



Faculty of Humanities



Islam in the Horn of Africa. A comparative literary approach

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Dias 1



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Administrative data

Financing by the European Research Council

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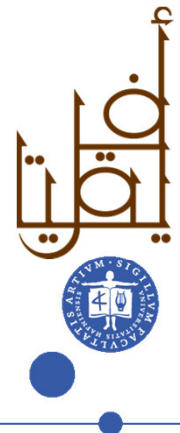
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Now based at the Institute of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies/University of Copenhagen

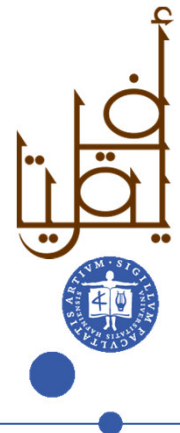


Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Staff

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Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Actions



Location of manuscripts, printed books, manuscript and book collections

Public institutions and private ownership (especially educational institutions, sufi centres and shrines; e.g. in Somaliland places like Berbera Zaylac, Borama, Shiikh, Guriga Dariiqada, Mayt)

Digitization of the items

Content analysis

Collection of data about authors and works

Collection of data about the history of the items



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Project fields

Arabic Literature in a wider sense:

Both classical (pre-modern) and modern

“Texts that are intended to do more than instruct and inform”
(Geert Jan van Gelder)

But especially:

Arabic grammar and rhetoric

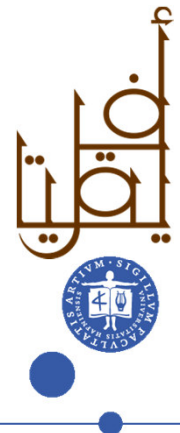
Scientifical literature

Historical and geographical literatue

Theology

Law

Mysticism (devotional literature; invocations; supplications)



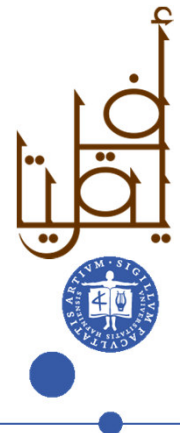
Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Project scope

Islamic Studies

- The project focuses on the Islamic intellectual tradition in the Horn of Africa

African Studies

- The Project focuses on Islam in Africa (or African Islam) and its dialectic connexion with “main stream” Arab Islam



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base



Manuscript and printed texts

- Oldest so far found dated Islamic manuscript in the region
- 22 *ġumāda al-āḥira* 989 A.H./14 July 1581 A.D.
- IES 1852, colophon
- *Ḥuṭab al-ġum'a*
- Faḥr al-Dīn Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad b. Abī al-Qāsim b. Muḥammad b. Taymiyya (d. 1225)



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base

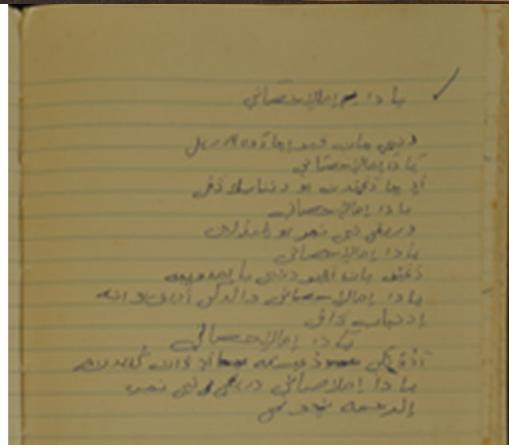


Texts written by local authors in Arabic and in local languages (Old Harari, Amharic, Oromo, Somali) in Arabic script

e.g. 52v HAR 02 du'a' in Somali in latin script with instructions on how to read it

HAR 35 (ms) 29 folios mostly loose sheets or bifolios 2r-28v
Kitāb Faṭḥ al-Laṭīf šarḥ ḥadīqat al-taṣrīf by 'Abd al-Raḥmān b. Aḥmad al-Zayla'ī (1820-1882)

Ownership (f. 2r): Mālik ḥādā al-kitāb limā siwā Allāh al-ḥāḡḡ Ḥasan b. ḥāḡḡ 'Abdī Colophon (f. 28v): Wednesday 1 rabī' al-awwal 1329 (02/03/1911)



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base



Texts of not local authors copied in the region

e.g.

