

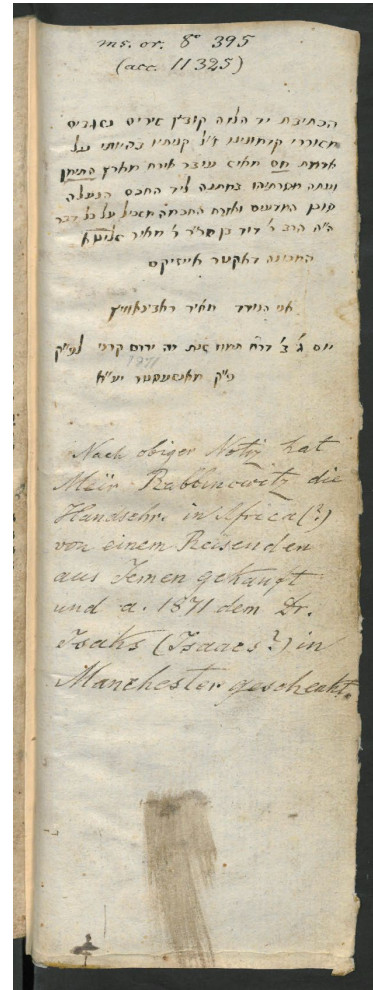
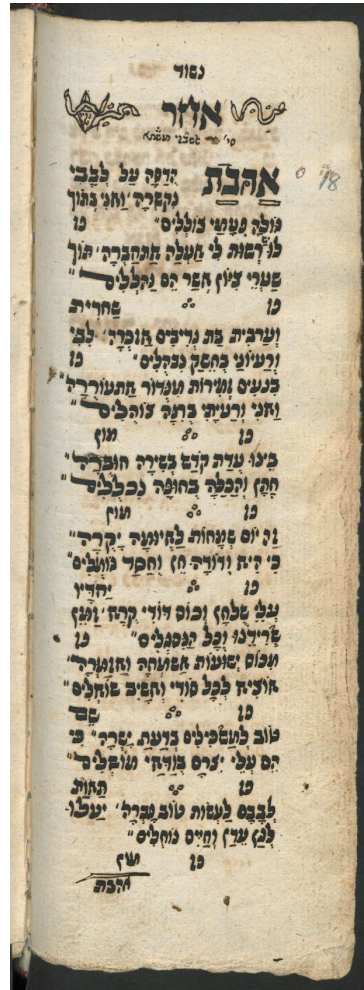
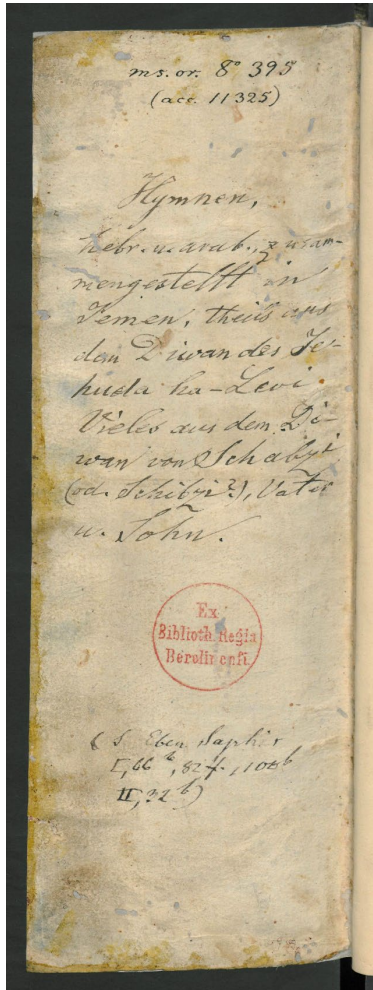


**Staatsbibliothek  
zu Berlin**  
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

# TRACING THE HISTORY OF ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS: ENDEAVORS IN THE FIELD OF PROVENANCE RESEARCH AT THE BERLIN STATE LIBRARY

Christoph Rauch

# Manuscripts as mobile objects



Anthology of Arabic and Hebrew Poetry,  
Yemen, 18th ct.

