

## Arabic manuscripts of the *Thousand and One Nights*

Presentation and Critical Editions of Four Noteworthy Texts Observations on Some Osmanli Translations

Directed by **Aboubakr Chraïbi**

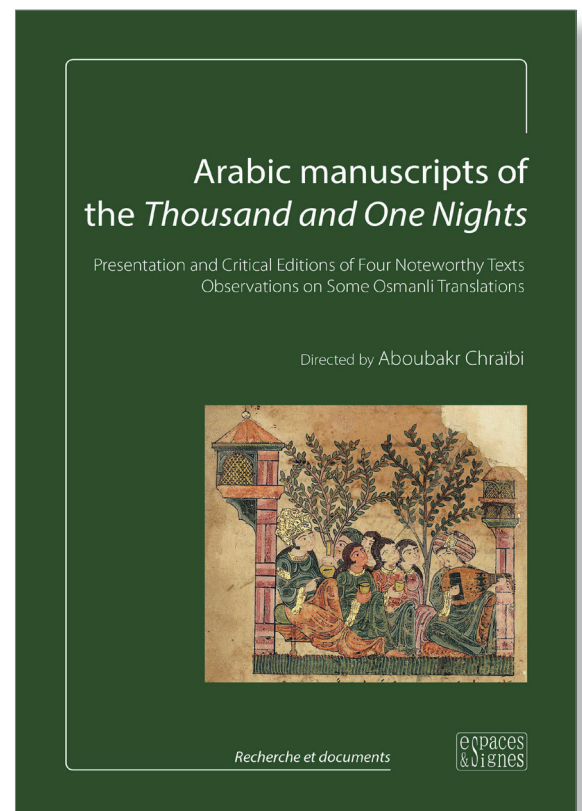
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This book contains the first complete list of all known Arabic manuscripts of The Thousand and one Nights as well as a list and tentative classification of the Turkish (Osmanli) manuscripts. The four tales edited are *Sûl* and *Shumûl*, one of the oldest tales divided into nights (older, indeed, than the Galland manuscript), *Bayâd* and *Riyâd*, which has now been edited using two new sources, *The Sleeper Awakened*, a perfectly representative tale of "the merchant's son", and *Zayd* and *Kahlâ*, which is remarkable for its combination of Islam and paganism.

It offers new material and new interpretations (the story of *Khurâfa* and the syntactic unit astonishing/more astonishing still). It seeks to provide an accessible definition of what middle Arabic literature is, shining new light on the history of the Nights : analysis of the first two tales has shown that the beginning of the Zotenberg's Egyptian Recension is older than the Syrian branch manuscripts.

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