256 Qur’an section (Juz II), Arabic manuscript on paper, Persia, late sixteenth century

17 leaves, text on each page written in three lines of large thuluth in gold, and eight lines in smaller naskhi in black, gold discs decorated with blue and red dots between verses, illuminated panels decorated with floral motifs throughout, margins ruled in colours and gold, illuminated circular devices in margins, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, borders buff yellow throughout, discoloration, contemporary black morocco, covers with stamped central rectangular panels and borders panels of gilt leather overlay richly decorated with floral motifs and arabesques, doublures of brown morocco with central medallions and cornerpieces decorated with gold filigree on coloured grounds, worn, darkened, with flap, 345 by 293mm.

£2,000-3,000

257 Qur’an, Arabic manuscript on paper copied by the scribe Ahmed better known as Na’îli, written at Galata, Constantinople, dated A.H.1196/A.D.1781

307 leaves, 15 lines to the page written in clear naskhi script with diacritics in black, illuminated markers between verses, margins ruled in red and gold, catchwords, illuminated devices in margins, sura headings in white on illuminated panels, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, slightly creased otherwise in good condition, contemporary brown morocco gilt, slightly worn, with flap, doublures decorated with floral sprays in two shades of gold, 212 by 130mm.

£1,500-2,000
258 Qur'an, Arabic manuscript on paper copied by Muhammad Wafai, a pupil of Muhammad Rasem, Ottoman, dated A.H.1170/A.D.1756

374 leaves including 1 blank, 13 lines to the page written in neat naskhi script with diacritics in black, gold discs decorated with alternating blue and red dots between verses, margins ruled in red and gold, catchwords, illuminated devices in wide margins, sura headings in thuluth in white on illuminated panels, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, trimmed, inner margins strengthened, some gatherings loose, brown morocco with stamped central medallions of gilt leather onlay, borders tooled in gold, rebacked, with flap, 176 by 115mm.

£2,000-3,000

259 Qur'an, Arabic manuscript on paper copied by the scribe Yusuf Rifai, a pupil of Umar al-Wasfi, Ottoman, dated A.H.1245/A.D.1829

152 leaves, 21 lines to the page written in neat naskhi script with diacritics in black, illuminated markers between verses, margins ruled in gold, catchwords, illuminated devices in margins, sura headings in thuluth in white on illuminated panels in colours and gold, one double page of illumination in various shades of gold, few folios detached otherwise in good condition, contemporary brown morocco with covers richly decorated with diaper pattern in gold, with flap, slightly worn, 173 by 105mm.

£2,000-3,000

260 Large Qur'an, Arabic manuscript on paper copied by the scribe Ibrahim Adham, a pupil of Muhammad Hilmi, a pupil of Ibrahim al-Kostadasali, a pupil of Ahmed Effendi, Ottoman, dated A.H.1268/A.D.1851

200 leaves including 1 blank, 15 lines to the page written in clear naskhi script with diacritics in black, gold discs between verses, margins ruled in red and gold, catchwords in margins, sura headings in gold, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, slightly creased, black morocco with borders painted in gold, slightly worn, with flap, 392 by 254mm.

£3,000-5,000
263 Qur'an, Arabic manuscript on paper, Kashmir, early nineteenth century
384 leaves, 14 lines to the page written in clear nastaki script with diacritics in black, gold discs between verses, interlinear rules in gold throughout, margins ruled in green, blue and gold throughout, catchwords in wide margins, illuminated devices in margins, sura headings in blue on illuminated panels, three double pages of illumination in colours and gold, erased, nineteenth-century Persian floral lacquer binding, chipped, rebacked, 245 by 155mm.
£1,000-1,500

264 Qur'an, Arabic manuscript on paper copied by Ibn Muhammad Hasan bin Zayn-al-'Abidin bin Haji Muhammad al-Radkani, Qajar, dated A.H.1269/A.D.1852
318 leaves, 14 lines to the page written in nastaki script with diacritics in black, gold roundels between verses, margins ruled in blue and gold, catchwords in wide margins, occasional glosses in margins, sura headings in red, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, small repairs restricted to outer margins, corners rather thumbed, slightly soiled, modern brown leather tooled in blind, slightly worn, 260 by 165mm.
£400-500

