Fine Oriental Manuscripts and Miniatures

Mughal and Deccan miniatures from the 16th to 19th century including two illustrations to the History of India, Mughal, c. 1520, an illustration to the History of Mughals, Mughal, c. 1550-1559.

Rajput miniatures from the 17th to 19th century including a portrait of a courtier, Baidada, c. 1700, an illustration to a manuscript, Bhadli, c. 1720.

Persian miniatures from the 16th to 17th century including four illustrated leaves from a manuscript of the History of Shah Isma'il, with miniatures attributed to Muzlin, Isfahan, first quarter of seventeenth century; a series of thirty-five illustrations of mirza (Fahreddin), provincial Mughal, c. 1580, twenty-four album pages with miniatures and calligraphy from a Royal album commissioned for Nasir ud-Din Shah Qajar in 1888.

Persian lacquer from the 17th to 19th century, including a mirror case made for Nadir al-Din Shah Qajar, signed by Ismail, dated 1854.

Qur'an leaves on vellum and paper from the 16th to the 19th century including a blue vellum Qur'an leaf written in kufic script in gold, Qajar, south-eastern Persia; a vellum Qur'an leaf written in kufic script in gold, 19th c., Qajar, Qum.

Qur'an from the 16th to the 19th century including a Qur'an on vellum written in naskhi script, school of Yaqut al-Masri, Herat, c. 1700; a Qur'an written in naskhi script, 18th c., with contemporary binding in blind and gold; from a thirty-volume set made for Amir Aminshah al-Qurashi, Mashhad, c. 1800.

Arabic, Persian, Turkish and South East Asian manuscripts from the 12th to 15th century including Behshi's Fawam with three miniatures attributed to Ali Manawawiri, Tabriz, dated 1239.

Days of Sale
Thursday, 22nd May 1986 at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
Friday, 23rd May 1986 at 10.30 am
In the Upper Gallery,
Bloomfield Place, off New Bond Street, London W.1.

On View
From Monday 19th May 1986

In sending order bids this catalogue may be referred to as 'YALAMA'.

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Experts in charge:
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The cover illustration is Lot 35

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Further advice to bidders and purchasers follows the bidding described after the last lot in this sale.

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Julia 4/6/85
Fine Oriental Manuscripts and Miniatures
THURSDAY 22ND MAY AT 10.30 AM

First session: lots 1 to 184

All lots are offered subject to the Conditions of Business printed in the back of this catalogue and to reserves

INDIAN MINIATURES

1. An ayah carrying an infant in her arms across a terrace, a female companion greeting the child with a rattle, a boat floating down the Ganges in the background, Patna, c. 1820
   watercolour on paper, black margin rules, English inscription at bottom, framed, 194 by 140mm; and another
   £350-450

2. A maharaja riding an elephant arriving at a tank, pilgrims bathing in the water and gathering at the water’s edge, a nobleman seated in a palanquin surrounded by attendants on horseback to the right, maidens seated in discussion in the foreground, Company school, possibly Benares, c. 1820
   watercolour on paper, slightly faded, black border, framed, 224 by 387mm.
   £500-600
3 A lorikeet, probably a Josephine lorikeet (*Charmosyna josephi*), perched on a branch, with an orange beak and mauve head, a red and mauve breast, green wings and a blue, green and red barred tail, Company school, c. 1810.

Watercolour on paper, background slightly rubbed, framed, 379 by 262mm.

£800-1000

4 Three architectural drawings of buildings and mosaics at Agra, Company school, c. 1821.

Watercolours on paper, one watermarked ‘1821’, black margin rules, mounted on paper with English inscriptions at bottom, 164 by 210mm.

£250-300

5 Thankar Dawlat Singh of the tribe of Radaur seated on a rug smoking a hookah surrounded by members of his family, attendants standing in the background, Delhi, c. 1820-1830.

Watercolour on paper, nasta’liq and English inscriptions of identification against each figure, slightly worn, mounted, 250 by 393mm.

Radaur is in the Ambala district of the Punjab, not far from Hansi where Colonel James Skinner lived. This would appear to be by one of his artists as it is similar in style to illustrations both in Skinner’s Album (India Office Library, Add. Or. 1245-1283) and in the Fraser Album to which Skinner’s artists are believed to have contributed.


