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Rashīd al-Dīn's World History: manuscripts of the *Jami' al-tavārikh* in the British Library

The *Jami' al-Tavārikh* or 'Compendium of Chroniclers' is arguably one of the best known medieval 'World-histories' written in Persian prose. Similar to earlier monumental universal histories written in Arabic, such as Ṭabarī's *Ta'rikh al-rusūl wa'l mulūk* or 'Izz al-Dīn Ibn al-Athīr's *al-Kāmil fī'l-ta'rikh*, it was nevertheless a pioneer as regards scope and length in the Persian language at the time. The author, Rashīd al-Dīn Faḡl Allāh (d. 1317), was a Persian *vizier* at the court of the Ilkhanid rulers of Iran (1260-1335), a position that gave him privileged access to the court and to the Mongol overlords. By combining the extensive Islamic historical works available to him with Mongol oral accounts, his history has come to be regarded as the most comprehensive account of the Mongols, Turks and the different peoples of the world. The *Jami' al-Tavārikh* acquired great popularity among a variety of ruling dynasties from India to Anatolia after the death of the author and the collapse of Mongol Rule in 1335. Copies were produced for both the Ottoman and Moghul courts while in Iran and Central Asia its popularity continued under the Timurid and Safavid dynasties from the 15th century onwards. In this presentation I will look at some of the manuscript copies of this History held at the British Library. I will attempt to highlight how despite its popularity and the extensive research done on it, the study of specific copies can still contribute valuable information towards historical research.