



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library

EXPLORE OUR HERITAGE LIBRARY

ACCESS AROUND 200,000
HERITAGE ITEMS





ABOUT OUR HERITAGE LIBRARY

The Heritage Library's location at the heart of Qatar National Library reflects its important role as the guardian of the nation's history and heritage. The extensive collection of heritage and historical materials traces scientific, artistic, social and economic development throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also highlights the evolving relationship between the Middle East, the Far East and the West, and illustrates the critical role of the Islamic world in advancing global scientific knowledge.

Among the rarest items in our Heritage Library are 16th-century Arabic books and European translations of Arabic books dating to the second half of the 15th century, when printing first arose in Europe. In addition to printed books, the collection also includes manuscripts, photographs, periodicals, maps, atlases, globes, travelers' instruments and archival documents about Qatar and the region.



HERITAGE LIBRARY PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The Heritage Library Permanent Exhibition, "It All Began with 'Read'", displays more than 400 of the rarest and most valuable items from our Heritage Library collections. It reflects the uniqueness of Arab and Islamic culture, the interactions between the East and the West, and the deep history of the State of Qatar and its relationships with the rest of the world. The Permanent Exhibition is organized in 12 sections.



Map of the Permanent Exhibition Area





HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

ARABIC BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

The Arabic books collection comprises 35,000 works that encapsulate the history of publishing in the fields of literature, religion, sociology, law and history. It includes works by Muslim scholars, such as *The Canon of Medicine*, by Ibn Sina (Avicenna), and *The Recension of Euclid's "Elements"*, as well as the complete printed collection of Ibrahim Müteferrika Press, one of the first printing presses in the Islamic world, and items from the libraries of Sheikh Ali bin Abdullah Al-Thani and Khayr al-Din al-Zereky. The collection contains nearly 400 Arabic magazine and periodical titles, which represent the origin and development of contemporary Arab thought and journalism.



The Recension of Euclid's "Elements"

Kitāb Tahrīr al-Uṣūl li-Eqlīdus (The Recension of Euclid's "Elements"), by Nasir al-Din Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Tusi, was printed by the Medici Oriental Press in Rome in 1594. A prolific 13th-century writer, al-Tusi made notable contributions in science, mathematics, theology, astronomy, physics, medicine and jurisprudence.

HC.AB.2014.0029



BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Our Heritage Library contains around 25,000 books printed in foreign languages, especially European languages, including Latin. Among these rare books are translations of Arabic texts in medicine, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry and other sciences, as well as literary and religious studies and Orientalism. The collection also holds writings by Western travelers to the Middle East and European translations of the famous *One Thousand and One Nights*.



Personal Narrative of a Year's Journey Through Central and Eastern Arabia

British traveler William G. Palgrave undertook a yearlong journey across the central and eastern Arabian Peninsula in 1862. In his account, he describes Al Bidda, then the largest town in Qatar, where he spent time with Sheikh Mohammed bin Thani, father of the founder of modern Qatar, Sheikh Jassim Bin Mohammed Al Thani.

HC.FB.25717



MAPS, ATLASES, GLOBES AND TRAVELERS' INSTRUMENTS

Our Heritage Library has more than 1,400 sheet maps, many showing Arabia and Qatar, including the 1478 Ptolemy map of Arabia, the first printed map to mention Qatar. The collection contains some of the rarest maps in the world, including the Ottoman Turkish Hajji Ahmed world map and the *Cedid Atlas*, as well as many atlases, globes and travelers' instruments such as compasses, toolkits and surveying equipment. The collection traces the history of cartography, with special emphasis on European encounters with the Arab and Islamic world and Islamic cartographic and geographic traditions.





Arabia

This 1662 map, by Joan and Willem Blaeu, is from the Latin first edition of the 11-volume *Atlas Maior*, the pinnacle of Dutch Age of Discovery cartography. It was highly influential on many later mapmakers' depictions of Arabia.

