

New Acquisitions of Middle Eastern Manuscripts
in Munich in the 21st century



20,150 manuscripts in African, Asian and Middle Eastern languages

5,700 mss in Middle Eastern scripts (3,200 Arabic, 32 Armenian, 186 Ethiopian, 720 Hebrew and Yiddish, 600 Persian, 33 Syriac, 774 Turkish et al)

1,430 Ancient Oriental items

History of the collection

1) 16th century



J.A.Widmanstetter
(1506-1557)
Acquired 1558



J.J. Jakob Fugger
1516-1575
Acquired 1571

2) 19th century

Marc-Étienne Quatremère
1782-1857
Acquired 1858



3) 20th/21st centuries

1970-2020

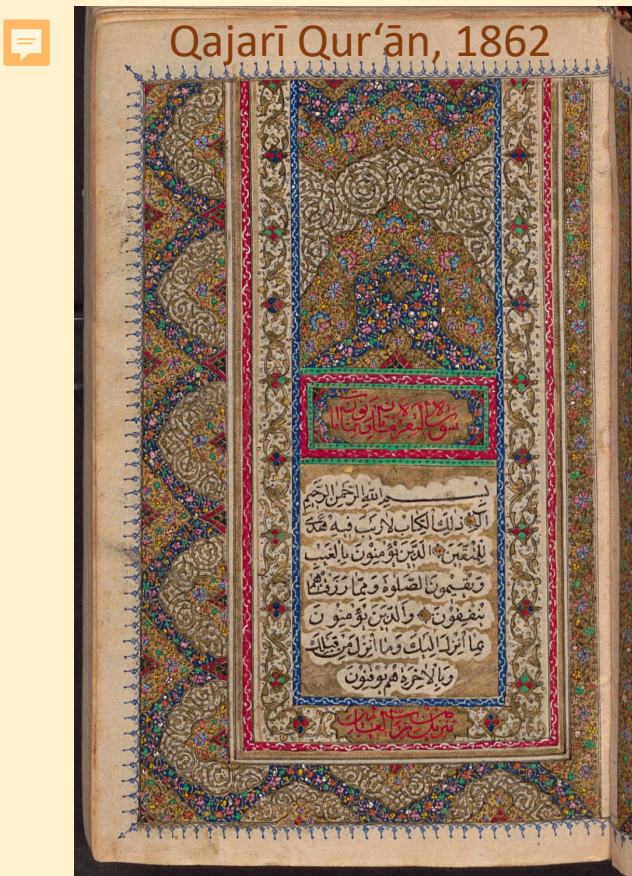
- The number of the Middle Eastern funds more than doubled
- The number of the Asian funds more than quadrupled

New acquisitions in Middle Eastern languages since 2000: approx. 900



| | |
|---|-----|
| Arabic | 450 |
| Hebrew | 55 |
| Persian | 120 |
| Turkish | 220 |
| Armen., Copt., Ethiop. Syriac, Samaritan et al | 45 |





Qajarī Qur'ān, 1862



Qur'ān in apotropaic letters and numbers
Sub-saharan Africa, 19th or 20th c.



Newly acquired Qur'ān manuscripts

India, late 18th c.



Andalusia, 13 th c.



Qur'ān in Kufi script, 9th c.



