The Safavid Period

1041 f212b Parley between Gudarz and Homan (W.IV.36). 94.5 x 15.5 cm.

1042 f216a Human slain by Bezhan (W.IV.30). 24.5 x 15.5 cm.

1043 f229a Piran slain by Gudarz (W.IV.105). 20.5 x 15.5 cm.

1044 f232b Lahhak and Faqshidwar slain by Gustaham (W.IV.122). 20 x 15.5 cm.

1045 f238b Kay Khuravr wrestling with Shida, son of Afrasiyab (W.IV.176). 16.5 x 15.5 cm.

1046 f254a The surprise night attack of Afrasiyab upon Kay Khuravr (W.IV.252). 20 x 15.5 cm.

1047 f265a Kay Khuravr's last journey (W.IV.90). 18 x 15.5 cm. See illustration.

1048 f278a Gashaps and the wolf—here shown as a white rhinoceros (W.IV.238). 24.5 x 15.5 cm.

1049 f277a Gashaps and the dragon (W.IV.346). 17.5 x 15.5 cm.

1050 f279a Gashaps kills Iyas in battle (W.IV.355). 20 x 15.5 cm.

1051 f297a Isandiyar in his machine attacking the dragon (W.V.190). 18.5 x 15.5 cm.

1052 f297a Rustam, cooking his meal, kicks back the rock thrown by Buhman (W.V.185). 24.5 x 15.5 cm.

1053 f314b Rustam and Isandiyar wrestling on horseback (W.V.225). 15.5 x 15.5 cm.

1054 f328b Rustam shooting Isandiyar in the eye (W.V.283). 17.5 x 15.5 cm.

1055 f329b The dying Rustam shoots his treacherous brother Shahbud (W.V.272). 18 x 15.5 cm.

1056 f332a Isandiyar comforts the dying Dara (W.V.I.6). 18 x 15.5 cm.

1057 f338a Ardshir in bed with Gudarz (W.V.III.218). 17.5 x 15.5 cm.

1058 f360b Captive Ardavan before Ardshir (W.III.220). 24.5 x 15.5 cm.

1059 f371b Battle of Shapur (with an elephant) against the Arabs (W.III.331). 16.5 x 15.5 cm.

1060 f372b Shapur's attack on Caesar's camp (W.III.347). 17.5 x 15.5 cm.

1061 f382a Badarwin Gir wins the crown and throne from between the lions (W.VI.410). 18 x 15.5 cm.

1062 f403b Badarwin and the Khaghan; the mock hunting expedition (W.III.290). 18 x 15.5 cm.

1063 f408a Badarwin Gir slays a dragon in Hindustan, Provincial but good work (W.VII.123). 16.5 x 15.5 cm. See illustration.

1064 f408b Defeat and death of Nashad, son of Nashirwan at the hands of the latter's general, Barnin, Provincial. (W.VII.275). 18 x 15.5 cm.

1065 f453b Nashirwan attacking a Roman fortress (back to the normal style) (W.VIII.47). 21 x 15.5 cm.

1066 f475a Bahram Chubula fights on foot (W.VIII.229). Provincial. 15.5 x 15.5 cm. See illustration.

1067 f475a Gardiner offering an apple to Khosrow in a tree as a present at Naw Ruz (W.VIII.90). Provincial. 12.5 x 15.5 cm. Robinson LE No 116; Stiucklinen 34, p 199, pl XV, XX.

1068-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

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1069-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

1070-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

1071-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

1072-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

1073-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

1074-77 NIZAMI: KHAMSAA

1075 f248b Bahram in the Blue Pavilion on Wednesday with Princess Asar Gun, daughter of the King of Maghrib, 9.5 x 15.5 cm plus dome.

1076 f255a Bahram in the Sandalwood Pavilion on Thursday with Princess Hunay, daughter of Caesar, 21 x 15.5 cm plus dome.

1077 f269a Bahram in the White Pavilion on Friday with Princess Dara, daughter of the King. Somewhat blackened, 11 x 15.5 cm plus dome.

1078-80 ASSAR: MIHR U MSHTARI

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1078-80 ASSAR: MIHR U MSHTARI

The manuscript has suffered badly from damp since its rebind. Given to Richard Johnson by 'Mir aboo all Khan brother to Casim ali K'.