265 Small Qur'an, Arabic manuscript on paper, Qajar, dated A.H.1307/A.D.1890
196 leaves, 21 lines to the page written in nastaki script with diacritics in black, gold dots between verses, margins ruled in red and gold, catchwords in wide margins, sura headings in red on gold panels, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, slightly rubbed and soiled, contemporary floral lacquer binding, chipped, rebacked, 88 by 52mm.
£400-500

MANUSCRIPTS

266 Ibn Hajar al-Hafiz al-'Asqalani. Kitab Muqadamat Sharh al-Bukhari, Arabic manuscript on paper, Man luluk, probably Syria, fourteenth century
196 leaves, folios 191-96 later replacements, 25 lines to the page written in clear nastaki script, significant words picked out in red throughout, catchwords and glosses in wide margins, some defects, brown morocco with central medallions and borders tooled in blind and dots filled with gold, worn, lacking flap, 240 by 150mm.; and eight other manuscripts and two nineteenth-century Persian lacquer panels
£1,000-1,500

164 leaves, 27 lines to the page written in one or double columns of elegant naskhi script, significant words picked out in red throughout, double interlinear and intercolumnar rules in red throughout, margins ruled in red, headings in red, one double page of illumination in gold, two illuminated circular medallions, some defects, crudely repaired throughout, modern brown leather gilt, 270 by 181mm.

According to a copy of the manuscript in the British Library dated 1860 (Or.155), the Jahangush was completed in A.H.658. This manuscript is one of the earliest extant copies having been written thirty-nine years later, and sixteen years after the death of the author. See C. Rieu, Catalogue of the Persian manuscripts in the British Museum, vol. I, p. 160a.

£4,000-6,000
269 Abu Umar Abdul-Aziz bin Badraddin Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Jāma' al-Shafi'i. Kitab Manasil al-Hajj (a treatise on the pilgrimage). Arabic manuscript on paper Mamluk, written in Egypt, dated A.H.733/A.D.1332

85 leaves, 13 lines to the page written in clear naskhi script, red dots or clusters of dots between sentences, significant words picked out in red throughout, margins ruled in red, catchwords in margins, discolouration, waterstaining, brown morocco with marbled paper covers, slightly worn, with flap, 190 by 134mm.

£400-600

270 Abdullah bin As'ad al-Ya'fī'i. Raud al-Riyahin fi Hikayat al-Salihin (Parables on Muslim Saints and Sufis). Arabic manuscript on paper, Levant, dated A.H.803/A.D.1401

188 leaves including 2 flyleaves, approximately 31 lines to the page written in neat naskhi script, significant words and sentences picked out in bold black or red, or underlined in red, repaired, some staining, folios loose, brown morocco, lacking upper cover, with flap, 210 by 140mm.; and four other manuscripts and printed books (5)

The author died in A.H.768/A.D.1367. He was a Sufi and a poet

£600-800

271 Poem in praise of the Prophet Muhammad, Arabic manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper, Persia, sixteenth century

51 leaves, 7 lines to the page, first, fourth and seventh line on each page written in large muhaltiq script in alternating blue and gold, remainder of text written in small naskhi script in black, interlinear and intercolunnar rules in gold throughout, margins ruled in blue and gold, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, lower rectangular panel excised and repaired, small repairs, dampstaining towards end, nineteenth-century floral lacquer binding, cracked, rebacked, 147 by 97mm.

£600-800

272 Anthology of poetry, Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled coloured paper, Persia and Turkey, sixteenth century

17 leaves, approximately 12 lines to the page written in two volumes of elegant nastaliq script in black, double intercolunnar rules in gold, margins ruled in gold, headings in blue on illuminated panels, borders of coloured paper richly decorated with floral motifs in gold, one miniature of a polo game, and one ink drawing of a Turkish youth, edges slightly frayed, inner margins strengthened, slightly erased, floral lacquer binding, rebacked, 106 by 110mm.