Meir Rabbिनowitz bought the manuscript  
in Africa from a Yemeni traveler before  
gifting it to a Dr. Isaacs in Manchester in  
1871

Acquisition for the Berlin Library in 1884  
from the Frankfurt based dealer Isaak  
Kauffmann

SBB-PK, Ms. or. oct. 395

# Collectors of Arabic manuscripts in the 19th ct.

Heinrich Friedrich von Diez (1751–1817)



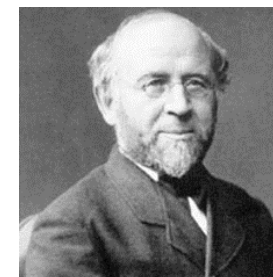
Carlo Landberg (1848–1924)



Aloys Sprenger (1813–1893)



Johann Gottfried Wetzstein (1815–1905)

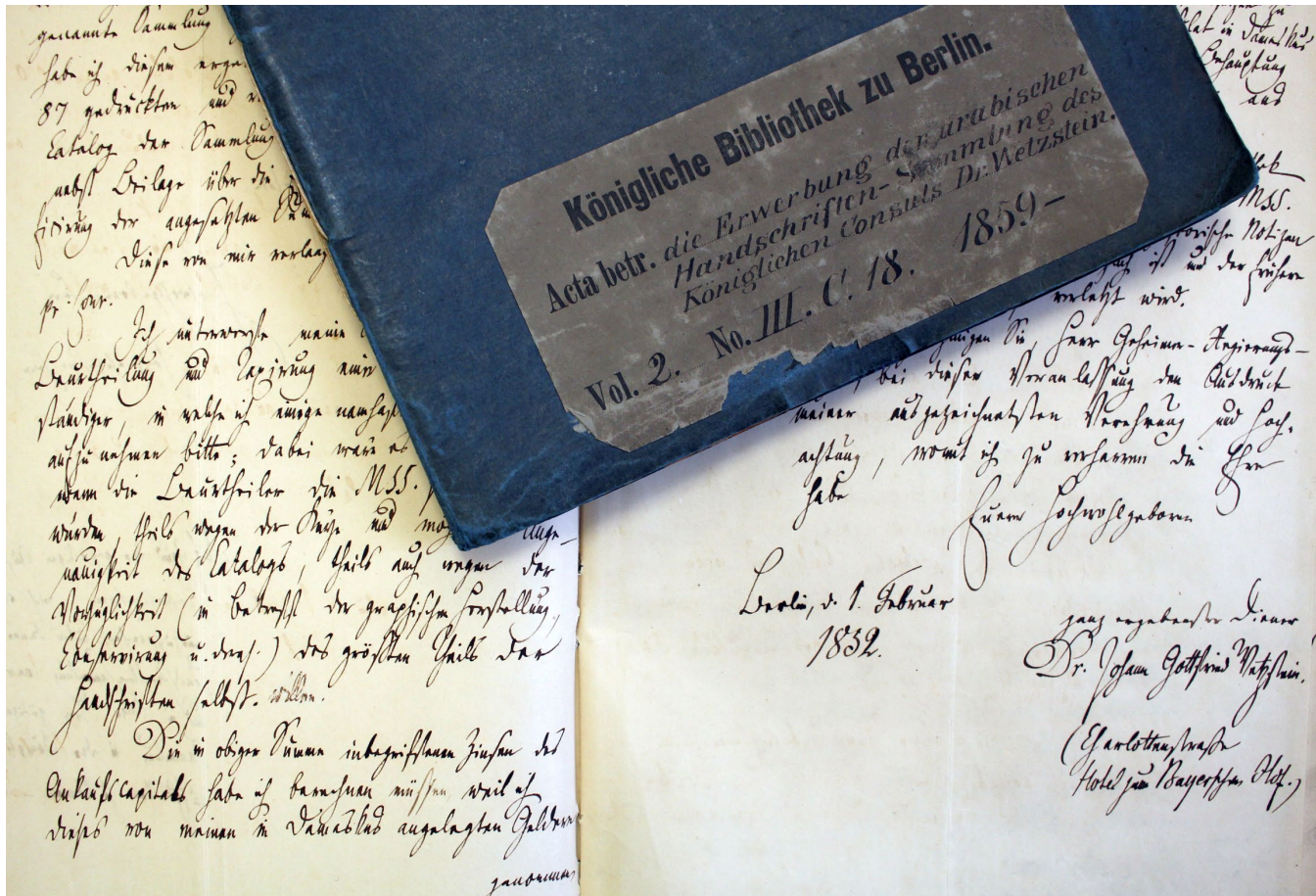


Julius Heinrich Petermann (1801–1876)



