222 A learned discussion. Khurasan style, c. 1575

207 Two youths duelling. Qaswin style, late sixteenth century

223 A triangular discussion. Khurasan style, c. 1575
The Shiraz Style

226-35 Ten miniature paintings from a manuscript of the Khams of Nizami, inserted in MS No 3448 (Ethb 2811; see No 440). Shiraz style: c 1515-20.

226 f31a Iskandar lassoing the Russian monster-champion. Good quality but a bit discoloured at the edges. 15.5 x 9.5 cm.

227 f19b Allahum (Plato) playing his lute to the beasts. Rather badly rubbed and discoloured. 12 x 9 cm.

228 f157a Bahram Gur and the princess in the Yellow Pavilion. Considerably discoloured. 15.5 x 9.5 cm.

229 f219a The Battle of the Clans watched by the distracted Majnun on the horizon. Discoloured. 14.5 x 9.5 cm.

230 f241b Battle-scene (Khusrav and Bahram Chubina?) with Bihzadian touches. Rubbed and discoloured. 14.5 x 9.5 cm.

231 f88a Layla and Majnun at school. Rather badly rubbed and discoloured. 13.5 x 9.5 cm.

232 f292a Bahram Gur and the princess in the Blue Pavilion. Badly rubbed in places and two holes in the paper. 13.5 x 9.5 cm.

233 f301a Iskandar at the window of a tall building conversing with a shepherd below; five other figures present. Slightly rubbed and discoloured. 11 x 9 cm.

234 f349a Khusrav and Shirin, seated under separate tent-awnings, entertained by Barbad with his lute accompanied by another musician on the tambourine. Rubbed and damaged in places. 12.5 x 9.5 cm.

235 f351a Khusrav and Shirin feasting in a garden and entertained by musicians. Somewhat rubbed and discoloured. 15.5 x 9.5 cm.

236-65 SHARAF AL-DIN: ZAFAR NAMA
Manuscript 137; Ethb 175
Modern red half-marocco binding. 30.2 x 19 cm.
474 f. Ninth/ten 19 lines to the page, W.S. 19 x 10 cm. There is a fine illuminated heading on f1b, having more in common with the Herat/Cahri style than with that of Shiraz.
In the upper left-hand corner is an attribution to the illuminator (mustashib) Daryai. Copyist, Muhammad al-din al-Shirazi. Dated 9th Ramazan 938/31 March 1533.
FAM 1957, No 453; London 1951, No 748 B; BWC No 157 pl XCV; Geert Appendix No 8 pl 30, 31A; Sisakian MS No 103, pl XIII-XV.
There are 30 miniatures in an often striking and individual interpretation of the Shiraz style of the time.

236 f36a Timur watching a game of hockey. Much rubbed and retoched in places. 14.5 x 10 cm.

237 f40a Battle between Timur and Amir Khatir Yusuf. Fading and slight retouching at the outer edges. 16 x 14.5 cm.

238 f34b Enthronement of Timur at Kabul. Fading at outer edge. 13 x 14 cm.

239 f50a Timur and his followers in a ship returning to Khurasan, with the cabins full of animals. The sea is represented as forming a curved horizon, just as it were land. 13 x 12.5 cm (plus masthead in upper margin).

240 f71b Timur enthroned after killing Amir Husayn; his face and others near outer edge repainted in India. Outer edge damaged by damp. 16 x 15 cm.

241 f86a Timur's marriage-feast. Slight fading along outer edge. 12.5 x 13.5 cm.

242 f102b Timur attacking the fortress of Qurban. A little fading and retouching along outer edge. 10 x 15 cm.

243 A learned discussion. Khurasan style, c. 1525.
837 An early battle of Timur. Shiraz style, 1533

841 Timur's marriage-feast. Shiraz style, 1533
243 f.100a Captives thrown over a precipice after Timur’s capture of a fortress in Sistan; a tower of severed heads behind. Timur’s face repainted. Much colour lost along outer edge. 20 x 16 cm.

244 f.139b Capture of Isfahan by Timur. 15 x 13 cm. See illustration, p. 81.

245 f.161a Timur’s hunting party during his campaign against Tuqtamish. Some colour lost along outer margin. 16 x 15 cm.

246 f.176b Timur (face repainted) entertaining his sons and relatives at Kalka. A little fading along outer edge. 13 x 14.5 cm.

247 f.196a Timur’s troops attacking the White Fortress near Shiraz; he sits under an awning and wears a crown of unusual compact form. Some colour lost at outer edge. 19 x 16 cm.

248 f.196b Timur’s troops riding down fugitives in the river at Baghdad after his capture of the city. 13 x 13 cm. See illustration.

249 f.217a Timur’s hunting party on the way to Sub (?). Damaged at the outer edge and the face of the umbrella-bearer repainted. 19 x 15 cm.

Shekhani MS pl XIII.

250 f.230b The army petitions Timur to fight Tuqtamish Khan. 14.5 x 12 cm (plus banners in upper margin).

