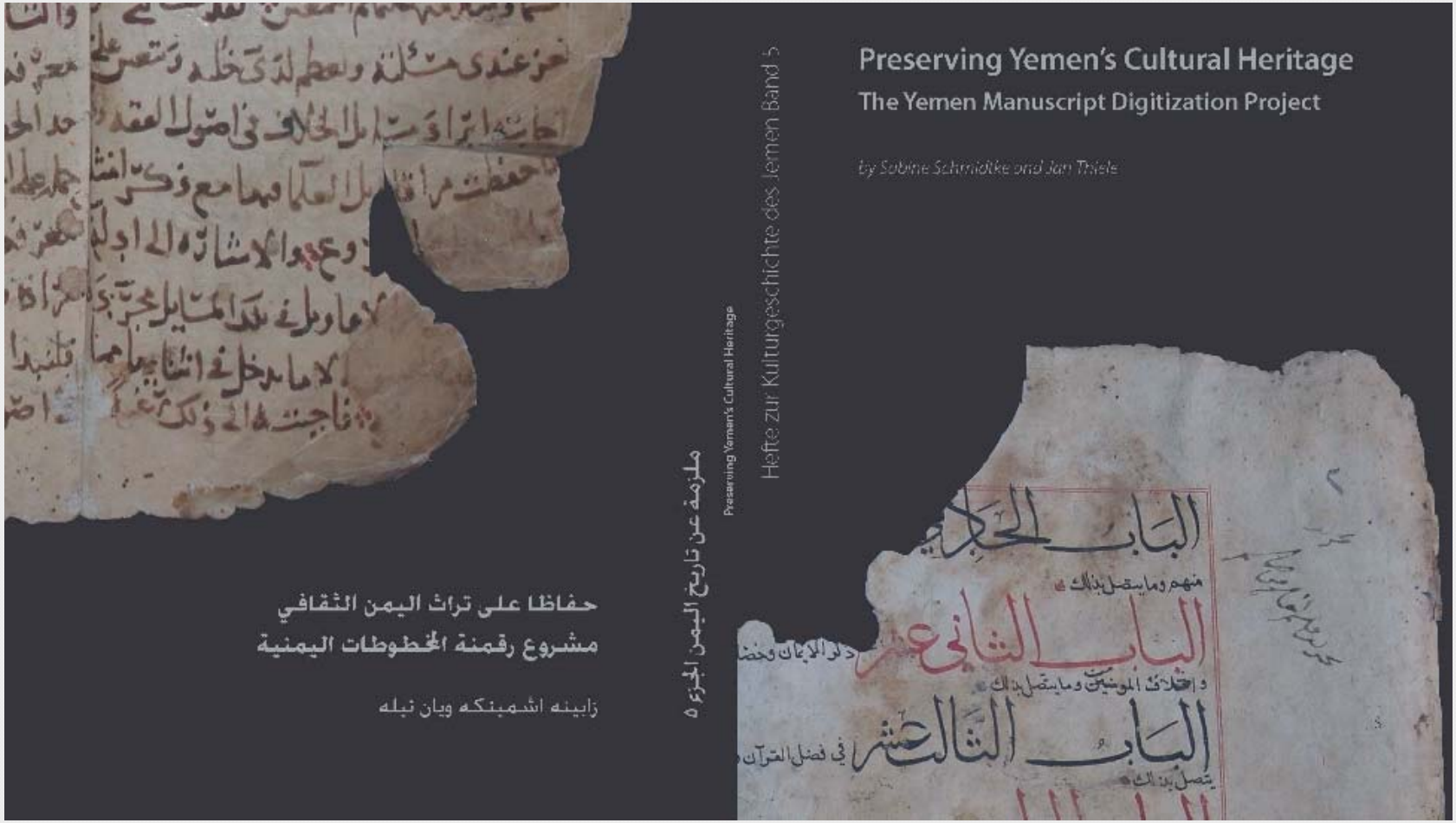

Source: Wikipedia

National Museum in Yemen (Taʿizz) destroyed on February 4, 2016

Source: Middle East Eye

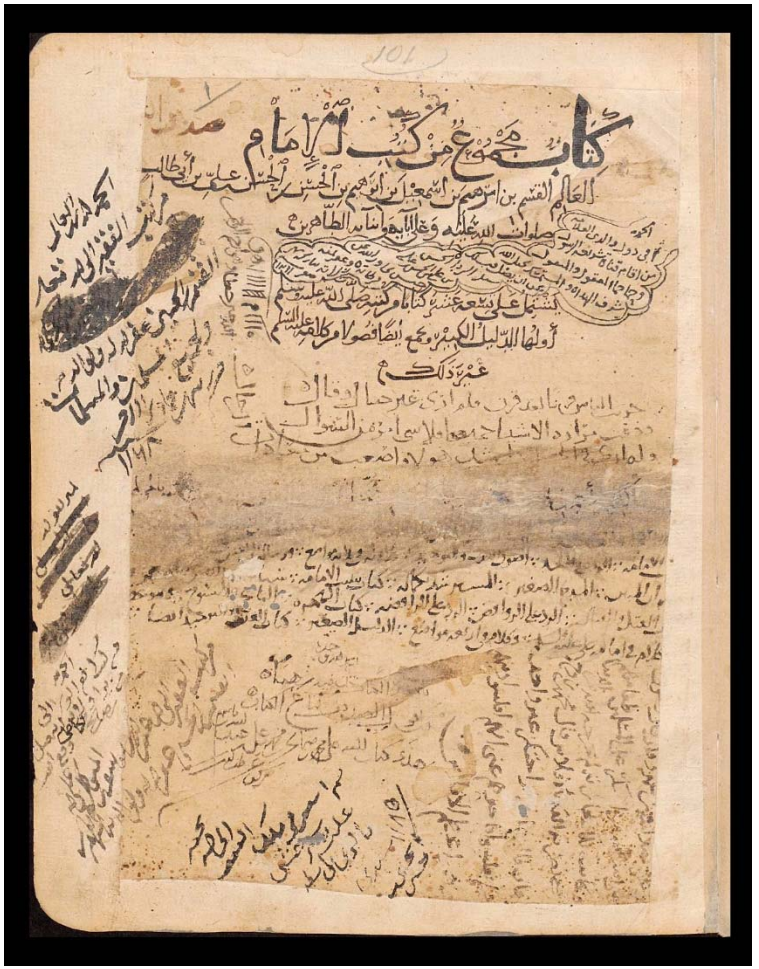
# Salvaging the Zaydī/Yemeni Manuscript Tradition, 1951 through 2017

