



Collection of İbnülemin Mahmud Kemal at Istanbul University


Cihan Kalin
IU Central Library
Cahiro 2026, Melcom&Mela

İbnülemin Collection at Istanbul University Central Library (After 1953)





His Life

- ▶ İbnülemin Mahmut Kemal İnal was born on November 17, 1871, in Beyazıt, Istanbul. His father was Mühürdar Mehmed Emin Pasha, and his mother was Hamide Nergis Hanım.
 - ▶ He spent his childhood in the magnificent mansion of Grand Vizier Yusuf Kâmil Pasha, one of the leading figures of the era. This established family environment laid the foundations for his cultural background.
 - ▶ He received his education from madrasas and private tutors. A noteworthy detail: he took lessons from İpekli Mehmet Tahir Efendi, the father of Mehmet Akif Ersoy, a connection that enriched his intellectual world.
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His Career

- ▶ **Beginning of Civil Service**

He began his civil service career in 1889 at the Grand Vizier's Office of Correspondence. His entry into government service at a young age was a sign of a promising career.

- ▶ **Yıldız Palace Period**

During the reign of Abdülhamit II, he served in the prestigious Yıldız Palace archives. Working with historical documents strengthened his expertise.

- ▶ **Archive Modernization**

In 1924, he spearheaded and presided over the classification of the Ottoman archives and their transfer to the Prime Ministry. This was a turning point for modern archival science.

- ▶ **Lasting Legacy**

He compiled 29 volumes of catalogs named after himself in the Ottoman Archives. These catalogs remain indispensable resources for researchers today.

Literary History and Authorship

Biographical Works

Comprehensive biographical works on Ottoman poets, calligraphers, and grand viziers. These works are important sources that shed light on the period.

Cultural Center

He served the world of science and art by organizing meetings at his mansion. His home was a meeting point for the intellectuals of the time.

Literary Production

He produced original works in the fields of poetry, novels, and short stories. He presented a multifaceted intellectual profile as both a historian and a writer.



Key Responsibilities and Titles

1

1916: Şura-yı Devlet Azalığı

Member of the Council of State He was appointed to the state's high advisory council and expressed his views on legal and administrative matters.

2

1921: Takvim -i Vekâyi M ü d ü r l ü ğ ü

He took over the directorship of the official gazette and played an important role in state publishing.

3

1922: Divan-ı H ü m ayun

He served in one of the most prestigious positions in the Ottoman Empire, managing protocol and correspondence.

4

1927-1935: Head of Museum

He was appointed director of the Museum of Islamic Art and developed the museum over the course of eight years.



Museum Studies and Cultural Contributions



Museum of Evkaf-ı Islâmiye

In 1913, he established the “Evkaf-ı Islâmiye Museum” in the Süleymaniye Mosque complex. This museum formed the basis of today's Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts.



