



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

Catalogue
of
Publications

2004-2005





The Institute of Ismaili Studies

Catalogue
of
Publications

2004-2005



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and
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Introduction


The Institute of Ismaili Studies was established in 1977 with the object of promoting scholarship and learning on Islam, in the historical as well as contemporary contexts, and a better understanding of its relationship with other societies and faiths.

The Institute's programmes encourage a perspective which is not confined to the theological heritage of Islam, but seeks to explore the relationship of religious ideas to broader dimensions of society and culture. Thus, they encourage an interdisciplinary approach to materials of Islamic history and thought. Particular attention is given to issues of modernity that arise as Muslims seek to relate their heritage to the contemporary situation.

Within the Islamic tradition, the Institute's programmes seek to promote research on those areas which have, to date, received relatively little attention from scholars. These include the intellectual and literary expressions of Shi'ism in general and Ismailism in particular.

The above objectives are realised through concrete programmes and activities organised and implemented by various departments of the Institute. The Institute also collaborates periodically, on a programme-specific basis, with other institutions of learning in the United Kingdom and abroad.

This catalogue lists the current and forthcoming publications of the Institute's Department of Academic Research and Publications, the Qur'anic Studies Unit, faculty and other academic staff. In facilitating these and other publications, the Institute's sole purpose is to encourage original research and analysis of relevant issues. While every effort is made to ensure that the publications are of a high academic standard, there is naturally bound to be a diversity of views, ideas and interpretations. As such, the opinions expressed in these publications must be understood as belonging to their authors alone.



Most of the works which feature in this catalogue are published by the Institute through its affiliated company, Islamic Publications Ltd., in association with publishers such as I. B. Tauris & Co. Ltd. The catalogue also cites works published in translation and a number of other relevant works published elsewhere by the Institute's scholars.

It is important to note that neither The Institute of Ismaili Studies nor Islamic Publications Ltd engages in marketing or distributing their books directly to the public. Readers wishing to purchase any publications listed in this catalogue, either for the book trade, personal or institutional use, are advised to contact their local booksellers or distributors. In case of difficulties, inquiries may be made directly to the publishers mentioned in the catalogue. A full list of the names and addresses of these publishers is given in the catalogue.





Department of Academic Research and Publications

The Institute's Department of Academic Research and Publications publishes works by its own scholars as well as from the academic community outside the Institute. Its other activities include research, conferences and seminars, as well as participation in the Institute's Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities.

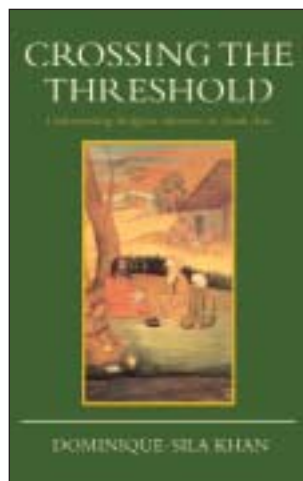
The Department's publications fall into several distinct and inter-related categories:

1. Occasional papers or essays addressing broad themes on the relationship between religion and society, with special reference to Islam.
2. Monographs exploring specific aspects of Islamic faith and culture, or the contributions of individual Muslim figures or writers.
3. Editions or translations of significant primary or secondary texts which contribute to an understanding of Islam and Muslim cultures and societies.
4. Translations of poetic and literary texts which illustrate the rich heritage of spiritual, devotional and symbolic expressions in Muslim history.
5. Works on Ismaili history and thought, and the relationship of the Ismailis to other traditions, communities and schools of thought in Islam.
6. Proceedings of conferences and seminars sponsored by the Institute.
7. Bibliographical works and catalogues which document manuscripts, printed texts and other source materials of interest to the academic community.

The promotion of modern scholarship on the Ismailis and their intellectual and cultural heritage is an important part of the Institute's mandate. The publications arising from research in this field of Islamic studies now appear under the special imprints of Ismaili Heritage Series and Ismaili Texts and Translations Series.



New Publications



*Published 2004
by I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd.
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ISBN 1 85043 435 2 (Hb)

Crossing the Threshold: Understanding Religious Identities in South Asia

By Dominique-Sila Khan

The question 'Who is Hindu, who is Muslim?' is addressed here and found to be not as simple as generally assumed. By analysing documents as well as original field data, the author examines the shaping of religious identities in South Asia, and more particularly in North India. She argues that the perception of Islam and Hinduism as two monolithic faiths co-existing in South Asia has become so deeply ingrained that the complexity of the historical fabric is often neglected.

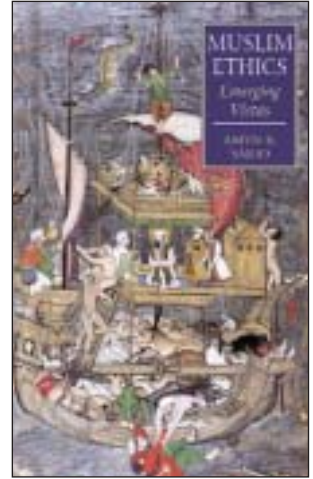
The emergence of clear-cut categories is demonstrated to be a comparatively recent phenomenon, while the past is shown to have been characterised by a remarkable fluidity and diversity in the social and religious milieus. The author explores the historical mechanisms that have led to the emergence and crystallisation of religious identities, and the increasing number of conflicts that threaten the harmonious co-existence of contemporary South Asian communities. Among the various religious groups and communities examined, the author considers in particular the 'liminal' role played by Ismaili Islam in the intricate interface of South Asian religious communities, which has to this day remained largely unexplored.

Muslim Ethics: Emerging Vistas

By Aamyn B. Sajoo

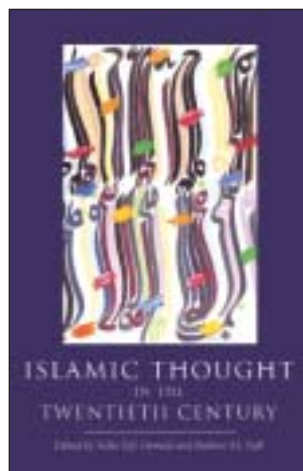
‘Why should we act ethically?’ is a question readily ignored today in favour of asking what is ethics and how it is applied, which leaves out vast areas of human motivation that concern the nature of moral action and commitment. Responding coherently to these interlocking lines of inquiry requires us to consider conceptions of the ‘good’ in domains public and private, traditional and modern.

This volume ranges over challenges from civic governance to biomedicine and the environment, through which Muslim ethical frameworks have emerged and are unfolding in our time. Civility, human rights, pluralism and humane action are key themes, mindful of the globalized context in which they increasingly demand the attention of Muslims – including those of the diaspora in the West, and all their fellow citizens. Normative sources such as scriptural texts are joined on the analytical canvas by lived settings and cultural expressions, from novels to fine art, in which diverse moral understandings and intuitions are embedded.



*Published 2004
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ISBN 1 85043 550 2 (Hb)



Islamic Thought in the Twentieth Century

Edited by Suha Taji-Farouki and Basheer M. Nafi

The first of its kind, this book provides in-depth discussions of Islamic thought across the 20th century, encompassing the breadth of self-expression in Muslim communities world-wide. It explores key themes in modern Islamic thinking, including the social origins and ideological underpinnings of the late 19th/early 20th-century Islamic reformist project, nationalism in the Muslim world, Islamist attitudes towards democracy, the science of Islamic economics, Islamist notions of family and the role of women, Muslim perceptions and constructions of the West, and aspects of Muslim thinking on the Christians and Jews. It elucidates the emergence, evolution and importance of these themes in terms of the historical, political and social conditions of the Muslim world, and its ongoing interactions with the West. Informed by an appreciation of the unprecedented changes experienced by Muslim societies and culture since the late 19th century, its overall framework challenges more simplistic approaches to Islamic thought, and to its makers and producers.

This book is an excellent source for students of modern and contemporary Islam, politics and international relations, and the modern history of the Muslim world. It is essential reading for all professionals dealing with the Muslim world, whether in the media, in governmental and non-governmental agencies, or as politicians and diplomats.

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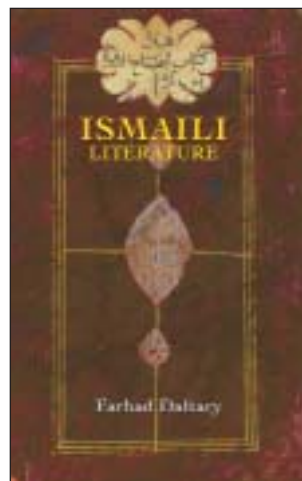
Ismaili Literature: A Bibliography of Sources and Studies

By Farhad Daftary

In this work, Farhad Daftary takes stock of the progress in Ismaili studies from pre-modern and early modern times until today. After a general survey of Ismaili history and the relevant primary sources for its different periods, and an overview of Ismaili studies, the author presents an annotated listing of all published primary sources produced in medieval and early modern times, by Ismaili authors as well as other Muslims, on Ismaili history and doctrines.

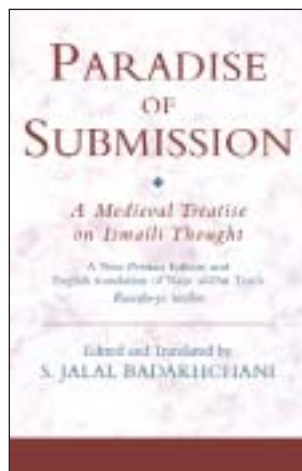
The book also contains a comprehensive bibliography of secondary studies, covering all aspects of Ismaili history and thought, Fatimid political history and institutions, as well as art and archaeology. In addition, certain peripheral yet relevant areas of study have been covered to various extents, such as the famous Ikhwān al-Ṣafā' and the Druzes who originally split away from the Ismailis in the 5th/11th century. A selection of Ismaili-related theses and lists of Ismaili imams and *da'īs* have also been included.

The result of more than three decades of research, Dr. Daftary's *Ismaili Literature* will be an invaluable work of reference and essential tool of research for scholars and students of general Islamic and Ismaili studies.



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ISBN 1 86064 436 8 (Hb)

Paradise of Submission: A Medieval Treatise on Ismaili Thought

A New Persian Edition and English translation of
Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī's *Rawḍa-yi taslīm*

By S.J. Badakhchani,
with an Introduction by Hermann Landolt
and Philosophical Commentary by
Christian Jambet

Ismaili Texts and Translations Series, 5

One of the foremost Shi'i Muslim scholars, Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī (d.672/1274) produced a large number of theological, philosophical and scientific works under Ismaili patronage and later under the Mongols.

