



The Book and the Silk Roads

is a project generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the University of Toronto, focused on mapping connections between parts of the premodern world by describing the technology of the book.

Co-Principal Investigators, University of Toronto

Alexandra Gillespie

Suzanne Conklin Akbari

Sian Meikle

INFO: <https://booksilkroads.library.utoronto.ca/>

Textiles in Islamic Manuscripts



Karin Scheper

Leiden University Library

Karin Scheper was trained as a Book and Paper conservator in Amsterdam and she heads the Leiden University Library's conservation studio. She completed her PhD (*The Islamic Bookbinding Tradition. A Book Archaeological Study*) in 2014. For this research into the developments of Islamic book structures she received a scholarly honour (the De la Court-prize), awarded by the KNAW (the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) (2017). She was a Bahari Fellow and studied the Persian collections in Oxford, and teaches the materiality of books & book history.



Sabine Schmidtke

Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton NJ

Sabine Schmidtke is Professor of Islamic Intellectual history at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ. Her research interests include Shī'ism (Zaydism and Twelver Shī'ism), intersections of Jewish and Muslim intellectual history, the Arabic Bible, and the history of the book and libraries in the Islamicate world. Her recent publications include *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* (Cordoba 2018), *Muslim Perceptions and Receptions of the Bible: Texts and Studies* (Atlanta 2019, with Camilla Adang), and *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy* (New York 2017, with Khaled El-Rouayheb).

The Written Heritage of the Muslim World = An enormous cultural heritage beyond reckoning

- al-Maktaba al-Shāmila <https://shamela.ws> (7,000 books)
- Noor Digital Library <http://www.noorlib.ir> (35,169 books)
- PDF Books Library <http://alfeker.net> (4,355 books)
- Arabic Collections Online (ACO) <http://dlib.nyu.edu/aco/about/> (15,131 volumes)
- Shia Online Library <http://shiaonlinelibrary.com> (4,715 books)
- al-Maktaba al-Waqfiyya <https://waqfeya.net> (some 10 million pages of published books)

Page from a lithograph print, Tabrīz
1877, of Ja'far b. al-Ḥasan al-Muḥaqqiq
al-Ḥillī's (d. 1205–6) *Sharā'i' al-Islām*,
with several layers of commentaries in
the margin



Islamic Manuscripts Studies –
Manuscript catalogues online,
curated by Evyn Kropf (University of
Michigan Library, Research Guides)

<https://guides.lib.umich.edu/islamicmsstudies/onlinecatalogues>

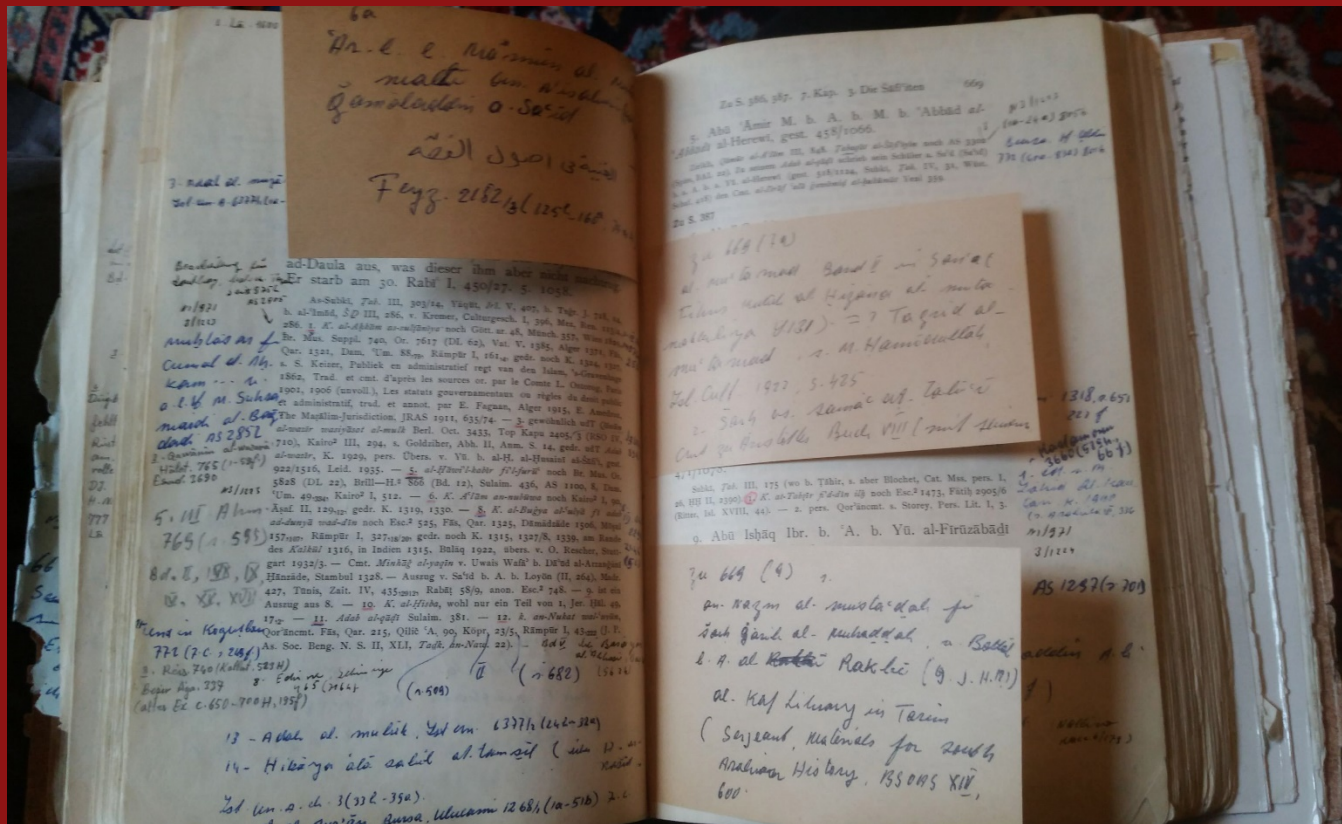


Ms. Paris, BnF, arabe 5847, fol. 5v, illustration of a library in al-Ḥā'irī's *Maqāmat*, copy dated 1237

“Arabic traditional literature is probably the largest body of literature in the world”.

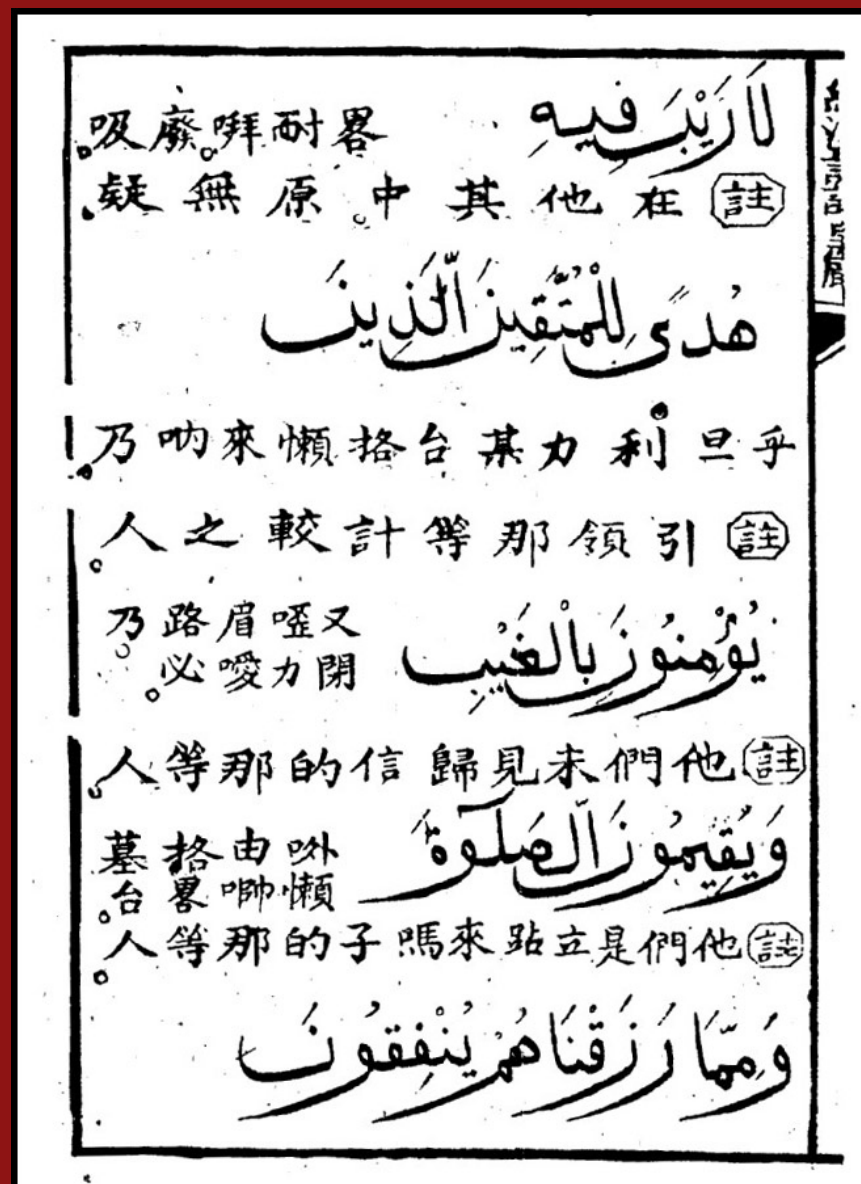
Jan Just Witkam, “Introduction by Jan Just Witkam,” Brockelmann Online,

https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/brockelmann/introduction-by-jan-just-witkam-COM_001.

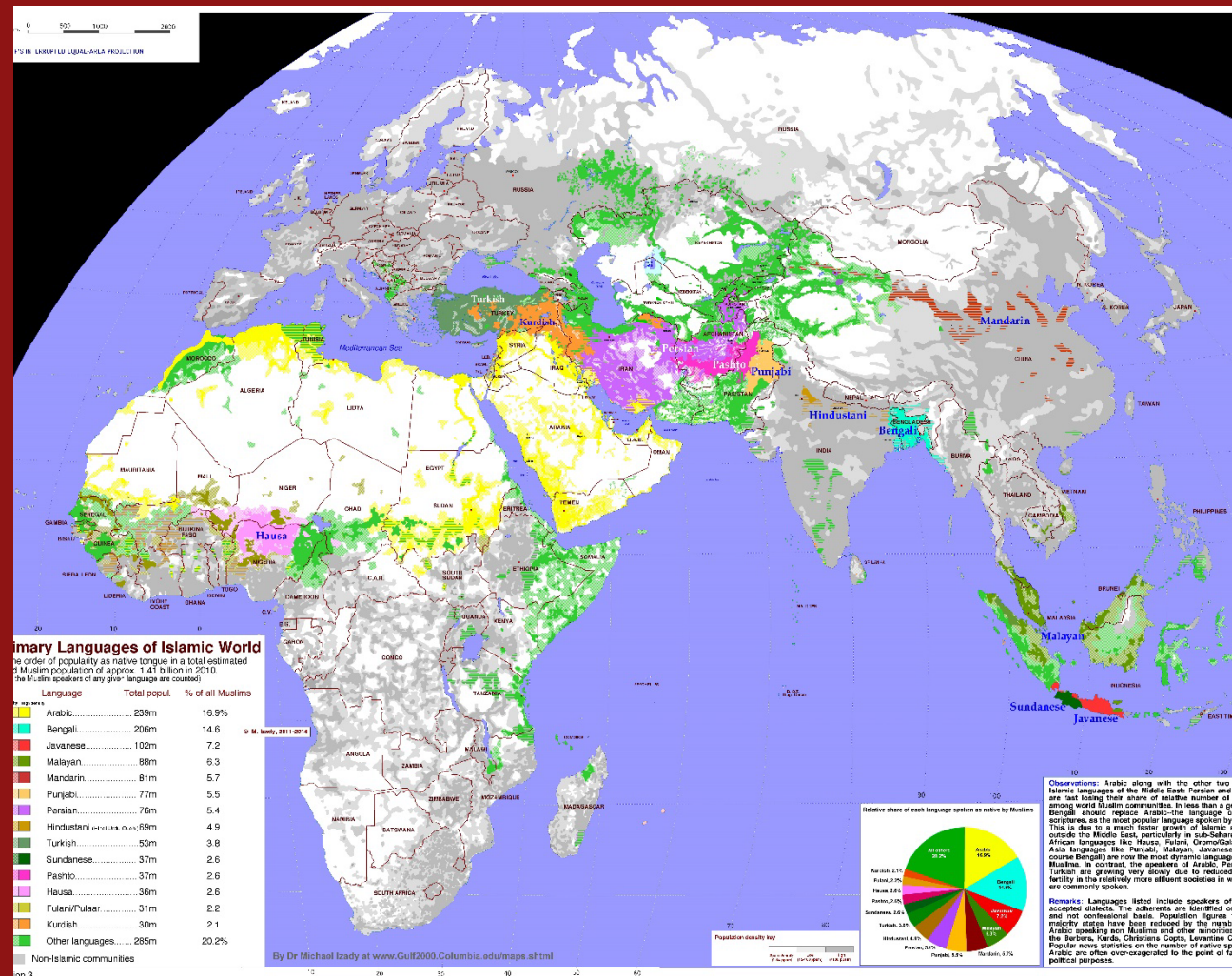


Fuat Sezgin's copy of Brockelmann's GAL with notes
(photograph: Hilal Sezgin,
de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:FsezginLitKomm.jpg)

