Arewa House, Center For Historical Documentation and Research, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna-Nigeria

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Report of the Activities of Arewa House Archives, Arabic Manuscripts Collections Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna- Nigeria

Musa Salih Muhammad

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Report of the Activities of Arewa House Archives,

Arabic Manuscripts Collections

Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna–Nigeria

By

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Introduction:

Arewa House, Centre for Historical Documentation and Research, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna, Nigeria organised an International Conference on “Preserving Nigeria’s Scholarly and Literary Traditions and Manuscript Heritage between 7th and 8th March, 2007 in collaboration with the United States Embassy, Abuja, Nigeria. The conference was aimed at raising public awareness on the importance of preserving Nigeria’s rich and unique corpus of Arabic manuscripts. Secondly, it was hoped that the conference will help in assessing the current state of northern Nigeria’s Ancient Arabic manuscript collections and setting future goals to ensure that the invaluable treasures are preserved for posterity and made accessible to the rest of the world.

2- The Background of Arewa House Kaduna

The history of Arewa House as a Centre for Research and Historical Documentation dates back to the year 1970 when the History of Northern Nigerian Committee was given the responsibility of writing a book on the history of northern Nigeria (Ikara 1988). This was after the dissolution of the three regional governments in the country and the creation of twelve states. This situation led to the establishment of the Joint Interim Common Services Agency (ICSA) to oversee the common assets and liabilities of the six newly created northern states (Ibid). It was in this respect that the residence of the late premier of the former Northern Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, was formally approved to serve as an office for this project, with the name “Arewa House”.

The House is concerned, not only with research and documentation of the history and culture of the people of Northern Nigeria, but also with contemporary studies on Policy, Peace and Conflict Resolution and Leadership. As a research Centre, the House is primarily concerned
with procuring, preserving, analyzing and discussing issues of national and International interest, especially as they affect the development of Northern Nigeria.

Professor Abdullahi Smith, one of the founding members of the Department of History, A.B.U., Zaria, was appointed as its first Director. In 1975, the control of Arewa House was transferred to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria on the directive of the then Federal Government of Nigeria (HNNP/11th ICSA White Paper 1975). Under Professor Smith, a solid foundation was laid that made Arewa House a unique place for research and historical documentation in the whole of West Africa. Arewa House is today one of the few reputable research centres with an enviable core collection of books and manuscripts including higher degree dissertations from various Universities in Nigeria and abroad. These dissertations cut across different fields of study, particularly in humanities and social sciences. Most of these dissertations are of thematic interest to the study of Northern Nigeria.

The Arewa House collections are further strengthened by a rare collection of Arabic manuscripts, the late Premier’s office records, government publications, Newspapers and other serial publications which are housed in the Archives. The Centre also accommodates students, scholars and researchers. It provides research affiliation to students from all parts of the world conducting research on any aspect of the state and society of Northern Nigeria.

3 Arewa House Arabic Manuscript Collections:

Arewa House as a centre for Historical Documentation and Research has a long history of work in the area of Arabic manuscript preservation in Northern Nigeria. Since its establishment in the 1970s the founding Director, Professor Abdullahi Smith had initiated many programs for the procurement and preservation of Arabic manuscripts in Northern Nigeria. There were many photographs, microfilms and few copies of original manuscripts procured during his time. Presently, Arewa House has about 1400 original manuscripts from
four different private collections deposited in its archives. Below is the brief description of the repository and the problems that are associated with the collections.

4 Arewa House Arabic Manuscripts Activities in Adamawa State

The activities of the Arewa House, in Adamawa State as part of our effort to safeguard and document our intellectual heritage, Arewa House, instructed an official tour to Yola and its environs for the purpose of survey/acquiring of Arabic Manuscripts. We visited and worked at the Fumbina Palace Museum, Yola, Galadima Family, Modibbo Ahmadu Fufore and other notable Scholars in Yola and its environs between 13th and 17th February 2007. A survey of Arewa House activities in Adamawa Emirate are as follows:

1. During our visits we were able to check the condition of Chunkunga Holy Qur’an and digitized it using digital camera with total page of 1368 pages and make digital copy to Fumbina Palace Museum.
2. Setting of Fumbina Palace Museum Archives, the work included; sorting, arranging, listing, boxing, labelling of old Adamawa N.A and Provincial files recovered at the palace during our visits. The work took place 2008,

I Digitization of Chukkunga Holy Qur’an

Chunkunga Holy Qur’an (Lamido Qur’an) which was said to have been used by Modibbo Adama, the founder of Adamawa Emirate in 1847 and it was traced back to
II Setting up of Fumbina Museum Archives

In view of the abundant archival materials in the Fombina Palace Museum, Yola, Adamawa State, the Archivist of Arewa House dutifully paid a working visit to some key officials of the Fombina Emirate Council with a view to working out modalities for preserving the historical records there. The request of the Arewa House for a bilateral co-operation that would lead to digitizing some of the Arabic manuscripts of the museum was granted.

Summary of the work

During our work in the Fombina Palace archives collection, we discovered that the condition under which the materials were kept was deplorable. This was due to poor storage of records, poor ventilation and filing system, which result in excessive heat and dampness. Added to this was the serious damage caused to the archival records by rodents, ants and insects [see appendix V]. Some of the valuable material in the holding of the Palace includes the Provincial Annual Reports for the period between 1903 and 1936, records related to district affairs in all the districts in Adamawa province, court cases, history, personal files and different correspondences from all the districts written in Arabic language, Hausa Ajami/Roman, and English.

