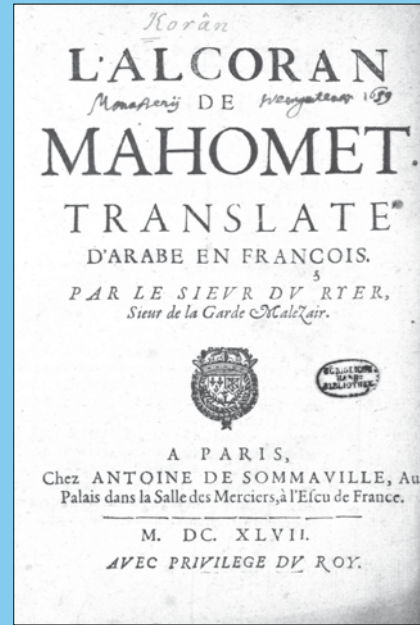


# Early Western Korans

## *Koran Printing in the West, 1537-1857*

Advisors: Hartmut Bobzin, *University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany*  
August den Hollander, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands*



This remarkable collection of Early Western Korans demonstrates the impact of the holy book of Islam in Europe. Long before printing with movable type became common practice in the Islamic world in the early nineteenth century, Korans had been printed in Arabic type in several European cities. Korans and Koran translations were produced in the West for theological, commercial, political, and philological purposes.

This collection includes Korans and Koran translations in eight languages, printed between 1537 and 1857. They have been brought together from seven European libraries. The collection is of interest to book historians, theologians, philologists, and scholars of Islamic Studies alike.

#### CONTRIBUTING LIBRARIES

- Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich, Germany
- Württembergische Landesbibliothek, Stuttgart, Germany
- Amsterdam University Library, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Provincia Veneta di S. Antonio di Padova dei Frati Minori, Venice, Italy
- Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany
- Universitätsbibliothek München, Munich, Germany
- Zentralbibliothek Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland



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### PRODUCT INFORMATION

- Medium: microfiche and online at IDC Primary Sources Online ([www.idc-digilib.nl](http://www.idc-digilib.nl))
- Scope: 62 titles, printed between 1537 and 1857.
- Number of fiches: 404 (positive silver halide)
- Including AACR2/MARC21 catalogue records
- Languages: Arabic, Latin, English, French, German, Dutch, Italian, Hebrew

### THE COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE IN TWO SEPARATE INSTALLMENTS

#### First installment

The first installment includes the only surviving copy of the earliest printed Koran, printed in Venice by Paganini in 1537/38. This Koran was long thought to be lost until rediscovered by an Italian scholar at a monastery in Venice in 1987. Among the other highlights are a Latin translation from 1543 edited by the famous German Orientalist Johann Albrecht Widmanstetter, containing his own handwritten notes, and Gustav Flügel's renowned Arabic Koran edition dating from 1834. The latter has formed the basis of modern Koran research and led to several new translations in various European languages. The first installment also comprises the first printed Koran editions in German (1616), Dutch (1641), and Hebrew (1857), as well as several English editions by George Sale.

#### Second installment

The second installment features some extremely rare multilingual editions by Thomas Erpenius, Johann Georg Nissel and Johann Andreas Danz, all dating from the seventeenth century. It also contains an experimental sample of a polyglot Koran by Andreas Acoluth from 1701, as well as the first printed Koran in Latin (1543). Prepared for publication by Theodore Bibliander, this Latin Koran could only be printed after fierce debate and mediation on the part of Martin Luther. Other milestones in the history of Western Koran printing included in this installment are the first vernacular edition of the Koran (Italian, 1547), the first French edition (Du Ryer, 1647), and the Arabic edition commissioned by Catherine the Great of Russia, which was produced in St. Petersburg in the late 1800s.

[WWW.IDC.NL](http://WWW.IDC.NL)

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