

THE GOLDEN AGE OF
PERSIAN LITERATURE
1000 - 1500 A.D.

Miniatures, Illuminations,
Manuscripts in Persian and Arabic,
From the Robert Garrett Collection

An Exhibition in Honor of the Visit to
Princeton of his Imperial Majesty

MUHAMMAD REZA SHAH PAHLAVI

Exhibition Gallery, Princeton University Library
November 15, 1949 - January 7, 1950

- [Case I] 1. Firadawsi of Tus. (A.H. 321-416 [A.D. 933/4-1025])
Shāh-nāmāh (Book of Kings)
Copied A.H. 951 [A.D. 1544-5]

This is the great national epic of Iran, beginning with the first legendary king and ending with the fall of the Sasanian empire in the middle of the VII century of the Christian Era.

This copy contains thirty-three Persian miniatures of probably the same period as the MS.

P.T.I. no. 1*

*P.T.I.: Descriptive Catalog of the Garrett Collection of Persian, Turkish and Indie Manuscripts including some Miniatures in the Princeton University Library by Mohamad E. Moghadam, Yahya Armaiani, under the supervision of Philip K. Hitti; Princeton University Press: 1939.

[Case I] 2. Al-Qur'ān (The Koran)

Copied A.H. 1254 [A.D. 1838] by 'Alī al-Hamadī.

This copy of the Koran was presented to the
Ottoman Sultan 'Abd-al-Hamid II, 1876-1909.

Ar. Mss. Supplement no. 3*

*Ar. Mss. Supplement: Descriptive Catalog of the Garrett
Collection of Arabic Manuscripts in the Princeton
University Library by Philip K. Hitti, Nabih Amin
Paris, Butrus 'Abd-al-Malik; Princeton University
Press: 1938.

[Case II] 3.

Osan Khayyam is not the only Persian poet known and appreciated in the West. Hafiz has likewise had a share, though more modest, in influencing western poetry. This is a specially bound edition of the lyrics of the Bard of Shiraz translated into German verse by G. Fr. Daumer and published by Eugen Diederichs at Jena in 1912.

Ex 2463.424.912

- [Case II] 4. Khwājah Hāfiḡ Shīrāzi (died A.H. 791 [A.D. 1389])
Dīvān-i-Hāfiḡ (The Collected Poems of Hāfiḡ)

This is a more modern MS, probably from the late XIX century; the calligraphy, miniatures, and illuminations were done in India, the tooled and gilt binding in Europe. There are thirty-seven miniatures in the MS.

P.T.I. no. 18

[Case II] 5. Khwājah Hāfiz-i-Shirāzi (died A.H. 791 [A.D. 1389])
Dīvān-i-Hāfiz (The Collected Poems of Hāfiz)

This copy of the Dīvān of Hāfiz has the last verse of every ghazal written in a rectangular frame in the middle, and on the two sides of the rectangle flowers are pointed in bright colors on a gold background. Here is shown the illumination at the beginning of the MS.

P.T.I. no. 17

- [Case II] 6. Khwājah Hāfiz-i-Shīrāzi (died A.H. 791 [A.D. 1389])
Divān-i-Hāfiz (The Collected Poems of Hāfiz)
Copied A.H. 926 [A.D. 1520].

This copy of the well-known odes of love and mysticism of Hāfiz, the most famous of Persia's lyric poets, contains also his masnavi, sāqi-nāmah, muqatta'at and rubā'iyāt at the end. There are six full-page miniatures, the second of which bears the date A.H. 926 (same as the colophon).

P.T.I. no. 15

- [Case II] 7. Khwājah Ḥāfiṣ-i-Shīrāzi (died A.H. 791 [A.D. 1389])
Dīvān-i-Ḥāfiṣ (The Collected Poems of Ḥāfiṣ)
Copied A.H. 1094 [A.D. 1683]

The first fifteen folios (some, unfortunately, missing) of this copy of the Dīvān of Ḥāfiṣ contain scattered odes, pentastichs, and an introduction; the odes, or ghazals, proper begin with the sixteenth folio. The MS contains four miniatures of the late XVII century.

