



Calcutta Madrasah

Calcutta

May 19. 1884.

Dear Professor Goldziher,

I am writing in reply to a circular which I lately received, signed by yourself and others, to say that I shall be very pleased to contribute to the Vierteljahrsschrift. I have not yet decided on a subject, but I hope to do so shortly.

In spite of the very trying climate I am finding my life in India very interesting; and there is great scope for research. My Arabic reading since I came here has been principally in the field of Hadith, and I have made with many learned mantrivis.

There are several excellent collections of Arabic & Persian MSS. in India, notably the Khuda Bakhsh Library

in Bankipore, and the Nawab's library
in the Rampur State. I am at
present superintending the Cataloguing
(on European lines of Catalogues raisonnés)
of both these collections. For it is a
great loss to European Scholars that
the contents of such libraries should
remain unknown. In the course
of my researches I have come across
many rare, and some apparently
unknown works, and have already
made upwards of one hundred additions
to Brockellmann.

I found a very good copy of Ibn Hazni's
Smil'at in the Rampur library: a transcript
of the 9th Cent. Hijra. I think my
young friend Salah ud Din Khuda Bakhsh
has told you of the old copy of this work
belonging to his father's library in Bankipore.
This copy, which belongs to the end of the
7th or beginning of the 8th Cent. Hijra, I am
now transcribing, and propose to publish
after collation with the Rampur MS.
Unfortunately the Bankipore MS. is

almost entirely without diacritical points
which makes it difficult to read in many
places. As far as I can judge at
present, the Ms. described by Hellwardt

Berlin 9510 is not the جوهرة النسب.

of Ibn Hazm. For I can find nothing in
the Bankipore Ms. corresponding to his
Smutahim. (Curiously enough with the

Indian Mss. referred to call Ibn Hazm
instead of الفاسي) Bankipore Ms. begins:

قال ابو محمد علي بن احمد بن سعيد بن حزم بن غالب الفارسي
الاندلسي رحمه الله - الحمد لله مبتداء كل القرون الاول

ومذيل الدول خالق الخلق باعث محمد صلح بدين الحق
اما بعد فان الله عز وجل قال انا خلقناكم من ذكروا نثي الخ

Then follows several folios in praise of the science

of نسب, with numerous practical examples,
one of which is a personal experience of the
author, which will venture to quote:

..... الحروف بكليب واليه تنسب أرحم كليب التي

على النهرِ بِقُبَلِيّ قَرطبة فَوَرَّثَتْ اِمَامًا لَهُ مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ
 عَبْد الْمَلِكِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنِ مَحْوِيَةٍ بِالْقَعْدَانِ
 وَدَفَعَتْهُ اِلَيْهِ وَقَضَيْتْ لَهُ بِهِ وَمَا كَانَ عِنْدَ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الْمَلِكِ
 هَذَا عِلْمٌ بَأَنَّهُ مُسْتَحَقٌّ هَذَا الْمَالُ وَلَا كَانَ لَهُ طِمَحٌ فِي اخْذِهِ
 فَلَوْلَا عِلْمِي بِالنَّسَبِ لَضَاعَ هَذَا الْمَالُ وَأُخْذَهُ غَيْرُ اَهْلِهِ بِخَيْرِ حَقٍّ

I have lately purchased one or two curious
 Arabic MSS. of which it may interest you to hear.
 The first following is written by one scribe in
 a very fine Spanish hand, and dated
 A. H. 579.

- (1.) كتاب المؤلف والمختلف لابن سعيد الازدي
- (2.) كتاب مشبه النسبة لابن سعيد الازدي
- (3.) كتاب غيرة المتوسن بايضاح المتوسن للمخيليب البغدادي

This last work is apparently quite unknown.
 It deals with the names of famous men
 which are only distinguishable by the omission
 or insertion of ابي . ٩٠٩ . احمد بن الحجاج
 and عبدالله بن عثمان - احمد بن ابي الحجاج and
 a short ترجمة is given . عبدالله بن ابي عثمان
 of each . It is about 40 folios .

I have also procured a MS. of the
6th Cent. *Ḥifẓ* of كتاب شرف الحجاب الحديث
of *Ḥaṭīb Bāshdādī*. It is a very fine
copy and contains the signatures of
many of the most famous Traditionists,
of the 7th Cent. *Ḥifẓ*. I believe the
work is scarce.

Another smaller MS. I bought a few days
ago contains the *أربعون* of *al-Bākhazī*.
This is of the 7th Cent. *Ḥifẓ* and bears many
interesting autographs.

In the Rampur library I found

كتاب النكت و الحيون لابى الحسن على بن محمد بن
حبيب الماوردى .

It is a Commentary on the *Qoran*. From
beginning *دم* to سورة التجم

The MS. is dated A.H. 577. I have
found no mention of this work elsewhere.

There is also in Rampur the autograph
(مسودة) of a work on اسما الرجال of Sibṭ
ibn al-A'jami (Brockelmann II. 67) called

نهاية السؤل في رواية الستة الاول
dated A. H. 869.

I remember reading somewhere a remark
by Ibn Hajar Asqalani that he has seen
this book mentioned in a list of al-A'jami's
works in al-A'jami's own writing.

وقرات بخطه ان من تصنيفاته نهاية السؤل

There was a book in Rampur on Haubali
fight which I could not identify.

كتاب المستوعب لجهد الله محمد بن عبد الله بن
الحسن بن احمد بن القاسم بن ادريس السامري

In two large volumes, dated A. H. 693.

There is a fine copy of Haxiv's Magâimât
written by at-Taftazâni in A.H. 740.
and ديوان الحاضرة written by the famous
يعقوب المصطفى in A.H. 629.

Yesterday I had brought me the ^{مؤدود}
of al-Busiri's صباح الزجاجة في زوائد ابن ماجه,
but I could not afford to buy it.

I could so on indefinitely telling you
of my little trouvailles, but I fear to
tire you. You must understand that
not here there is no one who appreciates
such things - and so that when I

Come across anything interesting I
have no use to discuss it with.
For the local manibus though
very learned in a certain limited
number of books, take no
interest in Arabi. literature as such.
and have no scholarly instincts.

Trusting you will forgive my having
taken so much of your time

I remain

Yours sincerely
P. Serisindros.