

## Mobile Manuscripts

In this essential new work, Christopher D. Bahl departs from the established historiography on trade, shipping, and pilgrimage to argue for the emergence of Arabic learning as a crucial form of transoceanic mobility from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries. From Egypt to the Hijaz, Yemen and further on to Gujarat and the Deccan, networks of manuscript circulation created shared social and cultural spaces across the early modern western Indian Ocean, in which South Asia was a key node of connection. Largely unstudied Arabic manuscripts from collections in eight different archives offer a new source base to explore the region as a hub of Arabic scholarly culture, while marginalia and notes provide an empirical treasure trove for the study of social spaces and cultural practices. This is the first book to trace these truly transoceanic encounters between scholars, sultans, scribes, readers, and librarians.

Christopher D. Bahl is Assistant Professor in South Asian History at Durham University.

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# Mobile Manuscripts

*Arabic Learning across the Early Modern  
Western Indian Ocean*

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Christopher D. Bahl

*Durham University*



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Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-35972-6 — Mobile Manuscripts  
Christopher D. Bahl  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

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CAMBRIDGE  
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009359726](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009359726)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009359719

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009359719

First published 2025

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library  
of Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-35972-6 Hardback

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To my wonderful Bahl family

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## Acknowledgements

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Just like the mobile manuscripts in this book accrued marginal notes during their circulations, I accrued many debts towards colleagues, institutions, friends, and loved ones over the course of writing this book. The book is based on my doctoral dissertation, which I submitted to SOAS, University of London, in 2018. That project could already only be completed with the help and support of many people and institutions across the world back then. Now, I need to thank many of them again, but I am also happy to add new names.

Among the ‘old ones’, I would like to thank my supervisors Konrad Hirschler and Roy Fischel, who out of sheer kindness kept talking to me about how to turn the initial research project into a book. At conferences, seminars, and contingent encounters I received helpful suggestions and ideas from many colleagues and friends. I am grateful to Olly Akkerman, Stefan Hanß, Nur Sobers-Khan, Francesca Orsini, Mohamed El-Merheb, Nir Shafir, Adam Talib, William Clarence-Smith, and Torsten Wollina.

Among the ‘new ones’, I am also grateful to Rosalind O’Hanlon and Jo van Steenbergen for their critical comments and suggestions on the PhD thesis. I am thankful to Feras Krimsti, Abdallah Soufan, Esther-Miriam Wagner, and James White for helpful conversations.

I am grateful to a variety of institutions which funded and supported me over the years of research and writing, namely to the Zempelin/Schoeneberg Programm for studies abroad and the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation), to SOAS for fully funding my PhD research through a SOAS Research Scholarship and a SOAS Mobility Award for the fieldwork trips, as well as the Institute of Historical Research, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of London, for funding me during a writing-up period through a six-month Thornley Fellowship. A Bourse Doctorale of the IFAO (Institut français d’archéologie orientale), Cairo, generously supported my research in April 2017 at the Dār al-Kutub and the al-Azhar

xiv Acknowledgements

Mosque Library in Cairo. Here, I would especially like to thank Nicolas Michel at the IFAO in Cairo.

I started rewriting the doctoral research project during a two-year research associateship at the German Orient-Institut, Beirut, Lebanon (2018–20). I am grateful to Till Grallert, Caroline Kinj, and Abdallah Soufan for keeping me in good spirits during that time.

A workshop with colleagues from the Department of History at Durham University has helped me reshape, revise, and rethink some of my chapters and arguments further. I thank Tom Hamilton, Radha Kapuria, Joe Martin, and Justin Willis for their generous support and time.

I thank the Department of History at Durham University for their generous funding towards the production of maps, and the index, as well as the acquisition of permissions to use images. I am grateful to Olaf Nelson for producing the maps and to Tim Curnow for creating the index.

The research that went into this book could not have been completed without visiting many institutions and with the help and support of many people on those travels. I especially thank Suboor Bakht in Delhi, Tariq Azhar and his family in Rampur, Tania Chakravarty in Kolkata, and Danilo Marino and Sabina Läderach in Cairo. I thank the institutions and their staff that I visited on these trips for their support and help. Starting in South Asia, I thank the staff at both the Salar Jung Museum and Library and the Andhra Pradesh Oriental Manuscript Library (now the Telangana State Governmental Oriental Manuscript Library) for their hospitality and help in finding and reproducing many manuscripts for my research. I thank the staff at the Noor Microfilm Centre at the Culture House of the Islamic Iranian Republic in New Delhi, the librarians at the Pir Muhammad Shah Dargah Library, Ahmadabad, the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, the Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, the Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama Library, Lucknow, the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental and Public Library, Patna, the National Library, Kolkata, and the Bengal Asiatic Society Library, Kolkata, for their support. Moving on to Egypt, I would like to thank the staff at the Dār al-Kutub and the al-Azhar Mosque Library for their help. In Turkey, I would like to thank the staff of the Süleymaniye Mosque Library in Istanbul for their great efficiency and help. Across Europe, I would like to thank the staff and librarians at SOAS Library, London, the British Library, London, the John Rylands Library, Manchester, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the University Library, Edinburgh, the Bavarian State Library, Munich, the Research Library

## Acknowledgements

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of the University of Erfurt, Gotha, and the Austrian National Library, Vienna.

I am grateful to the British Library, London, the Telangana State Governmental Oriental Manuscript Library (TSGOML), and the Süleymaniye Library, Istanbul, for allowing me to reproduce here some of the images I worked with. Due to technical issues in the wake of a cyber-attack on the British Library's IT system in late 2023, manuscripts from the Asar Mahal collection could not be reproduced in high resolution. I am grateful to the Licensing team for allowing me to use the images I made during my earlier visits to the reading rooms.

I thank the editorial board of the Oceanic Histories Series, in particular Sujit Sivasundaram, for their support with this book project. I thank Lucy Rhymer, Rosa Martin, and Lisa Carter at Cambridge University Press, as well as Titus Prathish for their support and guidance throughout the peer review and publication process, and the copy editor, Julene Knox, for her tremendous efforts and help in revising the final typescript. And last but not least I would like to thank the two anonymous reviewers for their critique, suggestions, and support in developing the argument of this book.

Family and friends have been wonderful partners in life over the last years. I thank both the Bahl and Williams families for their support in all the good and bad times.

Running through the countryside of County Durham with Joe Martin has provided me with a healthy distraction from the obsession one develops with one's own research. Matt Johnson made sure that I stayed caffeinated sipping Chai during our afternoon meetings.

Alice, as always, read the book, helped me revise the formalities, and together with our little daughter, Everlee, kept me sane over the last years. Thank you both!

## Notes on Dates, Places, and Transliterations

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Dates are given both according to the Hijrī Calendar and the Calendar of the Common Era (H/CE). Commonly occurring names and terms have been spelled according to their usage in the English-language secondary literature. The transliteration of names and terms in Arabic and Persian is generally based on the system used in the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, Three, published by Brill.