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BRILL is happy to announce the new book series

The Iranian/Yemeni Shī'ī Rational Heritage Series

Edited by Hassan Ansari and Sabine Schmidtke

The rich manuscript traditions of the Imāmī and Zaydī branches of Shī'ism, with their continuous presence in Iran, Yemen, and in southern Iraq, constitute unique repositories of some of the most important intellectual schools of Islamic thought that have disappeared elsewhere. This includes first and foremost the rational strands in the history of Islamic thought, among which the Mu'tazila figures prominently. Moreover, during the 12th through 14th centuries CE, nearly the entire literary and religious legacy of Caspian Zaydism was transmitted from northern Iran to Yemen. The continuity of Imāmī Shī'ism in Iran since the Safavid period and of Zaydism in Yemen since the ninth century is reflected in an almost uninterrupted library tradition in those two countries, of which significant portions remain unexplored up until now.

Since the discovery of the rational literary heritage in Yemen during the second half of the twentieth century, some of the extant literature has been published but much more remains to be done. The series aims at publishing editions of works by Shī'ī and non-Shī'ī authors, whose works were adopted by the Shī'ī tradition, that have been preserved primarily in manuscripts of Iranian and/or Yemeni provenance.