Sales in these rooms 7th July, 1980, lots 1-49 and in our New York rooms 9th December, 1980, lots 130-158.

£1000-1500
6 Seven architectural drawings of the Taj Mahal and the tomb of Itmad-ud-daula, Company school, c. 1830
watercolours on paper, slightly rubbed and creased, black margin rules, framed, 105 by 156mm and slightly smaller.
(7)
£250-300

7 Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839) seated on a terrace listening to two female musicians; two courtesans smoking hookahs, Patna, c. 1830
three miniatures on ivory mounted in one frame, 96 by 127mm and slightly smaller; and forty-four other miscellaneous miniatures on ivory and mica.
(45)
£250-300

8 An illustration to the Bhagavata Purana. Krishna releasing the cowherds from the snake demon Ugrasura, Orissa, early nineteenth century
gouache on paper, blue floral border, panel with four lines of nagari text at bottom, 204 by 352mm.
£250-300

9 Garuda standing facing left holding a lotus bloom, flowers at his feet, Bengal, mid-eighteenth century
gouache on paper, red and grey borders, nagari inscription on reverse, mounted, 223 by 176mm.
£250-300

10 An illustration to the Ramayana. The demon king Ravana attacking Rama and his army of monkeys, Benares, c. 1620-1630
gouache on paper, nine lines of nagari text at top, laid down, 146 by 275mm.
For other illustrated leaves from this manuscript see:
£250-300

11 Two illustrations to a Dosavatara series. Vishnu brandishing his emblems standing in an alcove; verso Balarama standing under a bower of lotus blossoms, Karnataka, probably Seringapatam, early eighteenth century
gouache on cotton, nagari inscriptions at top, slightly folded, 257 by 170mm.
For others from this series see S.C. Welch, *India, Art and Culture 1500-1900*, New York, 1985, no. 23.
£700-800
12 Two funeral scenes. A devoted wife joining her husband on his funeral pyre; mourners watching a priest anoint a corpse with sacred oils, South Indian, c. 1800
gouache on paper, rather worn, orange borders, defective at edges, mounted on card, 209 by 402mm.
£300-400

13 Vishnu brandishing his emblems standing in an alcove, South Indian, mid-nineteenth century
gouache on canvas, slightly flaked, 333 by 122mm.
£200-300

14 A portrait of a South Indian nobleman seated cross-legged, wearing a white turban and tunic, a striped sash about his shoulders, European artist, mid-nineteenth century
watercolour on paper, framed, 183 by 141mm.
£300-400

15 A lar gibbon climbing a fruit tree, Chinese artist working in Malacca or Sumatra, c. 1810
gouache on paper, background slightly rubbed, framed, 396 by 306mm.
£500-800

16 Butterflies and a caterpillar alighting on sprays of deutzia and chrysanthemum, China, first half of nineteenth century
watercolour on paper with English inscriptions at bottom, framed, 282 by 353mm.
£300-400

17 MUGHAL SCHOOLS
A ruler, possibly the young Akbar, arriving at a palace on horseback, accompanied by courtiers on horseback and retainers on foot, a princess seated with maidens in a chamber within the palace walls, a female attendant tending a fire and a water-carrier at a well in the background, Mughal, c. 1590
gouache on paper, some flaking, unfinished, blue border, mounted 302 by 204mm.
Although the manuscript from which this miniature derives cannot be identified, the painting is of the stature of the illustrations in the Victoria and Albert Museum Akbarnama and is probably by one of the court artists working on that manuscript. For comparison see:
S.C. Welch, The Art of Mughal India, New York, 1963, pls.11 & A&B.
I. Stchoukine, La Peinture Indienne, Paris, 1929, pls XI to XVIII.
£1500-2000

18 An illustration to Firdausi’s Shahnama. A sirmurgh and a maiden in a landscape, Sultanate, mid-sixteenth century
gouache on paper, slightly flaked, written in four columns of nasta’liq script, gold and coloured margin rules, laid down, 209 by 169mm.
£600-700

19 An illustration to Firdausi’s Shahnama. Iskander killing Fur in battle on a hillside, surrounded by an army on horseback aiming arrows, sub-Imperial Mughal, c. 1620
gouache on paper, written in four columns of nasta’liq script, gilt-decorated borders, mounted, 121 by 104mm.
£800-1200
20. An illustration to Firdausi’s Shahnama. Iskander enthroned under a canopy in a landscape, surrounded by courtiers and attendants, sub-Imperial Mughal, c. 1620

gouache on paper, written in four columns of nasīʿī script, gilt-decorated borders, mounted, 96 by 103mm.