HAR 37 (ms) 26

23 folios (non bound; loose sheets and bifolios)

ff. 2r-19v Lamiyyat al-aḫāl fī šarḥ

šayḥ Badr al-Dīn wa-ayḍan

yusammā Durrat al-la'lā

colophon f. 2r Monday šawwāl

1326 (Oct. Nov. 1908) Copyist

Ādam b. aw Aḥmad b. aw Guled

min 'iyāl 'Abdallāh Ishāq written

for šayḥ ḥāḡḡ Ḥasan b. šayḥ hagg

'Abd b. šayḥ Ibrāhīm. Ownership

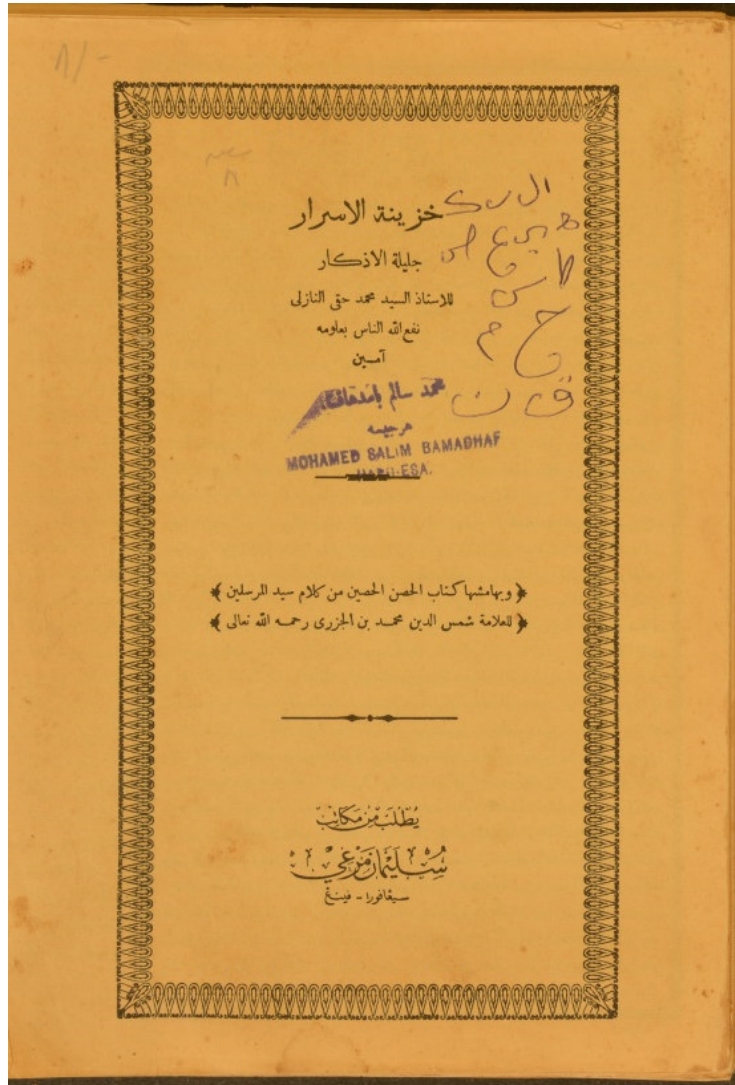
(f. 2r): Mālikuh Ḥasan b. al-ḥāḡḡ

'Abd al-Raḥman

أقبلنا

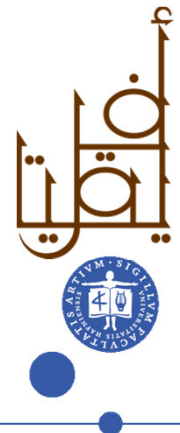


Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base

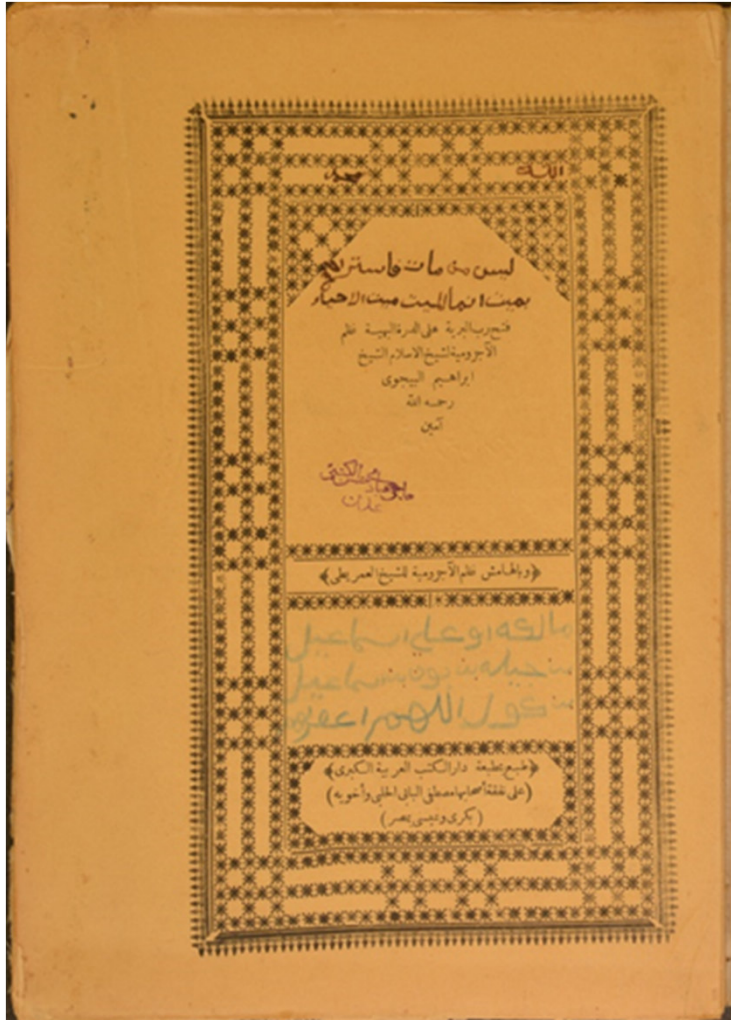


Texts copied or printed abroad

- E.g. Egypt (or Yemen) and taken to the Horn
- Books printed in Cairo or elsewhere and sold in the Horn (often via Yemen and Djibouti)
- E.g. HAR 20 (27)
- Ḥazīnat al-asrār wa-ḡalīlat al-aḍkār author Muḥammad Ḥaqqī al-Nāzilī on the margin: al-Ḥiṣn al-ḥaṣīn min kalām sayyid al-mursalīn by Šams al-Dīn Muḥammad al-Ġazarī
