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Oriental Manuscripts and Miniatures

WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 1994 AT 3 PM

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

**QU'RUN LEAVES**

1 Vellum Qur'an leaf in kufic (Sura XX vv.15-17), North Africa or Near East, ninth/tenth century

6 lines to the page written in neat kufic script in brown ink on vellum, diacritics in red, gold roundel between verses, framed, 140 by 95mm.

£400-600

2 Vellum Qur'an leaf in kufic script (Sura XI vv.49-58), North Africa, ninth/tenth century

16 lines to the page written in elegant kufic script in brown ink on vellum, illuminated circular device surrounded by coloured dots, mounted, approximately 180 by 220mm.

£1,000-1,500
Vellum Qur'an leaf in kufic (Sura VI vv.94-108), probably Arabia, ninth century

16 lines to the page written in neat kufic script in brown ink on vellum, dissections in red and green, verse divisions marked with diagonal dashes in brown ink, five verse marks with red 'alif', ten verse marks with red quadrifoliate device (at end of verse 100), reverse slightly worn, mounted in modern card with coloured rules, 198 by 290mm.

Other leaves from the same Qur'an have been sold in these rooms 27th April 1994, lot 6 and 30th April 1992, lot 318.

£1,500-2,000

Two large Qur'an leaves in muhaqqaq script on paper (Sura XLV vv.23-37, and including Sura heading of Sura XLVI), Mamluk, c.1330-40

7 lines to the page written in bold muhaqqaq script on cream-coloured paper, dissections in black, Allahs picked out in gold with blue dissections throughout, finely illuminated gold marks between verses, large finely illuminated devices in wide margins, sura heading for Surat al-Ahqaf written in blue thuluths with finely illuminated panel in colours and gold within illuminated palmette extending into margin, tabir notations in margins in blue, red and gold, one leaf cut, both torn and repaired, 473 by 335mm.

These two textually contiguous leaves originate from the second volume of a grand Qur'an commissioned by the Mamluk Amir Ibrahim Ibn Mahmud al-Nasir Mangi, which is housed in the National Museum, Damascus (see The Arts of Islam (exhibition catalogue - Hayward Gallery), London 1976, no.539, p.331). Other leaves from the same Qur'an have been sold in these rooms on 25th June 1985, lot 6; 21st/22nd November 1985, lot 292; 22nd/23rd May 1986, lots 246 and 247; 20th November 1986, lots 275 and 276; 11th October 1991, lot 887; 23rd October 1992, lot 557 and 22nd October 1993, lots 19 and 20.

£800-1,200

3 lines to the page written in large bold kufic in brown ink on vellum, dissections in red and green, circular device of coloured dots marking end of verse 10, large illuminated circular device in margins (trimmed), trimmed, few repairs, reverse slightly worn, 192 by 274mm.

Leaves from this Qur'an are in the Al-Sabah Collection, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiya, Kuwait National Museum (see Alsandakh, The Art of Islamic Script, New York, 1995, fig.1, p.117) and the Nasir D Khalili Collection (see F. Déroche, The Abbasid Tradition, Oxford and London 1992, no.58). Other leaves from the same Qur'an were sold in these rooms on 25th June 1985, lot 6; 21st/22nd November 1985, lot 292; 22nd/23rd May 1986, lots 246 and 247; 20th November 1986, lots 275 and 276; 11th October 1991, lot 887; 23rd October 1992, lot 557 and 22nd October 1993, lots 19 and 20.

£2,000-3,000

Five Qur'an leaves in eastern kufic script, Persia, tenth/eleventh century

6 lines to the page written in eastern kufic script on buff paper, dissections in red and green, yellow dots between verses, marginal mandals decorated in yellow, red and green, sura heading in yellow, edges frayed, some staining, some tears and splits, 154 by 110mm.

£600-800

Vellum Qur'an leaf in kufic (Sura XXXIII vv.10-11), North Africa, tenth century

3 lines to the page written in large bold kufic in brown ink on vellum, dissections in red and green, triangular cluster of gold dots marking end of verse 8, edges frayed with some loss of text, reverse slightly worn, 195 by 260mm.

See footnote to previous lot.