Arrangement and description are two integrated practices designed to make records and archives physically and intellectually available for use.

During the progress of our work in particular, we made sure that we respected the original arrangement of records and ensured that their descriptions and arrangement
reflected their original form to make the records available and understandable to searchers. We tried not only to make the materials available but also to provide information about the content and context of the archives in our care.

Central to our activities were arrangement, listing and description during the period of our work is the understanding that records can be arranged and described according to levels. These levels place records into categories according to hierarchy, allowing them to be managed as groups rather than individual items. For example, we were able to sort the records and arrange them according to groups, numbers etc. This is in order not to bring about confusion and difficulties when retrieving same for searchers’ purposes.

Thus, we arranged, sorted, classified, described and listed 1,140 files and grouped them into 114 boxes. Each box was tied with twine and assigned a class, box and access numbers, now under digitization program

(III)-Modibbo Ahmadu Fofure Collection:

This collection consists of approximately 600 original manuscripts deposited in Arewa House. It is the personal collection of the late Modibbo Ahmadu Fofure of Yola (1889-1960). He was born in the year 1885 in Fufure, Adamawa Emirate, to Alkali Muhammadu Fufure. His ancestors migrated from Ngazargamun then to Kukawa, before moving to Dikkwa, all in the Borno Empire. From Borno they settled at Ribadu, and then at Fufure, before they finally moved to Yola, the Headquarters of Adamawa Emirate. Modibbo Ahmadu was introduced to Islamic education early in life by his father. Later, he was taught by renowned scholars in Adamawa, such as Modibbo Hammadu, Modibbo Mahmud son of Alkali Hamman-joda, the most remarkable Islamic judge in the history of Adamawa Emirate who studied in the
Middle East and taught for sometime in the Al-Azhar University in Egypt. Having passed through these great Islamic scholars, Modibbo Ahamadu became very versatile in various fields of knowledge, such as Jurisprudence (Islamic Law), Tafseer (Qur’anic exegesis) Hadith, Arabic Grammar, Logic, Poetry, Arabic literature, Astronomy, Mathematics and Medicine.

His first appointment in the Adamawa native Authority was in January, 1917 as Malamin Kasa, (The District Scribe) in Wuro Marafa, Vere District and later Alkalin (Judge) of Ribadu/Fufore in 1935. He was later transferred to Jada as Alkali in 1940, and subsequently moved to the Grand Khadi court in Yola as the Grand Mufti under his teacher, Modibbo Mahmudu. Thereafter, he worked under some notable Alkalis like Hamidu and Hamman Gabdo in Yola before he was himself appointed Alkalin Alkalai (Grand Khadi) of Adamawa Province in 1953, which coincide with the installation of Lamido of Adamawa, Alhaji Aliyu Musdafa, as the 11th Lamido of Adamawa.

Apart from his achievements in the judicial services with the Adamawa Native Authority from 1917-1957, his greatest achievement was the number of notable Islamic scholars in Adamawa and Cameroon he produced. These included Modibbo Umaru Ngaundare, one time Imam of Yola Central Mosque, Modibbo Barkindo, Imam of Yola Central Mosque, Modibbo Ahmadu Danburam, Modibbo Umaru Mbamba, Modibbo Abbasi Ribadu, Modibbo Yahya Ribadu, Modibbo Muhammadu Alkalin Garua, Modibbo Ibrahim Alkalin Ngaundare, and the Lamido of Adamawa Alhaji Aliyu Musdafa. Modibbo Ahmadu was an honest and pious Islamic judge and scholar. His thoughts, words and deeds were guided by the dictates of the sacred book, the Holy Qur’an and until his death in 1960 he was a strong believer in Islam and all that it teaches. His Manuscript Collection is a clear testimony of the long
intellectual history of Muslims in this country and their effort to promote all the branches of sciences. These works have played a central role in the cultural development of Muslims and the history and civilization of Northern Nigeria.

The collection is one of the largest of its kind in Adamawa Emirate so far recovered. The many scholarly treasures it contains and the breadth and scope of the subjects they cover make this collection one of the most important storehouses of Islamic knowledge and Northern Nigeria documentary heritage. The collection contains about 600 copies of Manuscripts out of which 370 were catalogued. They bear various titles as they were inherited from their great grandfathers in the period between the 14th and 20th century AD.

The collection is unique for two reasons. First, it contains many important items such as the finest illuminations and calligraphy with a variety of scripts of the Holy Qur’an, calligraphic art works, and other high-quality copies of many important works. Secondly, the collection is one the most diverse in terms of the subjects that are covered by it. These include copies of the Holy Qur’an, works of Qur’anic sciences, Hadiths (reports from the Prophet and the Imams), Tawheed or theology, Islamic law, prayers and sermons, mysticism, philosophy, ethics and politics, biographies, history, geographical works, Arabic and Fulfulde and Hausa grammar, lexicography and philology, poetry and prose, anthologies and other literary works, alchemy, astronomy, traditional medicine, traditional pharmacy and pharmacology, and most importantly a large body of correspondences on Mahdism, etc. This outstanding collection is now accessible to the public in Arewa House Archives, Kaduna

III Codicological Assessment of Chukkunga Holy Qurán

The Qur’an (Chukunga) is an ancient Manuscript, which was said to have been used by Modibbo Adama, the founder of the Adamawa Emirate, (1771-1847). The Writer
was Abd al-Qadir Bin Faqih Abdul Karim bin Sheikh Mohammad Al-Mutawakkil Rahim Rahman alias Batumeh owned by Galadima Abdu, the son of Galadima Albah probably the Governor of Western Borno at Nguru, more than 250 years ago. The Qur’an is highly revered by the people of Adamawa and the people of Northern Cameroon.

