

DAVID AARON



Five Pages

from the Majma' al-Tawarikh of Shahrukh

Formally in the Collection of Émile Tabbagh

C. 1377 to 1447 A.D

Central Asia

Paper Ink Gold leaf

Five pages from the Majma' al-Tawarikh (The Assembly of Stories), a history of the world commissioned by the Timurid Emperor Shahrukh (1377-1447) and written by the historian Hafiz-i Abru (d. 1430). It is a history of the world from the creation of Adam to the reign of Sharukh, incorporating Islamic, Chinese, and Biblical history.

1) The Chinese Emperors Feidi, Huaidi and Mindi

Text and illustration: Herat, Afghanistan, Timurid period, c. 1425-26

Persian manuscript on cream "Baghdadi" paper, the text in black naskh in red and blue rules, the titles in large red naskh, three Chinese emperors painted in polychrome washes enhanced with gold, the reverse with 33 lines of text, advertisement, inventory number '10150'.

Page size: 41.3 x 29.8 cm; view size: 32.8 x 22.5 cm

2) The Chinese Emperor Hou Zhu

Text and illustration: Herat, Afghanistan, Timurid period, c. 1425-26

Persian manuscript on cream and polished "Baghdadi" paper, the text in black naskh in red and blue rules, the titles in large red naskh, the emperor painted in polychrome washes enhanced with gold, mistara visible, with advertisement, inventory number '10147'.

Page size: 42.8 x 33 cm; view size: 33.7 x 22.7 cm

3) Rustam blinds Isfandiyar with an arrow

Text and illustration: Herat, Afghanistan, Timurid period, c. 1425-26

Persian manuscript on cream "Baghdadi" paper 33 lines of black naskh, the text in red and blue rules, illustrated with a large gouache painting heightened with silver, the margins with an advertisement, a Timurid or Safavid seal (illegible) in the upper right corner, inventory number '10176'.

Page size: 42.5 x 33 cm; in view: 33.4 x 22.5 cm; painting: 16.2 x 22 cm

4) The Death of the Samanid Emir Nuh bin Mansur

Text: Ilkhanid period, c. 1310-20; illustration: Herat, Afghanistan, Timurid period, c. 1425-26

Persian manuscript on cream and polished "Baghdadi" paper, the text in black naskh in red and blue rules, a large gouache painting heightened with gold depicting the Amir bedridden and surrounded by the following, the painting framed with 24 lines of text, the leaf mounted on a cardboard page, inventory number '10331', the border inscribed "published by Kunnel [sic]" (Ernst Kühnel).

Size page: 42.9 x 33.4 cm; view: 37 x 25.2 cm; painting: 11.2 x 25.5 cm

5) History of Abdullah bin Saba

Text: Herat, Afghanistan, Timurid period, ca. 1425; illustration: ca. 1900-1925, probably Iran

Persian manuscript on brown "Herati" paper, the title of the chapter in large red thuluth, important phrases in red naskh, the text in black naskh in red and blue rules, the reverse with 33 lines of text, the first lines of the chapter replaced by the illustration depicting an audience of a king and three courtiers, inventory number '10350'.

Page size: 42.5 x 32.8 cm; in view: 33.7 x 22.4 cm; painting: 11.8 x 22.2 cm

Exhibitions

'International Exhibition of Persian Art.' Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, October – December 1926 (pre-dispersal).