251 f.240a Entertainment given by Timur on his arrival at Samarkand. Fading along outer edge. 13 x 14.5 cm.

252 f.254b Timur holding festival in the garden of ‘Heart’s Delight’. Some colour lost along outer edge. 15 x 16 cm.

253 f.269a Timur’s night attack on the camp of Shahab al-Din Mulbarak near Multan. 13 x 13.5 cm.

254 f.271a Timur’s defeat of Amlu Khan and capture of Delhi. 13 x 13.5 cm.

255 f.297a The source of the Ganges, with Indian natives disporting themselves and performing their ablutions. 12.5 x 13 cm. See illustration.

256 f.307b Timur hunting near Multan. 14 x 13 cm.

BHVG pl XCI A.

257 f.326a Assembly of Timur’s qurultay: music and refreshments. Damaged at outer edge. 13 x 15 cm.

258 f.331b Battle between Timur and the Sultan of Egypt. A little colour lost along the outer edge, and some damage caused by rotting green pigment. 16 x 15 cm (plus banner in upper margin).

259 f.339a Timur watches the burning of Damascus: two water-carriers with skins are trying to put it out. 15 x 13-1/5 cm (plus minaret in upper margin). See illustration.

260 f.360b Timur’s family coming from Samarkand to meet him. A little rubbing near the outer edge. 13 x 13 cm.

Shekhani MS pl XV.

261 f.380a Timur receiving petitions from the army. 14.5 x 14.5 cm.

262 f.416b Timur mourning the death of Prince Muhammad. 13.5 x 14 cm.

BHVG, pl XCI B.

263 f.418a Timur at the bath. Fading at outer edge. 13 x 15 cm.

264 f.438b Timur’s great qurultay and assembly of his family. 14.5 x 13 cm.

See colour pl VII.

265 f.450a Death of Timur, surrounded by mourning relatives and followers. Some colour lost along outer margin. 13 x 13.5 cm.

Like much Shiraz work of this period, these miniatures are characterized by the frequent use of ‘stock’ figures and groups. Among the most obvious are:

1 A group consisting of three horsemen; the left-hand (or right-hand) the group may appear
Pursuit of fugitives from Baghdad. Shiraz style, 1533

Natives at the source of the Ganges. Shiraz style, 1533
in reverse) figure grips the central one by the belt from the rear, while the latter turns and raises his sword. The right-hand figure grips his sword-arm with both hands. Nos 257, 254, 258.

II. Group of two horsemen: one, with upturned face grips the other from the rear by the belt; the latter is three-quarters turned away and raises his sword. Nos 257, 258. Cf. Guast pl 5, 428.

III. Group of two horsemen: one, bending forward, rides after the other and pierces him with a spear in the small of the back; the latter turns (profile) and grasps the end of the spear. Nos 257, 254, 258.

IV. The commander’s riding a caparisoned horse ‘primping’ holding a bow close to his side, the other hand outstretched above his horse’s head. Nos 257, 258, 259, 254, 258.

V. Group of two warriors, one kneeling on the other and plunging a dagger into him; the latter, his helmet gone, grips the former’s left wrist. Nos 254, 253.


VII. Single figure on foot advancing with a drawn sword. Nos 244, 248, 250.

VIII. Group of two warriors, one treading the heels of the other behind his back. Nos 244, 248.

IX. Two horsemen charging side-by-side, their positions almost identical—as if they had both just discharged arrows (though they are often armed with weapons other than the bow). Nos 243, 249. Cf. Guast pl 2, 258, 414.


The above details are almost all from miniatures of battles and hunting; court-scenes and assemblies can show a comparable range, e.g.

a. Timur enthroned. The figure is virtually identical in Nos 236, 240, 241, 246, 251, 253, 257 and 264.


e. Players of flute and tambourine. Nos 236, 241, 256, 257 and several others.

It may be noted that the portion of the margin occupied by each miniature has its reverse side covered with a decorative arabesque design mainly in blue and gold; this appears to be contemporary.

Another characteristic, peculiar to this manuscript, is a fondness for introducing one highly embroidered turban into each miniature where it is appropriate. Nos 236, 239, 240, 246, 251, 253, 257, 265.

266-68 HILAL: SHAH I DARWISH

(Biblioteca Leydeniana)

Manuscript 2843. Ethb 2843

European brown calf binding 6th c (joints worn and some f loose), 17.5 x 11 cm. 56 f (plus 30 additional), of extraneous Mamlukian Arabic matter. Next verso is on gold-dusted paper, in 2 columns of 10 lines to the page. W.S. 10.5 x 5.5 cm. Fine and delicate illuminated heading on f 78, but somewhat rubbed. No colophon.

There are 3 miniatures originally of good quality, but now sadly rubbed and blackened. They are in the Shiraz style of the mid sixteenth century:

266 f 17a. The Prince and other pupils at school: the Dervish walking through the window, 10.5 x 8 cm.

