

Jan Brugman collection

Daan Sanderse, Leiden University Libraries, 2020

Provisional collection description

Collection summary

Collection of printed books in Arabic, English and other languages, acquired in 2005 from the heirs of Jan Brugman.

Collector's biography

Jan Brugman was born in Zaandam, the Netherlands, in 1923. He was stationed as a diplomat in Cairo between 1949 and 1959. He was subsequently appointed professor of Arabic culture and language at Leiden University in 1960, retiring in 1987. He wrote his dissertation on the influence of Islamic law in modern-day Egypt (Brugman 1960), but his scholarly knowledge extended well beyond the sphere of law. He was likewise well-versed on the subject of Arabic literature and he made an important contribution to the field with his extensive bibliography of modern Arabic literature in Egypt (Brugman 1984). During his career as a diplomat in Egypt he was actively involved in circles of modern and avant-garde Egyptian writers, among whom Zaki Mugahid figured most prominently. In the Netherlands he was well known beyond the academic sphere through his many public appearances and publications, in which he distinguished himself as an independent-minded expert on the Arab world and the Islamic faith. He died in 2004 at the age of 81.

No future additions are to be expected.

Collection contents

Mostly Arabic books from Egypt. The main body of the collection consists of Arabic literature from the mid-20th century, written by well-known authors such as Najīb Maḥfūz, Sa'īd 'Aql and Muḥammad Shukrī, but likewise by many lesser-known Arab authors. Besides literary works, the collection also includes a considerable number of legal books on Islamic and secular law, published in various Arabic countries. Finally, the collection also includes a smaller number of Western scholarly works mostly written in English, Dutch and French, as well as a few works in which Brugman himself played a role as interviewee, supervisor, author etc.

Most of the collection was catalogued in 2019/2020 by Daan Sanderse. All books have been marked with Brugman's personal ex libris.

Access

All materials may be retrieved from the online catalogue via the following link:

https://catalogue.leidenuniv.nl/primo-explore/search?lang=en_US&mode=advanced&offset=0&query=lsr03,contains,brugman,AND&search_scope=All_Content&sortby=rank&tab=all_content&vid=UBL_V1

References

Jan Brugman, *De betekenis van het Mohammedaanse recht in het hedendaagse Egypte*. 's-Gravenhage, 1960.

Jan Brugman, *An introduction to the history of modern Arabic literature in Egypt*. Leiden, 1984.

Gerard-René de Groot, *In memoriam prof. Dr. Jan Brugman (1923–2004)*, *Recht van de Islam* 23 (2009): p. 13–15.

J.J. Peereboom, *Onafhankelijk denkende Arabist*, NRC (13 september 2004):

<https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2004/09/13/onafhankelijk-denkende-arabist-7701580-a1061283>

J.J. Witkam, *Het legaat van Jan Brugman*, in *Omslag: Bulletin van de Universiteitsbibliotheek Leiden en het Scaliger Instituut* 4/3 (2006), p. 8-9.