

الترجمة وإشكالات المثاقفة (3)

تحرير وتقديم
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مِنْتَدَى الْعُلُقَا الْعَرَبِيَّةِ وَالْأَدْوِلِيَّةِ



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المكتبة الإسلامية للوكالة الإسبانية للتعاون والتنمية الدولية (AECID)

AECID Islamic Library :A Place of memory to study and
translate Arabic culture

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Abstract:

The Islamic Library is a constituent member of the Library Consortium of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID). It won the 2015 UNESCO-Sharjah Award in recognition of the efforts it has made over many years to augment, protect and spread the Arabic and Islamic culture worldwide.

For the Islamic Library, managing a specialized collection in the 21st century does not just mean addressing the technical problems involved in dealing with 100.000 paper documents (including books, newspapers, photographs and other materials) in the CISNE catalogue (shared with Complutense University and linked to the OCLC catalogue), or adopting an active collection policy that targets the private donations and the inherited legacies of renowned Arabists, but also managing their digitization processes so as to make them available for international researchers.

The Islamic Library is part of the Library Consortium of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID). In 2015, it received the 13th UNESCO-Sharjah Award, established in 1998 to honour the work of individuals and institutions involved in the inculcation and dissemination of Arab culture and intercultural dialogue. Irina Bokova, Unesco General Director, and the Palestinian poet and essayist Elias Sanbar, handed the Award in an official ceremony held at the Unesco Headquarters in Paris in April 14.

This award acknowledges the great efforts the Library has made to augment, protect and spread Arab and Islamic culture over the last 60 years. More specifically, it is an appreciation of the relevant and well-managed collection, exhibition and research activities of its staff, their good practice policy in the development of various projects, as well as their teamwork carried out with enthusiasm, innovation, commitment and perseverance.

Our main aim has been gathering scientific data, stimulating intercultural dialogue, promoting and generating new knowledge and research in the field. This cultural and scientific exercise is also a means to create the cultural diversity AECID encourages and promotes.

The Islamic Library is an essential reference library in the field of Arabic and Andalusian studies, both nationally and internationally. This is due to its bibliographic collections and the qualified services it provides in the field of the humanities and the social sciences in the Arab and Islamic world. It is, and has been, a well-known documentary institution in the area of Arab studies since 1954. Its 100,000 documentary collections

(30% in Arabic), have been growing by the day and expanding the network of researchers and donors who create new knowledge and modern technological tools.

The Islamic Library is also known as "Felix María Pareja Library" in tribute to the Islamologue Father Pareja, who founded it 60 years ago in the form of the Hispano-Arab Culture Institute (IHAC), a leading international centre for Arab and Islamic studies. Since 1954, this documentary institution had to tackle many challenges: the acquisition of resources, space to store, technical/technological transformations and the adaptation to the evolution of functions and services related to the centres that hosted the Library. The IHAC was replaced in late 1988 by the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World (ICMA). In 1992 it was integrated in the organization of the AECI (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation), institution that would later become the AECID (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development). With this addition and consequent physical transfer, the Islamic Library would share both work units and reading rooms with the Hispanic Library. It became the AECID Library gaining more space for documents and users.

The AECID Library consists of two very relevant historical libraries (the Hispanic Library and the Islamic Library) together with the Cooperation Unit that is devoted exclusively to matters related to AECID. It has different functions; the most important ones are the Patrimonial, gathering information resources, Access to specialized information for users, Educational and Socio-cultural ones, always cooperating with the Arab world for cultural and bibliographic exchanges.

All these years the Islamic Library has successfully overcome new challenges keeping its scientific and intellectual rigor, as well as great links with users and researchers. It has also been opened to collaborate with a wide range of public and private institutions:

- Establishment of alliances with scientific and educational associations and with Arab people.
- Strengthening intercultural dialogue, based on the existing cultural agreements (solidarity, respect and understanding being the founding integrating elements of Europe).
- Dissemination of models of good professional practices among library institutions of Arab countries, providing technical support and cooperation through literary and cultural exchanges.
- Encouraging academic research to promote Arab culture and enhance bilateral relations with Arab countries.
- Collaboration with Arab cultural attaches to organize events in different formats (roundtables, conferences, debates, etc.).

