



# ARCADIAN LIBRARY ONLINE

Shared cultural heritage of the  
Middle East and the West



“An astonishingly rich  
collection of books on travels,  
history, science and literature  
concerning the Middle East”

– *Bulletin of the School of  
African and Oriental Studies*



I am honoured to introduce you to the Arcadian Library. Established some forty years ago, our express purpose is to foster inter-cultural dialogue between East and West through the collection, publication, exhibition, and now digitization of rare books and manuscripts documenting the history of the interface between Europe and the Middle East and Islamic world from the dawn of civilization to the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the close of the First World War.

So far we have made physical access to our premises available only to a handful of scholars, librarians, curators, heads of multinational companies and world leaders, who have been regular visitors and invaluable supporters. We have sponsored academic research on a large scale, and we have staged acclaimed special exhibitions at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, the Brunei Gallery, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Museum in London, with more scheduled in the near future.

In spite of these achievements, we remained unsatisfied with the relatively limited audience we were able to reach. We are now proud to partner with Bloomsbury Publishing to digitise the holdings of our library and make them available to offer access to individuals, universities, research foundations, institutions and companies through a specially designed, exclusive platform, which will preserve the library in digital form for generations to come and bring the Arcadian Library's peaceful message to the widest possible audience in an age in which fear, ignorance, prejudice and violence prevail.

Chairman of the Arcadian Group





The Arcadian Library is an exceptional, privately-owned library, which respects and celebrates the centuries-old interface between the West and the East. The rare books and documents of the Arcadian Library focus exclusively on the shared cultural heritage of Europe and the Middle East.



Collected over the last forty years, the Arcadian Library's holdings are distinguished by their rarity, importance and quality. The collection contains manuscripts, early books and incunabula, documents, and maps and printed books ranging from the tenth to twentieth centuries. Until now this vast trove of knowledge has been preserved as a private collection, known only to the few scholars who had the opportunity to examine this remarkable collection; and upon doing so have praised it as a crucial resource for better understanding the shared cultural heritage of Europe and the Middle East.



---

## KEY FEATURES OF ARCADIAN LIBRARY ONLINE

- ✓ High-resolution, full-colour images (400ppi)
- ✓ Searchable in either English or Arabic
- ✓ Dedicated taxonomy enables filtered search by topic, place, period, people, language or content type
- ✓ Integrated Arabic keyboard
- ✓ Expert commentary articles linked to primary texts
- ✓ Cite, Share, and Favorite content
- ✓ Full catalogue records include available provenance and condition notes

# Highlights from the History of



Ibn Baklarish's *Kitab al-Musta'ini* – Book of Simples: Medical Remedies between Three Faiths in Twelfth-Century Spain

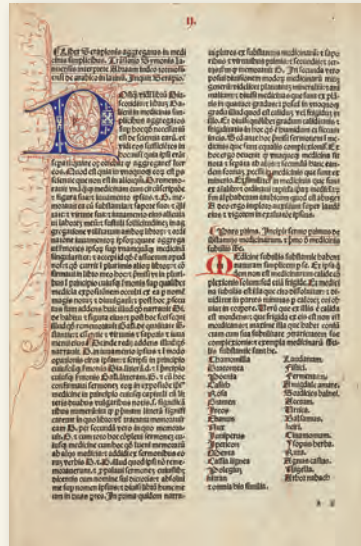


Haly Abbas's seminal tenth century medical text  
*Liber Totius Medicine Necessariae*

# Science & Medicine Module



Liber de cirurgia by Albucasis – a pivotal fifteenth century medical treatise detailing early Arab surgical practices and instruments



An early edition of Serapion the Younger's book of medical botany, **Liber aggregatus in medicinis simplicibus**





Rare ancient manuscripts, early books, maps and printed texts ranging from the tenth to the twentieth centuries combine to tell the story of the shared cultural heritage of Europe and the Middle East; and how the East and West have interacted over the last millennium to exchange ideas and further the development of science, medicine and culture.



Now, for the first time, this treasure trove of scholarly and historically significant material is available in beautiful, high resolution digital form. This creates a tremendous opportunity for scholastic exploration and learning, and makes this exclusive collection available to a wider audience.



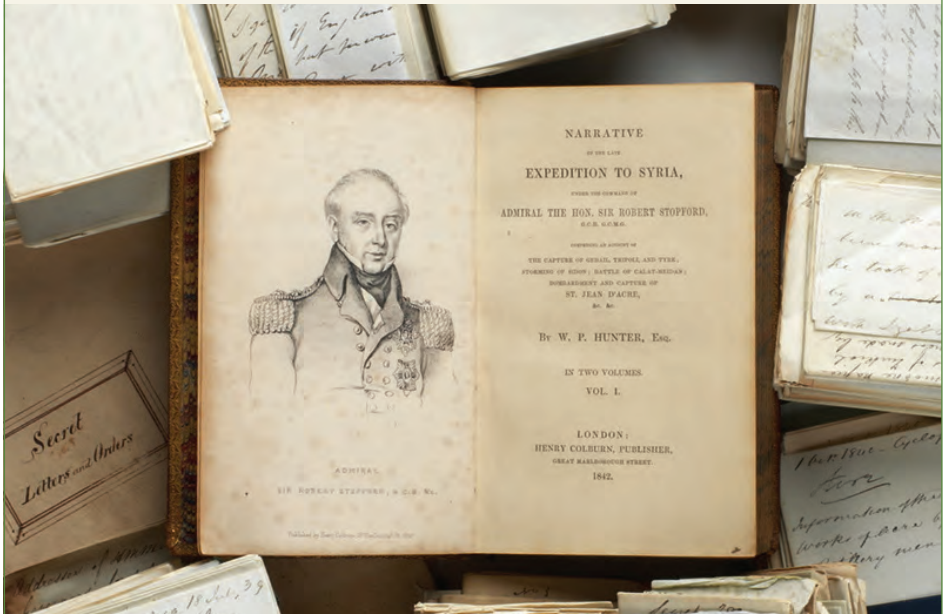
COMING SOON

# Future Module

## TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION

### Collection Highlights:

- Letters, journals and other works by some of history's most inquisitive travellers – including pilgrims, missionaries, merchants, diplomats, scientists, soldiers, antiquarians, tourists and women
- Unique and rare manuscripts, maps and colour-plate books
- Unpublished letters from famed figures such as British adventurers Richard Francis Burton and Gertrude Bell





COMING SOON

## Future Module

# HISTORY OF TURKEY AND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

### Collection Highlights:

- A unique collection of rare pamphlets and illustrations, written in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin
- Documents attempting to define the Ottoman state and to chronicle the lives of its rulers
- An aerial view of Cairo printed in Venice in about 1549 and measuring two metres across by a metre high





ARCADIAN  
LIBRARY ONLINE

To register for a free 30-day institutional trial or  
for further information as it becomes available, email:

Americas: [OnlineSalesUS@bloomsbury.com](mailto:OnlineSalesUS@bloomsbury.com)

Outside Americas: [OnlineSalesUK@bloomsbury.com](mailto:OnlineSalesUK@bloomsbury.com)

Australia & New Zealand: [OnlineSalesANZ@bloomsbury.com](mailto:OnlineSalesANZ@bloomsbury.com)

[www.arcadianlibraryonline.com](http://www.arcadianlibraryonline.com)