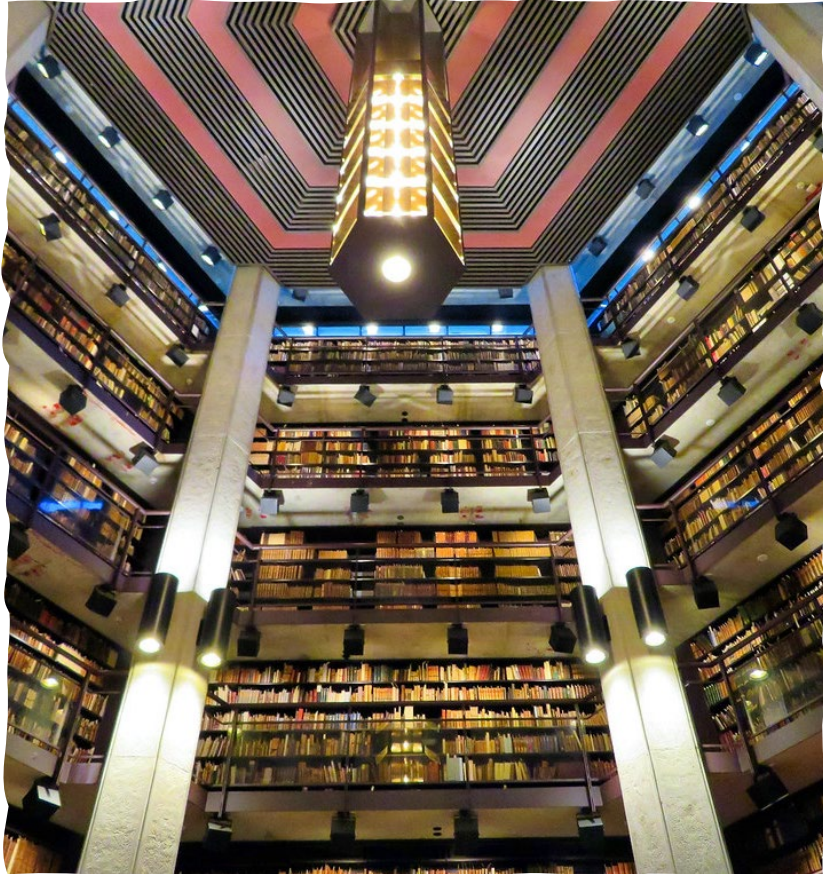# Traces of the Turkic Culture in Canada: Eleazar Birnbaum's Collection of Ottoman Turkish and Çaĝatay Manuscripts at Fisher Rare Books Library
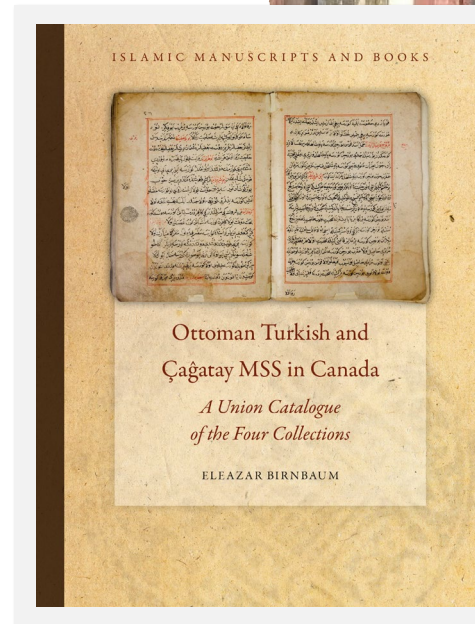
Lale Javanshir

University of Toronto

MELCom 2023

Antalya, Türkiye

Collections:

