

Muhammad's Heirs

Muslim scholars are a vital part of Islam and are sometimes considered “heirs to the prophets,” continuing Muhammad’s work of establishing Islam in the centuries after his death. But this was not always the case: indeed, Muslims survived the turmoil of their first century largely without the help of scholars. In this book, Jonathan Brockopp seeks to determine the nature of Muslim scholarly communities and to account for their emergence from the very beginning of the Muslim story until the mid-tenth century. By analyzing coins, papyri, and Arabic literary manuscripts from the ancient mosque-library of Kairouan, Tunisia, Brockopp offers a new interpretation of Muslim scholars’ rise to positions of power and influence, serving as moral guides and the chief arbiters of Muslim tradition. This book will be of great benefit to scholars of comparative religion and advanced students in Middle Eastern history, Islamic Studies, Islamic Law, and early Islamic literature.

Jonathan E. Brockopp is an associate professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University. He is the editor of and contributor to *The Cambridge Companion to Muḥammad* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

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*The Rise of Muslim Scholarly Communities,
622–950*

JONATHAN E. BROCKOPP
Pennsylvania State University



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Note on Transliteration and Dates

To simplify the text for nonspecialists, I reserve diacritics for Arabic technical terms, which are always italicized. Arabic names and terms that have become part of English are written without italics or diacritics, though I chose the slightly more correct Muhammad and Qur'an instead of Mohamed and Koran. Full diacritics are included in the footnotes and the bibliography.

As has become commonplace in our field, death dates of specific persons are identified first with the Muslim date (sometimes marked AH for *anno hegirae*), followed by the Common Era (CE) date, for example, Malik b. Anas (d. 179/795). Occasionally, I will also refer to a century in this way, such as the second/eighth century. When a century or date is not otherwise identified, it should be read as referring to the Common Era.

Unless otherwise noted, all translations are my own.