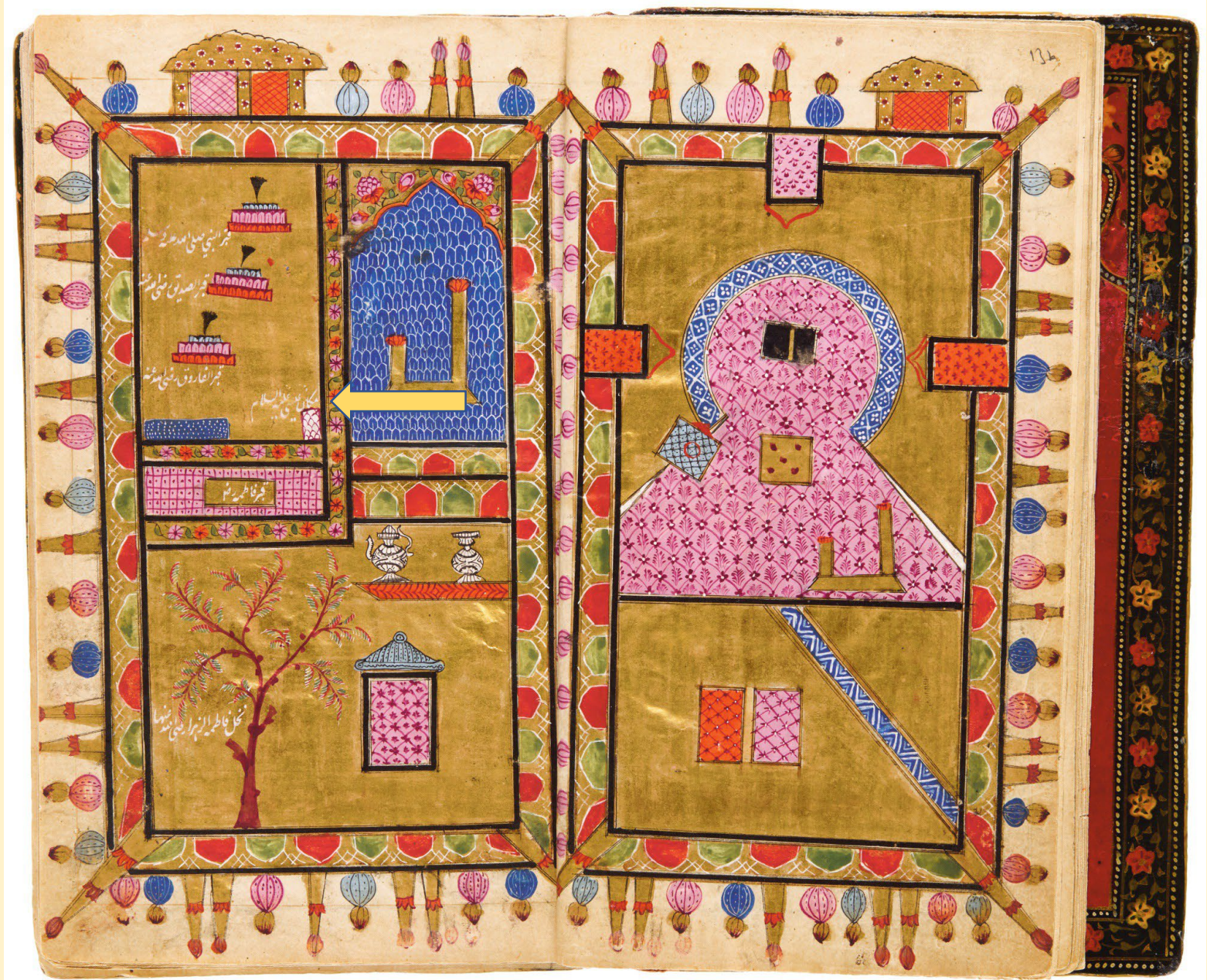
Qur'ān, Northern Nigeria, 19th or 20th c.



Prayer book of a Dervish Kütahya?, 1869

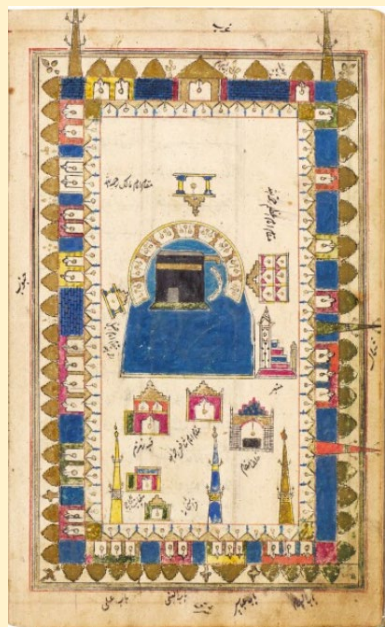


Dalā'il al-Khayrāt, Turkey, 1857



Dalā'il al-Khayrāt, India?, 1808

Muḥyi-'d-Dīn Lārī : *Futūḥ al-Ḥaramayn*
 Bukhara?, 1729
 Acquired in 2021



Acquisitions in the 21st century

- **Fundraising**

- Low or non-existent library budgets for the purchase of manuscripts
- Budget for the acquisition of manuscripts, third-party funds (donations, sponsoring, inheritances, Friends of the Library)

