

# An Introduction To Modern Literary Arabic David Cowan

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the lessons are clear in non technical language and have generous examples with

plenty of exercises for translation from arabic to english and from english to arabic this is the manual that students interested in arabic as a living and expanding world language will prefer it is the first to deal mainly with modern literary arabic in mr cowan s words the purpose is to explain to the students in as concise a manner as possible the grammatical structure of the modern arabic literary language as it is found today in newspapers magazines books the radio and public speaking i have endeavoured to restrict the material to the minimum which may serve as a stepping stone to a deeper study of arabic as the fundamental grammar of written arabic has hardly changed as an introduction to the classical language also having once mastered its contents the student should have a sound grasp of arabic grammar and can then direct his studies towards modern literature or classical according to his needs and inclinations

the volume brings together approaches to different elements of arabic islamic civilization mainly in the areas of linguistics literature literary theory and prosody but also including religion ritual economics and zoology contributions also touch upon the adjacent areas of the old iranian persian greek and byzantine written traditions some take as their points of departure specific arabic words cat giraffe or morphemes others explore literary genres subgenres oration ode macaronic poem travel narrative or figures within them the trickster the devil cultural concepts such as wishing gift giving or discourse are treated as are aspects of broader phenomena such as the role of gender in dream interpretation or the relative merits of luxury goods and mass produced commodities

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shemlan a small once unknown village in the hills overlooking beirut became notorious throughout the middle east when bertram thomas chose it as the location for the middle east centre for arab studies mecas in 1947 the knowledge that a western government was taking pains to teach its citizens arabic and inform them of arab history society and religion made the arabs suspicious the success of mecas in producing specialists who were the envy of other governments produced doubt and anxiety the power of mecas to attract british but also foreign diplomats and businessmen should have made it a profitable enterprise instead there was constant penny pinching and reluctance to invest in retrospect it looks like an excellent idea developed by improvisation through its early troubles which was then allowed to die in its prime was it yet another example of a british invention unexploited

the gibb memorial trust founded at the start of the 20th century comprised among its trustees some of the most celebrated and prominent orientalists of their day

together they sponsored and supported research on editing and translating arabic persian and turkish manuscripts on a range of subjects from history literature geography and poetry to sufism and the islamic sciences this volume covers the development of middle eastern and islamic studies over the last 120 years or so as seen through the biographies of the leading scholars of the period it opens with a short history of the trust before presenting a series of short biographical and often personal appreciations of these eminent middle eastern scholars of the past written by existing trustees in providing a history of this important institution the book shines a light on the history and development of middle eastern and islamic studies in britain more broadly

the present volume is a pioneering study of the development of islamic traditions of learning in 20th century zanzibar and the role of muslim scholars in society and politics based on extensive fieldwork and archival research in zanzibar 2001 2007 the volume highlights the dynamics of muslim traditions of reform in pre colonial colonial and post colonial zanzibar focussing on the contribution of sufi scholars q diriyya alawiyya as well as muslim reformers modernists activists an r al sunna to islamic education it examines several types of islamic schools qur nic schools madris and islamic institutes as well as the emergence of the discipline of islamic religious instruction in colonial government schools the volume argues that dynamics of cooperation between religious scholars and the british administration defined both form and content of islamic education in the colonial period 1890 1963 the revolution of 1964 led to the marginalization of established traditions of islamic education and encouraged the development of muslim activist movements which have started to challenge state informed institutions of learning

no country on earth can match the united kingdom for the concentration of arab world expertise and for opportunities to study the arabs and the arabic language how did this come about this study looks at the remarkable story of british arabists from 1900 to the new millennium

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