1078-80 ASSAR: MIHR U MSHTARI

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The heathery leaf motif is characteristic of early seventeenth-century illuminations, and also occurs as a decorative element in the miniatures, e.g. No. 1071. Dated 2nd Rabi‘II 1045/6 September 1635. There are 10 miniatures, neat and pleasing, though not first-rate. They may well have been executed at Shiraz, though by this time local styles were merging in the “Kha’ra” style of the metropolis. The artist had some knowledge of European art as witnessed by the buildings on Nos. 1068 and 1069, and the draperies in the “Pavilion” scenes.

1080 f168 Sultan Sanjar and the old woman. Somewhat blackened at the edges. 16 x 11.5 cm. See illustration.

1082 f159 Khuravr spies Shirin bathing. The European buildings in the background are remarkable. 16.5 x 11.5 cm. See illustration.

1083 f160 Shirin visiting Farhad’s milk-conduit. The “sculpture” shows a girl offering a cup of wine to a youth. Edges somewhat blackened. 12 x 11.5 cm. See illustration.

1084 f292a Bahram in the Black Pavilion on Saturday with Princess Farak, daughter of the King of India. The “black” is ingeniously varied with blues, greens and purples. 11.5 x 11.5 cm and done in upper margin. See illustration.

1085 f293a Bahram in the Yellow Pavilion on Sunday with Princess Taghman-Nas, daughter of the Khaghan. The colour is again varied with green and gamboge. 11.5 x 11.5 cm plus dome.

1086 f294a Bahram in the Green Pavilion on Monday with Princess Naran-Nas, daughter of the King of Sajkah (Selavania). Colours considerably varied. 11.5 x 11.5 cm plus dome.

1087 f295b Bahram in the Red Pavilion on Tuesday with Princess Naran-Nas, daughter of the King of Sajkah (Selavania). Colours considerably varied. 11.5 x 11.5 cm plus dome.
Seated dervish, by Riza-i 'Abbasi, c. 1625-30

Seated dervish, style of Riza-i 'Abbasi, c. 1630
1081 A drawing. 10.8
Seated dervish. Signature of Riza-i ‘Abbasii. Plain background with plants and clouds in gold. This is a fine drawing and might well be from the master’s hand.
Ishfahan style: c. 1623-30. 13 x 7.5 cm (page 32 x 22.5 cm).
See illustration.
Gold decked plain triple frame and margins. FAM 1957 No 135; London 1957 No 775; D. B Why 377; Arnol Pl LXIV A; FAM 1957 No 69; Schirakwine 64 p 110.
1082 A tinted drawing. 6.10
A dervish seated in a landscape, the foreground coloured in at a later date. Good quality drawing with very angular drapery.
Ishfahan style: c. 1623. 13.5 x 8.5 cm (page 31.5 x 20.5 cm).
See illustration.
Decorated frame of gold scrolls on dark blue; gold decked margins.
1083-110 Firdawsi: Shahnama
(Typo MS)
Manuscript 1297: Eshk 880
Fine and probably original binding (rebacked) of black leather with sunk gilt panels and medallions of floral design. Doubles dark red with fine gold cut-out work on blue and green. 43 x 27 cm. 622 ff. Good naskhi in 4 columns of 25 lines to the page. W.B. 25 x 15 cm. If 18 and 21 are generously illuminated as a double title-page; f 28b and 34a (Preface) have an illuminated heading and fully illuminated margin; f 35b, 35a have an illuminated heading and decorated margins. All these are of superb quality. The colophon on f 622a has been obliterated and painted over with gold. The 28 miniatures are on the whole very good examples of the Ishfahan style. They appear to be the work of several different painters, and it is not impossible that some of the best ones may be the work of the young Mu’inn. All seem to be closely modelled on the work of Riza-i ‘Abbasii, and to date from about 1630-40:
1083 A Gaykamath and his court (W.I. 110). Landscape half pale, half dark green, with rocky horizon, and blue sky dotted with ‘naturalistic’ white clouds: eleven figures altogether 25 x 15 cm.
See illustration.
1089 Rustam and the White Demon. Isfahan style, c. 1650-40

1091 Siyavush at the court of Afsâlîyab. Isfahan style, c. 1650-40
1092 f 136b Afrasiyab reproving Siyawush (W.II.315). The throne is set out-of-doors in a landscape partly mauve and partly dark green; more faces in the rocks on the horizon. 30 x 21 cm.

