

# Concepts of Antiquarianism and the European Exchange of Books with the Middle East

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*Morgan Crusader Bible*  
MS M.638

fol.1b  
39 x 30 cm, cropped  
detail, showing Persian foliation 43,  
as well as Latin, Persian, and  
Judeo-Persian marginal notes

*Agents of Contact:*  
*Books and Print between Cultures in the Early Modern Period*  
City College of New York  
25 September 2015

*Morgan Crusader Bible*

Morgan Library  
MS M. 638

parchment

39 x 32 cm, cropped

Northern France

13<sup>th</sup> century

later added Latin, Persian  
and Judeo-Persian marginal notes

1833 sold by Sotheby's to Payne and Foss  
sold by Payne and Foss to Thomas Philipps (1792–1872)  
purchased from the Philipps Trustees in 1916 by Belle da  
Costa Greene for John Pierpont Morgan

fol. 1a: the first four days of the creation  
of the world





*Morgan Crusader Bible*

Morgan Library

MS M. 638

fol. 1b: the last three days of the creation  
of the world;

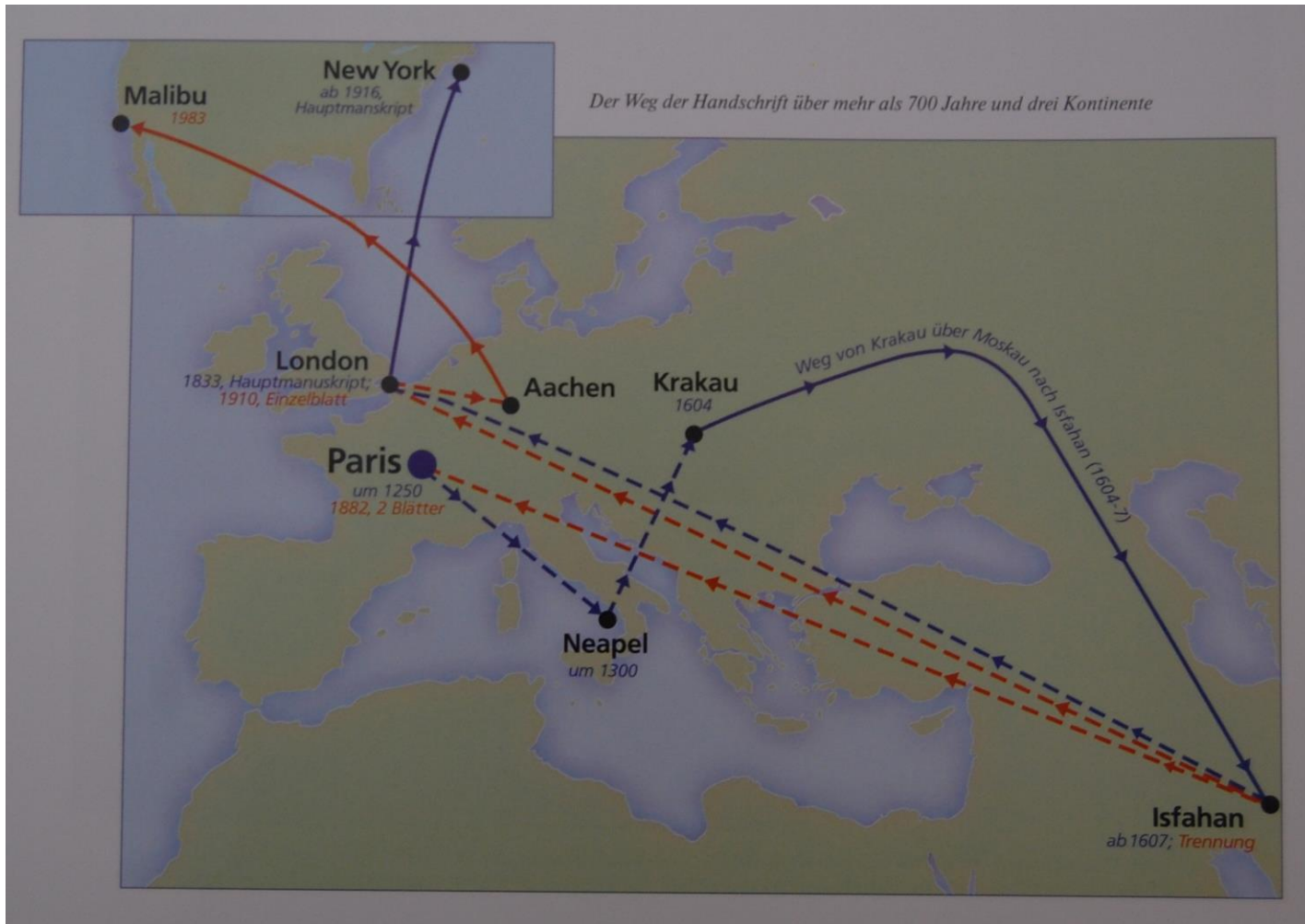
Adam and Eve eat from the tree of knowledge

