

Lost Treasures: Medieval Arabic Manuscripts of Iraqi Provenance in Private Hands

Sabine Schmidtke



MESA 2023
Montréal, Québec, Canada

al-Khizāna al-Gharawiyya (Maktabat al-Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya)

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- **17th century: collective manuscript containing writings by al-Sharīf al-Murtaḍā (d. 1044), which was transcribed in Dhū l-Qa‘da 574 (April–May 1179) attested to be in the library;**
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- 1957: Ḥusayn ‘Alī Maḥfūz ;
- 1970: Aḥmad al-Ḥusaynī al-Ishkawarī;
- 2021: Ḥasan al-Mūsawī al-Burūjirdī, *Fihris makḥṭūtāt al-Khizāna al-Gharawiyya fī l-Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya al-Muqaddasa, al-‘Irāq al-Najaf al-Ashraf*, Najaf: al-‘Ataba al-‘Alawiyya al-Muqaddasa, 1442/2021.

فهرس
مخطوطات خزانة الغروية
الروضة الخيرية المقدسة

الرقاق - النجف الأشرف

وهي أدم خزائن الكتب في العراق حالياً

إعداد وفهرسة: السيد حسن الموسوي البروجردي
الإخراج الفني: محمد إبراهيم ناظري



فهرس مخطوطات الخزانة الغروية

في الروضة المحمدية المقدسة

العراق - النجف الأشرف

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إعداد وفهرسة: السيد حسن الموسوي البروجردي

الأمانة العامة للعتبة العلوية المقدسة - العراق، النجف الأشرف

الطبعة الأولى

٥٠٠ نسخة

سنة ١٤٤٢هـ / ٢٠٢١م

التصوير: إبراهيم سليمان

الإخراج الفني: محمد إبراهيم ناظري

الموقع الإلكتروني: <http://www.imamali.net>

(البسمة التي في الصفحة الأولى هي من خط الخليل الشيرازي الشهير أحمد السهروردي ومستلقة من الصحف المحفوظة في خزانة العتبة العلوية المقدسة) وهي عبارة «من كتب الحضرة الغروية» مأخوذة من جملة من مخطوطات الخزانة الشريفة

Lost Heritage: Antiquities from Iraq's Regional Museums,
Fasc. 3, prepared by Hideo Fujii and Kazumi Oguchi (1996)

1) manuscript no. 14757 (no. 263 in Fujii and Oguchi, *Lost Heritage*), a multitext volume containing *Lubāb al-mantiq wa-khulāṣat al-ḥikma* by al-Nakhjiwānī, *Talkhīṣ al-kitābayn al-madhkūrayn*, *al-Maṭālib al-muhimma min 'ilm al-kalām wa-ghayruhā*, and other tracts

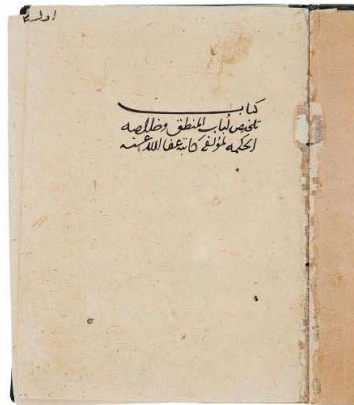
The Codex under the Hammer

- October 22, 2019: Codex, identified as “Lot 69,” sold by UK auctioneer Dreweatts to an unidentified buyer for £2,500.

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WORKS ON PAPER FROM THE ISLAMIC AND NEAR EASTERN WORLDS

22 October 2019

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Lot 69

LOT DESCRIPTION:

Sad ibn Mansur ibn Kammuna, *Kitab Talkhis li'bab al-Mantiq wa Khulasa al-Hakima* (summary on logic), in Arabic, manuscript on thick buff paper [Arabic Levant, dated 685 AH (1276-77 AD)]

single volume, two extracts in one volume, 10 leaves, single column, 15 lines cursive and scrawling naskh, title to first leaf, colophon dating the manuscript at the end of first section, leaves trimmed along lower edge (with loss to text from final leaf), overall excellent condition, one modern endpaper inserted at each end, 173 by 135 mm.; nineteenth-century leather, covers stamped in blind with Mamluk-style central circular medallion, ruled in blind with additional gilt ruling to outer edges of covers, rebacked, covers a little rubbed

Ibn Kammuna (1215-1284) was a Jewish physician and philosopher, who was based in Baghdad. He is best known for his comparative treatise on the three Abrahamic religions, as well as his commentaries on Avicenna's *Canon of Medicine* and as-Suhrawardi's *Talwihat* on Ishraq philosophy.

The present volume discusses logic and philosophy and is therefore most probably a short extract from Ibn Kammuna's *Talwihat* commentary. This codex was copied within the author's lifetime and by an informal academic hand instead of that of a trained scribe, suggesting that may be either an authorial copy or one copied by one of his students from the original exemplar.