1093 f 136b Kay Khosrow, his mother Farangis and Gis fording the Jihun, watched by the ferryman and his crew in their boat (W.II.312). A group of rather un-Persian looking buildings on the bank. The boat and its crew have been considerably diminished in perspective. 25 x 15 cm (plus small banner in the margin). See illustration.

1094 f 137b Ruham cuts off the Sorcerer’s arm (W.III.129). Rocky landscape: Ruham’s black horse standing below. 29 x 19 cm.

1095 f 137b Rustam shoots Ashkabus and his horse (W.III.118). Rocky landscape and horizon lined with troops. 39 x 23 cm.

1096 f 138a Rustam catching the horse of Chingish by the tail (W.III.115). Pale green ground, gold sky. The eyes of the two principal figures have been touched up, and the page has been torn and repaired. 30.5 x 22 cm.

1097 f 138b Rustam dragging the Khaqan from his white elephant (W.III.293). The elephant is delineated in a very careful and rather comical manner. 30 x 19 cm.

1098 f 139a Rustam striking the demon Abwan on the head with his mace (W.III.280). Rocky landscape and gold key. 31 x 15 cm.

1099 f 140b The rescue of Bizhan (W.III.326). Bizhan shown in a circular pit against a dark green background below; Rustam above, letting down the rope, and Muziriza crouching by the fire. Rustam’s seven warriors are ranged down the left-hand side of the composition. 31 x 15 cm. VAM 1952 pl 18.

1100 f 140b Single combat of Rustam and his grandson Baraz (A.235). Gold sky, rocky horizon lined with warriors, and stream in the foreground. Rustam is shown receiving on his shield a heavy blow from Baraz’s mace aimed at his head. 29 x 20 cm.

1101 f 141b Bizhan cutting the throat of Humay (W.IV.59). Mauve ground, blue sky with white clouds; the horses placed symmetrically on either side. 29.5 x 15 cm.

1102 f 142b Execution of Afrasiyab and Gianwaz by Kay Khosraw (W.IV.268). Mauve ground, gold sky. 30 x 20 cm.

1103 f 142b Isfandiyar killing the dragon (W.V.127). He is shown on foot, and his ‘armoured car’ has been reduced to a plain black chest in the lower right-hand corner. Gold sky, rory mauve ground. 28 x 15 cm.

1104 f 143b Rustam shoots Isfandiyar in the eyes with the forked arrow (W.V.243). A rather stiff and lifeless representation. Mauve ground, blue and white sky. 28 x 15 cm.

1105 f 143b Iskandar sending a letter to the Indian King Fur (W.VI.98). He is enthroned under draped curtains, whilst a vizier hands the letter to a messenger: several other courtiers, one holding a large blue and white jug. 30 x 15 cm.

1106 f 144b Bahram Gur seated on the throne after winning the crown from between the two lions (W.VI.140). He is surrounded by a number of figures, and the dead lions occupy the foreground. 28 x 19 cm.

1107 f 145b The execution of Mazakul before Nachirwan (W.VII.290). The arch-heretic and communist has been hoisted on a gallows by his feet and is being shot full of arrows. 27 x 19 cm.

1108 f 145b The battle between Gis and Tarkhand (W.VII.416), the latter shown fainting on his elephant, which is executed in the same careful manner as the one in No 1097. 29 x 18 cm.

1109 f 146b A battle in a walled garden between Bahram Cubina and Pardov, son of Sama the Turk (W.VIII.126). The two principal combatants have fully caponised horses. 29 x 16 cm.

1110 f 147b Single combat between Bahram Cubina and Kut the Roman (W.VIII.290). 28 x 16 cm. VAM 1957 No 118; VAM 1952 pl 27, 28; Stuckeitke p 147, pl L.

