

Arabo Islamica

Schmidtke on al-Mansur's Personal Library

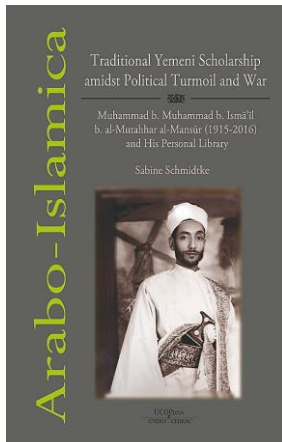
Among her many books Sabine Schmidtke, Professor in the School of Historical Studies, has authored *Traditional Yemeni Scholarship amidst Political Turmoil and War: Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl b. al-Muṭahhar al-Manṣūr (1915-2016) and His Personal Library*.

This volume – see the cover below – evolved as a side product of Schmidtke's key "Zaydi Manuscript Tradition" (ZMT) project, which aims to bring together the widely dispersed Zaydī manuscript culture in its entirety in a single repository. In 2018 it focuses on Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl al-Manṣūr (1915–2016), one of the most prominent scholars, bureaucrats, and politicians of twentieth-century Yemen, and his private collection of manuscripts.

Based on his ijāza ("license to transmit"), his own writings, and other documentary materials, as well as his collection of manuscripts and the many handwritten comments and notes added by al-Manṣūr, the book discusses his biography and intellectual milieu and provides insights into the manuscript culture of twentieth-century Yemen. Taken together, the volume contributes to the study of twentieth-century Yemen's intellectual and social history, and it immediately relates to recent work of historical anthropologists specializing in Yemen.

Traditional Yemeni Scholarship Amidst Political Turmoil and War - Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl b. al-Muṭahhar al-Manṣūr (1915-2016) and his Personal Library by Sabine Schmidtke, Arabo-Islamica, vol. 1, ISBN 978-84-9927-423-2

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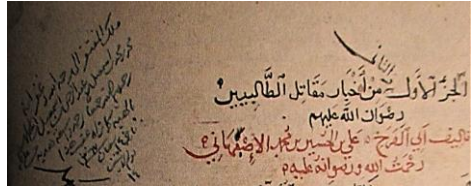


Reading manuscripts in al-Mansur's private library, the author was struck by the unusual number of paratexts in his collections. This prompted her to delve deeper into the material. So this book offers not only a first bibliography but reflects at the same time the variety of his scholarly interests. His family's roots go back to the 16th century with several prominent Zaydi scholars. His father worked in the service of the state as governor in different regions. No wonder, you'll find here facsimile of beautiful hand scripts in various Arabic calligraphy with black, white and blue colors in the same script. Just watch Sabine Schmidtke's [video explanation](#) about the bigger picture of her project "Zaydi Manuscript Tradition." It's a lifelong pursuit of happiness through knowledge.

Sabine Schmidtke, Photo by Andrea Kane, IAS



Page 223: Maktabat Muhammad al-Mansur, ZMT 01367 031



Wolfgang G. Schwanitz