Unfortunately, the Qur’an is rapidly deteriorating and therefore, in need of professional intervention. Fortunately Ms Michelle Biddle, the head of Preservation Service of Wesleyan University, Connecticut, USA, on March 2009, during the conservation of the Modibbo Fufore Collection was able to identify the problems associated with the Qur’an and had taken measures to stabilize its condition. The proposed codicological assessment is therefore, timely and highly welcomed. She initiated to develop a proposal to The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA) for the conservation of the Chukkunga Qur’an in the Fombina Palace Museum, which was granted. The grant covered the supply of materials needed for the conservation work and small per diem for food and transportation expenses of the team constituted for the conservation project. Musa S. Muhammad, Archivist at Arewa House, was the leading member of the team. Malam Ahmadu Girei of the Trans-Saharan Centre, University of Maiduguri, Alhasan Kasim of National Museum, Yola and four Library staff of AUN, were other members of the team.

The focus of the project was twofold— to stabilize the Chukkunga and to provide further conservation training for the team members in order to increase local capacity for conserving and preserving manuscripts in Nigeria.

The project last for approximately two weeks between 11th and 28th May, 2010 at the Lamido Zubairu Educational Centre, Yola. The Chukkunga has massive ink corrosion
and at the moment, there is only a general idea of how many folia will need to be treated. Treating ink corrosion calls for careful, attentive work and it cannot be rushed

5 - Arewa House Activities in Jos and Environ and Toro and Tilden Fulani and environs of Plateau and Bauchi states respectively

On Feb, 8th and 9th 2008, a working visit to the late Sheikh Ahmad Arabi’s House in Jos was done. There, I had an extensive discussion with the family on the urgent need to rescue the highly valuable collection from further deterioration. We jointly, appreciated the difficulty, and the limited capacity of the family to safely keep and, or, maintain the documents in their deteriorating state and condition. Consequent upon such visit, the former Director, Arewa House, Dr. Mahmoud Hamman, instructed me to revisit the late Sheikh’s house between 17th and 19th February, 2008 to take an inventory of the collection.

1 Sheikh Ahmad Arabi Jos Collection:

This is the second Arabic manuscript collection in Arewa House, Kaduna. It belonged to the late Sheikh Ahmad Arabi of Jos in Nigeria (1910-1973). Sheikh Ahmad Arabi was born in 1909 at Nafada in the present Gombe state. He pursued his elementary school in Dukku, after which he worked briefly as court scribe. Sheikh Arabi later moved to Jos where he continued his Islamic education under his uncle, Alkalin Jos, Mallam Abubakar. He was appointed an Arabic Teacher at Jos NA Elementary School. Arabi’s search for knowledge took him to the famous School for Arabic Studies (SAS), Kano, after which he became a teacher there. He was called back by the Jos Native Authority in 1950. In 1947, he founded the Islamiyya Nizamiyyah School in Jos. He was appointed as the Deputy Grand Khadi for the
defunct Benue Plateau and North Eastern States, and Chairman of Benue Plateau State Pilgrim Welfare Board. He died in 1973 at the age of 63 (Musa 2008). As for his Arabic scripts most of them were written in Naskh script with some Kufic letters. The Naskh has some Maghrib style, especially the curative lettering and the placing of the dots for letters qaf and faa. Diacritical points were not omitted and orthographic colour is different from that of the texts. Special reeds were used in writing these manuscripts. Even the later ones are not written with pens or fountain pens. This is still observed in many places in Northern Nigeria. The ink itself was locally made and prepared by the copyists. The paper is of various kinds and comes mainly from European Countries. This is indicated by the watermarks. Various beautiful figures were represented by the trade marks.

The Arewa House archivist did his best to catalogue the collection using the names of both the authors and books with spelling as given in the manuscripts themselves. It was rather difficult to identify authors in some cases, because their names are usually given after two pages or more in the texts. Sometimes, the first pages were missing, and in many cases the authors’ names were given in many manuscripts. His collection consist of 156 copies of handwritten manuscripts, including volumes of hadith and fiqh works, some dating from the eighteenth century.

II -Mallam Musa Ganan Daji Jos Manuscript Collection:

The owner of this valuable collection is Nupe by tribe who travelled far and wide in Nigeria for the purpose of seeking knowledge and trade and he finally settled in a village to the North of Jos. He has more than 220 copies of original Arabic and Ajami manuscripts written in the period between the 19th and 20th centuries. The subjects
covered by the manuscripts include Islamic matters such as interpretation of the Qur’an, Sufism, Astrology, Poetry, Sociology and Political Economy.