P.T.I. no. 16

[Case II] 8. Al-Qur'ān (The Koran). Surah VII:112 (in part) --
131 (in part).

This is an eighth-century manuscript fragment
in Kūfī, on vellum, of the Koran.

P.F.I. no. 1149

[Case III] 9. Sheraf al-Din 'Ali Yasdi (died A.H. 858 [A.D. 1454])

Zafar-nāmah (The Book of Victory)

Copied A.H. 872 [A.D. 1467-8] by Shir Ali

The MS is well executed but it is most famous for its twelve full-page miniatures from the beginning of the XVI century by the master Persian painter Bihzād. Its value is also enhanced by the entries in the handwriting of the Mogul emperors Jahāngīr and Shāhjahān and one word from the pen of the Emperor Akbar, perhaps the only specimen of the writing of the great monarch.

[Lent by John Work Garrett Library,
Baltimore]

[Case IIIa.] 10. Al-Qur'an

This manuscript, known as "The Golden Koran," comprising Surah I-XVIII, is unique and perhaps the finest in this country. The full text is in gold, the first four folios elaborately illuminated, the ruled marginal lines with decorations in gold and color.

The manuscript is probably from the eleventh century, although the diacritical marks and vowel signs are probably a later addition.

[Lent by John York Garrett Library,
Baltimore]

[Case IV] 11. [ʿAsharrif al-Dīn Ibn-Muṣliḥ al-Dīn] Saʿdī
(n. A.H. 690 [A.D. 1291])

Gulistan (Rose-Garden)

Copied A.H. 960 [A.D. 1552/3] by Sultan Muhammad of Herat, a famous copyist of the 8 century A.H. The date in the colophon of this copy has been altered by a former owner from 960 to 660. On the margins appears Saʿdī's Bustān.

The binding is late, probably of the nineteenth century.

[Case IV] 12. Sayyid Muhammad Nur-Allah Ahreri (later XVII century A.D. -?)

Sharh-i-Gulistan (Commentary on the Gulistan); bound with it are a glossary and indices for the Gulistan by the same author.

Copied in A.H. 1168 [A.D. 1755]

This commentary, with the glossary and indices, well illustrates the devoted and scholarly study which the Iranians have always dedicated to Sa'adi's world-famous Gulistan.

58 W is P.T.I. no. 41

59 W is P.T.I. no. 40

[Case IV] 13. An anthology of Persian Poetry
Copied in A.H. 815 [A.D. 1412/3]

The manuscript is noteworthy for its thirteen Persian miniatures of the XVII century. The works included are by: 1. [Kamāl al-Dīn abu-al-'Atā'] Khwāju (A.H. 677-753 [A.D. 1278/9-1352/3]); fols. 3-130. 2. Nisāri [Fūhiatāni] (m. A.H. 720 [A.D. 1320/1]): fols. 131-363. 3. Amīr Nāṣir Khusrāw (A.H. 394-481 [A.D. 1004-1088]): fols. 364-450.

Five other authors are represented by the works written in the margins.

P.T.I. no. 38

[Case IV] 1A. East Persian Kufic calligraphy on paper.
XI to XII century

AM 13658

- [Case V] 15. A leaf probably from the Persian translation of Manāfi' al-Hayawān of abu-Sa'īd Ubayd-Allāh ibn-Jibrīl ibn-Rakhtīshū', d. after A.H. 450 [A.D. 1058-9], with an illustration showing two black crows; late XIII century Persian miniature.

P.T.I. no. 197

[Case V] 16. Portrait of a painter, perhaps that of Rida 'Abbāsi, with spectacles on the nose and holding a picture of a European which he is painting, with the implements of his craft spread around him; in the style of Rida 'Abbāsi from late XVII century.

