Rare books of the 16th and 17th century which evaded bonfire take special place in the collection. These are books which had been entered in the Pope's Index of banned books and were subject to unconditional extermination but survived till our days owing to the courage of their authors, publishers and owners. The collection of Russian books of the 18th century was started by a collection of Russian bibliophile of the 18th century P.F. Zhourkov, laying the foundation for the university library, is of great value for the history of Russian culture. These books make up a unique collection of foreign books banned in Russia during the reign of Nicholas I. The 17th century is a period, which many English historians and literary scholars prefer to any other. During most of it England had her own course both in her political and literary life. After Queen Elizabeth's death James VI of Scotland became King James I of England in J603. Like Elizabeth he tried to rule without parliament as much as possible. He believed in the divine right of kings, that is the king was chosen by God and only God could judge him. He expressed his opinion openly and that led to trouble with Parliament. In 1618 the Thirty Years War began, and Parliament wished to go. Library fires have happened sporadically through the centuries: notable examples are the destruction of the Library of Alexandria, destruction of Library of Nalanda in India and the accidental burning of the Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar. Causes vary from arson to the sun's rays setting fire to leaflets through the action of a magnifying lens, as happened to a library in Northam, Devon.[2][3]. Advances in technology have reduced the possibility of a library collection being destroyed by fire. 8,000 rare old books and manuscripts. Manuscripts...
from the 18th century, Syriac books printed in Iraq's first printing house in the 19th century, books from the Ottoman era, Iraqi newspapers from the early 20th century.[68].