Paradise of Submission (Rawḍa-yi taslīm), is Ṭūsī's most important and comprehensive Ismaili work. It consists of 27 chapters called *taṣawwurat* (meaning 'reflections' or 'representations') on a variety of themes such as the Creator and the cosmos, the nature of human existence, ethics and human relations, religion, eschatology, prophethood and imamate. Additionally, there are chapters on specific issues of inquiry, such as the varieties of human knowledge, the nature of language, different forms of worship, and the soul's progression from corporeality to spirituality.

The significance of this treatise arises not only from its comprehensive treatment of medieval Ismaili thought but also from its unique status as the only major doctrinal work of the Nizārī Ismailis to have survived the Alamūt period of their history. Ṭūsī's text remains the primary source on the intellectual and spiritual life of the early Nizārī Ismaili community.

This new Persian edition and English translation of the *Rawḍa-yi taslīm* has been prepared by S.J. Badakhchani on the basis of all the existing and newly discovered manuscripts of the text, and is accompanied by an introductory essay by Hermann Landolt and a philosophical commentary by Christian Jambet.

Eagle's Nest: Ismaili Castles in Iran and Syria

By Peter Willey

Ismaili Heritage Series, 10

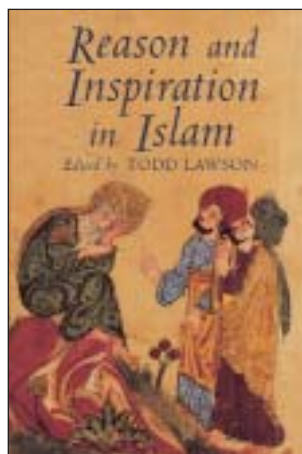
Magnificent castles and fortresses in remote, mountainous regions were built for refuge by the Ismaili Muslims of Iran and Syria fleeing from persecution during the early middle ages. Often superior in construction to those built by the Crusaders, these castles withstood numerous offensives for over two centuries until the middle of the 13th century when most were captured and demolished by the Mongols.

In his new book Peter Willey describes the discoveries he made during the course of more than twenty expeditions to these Ismaili sites spanning the past forty years. The book is exceptionally well illustrated with photographs, maps and plans. As well as being a piece of original scholarship, it is also a readable personal account of the challenges encountered in expeditions to remote, inaccessible and often hazardous locations.



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Reason and Inspiration in Islam: Theology, Philosophy and Mysticism in Muslim Thought

Essays in Honour of Hermann Landolt

Edited by Todd Lawson

The essays collected here reflect the great esteem in which Professor Hermann Landolt, Professor Emeritus of Islamic Thought at the Institute of Islamic Studies of McGill University and Senior Research Fellow at The Institute of Ismaili Studies, is held by his colleagues and students around the world.

This publication not only reflects the scholarly interests of Hermann Landolt in philosophy, Sufism and Shi'ism, but also takes a timely and refreshing look at the Islamic traditions of mysticism, philosophy, theology, historiography and intellectual debate generally from earliest times to the 20th century, in a series of diverse and stimulating approaches. As such, they are a corrective to the current alienating discourse on Islam which portrays it as a source of extremism and fanatical violence: a true warrior here is one whose struggle is for a better understanding and experience of the world as the creation of a just and merciful God.

The essays, by an impressive list of scholars and experts, deal with Islam's inner life as considered by some of its greatest representatives – intellectual personalities such as al-Ghazālī, al-Qāḍī al-Nu'mān and al-Kirmānī, Ibn 'Arabī, Ibn Sīna, al-Rāzī, Suhrawardī and Najm al-Dīn Kubrā. New source material is also presented, analysed and translated.

***Between Revolution and State:
The Path to Fatimid Statehood, al-Qadi al-
Nu'man and the Construction of Fatimid
Legitimacy***

Sumaiya A. Hamdani

Ismaili Heritage Series, 11

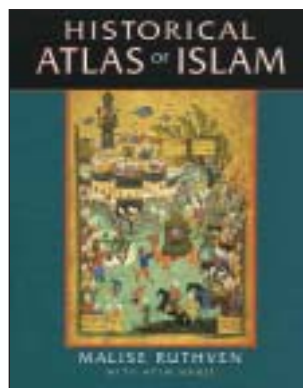
This book examines the most important writings of a 10th-century Islamic theologian and jurist who was one of the most original thinkers of his period. It argues that al-Qadi al-Nu'man's works constituted new and vital genres in Ismaili Shi'i literature, an emergence necessitated by the Fatimids' transition from revolutionary movement to statehood, and by their desire to establish their authority as a Shi'i alternative to the Sunni Abbasid caliphate.

Al-Nu'man, already famous in the Fatimid era, produced a legacy which consists of a school of law, historical and biographical works, new interpretations of Ismaili doctrine, and the formulation of a ceremonial language achieved through his work on court protocol. *Between Revolution and State* represents a sophisticated and readable analysis of one of the seminal figures of the Fatimid period.



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*Published 2004
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Historical Atlas of Islam

By Malise Ruthven with Azim Nanji

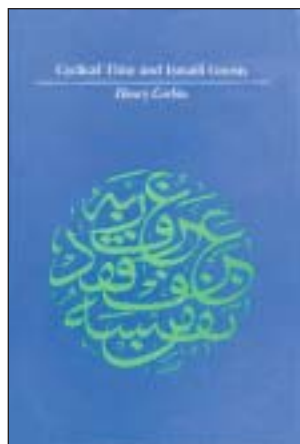
Among the great civilizations of the world, Islam remains an enigma to Western readers. Now, in a beautifully illustrated historical atlas, noted scholar of religion Malise Ruthven recounts the fascinating and important history of the Islamic world.

From the birth of the prophet Muhammad to the independence of post-Soviet Muslim states in Central Asia, this accessible and informative atlas explains the historical evolution of Islamic societies. Short essays cover a wide variety of themes, including the central roles played by *sharia* (divine law) and *fiqh* (jurisprudence); philosophy; arts and architecture; the Muslim city; trade, commerce, and manufacturing; marriage and family life; tribal distributions; kinship and dynastic power; ritual and devotional practices; Sufism; modernist and reformist trends; the European domination of the Islamic world; the rise of the modern national state; oil exports and arms imports; and Muslim populations in non-Muslim countries, including the United States.

Lucid and inviting full-colour maps chronicle the changing internal and external boundaries of the Islamic world, showing the principal trade routes through which goods, ideas and customs spread. Most of the essays accompanying the maps in this volume were written by Malise Ruthven, with editorial overview provided by Azim Nanji, and contributions from a number of other scholars, including several from The Institute of Ismaili Studies. Rich in narrative and visual detail that illuminates the story of Islamic civilization, this timely atlas is an indispensable resource to anyone interested in world history and religion.



Other Publications



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Cyclical Time and Ismaili Gnosis

By Henry Corbin

Translated by Ralph Manheim
and James W. Morris

Cyclical Time and Ismaili Gnosis comprises three of Professor Corbin's lectures on fundamental themes of classical Ismaili thought. The Ismaili tradition, a branch of Shi'i Islam, derives its identity from a unique conception of Prophethood and the Imamate, seen as manifestations on Earth of 'events in Heaven'.

Thus, the notion of cyclical time in Ismaili hiero-history constitutes the main focus of the first lecture. This evokes the parallel of analogous themes in certain religions of pre-Islamic Iran, as well as in an early Christianity 'that had long returned to the paradise of the archetypes'.

In the second lecture, which is a key study of Ismaili gnosis as a whole, Professor Corbin's penetrating analysis of its docetistic background points to the dynamics of the doctrine of the Imams. The underlying concept of divine epiphany is entirely different from a doctrine of incarnation in historical time. At any one time, the Imam can be the symbol of the self, so that 'he who knows himself, knows his Lord', is born spiritually and becomes part of a cosmic process of resurrection.

Against this gnostic background, the third lecture examines the possibility of concrete historical contacts between the gnostic movements of late Antiquity and early Ismailism. The author's comparison of dominant themes in all forms of gnosticism leads to the conclusion that we are here in the presence of a 'world religion' (*Weltreligion*).

Temple and Contemplation

By Henry Corbin

Translated by Philip Sherrard

Temple and Contemplation brings together for the first time in English five of Professor Corbin's lectures, which were originally delivered at sessions of the Eranos Conferences in Ascona, Switzerland. Henry Corbin himself outlined the plan for this book, whose title implies a common focus for these diverse studies.

The two essays that open this collection might appear out of place in the perspective of the Temple; yet Corbin included them precisely to point out that Shi'ī hermeneutics necessarily leads to a theosophy of the Temple – just as the temple itself has no meaning, if we have not the method and ontology to lead us there. From a consideration of the philosophy of colours in Islam, followed by a study of the metaphysical and mystical foundation of the science of correspondences, 'The Science of the Balance', the author proceeds to reflect on the role of the heavenly Temple, or the archetype of the Temple, in the spiritual traditions of the Religions of the Book.

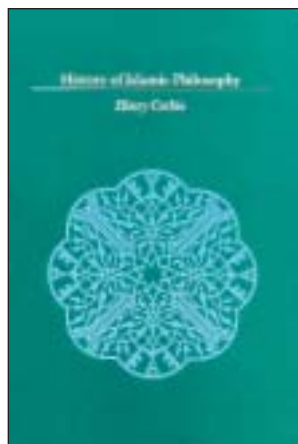
No other work of Corbin brings out more clearly the hermeneutic correspondences among spiritual visions belonging to these religions. Thus we understand why Corbin wished to link the themes of 'Temple' and 'Contemplation': the theory of visionary perception allows for the emergence of the Temple, but the processes of visionary cognition are themselves based on the eternal presence of the Imago Templi.



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ISBN: 0 7103 0416 1 (Hb)

History of Islamic Philosophy

By Henry Corbin

Translated by Philip Sherrard

Originally published in French and translated here for the first time into English, this acclaimed work is a definitive interpretation of traditional Islamic philosophy from the beginning down to the present day. In this authoritative volume, Corbin makes clear the great themes of the doctrinal and mystical vision of Islamic philosophy through a wealth of comparative parallels and in relation to the most profound currents of Western philosophy.

In Part One, from the Qur'anic revelation to the death of Averroes, Corbin considers the sources of philosophical meditation in Islam; Shi'ism and prophetic philosophy; the Sunni *kalām*; philosophy and the natural sciences; the Hellenizing philosophers; Sufism; al-Suhrawardi and the Philosophy of Light, and the Andalusian tradition. In Part Two, from the death of Averroes to the present day, he examines Sunni thought, the metaphysics of Sufism, and Shi'i thought.

Corbin's *History of Islamic Philosophy* is both an inspirational book and an essential work of reference, enabling readers to discover for themselves the richness of this body of thought.

The Ismā'īlīs: Their History and Doctrines

By Farhad Daftary

The Ismailis constitute the second largest Shi'i community in the Muslim world. They are scattered over many parts of the world, including India, Pakistan, East Africa, Central Asia, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Yaman, Europe and North America. This authoritative book, the product of twenty years' research, traces the history and doctrinal development of Ismailism from its origins to the present day, a period of twelve centuries. It is the first comprehensive synthesis of the scattered results of modern scholarship on the subject and draws on numerous primary and secondary sources.