£1,500-2,000
TUSI'S ARABIC VERSION OF PTOLEMY'S ALMAGEST COPIED IN 1313

273 Nasr-ad-Din Muhammad bin Muhammad al-Tusi. Kitab Tahir al-Majisti (Ptolemy's treatise on astronomy), Arabic manuscript on paper copied by Mahmud bin Muhammad Masudi, with numerous tables and diagrams, written at Kashan, dated A.H.713/A.D.1313

132 leaves, 23 lines to the page written in naskhi script. Significant words and sentences picked out in red throughout. Catchwords in wide margins, numerous diagrams and tables drawn in red or black, decoloration, slight underlining, black morocco with stamped central medallions of gilt leather onlay decorated with floral motifs in colours and gold, lacquered, 290 by 180mm.

This rare text is Nasr-ad-Din Tusi's version of Ptolemy's Almagest which had been translated into Arabic circa A.D.800. This important text did not survive in Europe and was known only from a Latin translation made from the Arabic by Gerard of Cremona in A.D.1175. This Latin translation has been described as "The greatest astronomical event in Latin Christendom" (Sarton, II, p.403). The text remained one of the most authoritative in Europe until the sixteenth century.

Tusi, Hulagu's designer and builder of the great observatory at Maragheh, must have relied on this text as a foundation for many of his observations. These observations would in turn have been compiled into this version of the Almagest, of which this is a copy made within a generation in Kashan.

£25,000-35,000
274 Arba'in Hadith, Arabic and Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper copied by Sultan Ali, Persia, sixteenth century

4 leaves, Arabic text written horizontally on each page in elegant naskhī script in black, Persian translation written diagonally in elegant nastaʿlīq script, illustrated cornerpieces throughout, margins ruled in gold, one illuminated headpiece excised from another manuscript and inserted above text on folio 1b, waterstained, inner margins crudely repaired, nineteenth-century brown morocco gilt, worn, 193 by 130mm.

£300-1,000

275 Makhzan al-Asrar (Storehouse of pleasure), Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper, Persia, sixteenth century

64 leaves, 15 lines to the page written in two columns of nastaʿlīq script, double intercolumnar rules in gold, margins ruled in colours and gold, outer borders richly decorated with interwoven floral motifs and arabesques in gold, headings in gold, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold preceded by an illuminated central medallion in colours and gold, first three pages decorated with bold floral motifs in gold, inner margins strengthened, waterstaining, corners rather thumbed, floral lacquer binding with central medallions containing flowers on black ground, lower corner badly chipped, doublers with borders decorated in gold on black ground, 242 by 160mm.

£2,000-3,000

276 Arifi, Guy u Chaogan, Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper copied by the scribe Muhammad ‘Ali bin al-Mahmud al-Munajim, Persia, A.H.942/A.D.1535

22 leaves, 12 lines to the page written in two columns of nastaʿlīq script, double intercolumnar rules in gold with intertwining floral motifs, borders of penk paper decorated in colour and gold, one illuminated headpiece, repairs in margins, seventeenth-century green leather gilt, slightly worn, half red morocco slipcase, 187 by 129mm.

According to Rieu, Catalogue of the Persian Manuscripts in the British Museum, Oxford, 1891 (reprinted 1960), p.639, the poem is an allegory, in which the ball and bat are the personifications of types of mystic love and the imagery is borrowed from the most popular game of its time, Chaogan (polo).

£300-1,200

277 Arifi, Guy u Chaogan, Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper copied by the scribe Sultan Mahmud al-Katib, Persia, dated A.H.950/A.D.1543

23 leaves, 12 lines to the page written in two columns of elegant nastaʿlīq script, double intercolumnar rules in gold, margins ruled in blue, green and gold, headings in blue, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, slightly creased otherwise in good condition, late nineteenth-century maroon sheepskin gilt, slightly worn, with flap, red half morocco slipcase, 230 by 140mm.

See footnote for preceding lot.