£1,500-2,000

Large Qur'an leaf in rayhani script on paper (Sura XXXVII v.103-beginning of Sura XXXVIII), Egypt, Mamluk, fourteenth century

13 lines to the page written in fine rayhani script on cream-coloured paper, verse divisions marked with gold rosettes decorated with blue dots, sura heading (Sura Sad) written in gold, 'juz' written in margin in red, trimmed, 456 by 290mm.

From the same Qur'an as lot 18 in this sale.

£400-600
9 Vellum Qur'an leaf in kufic (Sura III vv.36-37), North Africa or Near East, tenth century
5 lines to the page written in elegant, spacious kufic script in brown ink on vellum, no diacritics, vocalization in red and green, gold rosette decorated with coloured dots between verses, reverse worn, 204 by 257mm. £800-1,200

10 Qur'an bifolium in eastern kufic script (Sura XCI v.41-Sura XCII v.11 and Sura XCVIII v.12-Sura XCIV v.9), Persia, eleventh century
5 lines to the page written in elegant eastern kufic script on brown paper, diacritics in red and blue, gold florals decorated with red dots between verses, divisions of five verses marked with the latter ha in gold, divisions of ten verses marked with larger gold roundels containing the word 'asir, sura headings in gold kufic with illuminated palmettes extending into margins, some slight staining, mostly restricted to margins, 170 by 131mm. £800-1,200

11 Large Qur'an leaf in eastern kufic on paper, Persia, twelfth century
15 lines to the page written in elegant eastern kufic script in dark brown ink on buff paper, diacritics in brown and red, verse divisions marked with red circles or clusters of red dots. Illuminated foliate devices every five verses, illuminated circular devices every ten verses, some slight soiling, otherwise in good condition, 354 by 293mm.
Sold in these rooms 15th April 1985, lot 64.

Other leaves from this Qur'an, which is notable for its particularly elegant eastern kufic script, have been sold in these rooms 23rd November 1985, lot 362; and 25th June 1985, lot 15; and one is in the Nasser D Khalili collection (see F Déroche, The Abbasid Tradition, London and Oxford 1992, no.92, pp.174-5).

£3,000-4,000

11 Large Qur'an bifolium in muhaqqaq script (Sura L v.43-Sura L.I v.42), Persia, c.1300
9 lines to the page written in large, flowing muhaqqaq script in black ink, interlinear Persian translation in red, verse divisions marked with the word 'asir written in gold on red within gold and blue rings, numerous illuminated marginal devices in colours and gold, sura heading in white thuluth on an illuminated panel with floral decoration in gold on red and blue grounds, few repairs to margins, 491 by 349mm.
A fragment of eight leaves from this manuscript Qur'an is in the Nasser D. Khalili Collection (see D. James, The Master Scribes, London 1992, no.10, pp.56-57). Other leaves and fragments from the same Qur'an have been sold in these rooms 27th April 1994, lot 9; 23rd November 1985, lot 367 and 16th April 1985, lot 185.

£1,000-1,500
13 Qur'an bifolium in gold thuluth script on paper
(Sura II vv.44-84), Ayubid, Syria or Egypt, c.1200

19 lines to the page written in gold thuluth script outlined in black on brown paper, diacritics in blue, vowels in gold, gold roulettes between verses, large gold circular devices outlined in blue in margins, edges frayed, trimmed with slight loss of marginal devices, laid down on brown paper, in mount, 290 by 190mm.

This bifolium is an interesting example from the pre-Mamluk period in the Levant. The script is tight and regular and was produced by drawing the outline of the letters and then filling the space with gold. This was a labourious technique which required much skill and patience. The difficulty of keeping the script regular was immense. Another bifolium from the same Qur'an is in the Nasser D Khalili Collection (see D. James, The Master Scribes, London and Oxford 1992, no.3, p.30).

£2,000-4,000

14 Large Qur'an leaf in bihari script (Sura XVI v.127-
Sura XVII v.9), Sultanate India, fifteenth century

15 lines to the page written in large bold bihari script on paper, Allah fecha out in red, one line written in gold, gold roulettes between verses, sura heading written in white on an illuminated panel, margins ruled in red and blue, large illuminated device in wide margins, commentary written diagonally in margins, dampstains at right, 530 by 311mm.