- **Sources for acquiring manuscripts**

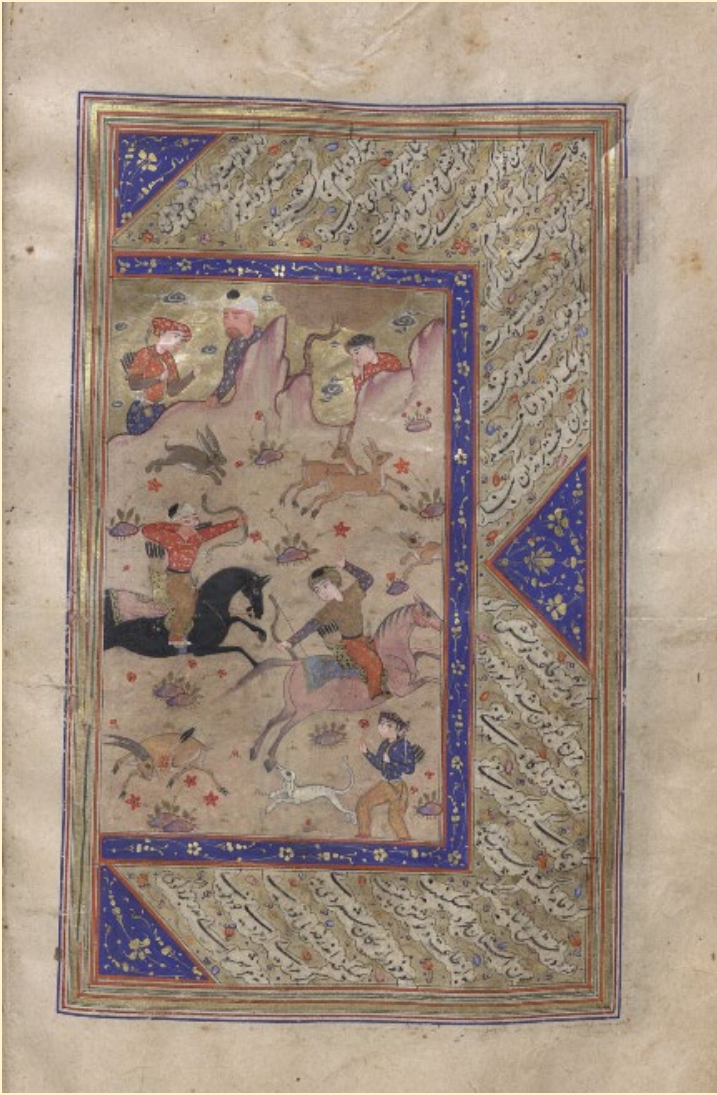
- Private offers
- Antiquarian booksellers, manuscript vendors and art shops
- Auctions
 - Prices: estimated price, starting or calling price (50% or 2/3 of the estimated price) and the hammer price plus surcharge 25% and VAT