£700-900

278 Hafiz, Divan, Persian manuscript on paper copied by the scribe Abdullah ibn Shaykh Murshid al-Katib, Persia, mid-sixteenth century

182 leaves, 14 lines to the page written in two columns of elegant nastaʿlīq script, double intercolumnar and interlinear rules in gold throughout, headings in blue or gold, margins ruled in blue and gold, borders of coloured or marbled paper, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, repaired, slightly creased, brown morocco with stamped central medallions, borders inoted in blind, worn, 210 by 120mm.; and another manuscript

£300-400

279 Sa'di, Gulistan, illustrated Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper copied by Muhammad al-Katib al-Shirazi, Shiraz, c.1560

217 leaves, 9 lines to the page written in single or double columns of nastaʿlīq script, approximately 22 lines written diagonally in borders of each page, illuminated cornerpieces throughout, double intercolumnar and interlinear rules in gold, margins ruled in colours and gold, catchwords in margins, eleven miniatures and one double-page frontispiece of devotess dancing and bathers in a tank watched by a crowd of spectators on an adjacent building, borders of folios 16-2a richly illuminated in colours and gold, short tears, inner margins strengthened, margins split, some soiling, contemporary binding of stamped rectangular panels of gilt leather onlay, with central medallions and cornerpieces of gilt filigree on blue ground, worn, repaired, at present binding is inside out, 236 by 140mm.

Provenance:
Wilfrid Blunt, bought at Oxford, August 14, 1944.

£1,000-1,500

280 Christian prayer book, translated from Greek into Arabic by the scribe Mitran Malatius, Aleppo in 1653, Levant, eighteenth century

349 leaves, 16 lines to the page written in naskhī script, significant words picked out in red throughout, catchwords in margins, headings in gold naskhī, slight discoloration, contemporary European blind-stamped calf, hinge to back cover loose, rather worn, 203 by 147mm.; and a collection of manuscripts and printed books

(a collection)

£1,000-1,500

281 Iskandar known as Munshi, Tariq-i ‘Alam Arai (a history of the life of Shah ‘Abbas), one volume only, Persian manuscript on paper, Persia, dated A.H.1023/A.D.1616

312 leaves, 29 lines to the page written in small nastaʿlīq script, margins ruled in blue, red and gold, catchwords in wide margins, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, folios 16-2a with interlinear gilt decoration, first 9 folios remarbled, inner margins strengthened, green morocco inoted in blind, stained, faded, 293 by 180mm.

£600-900
282  Ali bin Abu Taleb. Arba‘in Hadith (Sayings of the Imam Ali), Arabic manuscript written in gold on coloured paper copied and illuminated by the scribe Yari al-Bukhari Muddahib Sultan, Persia, mid-sixteenth century and later

Arabic text written in elegant nasta‘liq script in gold, Persian translation written horizontally and diagonally in white and gold, fine illuminated headpieces in colours and gold throughout, double intercolumnar rules in gold, margins ruled in colours and gold, remarqued in the nineteenth century with borders of blue paper richly decorated with intertwining floral motifs in gold, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, slight discoloration otherwise in good condition, nineteenth-century red morocco with patterned cloth covers, slightly worn, detached, 270 by 180mm.

Signed on the last folio as having been written and illuminated by Yari Bukhari, illuminator to the Sultan. Manuscripts copied by Yari are recorded and dated A.H.939/A.D.1532 in the Leningrad Public Library, Don 448, and A.H.962/A.D.1555 in the Topkapi Library, R.1012.

£3,000-4,000

283  Abdul-Rashid al-Husain al-Madani at-Tatari. Muntakhab al-Lughat (dictionary of Arabic words in Persian), Mughal, written at Delhi, dated A.H.1110/A.D.1698

258 leaves, 25 lines to the page written in nasta‘liq script, significant words picked out or underlined in red throughout, margins ruled in blue, red and gold, catchwords in wide margins, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, tears on folio 1 repaired, flush-page re-strengthened, discoloration, modern brown binding, gilt spine, 301 by 190mm.

The colophon states that this manuscript was copied in Delhi, in the 4th reign year of Aurangzeb A.D.1698. The original manuscript, now in the British Library (Add.5556) was compiled by Abdul-Rashid and dedicated to the Emperor Shah Jahan in A.H.1046/A.D.1636-37. See C. Rieu, Catalogue of the Persian Manuscripts in the British Museum, 1966, Vol. II, p. 310.

