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ARABIC LANGUAGE**

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**A GRAMMAR
OF THE
ARABIC LANGUAGE**

*Translated from the German of Caspari
and edited with numerous additions
and corrections*

by

W. WRIGHT, LL.D.

THIRD EDITION

revised by

W. ROBERTSON SMITH

and

M. J. DE GOEJE



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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

A SECOND Edition of my revised and enlarged translation of Caspari's Arabic Grammar having been called for, I have thought it my duty not simply to reprint the book, but to subject it again to a thorough revision. In fact; the present is almost a new work; for there is hardly a section which has not undergone alteration, and much additional matter has been given, as the very size of this volume (351 pages instead of 257) shows.

In revising the book I have availed myself of the labours of Arab Grammarians, both ancient and modern. Of the former I may mention in particular the *'Alfīya* (الْفَيْيَة) of 'Ibn Mālik, with the Commentary of 'Ibn 'Aqīl (ed. Dieterici, 1851, and the Beirut edition of 1872); the *Mufaṣṣal* (المَفَصَّل) of 'el-Zamahṣari (ed. Broch, 1859); and the *Lāmīyatū 'l-'Af'āl* (لَامِيَّةُ الْأَفْعَالِ) of 'Ibn Mālik, with the Commentary of his son Badru 'd-dīn (ed. Volek, 1866). Of recent native works I have diligently used the *Miṣbāḥu l-Ṭālib fī Baḥṭi 'l-Maṭālib* (مِصْبَاحُ الطَّالِبِ فِي بَحْثِ الْمَطَالِبِ), that is, the *Baḥṭu 'l-Maṭālib* of the Maronite Gabriel Farḥāt, with the notes of Buṭrus 'el-Bistānī (Beirut, 1854); 'el-Bistānī's smaller Grammar, founded upon the above, entitled *Miftāḥu 'l-Miṣbāḥ* (مِفْتَاحُ الْمِصْبَاحِ), second edition, Beirut, 1867); and Nāṣif 'el-Yāzīgī's *Faṣlu 'l-Ḥiṭāb* (فَصْلُ الْخِطَابِ), second edition, Beirut, 1866).

Among European Grammarians I have made constant use of the works of S. de Sacy (Grammaire Arabe, 2de éd., 1831), Ewald (Grammatica Critica Linguae Arabicæ, 1831-33), and Lumsden (A Grammar of the Arabic Language, vol. i., 1813); which last, however, is based on the system of the Arab Grammarians, and therefore but ill-adapted, apart from its bulk and rarity, for the

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use of beginners. I have also consulted with advantage the grammar of Professor Lagus of Helsingfors (*Lärokurs i Arabiska Språket*, 1862). But I am indebted above all to the labours of Professor Fleischer of Leipzig, whose notes on the first volume of De Sacy's Grammar (as far as p. 359) have appeared from time to time in the *Berichte der Königl. Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften* (1863-64-66-70), in which periodical the student will also find the treatises of the same scholar *Ueber einige Arten der Nominalapposition im Arabischen* (1862) and *Ueber das Verhältniss und die Construction der Sach- und Stoffwörter im Arabischen* (1856).

In the notes which touch upon the comparative grammar of the Semitic languages, I have not found much to alter, except in matters of detail. I have read, I believe, nearly everything that has been published of late years upon this subject—the fanciful lucubrations of Von Raumer and Raabe, as well as the learned and scholarly treatises of Nöldeke, Philippi, and Tegnér. My standpoint remains, however, nearly the same as it formerly was. The ancient Semitic languages—Arabic and Æthiopic, Assyrian, Canaanitic (Phœnician and Hebrew), and Aramaic (so-called Chaldee and Syriac)—are as closely connected with each other as the Romance languages—Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Provençal, and French: they are all daughters of a deceased mother, standing to them in the relation of Latin to the other European languages just specified. In some points the north Semitic tongues, particularly the Hebrew, may bear the greatest resemblance to this parent speech; but, on the whole, the south Semitic dialects, Arabic and Æthiopic,—but especially the former,—have, I still think, preserved a higher degree of likeness to the original Semitic language. The Hebrew of the Pentateuch, and the Assyrian*, as it appears in even the oldest inscriptions, seem to me to have already attained nearly the same stage of gram-

* As regards Assyrian, I rely chiefly upon the well-known works of Oppert, Sayce, and Schrader.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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matical development (or decay) as the post-classical Arabic, the spoken language of mediæval and modern times.