Photographs: Sabine Schmidtke, 2010

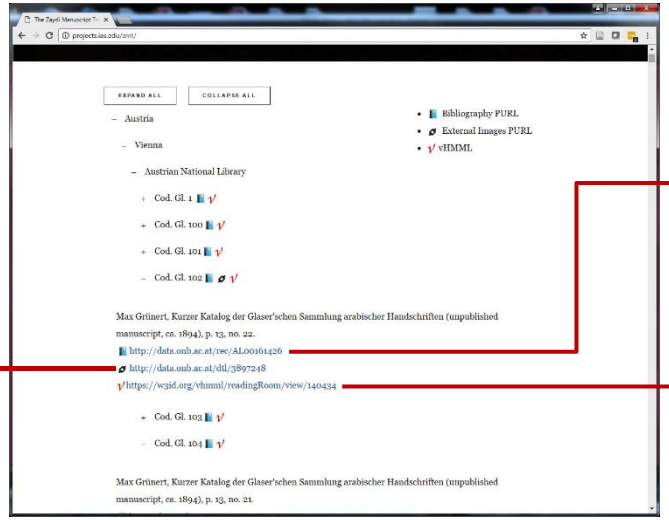

حفاظا على تراث اليمن الثقافي
مشروع رقمنة المخطوطات اليمنية
زابينه اشمينكه ويان ثيله
ملزمة عن تاريخ اليمن الجزء ٥
Preserving Yemen's Cultural Heritage
Hefte zur Kulturgeschichte des Jemen Band 5
Preserving Yemen's Cultural Heritage
The Yemen Manuscript Digitization Project
by Sabine Schmidtke and Jan Thiele
الباب الحادي
الباب الثاني عشر
الباب الثالث عشر

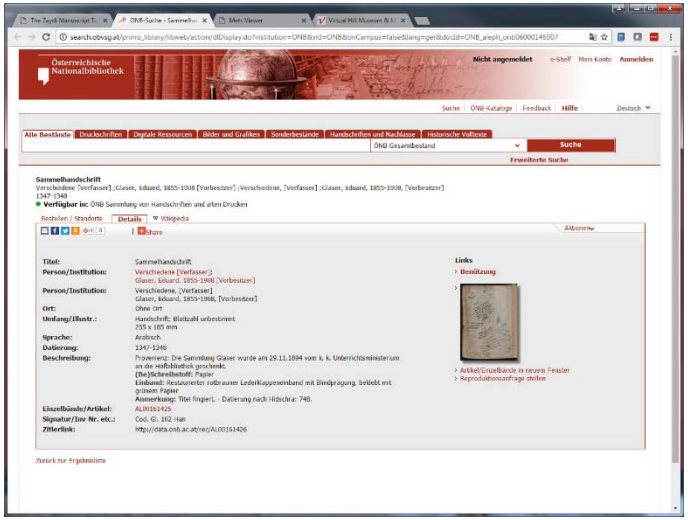
# The Zaydi Manuscript Tradition (ZMT): A Digital Portal

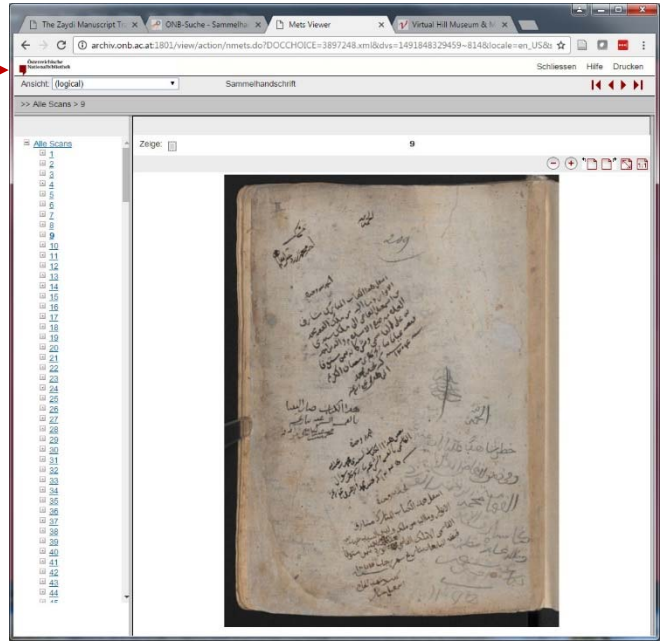
An initiative of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (IAS), in partnership with Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML)