Inscription at the bottom of fol.1a:

Bernard Maciejowski, Cardinal priest of the Holy Roman church, Bishop of Cracow, Duke of Siewierz, and Senator of the Kingdom of Poland with sincere wishes offers this gift to the supreme King of the Persians at Cracow the mother city of the kingdom of Poland on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1604

Translation from the Latin by Daniel Weiss





*Morgan Crusader Bible*

From the advertisement of the facsimile edition, Lucerne 1999





*Morgan Crusader Bible*

From the advertisement of the facsimile edition,  
Lucerne 1999

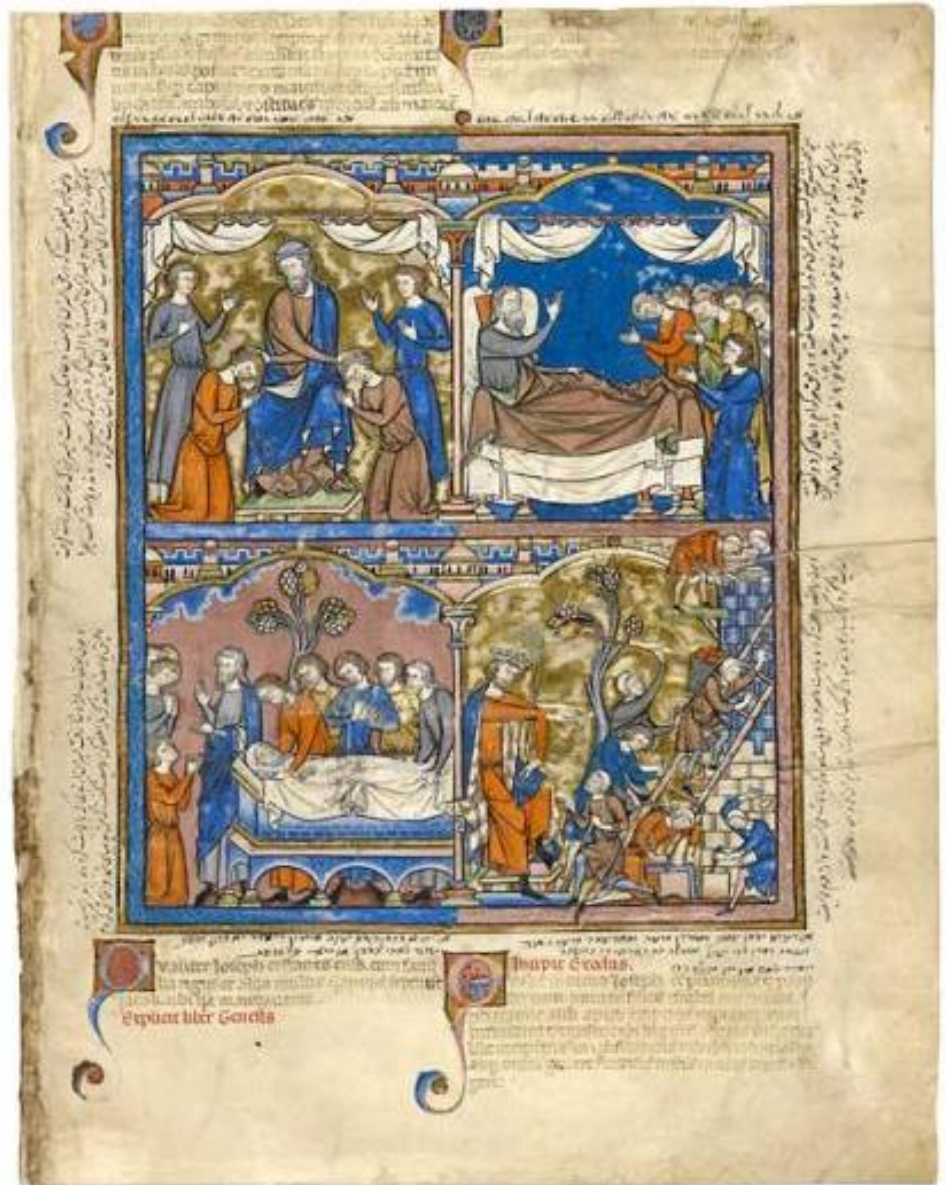
Johanna Drucker, "Distributed and Conditional Documents: Conceptualizing Bibliographical Alterities," *MATLIT: Revista Do Programa de Doutorameto Em Materialidades Da Literatura* 2/1, 2014, pp. 11–29. <http://iduc.uc.pt/index.php/matlit/article/view/1891/1270>