A specimen of a Chinese
Qur'ān commentary



Primary languages of the Islamic world



(source:

https://www.reddit.com/r/MapPorn/comments/2ecu7a/primary_languages_of_islamic_world_84186346/)

Entrance to the Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul



(source: <http://emedrese.tv/suleymaniye-kutuphanesi-1/>)

Display of Muṣṭafā Dirāyatī, *Fihristigān*:
Nuskha-hā-yi khaṭṭī-yi Īrān (Fankhā) =
Union Catalog of Iranian Manuscripts,
35 vols. (Tehran: Sāzmān-i Asnād wa
Kitābkhāna-yi Millī-i Jumhūrī-yi Islāmī-yi
Īrān, 1390/2011)



Worldwide distribution of Islamic manuscripts



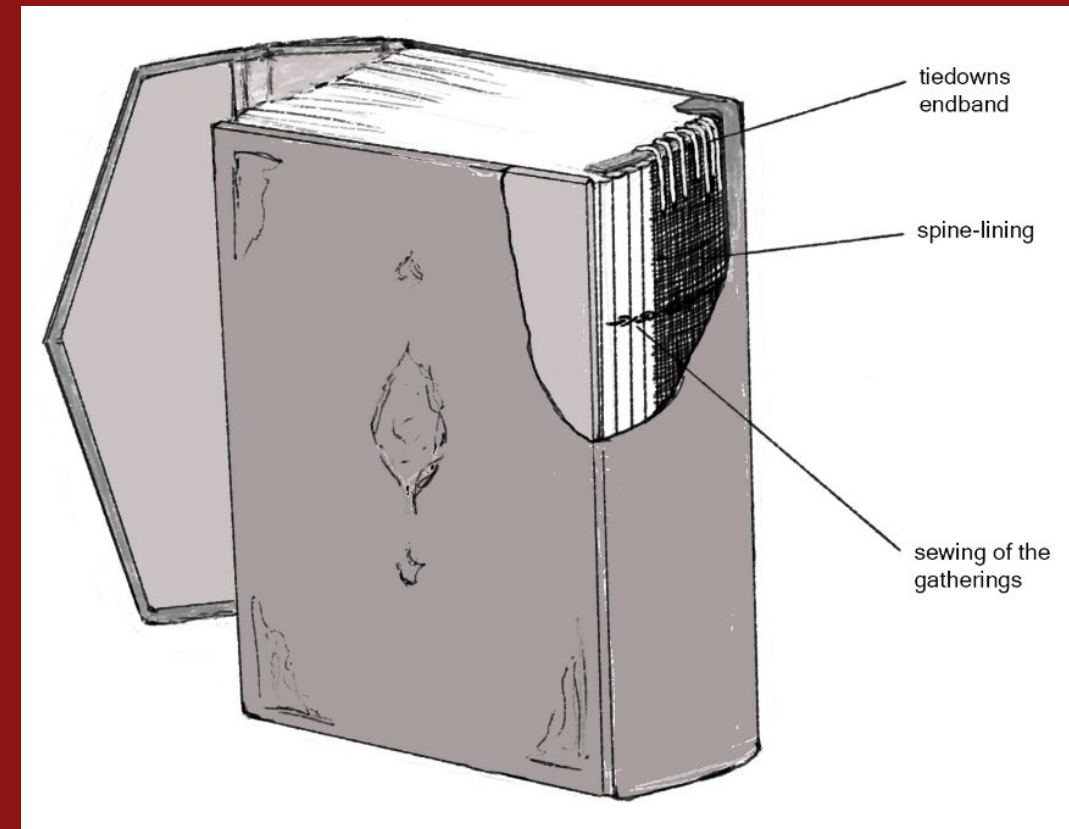
(source: María Mercedes Tuya)



Textiles in manuscripts from the Islamic world

Thread & Fabrics

- The unsupported link-stitch sewing
- The spine-lining (when not made of leather)
- The endband tiedowns
- The endband weaving
- Lining of (parts of) the cover and exterior covering

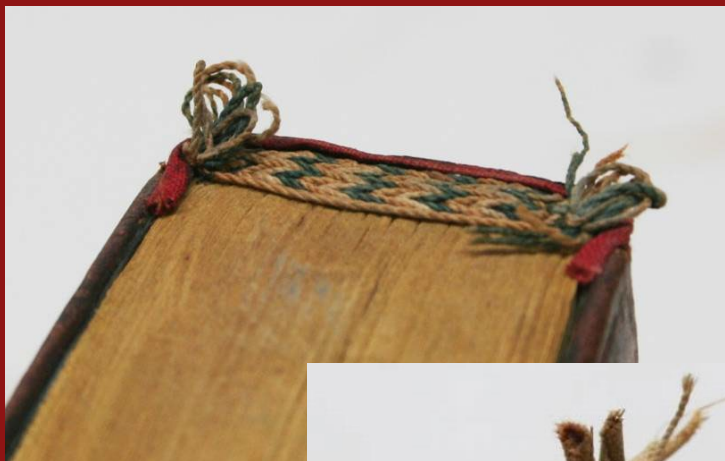




Endbands:

Chevron pattern and varieties

Southeast Asian endband type

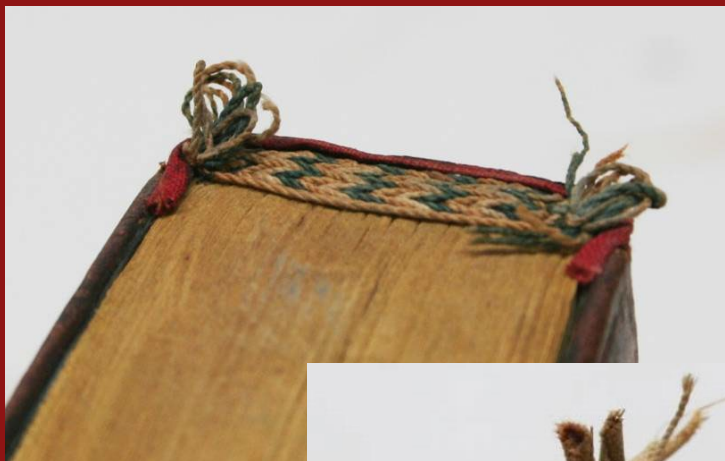




Endbands:

Chevron pattern and varieties

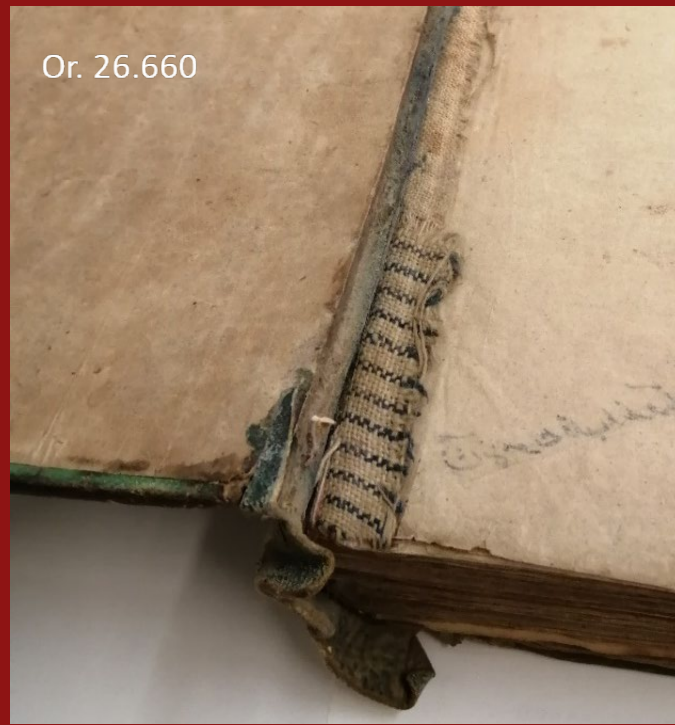
Southeast Asian endband type



Spine-linings:

Integral part of the
sewing structure

Or. 26.660



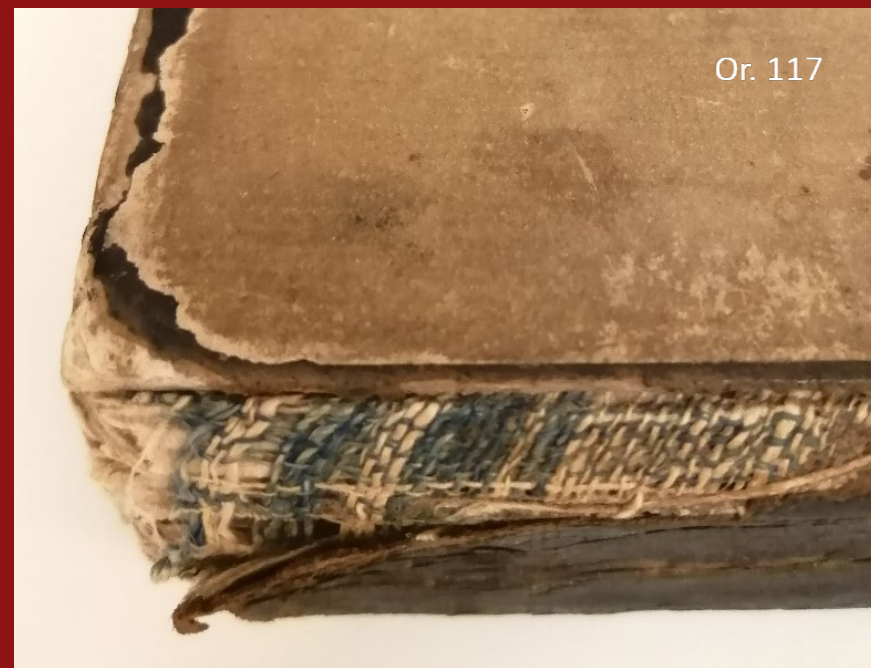
Or. 584



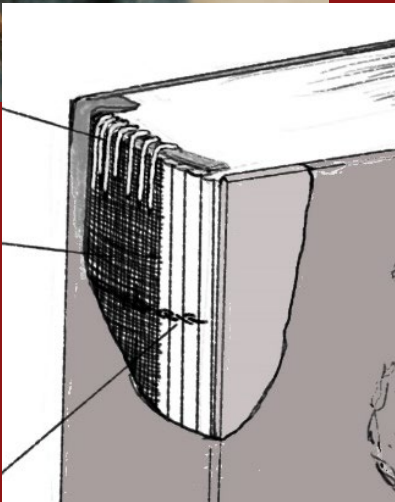
Or. 413B



Or. 117



UBL Or. 11.723

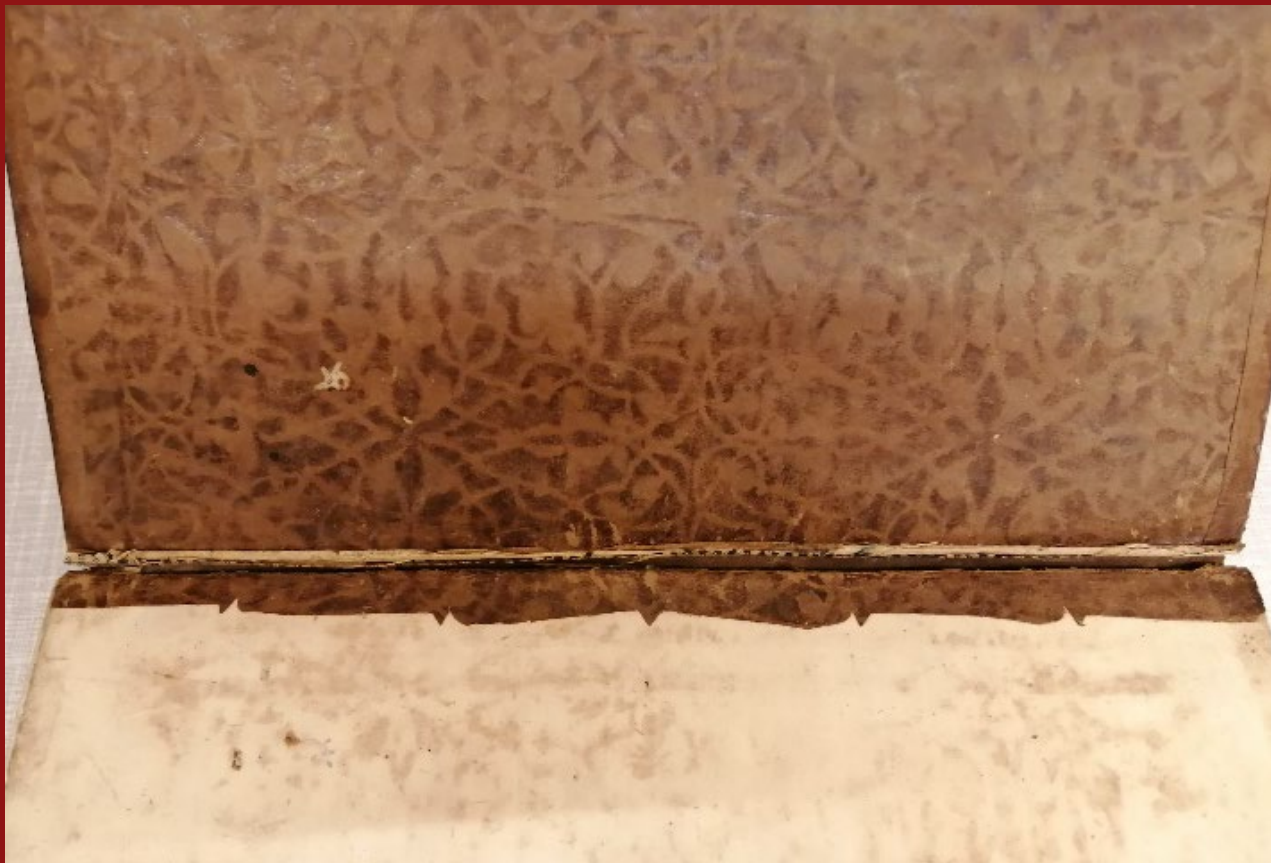




UBL Or. 12.307



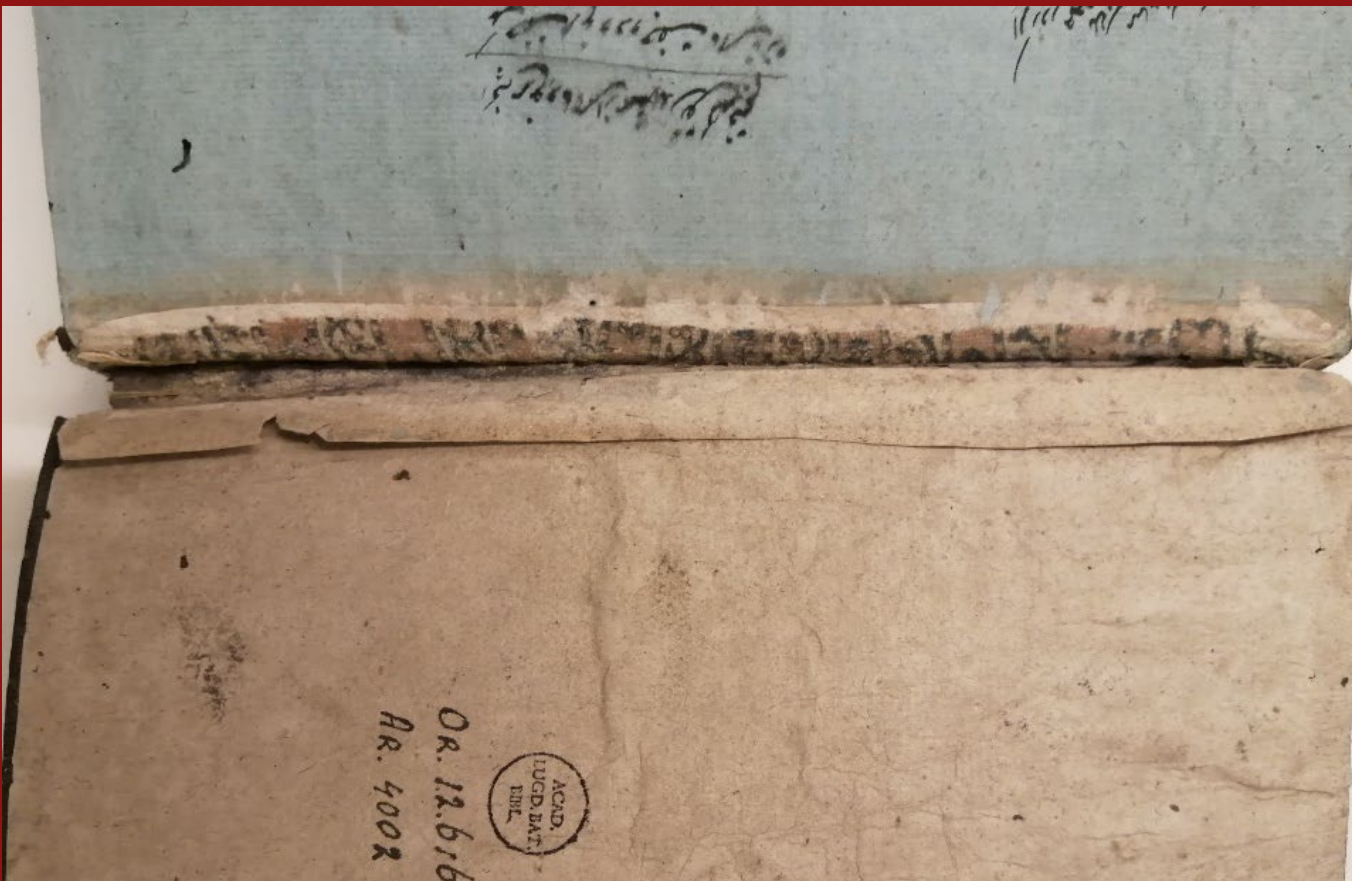
UBL Or. 23.447



UBL Or. 358B



UBL Or. 2C



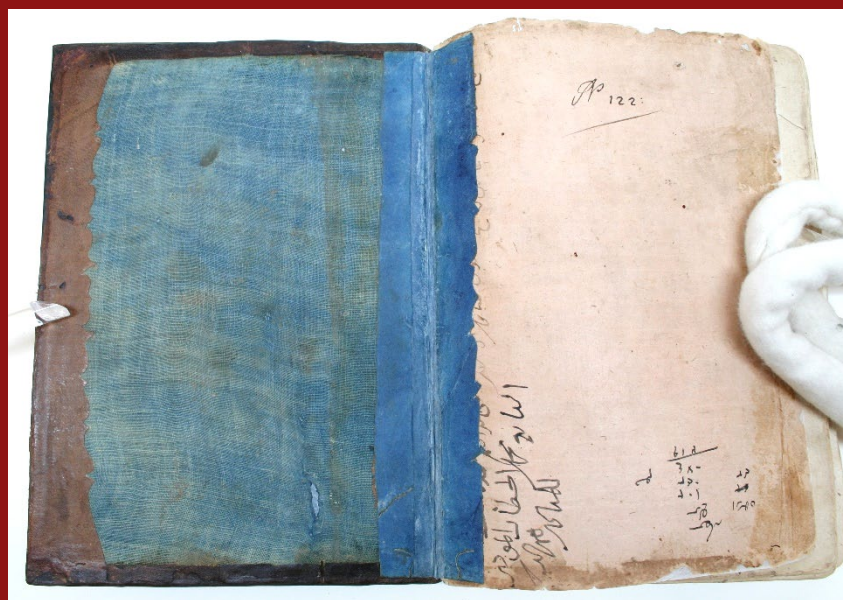
UBL Or. 12.616



UBL Or. 14.637



UBL Or. 61



UBL Or. 122

Doublures:

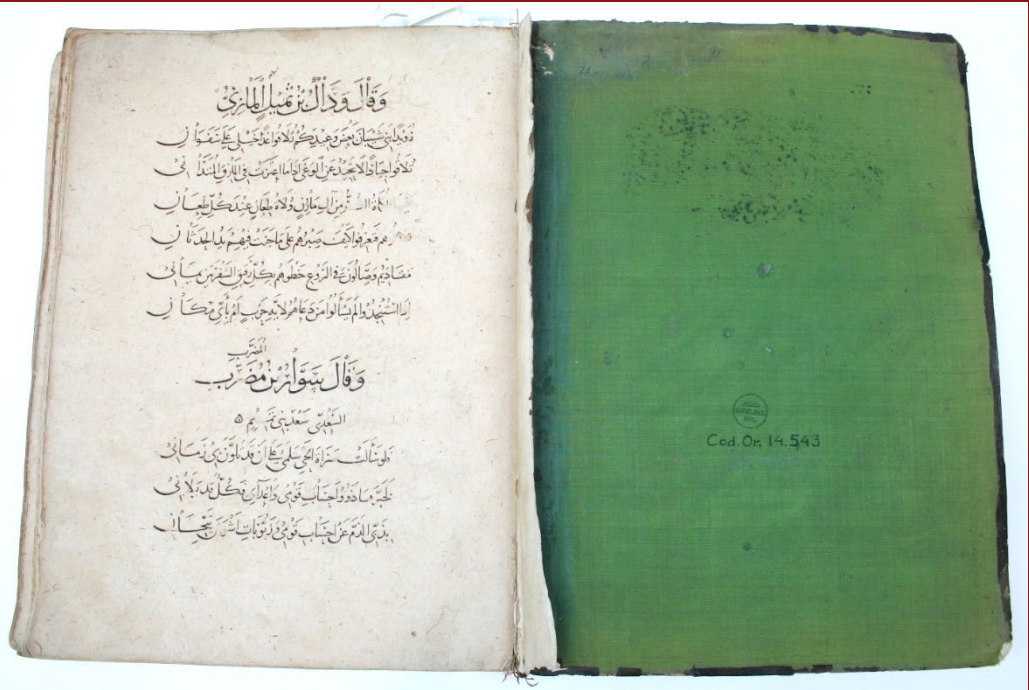
Technically, the application
is different from leather
doublures (and later, paper)



