

**Nomination Form
International Memory of the World Register**

Al-Zahrāwī's 30th manuscript volume: 'Surgery'

ID Code [2016-17]

1.0 Summary

Al-Zahrāwī, Ḥalaf ibn 'Abbās Abū al-Qāsim, known in the west as Abulcasis (936-1013?), was a distinguished Andalusian Arabic physician during the 11th century Umayyad era in Andalusia.

"Al-Taṣrīf liman 'ağiza 'an al-Ta'līf" is al-Zahrāwī's most famous work in the field of medicine and surgery. This work, for which he is most celebrated, is an encyclopaedia in three parts: the first deals with general medical information and theories, the second focuses on medical practice and the third on surgery. This master piece comprises thirty books:

- 1st book: an introduction to general medicine
- 2nd book on etiology, diagnosis and therapeutics
- Book 3 to 27: on general pharmacology
- Livre 26: on diet
- Book 27: on drugs and food
- Book 28: on food preparation and preservation
- Book 29: on weights and measures, synonymies and substitutions
- Book 30: on surgery and instruments

The Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc (BNRM) (National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco) is nominating al-Zahrāwī's 30th manuscript volume for several reasons:

- It is devoted entirely to the subject of surgery.
- It has influenced the work of surgeons in both the East and West for several centuries.
- It is an important reference to the surgical profession.
- It is the first work in surgical history to provide illustrations and explanations of surgical instruments, many of which were invented by al-Zahrāwī himself.
- It has been translated into several languages.

2.0 Author

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organisation)

Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc (National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco)

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owner

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

1. Driss Khrouz
2. Naïma Keddane

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
1. Driss Khrouz	Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc, Avenue Ibn Khaldoun, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco
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3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details for the items being nominated

30th volume by al-Zahrāwī

Title: Al-Taṣrīf liman ‘ağiza ‘an al-Ta’līf

Nature of the document: Manuscript

Subject: Surgical treatise

Number of pages: 165 pages

Size: 26 cm x 18.5 cm

Copy date: 61? H/12

Copyist: Not indicated

Calligraphy: Andalusian, black ink

Binding: Red leather with gold inside cover and a central medallion

Written area: 20/14 cm

25 lines throughout the text except on the pages with drawings which vary from 22 to 23 lines.

198 colour illustrations of surgical instruments in red, yellow and black

Classification: ج 21

Place of conservation: Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc

3.4 History/Provenance

This manuscript belonged to the collection at the Bibliothèque générale et archives (National Library and Archives of Morocco) before it was transferred to the Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc, a public institution with legal personality and financial autonomy created in 2003.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage

Name: Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc

Address: Avenue Ibn Khaldoun, Rabat, Maroc

Telephone: +212 5377-71890

Fax: +212 5 37 77 74 30

Email: bnrm@bnrm.ma

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage

Name : Bibliothèque nationale du Royaume du Maroc

Address: Avenue Ibn Khaldoun, Rabat, Maroc

Telephone : +212 5377-71890

Fax : +212 5 37 77 74 30

Email: bnrm@bnrm.ma

4.3 Legal status

The Bibliothèque nationale du Royaume du Maroc (BNRM) is a national library with the status of a public institution. It is under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture.

4.4 Accessibility

This manuscript is available in the online BNRM catalogue.
This document can be viewed on microfilm or in electronic format. It can be accessed by members classified as 'researchers' from Monday to Friday from 9 am - 4 pm.

4.5 Copyright status

This document is now in the public domain.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity

This manuscript is unique and original due to:

- its Andalusian calligraphy;
- its unique drawings;
- and its historical value, as it is to the best of our knowledge, the oldest in the world: AH 610/1213.
- 353/5000
- And its historical value. As a matter of fact, the copy from the National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco next to the copy from India are considered , until today, the oldest copies in the world and closest to the date of the composition of the original treaty (End of 10th century). They date from the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century.

5.2 World significance

Through his research and inventions, al-Zahrāwī's work as a surgeon has been of significant benefit to the world in many ways.