£300-1,000

15 Blue vellum Qur'an leaf in gold kufic (Sura II vv.74-
81), Qairawan, early tenth century

15 lines to the page written in fine elongated kufic script in gold on blue-vellum vellum, silver discs between verses, large silver circular device in margin, puncture marks down inner margin from previous stitching, some words slightly rubbed, silver oxidised, bottom edge slightly frayed, 255 by 381mm.

The Qur'an from which this leaf originated was ordered by the Abbasid Caliph al-Ma'mun and was intended for the Great Mosque at Masmid. For some reason it never left Qairawan where it was executed, and the majority of the manuscript remains in the National Library in Tunis. Other detached leaves are now in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, and private collections, including the Nasser D Khalili collection (see F. Déroche, The Abbasid Tradition, London 1992, no.32, pp.92-3, where the origins of the Qur'an are discussed at some length).

Several other leaves from the same Qur'an have been sold in these rooms. For further references see footnote to lot 279, 20th November 1986.

£15,000-20,000
Vellum Qur'an leaf in kufic (Sura XVIII vv.57-77), Near East, eighth century.

16 lines to the page written in kufic script in brown ink on vellum, diacritics in red and occasionally green, verse divisions marked with diagonal dashes in brown ink, five verses marked with red 'alif', ten verses marked with red rounded circles, frayed at edges with slight loss of text, trimmed, 240 by 310mm.

The script of this Qur'ān leaf shows certain characteristics which indicate an eighth, rather than ninth or tenth century origin. The form of the terminal sūr is not wholly confident, nor is the terminal sūna and there is a disparity between the vertical letters - the initial ālāf tend to lean slightly forward whereas the terminal ālāf tend to lean slightly backwards. The closest comparison can be found on a vellum Qur'ān leaf sold in these rooms 15th October 1984, lot 296.

An interesting aspect of the present leaf is the marginal note, which is a taxonomical statement of the exact position of the text of this leaf in the Qur'ān as a whole. It states that this is the 'twelfth cutting (f), that is, the first half and the second quarter, and the third sixth and the fourth eighth, and that is the fifteenth section out of thirty'. This statement is accurate. The existence of this precise marginal note may indicate that the leaf had become separated from the rest of the manuscript at a fairly early date, since the marginal note is written in a medieval hand.

£1,500-2,500

Qur'ān leaf in thuluth script on paper (Sura XLI vv.38-41), Egypt or Persia, fourteenth century

5 lines to the page written in fine thuluth script in black on cream-coloured paper, verse divisions marked with gold roundels decorated with red and blue dots, margins ruled in blue and gold, one large illuminated circular device in margin containing the word 'āshūr, leaf trimmed, 358 by 235mm.

£600-600

Large Qur'ān leaf in rayhani script on paper (Sura XXXVI vv.19-59), Egypt, Mansūlūk, fourteenth century

13 lines to the page written in fine rayhani script on cream-coloured paper, verse divisions marked with gold roundels decorated with blue dots, 'just' written in red in margins, eight large illuminated circular devices in margins containing the word 'sāhih and 'āshūr written in kufic in gold, trimmed, 449 by 310mm.

From the same Qur'ān as lot 8 in this sale.

£400-600

Fragment of a large vellum Qur'ān leaf in kufic (Sura II vv.164-166), North Africa, ninth century

13 lines to the page written in large, fine kufic script in brown ink on vellum, vocalisation in red and green, verse divisions marked with triangular clusters of gold dots, divisions of five verses marked with the letter 'ḥā' in gold, some slight staining, frayed, trimmed with very slight loss of text, laid down on paper, 358 by 415mm.

This fragment constitutes the text area of a very large vellum Qur'ān leaf. One margin remains and measures approximately 50mm. Only the first letter of every line is lost, so it can be estimated that the leaf would have measured approximately 540 by 450mm, when complete. The elegant kufic script is large (vertical letters measure 35mm, high) and shows a strong element of horizontal elongation. It can be compared with a fragment of a kufic leaf illustrated in Manus'ī's Dar Al-tdhār Al-Islāmīyah, Kuwait (exhibition catalogue, 19th March-19th May 1985), no.38, p.40.

£3,000-5,000