Antiquarian booksellers, manuscript vendors and art shops



Ottoman Qur'an, Istanbul?, 1850
Acquired 2007



Sa'di: Gulistan and Bustan, Qazvin 1579
Acquired 2008

Hmayil,
Armenia
1623 or 1642
Acquired 2019





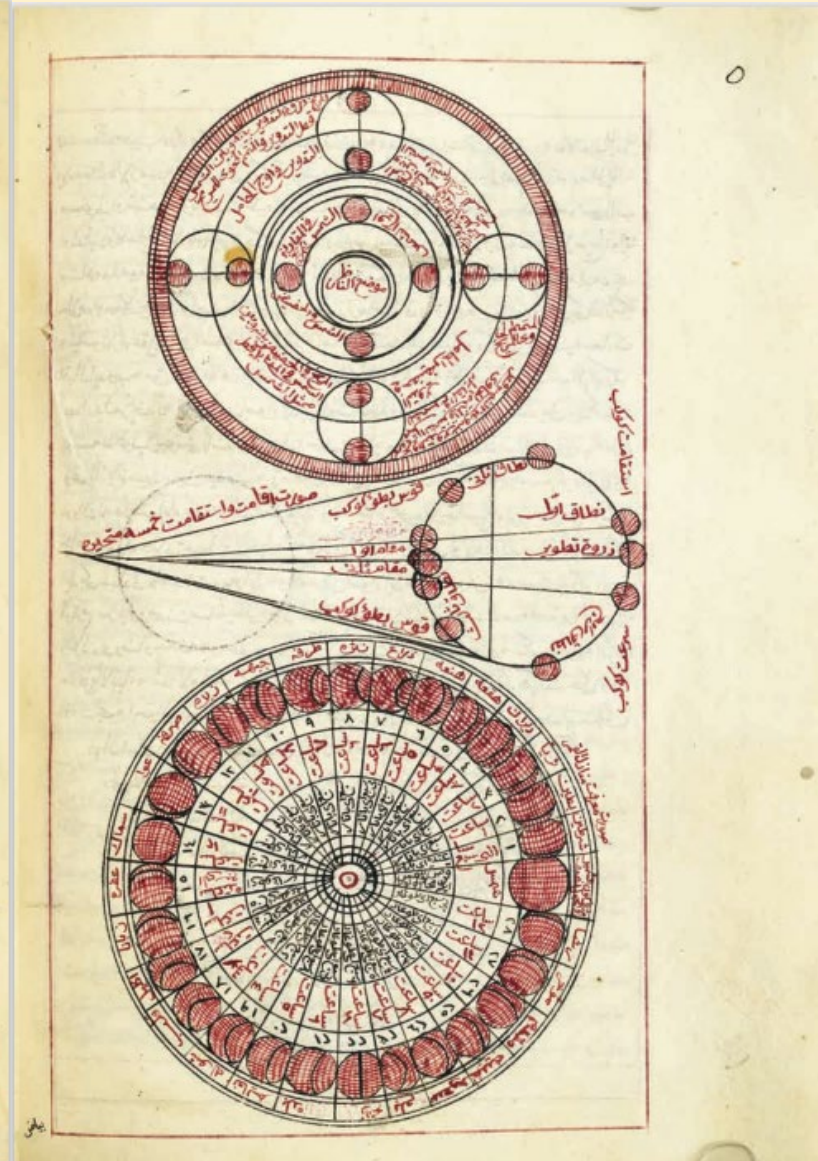
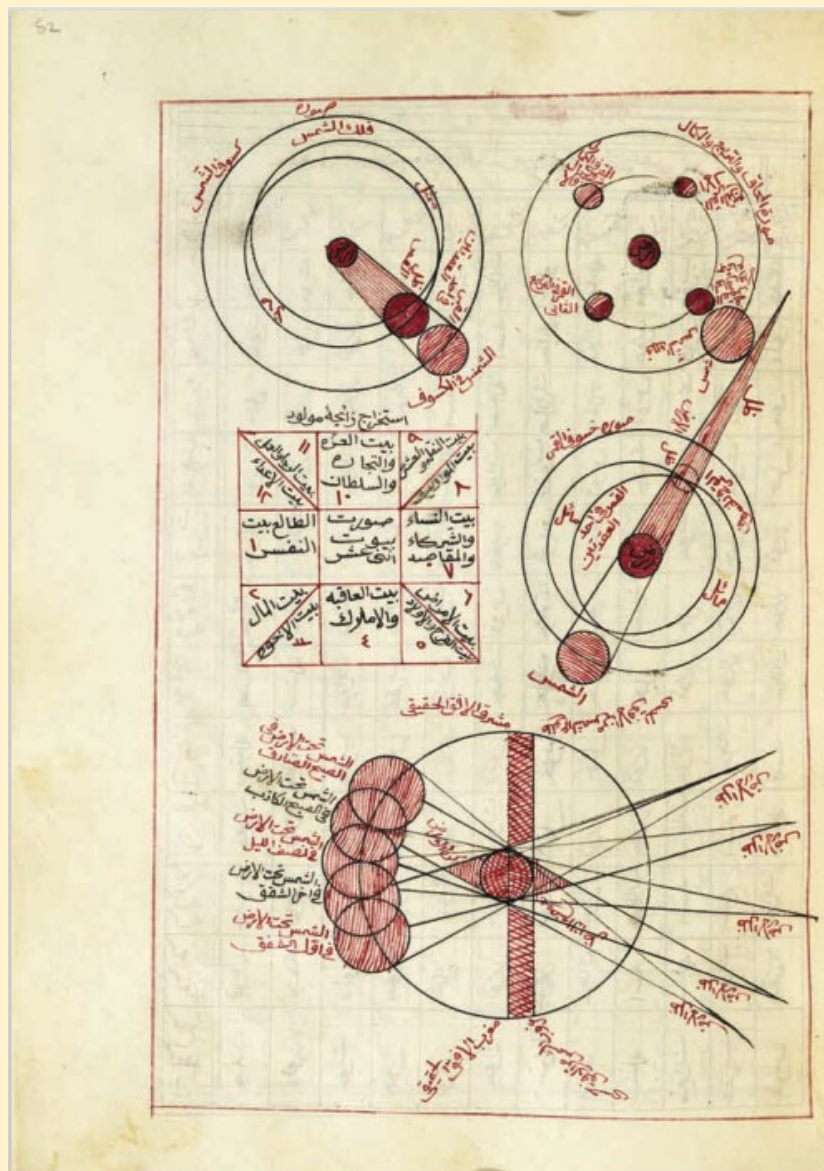
Sa'dī: *Kulliyāt*, Iran, 1550-1600
Acquired 2017