UBL Or. 408 B



Or. 650



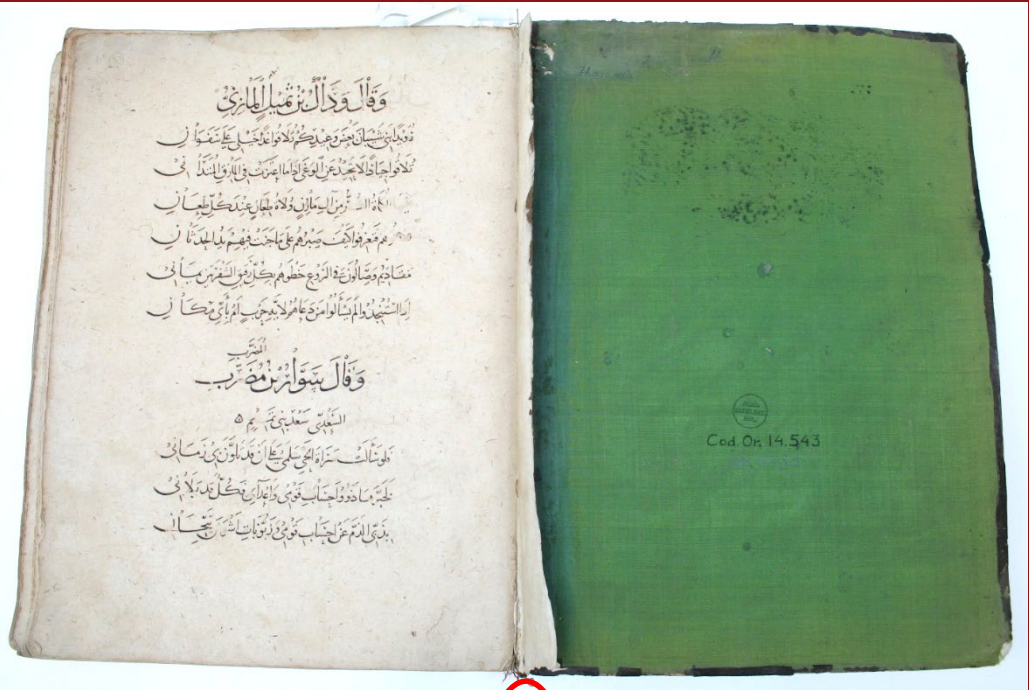
Cod. Or. 14.543



UBL Or. 14.543



Or. 650



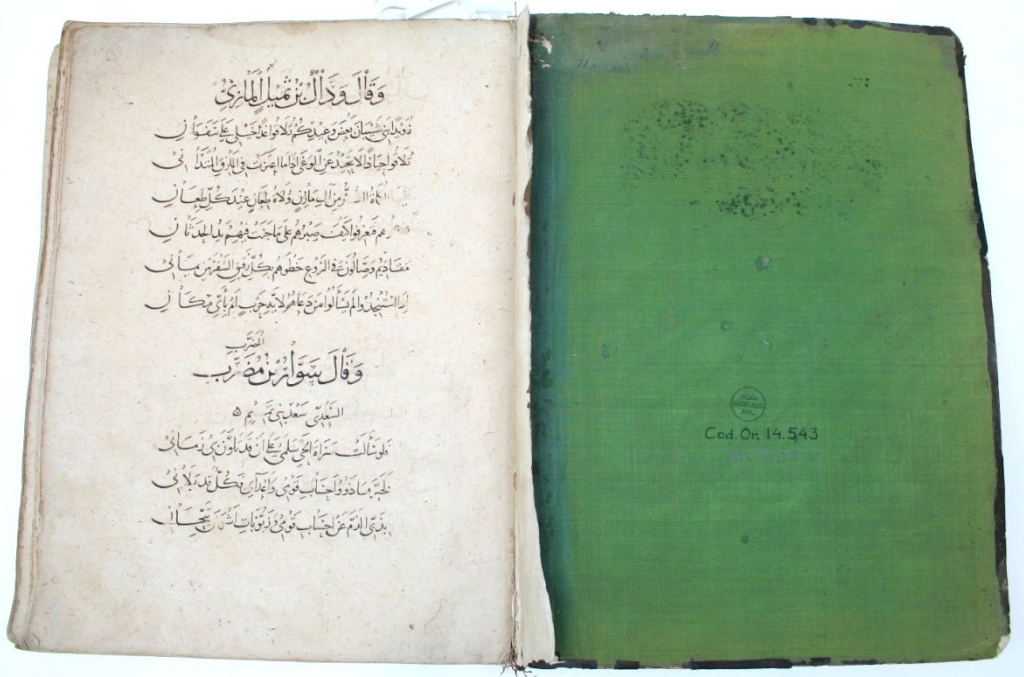
Cod. Or. 14.543



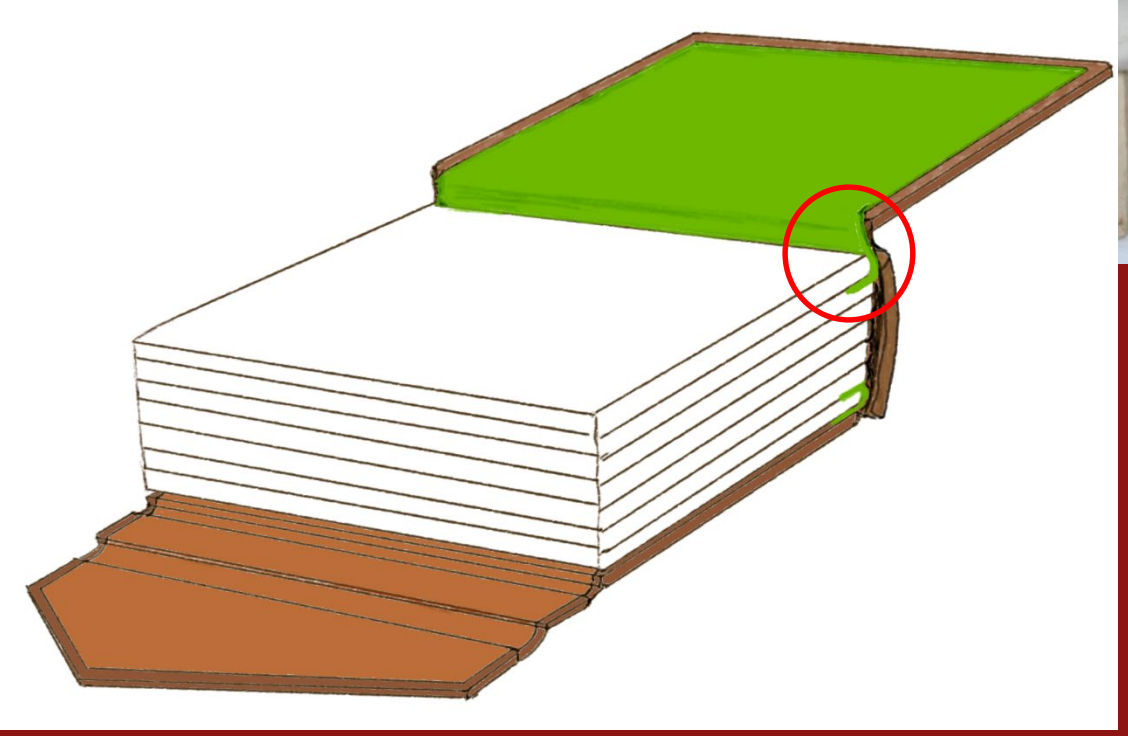
UBL Or. 14.543



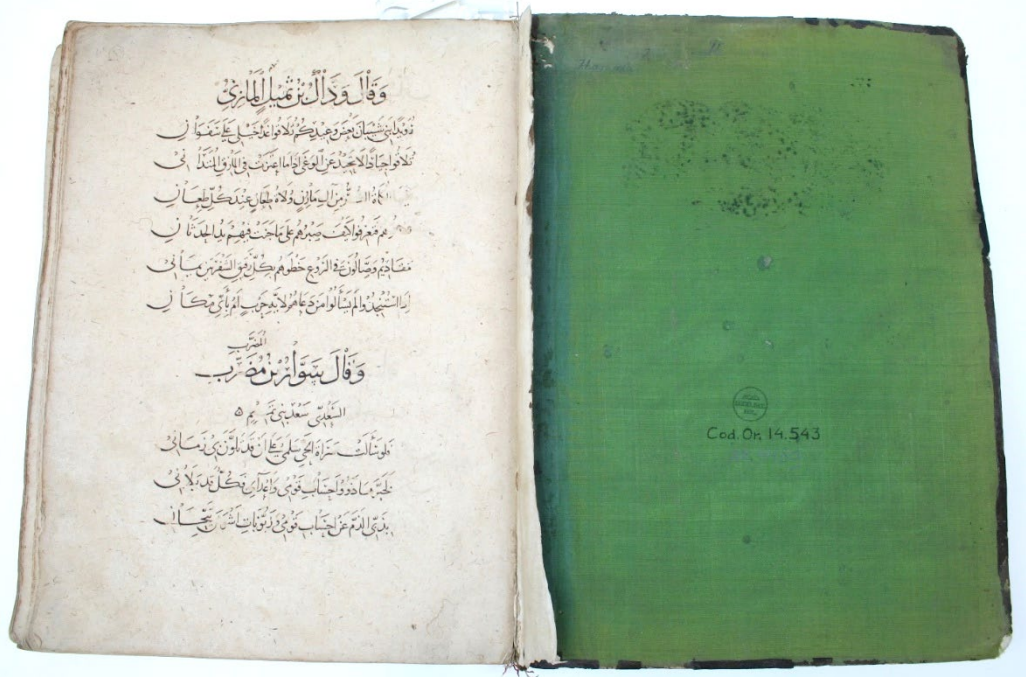
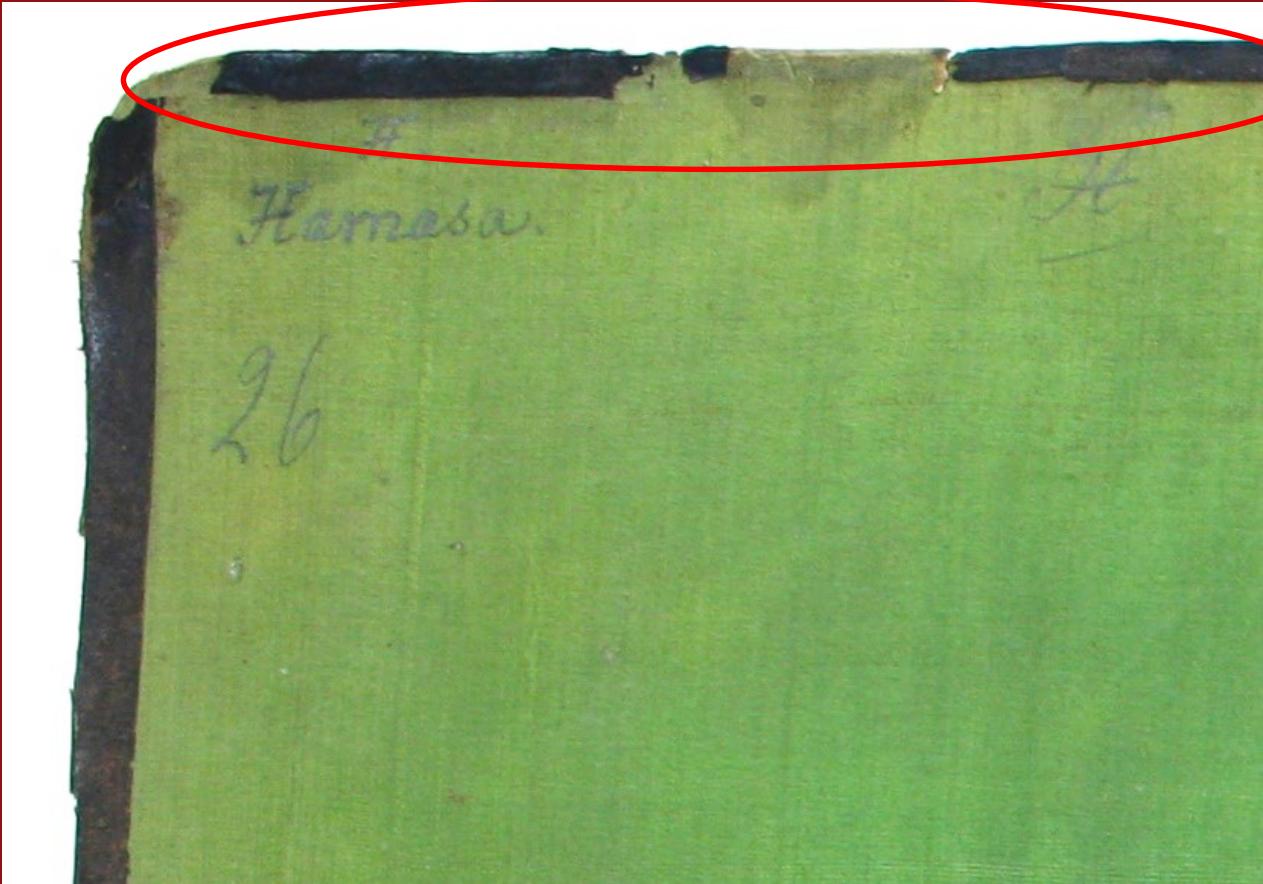
Or. 650



Cod. Or. 14.543



UBL Or. 14.543



UBL Or. 14.543



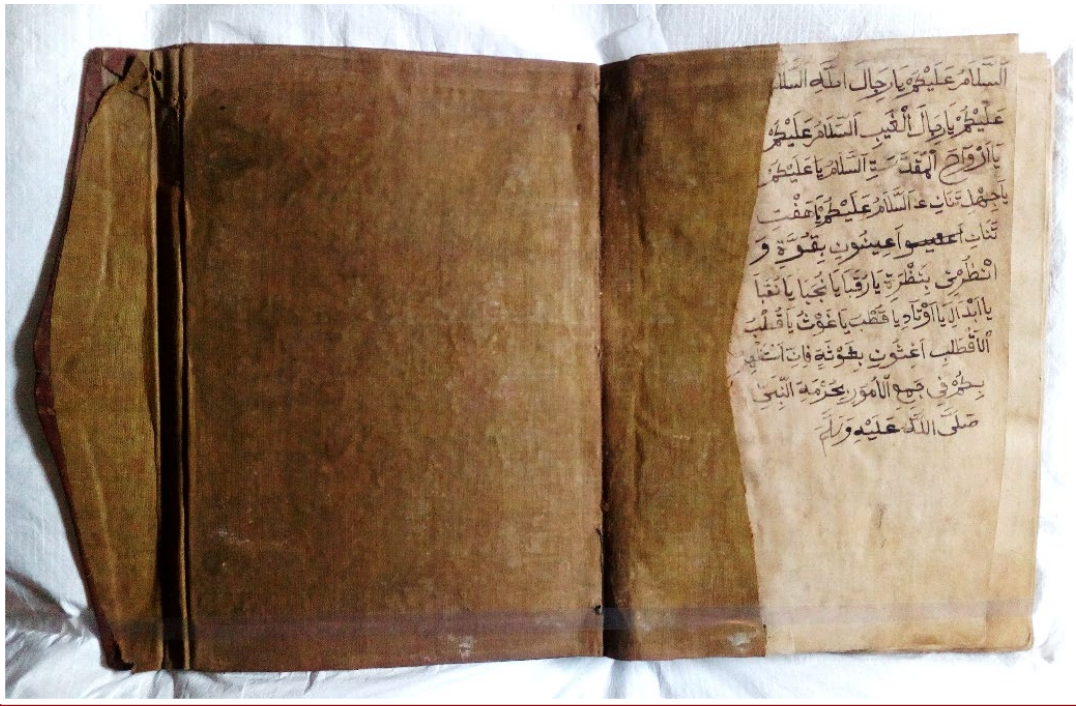
For comparison :
cloth doublures from neighboring
cultures & the leather turn-ins

Or. 5526 - Armenian
Or. 20.981 - Ethiopic
Peshita Inst. 4 - Syriac





UBL Or. 26.685
a ms from
Xinjiang



AKM 824, China 19th c.