All the major phases of Ismaili history are covered here, from the pre-Fatimid period, the Fatimid age and the Musta'li-Tayyibi period up to the Nizari Ismailism of Iran, Syria and the Indian subcontinent. The final part of the book traces the modern developments within various Ismaili communities, explaining the revival of Nizari Ismailism, particularly in Iran and on the Indian subcontinent, and the socio-economic progress of Nizari communities.

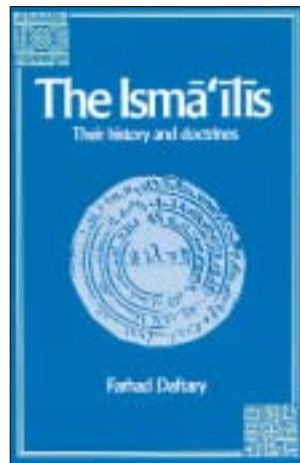
For all students of Islamic and Middle Eastern history, *The Ismā'īlīs: Their History and Doctrines* will serve as the most definitive account yet of the history of the Ismailis and their movement.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. Damascus: Dār al-Yanābī, 1994-95. 3 vols.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 1998.

Tajik translation in Cyrillic transcription, by A. Mahmadvazar. Moscow: Ladomir, 1999.

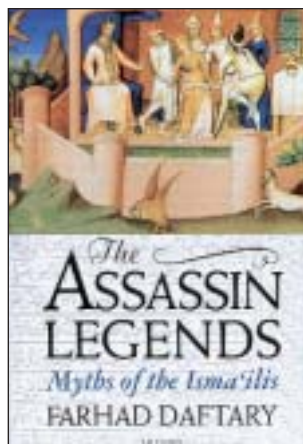
Urdu translation, by Azizullah Najib. Karachi: Iqbal Brothers, 1997.



*Published 1990
by Cambridge University Press
Reprinted in
1992, 1994, 1995,
1999, 2004*

ISBN: 0 521 37019 1 (Hb)

ISBN: 0 521 42974 9 (Pb)



The Assassin Legends: Myths of the Isma'ilis

By Farhad Daftary

Since the 12th century fantastical tales of the Assassins, their mysterious leader and their remote mountain strongholds in Syria and northern Iran have captured the European imagination. These legends first emerged when European Crusaders in the Levant came into contact with the Syrian branch of the Nizari Ismailis. Elaborated over the years, the legends culminated in Marco Polo's account according to which the Nizari leader, described as the 'Old Man of the Mountain', was said to have controlled the behaviour of his devotees through the use of hashish and a secret garden of paradise, before being sent out on dangerous missions to kill their enemies. So influential were these tales that the word 'assassin' entered European languages as a common noun for murderer, and the Nizari Ismailis were depicted not only in popular mythology but also in Western scholarship as a sinister order of 'assassins'.

Farhad Daftary's book considers the origins of the medieval Assassin legends and explores the historical context in which they were fabricated and transmitted. His fascinating account ultimately reveals the extent to which the emergence of such legends was symptomatic of both the complex political and cultural structures of the medieval Muslim world and of Europeans' ignorance of that world.

The book will be of great interest to all those concerned with Ismaili studies, the history of Islam and the Middle East, as well as the medieval history of Europe. Also included as an appendix is the first English translation of the French orientalist Silvestre de Sacy's famous early nineteenth-century 'Memoir on the Dynasty of the Assassins and on the Etymology of their Name'.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. Damascus: Al-Mada, 1996.

Hungarian translation, by I. Hajnal. Budapest: Osiris, 2000.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 1997.

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Mediaeval Ismaʿili History and Thought

Edited by Farhad Daftary

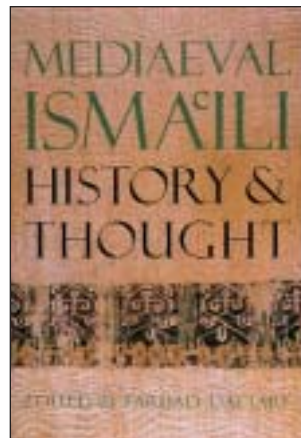
This collective volume, the first major effort of its kind in this branch of Islamic studies, brings together some of the original results of modern scholarship in the field, written by leading contemporary authorities as well as some distinguished Islamicists including A. Amanat, A. Asani, C.E. Bosworth, H. Dabashi, F. Daftary, H. Halm, A. Hamdani, C. Hillenbrand, W. Madelung, C. Melville, A. Nanji, I.K. Poonawala and P.E. Walker.

The chapters in the book, covering selected themes and developments related to the pre-Fatimid, Fatimid and Nizari phases of Ismaili history, deal with a wide variety of topics ranging from the Qarmatis of Bahrayn and their relations with the Fatimids, the earliest cosmological doctrine of the Ismailis, the traditions of learning and the development of jurisprudence under the Fatimids, to the Ismaili perceptions of the 'other', the origins of the Nizari Ismaili movement, Saljuq relations with the early Nizaris, a new perspective on Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī's religious affiliations, and the ginanic literary tradition of the Ismaili Khojas of the Indian subcontinent.

As a significant contribution to modern Ismaili studies, this book serves to underline the richness of the Ismailis' literary heritage and the diversity of their religio-political experience and intellectual traditions.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. Damascus: Al-Mada, 1999.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2003.



*Published 1996
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ISBN 0 521 45140 X (Hb)

ISBN 0 521 00310 5 (Pb)



A Short History of The Ismailis: Traditions of a Muslim Community

By Farhad Daftary

A major Shi'i Muslim community with a long and eventful history, the Ismailis were until recently studied primarily on the basis of the accounts of their enemies, including the Sunni polemicists and the Crusader chroniclers. As a result, a host of legends were disseminated on the teachings and practices of the Ismailis.

The study of Ismailism began to be revolutionised from the 1930s, with the recovery of a large number of Ismaili texts preserved in private collections in Yaman, Syria, Iran, Central Asia and India. *A Short History of the Ismailis* brings together the results of modern scholarship on the highlights of Ismaili history and doctrines within the broader contexts of Islamic history and Shi'i thought.

Critically examining the Ismaili historiography and other types of relevant source materials, this book covers the main developments in all the major phases of Ismaili history, including the early formative period, the Fatimid golden age, and the Alamut and post-Alamut periods. It also examines the major schisms among the Ismailis as well as their more recent history.

Published 1998

by Edinburgh University Press

Reprinted in 1999, 2004

ISBN 0 7486 0904 0 (Hb)

ISBN 07486 0687 4 (Pb)

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. Damascus: Al-Mada, 2001.

French translation, by Z. Rajan-Badouraly. Paris: Fayard, 2003.

German translation, by Kurt Maier. Würzburg: Ergon, 2003.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 1999.

Portuguese translation, by Paulo Jorge de Sousa Pinto.

Lisbon: Universidade Católica Portuguesa, 2003

Russian translation, by L.R. Dodikhudoeva and L.N. Dodkhudoeva.

Moscow: Ladomir, 2003.

Tajik translation in Cyrillic transcription, by A. Alimardanov. Dushanbe: Nodir, 2003.

Urdu translation, by A. Najib. Karachi: Iqbal Brothers, 2004

Intellectual Traditions in Islam

Edited by Farhad Daftary

The eleven essays collected in this volume originate from an international seminar 'Intellectual Traditions in Islam' organized by The Institute of Ismaili Studies in the summer of 1994 at Churchill College, University of Cambridge. This seminar was intended to promote understanding, raise questions and generate discussion on major issues and themes in the intellectual history of Islam, encompassing the classical and modern periods.

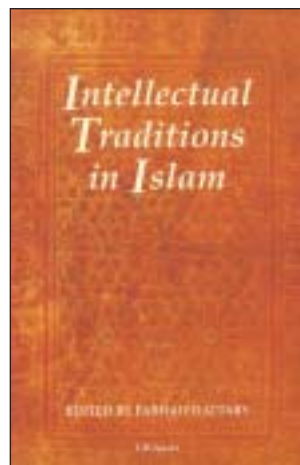
Among the scholars who addressed the seminar and whose presentations are included in this publication are Mohammed Arkoun, Norman Calder, John Cooper, Farhad Daftary, Aziz Esmail, Alice C. Hunsberger, Hugh Kennedy, Oliver Leaman, Abdulaziz Sachedina and Annemarie Schimmel. The paper by Muhsin Mahdi was delivered at an earlier seminar held by the Institute in 1990.

The various contributions to this volume, which focus on different aspects of Muslim intellectual life such as law, theology, philosophy and mysticism, demonstrate the pivotal role of the intellect in the formation of Islamic civilization, as well as its continuing primacy in dealing with the problems and challenges of modernity.

Arabic translation, by N. Ahmad Mirza. London: Saqi Books, 2004.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2001.

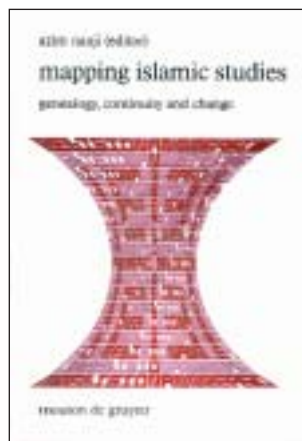
Tajik translation in Cyrillic transcription, by M. Dimorshoev. Dushanbe: Nodir, 2002.



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*Published 1997
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Mapping Islamic Studies: Genealogy, Continuity and Change

Edited by Azim Nanji

This collective volume brings together a number of papers presented by distinguished scholars in the field of Islamic Studies at a symposium on 'Orientalism and the Study of Islam', held at The Institute of Ismaili Studies in 1983. The main objective of the symposium was to examine the intellectual roots of Western Orientalism, the conceptual frameworks within which it sought to interpret Islam, as well as its achievements and limitations.

The volume commences with essays by Jacques Waardenburg, Mohammed Arkoun, C.E. Bosworth and Dimitri Mikoulski on the growth of Islamic Studies in various historical and geographical contexts (Germany, France, Britain, Holland and Russia). The contributions of Sarah Roche-Mahdi and the late Norman Daniel remind us that the creation, reproduction and representation of Islam in the West have a long and complex history with a catalogue of distortions and stereotypes, whose political consequences go far beyond the initial flights of romantic images. The final group of essays by Muhsin Mahdi, Jacques Waardenburg and Mohammed Arkoun offer fresh perspectives within which to think anew the task of a future Islamic Studies.

Introduced and edited by Azim Nanji, this publication makes an important contribution to the discussion on the evolution of the discipline of Islamic Studies as understood and practised in the West, and also points to alternative approaches and new directions for rethinking and mapping the study of Islam and the Muslim world.