<...> cultural artifacts are constituted within cycles of circulation where lines between production and reception blur. But in book history, an object-centered approach persists <...> We have to shift outside its modern or western frames to grasp an alternative conception—in which a *book is conceived as a distributed object, not a thing, but a set of intersecting events, material conditions, and activities*. Books, documents, textual artifacts can no longer be thought of as autonomous objects that circulate in a context, but must be reconceptualized as event spaces within an ecology of changing conditions.

*Morgan Crusader Bible*

Morgan Library  
MS M. 638

fol. 7a: Jacob blesses Manasseh  
and Ephraim;  
Jacob on his deathbed;  
Joseph on his deathbed;  
enslavement in Egypt





*Morgan Crusader Bible*

Morgan Library

MS M. 638

fol. 7b: the birth of Moses and his rescue;  
God calls Moses to return to Egypt  
to free the Hebrews

*Morgan Crusader Bible*

Morgan Library  
MS M. 638

fol. 41a: David's wrath:  
defeat of the Ammonite army of king  
Hanun;  
killing of Shobach, the commander of the  
Syrian army





*Morgan Crusader Bible*

Morgan Library

MS M. 638

fol. 41b: David's lust:  
David and Bathsheba  
David and Uriah, Bathsheba's husband

Images v. textual marginalia



unctus  
 Jsa legre  
 tur abia  
 lon rex  
 filij

واپسان که از تاجان کردن مان سوخت رخت باوش سید که خروج که و پادشایان  
 ساری بخود جمع کرد و یکسرا یک پیرام

Nali Absalon de consilio Achitophel  
 coram omni populo ad concubinas pa-  
 tris fugerunt ut hoc cum manifestum et  
 et turpe fecerit. et populus quasi viginti quod  
 dam. et filius Absalonis. Achitophel  
 patrem.

واپسان سهر را که تاجان پیرام و در میان آن ده زن و برابر  
 جافت خود نصرت مشورت شد

Morgan Crusader Bible  
 single folio = considered fol. <45>

The Getty Museum  
 Ms. Ludwig I.6  
 purchase London 1910, antiquities trade  
 purchase 1988, Sammlung Ludwig, Aachen

parchment  
 33 x 29 cm, cropped  
 Northern France  
 13<sup>th</sup> century  
 Latin and Persian marginal notes,  
 but no Judeo-Persian marginal notes