1193 Kay Khosrow fording the Jihun, Isfahan style, c 1630-50
111 Youth visiting hermits. Style of Muhammad Yusuf. Mid seventeenth century

111 Tinted drawing J.6.9
A young man visiting two hermits in a rocky landscape. Style of Muhammad Yusuf. This is a very fine drawing and might be by Muhammad Yusuf himself.

Istana style: mid seventeenth century. 15.5 x 10 cm (page 41.5 x 29.5 cm).

See illustration... Decorated frame of gold scrolls on dark blue; gold-decked margin.

FAM 1951 No. 1411.

112 Tinted drawing J.13.2
Seated girl offering a cup of wine. Rather rubbed. Style of Muhammad Qasim. This could well be the work of Muhammad Qasim himself.

Istana style: mid seventeenth century. 11.5 x 7.5 cm (page 36 x 25 cm).

See illustration... Gold-decked plain frame and margin.

FAM 1951 No. 1408.

119-35 FIRDAWSI: SHAHNAMA
(Halleybury MS)
Manuscript 3265; Esth 874
Modern binding of scarlet half-morocco. 40.5 x 27.5 cm. 610 ff. Nastaliq in 4 columns of 15 lines to the page. W.S. 25 x 12 cm. The text opens (f 1b, 2a) with what must have been a gorgeous illuminated double title-page, the margins covered with floral arabesques in blue and gold, but it has suffered sadly from damp which has penetrated the first 10 ff of the manuscript and similarly affected the last few.

The poem itself begins on f 7b with a fine illuminated heading in the same condition. In the colophon (f 80a) the scribe gives his name as "Ali bin Haydar Qall al-Harawi; it is a long colophon, much of it illegible owing to damp, surrounded and surrounded by an inscription in red which is even worse obliterated. The date appears to be Dhu'l-Qi'da 1022 January 1614, but the reading is by no means certain.

There are 29 miniatures in a provincial style characterized by strong, sometimes rather sombre colouring, naive and primitive but often vigorous drawing, exuberant landscapes and cheerful animals. Most have suffered damage, especially those near the beginning and end of the volume. The above characteristics, and a comparison with the group of manuscripts located at Astarabad in FAM 1957 (Nos. 182-184) make it very probable that this, too, is an Astarabad volume, of a date in the first half of the seventeenth century.

Particulars are as follows:

113 f.356-358 Defeat of the Black Demon by Hashang. The young prince leads the demon captive in the middle of a crowded composition. Rubbed, and damaged by damp (W.I.121). 35 x 20 cm.

114 f.135 Kawa the blacksmith before Zalbuk. The main miniature, in the upper part of the page, is continued in the outer and lower margins. Typical court scene with fenced gardens: gateway and two saddled horses with groom below. Rubbed and damaged by damp (W.I.155). 35 x 21 cm.

[Note: f.17 has been restored upside-down]

115 f.334 Murder of Iraq by his brothers Tur and Salm. He is represented being pulled off a throne and butchered, while women bystanders weep. Above the throne a section of the wall is occupied by shaped niches containing golden vases of various forms; such niches may still be seen in the Ali Qapi pavilion at Istana. Rubbed and somewhat damaged (W.I.201). 25.5 x 19 cm.

116 f.394 Death and defeat of Tur at the hands of Minuchir. A crowded battle-scene, somewhat rubbed (W.I.212). 25.5 x 19 cm.

117 f.348 Zal restored to his father Sam by the Sinanbegh. Luxurious hills landscape with a group of Sam's retainers in the foreground, which is rather rubbed and damp-stained (W.I.247). 25 x 19 cm.

118 f.608 Rustam in battle against Afrasiyab. The hero, wearing leopard's-head helmet and tiger-skin coat with vertical stripes, cleaves a foeman in the middle, whilst Afrasiyab rides away in the upper left-hand corner (W.II.100). 30 x 20 cm.

119 f.348 Rustam kills the White Demon. Luxuriant richly-coloured rocky landscape; a demon has climbed the tree to which Avasd is tied, and two others appear among the rocks. Rubbed along the outer edge (W.II.60). 25.5 x 19 cm.
1112 Seated girl with wine-cup, Style of Muhammad Qasim, Mid seventeenth century

1108 f.79r Defeat of the demons of Mazandaran by Rustam and Kay Ka'un, while their King turns himself into a rock to escape Rustam (W.II.74). What should have been the outer (right-hand) margin, containing part of the picture, has been transferred to the left. 25.5 x 19 cm.