(late examples of
cloth doublures)





UBL Or. 12.384
UBL Or. 12.446
UBL Or. 11.066

Covering:
(often mentioned in
catalogue)



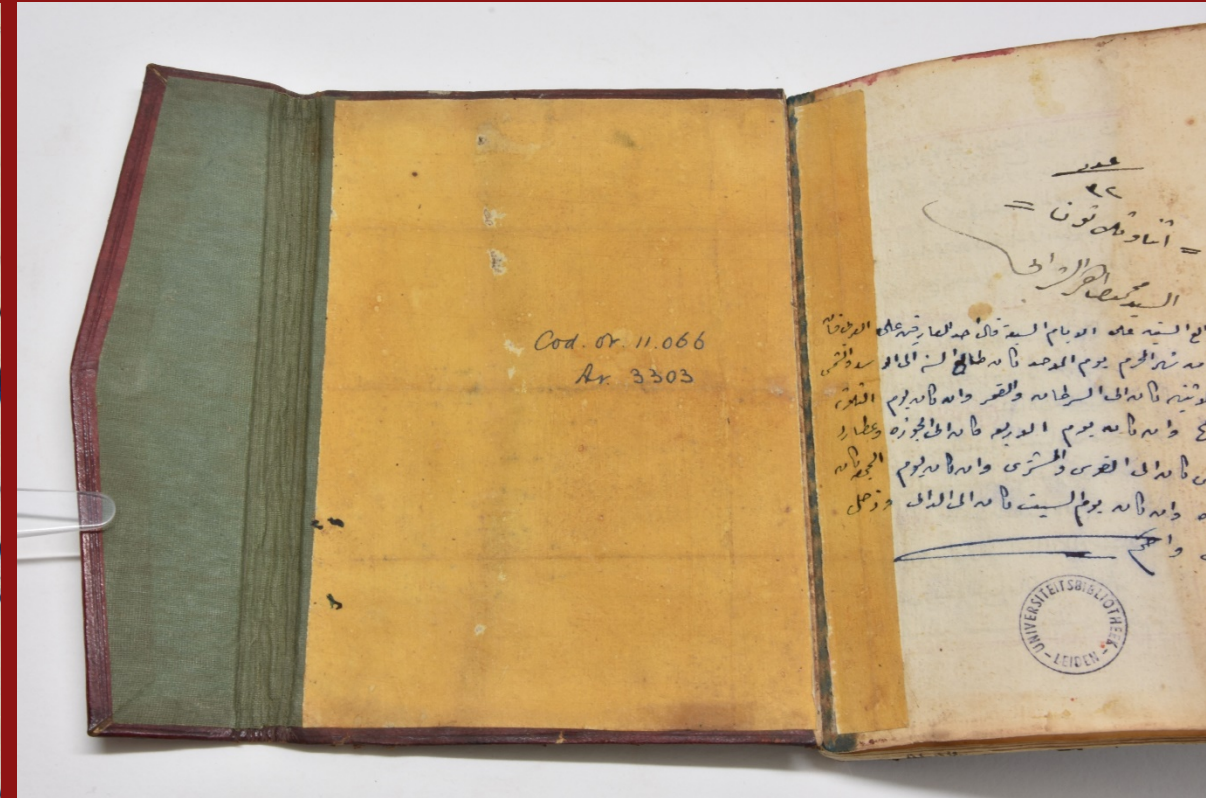
UBL Or. 11.066



Cod. Or. 11.066
Ar. 3303

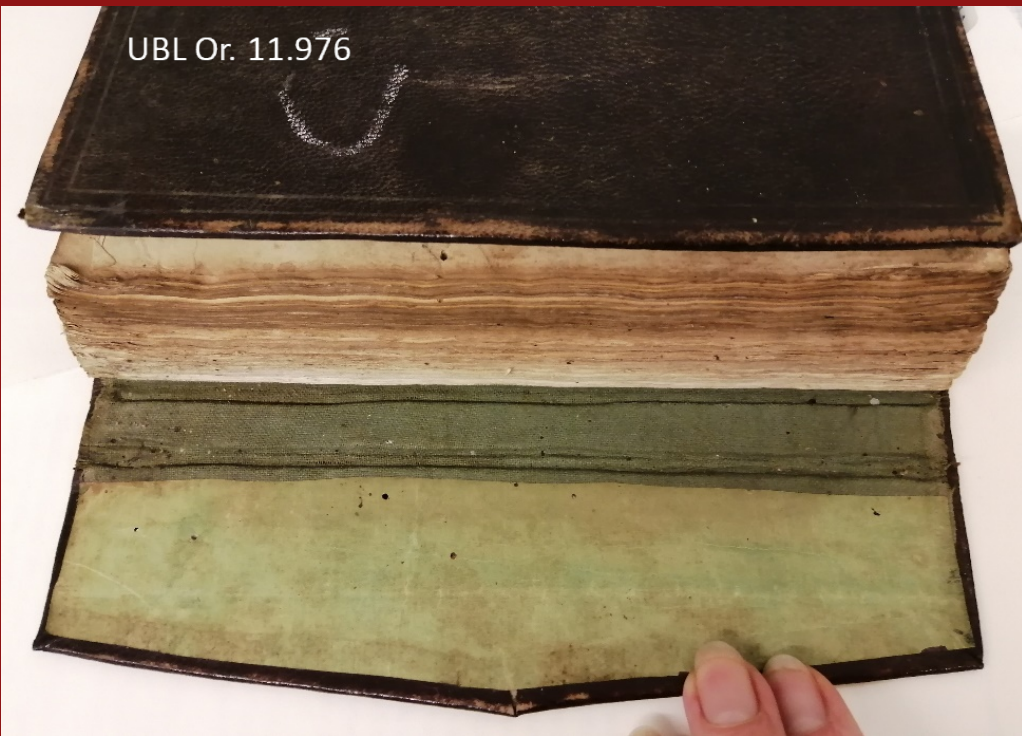
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا
والله كان له يوم القيمة
الجزء والجزء وعطارد
والله كان له يوم القيمة
والله كان له يوم القيمة
والله كان له يوم القيمة

UBL Or. 11.066



- Covering
- Spine-lining
- Lining fore-edge flap & lining envelope flap

UBL Or. 11.976



UBL Or. 11.567



Lining of the
fore-edge flap

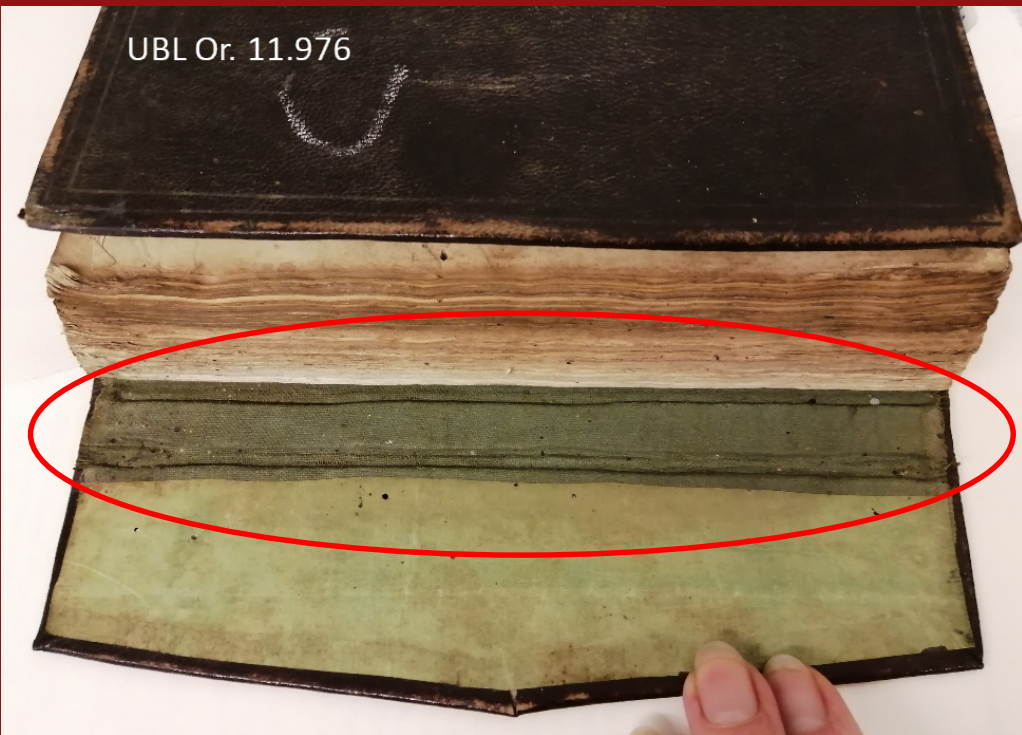
(instead of the
more traditional
leather)

UBL Or. 11.976
UBL Or. 11.066
UBL Or. 11.567

UBL Or. 11.066



UBL Or. 11.976



UBL Or. 11.567



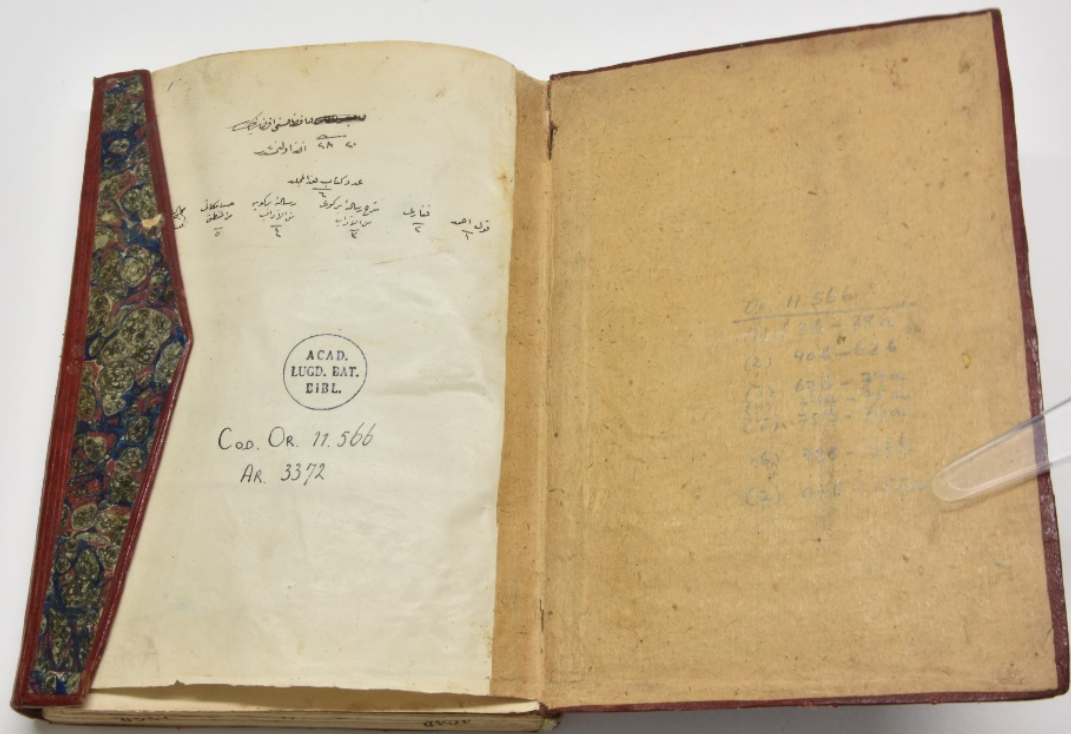
Lining of the
fore-edge flap

(instead of the
more traditional
leather)

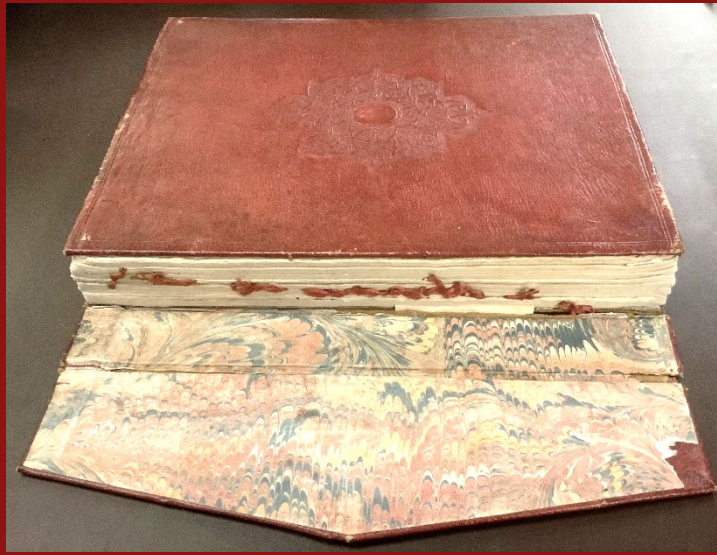
UBL Or. 11.976
UBL Or. 11.066
UBL Or. 11.567