HC.MAP.01042



***Kitāb al-mizān* [The Supreme Scale]
by ‘Abd al-Wahhāb al- Sha’rānī**

This treatise on jurisprudence was copied by a woman named Fātimah al-Walīdī in 1123 AH/1711 CE at the Sulaymaniyyah School in Mecca at the request of Ali al-Zamzami, the muezzin of the Holy Mosque. The manuscript includes diagrams painted by Fātimah to clarify the content of the book, which compares the four Sunni schools of Islamic law.

HC.MS.2017.0030





MANUSCRIPTS

Our manuscript collection includes about 3,500 Oriental manuscripts and about 500 calligraphic panels. The collection has important manuscripts on Arabic language and literature, Islam, history, geography, medicine, chemistry, astronomy and optics. The section also contains a large collection of Qur'anic manuscripts written in China and East Asia.





تاریخ سمرقند از ابن بطوطه

تاریخ سمرقند از ابن بطوطه

Outline
1595





ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Our diverse archival and documentary collection contains around 20,000 items of legal documents, government and individual correspondence, rare cinema documents and posters, Arabic newspapers, and multimedia archives that



capture the region's culture and history. The archival collection has a section dedicated to the history of Qatar, including private letters, government and commercial documents, photographs, and rulers' correspondence. These discuss trade, commerce, the discovery and early production of oil, and the urban development of Doha.



Almanac for the City of Zubarah

The Maliki scholar 'Abd al-Rahman al-Zawāwī compiled this astronomical calendar for the city of Zubarah in 1173 AH/1790 CE. It details the months and days of the year, prayer times, and notes on agriculture and seasonal changes.

HC.ARC.2015.0002.0005.0001



PHOTOGRAPHS

Our Heritage Library houses a collection of more than 80,000 photographs. With a special focus on Qatar, the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, this section contains the first photographic accounts of the region, North Africa, Andalusia, Egypt, the Levant (Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan), Iraq, Iran, Turkey, former Ottoman lands in the Caucasus, and Central Asia.



The collection includes photographs from scientific and archaeological expeditions, Orientalist studio photography, early photojournalism, documentary photography covering important historical events in the area (World War I, World War II, colonial rule, infrastructure development), and examples of amateur photography that offer unique depictions of daily life in the Middle East.



***Égypte, Nubie,
Palestine et
Syrie: dessins
photographiques
recueillis pendant les
années 1849, 1850 et
1851..., Paris, Gide & J.
Baudry, 1852.***

This album, the first photographically illustrated travel book, is an account of the journeys to Egypt and Palestine done by Maxime Du Camp between 1849 and 1851. Each print was pasted by hand onto a separate sheet of paper. Photographs were also sold separately and occasionally exhibited, as in 1855 at the Exposition Universelle in Paris.

HC.HP.2016.0104



HERITAGE LIBRARY SERVICES



- Access our Heritage Library collections for your study or research. However, the items may not be borrowed or removed from the Reading Room.
- Our librarians can answer your questions about the Heritage Library collection. We also provide research services for students, researchers and the public.
- Items from the Heritage Library collection are listed in the Library's online catalog, and many items are available for further study in the Reading Room, which houses valuable reference books related to Qatar's history and culture.
- We provide guided tours of the Heritage Library in Arabic and English. Visit www.qnl.qa/en/events/tours for dates and times.
- For more information about our collection and services, please write to heritagelibrary@qnl.qa