From the same manuscript as the previous lot.

£800-1200

21. Madhumadhavi ragini: a maiden rushing towards a pavilion to shelter from a storm, popular Mughal, c. 1625

gouache on paper, slightly rubbed, mounted, 141 by 220mm.

£300-400

22. Haji Nasir seated on a terrace listening to a young prince reading from a holy text, the mullah dressed in white resting against a red bolster with the prince crouching before him, a lake with buildings on a hillside beyond in the background, Mughal, c. 1640

gouache on paper, slightly flocked, the landscape added by an eighteenth-century hand, mounted on an album page with gilt-decorated borders, nasīʿī script inscription of identification within a gold cartouche at top, nasīʿī calligraphy with illumination in colours and gold by Nurullah on reverse, framed, 169 by 119mm.

Executed in the style of Govardhan. For comparison see M.C. Beach, The Grand Mogul, Williamstown, 1978, no. 43.

Formerly in the collection of Jean Pozzi; sold at the Palais Galleria, Paris, 5th December 1970, lot 71.

£2000-3000
Night celebrations at the wedding of Prince Dara Shikoh, riding on horseback the prince is surrounded by an entourage of courtiers and attendants riding elephants and horses, retainers on foot bearing lamps and candles, musicians and dancers performing in the front right-hand corner, a firework display in the background, Mughal, mid-seventeenth century.

drawing on paper with use of colours and gold, gold margin rules, nastaliq calligraphy on reverse, mounted, 220 by 160mm.

Dara Shikoh (1615-1659), the eldest son of Shah Jahan, was married to Nadira Bani, his first cousin, in 1631. The original miniature of which this is a slightly later version would most probably have been intended for inclusion in the Shah Jahan nama now in the collection of Her Majesty the Queen, Windsor Castle. The manuscript contains several illustrations of incidents in the life of crown prince Dara Shikoh but not of this wedding scene. For an eighteenth-century version of this subject see T. Falk, Indian Painting, P. & D. Colnaghi Exhibition Catalogue, 1978, no. 36.

£1500-2000

Other properties

24 A portrait of a courtier standing facing right, wearing a floral turban and a yellow jama, a gold patka about his waist, Mughal, c. 1650.
gouache on paper, retouched, slightly creased and stained, mounted, 185 by 100mm.

£600-800

25 A portrait of Maharaja Suraj Singh standing facing right, wearing a white turban with a white transparent jama over orange pantaloons, black background with strip of sky at top, provincial Mughal, second half of seventeenth century.
gouache on paper, gilt-sprinkled borders, nagari inscription of identification on reverse, 224 by 143mm.; and another.

(2)

£500-600

26 A portrait of the emperor Shah Jahan, standing facing right holding a sarpech, wearing a turban decorated with an aigrette and an orange jama, flowers at his feet, provincial Mughal, second half of seventeenth century.
gouache on paper, slightly flaked, plain border with gilt margin rule, 175 by 112mm.

£300-400
27 A portrait of a courtesan standing facing left under a tree holding a flower bloom, wearing a gold transparent drape over a transparent tunic and orange pantaloons, flowers at her feet, a stream running alongside villages in the background, Mughal, late seventeenth century
gouache on paper, slightly rubbed, coloured borders, 159 by 99mm.
1300-1200

28 A portrait of Shah Abbas I of Iran standing against a green background, wearing a long orange coat and a black turban decorated with white lace, a dagger and sword fastened to his pathka, a stream in the foreground, Mughal, c. 1700
gouache on paper, slightly flaked, mounted on an album page with gilt-decorated floral borders, nastaliq calligraphy with illumination in colours and gold by Fazr Ali al-Katib on reverse, framed, 181 by 110mm.
This miniature is from the Warren Hastings album formerly in the Phillipps collection sold in these rooms 27th November, 1974, lot 811. It is derived from an earlier portrait of Shah Abbas by Riza-i Abbasi. For comparison see:

£1500-2000