III Some copies of Arabic/Ajami Manuscripts were Scanned from Toro in Bauchi State

6 Arewa House activities in Kano and Katsina

From November 23rd -27th, 2008 an official trip to Kano and Katsina for the purposes of survey, procurement and sensitization on preservation and access was conducted by myself, Mallam Salisu Bala and Dr Mustapha Gwadabe under the leadership of the Director of Arewa House, Dr Mahmoud Hamman. The trip was sponsored by the Ford Foundation for training young scholars to explore Arabic manuscripts in Nigeria, in collaboration with Arewa House, Centre for Historical Documentation and Research, Kaduna. The trip aimed, among other things at the sensitization of the public on the importance of preserving Nigeria’s rich and unique corpus of Arabic manuscripts. Most importantly, the trip was part of the efforts of procurement and assessing the current state of Nigeria’s Arabic manuscript collections and setting future goals to ensure that the invaluable treasures are preserved for posterity and made accessible to the rest of the world.

The manuscripts can be classified into three forms, namely, originals (which can either be on parchment, papyrus, or paper), photographic reproductions, and microfilms. Their content contains discourses on various areas of socio-economic, cultural and political interest, including mathematics, chemistry, physics, optics, astronomy, medicine, Islamic sciences, history, geography, the traditions of The
Prophet, government legislation and treaties, jurisprudence, logic and philosophy, as well as poetry and literature.

During our visit to these cities, we had the opportunity of surveying the physical condition and present state of some of the Arabic manuscript holdings in the notable ulama’a houses and libraries in Kano city such as Alhaji Uba Ringim’s residence, Sheikh Shehu Maihula, Sheikh Abubakar Atiku, Sheikh Sani Kafunga, Sheikh Nasiru Kabara and Bayero University Kano.

Katsina state

In Katsina State, various ulama’a were visited under the guidance of Alhaji Yahuza Tukur Gwarjo, the Head of Research and Documentation of the History and Culture Bureau, Katsina who took us round the town. We visited the house of the Chief Imam of Katsina, and Sheikh Abbati of Unguwan Liman and Katsina State University, We had some discussion with Ulama’a on the importance of preserving Arabic manuscripts and more importantly, of allowing access to them. We also visited Saulawa quarters where we had discussions with Mallam Labaran Lawwali Saulawa, and Alhaji Mallam Iliyasu Saulawa. We were able to inspect many materials in their holdings. 30 copies of Arabic Manuscripts have been purchased from Mallam Iliyasu Dalhat in Katsina.

(I )-Mallam Iliyasu Dalhat Katsina Collection:

The collection is made up of about 30 copies of original manuscripts written in the period between 18th and 20th centuries. It belonged to Mallam Musa Ilyasu Dalhat in Katsina state of Nigeria. The works covered subjects such as Sufism, and Islamic law and theology. The entire collection was purchased by Arewa House from Mallam
Iliyasu Katsina in May 2009 and researchers have full access to the entire manuscripts in the Arewa House Archives in Kaduna.

Samples of Arabic Manuscripts in Arewa House Repository

**Manuscript Title:** Kitabu Attasrif; = Book of Etymology

**Name of Author:** Anonymous

**Name of copyist:** Anonymous

**Call Number:** MAF/6 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

**Date:** Not Indicated

**Number of leaflets:** 4

**Scripts Type (or Style):** magribi

**Ink colour(s):** Black and Red

**Number of lines per page:** 32

**Manuscript Size:** 25cm/17cm

**Text Size:** 21cm/15cm

**Language:** Arabic

**Content/Abstract:** Tasrif : The study of the sources and development of words; the Manuscript is from Modibbo Ahmadu Fufure Collection. Was in good condition

**Manuscript Title:** Mukhtasar Fi Ilmi Addib=A Summary on Medical Science

**Name of Author:** Anonymous

**Name of copyist:** Anonymous

**Call Number:** MAF/9 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

**Date:** Not Indicated
Number of leaflets: 13

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): black

Number of lines per page: 24

Manuscript Size: 25cm/17cm

Text Size: 21cm/16cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: Traditional Islamic Medicine, the manuscript was in good condition from Modibbo Ahmadu Fufore.

Manuscript Title: ﻗﺼﻴذة ﻣحمد ﺝوطة ﻓﻲ ﺷﻴﺨﻪ ﻣﻌﻠﻢ ﺗود ﻣﺤﻤﺪ قصيدة محمد جوطة في شيخه معلم أدمنQasidatu Muhammad Joda Fi Sheikhihi Muallimu Adama = Muhammad Joda’s Poem for His Teacher Modibbo Adama

Name of Author: Muhammad Joda

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/13 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not Indicated

Number of leaflets: 2

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 12

Manuscript Size: 18cm/16

Text Size: 16cm/14cm.

Language: Arabic
Content/Abstract: Poem praising Modibbo Adama the founder of Adamawa Emirate (d. 1848)

Manuscript Title: كتاب قول المنعوت في النفقه

Name of Author: Sultan Muhammad Bello Bn Fodiyo

Call Number: MAF/16 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not Indicated

Number of leaflets: 300

Scripts Type (or Style): Sudani

Ink colour(s):

Number of lines per page: 22

Manuscript Size: 22cm/17cm

Text Size: 18cm/16cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: Commentary of the Holy Qur’an The Manuscript in in good condition it was written by Abdullahi b Muhammad b Uthman b Salih known as Dan Fudiyo see GAL Suppl. II p 894. E J Arnett Gazetteer of Sokoto Province London 1920 born 1178 =1764 or 1180 = 1766 d Muharram 1245 =8 July 1829

Manuscript Title: Commentary of the Holy Qur’an

Name of Author: Abdullah Bn Muhammad Bn Othman Bn Fodiy (born 1178 =1764 or 1180 = 1766 d Muharram 1245 =8 July 1829).