- Singapur: Sulayman Mara'ī n.d. Stamp of the bookshop: Muḥammad Sālim Bā Midhāf Hargeysa



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base



HAR 27 (34)

- Unbound book
- Faṭḥ rabb al-bariyya 'alā al-durra al-bāhiyya naẓm al-ağurrūmiyya
- Author Ibrāhīm al-Biḡawī
- On the margin Naẓm al-Ağurrūmiyya by šayḥ al-'Umrī
- Cairo: Dār al-kutub al-'arabiyya 1325
- Ownership on the title page: Aw 'Alī Ismā'il b. Gele b. Bon b. Ismā'il b. Kol; on the external cover al-mālik Magan šāyḥ 'Alī raḍiya Allāh 'anh
- Stamp on the title page: Ḥāḡḡ 'Ibādī Ḥasan al-kutubī 'Adan



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base



Har 07

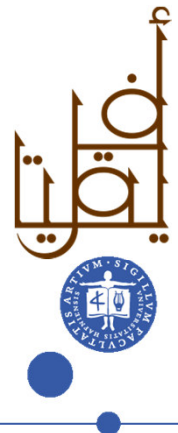
Ḥāšiyat Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Amīr 'alā šarḥ 'Abd al-Salām b. Ibrāhīm al-Mālīkī li-Ġawharat al-Tawhīd lil-imām al-Laḳānī

On the margin: Ithāf al-murīd sarḥ 'Abd al-Salām al-Mālīkī 'alā Ġawharat al-Tawhīd