Alchemistic treatises
Bagdad, 1796. Acquired 2003



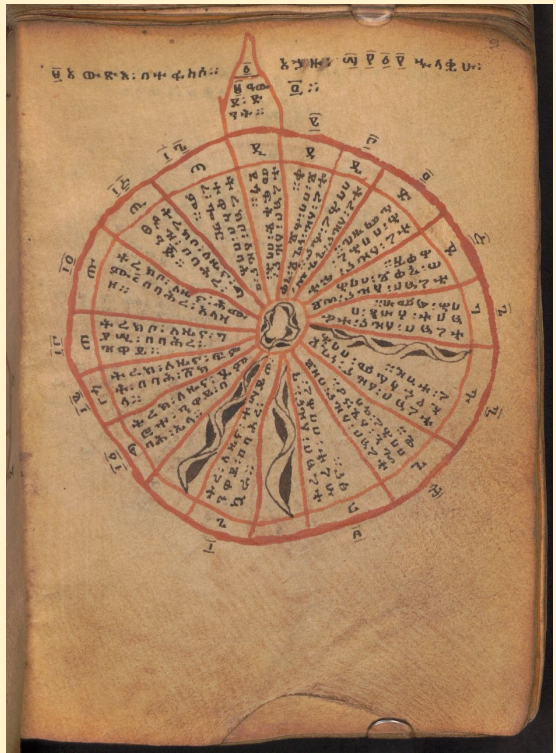
Dalā'il al-Khayrāt, Morocco, 19th c.
Acquired 2005