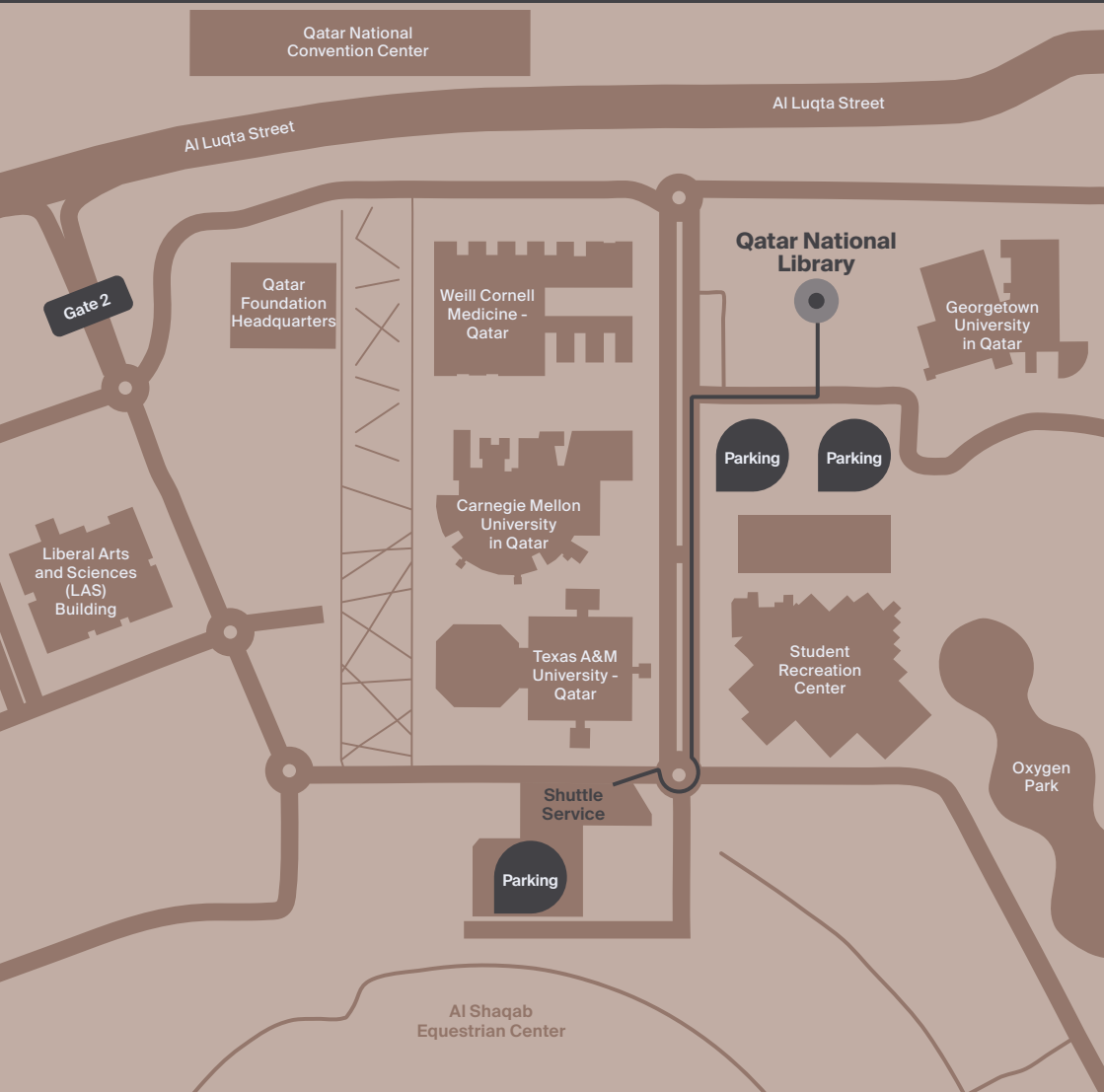
VISIT US.

Saturday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Reading Room: open 2:00 – 8:00 PM on Saturday

Friday: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Reading Room closed Friday



Talk to Us.

If you have any questions, please drop us a line at qnlinfo@qnl.qa or call **4454 0100**.

Connect with Us.



@QNLib



TheQatarNationalLibrary



QNLibrary



www.qnl.qa