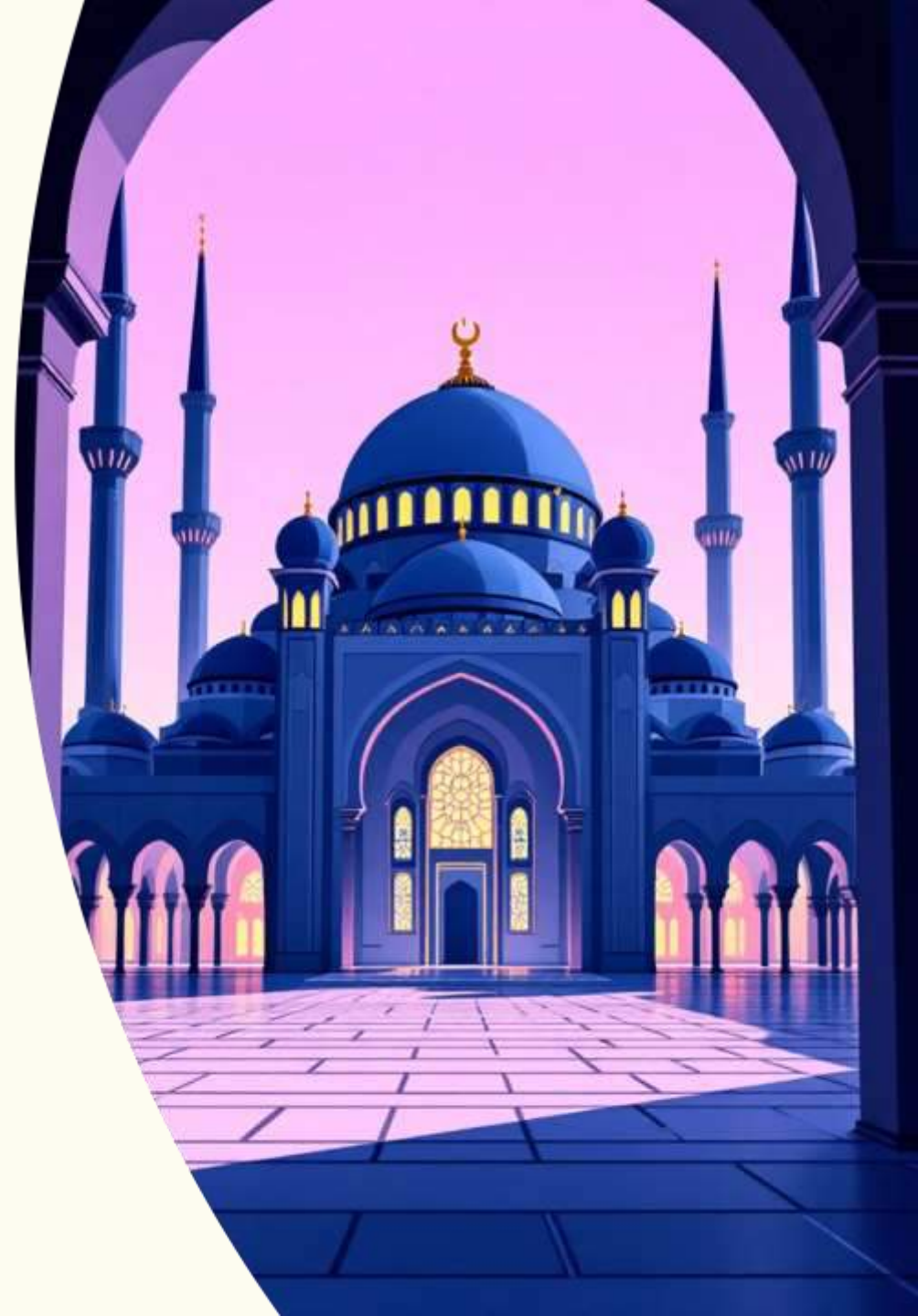
Cahiro Project

He served as a consultant in establishing a similar museum in Cairo. He brought his approach to museum studies to international platforms.



School of Calligraphy

He pioneered the establishment of a school called “Medresetü'l Hattatin” to keep the art of calligraphy alive. He ensured the intergenerational transmission of traditional arts.



His Works at Cahiro (1939-1940)

Ibnülemin traveled to Cairo on December 29, 1939, at the special invitation of Prince Mehmed Ali Tevfik, Crown Prince of Egypt. His main duties during this trip were as follows:

- ▶ **Museum Establishment and Organization:** He undertook the task of establishing and organizing an institution in Cairo similar to the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts in Istanbul (formerly known as the Evkaf-ı Islâmiye Museum).
- ▶ **Selection of Calligraphy Works:** He acted as a consultant on the selection and classification of calligraphy works to be exhibited in the museum. He carried out this work together with the famous calligrapher Reîsülhattâtîn Kâmil Akdik and returned to Istanbul on February 19, 1940.
- ▶ **Other Connections to Cairo :**
 - **Hajj Pilgrimage (1936):** İbnülemin went on the hajj in 1936, accompanied by Princess Hatice Abbas Halim, and continued this journey from Cairo.
 - **Biographical Sources:** Cairo was an important reference point for the biographical data in his works, as it was a center where many Ottoman statesmen and writers (such as Yusuf Kâmil Pasha and his family) he worked on had served or resided in the past.
 - Through his professional work in Cairo, İbnülemin brought his expertise in the preservation and exhibition of Turkish and Islamic artworks to an international level.

İbnülemin Library (1993)