Eduard Glaser (1855–1908)





- Files are preserved for most of the major acquisitions in the Library Archive and the Prussian State Archive (GStA)
- Important source to understand negotiations, market situation and development of prices
- Contain expert reports by librarians and orientalists
- Correspondence between seller, library and ministry

# Johann Gottfried Wetzstein (1815–1905)



- Student of Heinrich Leberecht Fleischer in Leipzig
- Interest in Arabic language and Biblical history
- Prussian Consul in Damascus between 1849 and 1862
- Sold Arabic manuscripts to German libraries

Year	MSS.	Purchased by
1852	206	Royal Library Berlin
1853	466	Leipzig University (The „Rifa’iya Library“)
1862	1,962	Royal Library Berlin
1864	173	Tübingen University

Wetzstein in his report from 1851 about the MSS market in Damascus:

*“The learned Muhammadan sees with deep pain the only means of teaching himself and his children in the ancient humanities disappear under his hands.”*

Maḥmūd Ḥamza, Mufti of Damascus, according to Wetzstein:

*“What can men do against the power of money?”*

Wetzstein on Aḥmad „al-Jamal“ al-Miṣrī:

*“Aḥmad visited me regularly after dark. For each book he offered to me, he received one piaster. In this way, I secured the right of first refusal. To prevent the same book from being offered to me more than once, I put a black stamp on all the books I have seen.”*

# 1852: First report on the Qubbat al-Khazna-Fragments

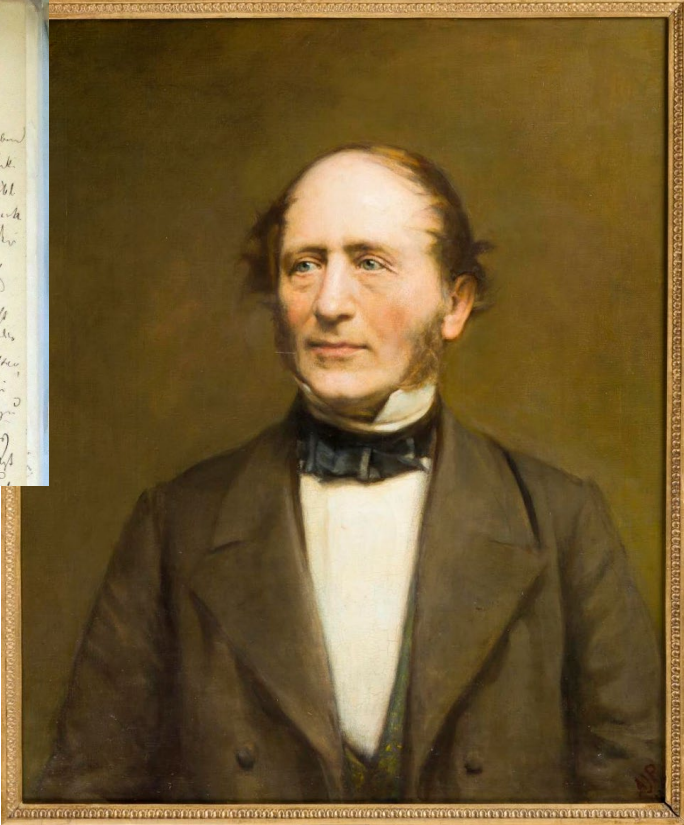
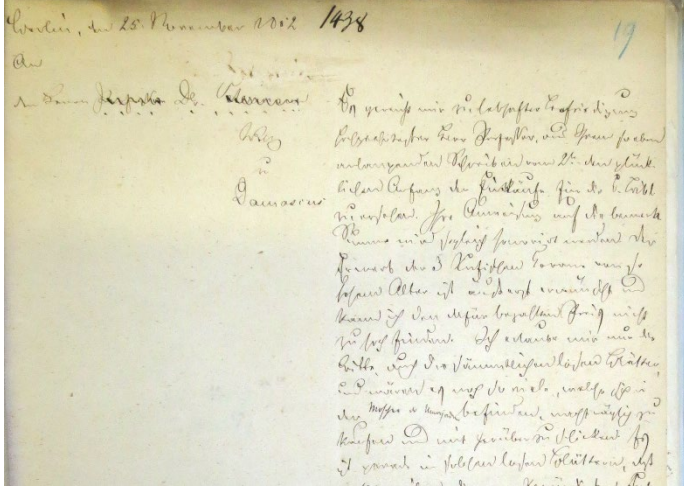