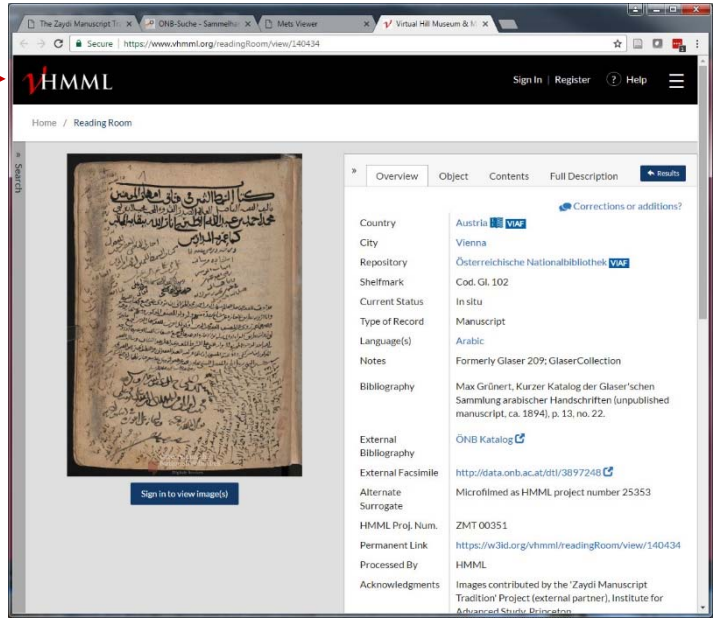


# A Digital Portal



# The Library of the Shrine of Imām al-Hādī, Ṣaʿda

Imām al-Hādī mosque, Ṣaʿda, 20 March 2015

Source: Mandab Press

# The Library of the Shrine of Imām al-Hādī, Ṣaʿda

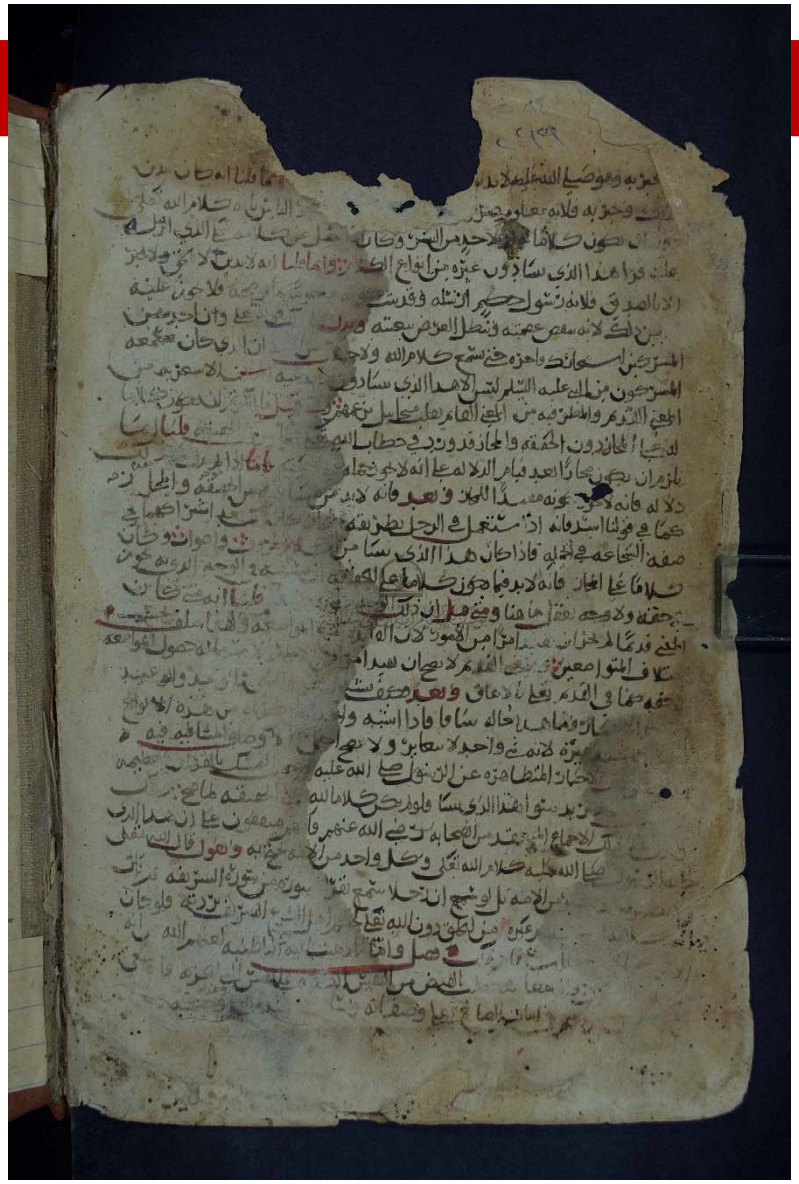
ʿAbd al-Wahhāb ʿAli al-Muʾayyad, “Yemen,” Geoffrey Roper, ed., *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts,* volume 3 (London, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1994)