An inscription on the portrait signed by Mu' in Muṣawwir, a pupil of Rida 'Abbāsi, and dated A.H. 1084 [A.D. 1673], indicates that the portrait is that of the painter's master, but the genuineness of the inscription is not absolutely certain. The portrait is set in an illuminated frame 3.3 cm. wide and mounted on a cardboard.

- [Case V] 17. A leaf from the Shah-namah with a small miniature portraying the Sasanian King Bahram as guest of the water carrier Lanbak; XIV century Persian miniature.

P.T.I. no. 194

[Case VI] 18. [Abu-Hamid Muhammad ibn-Muhammad ibn-Muhammad
ibn-Ahmad al-Ghazzali al-Tusi (A.H. 451-505
[A.D. 1059/60-1111])

Ihya' Ulum al-Din (The Revivification of the
Sciences of Religion).

This well known work on religion, philosophy and
morals was copied for the library of Mahmud al-Safawi,
a member of the famous ruling family under whom Iran
emerged as one of the great Moslem states of modern
times.

P.T.I. no. 1481

[Case VI] 19. [Abu-Hamid] Muhammad ibn-Muhammad ibn-Muhammad
ibn-Ahmad al-Thazzali al-Tusi [A.H. 451-505
[A.D. 1059/60 - 1111]]

Ihya' 'Ulum al-Din (The Revivification of the
Sciences of Religion).

The fourth volume of the well-known work on religion, philosophy and morals, probably fourteenth century. The author, called Algazel by medieval Europe, was "unquestionably the greatest theologian of Islam and one of its noblest and most original thinkers... 'The father of the church in Islam.'" In his work, orthodox speculation reaches its culminating point.

Ar. Mss Supplement no. 1479

[Case VI] 20. Sayyid Muhyi al-Din abu-Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir
al-Jilani (A.H. 470-561 [A.D. 1078-1166])

Collection of Letters

Copied A.H. 1094 [A.D. 1683]

Eighteen letters on various phases of Sufism
by the famous Sufi leader and founder of the impor-
tant Qadiri order of Moslem mystics.

P.T.I. no. 91

[Case VI] 21. A Fragment of a Persian Manuscript
XVI century

AM 13658

[Case VII] 23. Three panels of illustrations: two panels representing armor and one panel of fruit tree. XIV century Persian miniatures.

P.T.I. no. 198

[Case VII] 24. Hashīd-al-Dīn Faḍl-Allāh, A.H. 645-718 [A.D. 1247-1318].

Jāmi' al-Tawārikh

P.T.I. no. 192

[Case VIII] 25. [Abu-Ja'far Nāṣir-al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn-Muḥammad ibn-al-Ḥasan al-Tūsī] (A.H. 597-627 [A.D. 1201-1274])

Tahīr Kitāb Uulidīs fi 'Ilm al-Ḥandasah (A
Revision of the Book of Euclid on Geometry)

Copied A.H. 730 [A.D. 1330] by Muḥammad ibn-
abi-al-Tayyib al-Turkmanī.

A redaction of Euclid's Elements of Geometry, together with additions by al-Ḥajjāj ibn-Yusuf ibn-Matar (d. after 830 A.D.) and Thābit ibn-Qurrah (d. 901 A.D.). Euclid was well known to Moslem mathematicians and provided a starting point from which they advanced to their spectacular discoveries in several fields of higher mathematics.

Ar. Mus Supplement no. 1054

[Case VIII] 26. Zakariya' ibn-Muhammad ibn-Mahmūd al-Kamūni
al-Qazvini (died A.H. 682 [A.D. 1283])

The section on botany from 'Aim'ib al-Makhluqāt
wa-Shar'ib al-Mawjudāt (The Monders of Creation
and Qualities of Existence).

This Ms has the seal of Ibrahim 'Adil Shāh on
folio one verso, dated A.H. 950, but this is not
considered to be genuine. There are over a hundred
small miniatures and two leaves from the Shāh-nāmāh
posted on the interior of the binding.