SBB-PK, Petermann I 36

# In close contact with the library's administration



er Inhalt



Heinrich Georg Pertz (1795-1876)

***"I ask you to buy all the loose sheets, however many there may be, which are in the Umayyad mosque, and to send them over with you. It is precisely in such loose leaves that the strangest discoveries can sometimes be made."***

Pertz to Wetzstein, 25 November 1852



- Anniversary of the Oriental Department in 2018
- Contributions on the collection history
- Contributions on librarians
- Gotthold Weil's acquisition journey to the Middle East
- Memories of a storage worker of the Oriental Department



Sabine Mangold-Will,  
Christoph Rauch und  
Siegfried Schmitt (Hrsg.)  
**Sammler – Bibliothekare –  
Forscher**

Zur Geschichte der Orienta-  
lischen Sammlungen an der  
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin  
2022. 484 Seiten.

Geb. 135.- €

ISBN 978-3-465-04577-9

**ZfBB Sonderband 124**

Auch als  erhältlich.

# Accession books

Year	Date	Accession Number	Description	Author	Price	Notes
1884	Apr. 19	11 265	Grammatik der hind. Sprache. Vorlesungen von C. Lassen. (Nachgeschrieben v. J. Olshausen)	Aus J. Olshausen's Nachl. (of acc. 11251/18)	1000	geb. Ms. or. 4° 705 (zend)
	Mai 10	11 266	Divān des Mir Shāgi aus Samangan	Bernhard Maimon (Rev. Prof.), St. John's Hall, London		Ms. or. fol. 1278 (pers.)
	Mai 22.		2 Hs. aus Julius Friedländer's Nachlass. vgl. Acc.-Cat. der Drucke No 260, 866 u. 260, 867			Ms. lat. Quart 879. Ms. ital. Quart 13
	24	11 267	Hāla's Saptasatākam, in lat. Umschrift. Copiert aus acc. 9877.78 v. T. Goldschmidt. 7 Hefte.	Geschenk d. Prof. P. Weber		Ms. or. 4° 706 (prakrit u. sansk.)
		11 268	Dasselbe Werk in der zweiten Telinga-Revision,	2 H.		707
		11 269				
	Juni 21	11 270				
	26	11 271				
	Juli 15	11 272				
	Aug. 4	11 273				
		11 274				
		11 275				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
961	Ms. or. fol. 910 c	1878	Georg Bühler	<a href="http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947">http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947</a>								Geschenk		S. 97; Teil 1 (1863-1886)	
962	Ms. or. fol. 926 a	1878	Aus Rangoon	/											
963	Ms. or. fol. 977 a	1878	Georg Bühler	<a href="http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947">http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947</a>								Geschenk	nur fol. 97	S. 97; Teil 1 (1863-1886) 02	
964	Ms. or. fol. 977 b	1878	Georg Bühler	<a href="http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947">http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947</a>								Geschenk		S. 97; Teil 1 (1863-1886)	
965	Ms. or. fol. 977 c	1878	Georg Bühler	<a href="http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947">http://d-nb.info/gnd/118667947</a>								Geschenk		S. 97; Teil 1 (1863-1886)	
966	Ms. or. fol. 1196	1879	Dr. Spitta	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								15 Pfund		S. 11; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	Von J. Hirsch Liss, 130 117.
967	Ms. or. fol. 1197	1879	Fischl Hirsch	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>	Halberstad	Halberstadt						100 Mark		S. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	
968	Ms. or. fol. 1198	1879	Fischl Hirsch	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>	Halberstad	Halberstadt						120 Mark		S. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	
969	Ms. or. fol. 1199	1879	Abraham Abdishov aus Urmia	Verkäufer								480 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		(sanskrit)
970	Ms. or. fol. 1200	1879	Abraham Abdishov aus Urmia	Verkäufer								480 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
971	Ms. or. fol. 1201	1879	Abraham Abdishov aus Urmia	Verkäufer								480 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
972	Ms. or. fol. 1202	1879	Albrecht Weber	<a href="http://d-nb.info/gnd/1040">http://d-nb.info/gnd/1040</a>	Berlin							Geschenk		S. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	
973	Ms. or. fol. 1203	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
974	Ms. or. fol. 1204	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
975	Ms. or. fol. 1205	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
976	Ms. or. fol. 1206	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
977	Ms. or. fol. 1207	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
978	Ms. or. fol. 1208	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
979	Ms. or. fol. 1209	1879	Moses Wilhelm Shapira	<a href="http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">http://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>								5500 Mark	Preis für MS. 13; Teil 2 (1863-1886)		
980	Ms. or. fol. 1210	1880	Evangelisches Ministeri	<a href="https://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">https://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>	der Königli	Erfurt	Erfu					5000 Mark	Vgl. [Paul]	S. 21; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	
981	Ms. or. fol. 1211	1880	Evangelisches Ministeri	<a href="https://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">https://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>	der Königli	Erfurt	Erfu					5000 Mark	Vgl. [Paul]	S. 21; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	
982	Ms. or. fol. 1212	1880	Evangelisches Ministeri	<a href="https://d-nb.info/Verkäufer">https://d-nb.info/Verkäufer</a>	der Königli	Erfurt	Erfu					5000 Mark	Vgl. [Paul]	S. 21; Teil 2 (1863-1886)	