⊖ - The lot is subject to buyer's premium of 25% exclusive of VAT (0% VAT)

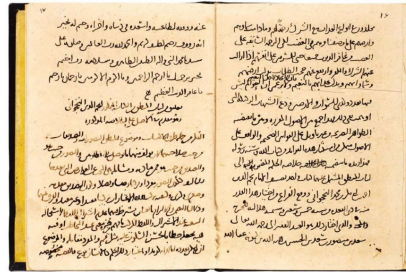
Condition Report:
CONDITION REPORT DISCLAIMER

Category:
Manuscripts

The Codex under the Hammer

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- October 2020: Codex resurfaced on the market, when it was offered for auction by Sotheby’s as “Lot 406,” with an estimated value of £40,000–£60,000.

SA'D IBN MANSUR IBN KAMMUNA BAGHDADI AL-ISRA'ILI (1215-84), KITAB TALKHIS LUBAB A...
27 October 2020 • London



406

SA'D IBN MANSUR IBN KAMMUNA BAGHDADI AL-ISRA'ILI (1215-84), KITAB TALKHIS LUBAB AL-MANTIQ WA KHULASAT AL-HIKMAH (A TREATISE ON LOGIC), NEAR EAST, DATED 675 AH/1276 AD

Estimate: 40,000 - 60,000 GBP

Currency Converter

Description

SA'D IBN MANSUR IBN KAMMUNA BAGHDADI AL-ISRA'ILI (1215-84), KITAB TALKHIS LUBAB AL-MANTIQ WA KHULASAT AL-HIKMAH (A TREATISE ON LOGIC), NEAR EAST, DATED 675 AH/1276 AD

Arabic manuscript on paper, 10 leaves plus 2 fly-leaves, 15-18 lines to the page written in dark brown ink on cropped polished paper, replacement later red morocco binding with

SA'D IBN MANSUR IBN KAMMUNA BAGHDADI AL-ISRA'ILI (1215-84), KITAB TALKHIS LUBAB A...
27 October 2020 • London

Condition Report

In fair overall condition. The manuscript folios are slightly cropped and rebound with later fly-leaves. The last folio (10b) is missing its last line of text where the paper has been cropped. The paper remains burnished but with occasional stains, some creases and occasional paper repairs. All folios have two small punch-holes in the lower half. The text is clear and legible, there are minor areas of very slight fading to the black ink, as viewed.

"In response to your inquiry, we are pleased to provide you with a general report of the condition of the property described above. Since we are not professional conservators or restorers, we urge you to consult with a restorer or conservator of your choice who will be better able to provide a detailed, professional report. Prospective buyers should inspect each lot to satisfy themselves as to condition and must understand that any statement made by Sotheby's is merely a subjective, qualified opinion. Prospective buyers should also refer to any Important Notices regarding this sale, which are printed in the Sale Catalogue.

NOTWITHSTANDING THIS REPORT OR ANY DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING A LOT, ALL LOTS ARE OFFERED AND SOLD AS IS" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF BUSINESS PRINTED IN THE SALE CATALOGUE."

Catalogue Note

Sa'd ibn Mansur ibn Sa'd ibn al-Hasan ibn Hibat Allah ibn Kammuna al-Baghdadi was a celebrated Jewish philosopher, physician and chemist who was born and lived in Abbasid Baghdad, although he may have travelled to Aleppo. He is widely regarded as the one of the most important Jewish philosophers after the Andalusian philosopher

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- 2022: S. Schmidtke, “Sa‘d b. Manṣūr Ibn Kammūna’s Writings and Transcriptions in the Maktabat al-Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya, Najaf: Preservation, Loss, and Recovery of the Philosophical Heritage of Muslims and Jews,” *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World* 10 (2022), pp. 278-325.

Sa'd b. Manṣūr Ibn Kammūna's Writings and Transcriptions in the Maktabat al-Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya, Najaf

*Preservation, Loss, and Recovery of the Philosophical Heritage of Muslims
and Jews*

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Abstract

This paper attempts to reconstruct the corpus of writings by Ibn Kammūna as well as his transcriptions of works by others that were kept in the Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya in Najaf during the early twentieth century. Additionally, the paper discusses a slim codex, which was sold by Dreweatts in 2019 ("Lot 69") and resurfaced on the market in October 2020 when it was offered for auction by Sotheby's as "Lot 406". A tentative suggestion is made that the codex still belonged to the Rawḍa at the beginning of the twentieth century. The appendix includes a facsimile of the codex, which contains Ibn Kammūna's *Talkhīṣ Lubāb al-manṭiq wa-khulāṣat al-ḥikma*, comprising excerpts from a work by Najm al-Dīn al-Nakhjīwānī, in order to support future scholarship on Ibn Kammūna and al-Nakhjīwānī.

Keywords

Sa'd b. Manṣūr Ibn Kammūna – al-Rawḍa al-Ḥaydariyya – Najaf – Najm al-Dīn al-Nakhjīwānī – *Lubāb al-manṭiq wa-khulāṣat al-ḥikma* – Āghā Buzurg al-Ṭihirānī – Muḥammad b. Ṭāhir b. Ḥabīb al-Samāwī – Muḥammad Riḍā al-Shabībī

Facsimiles



FIGURES 1–4

The Codex under the Hammer

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- December 13 2022: Codex was again up for sale, by the French auctioneer Millon (Batch 389 in Arts d’Orient et de l’Inde) with an estimate of €25,000.00 - €30,000.00.