Esplin Arabic Manuscript Collection

The Special Collection of Professor Eleazer Birnbaum

ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS AND BOOKS

Ottoman Turkish and
Çaġatay MSS in Canada

*A Union Catalogue
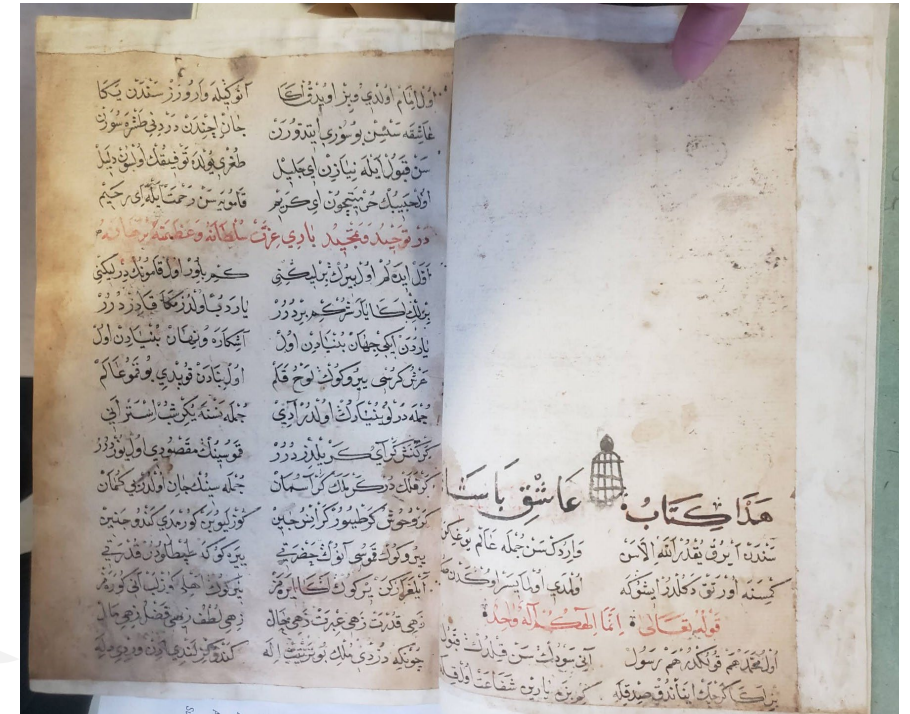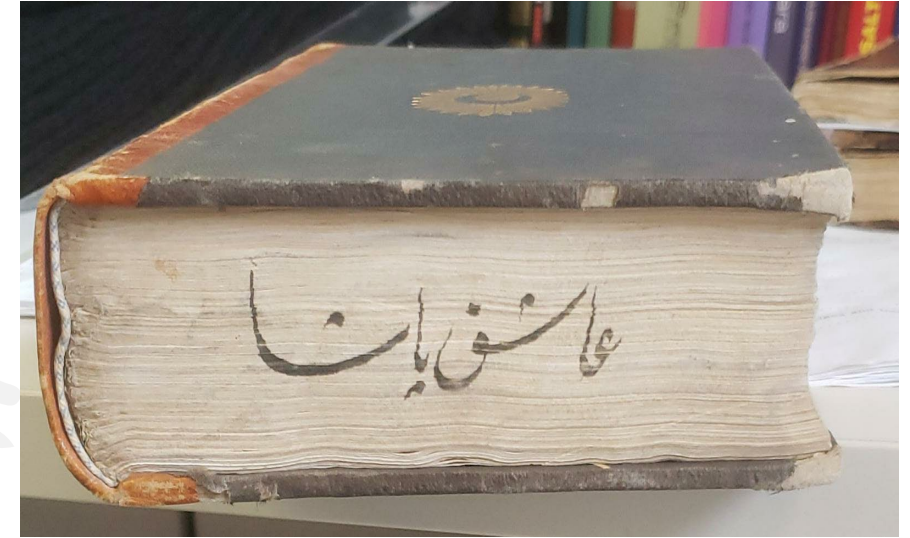of the Four Collections*

ELEAZAR BIRNBAUM

Esplin Arabic Manuscript Collection: Islamic Manuscripts from the Suliman Bookshop

- The collection was purchased in 1973 by Mr. David G. Esplin

- The collection consists of 1000 Arabic MSS: history, literature, biographies, Islamic theology, Islamic law, and biographical dictionaries.