- Data on the acquisition of about 10.000 mss. with the shelfmarks „Ms. or.“
- Period 1828 – 1945
- 100-s of orientalists and booksellers

# Oskar Rescher (1883–1972)



- Lived in Istanbul continuously from 1925 on
- Worked as Cataloger and assistant in bookshops
- Conveyed the sale of 1000-s of MSS to European and American libraries
- Berlin: 1176 MSS

6369	Ms. or. oct. 2515	1927	118	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6370	Ms. or. oct. 2516	1927	119	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6371	Ms. or. oct. 2517	1927	120	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6372	Ms. or. oct. 3067	1927	121	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6373	Ms. or. oct. 2518	1927	122	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6374	Ms. or. oct. 2519	1927	123	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6375	Ms. or. oct. 2520	1927	124	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6376	Ms. or. oct. 2521	1927	125	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6377	Ms. or. oct. 2522	1927	126	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6378	Ms. or. oct. 2523	1927	127	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6379	Ms. or. oct. 2524	1927	128	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6380	Ms. or. oct. 2525	1927	129	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6381	Ms. or. oct. 3068	1927	131	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6382	Ms. or. oct. 2526	1927	133	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6383	Ms. or. oct. 2527	1927	134	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6384	Ms. or. oct. 2528	1927	135	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6385	Ms. or. oct. 2529	1927	137	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6386	Ms. or. oct. 2530	1927	138	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6387	Ms. or. oct. 3069	1927	139	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6388	Ms. or. oct. 3070	1927	140	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6389	Ms. or. oct. 2531	1927	141	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>
6390	Ms. or. oct. 2532	1927	142	Rescher	<a href="https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul">https://d-nb.info/gnd/Istanbul</a>



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## [DE-UBHeid] Cod. Heid. Orient. 192

[Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg](#)

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Heidelberger  
historische  
Bestände - digital

**Classmark** Cod. Heid. Orient. 192  
**Title** Şerḥ-i Vaşiyetnâmeḥ  
**Author** 'Alī eṣ-Şadrī el-Qonevī  
**Collection** [Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg](#)  
**Catalogue** Berenbach I, A|T 192

### ▶ Geschichte des Objekts

**Acquisition** Date : 28.07.1927  
Place : Istanbul  
Notes : Geschenk

**Donor**  
↳ Name **Rescher, Oskar**  
↳ Alternative names Rescher, O.  
Reşer, Osman  
Rescher, Oscar  
Riṣār, U.  
Reşer, O.  
Osman Reşer

↳ Data of life \* 01.10.1883 in Stuttgart  
† 26.03.1972

**Scribe**  
↳ form given in 'Abd Allāh al-Naẓīf

ريشتر, أو

- Rescher sold and donated mss. also to Heidelberg, Leipzig, Tübingen, Halle
- The data is added by the project team of the DFG-project „Orient-Digital“
- The Portal with descriptions of Islamic MSS from more than 20 collections makes relations visible

