

Nomination Form

International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed |

Nomination Form

International Memory of the World Register

The Quranic manuscript of Sheikh Abdullah bin Bashir Al Hadrami Al Suhari

ID Code [*Internal use only*]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.

*This is the “shop window” of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

The Quranic manuscript written by the Omani scribe Sheikh Abdullah bin Bashir Al Hadrami is rare and unique despite the large number of Qurans. This Quran is characterized by the creative way in which it was copied and, as has been confirmed by a delegation assigned by the Royal Court to search for similar copies in Islamic countries, its aesthetic shape has not been repeated over the Islamic centuries.

In addition to the beauty of calligraphy and the ingenuity of the Islamic and Omani decorations, the scribe ordered the words and letters, so that each page contains fifteen lines, with the first letter of the first line matching the first letter of the last line, and the first letter of the second line matching the first letter of the second bottom line, and so on to the eighth line in the middle of the page, where the first letter matches the first letter of the same line on the next, left page, with similar letters being highlighted in red ink (see the attached form with two pages from the manuscript). All of the Quran chapters, 30 chapters in total, consist of eight papers each (exactly 16 pages). The first line of each chapter begins on a left page, and each chapter consists of 240 lines; the number of sheets is 240 for the 30 Quran chapters.

This Quran is also characterized by containing the seven readings of the Holy Quran and nearly ninety of the signs and symbols of the numbering of verses, both at the beginning and the end, and reciters' names to make it easier to read. Note that the scribe wrote the Quran for himself twice in exactly the same way separated by a period of nine years.

2.0 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Ministry of Heritage and Culture: The Directorate General of Documents and Manuscripts.

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The Ministry of Heritage and Culture owns the original copy of the manuscript.

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

Dr. Ibrahim Hassan Suleiman Al Balushi.

2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i> Dr. Ibrahim Hassan Suleiman Al Balushi	<i>Address</i> Ministry of Heritage and Culture
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Telephone work: (00968)
24641657

Facsimile (00968)
24641655

Email Omanibrahim123@gmail.com

G.S.M: (00968) 99808069

2.5 Declaration of authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the International Memory of the World Register.

Signature

Full name (Please PRINT)

Institution(s), if appropriate

Ministry of Heritage and Culture

Date

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

The Quranic manuscript of Sheikh Abdullah bin Bashir Al Hadrami Al Suhari

An immutable and accurately defined manuscript. The scribe started copying the first manuscript in 1735, it is unknown when it was finished. He started writing the second manuscript nine years later in 1744, it is unknown when it was finished.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Depending on what is being nominated, appending a catalogue can be a useful way of defining a collection. If this is too bulky or impractical, a comprehensive description accompanied by sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers or other ways of defining a collection's size and character can be used.

Retain No. (60)

Place of Retain: Directorate General of Documents and Manuscripts - Ministry of Heritage and Culture.

Manuscript Size: 21 x 31 cm

Number of Lines per page: (15) lines.

Number of Pages: 480 (240 sheets)

Manuscript Status: good.

History of Manuscript: Monday, 13 Tho Al Qaeda 1148 H = 1735.

Scribe Name: Abdullah bin Bashir Al Hadrami Al Suhari.

3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)

It is useful to append photographs (or in the case of audiovisual material a CD, DVD, USB key of all or some of the material), where this adds additional information, to help the assessors visualize or listen to the collection or document.

Attachments:

- An electronic copy of the manuscript.
 - A hard copy transcript of the manuscript.
-

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

Among the Quranic manuscripts in the Directorate General of Documents and of Manuscripts at the Ministry of Heritage and Culture (No. 60)

Abdullah bin Bashir Al Hadrami finished copying on Monday, 13 Tho Al Qaida 1735.

There is another manuscript written by Abdullah bin Bashir Al Hadrami in the same way. It was written nine years later in Rabeea Al Awal 1157 H / 1744.

3.5 Bibliography

A bibliography demonstrates what others have independently said and written about the heritage you are nominating. It is best if you can cite scholars from several countries, rather than just your own country, and if they are authoritative voices clearly independent from both your own institution and UNESCO.