fol. a: scenes from the life of Absalom, the  
 son of David

و حضرت داود خبر یافت از آمدن ابسان طریق کریمش گرفت و ده زن از ابل حرم گذاشت



Morgan Crusader Bible  
 single folio = considered fol. <45>

The Getty Museum  
 Ms. Ludwig I.6

fol. b: scenes from the life of David

Material culture as props:  
Oriental rugs in western painting

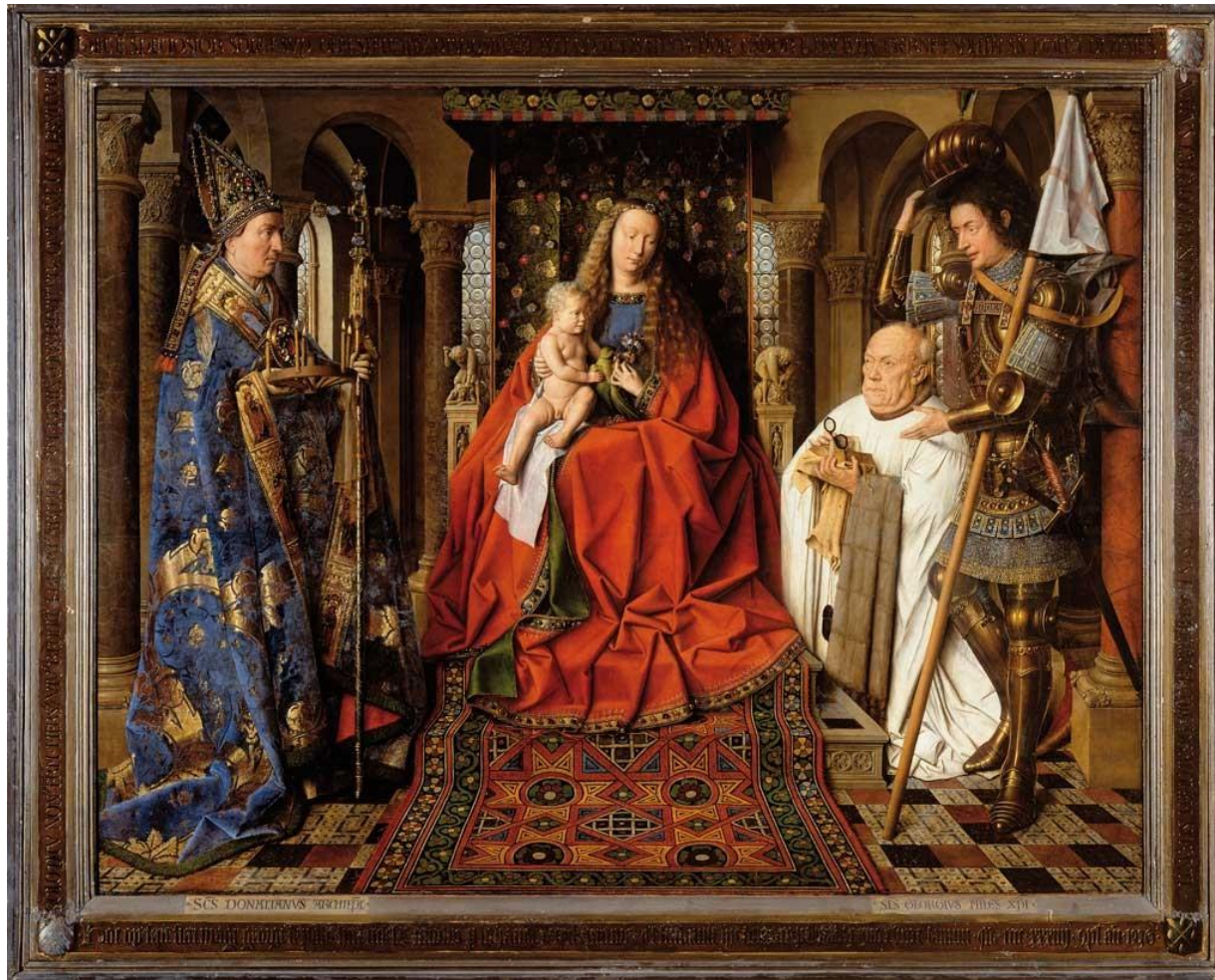


John Singer Sargent (1856–1925), *Pailleron Children*, 1880

oil on canvas, 152 × 175 cm

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections 1976.61

<http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/view?exhibitionId={4F31BE4C-309F-4A01-8A69-45D80D786215}&oid=21393>