Name of copyist: Ahmad Bn Bukhari Bn Hammajam

Call Number: MAF/16 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not Indicated

Number of leaflets: 300

Scripts Type (or Style): Sudani

Ink colour(s):

Number of lines per page: 22

Manuscript Size: 22cm/17cm

Text Size: 18cm/16cm

Language: Arabic

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Name of copyist: Ahmad Bn Bukhari Bn Hammajam

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Number of lines per page: 22

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Call Number: MAF/16 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not Indicated

Number of leaflets: 300

Scripts Type (or Style): Sudani

Ink colour(s):

Number of lines per page: 22

Manuscript Size: 22cm/17cm

Text Size: 18cm/16cm

Language: Arabic

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Name of copyist: Ahmad Bn Bukhari Bn Hammajam

Call Number: MAF/16 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not Indicated

Number of leaflets: 300

Scripts Type (or Style): Sudani

Ink colour(s):

Number of lines per page: 22

Manuscript Size: 22cm/17cm

Text Size: 18cm/16cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: Commentary of the Holy Qur’an The Manuscript in in good condition it was written by Abdullahi b Muhammad b Uthman b Salih known as Dan Fudiyo see GAL Suppl. II p 894. E J Arnett Gazetteer of Sokoto Province London 1920 born 1178 =1764 or 1180 = 1766 d Muharram 1245 =8 July 1829
Content/Abstract: The manuscript is about the obligation of husband towards his wives, was written by Muhammad Bello b Uthman Fodiyo the Khalifat of Sheikh Uthman b fodiyo born 1195=1781 die 25 Rajab 1253=25 October 1837

Manuscript Title: قصيدة يرسل آدم إلى أمير المومين محمد بلو Qasidatun Yarsulu Biha Adama Ila Amiril- Muminina Muhammadu Bello= Poem of Adama sent to Amir Muminien Muhammad Bello

Name of Author: Mudibbo Adama

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF 24 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not Indicated

Number of leaflets: 1

Scripts Type (or Style): sudani

Ink colour(s): Black

Number of lines per page: 28

Manuscript Size: 24cm/12cm

Text Size: 18cm/13cm

Language: Arabic
Manuscript Size: 21cm/17cm

Text Size: 18cm/13cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: Correspondence Letter written by Moddibo Adama the founder of Adamawa Emirate (d.1848) to Sultan Muhammad Bello b Uthman Fodiyo the Khalifat of Sheikh Uthman b fodiyo (b. 1195=1781 d. 25 Rajab 1253=25 October 1837) popularly known as Sultan of Sokoto

Manuscript Title: Raudul Jinani = The Biography of Sheikh Uthman bin Fodio

Name of Author: Gidado b Laima the Waziri of Sokoto

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF 67 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 16

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black

Number of lines per page: 20

Manuscript Size: 23cm/17cm

Text Size: 20cm/15cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: This Manuscripts is about the History and Biography of Sheikh Usman Bn Fodio written by the Waziri of Sokoto Uthman b Abibakar  b Umar b Ahmad, generally known by the Hausa form of his Fulfulde name , Gidado dan
Manuscript Title: Bayan Nur-Imam Muhammad Mahdi = Explanation on the light of Imam Mahdi

Name of Author: Sheikh Muhammad Bn Suleiman Bn Fadhil

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/116 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 9

Scripts Type (or Style): sudani

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 22

Manuscript Size: 23cm/17cm

Text Size: 20cm/15

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: On Mahdism: the Islamic Political Propaganda. Written by Sheikh Muhammad b Sulaiman B Fadhlil Al mahdi

Manuscript Title: Dhiya Ussiyasah = the Light of Politics

Name of Author: Sheikh Abdullahi b Fodiyo

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF /121 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 35
The manuscript is in good condition, it discusses politics and good governance. It was written by Sheikh Abdullahi b Muhammad b Uthman b Salih known as Dan Fudiyo See GAL Suppl. II p 894. E J Arnett Gazetteer of Sokoto Province London 1920 born 1178 =1764 or 1180 = 1766 d Muharram 1245 =8 July 1829

Manuscript Title: ﻲﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠﻠ341
Content/Abstract: poetry: written by al Husayn b Ali al Isfahani al Tugharai d. 515/1121
see ALA John O Hunwick 1995

Manuscript Title: Qasidat fie ilm al falāq=Poem on Universal Knowledge
Name of Author: Sheikh Abu Zaidin Abdurrahman Alakhdariy
Name of copyist: Mallam Abubakar
Call Number: MAF/222 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria
Date: Not indicated
Number of leaflets: 16
Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi
Ink colour(s): Black
Number of lines per page: 8
Manuscript Size: 20cm/16cm
Text Size: 18cm/14cm
Language: Arabic
Content/Abstract: The manuscript is in good condition; teaching astronomy, written by Sheikh Abizaid Abdurrahman Al akhdari