İbrahim Hakki: Marifetname, Turkey, 1757

Local auctions

Jāmī: *Yūsuf wa-Zulaykhā*
Shiraz?, c. 1550
Acquired 2012



'Awdä nägäst
Ethiopia, 19th c.
Acquired 2020



Esther scroll, Central Europe, 18 th c.
Acquired 2005

Auctions in London

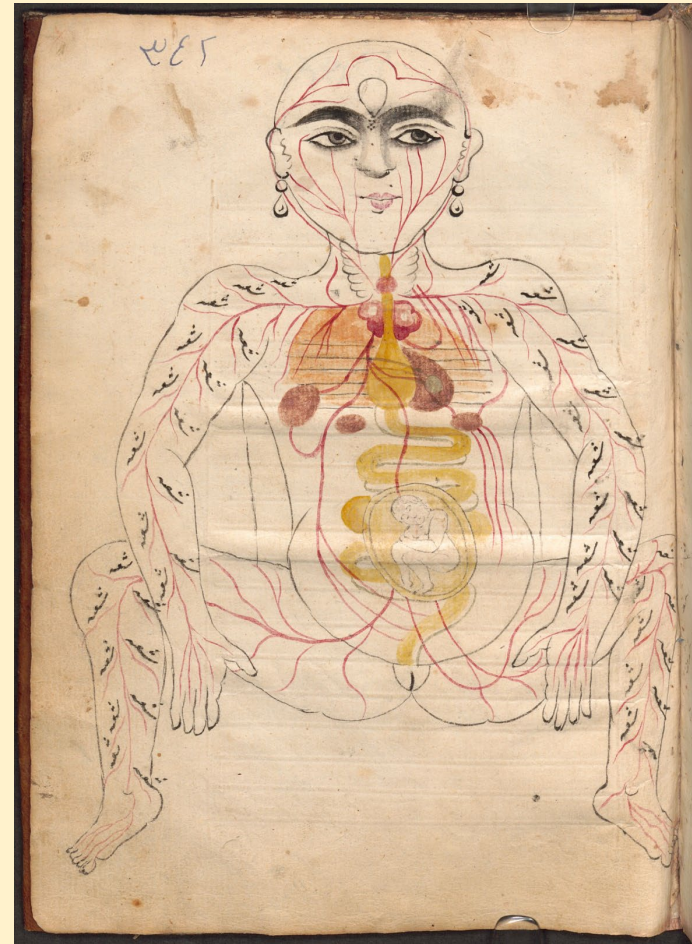
History of Persia, 1845
Acquired 2021



al-Taftazānī: Mukhtaṣar sharḥ al-takhlīṣ, Saharan Africa, 1791
Acquired 2019



al-Ṭabīb al-Bayḍāwī: Kitāb al-tashrīḥ, Iran 1818
Acquired 2019



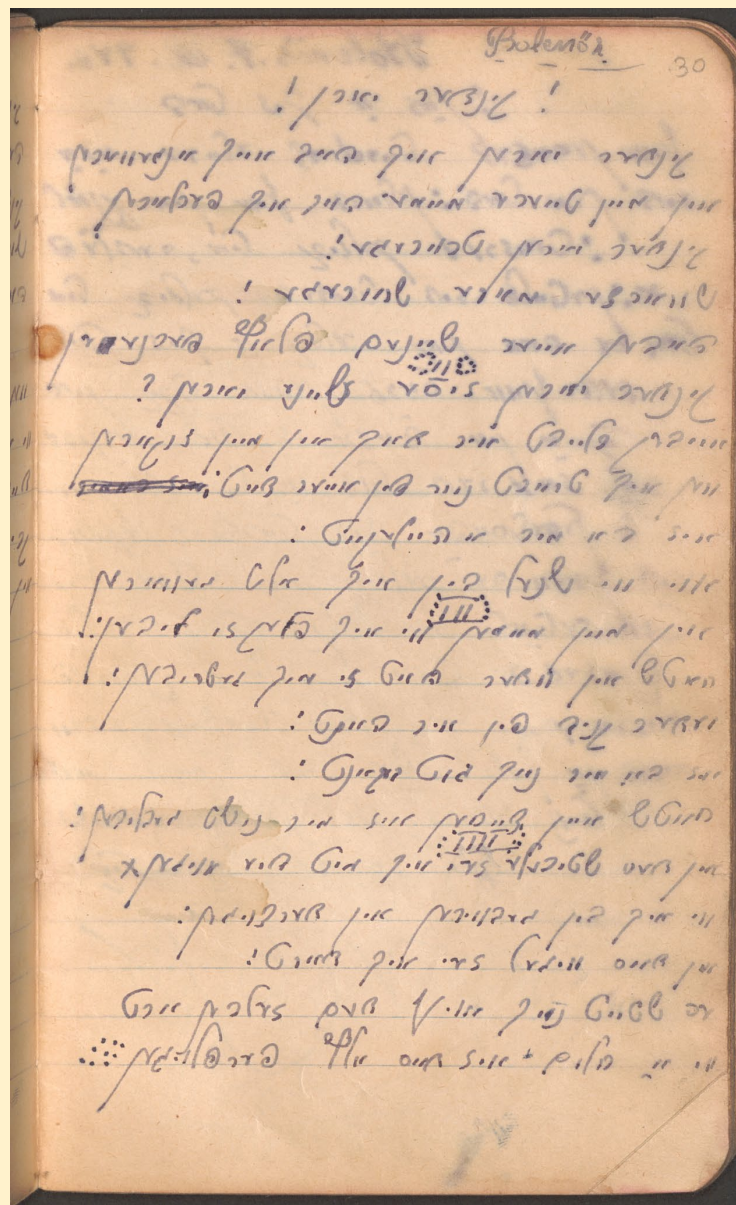
Faḍlallāh Qazwīnī: Tārīkh-i mu'jam Shiraz, 1845/46
Acquired 2021



