

Contents

List of Figures	v
List of Contributors	vii
Foreword	xiii
Preface	xvii
1 Baghdad: Political Metropolis and Intellectual Center Jens Scheiner & Damien Janos	1
2 Talking about Arab Origins: The Transmission of the <i>ayyām al-‘arab</i> in al-Kūfa, al-Baṣra and Baghdad Isabel Toral-Niehoff	47
3 The Language of the Arabs in Early Ninth Century Philology: An Investigation of the Term <i>mathal</i> in Abū ‘Ubayda’s <i>Majāz al-Qur’ān</i> Nora Schmidt	77
4 ‘Earnest and Jest (<i>al-jidd wa-l-hazl</i>)’ as an Educational Concept? Some Considerations on Selected Works of al-Jāḥiẓ (d. 255/869) Hans-Peter Pökel	103
5 Abū l-‘Atāhiya and the Versification of Disenchantment Nora K. Schmid	147
6 Teachers and <i>Ḥadīth</i> Transmitters: The <i>Quṣṣāṣ</i> in Ibn Ḥanbal’s <i>Musnad</i> Jens Scheiner	183

- 7 **'We shall neither learn the Qur'ān nor teach it to our children': The Covenant of 'Umar on Learning**
Clare Wilde 237
- 8 **Christian Learning about Islam in the Early 'Abbāsīd Caliphate: The Muslim Sources of the *Disputation of the Monk Abraham of Tiberias***
Krisztina Szilágyi 267
- 9 **Muḥammad b. Khalaf b. al-Marzbān (d.309/921) and His Role in Translations from the Middle Persian**
Mohsen Zakeri 343
- 10 **Why Did Ḥunayn, the Master Translator into Arabic, Make Translations into Syriac? On the Purpose of the Syriac Translations of Ḥunayn and his Circle**
John Watt 363
- 11 **Al-Ma'mūn's Patronage of Astrology: Some Biographical and Institutional Considerations**
Damien Janos 389
- 12 **Court Astrologers and Historical Writing in Early 'Abbāsīd Baghdād: An Appraisal**
Antoine Borrut 455
- 13 **From Lyrics by al-Fazārī to Lectures by al-Fārābī: Teaching Astronomy in Baghdād (750–1000 C.E.)**
Johannes Thomann 503
- 14 **'Until his eyes light up': Talmud Teaching in Babylonian Geonic *Yeshivot***
Elisabetta Abate 527
- 15 **Safeguarding Lord's Word: The Work of the Masoretēs in Palestine and Babylon**
Elvira Martín Contreras 557

Sketches for Further Research	575
16 ‘Baghdād for lovers lies not far away’: Baghdād and other Imaginary Places in a 7th/13th cent. Manuscript of the <i>Hundred and One Nights</i>	
Claudia Ott	577
17 Historical Writing in Baghdād: The Case of the <i>Futūḥ al-Shām</i> ascribed to al-Wāqidī (d. 207/822)	
Yoones Dehghani Farsani	587
18 Teaching Qur’ānic Exegesis: Some Initial Insights	
Luise Ossenbach	601
Index	615