UBL Or. 11.066





UBL Or. 11.566



Bodleian MS Marsh 663

Pagemarkers:

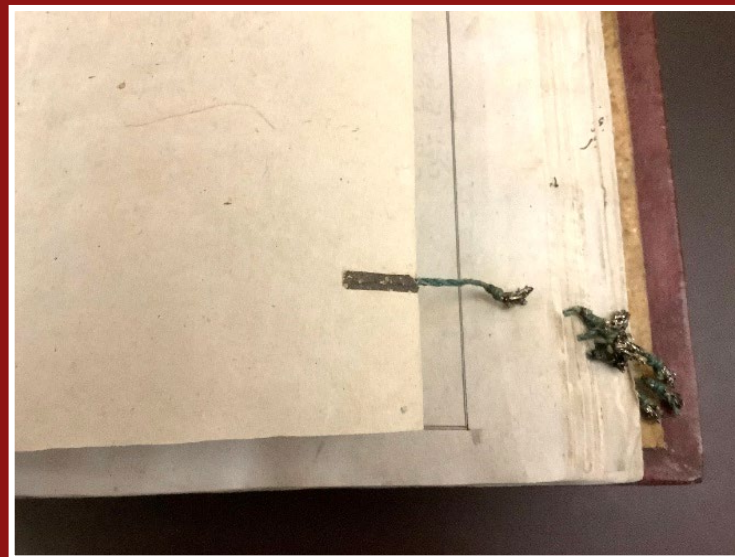
- UBL Or. 590
- UBL Or. 412
- UBL Or. 961





Bodleian Ms Or. 716

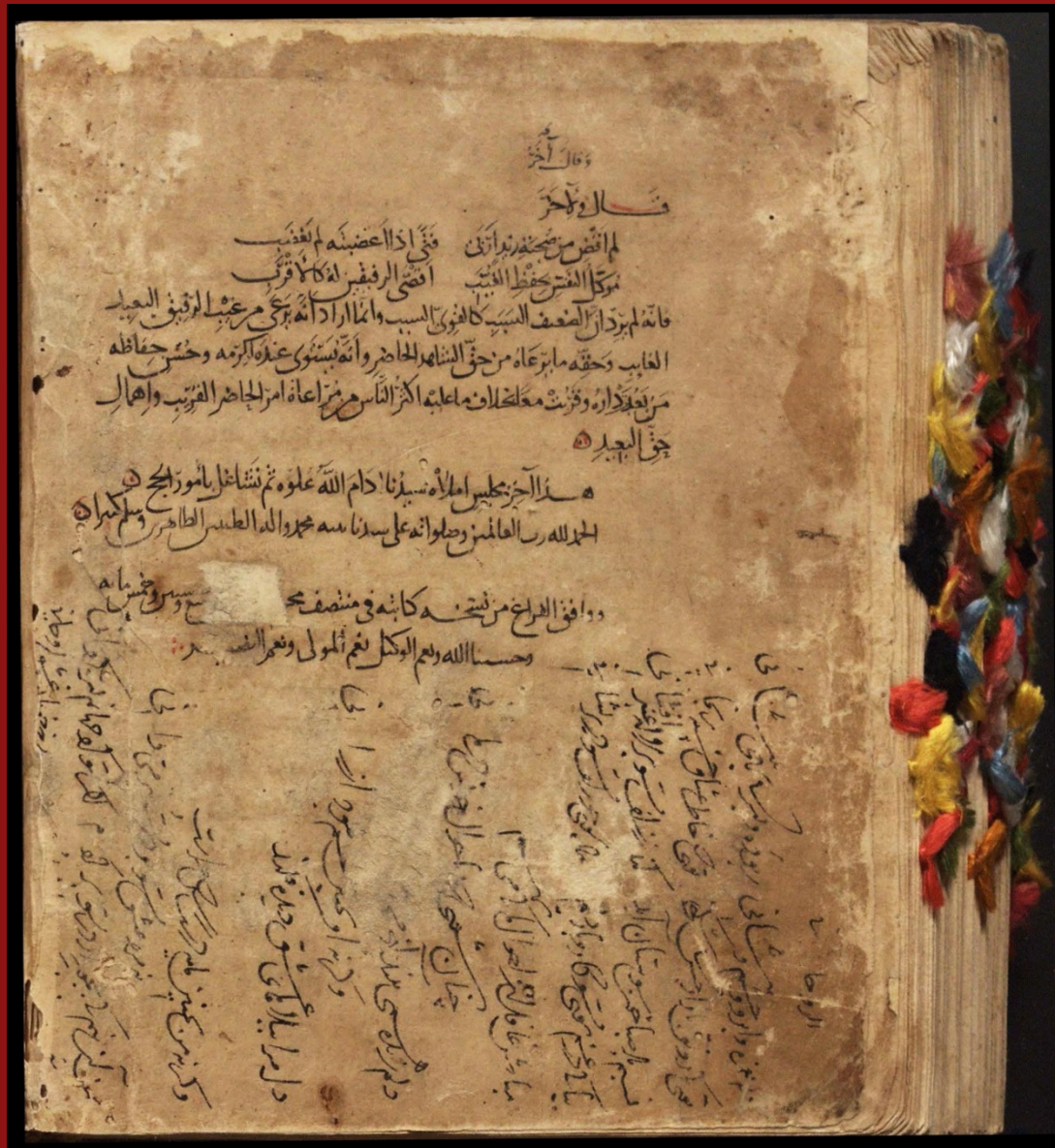
Pagemarkers
attached to
interleaves,
positioned adjacent
to every painting



Faḍl Allāh al-Rāwandī al-Kāshānī
(alive in 571 [1176–77]) as a
transmitter of al-Sharīf al-Murtaḍā's
(d. 436 [1044]) *K. al-Ghurar wa-l-
durar*

See Hassan Ansari and Sabine Schmidtke, *Imāmī
Thought in Transition: An Archaeological Inquiry
into Texts and their Transmissions*. Volume 1 (in
two parts): The Reception and Transmission of
al-Šarīf al-Murtaḍā's Oeuvre and Thought,
Cordoba: UCOPress [in press], Chapter 1.4





Ms San Lorenzo, El Escorial 1485

(completed on 15 Muḥarram 567 or 569

[18 September 1171 or 26 August 1173])

صاعده عليه واله فقال يا هذا اهل الوبر ومنه شعر الى ذهيل الخشحي

1485.

Enclosures:

UBL Or. 1335
UBL Or. 25.418
UBL Or. 12.452



Enclosures:

UBL Or. 1335
UBL Or. 25.418
UBL Or. 12.452





Repairs, local mends
& repurposed
bindings:



- UBL Or. 23.446
- UBL Or. 6336
- UBL Or. 6328
- UBL Or. 6368



Girls attending a class at their school damaged by a Saudi-led air strike, in the Red Sea port city al-Hudayda (Oct 24, 2017) (source: Reuters)



Yemeni children attending the first day of class in a school that was damaged by an air strike (Oct 4, 2019) (Getty Images)




Yemen proves it: in western eyes, not all
'Notre Dames' are created equal
Lamya Khalidi

Opinion
Archaeology

Fri 26 Apr 2019
04.30 EDT

2725

As an archaeologist, I've seen Yemen's rich heritage. But for too many world leaders, only arms sales really matter



▲ The old city of Sana'a on June 12, 2015 following an overnight Saudi-led air strike. 'Every day I watch Yemen burn, and every day I hear only silence.' Photograph: Mohammed Huwais/AFP/Getty Images

Like everyone else the world over, I watched in horror last week as *Notre Dame* burned and its spire fell. I saw the stunned reactions of onlookers on the news, on social media and in front of television sets and phone screens on the streets of Nice, where I live. A part of France's national identity and an international symbol of Paris was collapsing before our eyes.

This accidental burning of one of the most important French cultural and religious monuments struck a painful chord in just about everyone I know: I was getting messages of grief from friends in Sudan, Yemen, the US and South America. The unthinkable sight of *Notre Dame* burning evoked photographs of burning buildings during wartime, and nostalgia for all the valuable historical objects within them that had been turned to ash. One could not look at this sight without feeling grief.

And yet my mind couldn't stop questioning why the horrified reaction to the destruction of *Notre*

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/26/yemen-notre-dames-bombs-heritage-arms-sales>



1. Jam' al Kabir (Great Mosque)
2. Mosque of Salah ad Din (Saladin)
3. Mosque of Al Bakiliya
4. Mosque of Al Madrasa
5. Mosque of Mahdi 'Abbas
6. Mosque of Al Abhar
7. Mosque of Al Muta-wakkil
8. Principal sqs
9. Harat an Nahrein
10. The Imam's palace
11. Burjet Sherfra (open space)
12. Gateway to palace precincts
13. Solbi (open space in Jewish Quarter)
14. Ground formerly excavated for brick-making material.
15. Gate to Jewish Quarter

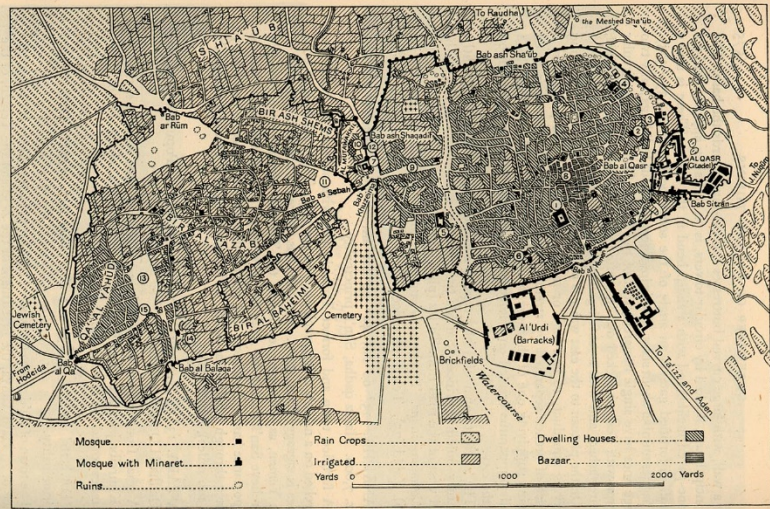
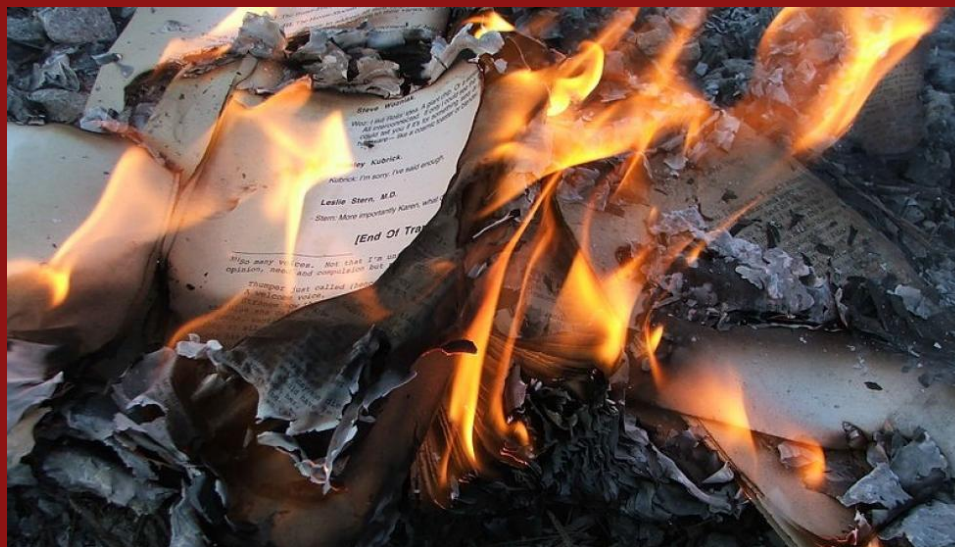
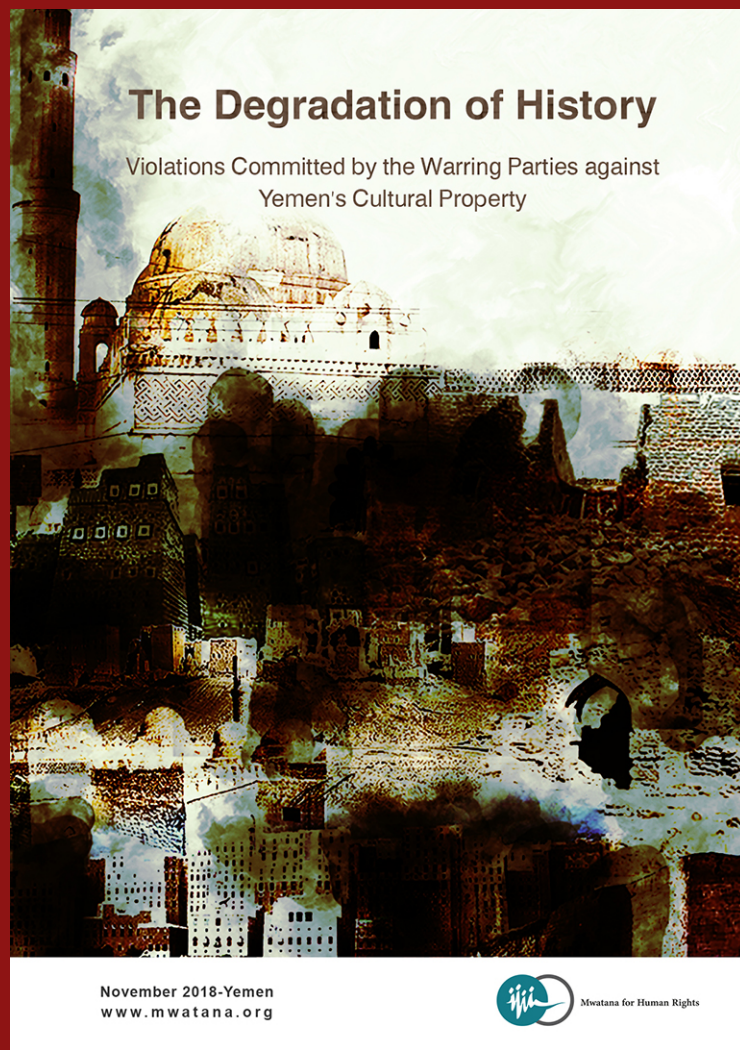