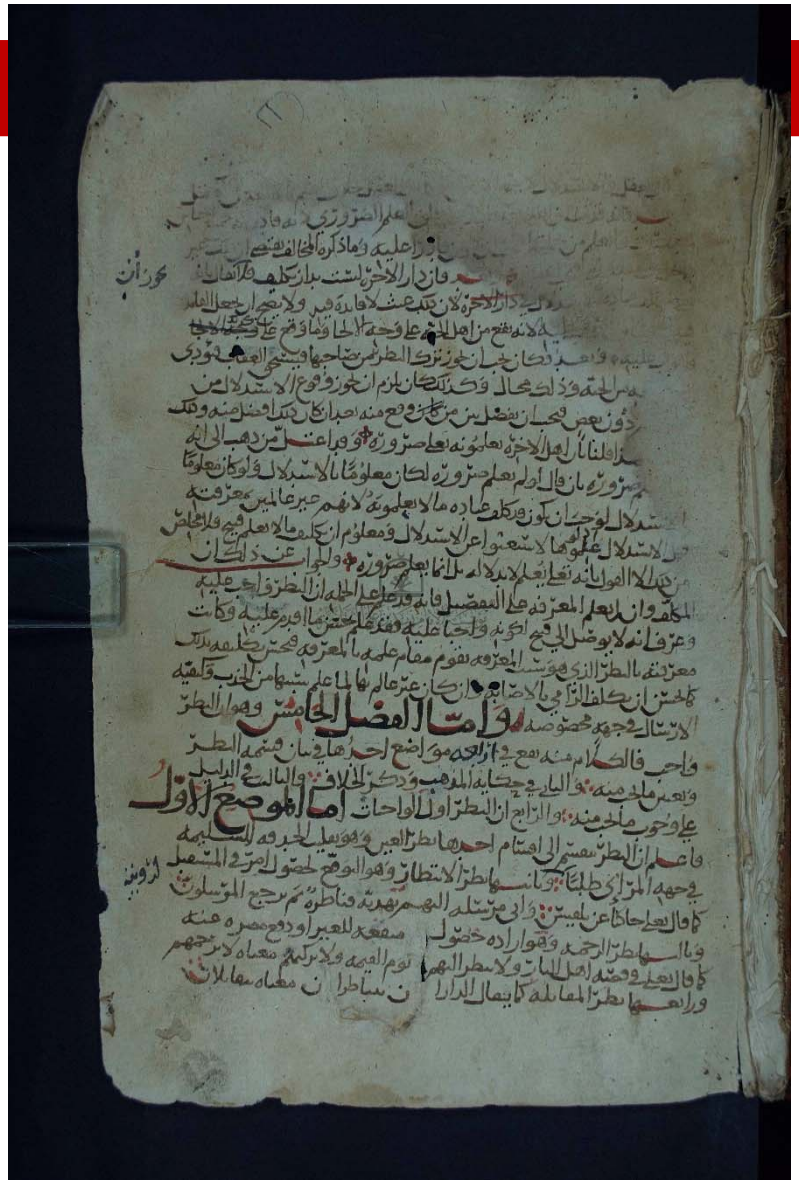
# The Library of the Shrine of Imām al-Hādī, Ṣaʿda

ʿAbd al-Wahhāb ʿAli al-Muʾayyad, “Yemen,” Geoffrey Roper, ed., *World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts*, volume 3 (London, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1994)

ʿAbd Allāh Ḥammūd Dirham al-ʿIzzī, *Fihris makhṭūṭāt maktabat mazār al-Imām Yaḥyā b. al-Ḥusayn al-Hādī ilā l-ḥaqq. Ṣaʿda, al-Jumhūriyya al-yamaniyya* (Qum/Tehran: Kitābkhāna-yi buzurg-i ḥaḍrat Āyat Allāh al-ʿuẓmā Marʿashī Najafī/Wizārat-i umūr-i khārijiyya, 1425/2004)