P.T.I. no. 66

[Case VIII] 27. Barmī-Mūsā [ibn-Shākir] (3rd century A.H. [9th century A.D.])

Ahkām al-Barrā li-al-Mawālīd (The Influence of the Degrees of the Zodiac on Births)

Copied before A.H. 659 [A.D. 1261]

This thirteenth-century manuscript contains on the title-page the following inscription: "For the library of our lord the sultan, the king, al-Nāṣir Salāh-al-Dunya wa-al-Dīn abu-al-Muzaffar Yūsuf ibn-al-Malik al-'Azīz, may God perpetuate his reign!" This is familiarly known in the West as Saladin.

Ar. Mss. Supplement no. 968

[Case VIII] 26. 'Ali ibn-al-'Abbas [al-Majūsi] (A.H. 384 [A.D. 994])

Kāmil al-Sinā'ah al-Tibbiyah, known as al-Maliki (The Perfect Work on the Art of Medicine, known as the Royal Book)

Copied in Harrān, A.H. 566 [A.D. 1190]

A complete copy of the famous Liber regius of Haly Abbas, this work was composed for the Suwayhid 'Adud-al-Dawlah Fanna Khusraw, reigned A.D. 949-83. It treats dietetics and materia medica. In 1127 it was translated into Latin by Stephen of Antioch.

This is one of two complete copies, the other being in the possession of Dr. Sami Haddad, American University of Beirut.

r. Mss Supplement no. 1

[Case VIII] 29. Abu-Bakr Muhammad ibn-Zakariya al-Razi (A.H. 250-313 [A.D. 864-925])

Al-Fusūl fi al-Tibb (Aphorisms of Medicine)

Copied A.H. 681 [A.D. 1282]

A medical work modelled after the Aphorisms attributed to Hippocrates. This work was eventually translated into Hebrew, and a Latin version was printed at Bologna in 1489, again at Lyons in 1510.

Al-Razi, commonly called "Rhazes" in European languages, is regarded as "the greatest and most original of all the Muslim physicians, and one of the most prolific as an author." The Latin version of his Kitāb al-Asrār was for centuries the standard European handbook of medical knowledge. Illustrative of the original character of such of his work is the fact that the first known clinical account of smallpox in medical literature comes from his pen.

Ar. Mes. Supplement no. 1076

- [Case IX] 30. Abu-'Ali [al-Husayn ibn-'Abdullāh] ibn-Sīna
(Avicenna) A.H. 370-428 [A.D. 980-1037]
Kitāb al-Shifā' (The Book of Healing).
Copied A.H. 972 [A.D. 1564/5]

A section of the second part, of Physica, of
the Kitāb al-Shifā', a great philosophical encyclo-
paedia. In the world-renowned Ibn-Sīna -- physician,
philosopher, philologist, and poet, Moslem science
reached its culminating point.

Ar. Nos Supplement no. 861

[Case IX] 31. Abu-Ishaq Ibrahim ibn'Ali ibn-Yusuf al-Firuzābādī
[al-Shirāzī] (A.H. 393-476 [A.D. 1002/3-1083]).

Ma'ūnat al-Mubtadi 'In wa-Tadhkirat al-Muntahin
fi al-Jadal (An Aid for Beginners and a
Reminder to those Accomplished in Dialectics).

Copied A.H. 485 [A.D. 1092]

This treatise on dialectics is the oldest
manuscript on paper in the Princeton Collection.
It was copied in 1092 by al-Hasan ibn-Yahya ibn-
Ubayd-Allāh al-Kirmāni al-Jirufti.

