



# Arabic Manuscripts: A Vademecum for Readers

By Adam Gacek

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Arranged alphabetically by subject and/or concept, the present handbook has been conceived, for convenience sake and quick reference, as an aid to students and researchers who are often puzzled or even sometimes intimidated by the mysterious world of Arabic manuscripts and the technical language that goes with it. A companion volume to the recently published *The Arabic Manuscript Tradition* (2001) and its *Supplement* (2008), the vademecum comprises some 200 entries of varying lengths dealing with almost all aspects of Arabic manuscript studies (codicology and palaeography). It is richly illustrated with specimens from manuscripts and expertly executed drawings. The main sequence is followed by a number of appendices covering abbreviations, letterforms, s rah-headings, major reference works and a guide to the description of manuscripts, as well as charts of major historical periods and dynasties."

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

More than merely an introductory handbook, this is a serious work that makes for entertainingly informative reading, with or without a manuscript at hand. Extensively cross-indexed and referenced (...).

Recommended. *Choice, February 2010* an indispensable research, library, and archival companion for students and researchers that are interested in bibliomancy, calligraphy, specifically Arabic, Qur'anic manuscripts, penmanship, bookbinding, papermaking, decoration, and the tools associated with all these crafts. Praise for this monumental effort is essentially superfluous and no library or centre which is concerned with the Islamic manuscript and book tradition should be without the set. Academics and researchers would also find the books as indispensable companions. *Amidu Olalekan Sanni, JOAS, 2010 Arabic Manuscripts. A Vademecum for Readers* met a portee de tous le resultat d'annees de pratique en d'enseignement, et represente un apport considerable dans le domaine. *Cecile Bonmariage in Le Museon 124 (2011), 493-496.*"

### About the Author

**Adam Gacek**, former Head of the Islamic Studies Library and Faculty Lecturer in Arabic manuscript studies at the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University (Montreal), is the author of many catalogues, articles and book chapters on Arabic and Persian manuscripts and printed rare books.

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