£200-300

284  Commentary on the Qur’an, Arabic manuscript on paper, Ottoman, early eighteenth century

271 leaves, 19 lines to the page written in elegant naskhi script, significant words picked out or underlined in red, or written in the form of a tugha, gold dots between sentences, margins ruled in red and gold, catchwords in wide margins, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, preceded by nine illuminated rectangles, each with eighteen octagonal compartments containing index, slight worming restricted to margins, contemporary brown morocco gilt, worn at edges, with flap, bookplate of Otto Oren Fisher, 166 by 90mm.

£800-1,000
Dawud al-Hakim al-Antaki. Kitab Uli al-Albab wa al-Jami' lil 'Ajab al-'Ajab (medical and pharmaceutical dictionary), Arabic manuscript on paper, Levant, seventeenth century

328 leaves, 29 lines to the page written in elegant naskhi script, significant words picked out in red throughout, catchwords in wide margins, glasses in margins, some dampstaining towards end, creased, modern binding. 292 by 180mm.

£1,500-2,000

An abridgement of al-Zij al-Jadid by Sultan Ulugh Beg (died 1449), and a treatise on geography based on sources such as Ibn Hawfal, al-Sharif al-Idrisi and Ibn Mirdad, two works in one volume, Arabic manuscript on paper, numerous tables, North Africa, dated A.H.1128/A.D.1716 and A.H.1156/A.D.1743

159 leaves including 2 blanks, approximately 31 lines to the page written in mugherbi script, significant words picked out in red throughout, margins ruled in red or black, occasional catchwords in margins, numerous tables, worming throughout crudely repaired with adhesive tape, brown morocco tooled in blind, badly wormed, skilfully repaired, with flap, 210 by 154mm.

£2,000-3,000
287 Astronomical tables with commentaries, Persian manuscript on paper with numerous tables, Persia, fifteenth century and dated 1748

174 leaves, imperfect at beginning, text starts with chapter III, 19 lines to the page written in nasta'liq script, significant words and sentences picked out in red, numerous tables, rules in red, some folios later replacements, one page rubbed, waterstaining mostly restricted to margins, blind-tooled green morocco, slightly worn, 262 by 173mm.

Formerly in the Hagop Kevorkian collection
£3,000-4,000

288 Sifat Madina Rummiya, illustrated Arabic manuscript on paper, Ottoman, Levant, eighteenth century

131 leaves, 13 lines to the page written in clear naskhi script, red dots between verses, catchwords in margins, one illuminated headpiece and one full page of illumination in colours and gold, twenty-nine coloured illustrations with use of some gold, corners rather thumbed, creased, discoloration, brown morocco tooled in blind, slightly worn, 201 by 145mm.

The colophon states that this manuscript was endowed to a monastery of our Father Paul.

£1,500-2,000
289 Illustrated treatise on astrology and other related works, Turkish manuscript on paper with numerous coloured illustrations and tables, Ottoman, eighteenth century

197 leaves, approximately 17 lines to the page written in divani script, significant sentences and words picked out in red throughout, margins ruled in gold, catchwords, occasional glosses in margins, numerous diagrams, coloured illustrations with some use of gold, some waterstaining, corners rather thumbed, discoloration, brown morocco with central medallions, cornerpieces, and borders painted in gold, slightly worn, rebacked, with flap, 171 by 115mm.

£3,000-4,000

290 Jami. Yusuf va Zulaykha, illustrated Persian manuscript on gold-sprinkled paper, Kashmir, dated A.H.1121/A.D.1709

approximately 380 leaves, 12 lines to the page written in two columns of nasta’liq script, double intercolumnar rules in gold throughout, margins ruled in colours and gold, catchwords, headings in red, one double page of illumination in colours and gold, tears to borders affecting illuminated surface, contemporary floral lacquer binding, edges chipped, 200 by 130mm.