The Muslim Almanac:
A Reference Work on the History, Faith,
Culture and Peoples of Islam

Edited by Azim Nanji

This book provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the historical formations of the worldwide Muslim community and the intellectual, spiritual and institutional pluralism that developed over fourteen centuries of history. It examines the evolution of Muslim societies within local and global contexts, revealing the diversity that has existed among Muslim cultures and traditions. It also explores the interaction of Muslims with other faiths and cultures of the world, as well as contemporary developments in the world of Islam.

The Muslim Almanac enables the reader to proceed from the foundations of Islam by tracing Muslim history through its various geographical contexts, and to understand the specific nature of Islam in each of its regional expressions. The study of each realm and region builds up to an interconnected setting for an overview of the intellectual and cultural achievements of Muslim societies. These include law, theology, philosophy, the sciences, art and architecture, literature, education and learning, spiritual and devotional traditions.

This publication represents the collective work of many individuals. With over 600 pages of text, numerous illustrations, glossary, extensive bibliography and other useful information, *The Muslim Almanac* is an indispensable reference work for scholars and students of Islam.



Published 1996
by Gale Research Inc.

ISBN: 0 8103 8924 X (Hb)



Building for Tomorrow

Edited by Azim Nanji

In this publication, a number of distinguished academics, architects and designers contribute their thoughts on the meaning and role of architecture in the contemporary Muslim world. They include Jamel Akbar, Nader Ardalan, Mohammed Arkoun, Muhammad al-Asad, Wayne Attoe, Omar Bwana, Turgut Cansever, Peter Davey, S. Gulzar Haider, Ismail Serageldin, Rafique Keshavjee, Hasan-Uddin Khan, Ronald Lewcock, Suha Özkan, Soedjatmoko, Dogan Tekeli and Don Mowatt. The contents also feature a speech given by His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan at the UIA/AIA World Congress of Architects in June 1993.

*Published 1994
by Academy Editions
in association with
Islamic Publications Ltd.*

*ISBN: 1 85490 393 4 (Pb)
(Out of print)*

The various essays in this volume explore the intellectual, social and practical aspects of Islamic architecture, and how the Aga Khan Award for Architecture has enabled a broad multidimensional definition to emerge. While each essay is different in focus and approach, they share a common concern to protect a tradition of cultural diversity and develop options for the next century, not just for the fifth of humanity that is Muslim, but also for the others among whom Muslims live and increasingly share the task of building for tomorrow.

Aga Khan III

Selected Speeches and Writings

of Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah

Edited by K.K. Aziz

Volume I 1902 - 1927

Volume II 1928 - 1955

Aga Khan III (1877-1957) was the 48th Imam of the Shi'a Ismaili Muslims. Through his intimate knowledge of Eastern as well as Western cultures, he was uniquely placed to play a significant role in the international affairs of this time.

The long public career of Aga Khan III had many dimensions. He was a social reformer whose concerns included the alleviation of rural poverty and the uplift of women in society. An advocate of modern education, he became an ardent supporter of male and female educational advancement in India and East Africa, and played a key role in the development of the Muslim University of Aligarh. He advocated a truly multicultural education blending the best and highest of Western and Eastern literary classics. He was a champion of amity between nations and peoples. In India he consistently supported the idea of Hindu-Muslim unity, reminding both that India was their common parent. On the international scene he strove consistently for world peace, and in 1937 was elected as president of the League of Nations.

Coming from diverse and often unobtainable sources, this monumental work covering the years from 1902 to 1955, represents the first ever systematic compilation of the speeches and writings of Aga Khan III in the first half of the 20th century. Among the topics covered are constitutional progress in India, education, rural development, Hindu-Muslim unity, Indians in Africa, the renaissance of Islamic culture, the importance of science and technology, the status of women, Islam in the modern age and Pan-Islamism. The editor, Professor K.K. Aziz, has added a long and valuable introduction covering the life and achievements of Aga Khan III.

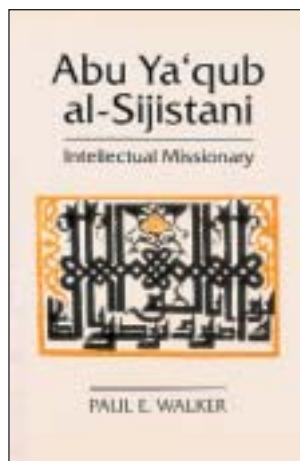


Published 1998

by Kegan Paul

International Ltd.

ISBN: 0 71030 427 7 (Hb)



***Abū Ya'qūb al-Sijistānī:
Intellectual Missionary***

By Paul. E. Walker

Ismaili Heritage Series, 1

Paul E. Walker looks at this seminal important Ismaili missionary from the tenth century (Islamic fourth century) from a fresh perspective. Al-Sijistānī and his thought are presented in this book much as he might have done himself if he had written for a more modern audience. Though long neglected by historians of Islamic philosophy, al-Sijistānī's recently recovered writings prove that he deserves careful consideration both as a philosopher and as an exponent of the intellectual understanding of Islam.

The old problem of the meaning of science and religion and their interactions as reflected in the thought of an Ismaili author from a remote period is now interpreted within a framework that provides broad coherence to disparate ideas and obscure doctrines which survive only piecemeal from medieval Arabic books and treatises. Here, al-Sijistānī's contributions appear all the more cogent and impressive, despite the distance of a thousand years that separate him from us.

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ISBN: 1 86064 294 2 (Pb)

Arabic translation, by M. Ayzuqi. Damascus: Al Aydi, 2000.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 1998.

The Fatimids and their Traditions of Learning

By Heinz Halm

Ismaili Heritage Series, 2

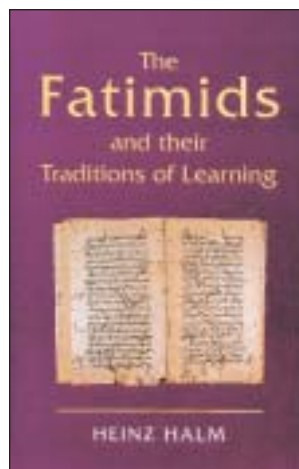
The Fatimid period was the golden age of Ismaili thought and literature, when the Shi'i Ismaili Imams ruled over vast areas of the Muslim world as the Fatimid caliphs and the Ismailis made important contributions to Islamic civilization.

In this book, Heinz Halm investigates from a historical perspective the intellectual traditions that developed among the Ismailis from the rise of the Fatimid state in North Africa to the cultural brilliance of what the author calls 'one of the great eras in Egyptian history and in Islamic history in general.'

The topics discussed include the training of the Ismaili *dāʿīs* or missionaries, the establishment of academic institutions such as al-Azhar and the Dar al-Ilm (House of Knowledge) through which the Fatimids encouraged learning, and the special 'sessions of wisdom' (*majālis al-ḥikma*) for instruction in Ismaili esoteric teachings.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. Damascus: Al-Mada, 1999.

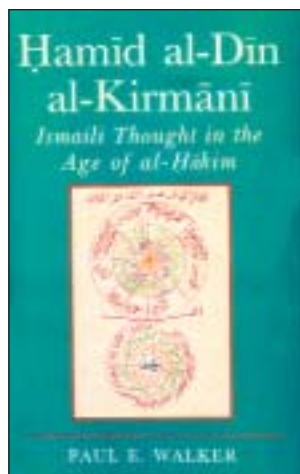
Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 1998.



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Ḥamīd al-Dīn al-Kirmānī: Ismaili Thought in the Age of al-Ḥākīm

By Paul E. Walker

Ismaili Heritage Series, 3

A major Ismaili Muslim scholar and *dāʿī* who flourished during the first half of the eleventh century AD, Ḥamīd al-Dīn al-Kirmānī possessed a profoundly creative mind, which allowed him to master the theological and philosophical discourse of his time and to integrate this learning in numerous influential treatises on Ismaili thought. His knowledge and scholarship were on a par with the best of his contemporaries, including the philosopher Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna), with whom he shared a common scientific outlook.

Al-Kirmānī's career and achievements are inextricably linked to the Fatimid Ismaili caliph-imam al-Ḥakīm bi-Amr Allah (386-411/996-1021), whose personality and politics remain enigmatic to this day. Al-Kirmānī was already a leading figure of the Ismaili *daʿwa* (religious organisation) in Iraq and Iran, and the author of several major works, when he was summoned to the Fatimid capital of Cairo in order to address serious dissension there on theoretical issues of doctrine, which threatened to undermine the *daʿwa* in the final years of al-Ḥākīm's reign.

Paul Walker, an authority on Fatimid history and thought, here provides the first systematic account in English of the life, works and accomplishments of al-Kirmānī. Particularly valuable is his penetrating analysis of the intellectual debates and arguments that arose in the Ismaili community and of their significance in the wider context of general Islamic thought, at a time when the Fatimid state was at the height of its glory and influence in the Muslim world.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. Damascus: Al-Mada, 2001.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2000.

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ISBN 1 85043 420 1 (Pb)

Nasir Khusraw, The Ruby of Badakhshan: A Portrait of the Persian Poet, Traveller and Philosopher

By Alice C. Hunsberger

Ismaili Heritage Series, 4

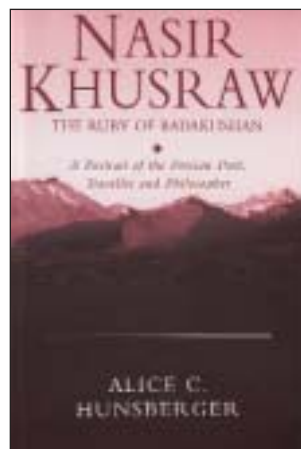
One of the foremost poets of the Persian language and a major Ismaili thinker and writer, Nasir Khusraw has attracted passionate attention, from admirers and critics alike, for nearly a thousand years and remains one of the most fascinating figures in Islamic history and literature.

Born in 1004 in the eastern Iranian province of Khurasan, Nasir Khusraw rose to prominence in the courts of the Ghaznavids and the Saljuqs. Amidst this overwhelming pomp and luxury, he began to question his surroundings and search for a truth that would transcend life's outward form. Following a spiritual crisis, he converted to Ismaili Shi'ism and set off on a journey to Mecca that was to last seven years. He spent three of those years in Cairo, then under the rule of the Fatimid Caliph-Imams, where he was appointed head of the Ismaili *da'wa* (mission) in Khurasan. Returning home, Nasir Khusraw encountered severe persecution from anti-Ismaili religious scholars, which compelled him to seek refuge in a remote part of the Pamir Mountains in Badakhshan, where he composed most of his prose works as well as poetry.

This is the first comprehensive study of Nasir Khusraw to appear in English. Structured around the progress of his journey, and drawing extensively on Nasir's own philosophical and poetic writings, it provides a highly readable and insightful account of this great scholar, *da'i* and traveller.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2001.