- The manuscript was displayed in several international exhibitions of Omani manuscripts (Syria - Tunisia - Qatar - Zanzibar - Libya - Egypt and others) (attached are photos for these exhibitions).
- Some magazines and books referred to in this manuscript, including:
 - Journal of Cultural Angles - the first issue -2006 - p 134, Ministry of Heritage and Culture - Sultanate of Oman. (attached)
 - Catalogue of Historic Manuscripts. (attached)
 - Catalogue of Decorated Qurans. Issued by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs. (attached)
- A transcript of the manuscript was published locally at the expense of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. (the first page is attached).
- How did we get Omani manuscripts, pp. 24, Literature Forum, the Sultanate of Oman.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage.

Name	Qualifications	Contact details
1. Sultan Mubarak Hamad Al Shaybani	BA	00968 92925686
2. Dr. Abdul Rahman Suleiman Al Salmi	PHD	00968 99886640
3. Mohammed Aamer Al Aiseri	BA	00968 92828288
4. Dr. Ali Rashid Al Medilwi	PHD	00968 99361426

The referees you cite will be asked for their opinions. UNESCO may also contact other authoritative referees so that a good spectrum of opinion is available for assessment purposes.

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name Ministry of Heritage and Culture Address P.O. Box: 668, P.C: 100, Sultanate of Oman

Telephone 00968 24641657 Facsimile (00968) 24641655 Email Omanibrahim123@gmail.com

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name Mohammed Faiel Ali Al Tarshi,
Director of the Directorate General of Documents and Manuscripts, Ministry of Heritage and Culture Address P.O. Box: 668, P.C: 100, Sultanate of Oman

Telephone 00968 24641470 Facsimile 00968 24641460 Email Abu-noora@windwoslive.com

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The Ministry of Heritage and Culture is responsible both legally and administratively for the preservation of the documentary heritage of the Sultanate of Oman according to Royal Decree No. 12/76 issued in April 1976, which stated the establishment of the Directorate General of Documents and Manuscripts responsible for collecting, classifying, validating, printing and distributing Omani manuscripts. The subsequent Royal Decree 70/77 on the law of press and publications, issued in October 1977, touched on the protection and preservation of manuscripts from damage and loss, and to utilize them to raise awareness about conserving them in order to revive the intellectual heritage of Oman.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed
All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

The Ministry ensures that learners and researchers get access to the manuscript for scientific

research purposes; it encourages people to consult the manuscript, and displays it in exhibitions for visitors to the Directorate General of Documents and Manuscripts in the Ministry.

The manuscript is also photocopied and electronically saved on the microfilm system to ensure the preservation of the original copy of the manuscript, thus, access is guaranteed to copies only, while restricting access to the original.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

The Royal Decree on the protection of heritage and the Royal Decree on the Protection of manuscripts state the right of the government, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, to save the manuscripts, as described in paragraph 4.3.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?

The manuscript is original and old, and the scribe possessed a distinctive handwriting in which he produced several other manuscripts. Other authors indicated his distinctive copying of the Quran. This is found in:

- Ithaf Al Aaian, Saif bin Hamoud Al Battashi, Part, p -
- Glossary of Ibadi scholars and speakers, Fahd al-Saadi, Part , p -
- Oman's Great Figures' Guide, Sultan Qaboos University, p -

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

This written intellectual heritage is unique and rare; it is one of a kind. Thus, its disappearance would impoverish the Omani, Arab and world human heritage. The survival and preservation of this manuscript is important especially since it has been published only on a limited scale.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change)? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the “first of its kind”?

The history of the manuscript dates back to 1735; it is more than 286 years old. It was regarded as unique when it was written, and remains even more so today. This Quran contains a decorative geometry that reflects a significant period of time marked by the interest of Omanis in decoration and engineering in fields such as pulpits, ceilings and walls in a variety of locations such as mosques and castles.

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished

The manuscript was written in Oman, specifically in the city of Sohar. The existence of this manuscript symbolizes that Sohar in addition to being an important economic and commercial center, has been an important religious and scientific center since ancient times. Sohar had developed relations with countries throughout of the world including China, East Asia, India and Africa.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document’s creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

The manuscript reflects unprecedented creativity and invention and is proof of the level of scientific and cultural development in Oman at the time.