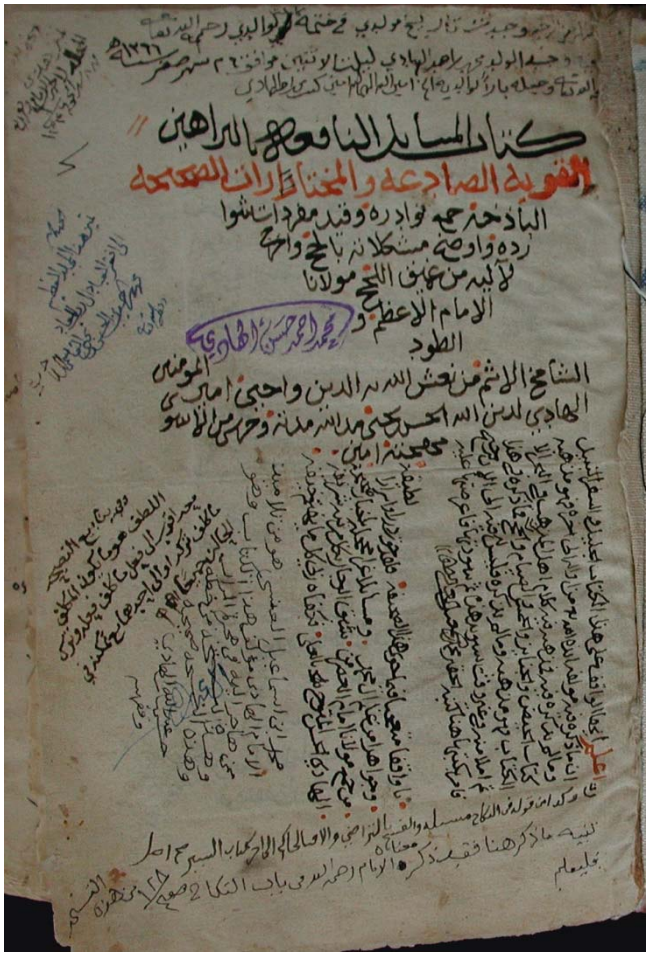
| | |
|---|---|
| **theology (uṣūl al-din / ʿilm al-kalām)** | nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 |
| | [nos. 13 and 14 are missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **legal theory (uṣūl al-fiqh)** | nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 |
| | [nos. 21 through 29 are missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **rhetorics (ʿilm al-maʿānī wa-l-bayān)** | nos. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 |
| | [nos. 35 through 51 are missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **Qurʾānic sciences and exegesis** | nos. 52, 53, 54[a], 54[b], 55 |
| | [nos. 56 through 59 are missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **traditions (ḥadīth)** | nos. 60, 61, 62, 63 |
| | [no. 64 is missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **law of inheritance (ʿilm al-farāʾiḍ)** | nos. 65, 66, 67, 68 |
| | [no. 69 is missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **ascetism and mysticism (ʿilm al-bāṭin wa-l-taṣawwuf)** | nos. 70, 71, 72, 73 |
| | [no. 74 is missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **grammar (naḥw)** | nos. 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97 |
| | [nos. 98 and 99 are missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **law (fiqh)** | nos. 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148 |
| | [nos. 149 through 199 are missing in al-ʿIzzī's catalogue] |
| **multitext volumes (majāmiʿ)** | nos. 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219 |





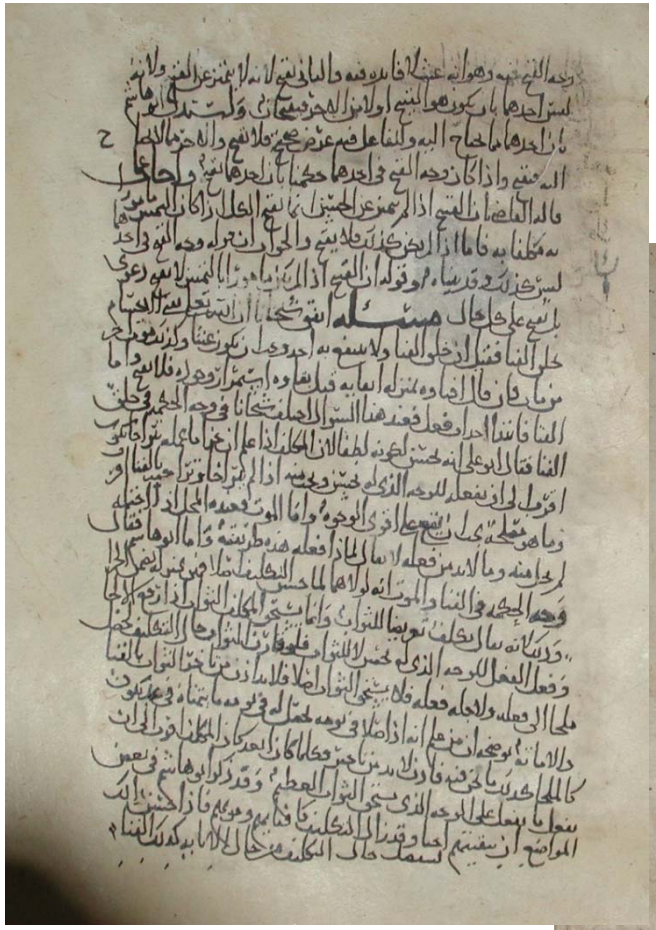
ʿ*Umdat al-mustarshidīn*, by Abū ʿAbd Allāh Ḥumayd b. Aḥmad al-Muḥallī (d. 652/1254)

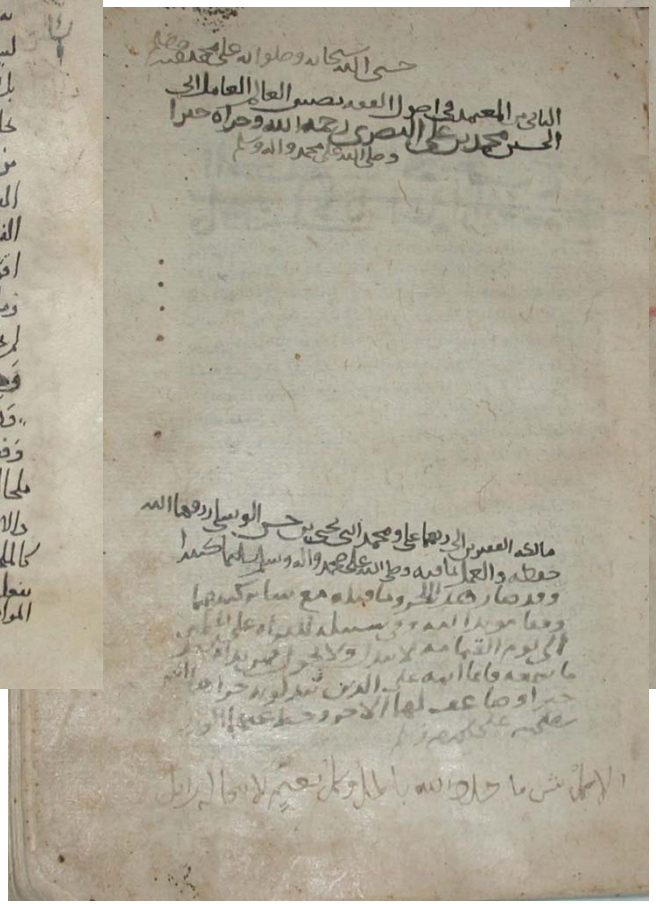
*al-Masāʾil al-nāfiʿa bi-l-barāhīn al-qawiyya al-ṣādiʿa,* by al-Ḥasan b. Yaḥyā b. ʿAlī b. Aḥmad b. Qāsim al-Qāsimī al-Muʾayyadī al-Ḍaḥyānī (1863/64-1924/25)