Manuscript Title: Risala Min Ahmad ila amir Al Zak-zak
Usman= Letter from Ahmad to the Emir of Zakzak Usman
Name of Author: Sheikh Ahmad b Abdullah
Name of copyist: Anonymous
Call Number: MAF/248 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria
Date: Not indicated
Number of leaflets: 1
The Correspondence Contains Praise Poem on Emir Of Zakzak Usman, written by Sheikh Abdullah of Adamawa

Manuscript Title: قصيدة الشكر لما زار شيخ موديبو أدوم بولا Ashshukri Lamma Zara Sheikh Modibo Adama Bi Yola= Poem of appreciation when paid courtesy visit to Modibbo Adama in Yola

Name of Author: Waziri Junaidu

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF /250 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: 26/5/1374ah

Number of leaflets:1

Scripts Type (or Style):Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black

Number of lines per page: 16

Manuscript Size: 19cm/12cm

Text Size: 17cm/13cm

Language:Arabic

Content/Abstract: A poem written by Waziri of Sokoto Junaidu praises Modibbo Adama the founder of Adamwa Emirate, when he paid a courtesy visit to Lamido of Adamawa in the year 1374 AH.
Manuscript Title: Alhilyah= 

Name of Author: Qadi Muhammad Fufere

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/270 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 4

Scripts Type (or Style): Kufic

Ink colour(s): Black

Number of lines per page: 14

Manuscript Size: 23cm/17cm

Text Size: 20cm/14cm

Language: Arabic and Some Ajami/ Fulani Words

Content/Abstract: The Manuscripts is on Islamic Traditional Medicine written by Muhammad b Qadi Fufere

Manuscript Title: Qasidatu Haqaiqu Al Aufaq= The Real of Aufaq Knowledge

Name of Author: Sheikh Dahir Bn Ibrahim Alfullatiy 1158 =1745-6

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/276 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 9

Scripts Type (or Style): magribi
Ink colour(s): Black

Number of lines per page: 8

Manuscript Size: 19cm/17cm

Text Size: 17cm/15cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: The manuscipts is Good, but the edges are damaged. Written by Sheikh Al Tahir b Ibrahim b Harun b mali al Fullani al Fullati al barnawi al Tarazi alFayrammi known as Dahiru Feroma d after 1158 =1745-6

Manuscript Title: الدفع الكيما في علم الهيئة Addar’ul Kaiat fie ilm al Haiat= On Cosmological Education

Name of Author: Anonymous

Name of copyist: Abdullah Muhammad Bali Bn Usman

Call Number: MAF/309 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 6

Scripts Type (or Style): sudani

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 21

Manuscript Size: 23cm/17cm

Text Size: 21cm/15cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: This manuscript teaches cosmographical knowledge, Its among Modibbo Ahmadu Fufore Manuscripts collection. The manuscript is in good condition
Manuscript Title: ﻣﺤﻤﺪ ﻓﻮﻓﺮي ﺑﺎﻟﻰ ﻣﺤﻤﺪ ﻗﺎﺿﻲ ﻣﻦ ﺍﻟﺮﺳﺎﻟﺔ

Name of Author: Goni Wadai

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/358 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 1

Scripts Type (or Style): Sudani

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 32

Manuscript Size: 22cm/15cm

Text Size: 21cm/14cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: Letter encouraging Modibbo Muhammad Fufore and Muslim Community of Adamawa on the Principle of Mahadism. Was written by Goni Wadai. It was among Modibbo Ahmadu Fufore Collection.

Manuscript Title: ﺳﺎل ﻣﻦ ﻓﻮﻓﺮي ﻟﻶﻳ ﻣﺤﻤﺪ ﻗﺎﺿﻲ ﻣﻦ ﺍﻟﺮﺳﺎﻟﺔ

Name of Author: Goni Wadai Muhammad b Sulaiman

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/35 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 1
Scripts Type (or Style): Kufic

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 26

Manuscript Size: 22cm/16cm

Text Size: 21cm/13cm

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: The manuscript was written by Goni Wadai Muhammad b Sulaiman to Lamido of Adamawa, Bobbo Ahmadu Advising him on Governance [1901-1909]

Manuscript Title: ﺳﻌﻴﺪ ﺑﻦ ﻣﺤﻴﺎة ﺑﻦ ﺳﺎئد

Name of Author: Muhammad b Abdullah

Name of copyist:

Call Number: MAF/361 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 5

Scripts Type (or Style): sudani

Ink colour(s): Black

Number of lines per page: 18

Manuscript Size: 16/11cm.

Text Size: 14/10cm,

Language: Arabic

Content/Abstract: The Letter by one of the Mahdi’s follower named Muhammad B Abdullah to Hayat b Saeed b Muhammad Bello, commonly known as Hayatu b Said b.c 1256/1840-1 d 1315-16 1898 See ALA John Hunwick 1995 . The manuscript is from Modibbo Ahmadu Fufere [d 1960. ]
Manuscript Title: Kifayatu Dhu Afa Is-Sudan= Commentary of the Holy Qur’an

Name of Author: Abdullah Fodio 1180 = 1766 d Muharram 1245 =8 July 1829

Name of copyist: Muhammad b Muhammad Tukur b Abubakar

Call Number: MAF/362 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna -Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 177

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 25

Manuscript Size: 22/16cm,

Text Size: 19/15cm

Language: Arabic


Manuscript Title: Risala min Sultan Abubakar Atiku Letter from Sultan Abubakr Atiku

Name of Author: Sultan Abubakar Atiku of Sokoto

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/368 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 2
**Scripts Type (or Style):** Magribi