- **Al-Zahrāwī's contribution to Surgery**

He was the first to:

- separate surgery from other medical subjects, making it a distinct science based on the study and dissection of living bodies and corpses;
- extract bladder stones via the vagina;
- make incisions in the trachea, an operation he practised on his servant;
- use the standard Trendelenbourg position for operations on the pelvis minor, later attributed to the German surgeon;
- skillfully carry out arterial ligation;
- completely review the neurosurgery of his time, testing it against his own practice, with neurosurgical instruments and techniques for cranial and spinal cord injuries and hydrocephalus.

(Reference : <http://medarus.org/Medecins/MedecinsTextes/abulcassis.html>)

Due to its great importance, this book has, for five centuries, remained part of the surgery programmes at the Universities of Salerne and Montpellier.

'He was renowned, in both the East and the West, above all as a surgical specialist... the attention of translators, commentators, publishers, has focused on the third part ... the surgery in the thirtieth and last treatise, is what made az-Zahraoui famous' (Danielle Jacquart and Françoise Micheau, *La médecine arabe et l'Occident médiéval*, Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose, 1990, pp. 139-141, 210, 213, 217).

Is this heritage unique and irreplaceable?

This heritage is unique because of its script, antiquity and coloured drawings.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

1. Time

The author of the manuscript is a perfect reflection of his time. The period in which al-Zahrāwī studied medicine in Cordoba coincides with the rise of Arabic Medicine as represented by these great physicians: Ibn Sina in Isfahan, Al Baghdadi in Damascus, Ibn an Nafis and Ibn Abi Usaybia in Cairo, Ishaq Ibn Imran and Ibn Al Jazza in Kairouan and the renowned Averroes and Abulcasis (al-Zahrāwī) in Cordoba, of Tolido, Seville and Zaragoza, the last of whom rapidly distinguished himself in the field of surgery.

2. Place

3. People

4. Subject and theme

The 30th book of d'al-Zahrāwī is on the field of surgery and has been of great service to humanity.

5. Form and style

The exceptional value of this document lies in the fact that it is the first in the history of surgery to provide surgical explanations and instruments illustrated in colour. It is also written in beautiful Andalusian calligraphy.

6. Social/spiritual/community significance:

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

This manuscript copy is unique and irreplaceable.

6.2 Integrity

The document is complete.

10.0 Any Other Information

These information demonstrate the universal value and interest of the al-Zahrāwī :

- The arabic copies of the 30th volume al-Zahrāwī.
- The latin manuscripts of the 30th volume al-Zahrāwī.
- The translations of the 30th volume dedicated to the subject of surgery

1. The arabic copies of the 30th manuscript al-Zahrāwī :

Cotes	Copies of 30 ^{ème} volume al-Zahrāwī	Date of the copies
2146	Copie of the Khadabirbich Library (in India) Consists only the 30 th volume	584H/1188
21ع	Copy of the National Library of the Kingdom of Marocco	61? H/12..
9050	Copy of Bodleion Oxford (England, United Kingdom)	670H/1271
404	The Library of Ben Youssef at Marrakech	863/1458
LJS 435	The University of Pennsylvania at the United States	869 AH/ 1464
6254	Copy of Berlin	Estimé à 900 H/1494
205	Copy of the Library of Copie al-Soulaymaniya in Istanbul (in Turkish) under 502 already cited in the Encyclopedia of Islam as the most complete.	902H/1496
Arabic 6824	The National Library of France (Departement of archives and Manuscripts)	1556

Arabic 6824	The National Library of France (Departement of archives and Manuscripts)	1556
134	Copy of the Royal Library of Marocco	1307H/1889

References of the copies :

- Mohamed Al-Arbi Khattabi, catalogues of the royal library, section of the manuscripts of medicine, pharmacy and allied sciences, volume II, Rabat, 1982, p.71-79.

-University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Schoenberg, institute for manuscript studies», Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2013, p. 59. ; Transformation of knowledge, early manuscripts of the collection of Lawrence J. Schoenberg, edited by Crofton Blach, Paul Holberton publishing, London, 2006.

- al-Zahrāwī, Ḥalaf ibn 'Abbās Abū al-Qāsim, *Kitab al Zahraoui fi al Tib li 'amal Al Jarrahin* , study and annotation Doctor Mohamed Yassir Zakor, Minister of Culture, Damas, 2009, pp. 39-41.