# Manuscript Notes in Qalamos / Seals

## [DE-SBB] Ms. or. fol. 162

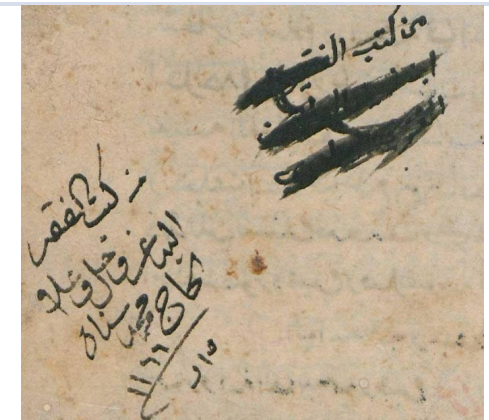
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

**Classmark** Ms. or. fol. 162  
**Title** Taḥkirat ūlī 'l-albāb wa-'l-ġāmi' li-'l-'aġāb al-'uġāb  
**Author** Anṭākī, Dā'ūd ibn 'Umar al-  
**Collection** Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin  
**Catalogue** Ahlwardt 6310

### ► Geschichte des Objekts

**Previous Owner**  
 4 Name **Qaramānī, Muḥammad ibn Sinān**  
 4 Alternative names Muḥammad efendī Ibn-Sinān Ibn-Aḥmad Ibn-Sinān Ibn-'Uṭmān Ibn-Aḥmad al-Qaramānī ad-Dimašqī al-Ḥanafī  
 Muḥammad efendī b. Sinān b. Aḥmad b. Sinān b. 'Uṭmān b. Aḥmad al-Qaramānī al-Dimashqī al-Ḥanafī  
 4 Data of life \* 1139/1727  
 † 1210/1796  
**Link to secondary entry** [DE-SBB] Ms. or. fol. 162 / 1r / 01  
 [DE-SBB] Ms. or. fol. 162 / 1r / 02  
 [DE-SBB] Ms. or. fol. 162 / av / 01

Qaramānī, Ibrahīm al-		Author (1)	1
Qaramānī, Muḥammad ibn Sinān	*1139/1727 †1210/1796	Owner (8) Previous Owner (6) Reader (1)	15
Previous Owner	[DE-SBB] Ms. or. fol. 162: Tadhkirat ūlī al-albāb wa-al-jāmi' li-al-'aġāb al-'ujāb		
Previous Owner	[DE-SBB] Landberg 461: Ta'liq Muḥtaṣar 'alā 'l-Arba'īn ḥadīṭan		
Previous Owner	[DE-SBB] Sprenger 518		
Previous Owner	[DE-SBB] Wetzstein II 1350: Faḥḥ al-bārī bi-sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī		
Previous Owner	[DE-SBB] Wetzstein II 1413		
Previous Owner	[DE-SBB] Wetzstein II 1845		
Owner	Vollers 415 / 1r / 1		
Owner	Vollers 508 / 1r / 1		
Owner	Vollers 253 / 1r / 1		
Owner	Vollers 309 / 1r / 1		
Owner	Ms. or. fol. 162 / 1r / 01		
Owner	Sprenger 518 / 1r / 01		
Owner	Sprenger 764 / 1r / 01		
Owner	Landberg 461 / 1r / 1		
Reader	Ms. orient. A 26 / 230v / 1		



- Qalamos makes about 5.000 notes of owners, buyers, readers [...] in Islamic mss. searchable
- Will be extended in the future in cooperation with Bibliotheca Arabica Project
- Standardized data in the index of personal names



# ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS IN GERMANY

Collection History Between the  
Academic Thirst for Knowledge,  
Antique Trade Across the Globe,  
and Imperial Claims to Power

- International Conference
- 29th June – 1st July 2022
- Join us in Berlin or online



Thank you!



### Alte Kataloge in neuem Gewand

MENÜ



### Äthiopische Handschriften in Thüringen



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### Drei Jahrhunderte islamischer Handschriften in München (1558-1858): Widmanstetter, Quatremère und Aumer



Von: Helga Rebhan

Wenngleich das Gros der 4.450 islamischen Handschriften der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek (vormals Hofbibliothek) erst in den letzten 50 Jahren gesammelt

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