

A History of Arabic Literature

UMAYYAD PERIOD

K A Fariq

2594

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

***A HISTORY OF
ARABIC LITERATURE
(UMAYYAD PERIOD)***

K. A. Fariq
Professor of Arabic
University of Delhi



VIKAS PUBLISHING HOUSE PVT LTD
New Delhi Bombay Bangalore Calcutta Kanpur

VIKAS PUBLISHING HOUSE PVT LTD

5 Ansari Road, New Delhi 110002

Savoy Chambers, 5 Wallace Street, Bombay 400001

10 First Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Bangalore 560009

8/1-B Chowringhee Lane, Calcutta 700016

80 Canning Road, Kanpur 208004

COPYRIGHT © INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES, 1978

ISBN 0 7069 0661 6

1V02F0102

Printed at Delhi University Press, Delhi 110007

P R E F A C E

This book is the second part of my History of Arabic Literature which appeared in 1972 after staying for over four years in the press. The main cause of the inordinate delay was the presence of a good deal of Arabic script in the book and a profusion of footnotes, to be composed in Roman as well as italics. Much time was lost as compositors, conversant with Arabic, were not available. At long last, when composing began, it was very faulty, with the result that proof after proof had to be asked for, causing further spells of delay. The present volume has been written with an eye on the obstacles encountered. Arabic script has been entirely eliminated and where indispensable, it has been written in the Roman script. Footnotes have been curtailed to the barest minimum and instead, bibliographies of chapters and sections given. Transliteration is, by and large, on the lines followed by the Indian Institute of Islamic studies, New Delhi. To avoid prefixes and vowelpoints, Anglicised forms of some place names, such as Mecca, Medina and Iraq, have been used.

Poetry does not occupy much space in the book, as it clings to the traditional grooves and evolves no new patterns in the Umayyad period. Only those poetic forms which were popular or prominent have been considered, such as the ode, satire and the *ghazal*. Biographical detail of the poets' lives has been avoided and only those aspects of their lives have been briefly noticed which had something to do with their poetic career and intellectual evolution.

Four forms of the Umayyad literature, namely, the *hadith*, the *fiqh*, the *tafsir* and the *tāʾrīkh*, which comprise its most important components, have been dealt with at length, since

(ii)

they play the most vital role in moulding the pattern of Muslim thought and in determining the social, moral and intellectual behaviour of the Muslims in the Umayyad and succeeding periods, and also because they have been neglected or perfunctorily treated in Arabic literary histories.

I warmly thank Hakīm ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd Sāhib, President of the Institute of Islamic Studies, New Delhi, for endorsing the publication of this volume and also Mr. S. A. ‘Alī, Secretary of the Institute, for going through the MS., and helping in its publication.

*University of Delhi,
May, 1977*

K. A. Fāriq

CONTENTS

I

INTRODUCTORY

	PAGE
I Islam after Emigration	
II Arabs	...
III Mawālī	6
	9

II

LITERATURE IN THE Umayyad PERIOD

I Intellectual Trends	...	12
(1) <i>Khārijites</i>	...	12
(2) <i>Shi'ites</i>	...	12
(3) <i>Traditionists</i>		
(4) <i>Murjites</i>	...	14
(5) <i>Qadarites</i>	...	16
(6) <i>Believers in non-eternality of Qur'ān</i>	.	17
(7) <i>Mujabbara</i>	...	18
(8) <i>Mushabbiha</i>	...	18
(9) <i>Mutakallims</i>	...	20
(10) <i>Mu'tazila</i>	...	21
II Salient Features of the Umayyad Period	...	24
III Poetry	...	24
(a) <i>Qasida</i>	...	24
(b) <i>Satire</i>	...	25
(c) <i>Most famous Umayyad Poets</i>	...	26
(1) <i>Al-Akhṭal</i>	...	27
(2) <i>Al-Farazdaq</i>	...	29
(3) <i>Jarir</i>	...	31
(d) <i>Ghazal</i>	...	32
<i>Umar b. Abī Rabī'a</i>		
IV Prose	...	42
(1) <i>Speeches</i>	...	39
(2) <i>Letters</i>	...	41

(3)	<i>Grammar</i>	...	43
(4)	<i>Adab</i>	...	45
(5)	<i>Hadīth</i>	...	46
	Noted Traditionists	...	52
	(1) <i>Anas b. Mālik</i>	...	52
	(2) <i>Ibn Jurayj</i>	...	53
	(3) <i>Al-Auzā'ī</i>	...	55
(6)	<i>Fiqh</i>	...	59
	Noted Jurists	...	65
	(1) <i>Sa'īd b. al-Musayyab</i>	...	65
	(2) <i>Al-Ḥasan al-Baṣrī</i>	...	68
	(3) <i>Abū Ḥanīfa</i>	...	73
(7)	<i>Tafsīr</i>		
	Noted Commentator	...	84
	<i>Ibn 'Abbās</i>	...	84
(8)	<i>History</i>	...	86
	Noted Transmitters of History	...	89
	(1) <i>Ibn 'Abbās</i>	...	89
	(2) <i>'Urwa b. al-Zubayr</i>	...	91
	(3) <i>Al-Sha'bi</i>	...	92
	(4) <i>Al-Zuhrī</i>	...	93
	(5) <i>Ibn Ishāq</i>	...	95
	(6) <i>Abū Mikhnaḥ</i>	...	97