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A Bibliography of the *Arabian Nights* in the 18th Century

Tetsuo Nishio*

Three centuries have passed since the French Orientalist, Antoine Galland, translated *Alf laylah wa-laylah* from Arabic into French for the first time. His *Les Mille et une Nuits* in French was soon translated into other European languages. The increasing popularity of the *Arabian Nights* in Europe in the eighteenth century prepared the coming literary fame of the *Nights* as world literature, as well as the transformation of its literary quality. Even in America, so many versions of the *Arabian Nights* were imported from Europe. From the end of the eighteenth century onwards, so many *Arabian Nights* were published, usually pirated copies, in the United States. When the first American version of the *Arabian Nights* was published, in 1790 or 1794, the *Arabian Nights* was one of the four bestsellers, among which, of course, the Bible was the best one.

We have plenty of secondhand information about the popularity of the *Arabian Nights* in the eighteenth century, among which we find the statement written by Galland himself in his diary, and other contingent references made by contemporary famous persons. In order to discuss the influence of the *Arabian Nights* in the popular culture, we urgently need a thorough documented bibliography of the published books, as well as quantitative data concerning their circulation and readership.

This is a tentative bibliography of the *Arabian Nights* published in the European languages in the 18th century. I have consulted Chauvin’s *Bibliographie des ouvrages arabes*, together with other related bibliographical materials, and have made exhaustive references to the catalogues and the actual stocks preserved in

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public and private libraries. Thus, some data of the published materials are given as precisely as possible in accordance with those found in the catalogues of each library. This list does not include any titles related with individual stories from the Arabian Nights, such as Aladdin, Ali Baba etc., which surely circulated, even in the 18th century, probably in the form of popular literature, such as chapbooks in English and bibliothèque bleue in French. As for English chapbooks of the Arabian Nights or other stories, we have only indirect information, but no actual samples published in the 18th century. For this matter, see Irwin (1994: 19) and Musawi (1981: 11).

In France, we find similar popular books actually published in Troyes and circulated in the 18th century. For example, one rare book of bibliothèque bleue, now preserved in the National Museum of Ethnology (NME), is La Lampe Merveilleuse, ou Histoire d’Aladdin, which was published around 1760 in Troyes, chez Garnier. For the Arabian Nights in the bibliothèque bleue, see Mandrou (1975). As apparent in the following bibliography, the dates of publication of each volume are often difficult to determine, especially earlier prints of French, English and German editions. This is partly because the publishers printed a new set of all volumes or just particular volumes whenever their previous stock sold out.

French
1705. Reprint (vols. 1, 2, 5, 6, also 3.4, according to Chauvin)
1705. Les mille et une nuits, contes arabes. Troisième édition, revuë & corrigée. Suivant la copie de Paris. (vol. 1 and 2 only, the two bound in one) (MC)
1706. La Haye. In-12.
vols. 2, 3, 4=1714, quatrième édition; vol. 5=1715, quatrième édition; vol. 6=1716, quatrième édition; vol. 7=1707, quatrième édition; vol. 8=1714, no statement; vols. 9, 10, 11=1730, no statement; vol. 12=1731, no statement) (NME)

1710(?). Reprint.

1714. La Haye. In-12. 12 vols. (4th or 5th edition?)


1719–1731. La Haye: Pierre Husson. (Leeds Library)


1728–1729. La Haye. (5th or 6th edition?)


*English*

1706. *Arabian nights entertainments consisting of one thousand stories*, told by the sultaness of the Indies, to divert the sultan from the execution of a bloody vow…Tr. into French from the Arabian mss. by M. Galland…and now done into English. The First Edition (?). London: A. Bell. (17 cm) 4 v. in 2. illus. (Princeton Univ. Library)

1711. *The new Arabian winter nights entertainments*: consisting one thousand and eleven stories, told by the sultan’s of the Indies, to divert the sultan from performing a bloody vow he had to marry a virgin lady every day, and have her beheaded the next morning… [London]: printed for the translator John de Lachier, and sold by the bookseller at London and Westminster. (18 cm) (Birmingham Library)


1715. The Third Edition. (vols. 5, 6=1715)


1728–1730. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting of one thousand and one stories. Told by the sultaness of the Indies, to divert the sultan from the execution of a bloody vow...Tr. into French from the Arabian mss., by M. Galland...and now done into English from the last Paris edition. The Seventh Edition. 12 v. in 6. (17 cm) London: Osborn and Longman. (LC=Library of Congress, Princeton Univ. Library)

1728. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting of one thousand and one stories... Translated into French from the Arabian mss., by M. Galland...and now done into English...Seventh edition. Dublin: S. Powell for George Risk, George Ewing, & William Smith. In-12. 6 vols. bound in 4 volumes. (BL)


