Catalogue no. 27

Wise sayings and doa’ prayer

Calligrapher: Ahmed al Nairizi
Date: 1136 AH / 1714 AD
Style: Arabic in Naskh
Size: 22.6 x 14.5 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.173

Description

The text box consists of six lines of Naakh script in Arabic placed within connecting cloud scroll against a gilt background. The calligrapher renders the Arabic text in a Persian manner, joining more letters than necessary. The prayer addresses God as to Him everything belongs. The prayer appeals to God to protect them from ill acts, creating out of this decorative folio a protective charm.

Ahmed Al Nairizi signed and dated this single folio in 1136 AH / 1714 AD at a mature stage of his career. At the time he inscribed it, he was engaged in the copying of complete Qur’an manuscripts. A Qur’an dated to 1135 AH / 1713 AD is now in the Chester Beatty Library.
The **Profession of Faith** prayers

**Calligrapher:** Attributed to Ahmed al Nairizi  
**Date:** 1094-1178 AH / 1683-1764 AD  
**Style:** Arabic n Naskh  
**Size:** 10.7 x 5.3 cm  
**Accession number:** 1938.2.174

**Description**

The prayers occupy nine lines of black Arabic text written within cloud-shaped compartments against gilt ground. The text box is mounted with a white frame decorated with a gold foliate scroll. The folio exemplifies an exercise folio, where the calligrapher repeated one word in the last line, as it was squeezed incorrectly in the line before. The calligrapher called the folio a Maḥāqqa, connoting to the fact that it is only an exercise panel. No signature appears in the folio, but a later attribution and a seal links the folio to Ahmed Nairizi.

The Arabic black script recalls prayers that start with the second part of the *Shahāda*; it also includes prayers to the Prophet Adam, other prophets and holy men, the martyrs, and the pious, praying for them to reach satisfaction and more. The text indicates that the folio was written on a Wednesday night.
### Wise sayings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalogue no.</th>
<th>29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calligrapher:</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>19th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style:</td>
<td>Persian in Nasta‘liq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size:</td>
<td>12.3 x 12.3 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accession number:</td>
<td>1998.2.181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"...the difficulty of eliminating poverty is praying, as God recalls in his book, Al Aziz (the dear) and Al Hakim (the wise)."

Marriage is a desired act, pleasant and encouraged, while those who leave out marriage will be rejected and looked down upon. The Arabic verse in line two is part of a saying: 'marry your slaves who are in your possession.'

ومشكل رفع فقر عيداشت كما قال الله تعالى في محكم كتابه العزيز الحكم:

وايسك يايمن و ما ملكت ايجان
و أفرز تزويج غير منقول و غير طالب مرنم و قاطعش نزد الوالدين مقبول و محبوب و تاركش در نظر أريب آراء مغلول و منكوب كما
A section of a marriage certificate

Calligrapher: Unknown
Date: c. 19th / 20th century
Style: Persian in Nasta'iq, Arabic in Riqa'
Size: 13.4 x 11.3 cm
Accession number: 1998.1.182

Text

"ثامرون بالمعروف وثانيون عن المنكر" ركعتان يصلهما المتزوج خير من سبعين ركعة

Description

The text box is divided into four panels separated by white and gold border bands. The black and red texts are written in cloud-shaped compartments against a gilt ground while the entire folio is mounted on a lavender coloured board with floral patterns and gold borderlines. A page from a marriage certificate, written in Persian in the black Nasta'iq script, and the Arabic language in red, is in Riqa’ script. The Arabic text in line two is a verse from the Qur'an while the verse in line four is a section from the Hadith. The rest of the text refers to the marriage contract.
Catalogue no. 32

Prayers or Doa

Calligrapher: Unknown
Date: 18th / 19th century
Style: Persian in Riqqa’
Size: 20.1 x 14.1 cm
Accession number: 1998.2.131

Description

The folio contains six lines of black Riqqa’ script written on dark paper. The folio displays Doa or morning prayers of Caliph Ali. The calligrapher stressed the last word on each line, creating a beautiful rhythm to the folio. He also played with the "H" character and placed it alone above the words creating another visual novelty to the Riqqa’ style. This is a prayer that Amirul Mu’minin Imam Ali wrote himself.

The prayer, which is called Al Futuh, is to be recited in the morning. It would grant the wishes of whoever prays, as long as he prays in true faith.

Text

الصلاة فإنه حضرت أمير المومنين علي ابن أبي طالب عليه السلام بخط مبارك هو كتب في مصحف الدولة وهو صبحة قراءة مимвوده الله ونيل

بلى كه هكذا ابن دعا رأ به هو نيت وحاجت أن زواج يخوض به اجتهاد

فمرود كان دعا رأ لما قرآن الفتح نام كره

uida الصباح لعل عليه السلام
**Catalogue no. 33**

*Sufi poems & prose*

Calligrapher: Unknown  
Date: 18th / 19th century  
Style: Arabic language in Naskh  
Size: 13.9 x 9 cm  
Accession number: 1998.2.151

**Description**

A beautiful lavha or panel depicting three lines of calligraphy framed with a large decorative mount. The calligraphy recalls the virtues of Caliph Ali ibn Abi Talib, placed within cloud-shaped compartments against a gold ground. The decorative border was added later, and has defined the panel as a decorative unit.

---

**Catalogue no. 34**

*Sufi poems & prose*

Calligrapher: Unknown  
Date: 18th / 19th century  
Style: Arabic language in Naskh  
Size: 19 x 11.2 cm  
Accession number: 1998.2.218

**Description**

Referring to the poems of Abd al Malik ibn Quraib al Asmai, the folio exemplifies a different type of literature. Al Asmai was a famous poet, physician and an intellectual during the 8th & 9th centuries at the Abbasid court. The folio displays seven lines of Sufi love poems, in which Al Asmai witnessed a stone inscribed with the following lines:

---

**Text**

"You who are God's lovers tell me  
If the infatuation with a youth augments  
What is there to do?"

"Conceal your love, hide your secret, be patient  
In all matters and be humble"  

"But how can he be patient when the infatuation  
Kills the youth and in every instant his heart rips apart"
ما فرشازی نمیده یکدیگر کتاب نمی‌خوانند