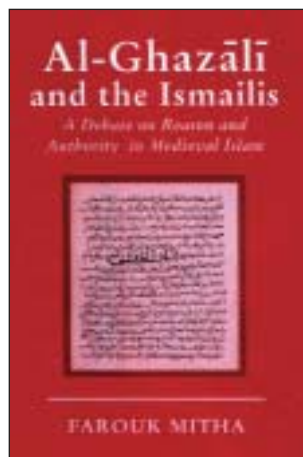
*Tajik translation in Cyrillic transcription, by N. Zurobek.
Dushanbe: Nodir, 2003.*



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Al-Ghazālī and the Ismailis: A Debate on Reason and Authority in Medieval Islam

By Farouk Mitha

Ismaili Heritage Series, 5

Arguably one of the most influential thinkers in the history of Islam and his writings have received greater scholarly attention in the West than those of any other Muslim scholar. This study explores an important dimension of his thought that has not yet been fully examined, namely, his polemical engagement with the Ismailis of the Fatimid and early Alamūt periods.

Al-Ghazālī wrote several texts in refutation of the Ismailis, of which the most detailed is the *Kitāb al-Mustazhiri*. The author examines the key themes and arguments in this text, and analyses the ways in which al-Ghazālī himself was influenced by the Ismailis.

Al-Ghazālī's debate with the Ismailis constitutes an important chapter in the history of Muslim thought. This book explores the wider intellectual and political significance of this encounter, especially the central tensions and questions of the age in which al-Ghazālī lived.

Persian translation, by F. Badvei. Tehran: Farzan, 2003.

Ecstasy and Enlightenment: The Ismaili Devotional Literature of South Asia

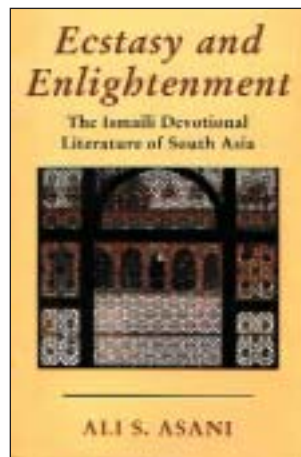
By Ali S. Asani

Ismaili Heritage Series, 6

Ecstasy and Enlightenment is a comprehensive examination of the devotional and mystical literature of the Nizari Ismailis in the Indian subcontinent. The book focuses on the *ginans*, a large corpus of hymns and poems composed in a variety of Indic languages and attributed to a series of preacher-saints who propagated Ismaili Islam in the subcontinent over several centuries.

Exploring the origins of this literature in the larger historical, cultural and religious contexts of the Sufi, Bhakti and Sant movements in medieval India, the author examines the history, themes, prosody, melodies and other characteristics of the *ginans*, the unique Khojki script in which they were recorded and the continuing vitality of this poetic tradition in the religious life of contemporary Nizari Ismaili communities of South Asian origin.

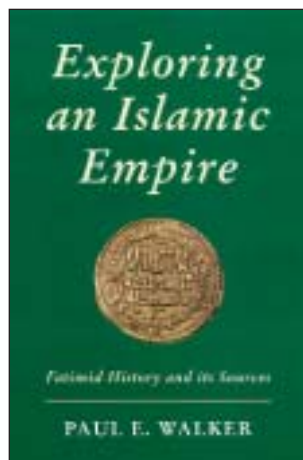
Professor Annemarie Schimmel, the eminent authority on Islamic mysticism and literary traditions, notes in her Foreword that 'Ali Asani's book is a treasure-trove for everyone who is interested in Ismaili history and thought. It offers important material not only to the members of the community but also to scholars from various branches – be they Islamicists, Indologists, sociologists or historians of religion.'



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ISBN 1 86064 828 2 (Pb)



Exploring an Islamic Empire: Fatimid History and its Sources

By Paul E. Walker

Ismaili Heritage Series, 7

A comprehensive survey of Fatimid history and its sources, this book combines an introduction to the subject as a whole with a broad overview of Fatimid history from the time Abū ‘Abdallah al-Shī‘ī began his mission in North Africa, leading to the foundation of the Fatimid state in 909, until the fall of the last caliph in 1171. Its major emphasis, however, is a systematic presentation of different categories of sources relevant to the study of Fatimid history.

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Exploring an Islamic Empire surveys Fatimid history, covering the three main phases of the dynasty. These are, first, the period from 909 to 973 when the Fatimids established themselves in North Africa and the Maghrib; second, from 973 to 1074, a century of empire; and finally, from 1074 to 1171, a century of military wazirs. Various kinds of sources that provide information for historical reconstruction and analysis are examined. They are, first, coins and other artefacts – *ḡirāz*, building dedications, art objects and archaeological finds – that supply direct evidence of historical events; second, documents and letters, both originals and copies; third, eyewitness and contemporary accounts; fourth, histories, topographies and biographical dictionaries; fifth, scientific and literary writings; and last, the work of the modern scholars who have contributed most to this subject. It also offers an extensive bibliography of both medieval sources and modern studies, of the whole range of what has been written to date about the Fatimids.

This comprehensive work is a valuable addition to the historiography of the Fatimids and the Muslim world and will prove essential reading to scholars of Islamic history.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2004.

Surviving the Mongols: Nizārī Quhistānī and the Continuity of Ismaili Tradition in Persia

By Nadia Eboo Jamal

Ismaili Heritage Series, 8

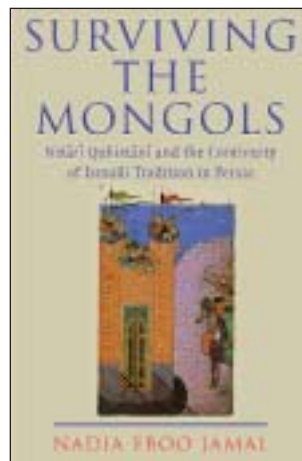
During the 7th/13th century, the Persian-speaking lands, extending from Central Asia to Iraq, were devastated by a series of Mongol invasions. The massive movement of these nomadic warriors from the inner steppes of Asia resulted in the massacre and displacement of many communities, including the Ismaili Muslims of the region. The fall of the chief Ismaili fortress of Alamūt in 654/1256, followed by the destruction of some 200 other strongholds, brought to an end the territorial independence of the Ismaili community in Persia.

Contrary to belief that the community was virtually eliminated, the Persian Ismailis survived the Mongol onslaught, together with the basic infrastructure of their religious organisation, the *da'wa*. After presenting an overview of the development of the Ismaili *da'wa* in the historical context, the author explores how this organisation was instrumental in enabling the Persian Ismailis to maintain their religious identity and the cohesion of their community in those difficult times.

Among the various authorities consulted by the author for this study, the most important is the poet Sa'd al-Dīn b. Shams al-Dīn, known as Nizārī Quhistānī. Through an analysis of his works, in particular the *Safar-nāma* which describes the poet's journey from Quhistān to Transcaucasia around 679/1280, the author is able for the first time to show the existence of the Ismaili *da'wa* and thus the continuity of the Ismaili tradition in Persia throughout the era of Mongol rule.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. London and Beirut: Saqi Books, 2004.

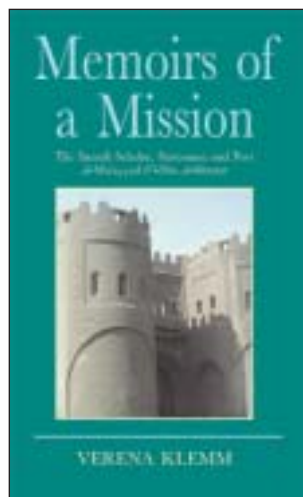
Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2004.



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Memoirs of a Mission: The Ismaili Scholar, Statesman and Poet al-Mu'ayyad fi'l-Din al-Shirazi

By Verena Klemm

Ismaili Heritage Series, 9

Al-Mu'ayyad fi'l-Din al-Shirazi was an outstanding Ismaili scholar of Persian origin. He excelled as a missionary-agent (*da'i*), statesman, poet, and philosophical theologian. Towards the end of his long and active life, al-Mu'ayyad became the head of the Ismaili mission (*da'wa*) - the chief *da'i* - of the Fatimid Caliph-Imam al-Mustansir in Cairo.

Based on his memoirs, the *Sirat al-Mu'ayyad fi'l-Din*, this work provides an insight into the remarkable life and achievements of al-Mu'ayyad through important stages of his career. Written in masterful Arabic literary style and rhetoric, the *Sira* describes in detail his daring attempt to win over the Buyids of western Iran to the Fatimid cause; his flight to Cairo where his ambitions to be near the Imam are initially frustrated by powerful court officials; and finally, his expedition to Syria and Iraq as a Fatimid plenipotentiary to build up an alliance of local rulers against the Saljuk Turks invading the Islamic lands from the east.

Through a close analysis of the *Sira*, the author of this book demonstrates that, in addition to being a personal account of a highly dedicated Fatimid *da'i*, this is a rich historical source on the organisation and function of the Ismaili mission. It is also an extensive and valuable source for Islamic history in the 5th/11th century, dealing with crucial events in the struggle between the Fatimids, Abbasids, Buyids and Saljuqs for political and military supremacy in the Muslim world. Thus, al-Mu'ayyad's memoirs serve as a unique lens or magnifying glass concentrating the international political dynamics of the age in the narrative of one life and destiny.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2004.

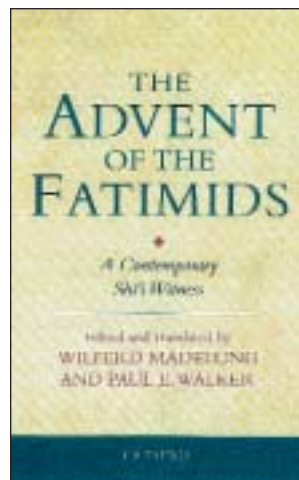
***The Advent of the Fatimids:
A Contemporary Shi'i Witness,
Ibn al-Haytham's Kitāb al-Munāẓarāt***

Edited and translated by
Wilferd Madelung and Paul E. Walker

Ismaili Texts and Translations Series, 1

This work is a personal memoir composed by a Shi'i scholar and Ismaili missionary from Qayrawan, Abū 'Abdallāh Ja'far b. al-Haytham, in which he records details of significant meetings and conversations he held with two Ismaili leaders who spearheaded the Fatimid revolution in North Africa in AD 909-910.