Jan van Eyck (b. before 1390, d. 1441), *The Virgin and Child with Canon van der Paele*, 1434-36  
oil on wood, 122 x 157 cm (without frame)

Groeninge Museum, Bruges, Belgium

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:La\\_Madone\\_au\\_Chanoine\\_Van\\_der\\_Paele.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:La_Madone_au_Chanoine_Van_der_Paele.jpg)

Sequential narrative  
without written language



Freer Gallery of Art  
F1928.2

mina'i ware  
12 x 11 x 11 cm

beaker  
late 12<sup>th</sup> century  
Kashan, Iran



Metropolitan Museum of Art  
MMA 52.20.1

painted stucco  
50 x 59 cm

fragment of wall painting  
13<sup>th</sup> century  
Iran

# Cutting up manuscripts around 1600: Albums

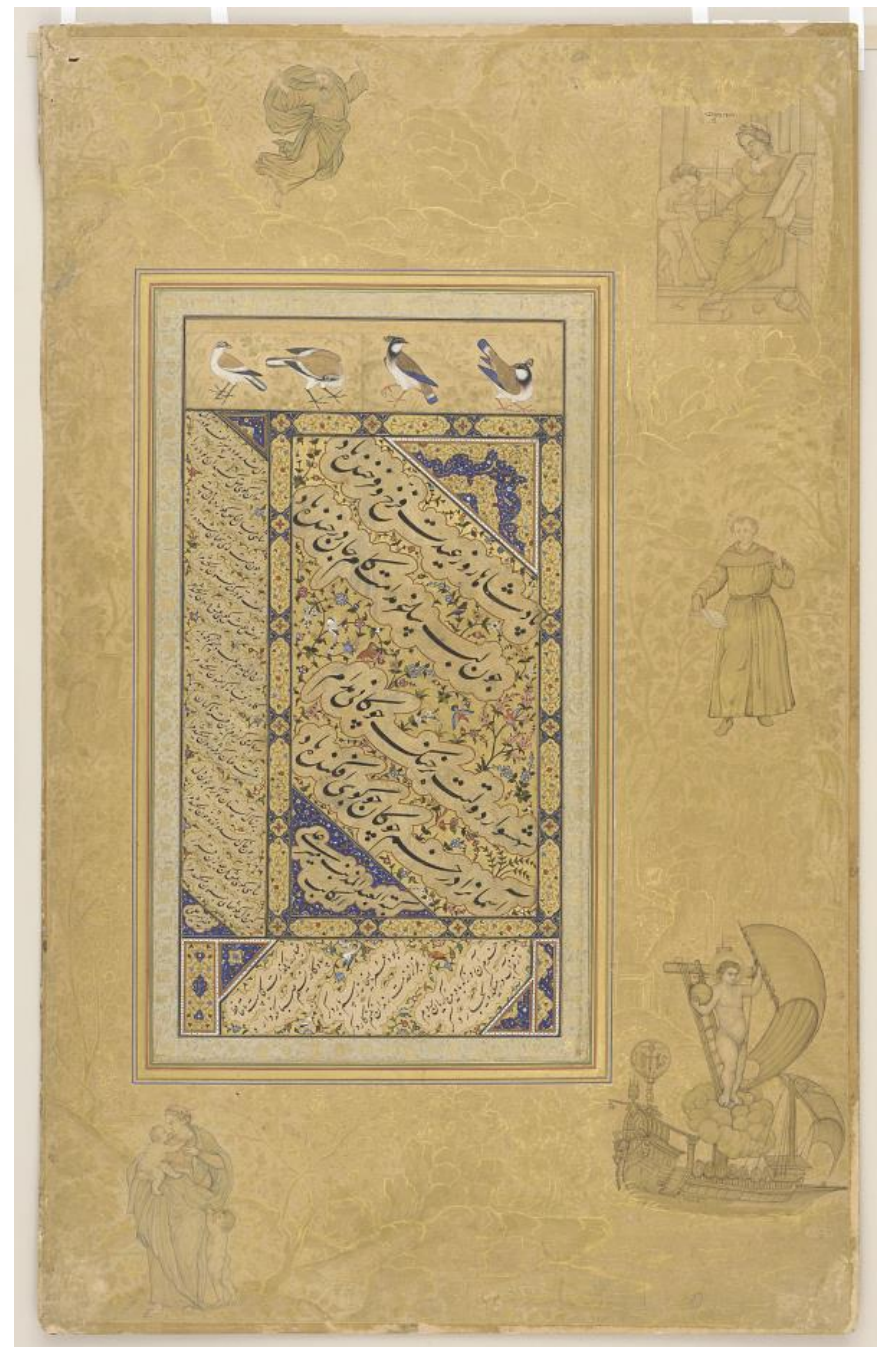
*Gulshan Album*  
single folio

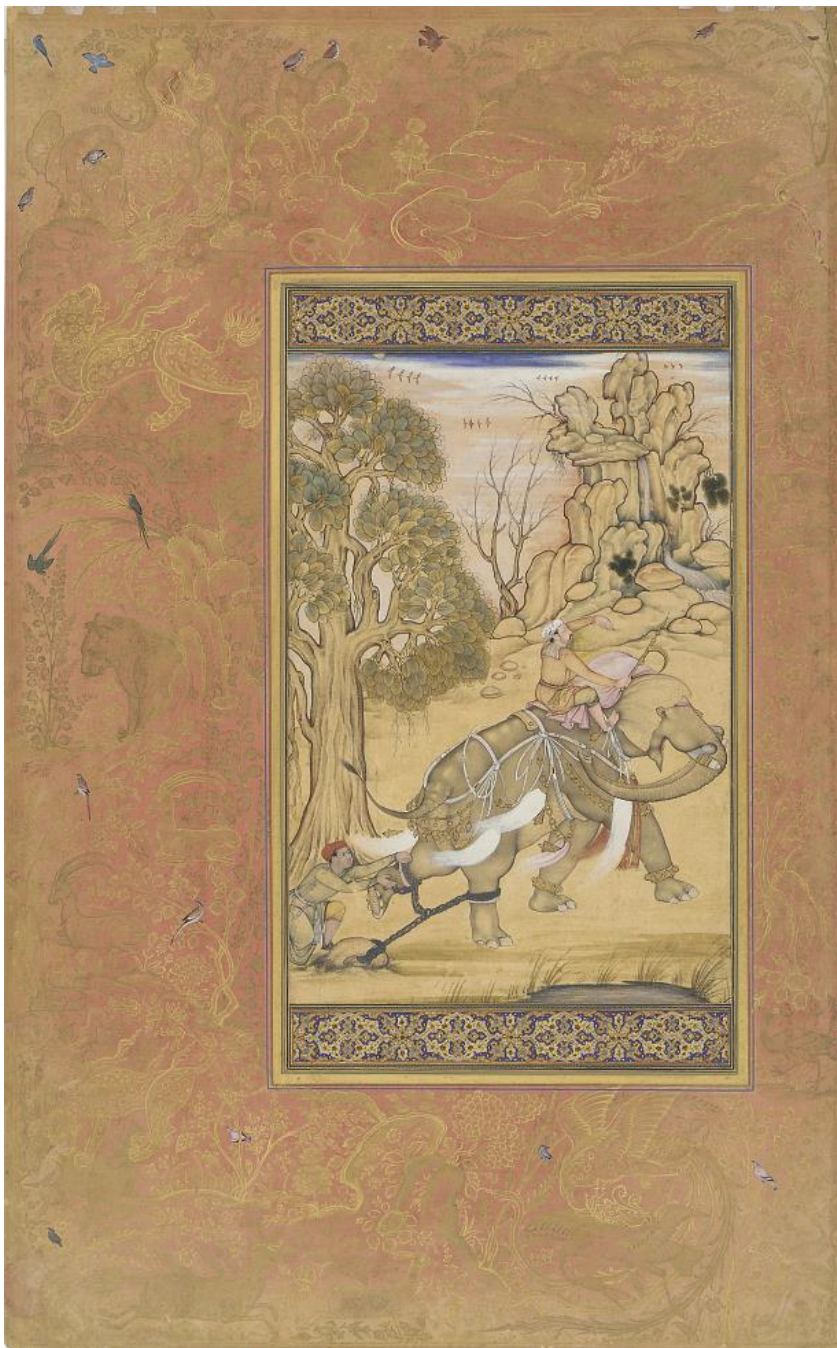
Freer Gallery of Art  
