Date: Jum. II 946-Zu'l-H. 949 (1539-1543) at Tabriz
Title: Niẓāmī Ganjavi, Khamsah
Content: The five poems making up the Khamsah by Nizāmī Ganjavi (1140 or 41-1202 or 3). Originally copied for the Safavid ruler Shāh Tahmāsp (ruled 1524-76) between 1535 and 1543, it was augmented by the addition of 14 full page illustrations by some of the most famous court artists of the mid-16th century. Further pages were inserted probably during the 17th century, and again at a later stage, perhaps when the manuscript was rebound in the early 19th century at the court of Fatḥ 'Alī Shāh Qājār (ruled 1797-1834). Includes three paintings by the artist Muḥammad Zamān (fl. 1649-1704).

Or. 2265, ff 2v-35r
*Makhzan al-asrār*
Illustrations:
(15v) Anūshīrvān and the owls. Inscribed ‘Mīrā[k] the painter 946 (1539/40)’.
(18r) Sulṭān Sanjar and the old woman.
(26v) The physicians’ duel.

Or. 2265, ff 36v-128r
*Khusraw u Shīrīn*
Illustrations:
(48v) Shāpūr shows the portrait of Khusraw to Shīrīn. Artist: Mīrzā ‘Alī.
(57v) Shāpūr returning to Khusraw. Artist: Mīrāk.
(60v) Khusraw enthroned. Inscription over pavilion: ‘O Lord protect the sovereignty of the mighty Sulṭān, the just Khāqān, the most just and most noble Sulṭān, the son of a Sulṭān, the victorious Sulṭān Shāh Ṭahmāsp al-Husaynī al-Ṣafavi Bahādūr Khān, may Allah perpetuate his kingship and sovereignty for ever’. Artist: Mīrāk.
(66v) Khusraw and Shīrīn listening to stories told by Shīrīn’s maidens. Artist: Mīrāk.
(77v) Khusraw listens to Bārbad playing the lute. Artist: Mīrzā ‘Alī.

Or. 2265, 129r-192r
*Laylā u Majnūn*
Illustrations:
(157v) Majnūn brought in chains by the old woman to Laylā’s tent. Artist: Mīr Sayyid ‘Alī.
(166r) Majnūn with the animals in the desert. Artist: Mīrāk.

Or. 2265, ff 193v-259v
*Haft paykar*
Illustrations:
(195r) Ascent of the Prophet on Burāq to heaven, guided by Jibrīl and escorted by angels.
(202v) Bahrām Gūr shoots an ass and lion with one arrow. Artist: Sulṭān Muḥammad.
Bahrām Gūr kills the dragon. Artist: Muḥammad Zamān, 1086 (1675/76) ‘in Ashraf, Mazandaran’.

Bahrām Gūr (in the likeness of Shāh Ṭahmāsp) pinning an ass’s hoof to its ear with one arrow to prove his prowess to Fitnah. Artist: Mużaffar ‘Alī.

The servant girl Fitnah impresses Bahrām Gūr with her strength by carrying an ox on her shoulders. Inscription: ‘In accordance with the most mighty command, time of Sulaymān’. Artist: Muḥammad Zamān, dated at Ashraf, Mazandaran, 1086 (1675/76).

Episode from the Indian Princess’s story: King Turktazī’s visit to the magical garden of Turktaz, Queen of the Faeries. Artist: Muḥammad Zamān at Ashraf, Mazandaran, dated 1086 (1675/76).

Or. 2265, ff 260v-396r

Iskandarnāmah

Language

Persian

Physical description

Material: Paper.
Foliation: ff 396.
Dimensions: 14.5 x 10in [leaf].
Decorations: 17 Miniatures; 6 ‘Unvāns; Shamsahs (f 1v and f 2r); gold-rimmed columns; margins decorated throughout with designs in gold of birds, animals, mythical beasts, trees and plants.
Binding: Painted Qajar covers dated 1797 decorated with floral designs (inside) and representing (outside):
(end cover): Fath ‘Alī Shāh spearing a lion. Signed: Muḥammad Bāqir ‘the feeble slave’.

Ownership

In a note on f 348v, dated 1243, Maḥmūd Qajar states that he had placed this volume in the palace of the princess Tāj al-Dawlah by order of His Majesty (Fath ‘Alī Shāh). Purchased 9 October 1880 from Messr. Trübner & Co.

Bibliography


