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

Dagmar Riedel, Columbia University

*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
13th 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 7th of September 1604

Translation from the Latin by Daniel Weiss
Morgan Crusader Bible
From the advertisement of the facsimile edition, Lucerne 1999
Map of Muslims in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, showing the
distribution of Sunni and Shiʿi Muslims in the 1990s:
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/world_maps/Muslim_Distribution.jpg
downloaded from the website of Alan Godlas, University of Georgia at
Morgan Crusader Bible

From the advertisement of the facsimile edition, Lucerne 1999
<...> 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 reconceputalized as event spaces within an ecology of changing conditions.
fol. 7a: Jacob blesses Manasseh and Ephraim; Jacob on his deathbed; Joseph on his deathbed; enslavement in Egypt
fol. 7b: the birth of Moses and his rescue; God calls Moses to return to Egypt to free the Hebrews
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
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
13th century
Latin and Persian marginal notes,
but no Judeo-Persian marginal notes

fol. a: scenes from the life of Absalom, the son of David
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/wikiFile: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 12th century
Kashan, Iran
Metropolitan Museum of Art
MMA 52.20.1

painted stucco
50 x 59 cm

fragment of wall painting
13th 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 ʿAlī Kātib

borders added ca. 1600
Gulshan Album
single folio

Freer Gallery of Art
F1956.12

paper
43x 27 cm
India

tol. a: “Chained Elephant," ca.1590,
borders added ca. 1600
Persian manuscript
which circulated among Safavids and Ottomans
Niẓāmī (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

fols. 1b-2a, opening of “Makhzan al-asrār”
fol. 16a, widow complains to Sultan Sanjar
Rome: Typographia Medicea, 1584–1595
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),
*Shāhnāmah*

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

MS pers.
paper
48 x 32 cm
Iran or Anatolia
colophon dated 30 Muharram 614/ 9 May 1217
incomplete text: first part only

beginning of epic
Firdawsī (died probably 1025),
*Shāhnāmah*

Florence, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
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purchased by Gerolamo Vecchietti (1557-ca. 1640) in Cairo

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colophon