

## PREFACE TO THE REPRINTED CATALOGUE

This catalogue, for many years out of print, was originally published in two volumes in 1894 and 1901. It was followed in 1926 by a *Supplementary Catalogue of Arabic Printed Books* compiled by A. G. Ellis and A. S. Fulton, and in 1959 by a *Second Supplementary Catalogue of Arabic Printed Books* compiled by A. S. Fulton and M. Lings. The present reprint has been undertaken so that all three catalogues shall be in print and available to scholars at one time. Together, they cover the whole range of Arabic printed books acquired by the British Museum up to 1957.

In preparing this catalogue for photolithographic reproduction, no revision has been carried out on the body of the catalogue beyond the correction of a few conspicuous errors. But where the location of books has been changed since the printing of the original edition, new shelf-marks have been inserted in typescript in this reprint. It has not been thought necessary to reprint the volume of title- and subject-indexes relating to the present catalogue, as this is still in print at the time of writing.

In the past, an Arab author was seldom well known by what was, strictly speaking, his " name ", and this creates problems for both compilers and users of catalogues. To help readers to understand the way in which authors' names are analysed into their component parts and arranged in this catalogue according to a logical system, it may be useful to quote the following explanation from the Editor's Introduction to the *Second Supplementary Catalogue* of 1959 :

The designation under which an Arab or Persian author, editor, etc., is to be found, begins wherever possible with the *ism* (for example 'ABD ALLĀH, AĤMAD, etc.) or, if this is unknown, with the *kunya* (for example 'ABU 'ALĪ, ABU al-ASWAD, etc.) or, failing this, under a name of honour (for example JAMĀL al-DĪN, etc.). But an exception is made in the case of dignitaries of the Church, who are named in English if possible, for example STEPHEN, not ISTIFĀN, and also in the case of those whose names have figured largely in previous catalogues under a Europeanized form, even though their writings are all in Arabic, for example CHEIKHO (Louis), not LUWĪS SHAIKHU. Rulers are entered under the names by which they are best known, followed by the *ism*, etc., in brackets, for example ŠALĀĤ al-DĪN (Yūsuf ibn Aiyūb). Cross references to main entries have been given unsparingly.

The order of headings is alphabetical, but where there are two or more headings which begin with the same name (there are 620 beginning with MUĤAMMAD, for example), they are grouped in categories, the simplest headings being arranged together in alphabetical order in the first group, the next simplest in the second, and so on. The series of groups may be illustrated as follows:

- (1) MUĤAMMAD, called Bībī : a single name followed by a *lakab*.
- (2) MUĤAMMAD, *al-Anbābī* : a single name followed by a *nisbah*, or a title, or an epithet indicating a profession, etc.
- (3) MUĤAMMAD ('Īd al-Wašif) : a single name followed by another appellation in brackets.

(The next three groups are like the first three, except that the name of the father is also given, preceded by *ibn*.)

- (4) MUĤAMMAD ibn AĤMAD, called Ībn Rushd.
- (5) MUĤAMMAD ibn AĤMAD, *al-Dahabi*.
- (6) MUĤAMMAD ibn AĤMAD (Abu al-Ķāsim).

- (7) MUḤAMMAD ibn AḤMAD ibn 'ABD al-BĀRI' : with the name of the grandfather added.
- (8) MUḤAMMAD ibn AḤMAD al-DARĪR : with a compound name for the father.
- (9) MUḤAMMAD AḤMAD : a double name, or a name followed by the father's name, *etc.*, without *ibn* ;

and so on, with some intermediary and further stages.

It follows from this—and here is what might cause the reader some difficulty—that the heading 'ALĪ (Abu al-Ḥasan), *al-Jaznā'ī*, for example, which conforms to category (3) will come *after* 'ALĪ, *al-Tanīāwī*, which conforms to (2). Similarly, MUḤAMMAD ibn MUḤAMMAD (Abu Naṣr), *al-Fārābī* (6) comes *after* MUḤAMMAD ibn MUḤAMMAD, *al-Tanjāwī* (5), and 'ABD al-RAḤMĀN BADAŪĪ (9) *after* 'ABD al-RAḤMĀN ibn ZIYĀD, *al-Zubairī* (5).

For notes on the transcription of Arabic words, the reader is referred to the introductory pages of the *Second Supplementary Catalogue of Arabic Printed Books* from which the above quotation is taken.

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