NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

Although addressed to a multi-disciplinary audience, these two volumes follow relatively strict transliteration rules instead of restricting themselves to the use of ‘ to indicate ‘ayn, and ’ to indicate hamza (the latter being the norm in social science). This decision stems from a desire to be rigorous in referring to Islamic textual sources, legal concepts, and early Muslim jurists and writers. Thus, names of leading Islamic jurists, scholars, or mystics from prior to the nineteenth century have been transliterated, as have generic Islamic institutional labels such as dār al-‘ulūm (house of science). However, when an institution itself maintains a website and publishes an English version of its name, in that case the spellings used by the institution have been adopted: thus, Darul Uloom Deoband, as opposed to Dār al-‘Ulūm Deoband, or Nadwatul Ulama, as opposed to Nadwat al-‘Ulamā’. In the light of the heavy transliteration, all foreign words have been italicized and included in the glossary, so that those readers less conversant with them can easily identify them and consult the glossary. It is hoped that this balance will ensure that the transliteration meets the expectations of Islamic Studies specialists, while the text remains easily accessible to scholars from other disciplines.