- Turkish manuscripts: Garibname, Leyla vü Mecnun
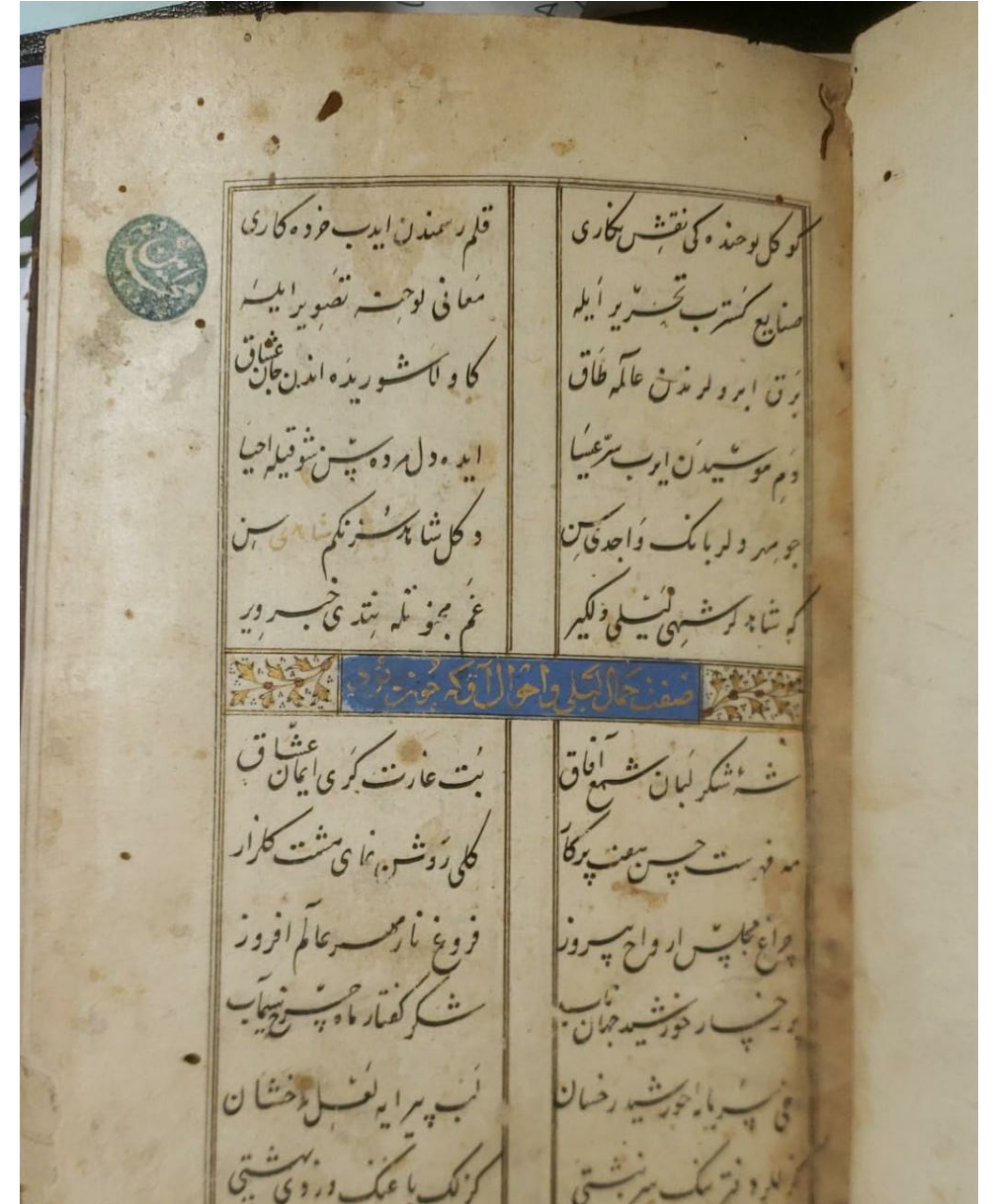
Aşık Paşa's Garibname

- Arrived in Toronto in 1978

- Dates: 18 Receb 1294 and 1163

- Stamps: 2 on the title page (Said Husayn and Muhammadzade) + 1 stamp on the title page: Dr. Abdullah Öztemiz, Physician

- Öztemiz: A mediacal doctor born in 1929. Other books purchased from his personal library were donated to the National Library in Turkey.

Şahidi's Leyla vü Mecnun

- Arrived in Toronto in 1978
- Title page is missing
- Stamps: 1 stamp (Muhammad Amin)
- Why is this stamp important?
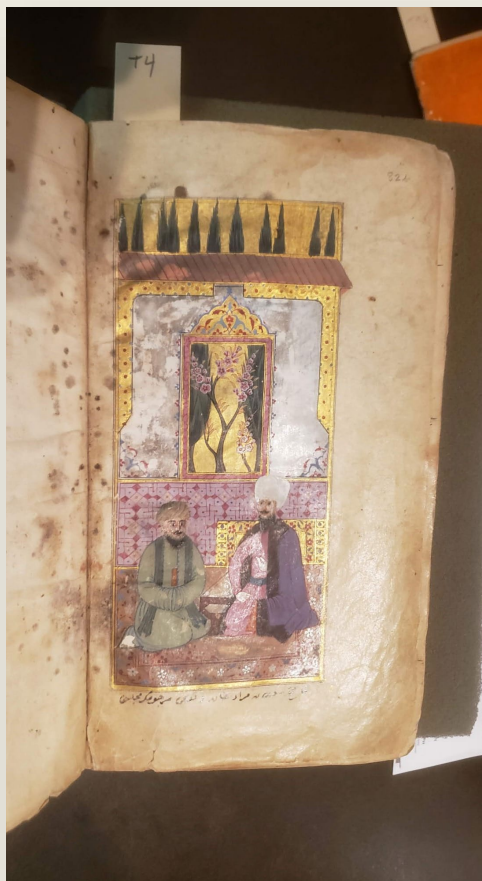
Ottoman Turkish and
Çağatay MSS in Canada

The Special Collection of Professor Eleazar Birnbaum

- The collection was purchased in 2022

- Contributes to the study of Middle Eastern history, languages, and cultures

- From 1964, Prof. Birnbaum supervised the development of the University of Toronto's Islamic book acquisitions and processing and created one of the best collections of Islamic printed books in the world

- Acquired MSS from the Middle East, Europe, specially the Balkans, Turkey, Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, the Asia.