**Ink colour(s):** Black

**Number of lines per page:** 13

**Manuscript Size:** 17/11 cm,

**Text Size:** 13/9 cm.

**Language:** Arabic

**Content/Abstract:** A Proclamation Letter to Muslim Ummah commanding them on what is good for them and Leaving What Is Bad. Written by Sultan of Sokoto, Abubakar Atiku b Uthman b Muhammad Fodiye b.c 1198/1784-5 d 20th Shawwal 1258/24th November 1842 see ALA John O Hunwik 1995

**Manuscript Title:** ﻭاﻗﺮ ﻣﺎر ﻏﺮToList Item

**Name of Author:** Mallam Pate Liman Na Alhaji Haruna Zaria

**Name of copyist:** Anonymous

**Call Number:** MGD/ar/ class mark: 10 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

**Date:** Not indicated

**Number of leaflets:** 4

**Scripts Type (or Style):** Magribi

**Ink colour(s):** Black and Red

**Number of lines per page:** 15

**Manuscript Size:**

**Text Size:**

**Language:** Hausa/Ajami Non- Arabic written with Arabic characters

**Content/Abstract:** Poetry on Sociology: Explaining the behaviour and character of Ankwai Women in Plateau State, North Central Nigeria. Was written by Mallam Liman Pate Zaria.
From the collection’s of Mallam Musa Gana daji, Jos The poem was composed in the month of April, 1348 AH =1917

Note: Hausa is the language of the Hausa People widely spoken in West Africa south of the Sahara.

**Manuscript Title:** وا قر مودع عين غنج Wakar Mugode Ubangiji = poem of Expressing Gratitude to Almighty Lord

**Name of Author:** Anonymous

**Name of copyist:** Anonymous

**Call Number:** MGD/Ar/ class mark: 15 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

**Date:** Not indicated

**Number of leaflets:** 11

**Scripts Type (or Style):** Magribi

**Ink colour(s):** Black and Red

**Number of lines per page:** 16

**Manuscript Size:**

**Text Size:**

**Language:** Hausa/Ajami

**Content/Abstract:** A Hausa poem on Political History: describing the character and behaviour of the rulers. The manuscripts are well preserved from the collection of Mallam Musa Gana daji, Jos.

**Manuscript Title:** وارق تلوشی د آرژفي Wakar Talauci da Arziki= Poem on Poverty and Wealth

**Name of Author:** Mallam Ruwaibilu

**Name of copyist:** Anonymous
Call Number: MDG/ar/ class mark: 16 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 6

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 17

Manuscript Size:

Text Size:

Language: Hausa/Ajami

Content/Abstract: On Political Economy, Comparing and Contrasting between poverty and wealth and the importance of seeking wealth. Well preserved it was written in two type of ink- red and black; the poem is among the manuscripts dealing with political economy from the collection of Mallam Musa Gana Daji, Jos

Manuscript Title: تحقیق الفلاح = Article of Success

Name of Author: Sheikh Ahmad b Salih Chudga

Name of copyist: Mallam Muhammadu Rahab Ajami

Call Number: MDG/ar/ class mark: 17 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 14

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black and Red

Number of lines per page: 10

Manuscript Size:

Text Size:

Language: Arabic
Content/Abstract: Sociology: On sex education, the manuscript is from the Collection of Mallam Musa Gana Daji, Jos, Some edges of the papers were damaged by stain of water,

Manuscripts Title: Shi’ir Nupe= a Poem of Nupe
Name of Author: Anonymous
Name of copyist: Anonymous
Call Number: MDG/ar/ class mark: 18 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria
Date: Not indicated
Number of leaflets: 6
Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi
Ink colour(s): Black and Red
Number of lines per page: 16
Manuscript Size:
Text Size:
Language: Nupe/Ajami
Content/Abstract: the manuscript was written in Nupe Language in Arabic Character teaching Islamic religion knowledge, on Salat Prayers, Zakat Tithe, fasting and other aspects on Islam. It is in good condition.
Note: Nupe is a language widely spoken in some states of the central part of Nigeria eg Niger, Kogi and Kwara.

Manuscript Title: Shi’ir Fulfulde= A Fulfulde Poem
Name of Author: Sheikh Ahmad Arabi, Jos
Name of copyist: Anonymous
Call Number: AAC/153 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria
Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 20

Scripts Type (or Style): Magribi

Ink colour(s): Black with Red ink

Number of lines per page: 15

Manuscript Size: 30cm/19cm

Text Size: 28cm/12cm

Language: Fulfude/Ajami

Content/Abstract: The Manuscript was written in Fulfude language, by Sheikh Ahmad Arabi Jos, papers is brittle at the edges of the manuscript, it was from the collection of Sheikh Ahmad Arabi, Jos, a former Deputy Grand Khadi for North Eastern State and Benue Plateau, Chairman of Muslim Pilgrims Board, d 1973 (Musa S M 2008)

Note: Fulfulde is the language of the Fulani (Peulle) People who are spread throughout West and Central Africa, with Major concentration in Northern Niger, Northern Cameroon’s, Mali, Niger and the Senegambian region.