The Library is a joint project developed by excellent and dedicated professionals. After Father Pareja, it had been led by the following chief librarians: Nuria Torres (1994-2002), Maria Victoria Alberola (2002-2011) and Luisa Mora (2012-2016), under the general direction of Mari Carmen Díez Hoyo and Araceli García (responsible for the AECID Library). Each director has obtained the commitment and collaboration of a large team and users. Ms. Torres laid the foundation for cataloguing in Arabic at the beginning of automation, the study of ancient background

and the development of the remarkable hemerographic collection. Ms. Alberola undertook the reorganization of the book store, the digitizing of the old fund and establishing the relationship with former residents of the Spanish Protectorate in Morocco, which continues nowadays, resulting in the donation of valuable personal libraries. Ms. Mora has focused on the dissemination of information and the visibility of the collections, creating a collaborative framework of communication networks to share information and activities.

Our mission is structured around three fundamental pillars: the collection, the services and library cooperation and cultural promotion.

1- Collection:

The Islamic Library was opened as "Biblioteca Islámica Félix María Pareja". Since its creation the basis for the development of the library collection had been established on very precise rules regarding its identity and its cultural, humanistic, economic and political aspects as laid out by the Jesuit Félix María Pareja. The collection is unique and it includes different types of formats. Some of the documents are relevant due to their different provenance, authorship, content or singularity. This collection has been gathered through the acquisitions of catalogues from national and European booksellers, and contains essential works of Arab and Islamic civilization sources: monographs, magazines, maps, reference works and special materials such as media productions and ancient graphic documents, photographs, maps and other types of documents (sound and film records). Many documents come mainly from Egypt, Lebanon,

Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, etc., thanks to the exchange of publications that enriches the collection with materials difficult to obtain by other means.

Its periodicals are remarkable, as well as its 12,000 documents from journals and co-authored books, conference records and periodical publications of specialized researchers with titles such as: *Al-Hilal* (published at Cairo since 1892), *Al-Machriq* (published at Beirut since 1898), *Quarterly Statement* (Palestine Exploration Fund), *Arabica: revue d'études arabes* or *Al-Andalus: revista de las Escuelas de Estudios Árabes de Madrid y Granada*.

The importance and prestige of this vast and varied collection, containing different cultures and traditions, have increased in the last decade thanks to the reception and processing of at least twelve individual donated collections made by scholars and prestigious Arabists linked to the institution (quantitatively they constitute more than 10% of the whole collection): Mariano Arribas, Fernando Valderrama, Fernando de Ágreda, Gonzalo Fernández Parrilla, Bernabé López García, Miguel Hernando de Larramendi, Abdul Hadi Sadoun (from Irak) Mohamed Elgeadi (from State of Palestine), etc. They have greatly enriched the collection with rare editions, ephemeral documents of election campaigns, as well as other ones that have been auto published or published by entities that are distributed with difficulty on the market of the trade book, and numerous curiosities, such as works with autographs or containing notes.

Promoting this legacy is a priority for the Library, as is its translation. Hence the publishing of an intercultural bibliography in *Islamic Library Review*, n. 183: "Narrative written or translated into Spanish in the Islamic

Library" that allows showing cultural oddity (all these books can be found at the reading room in a well-recognized place and comments on them can be found on the blog): http://bibliotecadigital.aecid.es/bibliodig/biblioteca_islamica/es/catalogo_imagenes/grupo.cmd?path=1000166

In addition to its being a cultural institution of research, the IHAC-ICMA-AECI-AECID has a significant publishing legacy, which includes the works related to translation. Its heritage has led to the realization of complementary catalogues and bibliographies made by the Islamic Library, as well as all the documents that make up the collection including numerous and relevant translations.

As mentioned above, the different institutions that hosted the Islamic Library - from the original IHAC until the current AECID - had a long publishing tradition that includes publications related to works of translation.

Translations from Arabic into Spanish (the collection "Contemporary Arab authors" lived up to its name), as *Yawmīyāt nā'ib fī al-aryāf* (Tawfīq al-Ḥakīm), Qaṣā'id (Nizār Qabbānī), Qiṣaṣ (Nağīb Maḥfūz), *Al-kitāb al-kāmil* (Mūsā Ibn Nawbaḥt, critical edition and translation), *Al-samā' al-ṭabī'ī* (Ibn Rušd).

