

A NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION

In general, words that are already Anglicized and familiar to English speakers or found in English dictionaries are not transcribed.

To simplify reading, diacritical marks that indicate emphatic consonants or the lengthening of the vowels “a” and “i” have been omitted. The exception to this principle is the long vowel “u,” which is rendered as “ou” so as to reproduce the Arabic sound as closely as possible in English. For example, we use “Wannous” instead of Wannus and “Mamlouk” instead of Mamluk. A *hamza*, or glottal stop, is rendered as ‘.

The letter *‘ayn*, which, for those unfamiliar with the Arabic alphabet, sounds like a vocalized “h,” is rendered as ʿ. The *‘ayn* is used, for example, in the spelling of the name of the author, Saʿdallah Wannous.

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