F1956.12

paper  
43 x 27 cm  
India

fol.b: calligraphy, ca. 1540  
ascribed to Mir 'Alī Kātib

borders added ca. 1600





*Gulshan Album*  
single folio

Freer Gallery of Art  
F1956.12

paper  
43x 27 cm  
India

fol. a: "Chained Elephant," ca.1590,

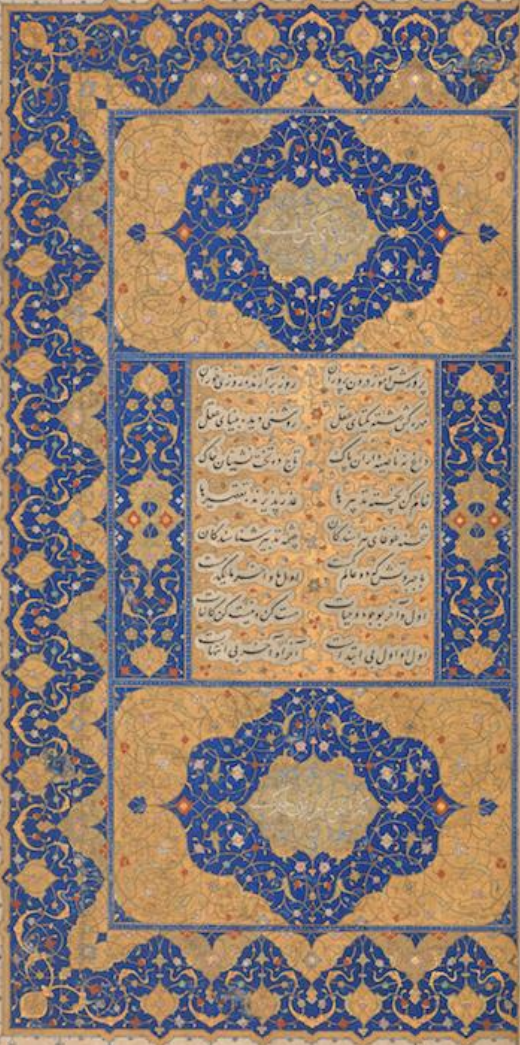
borders added ca. 1600

Persian manuscript  
which circulated among Safavids and Ottomans



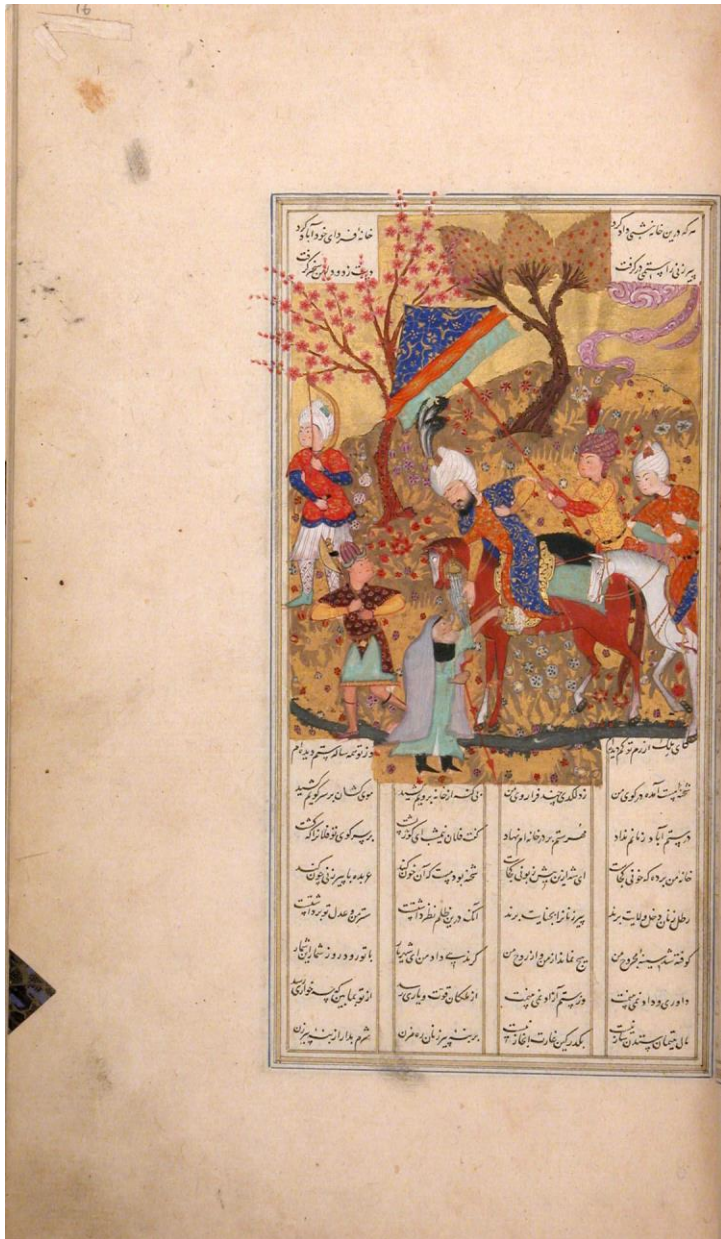
سید امیر علی بن ابراهیم  
فرزند شمس الدین  
پیش از این در کتب  
تاریخ و روایات  
مختلفه در بیان  
او مذکور است  
که در سال  
اول از او خبر  
رسیده است  
که در سال  
اول از او خبر  
رسیده است

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رسیده است  
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رسیده است

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اول از او خبر  
رسیده است  
که در سال  