1753–1754. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*...Translated into French...by M. Galland...and now done into English...The Tenth Edition. London: T. & T.
Longman. In-12. 12 vols. (vols. 1–5=1753, 10th edition; vol. 6=1753, 9th edition; vol. 7=1753, 8th edition; vol. 8=1753; vols. 9, 10=1754; vols. 11, 12=1754, 5th edition; The last four vols. were published for T. & T. Longman, and J. Ward) (BL)


1763–1765. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting of one thousand and one stories, told by the Sultaness of the Indies to divert the Sultan from the execution of a bloody vow he had made to marry a lady every day, and have her cut off next morning, to avenge himself for the disloyalty of his first Sultaness, &c. ... Translated into French from the Arabian MSS., by M. Galland...: and now done into English from the last Paris edition. London: T. Longman. In-8. 12 vols. (Glasgow L., NME)

1764. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting of one thousand and one stories, told by the Sultaness of the Indies to divert the Sultan from the execution of a bloody vow he had made to marry a lady every day, and have her cut off next morning, to avenge himself for the disloyalty of his first Sultaness, etc. The Twelfth Edition. London: T. Longman. In-12. 4 vols.

1764. *Oriental Anecdotes: or, the History of Haroun Al Raschid*. Dublin. 2 vols. in one.

1765. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting of the thousand and one stories. London. (only vol. 9 in NME)

1767. *Arabian nights entertainments*: consisting of one thousand and one stories... Translated into French from the Arabian MSS. by M. Galland... and now done into English... The Twelfth Edition. London: T. Longman. In-12. 4 vols. (BL, NME)


1772. In-4. 5 vols.

1772. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting of one thousand and one stories, told by the Sultaness of the Indies to divert the Sultan from execution of a bloody vow he had made to marry a lady every day and have her cut off next morning, to avenge himself for the disloyalty of his first sultaness, &c.: containing a better account of the customs, manners and religion of the eastern nations, viz. Tartars, Persians, and Indians, than is to be met with in any author hitherto published / translated into French from the Arabian MSS. by M. Galland... and now done into English from the last Paris edition. The Thirteenth Edition. London: T. Longman. In-12. 4 vols. (Library of Congress, Leeds Library)

1772. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting one thousand and one stories,
told by the Sultaness of the Indies, to divert the Sultan from the execution of a bloody vow…The Fourteenth Edition. Edinburgh: printed by and for Colin Macfarquhar, and sold by the booksellers in town and country. In-8. (only vol. 3 in Glasgow Library)


1780. Edinburgh. 3 vols.


1785. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*: consisting one thousand and one stories, told by the Sultaness of the Indies to divert the Sultan from the execution of a cruel vow. Translated from the French of M. Galland, in four volumes. London: Harrison and Co. In-8. 1 vol. Illustrated. (NME) (cf. 4 vols. in BL)

1789. *Arabian Nights Entertainments*…Translated into French…by M. Galland…and now done into English, etc. London: T. Longman. In-12. (only vol. 3 in BL)


1790(?). J. Cooper (the Reverend Mr. Cooper). *The Oriental Moralist or the Beauties of the Arabian Nights Entertainments*, translated from the original and accompanied with suitable reflections adapted to each story. London: E. Newbery. In-8. (or In-12.?) (cf. American reprint, 1797) (cf. BL. 1791 or 1792) (cf.


1792. Robert Heron tr. Arabian Tales; or the Continuation of the Arabian Nights Entertainments...in four volumes, newly translated from the original Arabic into French by Dom Chavis, a native Arab and M. Cazotte, and translated into English by Robert Heron. Edinburgh: Bell & Bradfute. In-12. 4 vols.

1792. Arabian Tales; Being a Continuation of the Arabian Nights, consisting of one thousand and one stories, told by the Sultaness of the Indies... Translated from the Arabian Manuscripts into French, by Dom Chavis and M. Cazotte, and now translated into English from the last French edition. Edinburgh: G. Mudie, J. Elder, etc. In-12. 4 vols.