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

Although the Quran had been copied throughout the Islamic world for centuries before the scribe’s efforts, he managed to present something genuine and unique. The importance of this manuscript lies also in its beauty of calligraphy and decoration, and in its confirmation of the

interest and skill that the Omani people had in decorating forts, pulpits, ceilings and doors. The manuscript represents important developments in Islamic art in Oman.

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

The manuscript enjoys an aesthetic value represented in the beautiful calligraphy and magnificent Islamic decoration, thus, preserving an art in the writing of the Quran that no longer exists. The Quranic manuscript has also received supreme attention from the Sultan as he gave directives to re-print the manuscript with its distinctive order to maintain the original copy, and to circulate it to all Islamic countries.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

This manuscript is a source of pride for all the people of Oman who respect it because it shows the inimitability of the Holy Quran that they continuously read in mosques and houses.

Writing the Quran this way makes it easier for memorization, and more manageable because of the way letters are ordered. Similarity of characters from line one to the last line, and the different font color all are distinctive visual advantages that help readers to recall verses easily. It has also a direct impact on psychological and spiritual comfort as research has suggested that the Holy Quran can help to treat mental illnesses such as depression and Alzheimer's.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

This manuscript is rare in the way it was written; it was unprecedented and has not been repeated despite being two and a half centuries old.

The Diwan of Royal Court commissioned a delegation to verify the existence of a similar copy of the Quran in terms of the way of writing, but no match was found after traveling to several countries. (attached)

6.2 Integrity

The manuscript is preserved in accordance with international standard specifications for the preservation of manuscripts and documents. It is preserved in the Directorate General of Documents and Manuscripts in the Ministry on metal racks in boxes chemically treated to resist fire and anti-other natural factors. It is preserved under a temperature between 20-22 degrees and humidity of between 50-60 percent.

The place is equipped with a device to absorb excess moisture, humidity or emission or emit moisture when it is below the required level.

There is a fire-fighting system (F-200) which uses cool gas – non-liquid - so manuscripts are not damaged. The place is provided with appropriate lighting and sunlight does not get on to it. There is also a specialized modern laboratory for the processing and restoration of manuscripts using appropriate scientific means.

7.0 Consultation with stakeholders

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with the stakeholders in its significance and preservation.

Apart from the nominating institution itself, have other organizations or groups been consulted in the process of preparing the nomination – and, if so, did they support it or oppose it, or have useful comments to make?

Consultations regarding the nomination of the manuscript to the International Memory of the World Register were held by the national team for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register program, consisting of several national bodies in the Sultanate, in coordination with the Ministry of Heritage and Culture (the owner of the manuscript / document) which approved and welcomed the nomination acknowledging that the nomination will contribute to the preservation and circulation of this very important document at the national and regional level.

8.0 Assessment of risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

Be accurate and honest. If your document(s) is at risk for any reason, say so. UNESCO needs to know its true situation.

- The manuscript is rare and unpublished, thus, it is important to preserve it.
- Despite its intensive care in accordance to international standards, risk still exists, for example, fire, loss, theft, and natural factors like humidity and acidity; these risks are possible for each manuscript, despite the stringency of the precautions and security.

9.0 Preservation and Access Management Plan

9.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage?

YES NO

If yes, attach a summary of the plan. If no, please attach further details about current storage and custody of the materials.

YES, a preservation and access management plan has been developed by the ministry as summarized below:

- Participation – copies of the manuscript - in international exhibitions for manuscripts so it is recognized and to introduce its distinctive geometrical writing.
- Publish more about the manuscript in the press, TV and Radio in and outside Oman.
- Facilitate research and studies on the manuscript for all researchers in or out the country.
- Re- publish the manuscript – transcript – to circulate in the country, and distribute it to all mosques and other religious and cultural institutions in or outside the Sultanate. .
- Continue to preserve the original copy of the manuscript in accordance with international standard specifications.
- Prepare a documentary to shed more light on the manuscript.

10.0 Any other information

Detail any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage on the International Memory of the World Register. If the nomination is successful, how will you use this to promote the MoW Programme?

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

If this rare manuscript is registered on the Memory of the World Register, this will further promote the cultural and historical status of the Sultanate of Oman in the world, and encourage the nomination of other materials, since Oman is rich in rare treasures that deserve to be considered for registration in the Memory of the World Register.

Also, as the manuscript (document) contains the verses of the Holy Quran, it is one of the

important documents for Muslims around the world.