£1,500-2,000

291 Hafiz. Divan, Persian manuscript on paper, contemporary painted Indian binding, India, mid-eighteenth century

211 leaves, 15 lines to the page written in two columns of elegant nasta’liq script, double intercolumnar and interlinear rules in gold throughout, margins ruled in gold, catchwords in margins, one decorative floral headpiece in colours and gold, slight worming and faint waterstaining restricted to margins, slightly creased, contemporary painted Indian binding with floral centre medallion in red and green, violet and green narrow borders over a European crimson morocco binding with gilt labelled spine, slightly worn, 186 by 104mm.

With an inscription from D. Anderson who presented the manuscript to James Anderson in 1775, on whose death in 1825 it was returned to him.

£300-500

292 Mushīb wa Mufassal-i-Tajwīd (a treatise on the recitation of the Qur‘ān), Arabic manuscript copied by the scribe Muhammad Qazi-zadeh, Ottoman, late eighteenth century

43 leaves including preceding 3 pages of index, 9 lines to the page written in clear naskhi script, significant words picked out at underline in red, gold discs decorated with alternating red and blue dots between sentences, margins ruled in red and gold, catchwords in wide margins, one illuminated headpiece in colours and gold, slightly creased, brown morocco with stamped central medallions of gilt leather onlay, slightly worn, upper and one gathering detached, with flap, 163 by 111mm.; and two other manuscripts (3)

£600-800
Nizami, Khamsa (Quintet), illustrated Persian manuscript on paper copied by Muhammad Hasan for a certain Hasan, thirty-five miniatures, contemporary lacquer binding, Qajar, dated A.H. 1249/A.D. 1834

302 leaves, 25 lines to the page written in four columns of good nasta’i script, double intercolumnar rules in gold throughout, margins ruled in blue and gold, catchwords in marigold, headings in blue or crimson, fine illuminated headpiece at the beginning of each poem of the Quat[et, outer borders of folios 1K-2a richly decorated with interesting floral motifs in colours and gold, thirty-five miniatures, edges slightly frayed, creased, some folios detached otherwise in good condition, contemporary floral lacquer binding, covers decorated with massed flowers including wild roses and basilisks on gold-sprinkled ground, a single large narcissus on each double, cracked, chipping mostly restricted to edges, 290 by 171mm., text area 220 by 115mm.

The miniatures are as follows:
f.128 Enthroned king, Fath Ali Shah, courtiers and old woman supplicant (This scene evidently represents Sultan Sanjar and the old woman)

f.366 Khosrow spies Shirin bathing
f.416 Meeting of Khosrow and Shirin in the hunting-field
f.471 Battle of Khosrow and Bahram Ghubina
f.484 Enthronement of Khosrow at Madain
f.52a Khosrow enthroned and offered refreshment by the ladies
f.61a Farbad at work on a sculpture of Shirin
f.63a Shirin visits Farbad at work on the rock
f.83a Murder of Khosrow (Shirin not shown)

f.84e Suicide of Shirin on Khosrow’s corpse
f.96b Layla and Majnun fall in love at school
f.104e The battle of the clans (1)

f.105e The battle of the clans (2)

f.113e Majnun among the beasts and birds
f.134e Bahram shoots the lion and wild ass
f.144e Bahram and the dragon
f.147g Bahram wins the crown from between the two lions
f.150e Bahram displays his archery to Fitrta

f.151g “Practice makes perfect” Bahram observes the young woman carrying the cow upstairs

f.153e Battle of Bahram and the Khagan
f.156e Bahram and the Princess in the Black Pavilion
f.161e Bahram and the Princess in the Golden Pavilion
f.164e Bahram and the Princess in the Green Pavilion
f.167e Bahram and the Princess in the Red Pavilion
f.170e Bahram and the Princess in the Blue Pavilion
f.173e Bahram and the Princess in the Sandalwood Pavilion
f.179g Bahram and the Princess in the White Pavilion
f.201e Battle of Iskandar and the Zangi (1)

f.202a Battle of Iskandar and the Zangi (2)

f.203e Iskandar in battle cleaves the Zangi champion
f.215g Iskandar comforts the dying Dara

f.217g The murderers of Dara brought before Iskandar (very rare subject)

f.235e Iskandar watching a single combat during his battle with the Russians
f.247e Second battle of Iskandar with the Russians
f.262g Iskandar in the land of Darkness

£7,000-9,000