Manuscript Title: ﺍﻟﺤﺮام و ﺷﻌﺎرHalal Wal Haram= The Legal and Illegal

Name of Author: Muhammad b Alhaji Abdurrahman Al Barnawi

Name of copyist: Anonymous

Call Number: MAF/213 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

Date: Not indicated

Number of leaflets: 4

Scripts Type (or Style): sudani

Ink colour(s): Dark Yellow

Number of lines per page: 16
**Manuscript Size:** 20cm/15cm

**Text Size:** 18cm/13cm

**Language:** Arabic

**Content/Abstract:** Poetry on Islamic Finance, describing the treasury system; written by Sheikh Muhammad b Alhaji Abdurrahman Al Barnawi Al Asháry, the manuscript is in good condition.

**Manuscript Title:** Taqribun-nazami li Sheikhina bn Fodio = A Poem for our Sheikh Uthman b Fodiyo

**Name of Author:** Sheikh. Muhammad Raji bn Aliyu

**Name of copyist:** Anonynmous

**Call Number:** MAF/. 231 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

**Date:** Not indicated

**Number of leaflets:** 3

**Scripts Type (or Style):** Magribi

**Ink colour(s):** Black and Red

**Number of lines per page:** 9

**Manuscript Size:** 20cm/17cm

**Text Size:** 18/15cm.

**Language:** Arabic

**Content/Abstract:** Poetry on Astronomy written by Sheikh Muhammad Raji B Ali b Abubakr (b. 1790, d.1282/1865) Muhammad Raji regarded as the founder of the Islamic scholarly tradition in Adamawa. He also introduced the Tijjania Tariqa in the area. He is related to sh. Usman b Fodiyo on his Mother’s side. He intended to go Makka for Pilgrimage,
but found the road through was Bagirmi blocked, He settled then in Yola where he taught and spread the Tijjaniyya order. See ALA John O Hunwick 1995.

**Manuscript Title:** athatul mulk al Ganiy fi Siyahat li ardo Bamako wa Ghana= on Travelling of Land of Bamako and Ghana

**Name of Author:** Aliyu bn Ahmad Tijjani.

**Name of copyist:** Anonymous

**Call Number:** AAC/42 Arewa House Archives, Kaduna-Nigeria

**Date:** Not indicated

**Number of leaflets:** 12

**Scripts Type (or Style):** Magribi

**Ink colour(s):** Black

**Number of lines per page:** 12

**Manuscript Size:** 17cm/14cm

**Text Size:** 15cm/12cm

**Language:** Arabic

**Content/Abstract:** The manuscript written by Aliyu b Ahmad Tijjani is a poem containing the praises of the almighty Allah showing gratitude to him for his bounties on the writer and the opportunity He gave him to travel to Bamako and Ghana.

**Conclusion:**

It is evident from this paper that lack of proper preservation, coupled with inadequate storage facilities, constitutes one of the major problems of African documentation. Arewa House is not an exception. The sad consequence of this age-long problem is that many of the vital Arabic manuscripts in Nigeria are now in an advanced stage of deterioration. We have equally made it clear that the repository where the ancient manuscripts are kept has a number
of problems, ranging from lack of paper conservation laboratory for the treatment of
dilapidated scripts, complete absence of conservation facilities for proper archiving, shortage
of manpower to inadequate funding. However, we are recommending the following measures
for any meaningful progress to be made:

(a) Since the Arewa House Arabic manuscripts collection has a heavy insect
infestation, it should be placed in an anoxic environment without delay. This,
according to conservation experts, is the preferable means for non toxic insect
eradication.

(b) The federal, state and local governments of Nigeria should as a matter of urgency
increase their financial funding and technical support to Arewa House, Kaduna for
the execution of various programs for the preservation of Arewa House manuscript
collection and other private and public manuscript repositories in northern Nigeria.

(c) There is an urgent need for a paper conservation laboratory and a big well equipped
training centre. This will serve as a training unit for the execution of the train the
trainer program which will generally benefit all manuscript holders and public
officers working in the preservation of Arabic /Ajami scripts in Nigeria.

(d) Arewa House staff working on Arabic manuscripts needs advanced training in the
area of paper and material conservation. A conservator trained in both paper and
book conservation would be even more useful because he can also train others.

(e) There is need for Arewa House to expedite action in the area of recovery of original
Arabic manuscripts from the local ulama in the ancient cities of Nigeria. Time is
not on our side as many of the original holders are dying.
(f) There is also the need for Arewa House to publish and freely circulate all the proceedings of all the workshops and conferences held on Arabic manuscripts in order to capture the interest of those in the tertiary institutions and government agencies.

(g) There is need to organise series of workshops for local ulama (scholars), imams and the people involved with manuscripts to sensitize them on the importance of preserving these rare, unique and fragile documents and promoting increased access and use.

(h) Additional Professional expertise on ICT is needed in the Arewa House Arabic manuscript collection to kick start the manuscript digitization program as well as to raise the awareness and expertise of digital preservation issues.

(i) Where highly resourceful owners of manuscripts are discovered, preservation equipment should be provided to such people. Such equipment should include protective manuscript albums, fire proof metal boxes to keep the manuscript albums inside and whatever other tools that are useful for preservation. These items and whatever additional confidence building measures that would enhance the process of acquiring and preserving manuscripts and enhance confidence in the resource persons assisting in the process, should be adopted as ethical principles.

(j) There is urgent need to translate, edit, and analyse the content of the Arewa House Arabic manuscripts into English or Hausa in order to broaden the areas of research.