1111 f.83a Kay Ka'un in his flying-machine outside his palace, surrounded by admiring spectators. The birds resemble cranes more than anything else. The face of the King has been obliterated, as is usual in this subject, and the outer edge is a bit rubbed (W.II.103). 25 x 19 cm.

1109 f.75b The death of Sahab. He has bared his arm and shoulder to show Rustam the signet: crowded scene in a strongly colored landscape (W.II.175). 30 x 19.5 cm.

1113 f.106b The fire- ordeal of Siyawush, watched by Kay Ka'un on a balcony and Sadubab at a window of a palace on the right. Outer edge rubbed and the face of Siyawush damaged (W.II.220). 25.5 x 19 cm.

1114 f.116a Siyawush playing polo before Afsaryah. The latter appears in the upper chamber of a pavilion in the left-hand margin, which has suffered from rubbing; a clumsy attempt has been made to repaint his face and beard (W.II.246). 25.5 x 19.5 cm.

1115 f.79a The murder of Siyawush. The scene is set in a landscape outside a palace, in the upper chamber of which Afsaryah watches, drinking (W.II.320). 25.5 x 19.5 cm.

1117 f.12b Pilgrim slain by Rustam. The anguish of Afsaryah, on the right, is well shown (W.II.352). 25 x 19 cm.

1118 f.122a Giw encounters Kay Khurraw by a spring. Luxuriant and richly-colored rocky landscape. Kay Khurraw is a rather ungraceful figure with fat legs and a crown too large for him (W.II.371). 25 x 19 cm.

1119 f.128a Rustam shoots Ashkalos and his horse. The horse is already shot; Ashkalos has got clear and looks at it in consternation; Kay Khurraw and Afsaryah at the head of their respective armies (W.III.88b). 30 x 19 cm.

1122 f.18b Rustam drags the KhiqDan from his elephant. Beside the latter is another elephant with two Indian riders in Moghal turbans, followed by a group of foreigners, one Indian grasping the characteristic katar, and three in European hats. (W.III.29h) 30 x 19.5 cm.

1120 f.196a The demon Alwan about to hurl Rustam into the sea. Usual luxuriant landscape, and the demon coloured blue with scarlet muzzle wearing yellow shorts (W.III.276). 25.5 x 19.5 cm.

1121 f.201b Bisman killing the boar in the land of Ayman. The exuberant artist has represented five horsemen engaged and another five in the background as well as a number of extraneous animals and birds. The foreground landscape details are painted on a black field (W.III.276). 25.5 x 19.5 cm.

1122 f.219b Bisman rescued by Rustam; he is secured by an enormous chain attached to his neck and ankles. Mandala is the central figure, and there are three other warriors. Foreground as in No 1131 (W.III.34b). 25 x 19 cm.

1123 f.228b The mother of Banu interposes to prevent Rustam killing her son, his grandson. Upper section of landscape painted in pale green which has rooted through the paper in places (A.227). 25 x 19 cm.

1124 f.235a Execution of Afsaryah and Garvaw before Kay Khurraw, enthroned under a canopy with a wine-cup in his hand. Afsaryah has already been beheaded and his head is in a charger at the king's feet (W.IV.268). 25 x 19 cm.

1125 f.34oa Gushasp kills the 'wolf', here represented as a sort of buffalo-rhino-ceros. Unusual treatment: the monster lies on its back and the hero runs his lance into its rectum. Three armoured spectators and many animals in the luxuriant landscape (W.IV.33b). 25.5 x 19 cm.

1126 f.361a Pashendiya lassos Gushasp and drags him from his horse. The usual crowded battle-scene, somewhat rubbed along the left-hand edge (W.IV.111). 25.5 x 19.5 cm.
133 Barzu saved by his mother's intercession. Provincial (Astarabad), first half seventeenth century

137 Rustam kicks back the rock. Provincial (Astarabad), first half seventeenth century
140 Bahram Gur’s master-shot. Provincial (Astarabad), first half seventeenth century

154 The young shoe-maker and the King’s lion. Provincial (Astarabad), first half seventeenth century