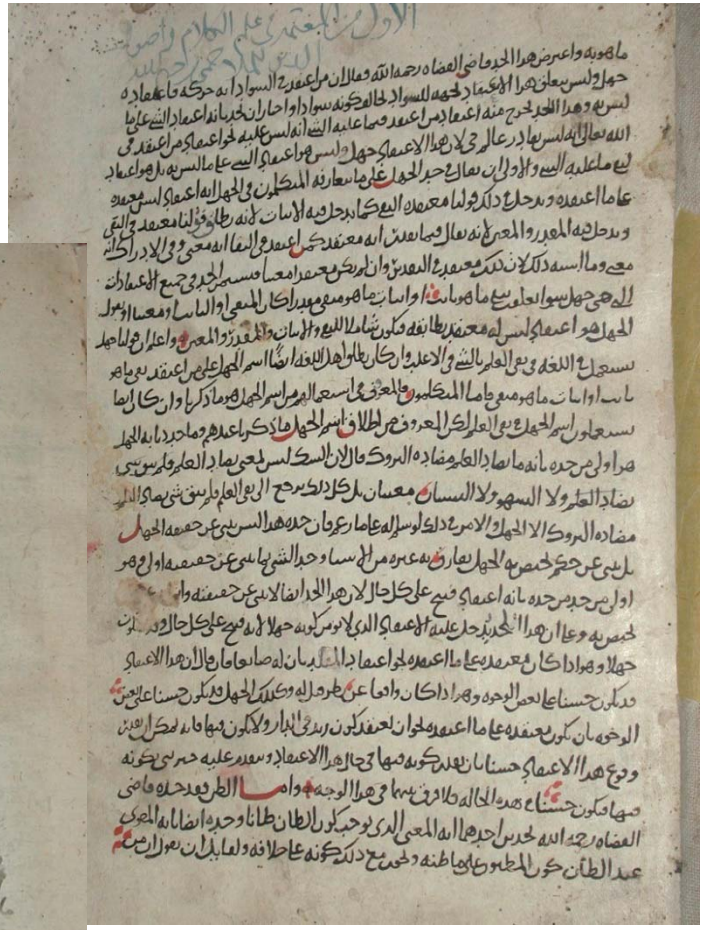


Copy transcribed from the author's rough copy, on 14 Rabīʿ II 1316/September 1898

# Mu'tazilite literature in the Imām al-Hādī library







# *K. al-Maqāmāt* of Abū Muḥammad al-Qāsim b. ʿAlī al-Ḥarīrī al-Baṣrī (d. 516/1122)

ORIENTAL TRANSLATION FUND.

NEW SERIES.

III.

THE

ASSEMBLIES OF AL ḤARÎRI,

Translated from the Arabic,

WITH NOTES,

HISTORICAL AND GRAMMATICAL.

BY

DR. F. STEINGASS.

Editor of the latest Arabic text of Harîri's Assemblies, and Author of English, Arabic and Persian Dictionaries.

Prefaced and Indexed

BY

F. F. ARBUTHNOT, M.R.A.S.

VOL. II.

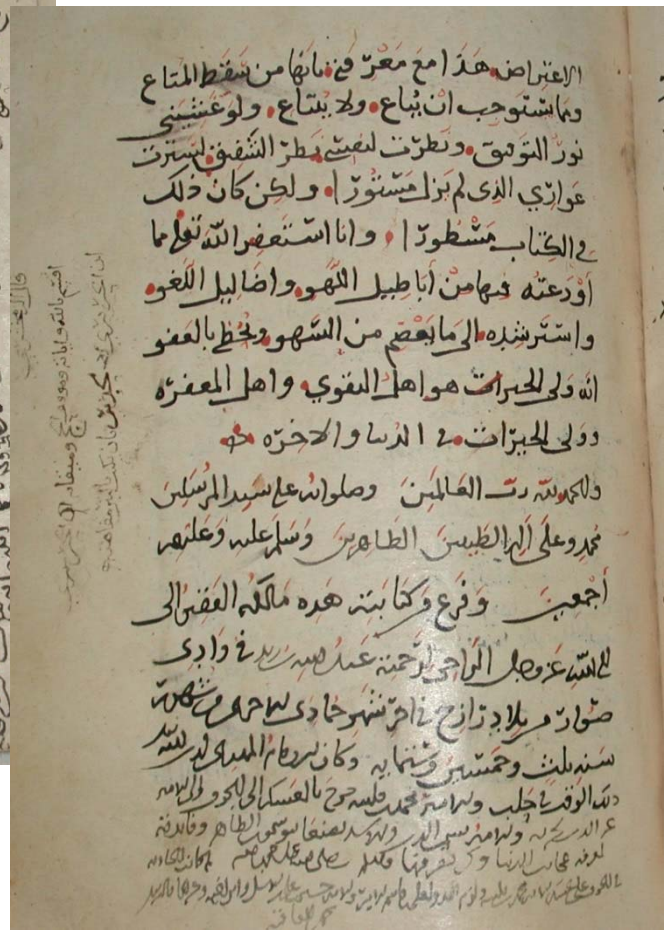
CONTAINING THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR ASSEMBLIES.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,