I have to thank the Home Government of India for contributing the sum of fifty pounds towards defraying the expenses of printing this work; and some of the local Governments for subscribing for a certain number of copies; namely, the Government of Bengal, twenty, and the Home Department (Fort William), twenty-five; the Government of Bombay, ten; of Madras, ten; and of the Punjab, sixty copies. My friend and former school-fellow, Mr D. Murray (of Adelaide, S. Australia), has also given pecuniary aid to the same extent as the India Office, and thereby laid me, and I hope I may say other Orientalists, under a fresh obligation.

Professor Fleischer of Leipzig will, I trust, look upon the dedication as a mark of respect for the Oriental scholarship of Germany, whereof he is one of the worthiest representatives; and as a slight acknowledgment of much kindness and help, extending over a period of more than twenty years, from the publication of my first work in 1852 down to the present year, in which, amid the congratulations of numerous pupils and friends, he has celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate.

W. WRIGHT

CAMBRIDGE
 1st July 1874

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PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

THE Second Edition of Wright's Grammar of the Arabic Language had been out of print long before the death of its author, but he was never able to find the leisure necessary for preparing a New Edition. The demand for it having become more and more pressing, Prof. W. Robertson Smith, who well deserved the honour of succeeding to Wright's chair, resolved to undertake this task. He began it with his usual ardour, but the illness which cut short his invaluable life soon interrupted the work. At his death 56 pages had been printed, whilst the revision had extended over 30 pages more. Robertson Smith had made use of some notes of mine, which he had marked with my initials, and it was for this reason among others that the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press invited me, through Prof. Bevan, to continue the revision. After earnest deliberation I consented, influenced chiefly by my respect for the excellent work of one of my dearest friends and by a desire to complete that which another dear friend had begun. Moreover Prof. Bevan promised his assistance in correcting the English style and in seeing the book through the press.

I have of course adhered to the method followed by Robertson Smith in that part of the Grammar which he revised. Trifling corrections and additions and such suggestions as had already been made by A. Müller, Fleischer and other scholars, are given in square brackets. Only in those cases where it seemed necessary to take all the responsibility upon myself, have I added my initials. Besides the printed list of additions and corrections at the end of the Second Volume, Wright had noted here and there on the margin of his own copy some new examples (chiefly from the *Nakā'id*) which have been inserted, unless they seemed quite superfluous, without any distinctive sign. I have found but very few notes by Robertson Smith on the portion which he had not

definitely revised; almost all of these have been marked with his initials. Wright's own text has been altered in a comparatively small number of passages (for instance § 252, § 353), where I felt sure that he would have done it himself. Once or twice Wright has noted on the margin "wants revision."

The notes bearing upon the Comparative Grammar of the Semitic languages have for the most part been replaced by references to Wright's Comparative Grammar, published after his death by Robertson Smith (1890).

I have to acknowledge my obligations to Mr Du Pré Thornton, who drew my attention to several omissions. But my warmest thanks must be given to my dear friend and colleague Prof. Bevan, who has not only taken upon himself all the trouble of seeing this revised edition through the press, but by many judicious remarks has contributed much to the improving of it.

The Second Volume is now in the printers' hands.

M. J. DE GOEJE

LEYDEN
February 1896

[The Syndics of the Press are indebted to the liberality of Mr F. Du Pré Thornton for the copyright of this Grammar, which he purchased after the death of the author and presented to them with a view to the publication of a New Edition.