1792. Arabian Nights Entertainments: consisting of one thousand and one stories... translated into French from the Arabian MSS. by M. Galland...and now done into English. London: T. Longman. In-12. 4 vols. (BL, MC)


1794. The Arabian Nights Entertainments: consisting of one thousand and one stories... The first American edition, freely transcribed from the original translation. Philadelphia: H. & P. Rice... and J. Rice & Co...Baltimore. In-12. 2 vols. (LC, MC)


German


1711. *Die Tausend und eine Nacht*, worinnen selzame arabische Historien und wundernahre Begebenheiten.... Leipzig: J.L. Gleditsch/M. G. Weidmann. (cf. engraved frontispieces) (vols. 1 and 2=2nd print; vols. 3 and 4, vols. 5 and 6=1st print. cf. each one bound in one volume)

1712(?) or 1706(?). *Arabische Liebes-Händel, und andere Seltzame Begebenheiten*, welche von einer Sultanin in tausend Nacht-Gesprächen erzehlet ... / Unlängst durch Hrn. Galland ... aus der Arabischen Sprache in die Frantzösische Und jetzo aus solcher in die Teutsche mit Fleiss übersetzet Durch Amandern. Cölln: Peter Marteau. In-8. (Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek, Halle)


1717. *Die Tausend und eine Nacht*, worinnen selzame arabische Historien und wundernahre Begebenheiten.... Leipzig: M. G. Weidmann. (vols. 1 and 2=3rd print; vols. 9 and 10=1st print. cf. each one bound in one volume)


1719. *Die Tausend und eine Nacht*, worinnen selzame arabische Historien und wundernahre Begebenheiten.... Leipzig: M. G. Weidmann. (vols. 3 and 4=2nd print; vols. 11 and 12=1st print. cf. each one bound in one volume)

1721. *Die Tausend und eine Nacht*, worinnen selzame arabische Historien und wundernahre Begebenheiten.... (only vol. 7=1st print)

1722. *Die Tausend und eine Nacht*, worinnen selzame arabische Historien und wundernahre Begebenheiten.... (only vol. 8=2nd print)

1729. Reprint.

1730–1732. Reprint.


1737. Reprint.

1759. Reprint.


Italian
1722. *Venice*.6)

Dutch7)
1732 (1738?). *Duizend en één Nacht*. Arab. Vertell. Amsterdam In-8. 12 vols.8)

Danish

Greek

Russian
1763–1771. A. Filatoff (trans).10)
1796. *Tysiacha i odna nochi*. In-12. 6 vols. illustrate. (LC)

Rumanian11)
1783. *Halima or Aravicese mithologhicon*.12)

Flamand
Yiddish
1794 or 1796. *Tausend und eine Nacht*. Frankfurt-an-der-Oder. In-8. 4 vols.\(^{13}\)

Czech
1795. Václav Matěj Kramerius (trans.).\(^{14}\)

Arabic (printed text)
1776. John Richardson, *A Grammar of the Arabick Language*. In which the rules are illustrated by authorities from the best writers; principally adapted for the service of the Honourable East India Company. London (The hundred and sixty-second night of the tales of A thousand and one nights)\(^{15}\)

Notes

1) The exact dates of publication of each volume, and also their relation with reprinted and pirated volumes, are still matters to be clarified. According to Mahdi (1995), which is concerned with the relationship between Galland’s translation and the so-called Galland manuscripts preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, rather than the exact date of the publication, the first two volumes were published in 1704, and the volumes, 3, 4, 5, 6 in 1705, and the volume 7 in 1706, and the volume 8 in 1709, which was printed by the publisher without Galland’s permission, notoriously including the stories taken from Pétis de la Croix’s *Les Mille et Un Jours*. In 1712, the volumes, 9 and 10, appeared. The last two volumes, 11 and 12, were published posthumously in 1717 (Galland died in 1715). Mahdi’s survey is based on Galland’s diary and his “Avertissement” attached as a preface to some of the volumes. His conclusion or premise about the date of the publication is the same as usually recognized in the scholarly writings. However, when we make a bibliographical survey of the first prints actually preserved in our hands, the situation will prove to be rather complicated. When we compare the volumes preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale (BN) in Paris (lacking vol. 3), to the volumes in the Macdonald collection (MC) at the Hartford Seminary Foundation (see Brockway 1971;1973;1974), and the ones in the National Museum of Ethnology (NME), Osaka, the following can be gleaned: (1) The dates of volume 7 and above are exactly the same, and can be assured; (2) Vol. 1 is from 1704 in BN, while from 1705 in MC and NME; (3) Vol. 2 is 1705 in all the cases; (4) Vols. 3 and 4 are both from 1704 in all the cases; (5) Vols. 5 and 6 are both from 1705 in all the cases. Volume 1 in BN is the genuine first print, while those in MC and NME are later prints (second print?). Volumes 2 and above must be the first prints in all cases. If we accept this situation, the exact dates of vols. 2, 3, and 4 seem to be a problem. Are all of them later reprints with wrong publication dates? It is highly possible that the publisher or bookseller reprinted individual volumes as soon as they were sold out, and that a whole set comprised individual volumes just as the bookseller had them on stock. The mystery of the dates of the first publication of Galland’s *Mille et Une Nuit* is trivial compared with the mystery of the provenance of the story of *Aladdin*. In this connection, we should consider the popularity of the *Arabian Nights* in France. We need a thorough bibliographical survey of the *Arabian Nights* during in the 18th century, and quantitative evaluation of its distribution. For the discussion on the date of Galland’s translation, see also Macdonald (1932) and Knipp (1964). (Cf. MC collection: vol. 1, 2, 5, 6=1705, Paris: la Veuve de Claude Barbin; vol. 3, 4=1704, Paris: la Veuve de Claude Barbin; vol. 7=1706, Paris: la Veuve de Claude Barbin; vol. 8=1709, la Veuve Ricoeur; vol. 9, 10=1712, Florentin Delaulne; vol. 11, 12=1717, Florentin Delaunue. Cf. NME collection: vol. 1, 2, 5, 6=1705, Paris: la Veuve de Cl. Barbin; vol. 3, 4=1704, Paris: la Veuve de Cl. Barbin; vol. 8=1709, la Boutique de Claude Barbin, chez la veuve Ricoeur.)

