

إذا دخلت خزانة فاجتهد أن لا تخرج منها حتى تعرف ما فيها

“When you enter a Library, be careful not leave until you have understood what it contains”



McGill University has an impressive collection of some 670 Islamic manuscripts written in Arabic, Persian, Ottoman-Turkish and Urdu. The manuscripts are located in Rare Books and Special Collections and in the Osler Library of the History of Medicine. Most of these collections were gathered by scholars devoted to the pursuit of new sources and witnesses for standard texts, including the Ismaili scholar Wladimir Ivanow (d. 1970), Casey Wood (d.1942), William Osler (d.1919) and Max Meyerhof (d. 1945). The majority of the manuscripts, orphaned leaves, and calligraphy specimens were acquired prior to the founding of the Institute of Islamic Studies and the Islamic Studies Library in 1952. Overall, the collections cover the traditional subjects of Islamic civilisation: law (*uṣūl al-fiqh*), Qurʾānic exegesis (*tafsīr*), tradition (*ḥadīth*), and theology (*kalām*). In addition subjects such as literature, mysticism and works of a scientific nature, such as ornithology, ophthalmology, and medicine are represented in the collection.

The present exhibition highlights some of the rich manuscripts held by McGill and pertaining to scholarship from the pre-modern period.

Islamic Studies Library, 12-19 May, 2014



McGill

Library
Bibliothèque