They desire to take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude to Prof. de Goeje for the courtesy with which he acceded to their request that he would complete the revision and for the great labour which he has expended upon the task in the midst of many important literary engagements.]

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The present Re-issue of Wright's *Arabic Grammar* differs very slightly from the third edition, which was published in 1896–8. Only a few changes, mostly corrections of misprints, have been made in the body of the work. The lists of *Addenda* at the beginning of each volume include, among the *Addenda* here reprinted from the third edition, some new matter (equal to about three pages) for which I am responsible.

A. A. BEVAN

December 1932

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ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

VOL. I.

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15 B add: **شُوْبِيَّةٌ**, **مَدَقٌ** from **مُدَيْقٌ**.

20, Rem. c, read: as [perhaps] in the article; comp. § 345. See my reply to Dr Howell, in the *Asiat. Quart. Rev.* 1897, Vol. iii. n. 5, p. 126 *seq.* [D.G.]

30 c add: Hence the use of **رَمُو**, *excellent is he in his shooting*, **قَضُو** *excellent*, or *how excellent is he in his judging*, **عَزُو**, **طَمَع**, **هِيُو**. Comp. § 183, rem. c.

33 after (c) add: The third form construed with the preposition **بَيْنَ** has not unfrequently the signification of a causative of the sixth form, as **قَارَبَ بَيْنَ** *he united by brotherhood*, **قَارَبَ بَيْنَ** *he made to be near together*, etc. (Nöldeke, *Zur Grammatik*, p. 26).

34, Rem. b. Comp. **أَقْدَرَهُ**.

36 A. **أَشْكَى** is properly *to listen, to give attention to a complaint*, as **أَطْلَبَ**, **أَعْتَبَ**, etc. (Nöldeke, *Z. Gr.* p. 28).

37 c add: **تَقَدَّرَ**.

41 c after *narrow*; add: **أَنْعَجَزَ**.

47 D add: **غَطَّرَ** (**تَغَطَّطَ**).

59, Rem. a. Fleischer, *Kl. Schr.* i. 368, considers the root as a concrete noun.

65, § 113. Rem. b, add: **أَنَاطَرَ** occurs in the *Ḥamāsa*, p. 295, last line, and **أَنَاذَر** *to become bent* (from the root **أَوَد**) in Imru'u-l-Ḳais (ed. Ahlwardt), No. 14, v. 14, *Mufaḍḍaliyāt* (ed. Lyall), p. 376, l. 13. 562, l. 16, *Nakā'id*, p. 23, l. 18, 706, l. 12.

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- 67, § 117. Rem. *b*, add: on the form مُطْلِعٌ for مُضْطَلِعٌ see *Mufaḍḍalīyāt*, p. 193, l. 8 with footnote, and *Naḳā'id*, p. 899, l. 7, where one Ms. has مُضْطَلِعٌ.
- 67, § 117*. Vollers, *Zeitschr. f. Assyriologie*, xii. 134 footnote, quotes Ḳor'ān, ch. xiii. 12 مُعْتَقِبَاتٌ for مُعْتَقِبَاتٌ (Bèid. i. 477, l. 17) as a proof that this form is not restricted to those verbs that have a dental as second radical.
- 79 A add: وَجَدَ is said to form an Imperf. يَجِدُ as well as the ordinary يُجِدُ (*Lisān* iv. p. 458, l. 4, 459, l. 3).
- 79, § 144, Rem. *b*, add: the Perf. وَدَعَ occurs in the *Mufaḍḍalīyāt*, p. 404, l. 6.
- 91 A add: The tribe of Ṭaiyi' said بَقَا for بَقِيَ، رَضَا for رَضِيَ، بَنَتْ for بَنَتْ، so *Ḥamāsa* 77 and comp. De Sacy, *Chrest.* ii. 445. Similarly we find مَنَى for مَنَى *Ḥamāsa*, p. 433, l. 20, and سُدَى for سُدَى *Mufaḍḍalīyāt*, p. 627, l. 12.
- 96; Rem. *a*. Ġāhīz, *Bayān* i. 65, 6 and 3 from below has الأليسية opp. to الليسية.
- 98 A, Rem. *c*. On such forms as رَمَوْ، عَزَوْ، قَضَوْ، see above, note to p. 30.
- 98 c add: after a verb expressing surprise the object is sometimes omitted and must be supplied from the context, e.g. مَا أَدَقَّ (for أَدَقَّهُمْ) how puny they are! *Mufaḍḍalīyāt*, p. 112, l. 14, and أَعَزَّزُ بِهِ عَلَيَّ (for أَعَزَّزُهُ بِهِ عَلَيَّ) how painful it is to me! *Naḳā'id*, p. 585, l. 16.
- 98 n, Rem. *a*, delete the remark in square brackets. [D.G.]
- 110, § 195. They are called also أَسْمَاءُ الْحَدَثِ opp. to أَسْمَاءُ الْعَيْنِ (*Ḥamāsa* 90).