Types of works found in the Ibn al-Amin Library

Works at Museum



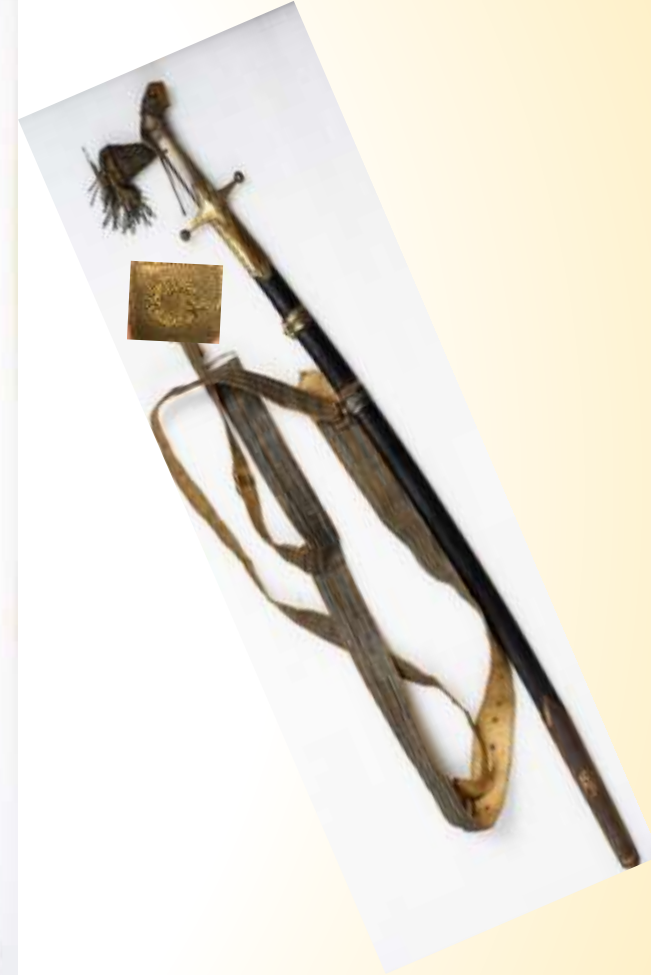
- Calligraphy
- Private items
- Objects
- Furnitures

Works at Library



- Print Books
- Serials
- Manuscripts
- Calligraphy and Plate
- Photographs & cardpostals
- Pictures & Charts
- Documents & Letters

Materials from Museum













لَدَيْهِ تَحْتِ قُبَابِ الْعِزِّ طَائِفَةٌ
أَخْفَاهُمْ لِيَأْسُرَ الْفُقَرَاءَ جَلَالًا

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ
أَنْفَكَ الشَّوَارِبَ وَأَعْنُو الْجَوِي

وَالَّذِي لَا يَذُكُرُ بِمِثْلِهِ
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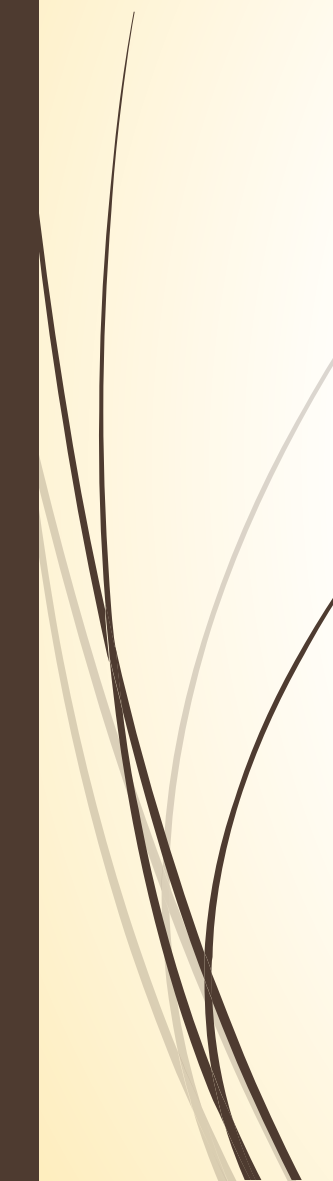
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مَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدًا وَآلِهِ

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بیزه کی خانواده نام اکرم به یا قه قهده برادرک
که دنیه باغچهنده یاغچده - ۱۸
یاغچده



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- ❖ 1167 volumes of Ottoman Turkish manuscripts. A detailed catalog of the 169 Arabic manuscripts is currently being prepared by a team of experts, and all 1336 volumes have been digitized.
 - ❖ Printed works, accessible to researchers visiting the library's reading room, have been cataloged and digitized through a project initiated in 2022. This makes approximately 2500 printed works belonging to İbnülemin available for research.
 - ❖ The digitization of the unique collection of calligraphy and plaques, available for examination through visual copies in the reading room, has been completed. The catalog, prepared by experts in the field, will be made available to interested parties soon.
 - ❖ The classification and numbering of 1420 photographs and images in the collection have been completed, and cataloging is ongoing.
 - ❖ The classification of 20,000 documents, mostly letters, will be carried out as a TÜBİTAK project.



**“The world knows the value
of pearls and jewels,
But only humans know the
value of humans.”**

**“It is ignorance that governs
a person's knowledge;
The learned understand their
ignorance when they
become wise.”**



Thank You!

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