اول از او خبر  
رسیده است



Nizāmī (d. 1217),  
*Khamsah*

Metropolitan Museum of Art  
 MMA 13.228.6  
 Gift of Alexander Smith Cochran, 1913  
 Cf. Jackson & Yohannan, pp. 53–58 s.v. nr. 7

MS pers.  
 paper  
 29 x 18 cm  
 Shiraz, Iran  
 two colophons with dates from 915/1509-10  
 seal impression of Sultan Ahmet, dated 1115/1703-4

fol. 1b-2a, opening of “Makhzan al-asrār”  
 fol. 16a, widow complains to Sultan Sanjar

Rome: Typographia Medicea, 1584–1595

# كتاب القانون في الطب

لابو علي الشيخ الرئيس

ابن سينا

مع بعض تاليفه وهو علم المنطق وعلم الطبيعى  
وعلم الكلام

ROMAE,  
In Typographia Medicea .  
M. D. X C III.  
Cum licentia Superiorum.



Avicenna,  
*al-Qānūn fī al-ṭibb*  
Rome, 1593

34 x 23 cm

Christie's Lot 372 / Sale 4795  
<http://www.britannica.com/media/full/45755/187109>

Persian manuscript  
sold in Egypt to Italian Humanist,  
traveling as papal envoy and  
acquiring sources for the *Typographia Medicea*



Firdawsī (died probably 1025),  
*Shāhnāmāh*

Florence, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale  
Magl. III.24  
purchased by Gerolamo Vecchiatti (1557-ca.  
1640) in Cairo

MS pers.  
paper

48 x 32 cm

Iran or Anatolia

colophon dated 30 Muḥarram 614/ 9 May 1217  
incomplete text: first part only

beginning of epic

Firdawsī (died probably 1025),  
*Shāhnāmah*

Florence, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale  
Magl. III.24  
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MS pers.  
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48 x 32 cm  
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colophon dated 30 Muḥarram 614/ 9 May 1217  
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colophon