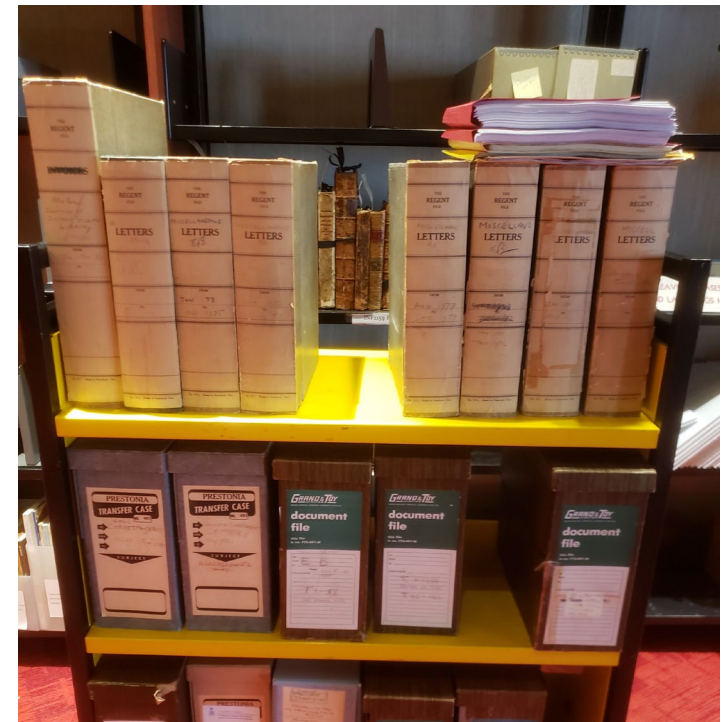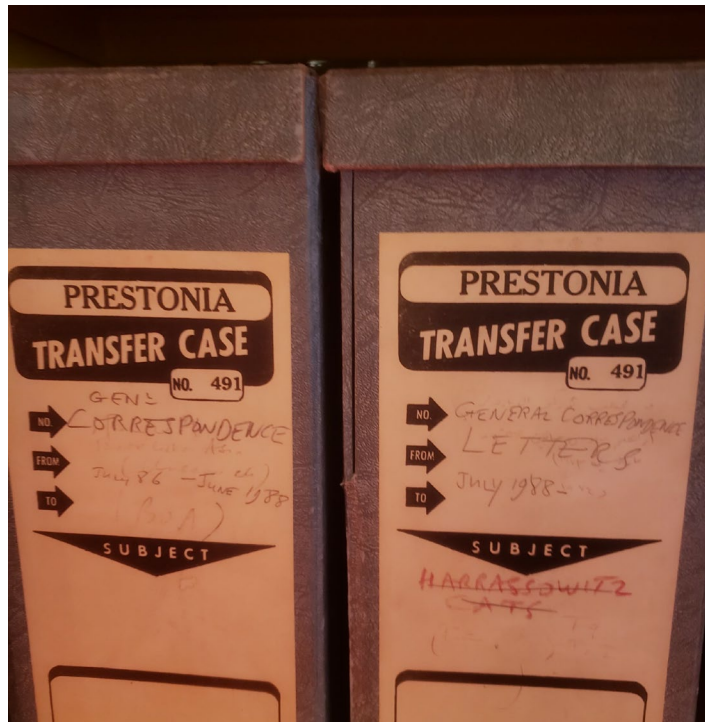- Some of these books were previously unidentified

The Special Collection of Professor Eleazar Birnbaum

Nedim Divanı

Hadiqt us-Suedaç Muhammad Fuzuli

The Special Collection of Professor Eleazar Birnbaum

- Notes on Turkish Manuscripts in Cairo.
- Notes on Turkish Kabusname translations
- General Correspondence with colleagues in Türkiye and Turkish Studies Departments in the Middle East, Europe, North America, and the former Soviet Union.
- Letters from friends (1988 and later)

Why are these Collections Important

- Special collections are resources in different formats: rare books, genealogy materials, Archives, local history, and books from local authors.

- Special collections in academic libraries:

    - reflect the university's mission and cultural history.

    - support the academic curriculum and research needs

    -are acquired by librarians with specialized subject knowledge

(ALA 2019)

Some References:

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- Association of Research Libraries. (2003). *Research libraries and the commitment to special collections*. Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries. Retrieved 18 Mar. 2013 from http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/publications/special-collections-statement-of-principles-2003.pdf

- Birnbaum, E. (2015). *Ottoman Turkish and Çagatay mss in Canada: a union catalogue of the four collections*. Brill.

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Thank you