-Translations from Spanish into Arabic (collection "Hispanic classics"): *La Celestina* (Fernando de Rojas), *Rhymes of Bécquer*, *Nothing* (Carmen Laforet). Also: essays on Don Quijote in the 20th century with translations from Unamuno, Ortega Gasset, Azorín or Ramiro de Maeztu.

-Translations and editions of Andalusian classic texts (collection "Arabic-Hispanic fonts" devoted to the translation of works dealing with different subjects on the Arab & Islamic civilization), in collaboration with institutions like the CSIC: *Kitab Al-adwiya al-mufrada* (Ibn Wafid), *Kitāb Al-aḡḡiya* (Ibn Zuhr), *Maḡāhib al-ḡukkām fī nawāzil al-aḡkām* (Muhammad Ibn Iyad).

-Lexicographical works such as dictionaries and glossaries: Arabic-Spanish dictionary and Spanish-Arabic dictionary by Federico Corriente. Several Arabic-Spanish and Spanish-Arabic glossaries, by Fernando Valderrama.

It should be underlined that the Islamic Library contains the production of the award-winning Sheikh Hamad **2016** Salvador Peña (translation of *One Thousand and One Nights* from Arabic to Spanish), Ignacio Ferrando (translation of *Azāzil* from Arabic to Spanish), Mahmud Sobh (translations from Spanish to Arabic and vice versa), Salih Almani (translations from Spanish to Arabic of *The Carpenter's Pencil* and *The visions of Lucrecia*), Sulayman al-Attar (translation from Spanish to Arabic of Tirso de Molina's *The Mocker of Seville*), Ali Ibrahim Menufi (translation from Spanish to Arabic of Julio Cortazar's *Rayuela*), and of some prestigious institutions such as Casa Árabe and Ibn Tufayl. Also, there are a lot of translations which focus on women publishing tradition like Assia Djebar (Algeria, 1936-2015), Nawaal El-Saadawi, (Egypt, 1931-), Salwa Al Neimi (Syria, 1950-) Leila Aboulela (Sudan, 1964-), Janata Bennuna (Morocco, 1940-), etc.

With the aim of highlighting the bibliographical heritage in a wider context, the ancient collection with Arab typography and the manuscripts have been digitalized, exhibited and disseminated in different ways, mainly at the Digital Library. That allows us to carry out some activities for researching them: practical training and visits to study them at AECID Digital Library. The Arabic translation of the old collection catalogue (edited in 2013), has been carried out in 2015:

<http://www.aecid.es/ES/cultura/Paginas/Actividades/2015/2015-11-11-catalogo-Fondo-antiguo-Biblioteca-Islamica-AECID-traducido-arabe.aspx>

The Islamic Library has recently started a Digital Library where digital resources and all the collection will be available, including manuscripts, ancient books from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century (12% of them in Arabic Language and 54 % in Spanish), the Morocco photographic legacy of Mr. Fernando Valderrama, sound recordings (music, interviews and conferences) and recent AECID publications. In the future we hope to host more engravings, press cuttings and postcards, as well as portraits and landscapes. This process will reconcile the preservation and enhancement of the documentary heritage through the digitization with a technological commitment to open access that will significantly increase consultations and virtual use. Most of this collection is already part of Europeana (<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>), Europe's Digital Library. Some examples worthwhile to note are: the Arabicum Lexicon, by Raphelengius (1613), the Thesaurus linguarum Orientalium Turcicae-Arabicae-Persicae, by Meninski (1680), in addition to some magnificent exponents of the first

printings made in Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, etc.).

It is a unique opportunity to share our cultural heritage.

2- Library services:

According to a survey carried out in 2012, there is a wide range of users: most of them University students and researchers, internal users from AECID, Diplomats and Embassy cultural Counsellors, National and International Institutions connected with the Arab world and journalist and mass media. Users have a personal connection with the library, making suggestions, donating publications... As a result the library has become a meeting place for Arabists around the world, a centre that compiles scientific books and documents in this area, and a place that generates knowledge, thanks to XXI Century resources and information systems.