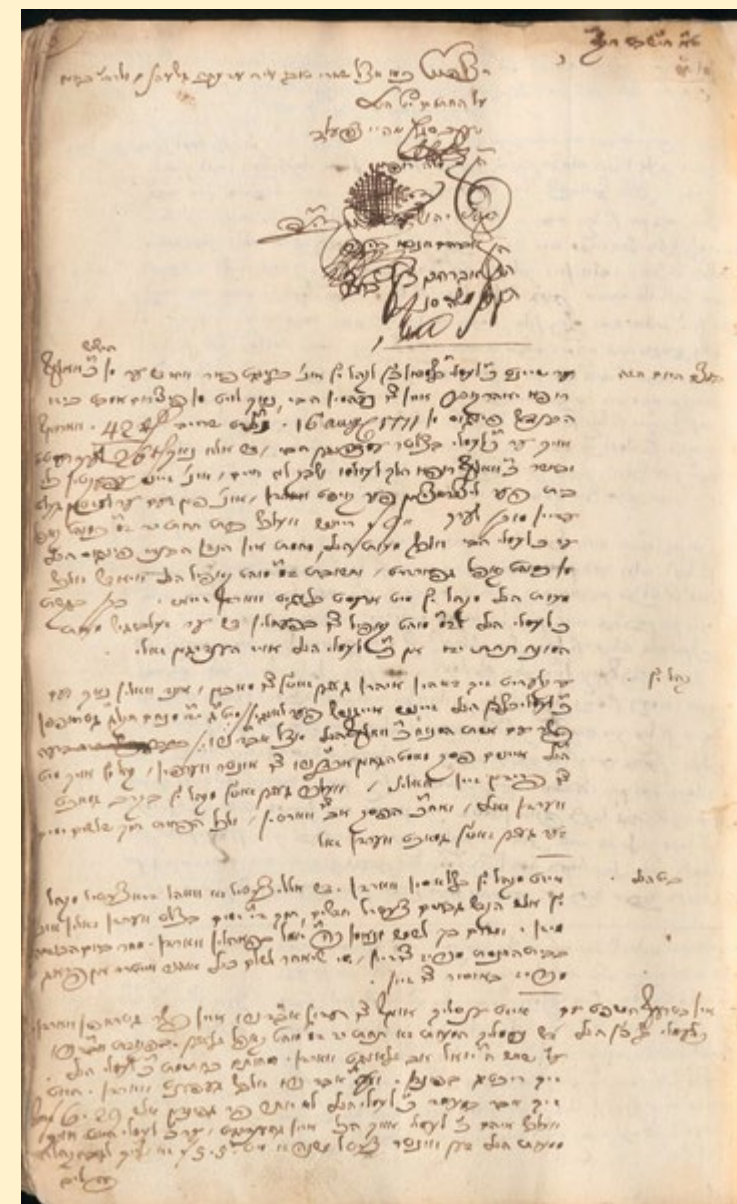
Collection of Ottoman Texts
c. 1750. Acquired 2019