AND SOLD AT

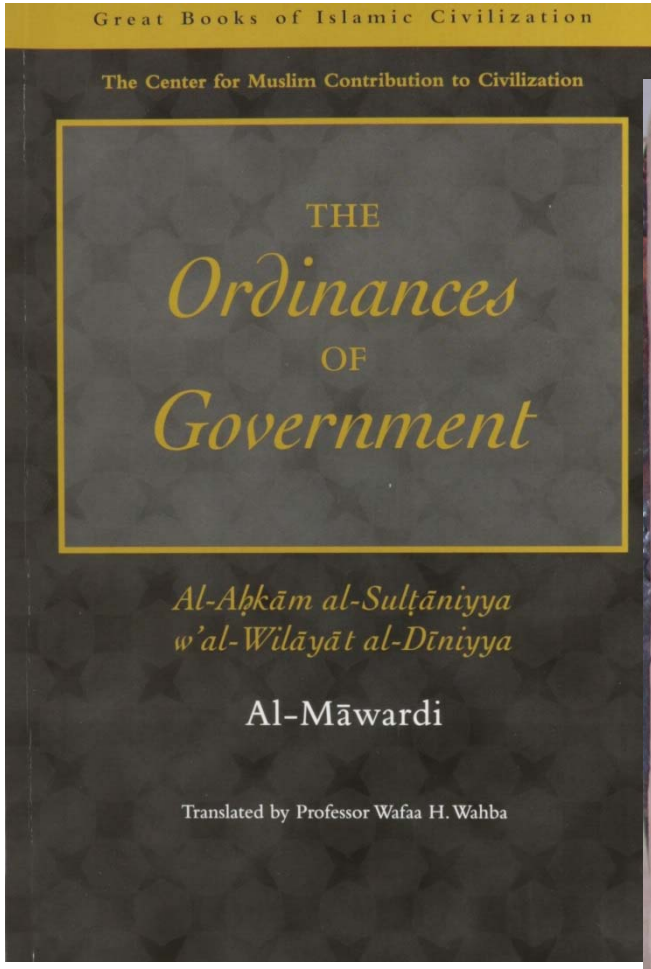
22, ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON.

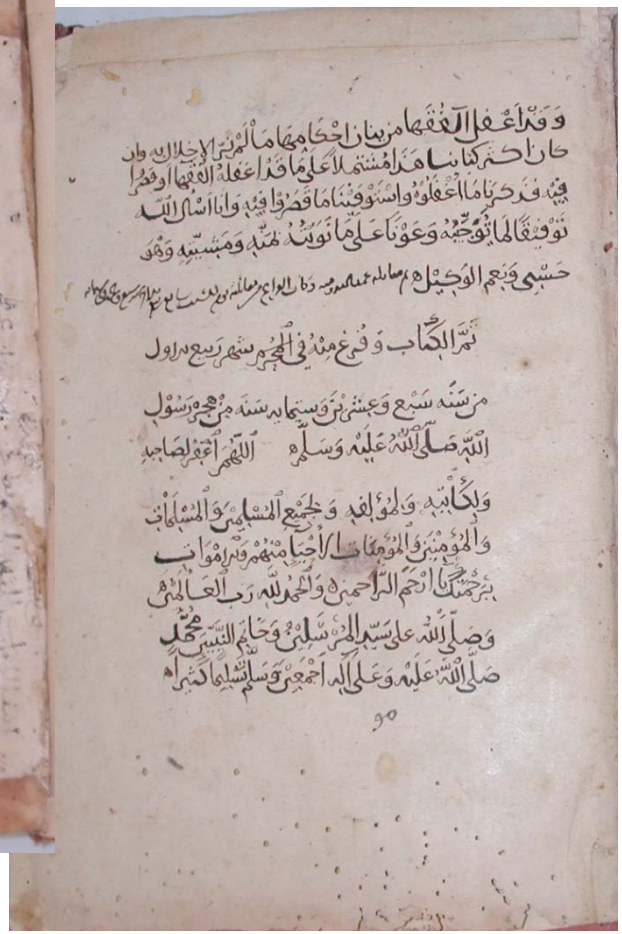
1898.