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- 113 B, Rem. add: The form **فِعَالٌ** is particularly common in verbal nouns denoting *processes* or *operations* performed on men, animals, or plants, e.g. **خِتَانٌ** *circumcision*, **خِصَاءٌ** *castration*, **فِصَادٌ** the *bleeding* of a camel for food, **إِبَارٌ** the *fertilisation* of palm-trees, etc.
- 181 A add: **وَقْدٌ** (Ṭabari i. 3158, i 5).
- 181 D add: **بَلَدٌ** *country* (Bibl. Geograph. v. p. 154, l. 11 seq.).
- 182 C add: **العَصْرُ** (for **صَلْوَةُ العَصْرِ**, Buḥārī i. p. 94, l. 4)—and **عُقَارٌ** *wine* (Aḡānī vi. p. 104, l. 15, *Mufaḍḍalīyāt*, p. 664, l. 15, *Kāmil*, p. 62, l. 19).
- 183 A add: **مُدَامٌ** *wine* (*Kāmil*, p. 26, l. 12), **مَرْكَبٌ** *a ship* (Seybold).
- 195 (d). The ending **يُونٌ** is often shortened to **وُنٌ**, as usually in **الْأَشْعَرُونَ** for **الْأَشْعَرِيُونَ**. Other instances are **التَّجْمِرُونَ**, **الْخَزْرَجُونَ**.
- 210, footnote. The plur. pauc. of fem. words is ordinarily **أَفْعُلٌ**, of masc. words **أَفْعَلَةٌ**.
- 233 C: **إِنْبَاهٌ** belongs to **انث**, comp. Aram. **ܐܢܒܐܗܐ** (Seybold).
- 234 footnote. The term **مُجْرِيٌ** is sometimes used as a synonym of **مُنْصَرَفٌ** (*Lisān* ii. p. 360, l. 8).
- 264, § 337. When the Arabs say “every *third* day” they mean “every *other* day,” when they say “every *fourth* day” they mean “every *third* day,” and so on—see *Kāmil*, p. 446, l. 6 seq.
- 268 footnote. The form **كَاكٌ** exactly corresponds to the Hebrew **כִּכָּה**.
- 271: to the plural forms of **الَّذِي** add **أَلَا** (*Ḥamāsa*, p. 678, l. 21), and **الْأَلَاءُ** (*ibid.* p. 769, l. 21).
- 271, Rem. a. Likewise **الَّذِينَ** instead of **الَّذِينَ** Kor’ān xli. v. 29.

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ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

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288, § 363: add: **أَوَّلٌ** *first* (adverbially, *Ḥamāsa*, p. 501, l. 23, *éš-Šanfarā*, *Lāmīya* v. 45)—these adverbs are called **غَايَاتٌ** (*Mufaṣṣal*, p. 67, l. 2).

296, Rem. c. A poet allows himself to say **لَا مَرَّ الْأَرْضِ وَيَلٌ** (*Ḥamāsa* 457).