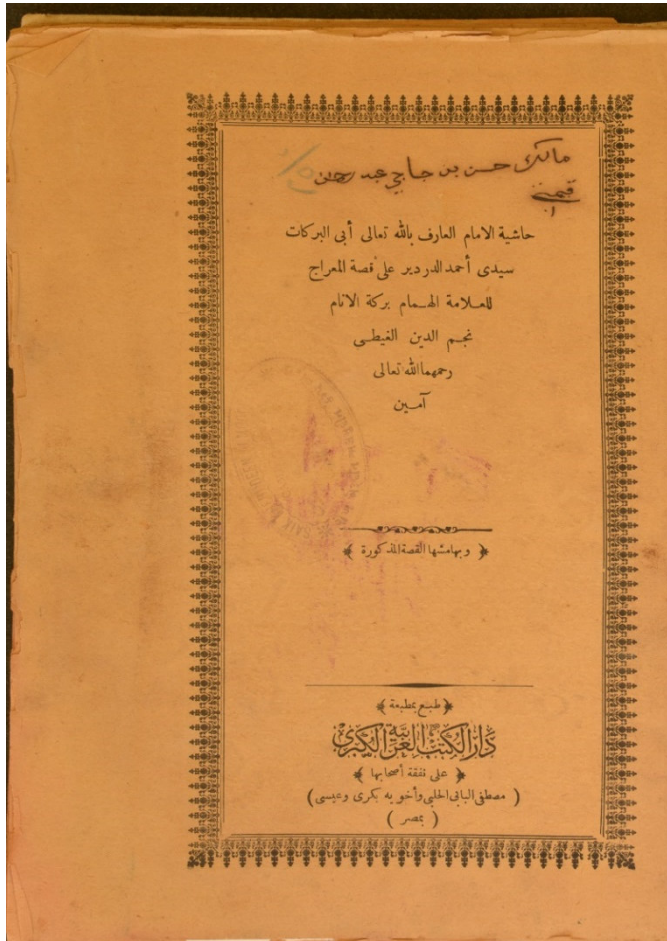
Cairo Maṭba'at Muṣṭafā al-Bābī al-Ḥalabī wa-awlāduḥ 1368-1948

On the title page: stamp of the al-Maktaba al-'arabiyya bi-Ġibūtī li-šāḥibihā 'Abdallāh Šāliḥ al-Bakrī al-Kutubī

Possession note: hāḡā al-kitāb haqq Allāh wa-lakin bi-yad al-faqīr al-rāġī raḥmat rabbih Muḥammad 'Awale al-qādiriyya wa-qīmatuh mi'a arba'ūn



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base



HAR 26 (33)

Unbound Ḥāšiyat Aḥmad al-Dardīr
'alā qīṣṣat al-mi'rāg authored by
Nağm al-Dīn al-Ġīṭī

On the margins: the qīṣṣa

Cairo: Dār al-Kutub al-'arabiyya
Muṣṭafā al-Bābī al-Ḥalabī wa-
aḥawayhi Bakrī wa-'Īsā) rabī al-tānī
1328

On the title page: ownership Ḥāğğ
Ḥasan b. 'Abd al-Raḥmān

Stamp in Gujarati language and
English Saik Khairuddeen

Kept together with

Extracts (377-429) from Ḥāsiyat al-
Bağūrī 'alā šarḥ al-Ġazzī 'alā matn
Abī Šuğā'

Cairo: al-Maktaba al-Maymaniyya
1321

فيلقيا



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Documentary base



Maqaa Rabbiitiniin Jalqaba, Maqaan
isaa Rahmaan kan tahe, maqaan isaa
Rahiim kan tahe.

1. Rabbiin guddate khan mootummaan waa hundaa isa harka jirtu, Rabbiin waa hundarrattuu dandayaa dha.
2. Rabbiin khan du'aa jiruu uume, isin laaluudhaaf, isinirraa eenyuu dalagaa gaari dalagaa, Rabbiin injifataa dha, Rabbiin araaramaa dha nama toowbateef.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

تَبَرَّكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١٠﴾

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا ۚ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ ﴿٦٠﴾

Suurat Al-Baqarah

Juz' 1 254

سورة البقرة

6. kuwii Gaaloobay waxaa isugumid ah udayaalayo iyo umadaan diginaa mana rumeyaan (xaqa).
7. Eebaa daaqaqa Quluubtooda iyo Maqallooda, aragoodana wuxuu iyo iyo Dabool waxaana u sugnaadaa Ca-daab weyn.
8. Dadka waxaa ka mid ah kuwo dhihi waxaan rumencye Eebe iyo maalinii dambasya (Qiyaamada) haddana aan Mu'miniin ahyn.
9. waxay khiyaameyn Eebe iyo kuwa (Xaqa) rumeyee mase khiyaama-nayaan waxaan naftooda ahayn mase kasaan.
10. Quluubtay ka bukaan markaasaa Eebe u siyadiyay Cuduro waxayna mudan Cadaan dahan Beentoodi Darteed.
11. marka lagu dhoho ha fasaadinina dhulka waxay dhahaan annagu waxaan un nahay Hagaagiyaayaal.
12. iyaga unbaa fasaadiyaayaal ah hasa yeeshee ka kasaan.