2) The BN catalogue identifies C*** as Jean-Baptiste Decourdemanche.

3) The first English translation was published as early as in 1706, at A. Bell in London, whose copies are now preserved in Princeton University Library, and the Bodleian Library in Oxford (Vol. 1 only
in the Opie collection of children’s literature). This translation is composed of 4 volumes, but bound as a two-volume set. Each volume has an illustration on the cover page (totalling two illustrations). According to Ms. Kobayashi (Waseda University, personal communication), those two illustrations are identical with the ones found in the pirated version published in La Haye in 1706. La Haye version, which is now preserved in NME, is bound as a two-volume set with one illustration, in the same way as found in the first English version. This implies that the first English Arabian Nights was translated not from the French original, but from the pirated version published in La Haye.

4) The exact date of the first printing and following reprints of German translation is still not clear. This first translation may be in 1710 (cf. Marzolph et al. 2004, vol. 2: 725). In the case of German editions, some volumes were sold in couples, so all sets or singles ran into new edition whenever they sold out. The name of Talander, which is a pseudonym of August Bohse, always appeared in the titlepage. For German editors, I follow Olaf Simons’s bibliography (see also his web-site, www.pierre-marteau.com.). See also Simons (2001).

5) This is a pirated edition of Gleditsch’s Die Tausend und eine Nacht, which was published by some dummy publisher called Pierre Marteau. The name of Amander is found, but this may be a pseudonym of some unidentified person, as in the case of Talander. This book contains the same illustration as the first English edition (1706), so some insist that this book was published around 1706. But, according to Olaf Simons, the illustration concerned was surely taken from some later German version published by Gleditsch and Weidmann. (For the German editions, I owe very much to Ms. Yuriko Yamanaka, my colleague.)

8) Leeuwen (1999: 427) remarks that the first translation was published in 1738. Another date of the first translation is referred to as 1724.
9) As for the full bibliographical data, see Papachristophorou (2004: 312). See also note 11 below.
11) Prior to Galland’s translation, there seemed to be a Rumanian version of the Arabian Nights (handwritten manuscript?) in the 17th century, which had been translated from some Greek version. See Irwin (1994: 62, 73). For more detailed information, see also Norris (1993: 66).
12) According to Leeuwen (1999: 426), Halima ou Aravicon mitolghicon (his transliteration), was translated in 1782, and Halima is a Rumanian Sheherazade. See also for the date, Meisles (1973: 239) and the photo of the first page of this work, which is now preserved in the Library of the Rumanian Academy (Ms. rom. 2587). He remarks that the translation was accomplished at the end of the eighteenth century (1783) after a Greek version of 1757. (cf. Norris 1993: 66–67). For more general information of the Arabian Nights in Rumanian, see D. Sasu-Timerman (1959).
13) Bochman (1996: 46) remarks that the first Yiddish version was printed in 1796, but Chauvin’s Bibliographie lists the version of 1794. According to Bochman (1996: 44), there was a Yiddish adaptation of the Arabian Nights before the first real translation. It was entitled, in Hebrew, Mar‘ot Tsov’ot (“Graceful Images”) and, in Yiddish, Shpigl fun der Welt (“Mirror of the World”).
15) This is the first printed Arabian Nights in Arabic, including an Arabic text for “The Tale of the Barber’s Fifth Brother”. The second edition was published in 1801. For the provenance of the manuscript on which the Arabic text was based, see Irwin (1994: 47, 60).

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