EXTERIOR OF THE FRONT COVER OF A BINDING

863 A.H.—1459 A.D.

Size: 26 by 17.5 cm. Dark brown leather over pasteboard. Decoration in gold tooling and block-stamping. The border consists of an intertwined and braided pattern. A landscape with a conventionalized flowering tree and recumbent antelopes occupies the almond-shaped medallion. In each corner piece a hare is surrounded by scattered leaves and flowers. At the middle point of each side of the central panel is a geometric motif. The medallion of the exterior of the back cover contains geometric patterns; that of the flap shows an animal motif. The doublures have filigree designs in medallions.

The inclosed manuscript of the poems of the Persian poet 'Umād was copied in the year 863 A.H. (1459 A.D.) by the calligrapher Zaīn al-'Abdin ibn Muḥammad who is mentioned in the colophon as the artist of the illuminations and the maker of the binding.

Türk ve İslam Asarı Müzesi. Inventory No. 1591.
EXTERIOR OF THE FRONT COVER OF A BINDING

863 A.H.—1459 A.D.

The interior of the cover is reproduced in Plate XIX

Size: 26 by 17 cm. Brown leather over pasteboard. Decoration in relief embossing without gilding. The design of the entire cover consists of elegantly stylized Chinese cloud bands and fine flower scrolls in symmetrical and balanced composition. In the central panel the cloud bands form corner pieces and a medallion with two pendants. The exteriors of the back cover and of the flap show identical decoration.

The binding incloses a manuscript of the poems of the Persian poet Kasim, which was copied in Shiraz in the year 863 A.H. (1459 A.D.), by the calligrapher Shaiikh Mahmud Pir Budaghi. An ex libris on the exterior of the joint, and also on the title-page of the manuscript, indicate that the book was made for the library of Sultan Pir Budaq Khan of the Kara-Koyunlu dynasty (died 1466 A.D.).

Formerly in the library of the Sultan Mahmud I in Istanbul, now in the Türk ve İslam Asrari Müzesi. Inventory No. 1551.
INTERIOR OF THE FRONT COVER OF A BINDING

863 A.H.—1459 A.D.

The exterior of the cover is reproduced in Plate XVIII

Brown leather over pasteboard. Decoration in leather filigree applied on a blue painted background and combined with braided pattern work in blind tooling. The decoration of the border and of the central panel consists of extremely delicate and complicated flower arabesques, admirably executed, the whole composition being worked out as a unit logically developed around the center. The narrow panels at the top and bottom of the central one are filled with flower scrolls and stylized cloud bands resembling birds. The doublure of the back cover is identical in decoration.
EXTERIOR OF THE FRONT COVER OF A BINDING

873 A.H.—1469 A.D.

Size: 26 by 18 cm. Black leather over pasteboard. Decoration in
gold tooling and relief embossing. An intertwined pattern adorns the
outer border, a flower scroll motif the inner one. Two impressions of
the same block in complementary positions produced the symmetrical
all-over arabesque design of the central panel, as is readily evident
from the joining visible across the middle of the cover. The background
is stippled. The exterior of the back cover is identical in decoration.
Medallion compositions in leather filigree adorn the doublures.

The inclosed manuscript of the theological work Djawhar al-Zâl
was copied in the year 873 A.H. (1469 A.D.).

Türk ve İslam Asrârı Müzesi. Inventory No. 1563.
EXTERIOR OF THE FRONT COVER OF A BINDING

865 A.H.—1461 A.D.

Size: 25.5 by 17.5 cm. Decoration in blind tooling with gilding. A simple intertwined design forms the border. In the central panel are a medallion, pendants, and corner pieces all outlined in gold and decorated with stylized leaf and flower twigs against a stippled background. In the medallion is a realistic representation of a lion attacking a bull, an old oriental theme very familiar to Persian art from the time of the Achaemenids. The exterior of the back cover is ornamented in a similar manner, though it lacks an animal motif. The exterior of the flap is decorated by a landscape with two lions and two deer. The doublures show leather filigree work in the usual medallion composition.

The binding encloses a manuscript of the Mathneu of Djalâl al-Dîn Rûmî, which was copied, according to the colophon, in the year 865 A.H. (1461 A.D.), in the city of Isfahân by the calligrapher Ahmed ibn Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Hâfiz.

Türk ve İslam Asrâr Müzeesi. Inventory No. 1541.
EXTERIOR OF THE FRONT COVER OF A BINDING

Before 898 A.H.—1493 A.D.

Size: 35 by 23.5 cm. Black leather over pasteboard. Decoration in relief embossing without gilding. Animal and plant motifs adorn the medallion, pendants, and corner pieces of the central panel. In the middle of the medallion is a conventionalized tree with three apes playing in the branches. Below a hare is crouched close to the trunk of the tree, and a fox is chasing two antelopes. A bird in flight and a stylized cloud band indicate the sky. In each pendant there is a mask among flower arabesques. Foxes and antelopes appear in the corner pieces. The exterior of the back cover is similar in decoration. The doublures have the usual medallion design in filigree work. The borders have been cut away in modern times.

The binding incloses the famous manuscript of the Shāh-Nāme by Firdawsi copied for the brother of Shāh Ismā'īl, the prince Sultan 'Alī Mirzā (died 1493 A.D.).

Formerly in the Mawlewi Convent of Galata in Istanbul, now in the Türk ve İslam Asrı Müzesi. Inventory No. 3079.