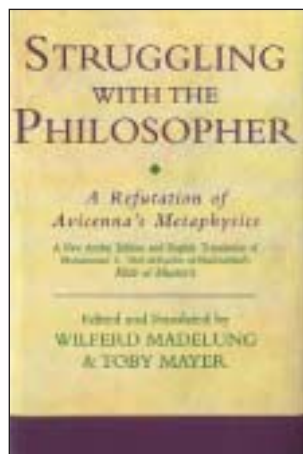
By reporting at first hand the thoughts and activities of the two *dā'īs* Abū 'Abdallāh al-Shi'i and his brother Abū'l-'Abbās over a period of ten months, the author of *Kitāb al-Munāẓarāt* (*The Book of Discussions*) provides us with an unparalleled insider's view of the Ismaili *da'wa* and *dā'īs* in action, and it adds enormously to our understanding of the foundations of the Fatimid state. As such, it is a unique document in the literature of early Islamic revolutionary movements, as much as it represents one of the most valuable sources for the history of the early Fatimids and medieval North Africa.



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Struggling with the Philosopher: A Refutation of Avicenna's Metaphysics

A New Arabic Edition and English
Translation of Muḥammad b. 'Abd al-Karīm
b. Aḥmad al-Shahrastānī's *Kitāb al-Muṣāra'a*

Edited and translated by Wilferd Madelung and
Toby Mayer

Ismaili Texts and Translations Series, 2

One of the most learned and enigmatic scholars of medieval Islam, Muḥammad b. 'Abd al-Karīm b. Aḥmad al-Shahrastānī (d. 548/1153) is best known for his comprehensive survey of religions, sects and schools of philosophy, the *Kitāb al-Milal wa'l-niḥal*, and as one of the leading exponents of Sunni theology in its Ash'arī tradition. A different and lesser-known aspect of al-Shahrastānī's religious thought is that some of his works reflect definite Shi'i and specifically Ismaili perspectives. One of these is the *Kitāb al-Muṣāra'a* (*Struggling with the Philosopher*), which is published here in its original Arabic with an English translation for the first time.

In this work, al-Shahrastānī gives a detailed critique of the metaphysics of the great Persian philosopher Avicenna (Ibn Sīnā). The greater part of his 'intellectual wrestling match' (*muṣāra'a*) is devoted to refuting Avicenna's interpretation of the 'Necessary Being' (*wājib al-wujūd*) which, he argues, compromises the absolute transcendence of God.

This work is an important document of Islamic intellectual history, illustrating the reaction against Avicennism among Muslim theologians in the 6th/12th century. As such, it is essential reading for students of Islamic thought in the medieval period.

The Master and the Disciple: An Early Islamic Spiritual Dialogue

Arabic Edition and English Translation of Ja'far
b. Maṣṣūr al-Yaman's *Kitāb al-ʿĀlim wa'l-ghulām*

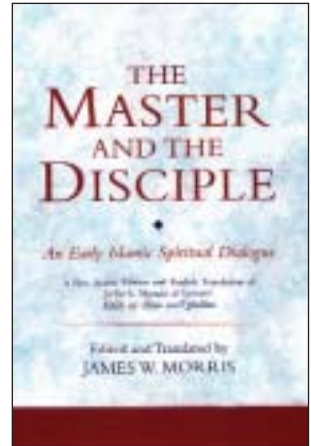
Edited and translated by James W. Morris

Ismaili Texts and Translations Series, 3

This volume includes a fully annotated translation and the critical edition of the Arabic text of the *Kitāb al-ʿĀlim wa'l-ghulām* (*The Book of the Master and the Disciple*), one of the earliest surviving Ismaili Shi'i writings, by the famous 4th/10th century author Ja'far b. Maṣṣūr al-Yaman.

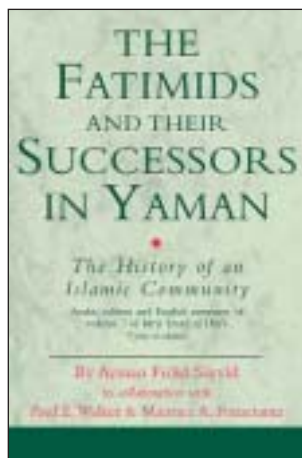
In addition to being a key source for pre-Fatimid Ismaili thought and history, this work is uniquely important as the most elaborate example of the narrated dialogue form in Arabic literature. The work also vividly illustrates the processes by which early esoteric Shi'i ideas and institutions eventually contributed to the evolution of more familiar forms of Sufism in the Muslim world.

Finally, Ja'far's reputation as a master of *ta'wīl* (esoteric interpretation) is reflected in the complex integration and existential elaboration of Qur'anic themes illustrated throughout this dialogue – a distinctive feature which makes this book of wider interest to students of Islamic studies and comparative religions.



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The Fatimids and their Successors in Yaman:

The History of an Islamic Community

Arabic Edition and English Summary of
Idrīs ‘Imād al-Dīn’s ‘*Uyūn al-akhbār*, vol. 7

By Ayman Fu’ād Sayyid, with Paul E. Walker
and Maurice A. Pomerantz

Ismaili Texts and Translations Series, 4

The ‘*Uyūn al-akhbār* is the most complete text written by an Ismaili author on the history of the Ismaili community from its origins up to the 12th century. The seventh volume, edited here for the first time, together with a summary English translation, deals in particular with the period of the three Fatimid caliphs, al-Mustanşir, al-Musta’lī and al-Āmir bi-Aḥkām Allāh, and then the Ṭayyibī Ismaili community in Yaman.

The author, Idrīs ‘Imād al-Dīn (d. 1468), who was himself a leader of the Ṭayyibīs, took a special interest in the commencement of the Ismaili movement in Yaman, in the schism that split the Ismailis into two rival communities following the death of al-Mustanşir in 1094, and the final rupture with Egypt after the murder of al-Āmir in 1130. He also devotes a substantial portion of this volume to the history of the later Ismailis in Yaman, and the pivotal role of al-Sayyida al-Ḥurra, the famous Ṣulayḥid queen, in establishing the Ṭayyibī Ismaili community of Yaman independent of the Fatimids in Egypt.

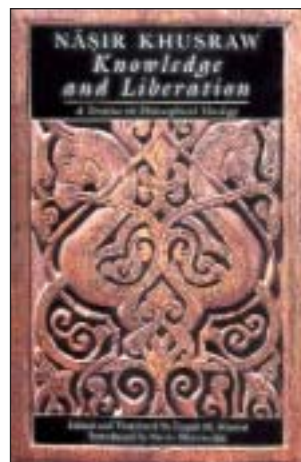
Knowledge and Liberation:
A Treatise on Philosophical Theology

A New Edition and English Translation of
Gushāyish wa Rahāyish by Nāṣir Khusraw

Edited and translated by Faquir M. Hunzai
with an introduction and commentary
by Parviz Morewedge

Nāṣir Khusraw was a leading Ismaili poet, *dā'ī* and theologian-philosopher of the eleventh century. His writings have had a major influence on the Ismaili communities of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan and other parts of Central Asia, notably the northern areas of Pakistan. The bulk of his surviving work was produced in exile in a mountainous region of Badakhshan, where he sought refuge from persecution in his native district of Balkh.

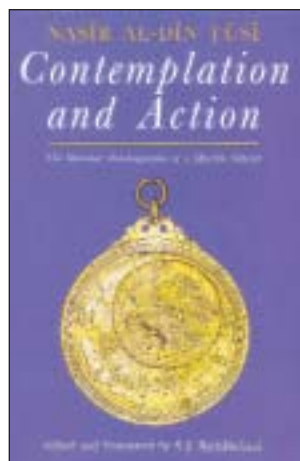
This is a new edition and English translation of Nāṣir Khusraw's *Gushayish wa Rahayish*. It is the first major treatise by him to be translated into English. Consisting of a series of thirty questions and answers, it addresses some of the central philosophical and theological issues of his time from an Ismaili perspective, ranging from the creation of the world and the nature of the soul to the questions of human free will and responsibility.



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Contemplation and Action: The Spiritual Autobiography of a Muslim Scholar

A New Edition and English Translation
of *Sayr wa Sulūk* by Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī

Edited and translated by S. Jalal Badakhchani

Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī (1201-1274), a renowned Shiʿi Muslim scholar, produced a wide range of writings in different fields of learning under Ismaili patronage and later under the Mongols. His work brought him great acclaim and, as a result of his changing affiliations in the course of a brilliant scholastic career, he is claimed by both the Twelver Shiʿi and Ismaili traditions.

Contemplation and Action is Ṭūsī's spiritual autobiography, in which he recounts details of his early education, search for knowledge and eventual conversion to the Ismaili faith. It is also a clear and vivid elaboration of the Ismaili doctrine of *taʿlim*, the need for an authoritative teacher in spiritual matters.

Translated for the first time into English, it is published here with the full Persian text and an introductory essay on Ṭūsī's life, his relations with the Ismailis and the significance of his work.

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Make a Shield from Wisdom:

Selected Verses from Nāṣir-i Khusraw's Divān

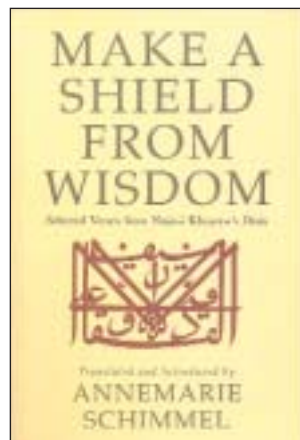
Translated and introduced by
Annemarie Schimmel

‘Originality, learning, sincerity, enthusiastic faith, fearlessness, contempt for time-servers and flatterers, and courage hardly to be found in any other Persian poet’ – these are the qualities of Nāṣir-i Khusraw according to the great British orientalist E.G. Browne.

Born in 1004, Nāṣir-i Khusraw was a major philosopher-poet in Ismaili history. The outward political and religious events of the first half of the eleventh century were the canvas on which Nāṣir-i Khusraw’s poetry and prose developed.

It is a poetry that teaches the importance of wisdom, of reason, of the right word and the right faith. Nāṣir-i Khusraw’s *Divān* grew out of his personal experience, and it is a vast edifice of religio-philosophical thought with its constant emphasis on the true faith and, as importantly, on reason and its role. Unique and important for our understanding of the times in which it was written, Nāṣir-i Khusraw’s ideas and expressions appeal strongly to readers of today.

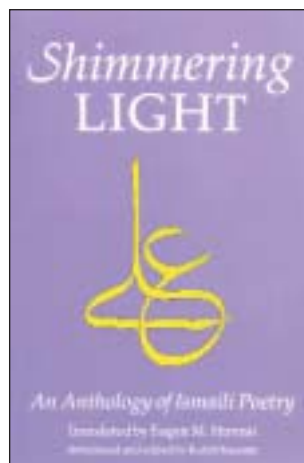
The work of this Persian author in both its philosophical and poetical aspects has been known in the West for more than a century, but until now a full evaluation of Nāṣir-i Khusraw’s poetry has not been attempted. This volume is intended as a first step toward a better understanding of the poet’s thought. In it, the noted Islamic scholar Annemarie Schimmel presents her translations of Nāṣir-i Khusraw’s *qaṣīdas* along with a detailed study of the poet and his work.