In the Charter of Library Services 2012-2015, AECID offers the academic community and researchers free access and use of the collection with specialized, direct or virtual services:

-Bibliographical and reference-information: the funds are available in the collective catalogue (<http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/>) and it is possible to request specialized information.

-Consultation of reference books and the magazine collection in the reading room with personal assistance.

-Reprographic service: photocopying or scanning documents.

-Book lending for library card holders (restricted).

-Interlibrary loan that gives access to specialized documents from other universities and research libraries.

-Dissemination activities: organization of thematic exhibitions, editing bibliographic publications and guiding tours for individuals and groups to the "Library treasures".

-New virtual information services and collaborative tools: Monthly newsletter Asdà and content curation (web) like the English video: <https://vimeo.com/152804716>

3- Library cooperation and cultural promotion:

The AECID Library is part of the network of specialized libraries of the Spanish Ministry of Culture (BAGE). In order to be present in the international arena, through the years the library has established enriching alliances with other institutions. The old fund is contained in the Union Catalogue of Bibliographic Heritage of the Ministry of Culture. In 2012 the Library signed an agreement of librarian and institutional cooperation with the Complutense University of Madrid to share its bibliographic heritage and technical services in a Union catalogue, CISNE (<http://www.aecid.es/ES/biblioteca/catálogo>). Now both are in WorldCat (320 million records of some 75,000 libraries)

<http://www.worldcat.org/libraries/148746?backfrom=libraryProfile&searchTerm=aecid&start=1&count=10&libTypeNum=0&sortBy=rel>

The Library also collaborates with the Library Network of the Cervantes Institute (bibliographic interchanges and online support especially with those located in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordania and

Egypt) and with numerous institutions in the Arab world. The interlibrary loan is made basically through the REBIUN catalogue (Spanish University Libraries Network

<http://www.rebiun.org/catalogoColectivo/Paginas/default.aspx>).

The Islamic Library has also informal relations and exchanges information with other prestigious Spanish institutions such as: Casa Árabe, the School of Arabic Studies del CSIC (The Spanish National Research Council), Biblioteca Viva de Al-Andalus (Córdoba), the Spanish Society of Arab Studies (SEEA) and Escuela de Traductores de Toledo (Castilla-La Mancha University). Also, the Library collaborates with Spanish University departments offering courses related to Arab and Islamic culture. For example, the Master's degree on contemporary Arabic and Islamic studies (UAM) is aimed at students interested not only in pursuing a career of academic research, but also in acquiring the needed skills to perform professionally in the field of international relations, the process of political and socio-economic change and migratory flows linked to the Arab and Islamic world today, leading to broad and effective knowledge in this area.

In the field of international cooperation, the Library has been represented in various international conferences organized by MELCOM (European Association of Middle East Libraries) and IFLA. Recently it has made a big effort to increase its presence in social media (radio and TV) and scientific communication channels. Now it uses complementary communication tools in order to disseminate knowledge, spread our

activities and publications, thus establishing its own networks and synergies and obtaining visibility:

- Blog La Reina de los mares or The Queen of the Seas (<http://biblioacidmadrid.wordpress.com/>). It deals exclusively with Arab and Islamic themes or subjects. They are devoted, for example, to the Arabist Emilio García Gómez, to the Hispano-Arabic Institute of Culture, which was carried out an institutional publication now available in the Digital Library. Some entries deal with figures like Mahmoud Ali Makki (intellectual and Egyptian translator) or Sidi Mohammad Ibn Azzuz Haquim (Moroccan historian). Other issues also present in this blog are homages to different writers, Arab Cinema, al-Andalus inheritance, Protectorate patrimony or heritage, etc.
- *The Asda* monthly newsletter. We have produced a network containing expertise on the Library topics.
- The microsite AECID Library: who we are, what we offer (with specific information about collections, donors, activities) and how to use our services.
- Active policy of communication, enhancing the value of the different collections through articles and participation in specialized congresses.

Cultural promotion activities of the Islamic Library seek to invite everybody to explore the extraordinary richness of the collections. One example of thematic exhibition was "Our treasures" (7th, April, 2016

-30th May) focused on 100 masterpieces, creating a great bibliographic exhibition. Our collections have increased significantly due to consistent cultural and scientific exchanges and library cooperation mechanisms with Arab countries since the creation of the library.