FIG. 46. Plan of San'a





Thwarting attempt to smuggle m x +

debriefef.net/en/news-14553.html

DEBRIEFER

العربية


HOME ABOUT US POLITICS REPORTS PRESS SPORT ECONOMIC MISCELLANY INFOGRAPHICS GALLERY VIDEO CONTACT US

LATEST UN calls to form a comprehensive gov't in Yemen through transitional process

HOME / News / Politics / Thwarting attempt to smuggle manuscripts and antiquities from National Museum in Yemen's Taiz

Thwarting attempt to smuggle manuscripts and antiquities from National Museum in Yemen's Taiz

Yemen / Debriefef 2020-01-26 | Since 3 Week



A picture of a section of the National Museum in Taiz, after being bombed

اضغط هنا لقراءة الخبر بالعربية

The military police arrested on Sunday a gang while trying to smuggle manuscripts and antiquities of the National Museum in the city of Taiz, southwest of Yemen.

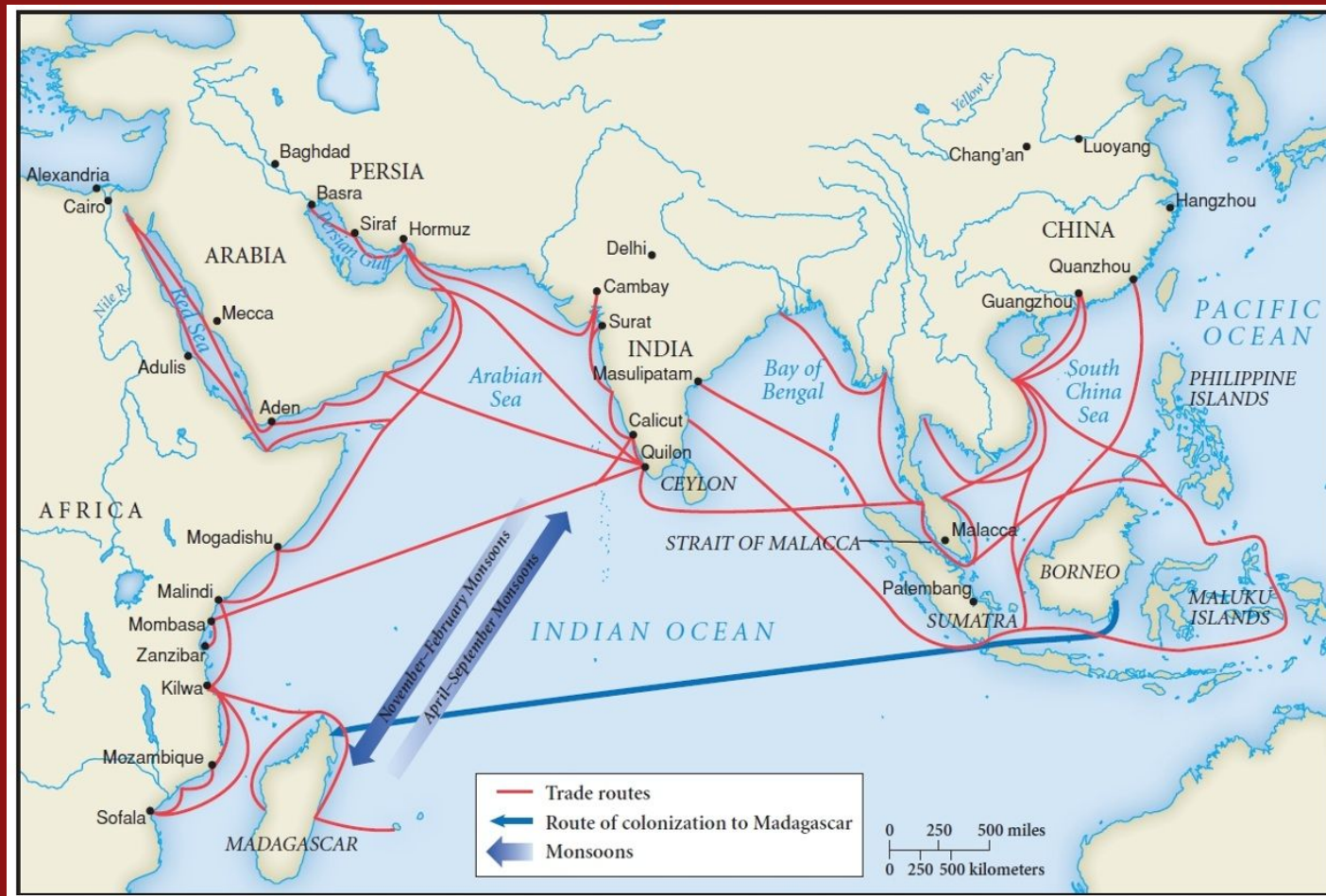
The military police said in a statement that they, in coordination with the security services, were able to "arrest a gang of smuggling manuscripts and antiquities at the al-Hangar Checkpoint , at the southwestern entrance to the city of Taiz."

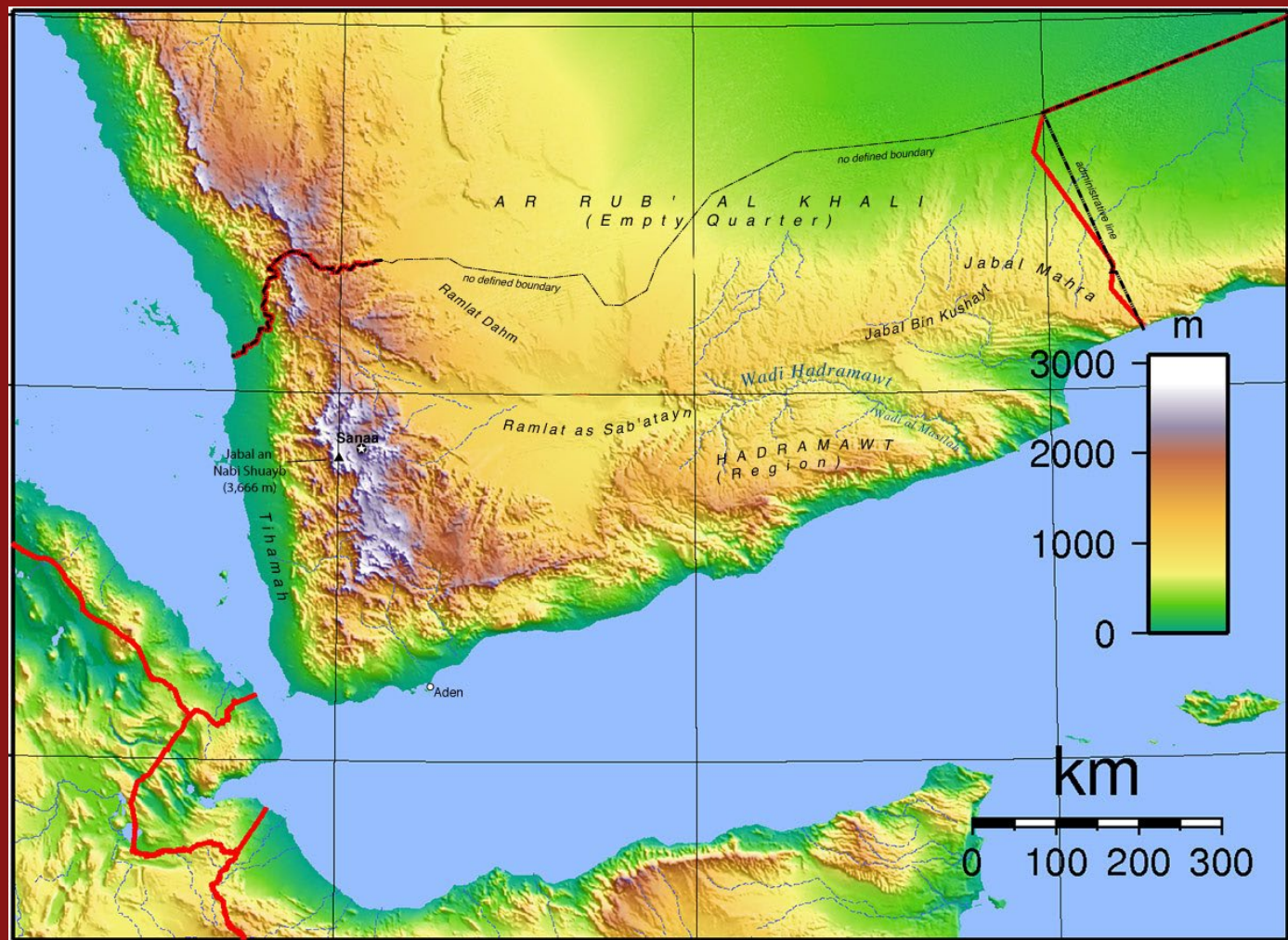
It is noteworthy that many historical sites and monuments in the city of Taiz have been subjected to destruction and looting during the war years, in the forefront of which is the National Museum in al-Ordhi area of Sala district.