[illegible]

Sursaddhu waxay xagga ho ee kaga dabashay Mu'miniinta iyo saqay ku suganahayn, hadana waxay ka haddashy Gaalada iyo sida loo daboobayo Qaliibgoba, Maqaalkooda iyo Indyahoodaha iyo in xumaan u sugnaatay. Mar saddexdaana waxay ka haddashy Munaafiqiinta iyo warkooda benta ah iyo siday sugadayaareen may feebe iyo Mu'miniinta khayaaameeyaan, iyadoo dhabshtu tahay may naftooda qariirto oo ay yooxayaan, si kastaba ha'atee markii ay gacmo la'aan yihiin, waanaajin, dhak aamina iyuba unba xumaan wadahadal ah mac ayas. Rasuulkuna (Naxarri) iyo Nabadiya Eebe korshiisa ha yeeclee! Wuxuu yidhi: Waxay lasay faras aan la daagalamo Dadka intay ka dhakaan Eebbe mooyee ilaal kee iyo mar, hadday dhakaanna way isla iflaaleyn ding goda iyo Xoolaha dheer.

Waxay warisay Labadii Sheekh (Bukhari iyo Muslim). Al-Baqarah-(6-12).

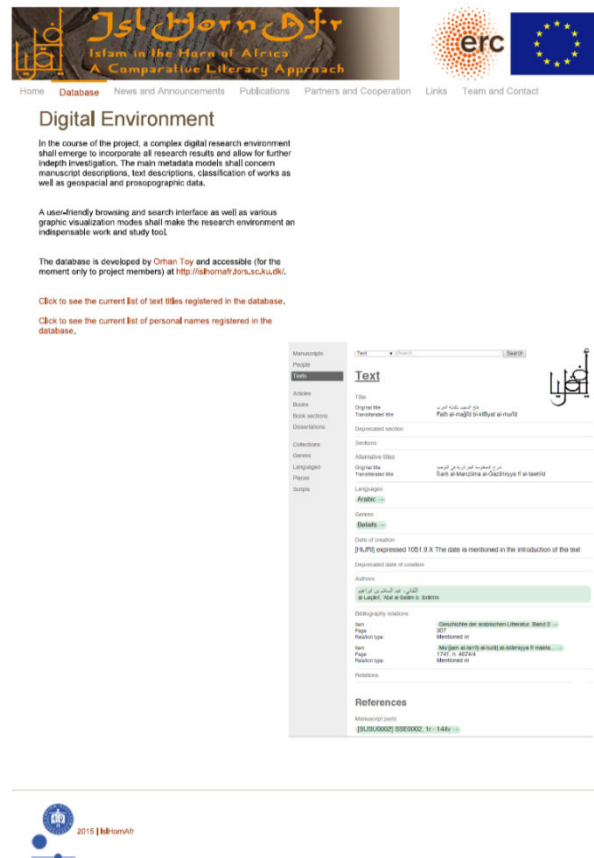
- Birth and flourishing of printing presses and publishing houses in the Horn

Huge contemporary
production of printed
books also of Islamic
traditional content

Islamic calligraphy in local languages



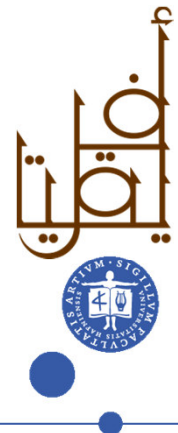
Project tools



Digital Research Environment

relational database of the works circulating among the Muslims in Africa

- descriptions of texts and manuscripts
- authors
- places.
- bibliography
- A user-friendly browsing and search interface
- sample text editions (theological and legal thought, historiography and hagiography)