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***Shimmering Light:
An Anthology of Ismaili Poetry***

Translated by Faquir M. Hunzai
Introduced and edited by Kutub Kassam

Poetry, often of great beauty and subtlety, has always been central to the spiritual life of Islam, particularly among Sufis and other esoteric branches of the faith. Through the ages it has been composed in both learned and popular forms, in classical languages as well as local dialects, to express love and devotion for God, the Prophet Muhammad and his family, and related themes.

Although a large body of the great poetry of the Islamic world has been translated into English, the poetry of the Ismailis, except for a small portion, is still only accessible in the original. This anthology will enable lovers of devotional and mystical poetry to sample for the first time the range and depth of Ismaili poetry. The selection spans a thousand years of Ismaili history, from the times of the Fatimid caliphate to the present day. It includes both sophisticated and popular verses from the Ismaili poets of North Africa, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Pakistan, composed in Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

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ISBN: 1 86064 151 2 (Pb)

A Scent of Sandalwood: Indo-Ismaili Religious Lyrics (Ginans)

Selected and Translated, with an Introduction,
Introductory Essay and Notes

By Aziz Esma'il

The *ginans* are a body of religious lyrics or hymns reflecting the synthetic and ecumenical reach characteristic of allied genres, such as the poetry of the Sufi and Bhakti traditions in the medieval, Indo-Islamic environment. Testifying to the origin and evolution of the Ismaili community in India, the *ginans* continue to form this community's living, poetic tradition to this day.

In translating them into English, the present author has focussed principally on the poetic qualities. The result is a translation suggestive of the depth of religious thought, feeling and imagination out of which this poetry was born. Reflecting the simple, vernacular idiom of popular culture in the rural and semi-rural ethos of the Indian subcontinent, the poetry nonetheless has a mature, complex sensibility which is elucidated by the author through his translations and the detailed commentaries upon them.

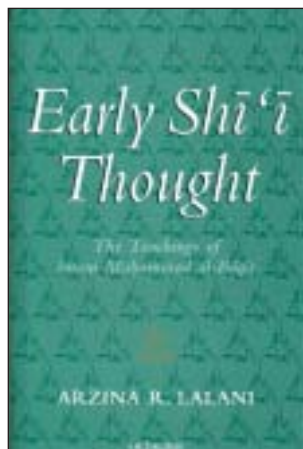
The poetry of the *ginans* illustrates a historically and culturally specific conception of the world, as well as a religious perception that forms a significant part of the religious experience of mankind. Issued under a title drawing on an image from the poetry, this volume will appeal both to specialists and more general readers, including Indologists, scholars of Islam in the subcontinent, students of comparative religion, comparative literature and those with an interest in mystical or devotional poetry.



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Early Shi'i Thought: The Teachings of Imam Muḥammad al-Bāqir

By Arzina R. Lalani

Imam Muḥammad al-Bāqir was one of the most erudite Muslims of his age and played a significant role in the history of early Islam. At once a versatile leader and scholar, he was also an authority on the exegesis of the Qur'an, the Traditions of the Prophet, and all matters relating to Islamic law and practices.

Using hitherto largely ignored Shi'i sources, both published and unpublished, the author explores Imam al-Bāqir's pivotal contributions to Islamic thought in its early formative period, contributions that were powerfully to affect developments in Shi'i law, theology and religious practice. This study gives particular attention to al-Bāqir's vital role in the formulation of the function and nature of the Imamate itself.

This work presents the first systematic account of the life, career and teachings of this brilliant 8th-century luminary. It will be of great interest to students of Islamic law, history and theology, as well as modern Shi'i communities of all persuasions.

Arabic translation, by S. Kassir. London: Saqi Books, 2004.

Persian translation, by F. Badrei. Tehran: Farzan, 2002.

Doctrines of Shi'i Islam: A Compendium of Imami Beliefs and Practices

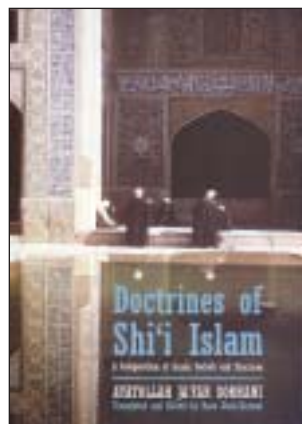
By Ayatollah Ja'far Sobhani

Translated and edited by Reza Shah-Kazemi

This book, by a highly respected Iranian theologian, offers a wide-ranging overview of the principal tenets of Shi'i Islam with particular reference to Twelver Shi'ism. It is useful not only as an introductory text on Shi'i thought and practice, but also as a contemporary expression, from within, of this vibrant branch of the Islamic faith. Comprehensive yet concise, it gives the reader a taste of the tradition as a whole.

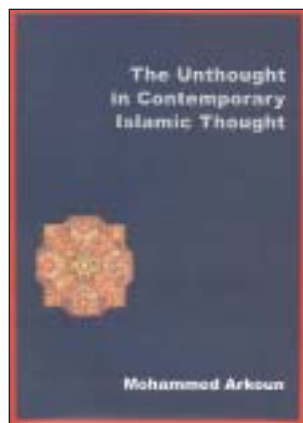
Throughout his presentation, the author upholds the validity of Shi'i perspectives by rational argument on the basis, principally, of the Qur'an and the Traditions of the Prophet. The range of themes covered, the precision of style and doctrinal analysis of Shi'i Islam render this work both informative and original. It focuses not only on the most essential elements, but also on those aspects of Shi'ism that have been particularly misunderstood. The explanations and clarifications offered here will be of particular value to those seeking better understanding between different communities of interpretation and schools of thought in Islam.

Published as a joint undertaking between The Institute of Ismaili Studies and the Imam Sadiq Institute, Qom, this book makes an important contribution to Shi'i studies. It provides a unique insight into the theological thinking which is broadly representative of religious seminaries in Iran today.



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The Unthought in Contemporary Islamic Thought

By Mohammed Arkoun

Mohammed Arkoun is one of the Muslim world's foremost thinkers. His efforts to liberate Islamic history from dogmatic constructs have led him to a radical review of traditional history.

Drawing on a combination of pertinent disciplines – history, sociology and anthropology – his approach subjects every system of belief and non-belief, every tradition of exegesis, theology and jurisprudence to a critique aimed at liberating reason from the grip of dogmatic postulates.

By treating Islam as a religion as well as a time-honoured tradition of thought, Arkoun's work aims at overcoming the limitations of descriptive, narrative and chronological modes in history by recommending that the entire development of Islamic thought – from Qur'anic to present-day fundamentalist discourses – be subjected to a critical analysis guided by these categories.

The expected outcome of such a strategy is an emancipated political reason, working hand in hand with a truly creative imagination for a radical re-construction of mind and society in the contemporary Muslim world.

Beauty and Islam: Aesthetics in Islamic Art and Architecture

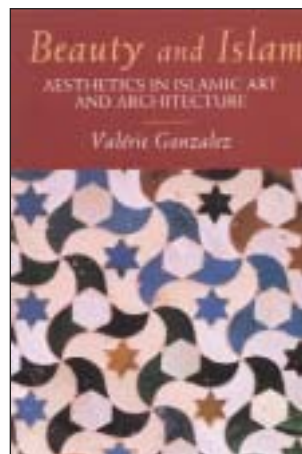
By Valérie Gonzalez

This illustrated volume explores aspects of aesthetics in classical Islamic thought set in the context of contemporary theories. Valérie Gonzalez offers new perspectives on Islamic art and architecture, with examples ranging from the Qur'an and the Alhambra to the works of present-day artists and philosophers.

Tracing the roots of Islamic aesthetics back to the works of great philosophers of the Middle Ages such as Ibn Sīnā (Avicenna), Ibn Rushd (Averroes) and Ibn al-Haytham, Gonzalez shows that aesthetic theory in Islam belongs within the wider context of medieval thinking on theology, ethics, physics and metaphysics.

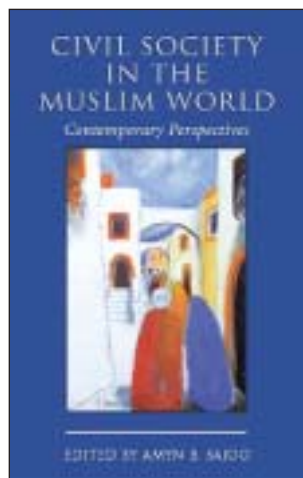
In Gonzalez's analysis, an investigation of the famous optical illusion in the Qur'anic story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba reveals an aesthetic metaphor. Her exploration of the geometrical decorative configurations of the Alhambra provides a new interpretation based upon current theories of phenomenology and semiotics.

This original and stimulating work brings fresh insights to its subject by considering traditional Islamic architecture, miniatures and ceramics alongside the works of modern artists such as Frank Stella, Mark Rothko and Edward Ruscha.



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Civil Society in the Muslim World: Contemporary Perspectives

Edited by Ameen B. Sajoo

Well before the events of September 11, 2001, and their continuing aftermath, the global discourse on civil society – in its varied imaginings and practices – had caught the attention of citizens and communities right across the Muslim world. From Indonesia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Iran to Turkey, Egypt and the Maghreb, the clamour for human rights, pluralism and gender equity were at the forefront of the wider quest for accountable governance and participatory politics.

A fresh urgency attends those pursuits today: patterns of political violence, and some of the responses to them, threaten to undermine the ethical legacy of Muslim civilizations and its role in the emergence of a civic culture tied to the rule of law and individual dignity. For some, recent trends merely confirm the sentiment that civil society is a Western, secular idea with no relevance to contexts where religion and tradition are deeply woven into the fabric of everyday life. Others argue that civil society has always resonated with key Islamic values, and can be renewed and enriched by the energies that feed the quest for modern, democratic citizenship in emergent and transitional nations.

This landmark survey of social and intellectual trends in diverse contexts includes contributions by Shirin Akiner, Mohammed Arkoun, Aziz Esmail, Tair Faradov, Abdou Filali-Ansary, Ersin Kalaycioglu, Iftikhar Malik, Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Olivier Roy and Ameen B. Sajoo.

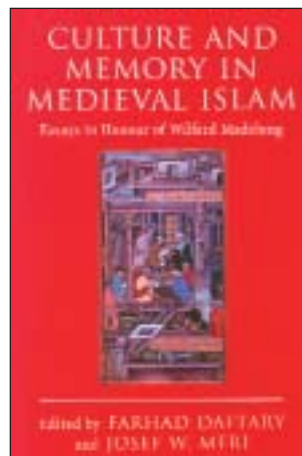
Culture and Memory in Medieval Islam: Essays in Honour of Wilferd Madelung

Edited by Farhad Daftary and Josef W. Meri

This collection of essays on the theme of culture and memory in medieval Islam is in honour of the eminent scholar of Islamic studies Wilferd Madelung, who was for twenty years Laudian Professor of Arabic at the University of Oxford. Contributions address broad-ranging themes relating to memory, memorisation, memorialising or commemorating in a variety of historical, legal, literary and architectural contexts, including lists and maps as memory aids; the transmission of knowledge and traditions from medieval to early-modern times; the application of medieval notions of law and statecraft; and the commemoration of individuals, civilisations and dynasties in historical and literary works, on coinage and in monumental forms.