267 f 32a. The Prince defeats his enemies in battle. He is shown clearing the helmet of a flying bowman: the Dervish, bare-headed and half naked, is at the right-hand end of a line of warriors on the horizon, 10.5 x 8 cm (plus banner in upper margin).

268 f 55a. The Prince and a companion hunting, watched from the horizon by the Dervish and a youth. Gold ground, 10.5 x 8 cm.

269-91 FIRDAWS: SHAHNAMA

(Warren Hastings MS)

Manuscript 133. Ethb 885

Modern red half-morocco binding, 38 x 23.5 cm. 538 ff. Vellum in 4 columns of 25 lines to the page. W.S. 25.5 x 15.5 cm. Ff 1b, 2a superbly illuminated as a double title-page (f 1b gilded over). Ff 13b, 170b carry illuminated headings of fine quality. Copyist: Hasan b. Muhammad Ahsan; dated 16th Dhu‘q’ada 676/19 August 1267 ‘at Shiraz’. On f 1a are the obliterated remains of what appears to have been a royal seal, and an inscription recording the gift of the manuscript to Qasim Beg in Dhu‘q’ada
961/1356. Another with the name of Huzayfah Muhammad Shirazi (1356/57) and several more seals and librarians' notes.

FAM 1557 No 590; London 1531 No 722A; BWG No 201; Guitt App. p. 35, pls 45, 46a; Shiraz MS No 121, pl. XII-VIII; FAM 1552 pl. 201; Robinon PD p. 89.

The 23 miniatures are clearly the work of two painters, A and B. A executed the first ten, and B the remainder: both are excellent representatives of the Shiraz style of the period.

The work of A is notable for fine drawing and a rather cool, pale colour-scheme. B's drawing and colours are stronger but more stereotyped. His work can be recognized in many Shiraz manuscripts between about 1540 and 1560 (see Guest and Robinson, p. 97 ['Artist C']).

269 f.3b Firdawsi and the three court poets. Green landscape, gold sky, eleven figures altogether. Artist A. Slight discoloration. 20 x 15 cm.

270 f.6b Gayumard and his court (W.I.118). Rocky landscape, gold sky. Artist A. Slight discoloration. 18 x 15 cm.

The composition seems to be influenced by Sultan Muhammad's masterly treatment of this subject in the Houghton Shamsa f.22b. See Welch, A King's Book of Kings, pp. 98-91. Shiraz MS p. XLV.

271 f.32a The head of Iraj brought to Faridun (W.I.202). Pale landscape with rocky horizon, blue sky. Numerous bare-headed figures. Artist A. 22.5 x 15 cm. See illustration.

272 f.54a Zal enthroned with Radaba (W.I.318—just before the birth of Rustam). Crowded court scene, with ladies, in a garden pavilion with terrace. Artist A. Slight discoloration on outside edge. 18 x 20 cm. See illustration.

273 f.76b The King of Mazandaran turns himself to stone during the battle with Rustam and Kay Ka'un (W.I.74). Pale ground, blue sky. The King is represented as a lump of rock with a helmet perched on one corner: both his horse and Rustam's have elaborate plumes rising from the chaftarn. Artist A. 23 x 18 cm. See illustration.

274 f.96a Rustam mourning the dying Subrub (W.II.74). Pale landscape, rocky foreground, blue sky. A large floral spray painted in gold in the margin, issues from the lower left-hand corner of the miniature. Artist A. 25 x 19 cm. Shiraz MS p. XLV.

275 f.113b Siyawush hunting before Ahrarat (W.II.45). Pale green landscape with large flowers, blue sky with variegated clouds. Some bold foreshortening of horses and animals. Artist A. 20 x 18.5 cm. See illustration.

276 f.127b Execution of Surkhkoh by Faramurz (W.II.134). Dark green landscape, streaky blue sky. Surkhkoh has been decapitated; his severed head and trunk are suspended, the latter by the heels, from hooks on a gallows. Artist A. 22 x 19 cm.

277 f.150b The victorious Binham carrying the severed head of Palashan and leading his horse (W.III.90). Pale landscape with stream, blue sky, tents in the background. The horses have plumed chaftons, and the Turanians, here as elsewhere, are distinguished by their Turkmans caps. Artist A. 20 x 16.5 cm. See illustration. Shiraz MS p. XLVI.

278 f.184b Rustam and his troops attacking the fortress of the cannibal Kafur (W.III.246). Pale rocky landscape, blue sky, solid fortress with decorative cornices and large stout door. Artist A. Rather discoloured along the outer edge. 22 x 20 cm. See illustration.

279 f.209a Rustam cleaving the demon Barbahra, son of Alowan (not in W.). Landscape with close-set grass-tufts and large flowers, plain blue sky, soldiers and demons engaged. Artist B. Slight discoloration along outer edge. 25.5 x 19 cm. See colour pl. IX.

280 f.217b Combat of Gudarz and Piran. The latter transfixed by the former's javelin (W.IV.107). Landscape as in No 279 with rocky foreground. Artist B. 25.5 x 18 cm. See illustration.

91