Ar. Hss Supplement no. 867

[Case IX] 32. Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī [A.H. 604-672 (A.D. 1207/8-1273/4)]

Dīvān-i-Shams-i-Tabrīzī (The Collected Poems of Shams of Tabriz)

Copied A.H. 1249 [A.D. 1833-4]

This collection of odes on God, mystic love and kindred subjects was named after the author's spiritual master, who died A.H. 645 (A.D. 1247-8); it is also known as Dīvān-i-Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī. Together with this author's more extensive Maṣnavī, it constitutes a high point in Persian mysticism.

P.T.I. no. 13

[Case X]

33. Mawlāna Ashraf of Marāghah (died A.H. 854
[A.D. 1450-51])

Khamsah-i-Ashraf (The Five Titles of Asraf)

Copied A.H. 1054 (A.D. 1644)

The two prefaces of this MS, composed in
A.H. 1054 [A.D. 1644], were written specially for
this copy of the Khamsah made for a certain
nobleman called Murtaza-Juli Khān Shālu.

[Case X]

34. Abu-Mu'ayyid Ahmad ibn-'Abdullāh 'ibn-'Ahmad
ibn-Ishāq al-Isfahānī

Hilyat al-Awliyā' (The Ornament of the Saints)

This is a biographical dictionary of eminent Moslem saints, beginning with the time of 'Umar ibn-al-Khattāb, the second caliph, who reigned A.H. 13-23 [A.D. 634-644] and concluding with the life of Sa'id ibn-'Amir ibn-Hidhyan al-Jusāhī.

Ar. Mss Supplement no. 669

[Case 8] 35. [Sharaf-al-Din abu- 'Abdullah Muhammad ibn- Sa'id al-Dūsiri] (A.H. 608-694 [A.D. 1212-1294/5])

Qasīdat al-Burdah (The Ode of the Burdah)

This seventeenth-century manuscript is the famous Ode of Burdah in praise of the prophet.

Oriental binding with sedallion stamped on the outside and inside covers.

Ar. Mus Supplement no. 61

[Case X]

36. 'Ā'ishah bint-Yūsuf ibn-'Abd al-Bā'ūni (M.A.H. 929 [A.D. 1522/3])

Sharh al-Badi'iyah al-Bā'ūniyah wa-Hisāsh
min Shi'rīha (A Commentary on the Badi'iyah
of al-Bā'ūniyah and Some of Her Poems)

Copied A.H. 921 [.D. 1515]

A commentary on al-Badi'iyah, an ode in
praise of the Prophet as well as several eulogies,
particularly interesting as the work of a Moslem
woman writer.

Ar. Mes Supplement no. 109

[Case X] 37. Eighteenth-century Karan

P.T.I. no. 1164

[Case X] 38. Page from the Koran

[Case XI]

39. A fragment of the Koran containing Surah LVII:2 (in part) -- 14 (in part).

The

The badī is an old oriental paper and is probably from the early part of the XI century; each page of badī is transcribed in thuluth on the opposite folio; the thuluth is probably from the early part of the XVIII century.

Ar. Mss Supplement no. 1179D

[Case XI]

No. Muhammad Shirin Naqshabi Na'inī, (died A.H. 809
[A.D. 1406-7])

Divan-i-Naqshabi (The Collected Poems of
Naqshabi)

Copied A.H. 880 [A.D. 1475-6]

The first eight folios contain odes in Arabic,
the remainder love and mystical ghazals and
quatrains in Persian. The binding is of oriental
leather, gilt stamped with medallion and pendants,
and borders decorated in gold.

P.T.I. no. 19

[Case XII] 41. Page from a Persian Manuscript of the XVI
century

Nashki script on paper

AM 13658

[Case XII]

42.

Page from a Persian manuscript of the XVI
century

Nastaliq script

AM 13658

[Case XII]

43.