Part One deals with the 'Transmission of Knowledge' in various contexts of Islamic learning from the university to cartography and the transmission of Sunni and Shi'i traditions. Part Two deals with 'Memorializing, Remembering and Forgetting' with contributions on various aspects of early and medieval Islamic history, belles-lettres and biographical literature. Part Three addresses 'Commemorating Rulers, Dynasties and Conquests' with contributions on the Fatimid dynasty, regnal titles on coinage, the legitimization of the past, and conceptions of authority in Iran.

This Festschrift includes contributions by Abbas Amanat, Said Amir Arjomand, Michael Bates, Joseph Normant Bell, Julia Bray, Elton L. Daniel, Farhad Daftary, Martin J. McDermott, George Makdisi, Josef W. Meri, Andrew J. Newman, Ismail K. Poonawala, Wadād al-Qāḍī, Emilie Savage-Smith, Sabine Schmidtke, Pieter Smoor, Luke Treadwell, Paul E. Walker and David J. Wasserstein.



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The Poetics of Religious Experience: The Islamic Context

By Aziz Esmail

Occasional Papers, 1

The Poetics of Religious Experience investigates creativity of a particular kind, namely explorations in the language of symbols and metaphors, which constitute the core ideas and vision of a religious tradition. In the context of religious experience, creativity resides in the symbolic process. The relationship between myth or symbol and conceptual or analytical thought is full of inner tension. It is this very tension which is a fount of creativity. Unfolding of thought from image is a never-ending process. It is a continual creation of meaning, where one form supersedes another in tandem with life's onward bound journey, personal as well as collective.

In examining the symbolic and imaginative features of the poetics of religious experience, the author draws attention to a number of critical issues – literary, philosophical, and historical – which lie behind various interpretations of Islam, and their relevance to the intellectual needs of the Muslim world today. Although these themes are addressed in the Islamic context, they are of seminal importance to the more general problem of knowledge and interpretation, and in the wider field of comparative religion, human psychology, and culture.

Persian translation, by D. Ashouri. Tehran: Farzan, 1999.

***Mysticism and the
Plurality of Meaning:
The Case of the Ismailis of Rural Iran***

By Rafique H. Keshavjee

Occasional Papers, 2

To what extent does the mystical path necessitate a withdrawal from the world? Is there a contradiction between the demands of contemplation and those of an active, responsible life? Does the mystical path have to be antagonistic to the intellect? Can Sufism play a role in the modernisation of Muslim society?

These are some of the issues examined in this essay, which uses the case study of a Shi'i Muslim community - the Ismailis of rural Khurasan in Iran - whose ideas and actions question, at the very least, the notion that Islamic mysticism is necessarily passive and other-worldly.



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Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of The Institute of Ismaili Studies

By Adam Gacek

Volume One

This volume contains descriptions of 167 titles (339 volumes) of Ismaili literature. It is thus the largest single collection of Ismaili literature in the West available to researchers.

The catalogue is arranged alphabetically by title, given in a transliterated form, with a number of indexes (some in the vernacular) in order to facilitate its use and allow for different approaches to it.

The entries include beginnings (*incipits*) of manuscripts in the Arabic script. This feature constitutes a valuable addition to the information contained in the Ismaili bibliographies of W. Ivanow and I.K. Poonawala.

Two other notable features of this catalogue are an introduction, which deals with the codicological and palaeographical aspects of the collection, and thirty-six half-tone illustrations of handwriting, taken from dated codices and reproduced next, or very close, to the relevant entries.

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Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of The Institute of Ismaili Studies

By Adam Gacek

Volume Two

This second volume of the *Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts* contains descriptions of over 255 manuscripts covering various subjects from Qur'anic sciences to alchemy. The great majority of these works were composed and transcribed by people of Shi'i persuasion.

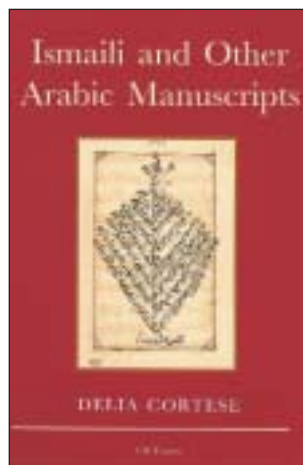
The same method and technique as in Volume I has been followed. The present volume is preceded by an introduction, which brings together the more important codicological and palaeographical characteristics of this collection. The volume has been richly illustrated. It contains over 90 half-tone illustrations, as well as five colour plates of specimens of calligraphy and illumination.



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Ismaili and Other Arabic Manuscripts: A Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Library of The Institute of Ismaili Studies

By Delia Cortese

This catalogue is a continuation of Adam Gacek's two-volume *Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Library of the Institute of Ismaili Studies* (London, 1984-85). The new catalogue includes 189 Arabic manuscripts which have been acquired since then by the Institute's Library.

The majority of the works belong to the theological, philosophical and historical traditions of Fatimid and post-Fatimid Yamani and Nizari Ismaili literatures, as well as important manuscripts by hitherto unknown authors from Syria.

Wherever possible, the descriptions of manuscripts are accompanied with biographical, literary and other relevant information. The catalogue is further illustrated with colour plates of selected manuscripts.

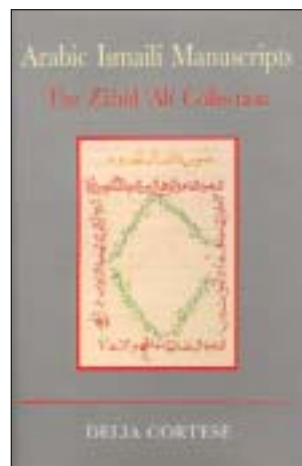
Arabic Ismaili Manuscripts: The Zāhid ‘Alī Collection in the Library of The Institute of Ismaili Studies

By Delia Cortese

Arabic Ismaili Manuscripts represents the fourth volume, published under the auspices of The Institute of Ismaili Studies, devoted to the cataloguing of some 750 volumes of Arabic Ismaili manuscripts housed in its Library. This new catalogue is entirely devoted to the corpus of manuscripts which formerly belonged to the eminent Ismaili scholar, the late Dr Zāhid ‘Alī (1888-1958). The collection was kindly donated to the Institute by the ‘Alī family in 1997. The book includes 179 title entries and an appendix featuring miscellaneous material. The majority of the works listed in the catalogue belong to the theological, philosophical and historical traditions of the Fatimid and post-Fatimid Yemeni as well as Indian Ismailis.

The catalogue is arranged alphabetically by title, with details of the content of each work and other relevant information of a literary, historical and doctrinal nature. There are references to catalogues listing the same works to be found in other collections and details of main editions, translations and studies. The book features *incipits* in Arabic for each entry and is supported by indices in both Arabic and Latin scripts.

Arabic Ismaili Manuscripts is illustrated with a number of colour plates and enriched by a comprehensive introduction that will enable the user to place the works listed in their wider literary and historical contexts.



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Department of Academic Research and Publications

Forthcoming Publications

Farhad Daftary

Ismailis in Medieval Muslim Societies
(Ismaili Heritage Series)

al-Qāḍī al-Nu'mān

*Founding the Fatimid State:
The Rise of an Early Islamic Empire*
English translation of al-Qāḍī al-
Nu'mān's *Iftitāḥ al-da'wa*
by Hamid Haji
(Ismaili Texts and Translations Series)

Reza Shah-Kazemi

*Justice and Remembrance:
The Spirituality of Imam 'Alī*

Leonard Lewisohn and Christopher Shackle, ed.

*Farīd al-Dīn 'Aṭṭar and the Persian Sufi
Tradition: The Art of Spiritual Flight*

Seyyed Hossein Nasr and

Mehdi Aminrazavi, ed.

An Anthology of Philosophy in Persia,
3 vols.

Aḥmad al-Naysābūrī

*Degrees of Excellence: A Fatimid Treatise on
Leadership in Islam*

Arabic edition and English translation
of al-Naysābūrī's *Ithbāt al-Imāma*

Edited and translated by Arzina R.
Lalani

(Ismaili Texts and Translations Series)

Abū Ya'qūb al-Sijistānī

*Creation and Resurrection: An Early
Muslim Perspective on Divine Unity and
Cosmology*

Persian edition and English translation
of al-Sijistānī's *Kashf al-mahjūb* by
Hermann Landolt

(Ismaili Texts and Translations Series)



Qur'anic Studies Unit

The Qur'anic Studies Unit was established in January 2001 with the aim of promoting scholarship that highlights the diversity, fluidity and historicity of the ways in which the Qur'an has been interpreted and appropriated over the centuries. Various genres of literature, including exegesis, are drawn upon for this purpose. Modern, systematic approaches to the Qur'an are also of interest to the IIS in so far as they illustrate the diverse ways in which Muslims have sought to respond to issues of modernity. This is being achieved through the publication of a wide array of scholarly materials ranging from an anthology of *tafsir* (Qur'anic commentary) literature to Muslim approaches to the Qur'an in contemporary contexts.

In addition to the continued research on the textual interpretations of the Qur'an, scholars in the Unit explore the Qur'an and its expression in the arts, of which the international colloquium, *Word of God; Art of Man – The Qur'an and its Creative Expressions* was the first event. Future studies will include an investigation of the use of the Qur'an in ritual and devotional contexts.

The Qur'anic Studies Unit is also committed to research the role of the Qur'an in influencing and shaping ethical values and establishing moral norms in Muslim societies in order to investigate and document the impact of the Qur'an on the way Muslims live.

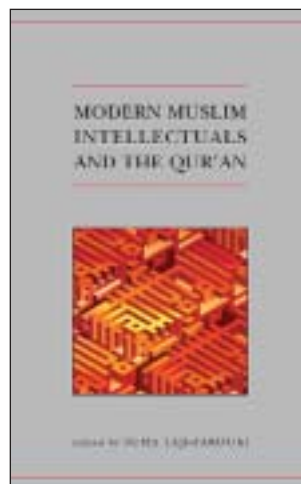
A number of projects on various aspects of Qur'anic studies are currently underway by a group of scholars from around the world. It is anticipated that these materials will benefit an international readership in the Muslim world and in the West. The scholarly materials, seminars and conferences presented by the Qur'anic Studies Unit strive to demonstrate that Muslims have drawn upon a spectrum of principles based on a plurality of meanings in understanding the Qur'an.

Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Qur'an

Edited by Suha Taji-Farouki

Qur'anic Studies Series

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