

NOTES AND COMMUNICATIONS

AḤMAD IBN IDRĪS RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

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The earlier neglect of the Moroccan mystic and teacher, Aḥmad b. Idrīs (1749-50 to 1837), is being made good. A number of studies have been or will soon be published that taken together greatly enrich our understanding of his life, teachings and influence.

Aḥmad, Ḥasan Makkī Muḥammad, *al-sayyid Aḥmad ibn Idrīs al-Fāsī*. Khartoum, al-Markaz al-Islāmī al-Ifriqī bi 'l-Khartoum, 1986.

A modern assessment of Ibn Idrīs from a "Salafī" viewpoint by a Sudanese scholar [copy in Bergen].

Hofheinz, Albrecht, "Encounters with a Saint: Al-Majdhūb, al-Mīrghanī and Ibn Idrīs as seen through the Eyes of Ibrāhīm al-Rashīd", *Sudanic Africa*, i, 1990, 19-59.

Ibrāhīm, Yaḥyā Muḥammad, "Madrasat Aḥmad ibn Idrīs wa-ātharuhā fī'l-Sūdān", Ph.D. thesis, University of Khartoum 1990, 435pp.

This is a major study in seven chapters with a conclusion based on a wide range of new sources. In particular, Dr. Ibrāhīm has made a major advance by recovering many hitherto unknown or inaccessible manuscripts of writings by Ibn Idrīs or his direct or indirect students, particularly those in the possession of the Adārisa of Luxor, Egypt. The dissertation has four main sections; the first is a detailed discussion of the writings ascribed to Ibn Idrīs (pp. 7-29). I say "ascribed" because Dr. Ibrāhīm emphasises the uncertainty surrounding the degree to which any particular work represents the actual words of the Moroccan. Next comes a biography of Ibn Idrīs (pp. 30-77), followed by a long section - the heart of the dissertation - on his teachings, both mystical and exoteric (pp. 79-249). Dr. Ibrāhīm stresses the continuity of Ibn Idrīs' teachings within the Sufi tradition and his rejection of *taqlīd*. The final section comprizes a series of biographical notices of Ibn Idrīs' students, with particular emphasis on those from the Sudan. The

Sudanic Africa, 1 (1990), 91-94

bibliography (pp. 413-35) gives a comprehensive listing of the Arabic primary and secondary sources.

Dr. Ibrāhīm's dissertation is rich in detail and insight; of particular value are the precise and full descriptions he gives of the many new manuscripts he has discovered. His thesis signals a major new step forward in our understanding of Ibn Idrīs and his tradition. Dr. Ibrāhīm intends to publish his dissertation soon.

al-Idrīsī, Aḥmad b. Muṣṭafā b. °Abd al-°Al, *al-Sayyid Aḥmad ibn Idrīs*, al-Uqṣur 1406/1986, 81 pp. handwritten and privately distributed.

This work, representing presumably the current state of knowledge and understanding among the Adārīs of Luxor, is undoubtedly the single most important "traditional" source for Ibn Idrīs' life [copy in Bergen].

Martin, B.G., "A short note on Ahmad Ibn Idris al-Fasi", *The Maghreb Review*, 10, 1985, 114-7.

Massignon, Louis, "Aḥmad ibn Idrīs", *EI* 2, i, 277.
Reprinted from *EI* 1.

Mårtensson, Ulrika, "Aḥmad ibn Idrīs' Etikett".
Major undergraduate dissertation, Uppsala University, 1990, 90pp.

An annotated translation into English (but with the introduction in Swedish) of Ibn Idrīs, *Kīmiyā' al-yaqīn fī mushawwaq al-muttaqīn*.

O'Fahey, R.S., "The Writings by, Attributed to, or on Ahmad Ibn Idrīs", *Bibliotheca Orientalis*, xliii, 5/6, 1986, 660-9.

This is now superseded by the bibliography in O'Fahey, *Enigmatic Saint*, 210-40.

—, "Aḥmad ibn Idrīs and Northeast Africa. Notes on a Theme", *Islam et Sociétés au sud du Sahara*, 3, 1989, 67-89.
Concentrates mainly on the Idrīsī tradition in Somalia.

—, *Enigmatic Saint. Aḥmad ibn Idrīs and the Idrīsī Tradition*, London: Christopher Hurst and Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1990, xvii + 261pp.

This book, in nine chapters, attempts to present as detailed a biography of Ibn Idrīs as the sources permit (pp. 27-106), followed by chapters on his principal students, Muḥammad b. °Alī al-Sanūsī, Muḥammad °Uthmān al-Mīrghanī and Ibrāhīm al-Rashīd. Chapter Eight sketches out the spread of the Idrīsī tradition in Somalia, the Ottoman Empire and southeast Asia, while Chapter Nine gives a brief introduction to his teachings. The

bibliography (pp. 210-40), when combined with the material brought together by Dr. Yaḥyā Muḥammad Ibrāhīm, provides a basis for further studies of Ibn Idrīs and his tradition.

— and Karrar, Ali Salih, “The Enigmatic Imam: the Influence of Aḥmad ibn Idrīs”, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 19, 1987, 205-20.

Reissner, Johannes, “Die Idrīsiden in °Asīr. Ein historischer Überblick”, *Die Welt des Islams*, xxi, 1981, 164-92.

An informative history of the Idrīsī state in °Asīr and its demise.

Spaulding, Jay, “The Fall of a Wayward Saint”, *Northeast African Studies*, v/3, 1983-84, 43-50.

On the relationship between Aḥmad b. Idrīs and Muḥammad °Uthmān al-Mīrghanī.

Thomassen, Einar, “Ahmad ibn Idris og den såkalte nysufismen”, *Svensk Religionshistorisk Årsskrift*, 3, 1988, 25-38.

In Norwegian; an introduction to Ibn Idrīs and his teachings.

Vikør, Knut S. and O’Fahey, R.S., “Ibn Idrīs and al-Sanūsī: the Teacher and his Student”, *Islam et Sociétés en Afrique au sud du Sahara*, i, 1987, 70-82.

Voll, John O., “Two biographies of Ahmad ibn Idris al-Fasi (1760-1837)”, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, vi, 1973, 633-46.

Translations of two *manāqib*, one anonymous, the other ascribed to the Yemenī scholar, °Abd al-Raḥmān b. Sulaymān al-Ahdal.

In press

Karrār, °Alī Šālīḥ, *Āthar al-ta°ālīm al-Idrīsīyya fī °l-ṭuruq al-šūfiyya fī °l-Sūdān*, MA thesis, 1977, University of Khartoum.

Includes a valuable discussion of the Idrīsīyya *ṭarīqa* in the Sudan in the present century and its relationship with other brotherhoods. To be published by Dār al-Jīl, Beirut.

O’Fahey, R.S., “The Idrīsī Tradition: Some Organizational and Political Aspects”.

To be published in French in a book on Islam and Politics in the Sudan edited by Gérard Prunier.

Karrar, Ali Salih, *The Sufi Brotherhoods in the Sudan until*

1900, with special reference to the Shāyqiyya Region, dr. philos. thesis, 1985, University of Bergen.

To be published in revised form by Christopher Hurst, London, and Northwestern University Press, Evanston.

Thomassen, Einar & Radtke, Bernd, editors, *The Letters of Aḥmad ibn Idrīs*.

A collective volume containing the texts and translations of 35 letters to and from Ibn Idrīs; the contributors are Albrecht Hofheinz, Ali Salih Karrar, R.S. O'Fahey, B. Radtke & Einar Thomassen. Publication probably by Christopher Hurst, London.