Shabbat prayers
Metz 1762
Acquired 2012



Josef Ber Moskovits: Poems
in Yiddish, Sweden 1945-46
Acquired 2019



Chronicle of the Jewish community
of Heidingsfeld, 1773-1842
Acquired 2017



Shāhnāma-i Shamšīr-Khānī, Lahore 1830-40
Acquired 2019

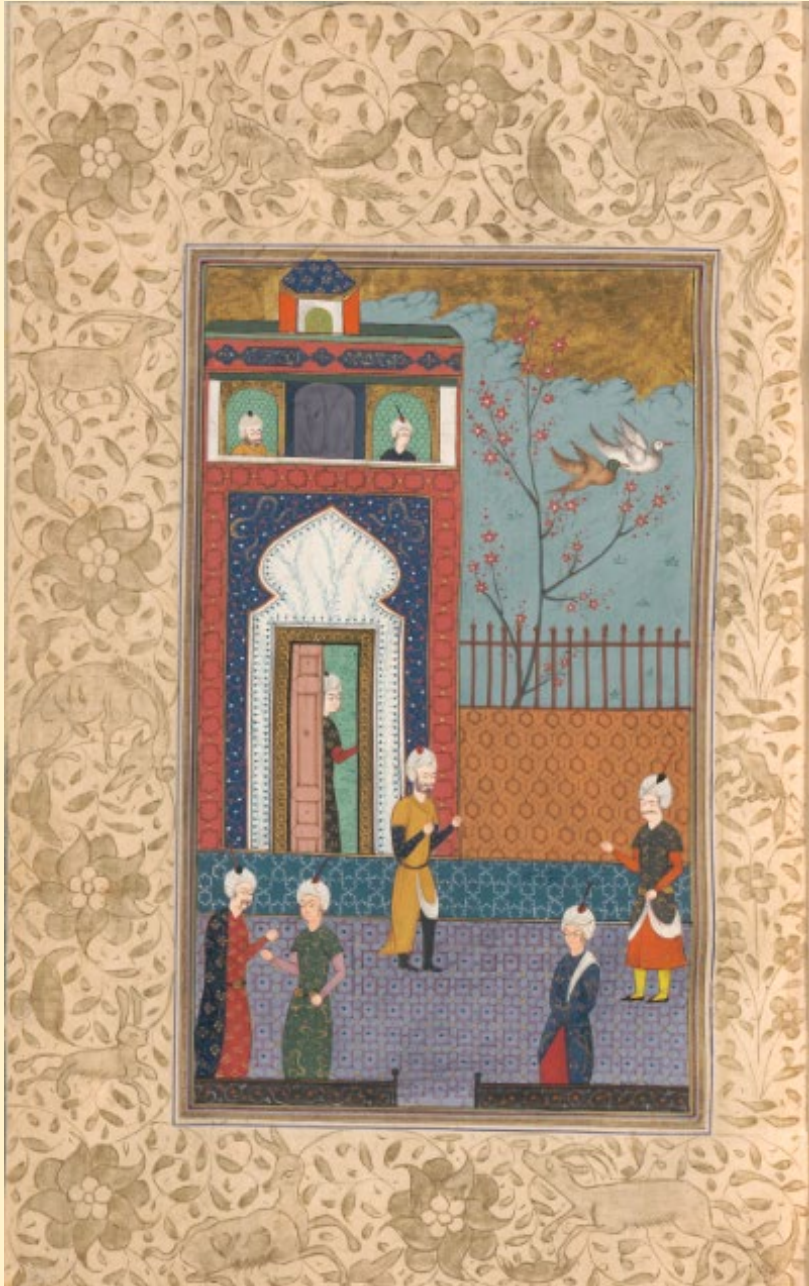
| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Titel: | شاهنامه شمشیر خانی |
| Verf./Hrsg./Interpr.: | فردوسی |
| beteiligte Personen: | توکل بیگ |
| Titel: | Šāhnāma-i Šamšīr-Ḥānī - BSB Cod.pers. 549 |
| Verfasser: | Firdausī, 940-1020 |
| Verf./Bet.Person: | Tawakkul Baig |
| ...: | ca. 1683 |
| Angaben zum Verlag: | Lahore |
| ...: | 1830-1850 |
| Ort: | Lahore |
| Ort: | Lahore |
| Erscheinungsjahr: | 1830-1850 |
| Umfang: | I, 258 Blätter |
| Details: | Illustrationen |
| Format: | 28,5 x 15 cm |
| Fußnote : | Duktus: Nastālīq |
| Fußnote : | Mit 58 Miniaturen und illuminierten Eröffnungszierseiten. |
| Fußnote : | Kurzaufnahme einer Handschrift |
| Fußnote : | Literatur: Ketterer, Auktion 472, Lot 43 ← |
| Abweichender Titel: | Königsbuch |
| Abweichender Titel: | Šamšīr-Ḥānī |
| Abweichender Titel: | Shamshīr Khānī |
| Abweichender Titel: | Tārīḥ-i Šamšīr-Ḥānī |
| Abweichender Titel: | Tārīh-i dil-qušā-i Šamšīr-Hānī |



ad-Dawānī: *12 Theological Treatises*
Iran 1830, Acquired 2008

works written in golden letters. In two additional circles located above and below the titles, the name of the author is written in red ink. – Purchased by auction from Hartung & Hartung, Munich ←

LITERATUR
al-Dawānī. In: EI². – Davānī. In: Encyclopaedia Iranica. – Wright 2009, Fig. 11
W.R.



Why should libraries continue to acquire manuscripts?

- Preservation for the future
- Cataloguing and digitization projects as well as online exhibitions grant long term access for the public and researchers

To fulfil our goals we need the same foresight and determination that the Library's founders had when they brought together the original collections in 1753 [foundation of the British Museum] to be 'preserved therein for publick use, to all posterity', providing access to the world's knowledge, 'for all studious and curious persons'. (BL, Strategy paper 2005-08)

The image shows a page from an illuminated manuscript. The central focus is a large, horizontally-oriented medallion with a scalloped edge. This medallion has a gold background and contains intricate, light-colored floral and foliate designs. It is set against a deep blue background that is filled with delicate, winding floral patterns in various colors, including red, white, and light blue. The entire central composition is enclosed within a wide, decorative border. This border features a repeating pattern of gold-leafed, pointed motifs, possibly stylized leaves or flowers, set against a blue background. The outermost edge of the page is a light beige or cream color, showing signs of age and wear. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the page, containing the text "Thank you for your attention!".

Thank you for your attention!