Traditionally revered as the literal word of God, the Qur’an serves as Islam’s sacred book of revelation. Accordingly, its statements and pronouncements rest at the core of the beliefs and teachings that have inexorably defined expressions of the Islamic faith. Indeed, over the centuries, engaging with and poring over the contents of the Qur’an inspired an impressive range of traditional scholarship. Notwithstanding the extraordinary antiquity of the Qur’an and its impact as a text, the study of the Qur’an has been at the center of Islamic scholarly activity from the inception of Islam until today. Countless generations of Muslims have devoted a significant part of their professional and spiritual activities to studying and commenting on the Qur’an. In fact, the study of the Qur’an has rivaled the study of the Bible in its historical and theological significance. The Oxford Handbook of Qur’anic Studies offers an authoritative collection of chapters that guide readers through the gamut of themes, subjects, and debates that have dominated the academic study of the Qur’an and its literary heritage. Presenting contributions from leading experts in the field, the Handbook offers an invaluable resource on the Qur’an and its scholarly traditions. There exists no single volume devoted to such a broad review of the scholarship on the Qur’an and its rich commentary tradition.

Mustafa Shah is Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Muhammad Abdel Haleem is Professor of Islamic Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
The Oxford Handbook of Qur’anic Studies
# Table of Contents

*List of Illustrations*  
xiii  
*List of Contributors*  
xv  

**Introduction**  
Mustafa Shah  

**PART I THE STATE OF QUR’ANIC STUDIES**  

1. Academic Scholarship and the Qur’an  
   Andrew Rippin  
   27  

2. Modern Developments in Qur’anic Studies  
   Oliver Leaman  
   39  

3. Islamic Origins and the Qur’an  
   Herbert Berg  
   51  

4. Qur’anic Studies: Bibliographical Survey  
   Anna Akasoy  
   64  

**PART II THE HISTORICAL SETTING OF THE QUR’AN**  

5. Late Antique Near Eastern Context: Some Social and Religious Aspects  
   Muntasir F. Al-Hamad and John F. Healey  
   81  

6. The Arabian Context of the Qur’an: History and the Text  
   Harry Munt  
   97  

7. The Linguistic Landscape of pre-Islamic Arabia: Context for the Qur’an  
   Ahmad Al-Jallad  
   111
viii  TABLE OF CONTENTS

8. Qur’anic Exempla and Late Antique Narratives  128
   Marianna Klar

9. The Qur’an and Judaism  140
   Reuven Firestone

10. The Qur’an and Christianity  152
    Neal Robinson

PART III  THE QUR’AN: TEXTUAL
TRANSMISSION, CODIFICATION,
MANUSCRIPTS, INSCRIPTIONS,
AND PRINTED EDITIONS

11. The Manuscript and Archaeological Traditions: Physical Evidence  167
    François Déroche

12. The Form of the Qur’an: Historical Contours  182
    Yasin Dutton

    Mustafa Shah

14. Glorifying God’s Word: Manuscripts of the Qur’an  217
    Sheila S. Blair

15. Inscribing God’s Word: Qur’anic Texts on Architecture, Objects, and Other Solid Supports  239
    Sheila S. Blair

16. A History of Printed Editions of the Qur’an  255
    Efim A. Rezvan

PART IV  STRUCTURAL AND LITERARY
DIMENSIONS OF THE QUR’AN

17. Language of the Qur’an  277
    A. H. Mathias Zahniser

18. Vocabulary of the Qur’an: Meaning in Context  294
    Mustafa Shah
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Qur’anic Syntax</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michel Cuypers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Rhetorical Devices and Stylistic Features of Qur’anic Grammar</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Muhammad Abdel Haleem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Inner-Qur’anic Chronology</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicolai Sinai</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Structure of the Qur’an: The Inner Dynamic of the Sura</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mustansir Mir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Discussions of Qur’anic Inimitability: The Theological Nexus</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ayman A. El-Desouky</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>The Qur’an and the Arabic Medieval Literary Tradition</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geert Jan van Gelder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The Qur’an and Arabic Poetry</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stefan Sperl</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Part V Topics and Themes of the Qur’an

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Revelation and Prophecy in the Qur’an</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ulrika Mårtensson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Doctrine and Dogma in the Qur’an</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen R. Burge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Law and the Qur’an</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joseph E. Lowry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Qur’anic Ethics</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ebrahim Moosa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Eschatology and the Qur’an</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sebastian Günther</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Prophets and Personalities of the Qur’an</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anthony H. Johns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Politics and the Qur’an</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stefan Wild</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

## Part VI The Qur’an in Context: Translation and Culture

35. Translations of the Qur’an: Western Languages  
   **Ziad Elmarsafy**  
   541

36. Translations of the Qur’an: Islamicate Languages  
   **M. Brett Wilson**  
   552

37. Presenting the Qur’an Out of Context  
   **Muhammad Abdel Haleem**  
   565

38. Popular Culture and the Qur’an: Classical and Modern Contexts  
   **Bruce Lawrence**  
   578

39. The Western Literary Tradition and the Qur’an: An Overview  
   **Jeffrey Einboden**  
   592

## Part VII Qur’anic Interpretation: Scholarship and Literature of Early, Classical, and Modern Exegesis

40. Early Qur’anic Commentaries  
   **Andrew Rippin**  
   607

41. Exegetical Designs of the *Sīra: Tafsīr* and *Sīra*  
   **Maher Jarrar**  
   620

42. Early Qur’anic Exegesis: From Textual Interpretation to Linguistic Analysis  
   **Kees Versteegh**  
   634

43. Early Medieval *Tafsīr* (Third/Ninth to the Fifth/Eleventh Century)  
   **Ulrika Mårtensson**  
   651
PART VIII QUR’ANIC EXEGESIS: DISCOURSES, FORMATS, AND HERMENEUTICS

47. Twelver Shi‘ī Exegesis
   Sajjad Rizvi
   707

48. Ismā‘īli Scholarship on Tafsīr
   Ismail Poonawala
   721

49. Ibāḍī Tafsīr Literature
   Valerie J. Hoffman and Sulaiman bin Ali bin Ameir Al-Shueili
   734

50. Sufi Commentary: Formative and Later Periods
   Alexander Knysh
   746

51. Theological Commentaries
   Tariq Jaffer
   766

52. Philosophical Commentaries
   Jules Janssens
   780

53. Aesthetically Oriented Interpretations of the Qur’an
   Kamal Abu-Deeb
   794

54. Tafsīr and Science
   Robert Morrison
   806

55. Classical Qur’anic Hermeneutics
   Johanna Pink
   818

56. Sunnī Hermeneutical Literature
   Martin Nguyen
   832

57. Modern Qur’anic Hermeneutics: Strategies and Development
   Massimo Campanini
   848