<https://debriefef.net/en/news-14553.html>







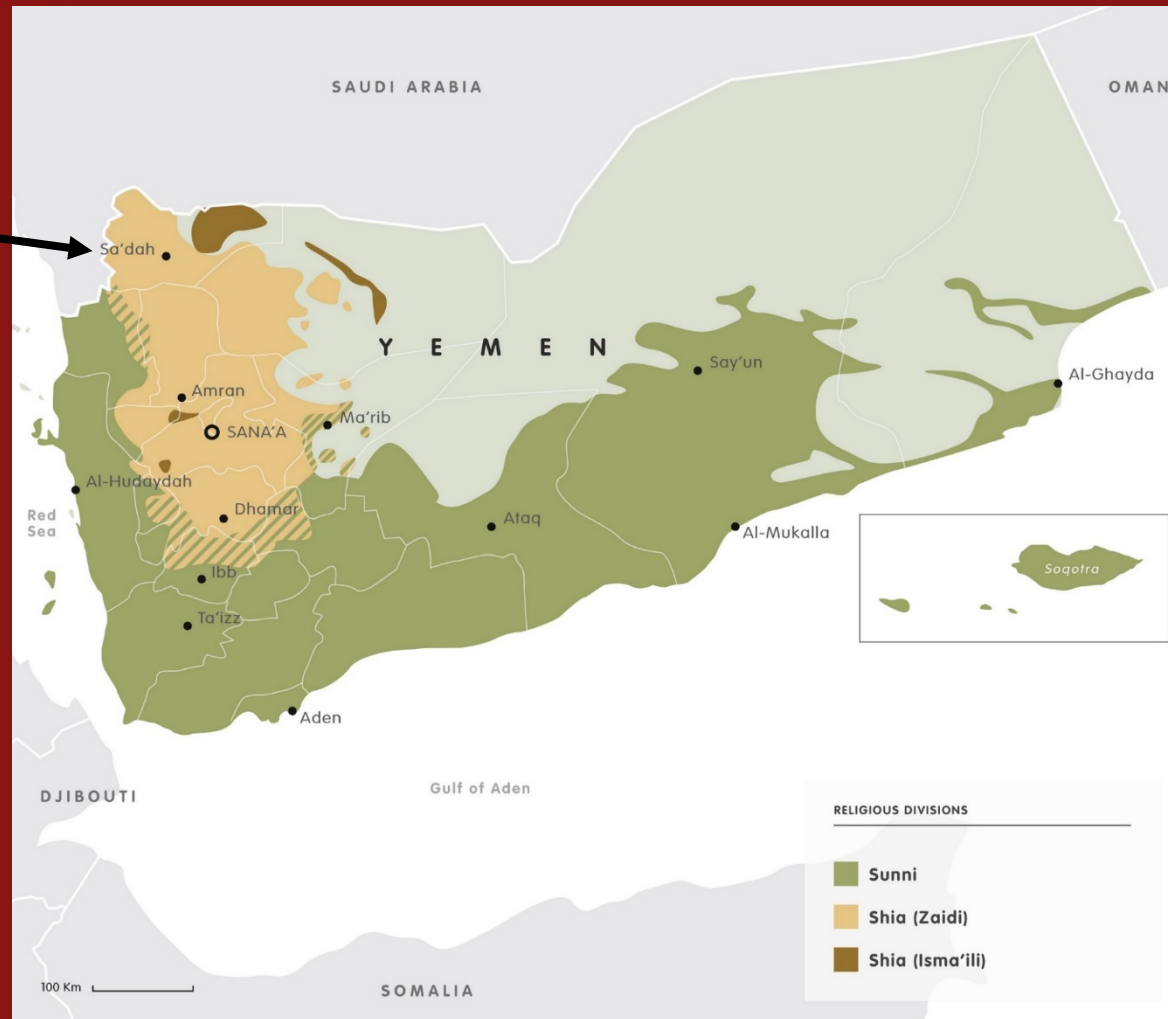




Map No. 3847 Rev. 3 UNITED NATIONS
January 2004

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section







Private Library in Şan'ā', with manuscripts stored in the lower shelf (2011; anonymous photographer)



Scholars cataloguing manuscripts in the Dār al-maḥṭūṭāt, Şan'ā' (2009, photo: Sabine Schmidtke)

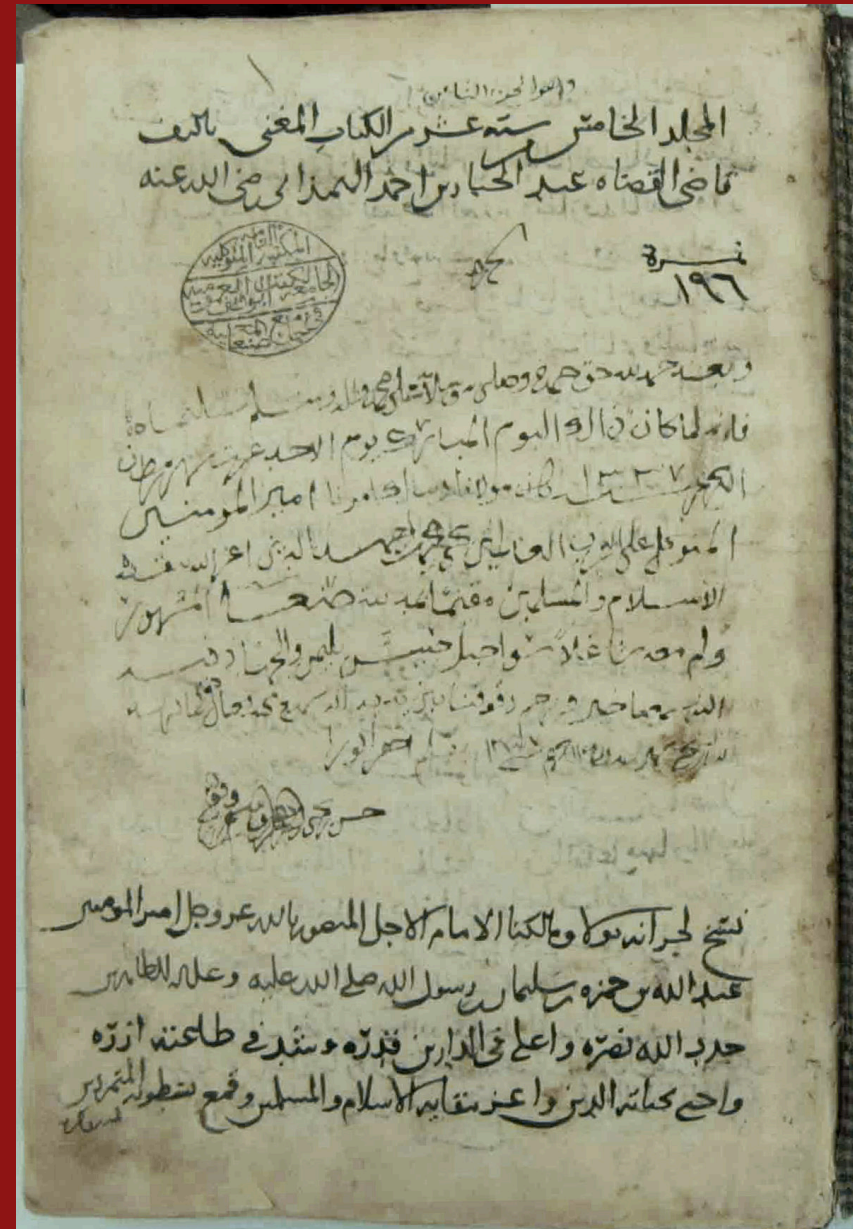


Yemeni operators in Ṣan‘ā’ digitizing a manuscript from a private collection (2009, photo: Sabine Schmidtke)



Inside the Maktabat al-awqāf, Ṣan‘ā’ (2010, photo: Sabine Schmidtke)

Ms. Şan'ā', Maktabat al-Awqāf 543, volume 5 of 'Abd al-Jabbār al-Hamadhānī's theological summa, *K. al-Mughnī fī abwāb al-'adl wa-l-tawḥīd*, copied for the library of Imām al-Manşūr bi-llāh 'Abd Allāh b. Ḥamza (noted on the four lines of the bottom of the page). The note in the middle of the page was added later by the library personnel of the Khizāna al-Mutawakkiliyya



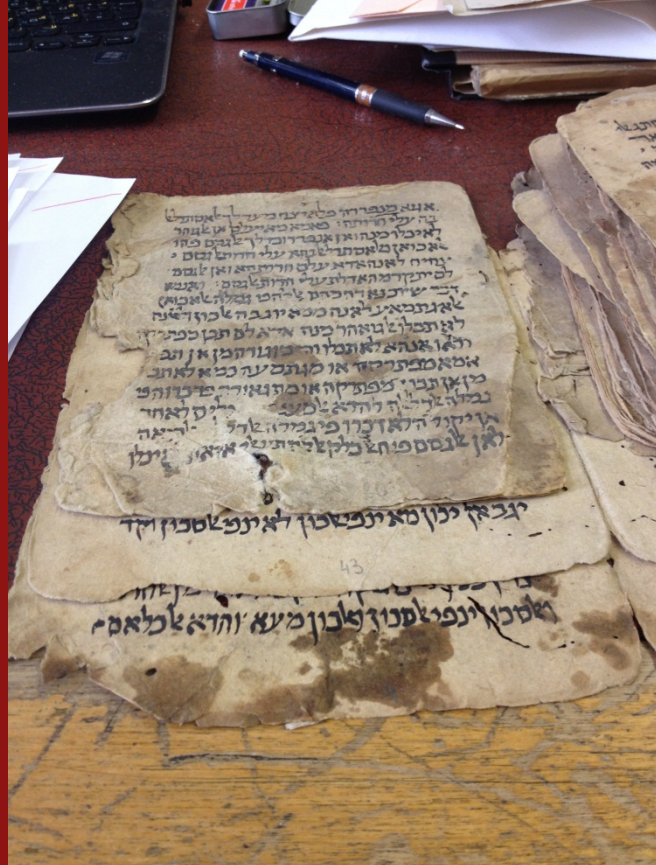
Ms. Leiden, University Library, Or 8409, title and final pages.

The title page had been glued over, hiding both the title of the book and a note recording that it had been transcribed for the library of Imām al-Manṣūr bi-llāh ‘Abd Allāh b. Ḥamza.

The final page has the scribe’s colophon, dated Sha‘bān 605 [February–March 1209], followed by a note signed by Muḥyī al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. ‘Alī b. al-Walīd al-Qurashī al-Anf (d. 1226) relating that he collated the transcription with a witness of the work from “*Irāq*” (meaning *‘Irāq al-‘ajam*, i.e., Iran) and that he finished doing so at the beginning of Shawwāl 605 [April–May 1209].

Ibn al-Walīd, a scholar in his own right, had studied together with ‘Abd Allāh b. Ḥamza and led a project of transcription of manuscripts brought from Iran to Yemen at the request of the Imam.





Inside the Russian National Library



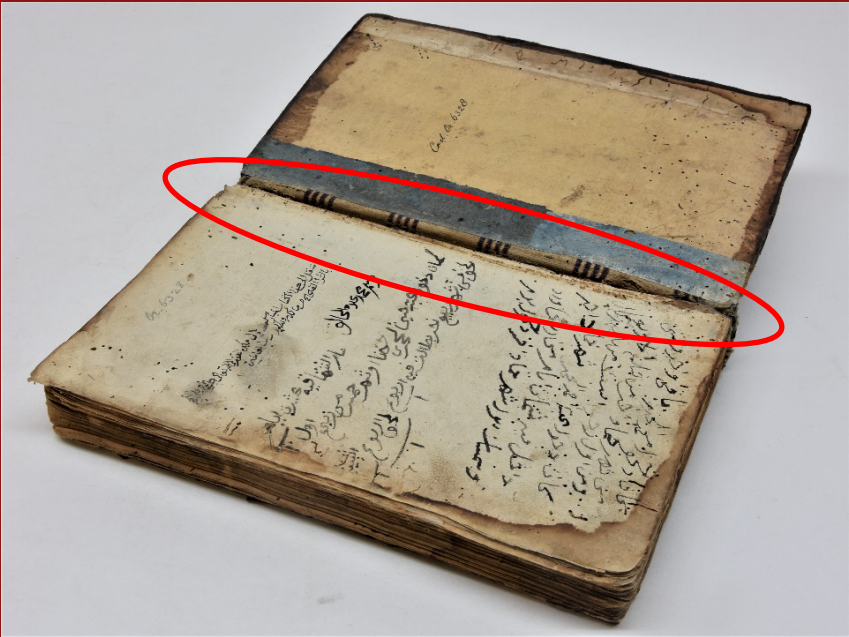
Repairs, local mends
& repurposed
bindings:



- UBL Or. 23.446
- UBL Or. 6336
- UBL Or. 6328
- UBL Or. 6368



Repairs, local mends
& repurposed
bindings:



- UBL Or. 23.446
- UBL Or. 6336
- UBL Or. 6328
- UBL Or. 6368



UBL Or. 23.447



Or. 23.404



Or. 25.665



Or. 23.444



Or. 23.407

UBL Or. 2705



Textiles in Islamic Manuscripts



Karin Scheper

Leiden University Library

Karin Scheper was trained as a Book and Paper conservator in Amsterdam and she heads the Leiden University Library's conservation studio. She completed her PhD (*The Islamic Bookbinding Tradition. A Book Archaeological Study*) in 2014. For this research into the developments of Islamic book structures she received a scholarly honour (the De la Court-prize), awarded by the KNAW (the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) (2017). She was a Bahari Fellow and studied the Persian collections in Oxford, and teaches the materiality of books & book history.



Sabine Schmidtke

Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton NJ

Sabine Schmidtke is Professor of Islamic Intellectual history at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton NJ. Her research interests include Shī'ism (Zaydism and Twelver Shī'ism), intersections of Jewish and Muslim intellectual history, the Arabic Bible, and the history of the book and libraries in the Islamicate world. Her recent publications include *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* (Cordoba 2018), *Muslim Perceptions and Receptions of the Bible: Texts and Studies* (Atlanta 2019, with Camilla Adang), and *Oxford Handbook of Islamic Philosophy* (New York 2017, with Khaled El-Rouayheb).



The Book and the Silk Roads

TEXTILES IN MANUSCRIPTS WORKSHOP | May 4-5, 2021

Special Thanks to Textiles Scholars

Rosemary Crill, Victoria and Albert Museum

Jennifer Wearden, Victoria and Albert Museum

Clare Browne, Victoria and Albert Museum

Philip Sykas, Manchester Metropolitan University

Institute for Advanced Study



The Book and the Silk Roads

is a project generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation through the University of Toronto, focused on mapping connections between parts of the premodern world by describing the technology of the book.

Co-Principal Investigators, University of Toronto

Alexandra Gillespie

Suzanne Conklin Akbari

Sian Meikle

INFO: <https://booksilkroads.library.utoronto.ca/>