(35) Mrs Sharifa Ayisha

She was one of the female Nastaliq scribes of the beginning of the 13th Century Hegira of the Ottoman Empire. She received instruction for Nastaliq script from Ustad Sayyid Muhammad Zein-ul-Abedin Tchelabi, and received a charter of application from him.

Page No 91 in this collection is the above mentioned charter of application, which was granted to this scribe and is signed:

آ حزت برصح الکبیر...شراط علی الصراط...انا الفیج جاوج مسیو ری ملابی...1234

"I the undersigned Sayyid Hujj Muhammad Zeinulbedin Tchelabi Zadeh, hereby grant permission of application to Mrs Sharifa Ayisha, in the year 1234 A.H."

Size: 21 x 32 cm.
He is an illustrious scribe of the 13th century A.H. of the Ottoman Empire. The extraordinary and well ornamented certificate, and skillful Thulth and Naskh forms of script of this Ustad in this collection, indicate that he received instructions from illustrious Ustads and was granted a certificate. The certificate, which has been issued by fifteen of the contemporary Ustads in the year 1275 A.H., is a specimen of the genuine relics of the illustrious scribes of the Ottoman Empire. See on pages no 93 94 95.

The following are the names of these scribes in the same order as mentioned in the certificate:

1) Hafiz Ahmad Dhihni
2) Sayyid Hafiz Ahmad Riz‘i
3) Hajj Muhammad Sharif Fitiri
4) Hajj Al Arif Be Izzati
5) Hajj Mahmoud Nuri
6) Hajj Ahmad Rushdi
7) Hajj Ibrahim Namiq
8) Hafiz Ibrahim Hamdi
9) Hafiz Muhammad Sharif Khulussi
10) Hasan Al Riz‘i
11) Husayn Al Hamid
12) Hafiz Mustafa Shevqi
13) Hafiz Tahir Rafati
14) Sayyid Hafiz Muhammad Najati
15) Sayyid Ibrahim Haqqi dated 1275 A.H.

Size: 39.5 x 30 cm.
Various examples of calligraphy by pupils where they have indicated their masters' names, introducing themselves as 'Telmîdh' or 'his pupil' are presented as the following:

(37) Abdullah Hamdi pupil of Mustafa Izzat

Calligrapher of a highly exquisite Hilyah with excellent illuminations, revealing his full artistic ability, is signed as:

Inscribed by Abdullah Hamdi one of Sayyid Hajj Mustafa Izzat's pupils, dated 1289 A.H.

See on page no. 98.
(38) Ahmad Rifai pupil of Muhammad Efendi

The calligrapher of Dalal'il Al Khayrat manuscript introducing his artistic ability in bold Naskh script, in red and blue ink. See on page no.100.

Names of the calligrapher, his Ustad and illuminator are included in the manuscript as follows:

١٣١٠

Inscribed by Ahmad Rifai one of Muhammad Efendi's pupils, in year 1310 A.H.

Illuminated by Ibrahim Hilmi.
Hajj Ali Shukri Efendi is one of the accomplished calligraphers of the middle of the 13th century A.H. He was a famous scribe of Trabuzan but the date of his birth is unknown. His son, Muhammad Elmi Efendi was a renowned and skillful scribe of the Ottoman Empire born in the year 1255 A.H.

One of the initial instructors of Hajj Ali Shukri was Ustad Umar Vasfi Hamshahri of Trabuzan who was known as "Shaykh al Hattatin", and died in the year 1240 A.H. (1824). Some attractive pieces of work comprising of Qur'ans and prayers survive from this calligrapher's work, including two Qur'ans dated 1246 A.H. and 1250 A.H. which are kept in the "Khazineh Homayun Imam Vakili".

A piece of this in the author's collection reads as follows:

"Writing of Ali Shukri, pupil of Umar-al-Vasfi."

It seems that he wrote this piece prior to the death of his teacher which was in the year 1240 A.H. See on page no. 102

Size: 24 x 35 cm.
The scribe of Qur'an in masterful Naskh script who has inscribed at the end: "This is the fourth Qur'an that I have inscribed" See on page no.104.

He is "Min Telamith" or pupil of Al Sayyid Al Hajj Ibrahim Rushdi. Dated 1285.

Size: 13 x 19 cm.
(41) Hafiz Ahmad

Ustad (master) of court calligraphers who mastered all types of script in calligraphy. The calligraphy inside the circle and the subtle Islimi or Arabesque illumination indicates:

سورة… مياء أعضاء المعروضات من آيات… من نعمة إله يمدّها…

Mir Hafiz Ahmad known as Be Izzat An Aqyan Hazineh Homayun Mintelanidi. Al Haji Muhammad Amin known as Be Izzati Ghafara Lahu Zunubahu Amin, dated 1232 A.H.

See on page no. 106
(42) Hamdi pupil of Abdulqadir Shukri

He was one of the calligraphers of the beginning of the 13th A.H. of the Ottoman Empire. The author could not trace the biography of this calligrapher in any books or memoirs. Fig No.108 reproduced in this book, which is a unique piece of work and is maintained in this collection is a beautiful calligraphic panel in the Naskh and Thulth styles which is signed:

١٢٠٩

"Written by Hamdi, one of the pupils of Abdulqadir Shukri."

In this panel the scribe has indicated the name of his master and we know that the abovementioned Ustad was assigned to teach calligraphy to the princes and courtiers of the court of Sultan Salim II, in the year 1217 A.H. See on page no.108

Size: 17 x 26 cm.
El Haji Sayyid Hassan Riza Efendi, son of Nazif Efendi, head of the Postal Department, was born in the year 1265 A.H. (1849).

He attended the Hafiz Munib Efendi school in his youth, then showed interest in calligraphy, and learnt or practiced scripts under the supervision of famous calligraphers. Some of his famous teachers were Yaliya Hilmi, Ustad Khulusi and Muhammad Shafiq—all three of whom were celebrated scribes of the Ottoman Empire.

Hasan Riza was very skillful in various scripts, particularly in the Thulth and Naskh forms, and his practice sheets are most delightful and valuable.

During his lifetime he had written more than 19 Qur'ans at various dates, and his clear and immaculate scripts on the archways of some of the holy shrines are very attractive.

This artist died on the 10th of the month of Jamadi-Al-Akhar in the year 1388 A.H. (1920) and is buried in the Rum-Ilh-Hisari Cemetery.

An exercise text in the collection reads as follows:

"Written by Haji Sayyid Hasan Riza, one of the pupils of Muhammad Shafiq, 1305 A.H."

See on page no. 110

Size: 24 x 31 cm.
(44) Sayyid Husayn Hamdi Bin Ali Efendi

At the end of a Qur'an that has been decorated in full beauty and excellent illumination, Master Sayyid Husayn Hamdi has been honoured as Master Ismail Zuhdi's pupil, at the bottom of the text, and has scribed:

كاتب السند.... السيد الحسن العمري من تلاميذ اسماع بن المهدية

Katabahu Sayyid Husayn Hamdi one of Ismail Zuhdi's pupils. Kateb Saray Sultani in year 1221 A.D.

See on page no. 112  Size: 11 x 17 cm.