# Abū l-Ḥasan al-Māwardī's (d. 450/1058)

## *al-Aḥkām al-sulṭāniyya*





# The Library of the Shrine of Imām al-Hādī, Ṣaʿda

Imām al-Hādī mosque Ṣaʿda, after bombardment on 9 May 2015

“World heritage is built on the idea that there are cultural and natural heritages of universal value that we must protect together.” (Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO)
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/terrorists-are-destroying-our-culture-heritage-it-s-time-to-fight-back>

“World heritage is built on the idea that there are cultural and natural heritages of universal value that we must protect together.” (Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO)
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/terrorists-are-destroying-our-culture-heritage-it-s-time-to-fight-back>

“... In these days of crumbling values it falls to the lot of humanists to save learning and scholarship from extinction and it is the privilege of Institutes like ours to become the asylum particularly of those studies which a period of upheaval considers of no use whatever. ... it may be the destiny of our Institute and of similar centers to rescue what they can of a civilization about to suffer ship-wreck. If the lights are not to go out for good and all, it will be because of the small handful of scholars here and elsewhere who are devoted to learning for its own sake. This is a point of view which is not popular just now: it is, however, of the utmost importance that it be understood and appreciated by those who have the future of the Institute in their hands.”
(Memorandum submitted on April 18, 1941 by the Institute's “Faculty of Humanistic Studies” to the Director) <The Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, the Archives of the Institute for Advanced Study>

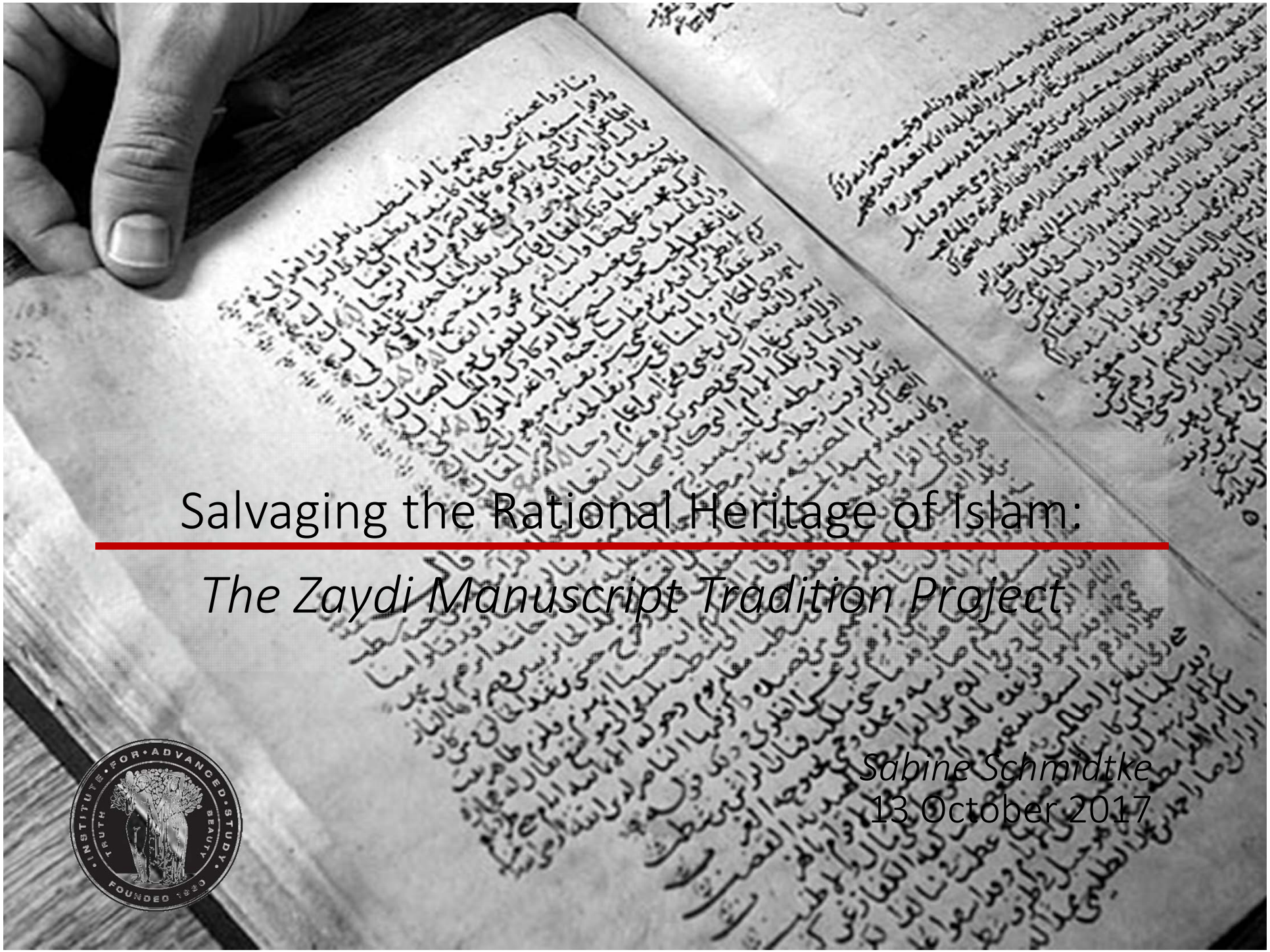
# A Digital Portal … Made possible thanks to …

**Institute for Advanced Study**

- Hassan Ansari
- Jeff Berliner
- Nicholas Helmstetter
- Chris McCafferty
- Michael Morris
- Jonathan Peele
- Sabine Schmidtke
- María Mercedes Tuya
- Edna Wigderson

**Hill Museum & Manuscript Library**

- David Calabro
- Daniel Gullo
- Eileen Smith
- Columba Stewart
- Wayne Torborg



# Salvaging the Rational Heritage of Islam:

## *The Zaydi Manuscript Tradition Project*

*Sabine Schmidtke*

13 October 2017