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Methodology

Methodology of the research

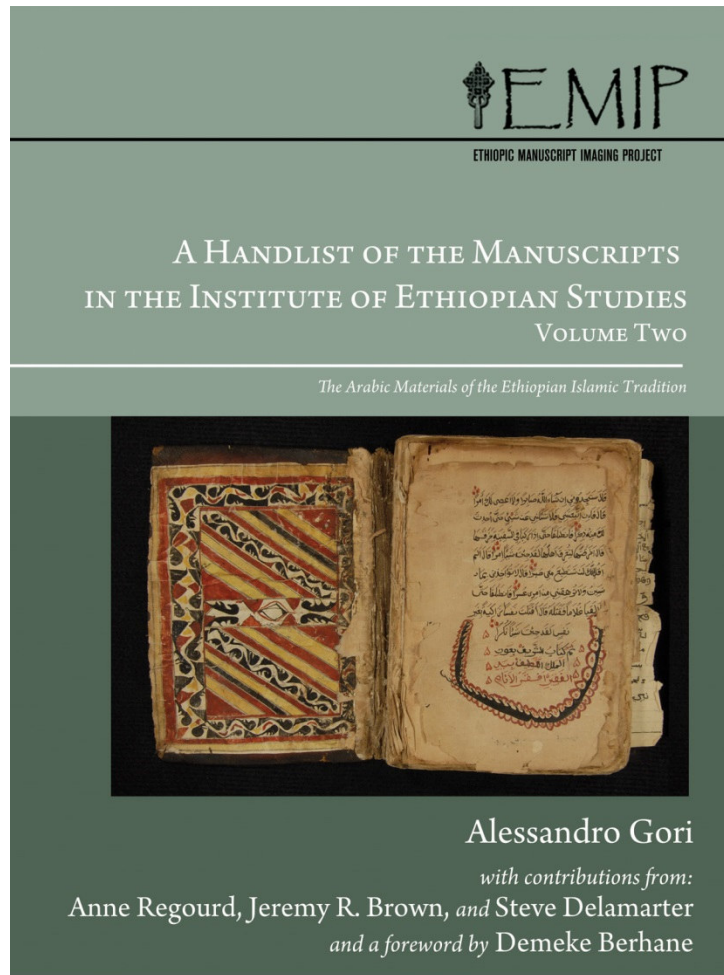
- Identification of texts (both known and previously unknown)
- expand the corpus of available texts to make a more representative research

Classification according to

- genres
- contents
- titles, authors
- places of creation
- number of witnesses
- distribution of witnesses, and linguistic and graphic peculiarities

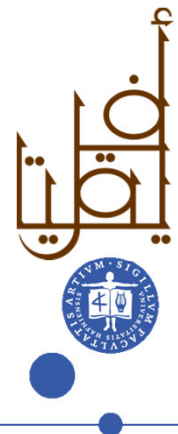


Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: First results



Ethiopic Manuscripts, Texts, and Studies Series • Volume 20

- Handlist of the codices
- Only main works listed
- Codicological analysis
- Selected images of dated manuscripts



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Texts

Texts produced by local authors (main genres):

- Arabic grammar
- Commentaries on the Qur'ān
- Historical texts
- Pietistic literature
- Mystical literature

Texts produced in the wider Islamic world (main genres):

- Theology
- Law
- Science



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Main goals

Creation of:

- critical picture of the literary history of the Horn of Africa (in the wider frame of the Arabic Literature of Africa)
- growing database of African Islamic literature, African biography and African topography

Comparative research:

- between the different sub-regions of the focus area
- between the African “local” Islam and the “mainstream” Islamic tradition



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Main goals

Increase the awareness:

- of Islam in Africa for the scholarship
- of the value of local tradition in Africa itself

Contribute to the mapping of the intellectual landscape of the Horn of Africa

Contribute to the understanding of the main historical processes of in the focus area and in Sub-Saharan Africa in general

Contribute to the preservation and valorization of the cultural heritage in the area

Main targets:

- local people (esp. youth) and
- the international community



Islam in the Horn of Africa, A Comparative Literary Approach: Obstacles



- Absence or limited availability of infrastructure
- Lack of economical and logistical support
- Unclear historical and cultural consciousness
- Recent religious sectarianism



Faculty of Humanities



WAAD MAHADSANTIHIIN

اشكرکم علی حسن اصغائکم

Hargeysa, 1 August 2015
Dias 22





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