Page from a Persian manuscript of the XVI
century

Calligraphy of Mir 'Ali

AM 13658

[Case XIII] 4h. Nizāmi Ganjā'ī (A.H. 535-598 or 599 [A.D. 1140/41-1202/3])

Khamsah-i-Nizāmi (The Five Titles of Nizāmi)

Copied A.H. 847-849 [A.D. 1443-5] by Mahmūd ibn-Muhammad ibn-Yūsuf al-Tustarī

This manuscript contains the *Makhzan al-Aṣrār*, *Khusrav-u-Shīrīn*, *Layla-u-Majnūn*, *Haft Paykar*, *Sharaf-nāmah*, *Iqbāl-nāmah-i-Iskandari*. These are ethical, religious and erotic masnavi poems. There are nine miniatures, of good quality of the XV century *Timūrid* school.

P.T.I. no.8

[Case XIII] 45. Nisāmi Ganja'ī (A.H. 535-598 or 599 [A.D. 1140/41-1202/3])

Khamsah-i-Nisāmi (The Five Titles of Nisāmi)

Copied A.H. 898 [A.D. 1492/3]

The entries and portions of some of the folios of this copy are decorated with floral designs in gold with touches of color. There are six miniatures probably from the XIX century.

P.T.I. no. 7

[Case XIII] 46. Nizāmi Ganjā'ī (A.H. 535-598 or 599 [A.D. 1140/41-1202/3])

Khamsah-i-Nizāmi (The Five Titles of Nizāmi)

Copied A.H. 970 [A.D. 1562-3] by Mawlana al-Kātib al-Shīrāzī

This complete copy of Nizāmi's Khamsah contains twenty-five miniatures, two of them full page size, probably from the late XVI and early XVII centuries by different artists. This binding is early XIX century lacquered with a hunting scene on the front cover, and a party of dervishes on the back cover.

P.T.I. no. 9

[Case XIII] 42. Miniature, representing two cameliers, ascribed to the great artist Bihzad, who died in 1525 A.D.

The drawing is dated A.H. 930. The colored border and gilt mat are later additions.

P.T.I. no. 19°

[Case XIV] 48. To the left:

(a) recto: central ruq'ah and border panels
all in shikastah by Tajalli 'Ali Shāh; dated
A.H. 1189 [A.D. 1775-6].

(b) verso: Indian miniature; Solomon seated
on the throne, surrounded by men, angels,
beasts and insects.

P.T.I. no. 206

To the right:

(a) recto: ruq'ah in naskhi and thuluth by the same calligraphist as that of 1 verso.

(b) verso: Indian miniature; probably a scene from Shāh-nāmāh; a king seated on the throne offering a cup of wine to a chieftain, probably Rostam; border panels in thuluth.

P.T.I. no. 37

[Case XV] So. To the left:

(a) recto: ruq'ah in Fārisi by Zayn-al-Haqq;
dated A.H. 1133 [A.D. 1720-21]; border panels
in Fārisi.

(b) verso: Indian miniature; a lady attended
by her maids and a musician; border panels in
Fārisi.

P.T.I. no. 206

To the right:

(a) recto: ruq'ah in shikastah by Shāh Muhammad Mu'īn 'Alī Tajallī Chishtī; dated A.H. 1189 [A.D. 1775]; border panels in Fārisī.

(b) verso: Indian miniature; portrait of the Emperor Shāhjahān seated; two of his sons, Dāra Shukūh and Shujā', standing before him and the other two sons, Murād Baksh and Awrangzīb, behind him; border panels in thuluth.

[Case XVI] 52. Amīr Khusrav Dihlavi (A.H. 651-725 [A.D. 1253-1325])

Khamsah-i-Amīr Khusrav (The Five Titles of Amīr Khusrav)

Copied A.H. 930 [A.D. 1524] in Herat by 'Alī al-Husayni al-Katib

This MS has eight full-page miniatures of high quality by Turābi Bey Khurāsāni, a pair marking the beginning of each of the four poems; one of the five titles is missing. On the back of the cover is a gilt stamped inscription with the name of abu-al-Muzaffar Sultan Rustam Bahādur Khān.