These activities are usually organized in close contact with various scientific and academic institutions, universities and embassies, which contribute to establishing cultural relations with cultural institutions in their countries. An example of this collaboration is the "Kuwait bibliographic collection at the Libraries of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs" a result of the activities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Spain and Kuwait (1964-2014) (<http://madridmayrit.wordpress.com/2013/11/07/biblioteca-islamica-de-madrid/>). Their main objective is stimulating cultural and bibliographic cooperation. Nowadays we are opened to new similar initiatives, because we are aware that together we are stronger and more useful everywhere!

As a conclusion, it is important to highlight that among our new proposals we would like to improve our policy collection with new publications, as well as organize more activities and experiences with writers, translators and readers. We want to go on sharing knowledge with other institutions as National Library of Morocco or the Middle East Institute (Washington, USA), and researchers all over the world: MIT (USA), National Library of Egypt or Qatar Foundation, for example. We surely have the intention to be part of a collective endeavor ready to adopt new perspectives that include knowledge and awareness of the past as well as of the present situation, evolution and problems of the contemporary

Arab world. Some years ago the Islamic Library was well-known to anyone who was interested in Arab and Islamic culture. Perhaps the 2015 UNESCO-Sharjah Award allows the Islamic Library to gain recognition beside prestige.

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Junta de Andalucía, Consejería de Educación, Cultura y Deporte, Sevilla, 2014, pp. 184197-.

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II. Islamic Library-AECID links:

On-line catalogue: http://cisne.sim.ucm.es/search*spl~S18

The Islamic Library in the AECID site: <http://www.aecid.es/EN/library/a-little-history/islam-library-training-and-collections>

Bulletin board or newsletter Asda: <http://www.aecid.es/EN/library/diffusion/bulletin-board>

Blog "The Queen of the Seas": <http://biblioaecidmadrid.wordpress.com>

Digital Library: <http://bibliotecadigital.aecid.es/bibliodig/es/estaticos/contenido.cmd?pagina=estaticos/presentacion>

http://bibliotecadigital.aecid.es/bibliodig/biblioteca_islamica/es/micrositios/inicio.cmd

Print and electronic Catalogue of the old Arabic books: http://issuu.com/publicacionesaecid/docs/catalogo_de_fondo_antiguo_con_tipol_d2da3f9d2bbcd11/

http://bibliotecadigital.aecid.es/bibliodig/es/consulta/resultados_ocr.cmd?tipo=elem&buscar_cabecera=Buscar&id=18498&tipoResultados=BIB&posicion=1&forma=ficha

Catalogue with our former collection in Arabic characters (2013): <https://biblioaecidmadrid.wordpress.com/201428/04//fondo-antiguo-con-tipografia-arabe-de-la-biblioteca-islamica/>

Information about the use of the Library: http://www.aecid.es/Centro-Documentacion/Documentos/Biblioteca/clip_sedic.pdf

Exhibition concerning Valderrama Donation: "Dos culturas, un mismo paisaje. Imágenes compartidas de españoles y marroquíes (1860-1956): <http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/cultura/bivian/media/expomarruecos/exposicion.html>

Opinions in other blogs: <http://madridarabe.es/201307/11//biblioteca-islamica-de-madrid/>

<http://madridarabe.es/201405/05//fondo-antiguo-en-arabe-de-la-biblioteca-islamica/>

English Video AECID Library: <https://vimeo.com/152804716>

Video Users memories: <https://vimeo.com/160577413>

Programa en Radio Exterior: [75 años de la Biblioteca de Cooperación](#)

- " Entrevista en "Miradas" (RNE)
- " Entrevista en Radio 5 (RNE)
- " Entrevista en Radio Francia Internacional
- " Onda Verde Radio
- " Programa "Medina" (TVE2)
- " Radio Exterior (árabe)
- " Radio Exterior (español)

Melcom contributions:

http://www.aecid.es/ES/Paginas/Minisite%20Biblioteca/Difusión/Exposiciones/expo_tesoros.aspx

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