P.T.I. no. 14

[Case XVI] 53. Ahlī Shīrāzī [A.H. 942 [A.D. 1535]]

Dīvān-i-Ahlī Shīrāzī (The Collected Poems of Ahlī)

Copied A.D. 1619

These poems comprise panegyric odes, mystical and love ghazals as well as ethical precepts and riddles.

P.T.I. no. 28

[Case XVII] 54. Nūr al-Dīn 'Abd al-Rahmān Jāmi (A.H. 817-898
[A.D. 1414-1492])

Mafahāt al-Uns min Hadrat al-Sūds (Zenhyrs of
Fellowship from the Presence of Holy Men)

Copied A.H. 962 [A.D. 1554/5]

A hagiography containing notices of celebrated
Sufis and saints from the 11th century A.H. down to
the author's own time and based on the Tabaqāt al-
Sūfiyah of Muḥammad ibn-Muḥayn al-Sulami.

P.T.I. no. 21

[Case XVII] 55. 'Abd al-Rahman Jāmi (A.H. 817-898 [A.D. 1414-1492])

Haft Awrang (The Constellation of the Seven Stars [The Great Bear])

Copied A.H. 1067 [A.D. 1657] by Bayāsi

The MS is incomplete and contains three miniatures which probably come from the XIX century.

P.T.I. no. 22

[Case XVII] 56, 'Abd al-Rahmān Jāmi (A.H. 817-898 [A.D. 1414-1492])

Haft Awrang (The Constellation of the Seven Stars [The Great Bear])

Copied A.H. 1217 [A.D. 1802]

This MS contains only Yūsuf-u-Zulaykha, the fifth magnavi of the Haft Awrang, completed by Jāmi A.H. 888 [A.D. 1483]. The twenty miniatures are probably from the XIX century. Calligraphy, miniatures, and binding are all Indian.

P.T.I. no. 24

[Case XVII] 58. [Nūr al-Dīn abd al-Rahmān] Jāmi (A.H. 817-898 [A.D. 1414-1492])

Lavā'ih (Flashes of Light)

Copied A.H. 1232 [A.D. 1817]

A collection of Sufi aphorisms from the XV century A.D.

P.T.I. no. 101

[Case XVII] 58. 'Abd al-Rahmān Jāmi (A.H. 817-898 [A.D. 1414-1492])

Haft Awrang (The Constellation of the Seven Stars [The Great Bear])

Probably from the late XVIII century

This MS of Xūshf-u-Zulaykha contains sixty-nine miniatures probably from the late XIX century. They and the calligraphy are Indian.

P.T.I. no. 25

[Case XVIII] General explanation for case

Omar Khayyam was more famous in his time as a mathematician, astronomer and free-thinker than as a poet. The poetry of his Rubā'iyāt, or Quatrains, is pessimistic scepticism and was immortalized in the west by Edward Fitzgerald's translation into English, first published in 1859. It is the most widely translated work of Persian poetry.

The copy of the Rubā'iyāt in the Robert Garrett Collection and on exhibition for the Shah is the fourth oldest in existence, only seven years younger than the oldest in Istanbul. Along with it is a facsimile of the third oldest in the Bodleian library at Oxford, a facsimile of Fitzgerald's first edition, and some later sumptuous editions of this translation.

[Since publication of The Rubā'iyāt of Omar Khayyam, edited from a newly discovered manuscript dated 658 (1259-60) in the possession of A. Chester Beatty, Esq., by A. J. Asberry (London, 1949) this has become the fifth oldest]

[Case XVIII] 59. 'Omar Khayyām (died about A.H. 517 [A.D. 1123])

Rubā'iyāt (Quatrains)

Copied A.H. 868 [A.D. 1463-4] by Faraj-Allāh
al-Hāfiz

This manuscript is the fourth oldest known
copy of the quatrains, and only seven years younger
than the oldest, which is in Istanbul.

F.T.I. no. 6 (600)
no. 43 (610)

Qasr Khayyām, the astronomer-poet of Iran, is the best known of the Persian poets in the West, mainly because of the incomparable translation of Edward Fitzgerald, first published in 1858.

The original edition, of which this is a reproduction, was printed under Fitzgerald's own supervision and shows all of his peculiar ideas and inconsistencies in the use of capitals, italics, accents, punctuation and spelling. In this form it first delighted those knights of the literary Round Table, Thackeray, Carlyle, Tennyson, Burton, Rossetti and Swinburne, and in this form should prove attractive to readers of discriminating tastes.

[Case XVIII] 61. THE RUBĀ'ĪYĀT of OMAR KHAYYĀN

Being a facsimile of the Manuscript in
the Bodleian Library at Oxford, with a
Transcript into modern Persian Characters,

Translated, with an introduction and notes,
and a bibliography,

by
Edward Heron-Allen

The page shown here is the last of the
facsimile. The original in the Bodleian
Library at Oxford is the oldest* of the
extant manuscripts of the Rubā'iyāt.

MSF 2472.379.

[* See note on introductory card for this
case]

[Case XVIII] 62. NUBA' IYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM, THE ASTRONOMER-POET OF PERSIA. RENDERED INTO ENGLISH VERSE BY EDWARD FITZGERALD. THE GROLIER CLUB OF NEW YORK. 1885.

This is a copy of the second book to be published by the Grolier Club and is number 26 of one-hundred and fifty copies on Japan paper. The binding of dark blue levant morocco inlaid in a mosaic of olive, yellow, brown, maroon and white morocco in Persian design, gold-tooled, was made by the Club Bindery, a hand-bindery established in New York in 1895 by Robert Hee and several Grolier Club members.

At the end of the nineteenth century it was customary for book collectors to remove contemporary bindings and rebind books in sumptuous bindings of a modern style. A number of bindings of this type are included among the collection of books from the Library of Cyrus H. McCormick '79 which are now in the Princeton University Library.

Uncat. from McCormick Collection

[Case XVIII] 63.

This 1909 edition by Thomas Y. Crowell and Company, printed by Vincent Brooks Day and Son, Ltd., lithographers of London, features the illustrative art of Willy Pogany. It is introduced by Lowell's couplet:

"These pearls of thought in Persian gulfs
were bred,

Each softly lucent as a rounded moon;

The diver Omar plucked them from their bed,

Fitzgerald strung them on an English thread."

EX 2472.379.6.11

[Case XVIII] 64.

This sumptuous edition of the *Ḥubā'iyāt* was designed and bound by F. Sangerski and G. Tutcliffe of London, illustrated by E. Stades, engraved and printed by Andre and Sleigh. It bears no date.

EX 2472.379.6.13q

[Case XIX] 65, Firdavsi of Tus (A.H. 321-416 [A.D. 933/4-1025])

Shāh-nāmāh (The Book of Kings)

Copied A.H. 1009 [A.D. 1600] in Samarqand by
Mīr Nāh ibn-Mīr 'Arab

There are thirty-seven miniatures by different
artists of probably the later XVIII century.

P.T.I. no. 4

[Case XIX] 66. Firdawsi of Tūs (A.H. 321-416 [A.D. 933/4-1025])

Shāh-nāmah (Book of Kings)

Copied A.H. 1085 [A.D. 1674]

The former owner's note on the title page of this manuscript of the Shāh-nāmah states that it was bought in A.H. 1202 [A.D. 1787] for 1500 rupees, that it contains 563 folios, 56,200 verses and 120 miniatures by the artist Wilāyat.

P.T.I. no. 3

[Page XIX] 67. Firdawsi of Tūs (A.H. 321-416 [A.D. 933/4-1025])

Shāh-nāmah (Book of Kings)

Copied A.H. 1065 [A.D. 1654-5]

This manuscript of the Persian national epic contains thirty-six Indian miniatures of the late XVII century, of which one is here shown.

P.T.I. no. 2