

INTRODUCTION TO ARABIC MANUSCRIPT STUDIES

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June 13-24, 2022

Dr. Lucia Raggetti



CODICOLOGY

Physical features, 'Grammar & Synthax'
of the manuscript book

PALEOGRAPHY

Deciphering, describing,
dating, and locating script

ARABIC MANUSCRIPT STUDIES

PHILOLOGY

(textual criticism)
The text and
its transmission

17.VI.2022 – Day 5

MS CURIOSITY IS NEVER
IDLE (INKS, DIAGRAMS,
TABLES, ILLUSTRATIONS,
ETC.)

**كتاب
الجامع الصغير في الحديث**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ وَحَسْبُ وَكُلَّمَا
 الْمُحَدَّثُ الَّذِي يَحْتَمِلُ عَلَى رَأْسِ كَلِمَةٍ مِائَةَ سَنَةٍ مِنْ حَيْثُ وَهَذِهِ الْأُمَّةُ أَمْرٌ
 دِينِيًّا وَأَقَامَ وَيُكَلِّمُ عَنْ مَجْهُولِ هَذِهِ الْمَلَّةِ بِتَشْوِيرِ رِجَالِهَا وَأَتَا
 سَنِينَهَا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهَادَةٌ بِرُجْحِ
 ظِلَامِ الشُّكُوكِ مُبْتَدِئَةٌ بِقِيَمَتِهَا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ
 الْبَعُوثُ لِرَفْعِ كِفْلِ الْأَسْلَامِ وَتَشْبِيهُهَا وَخَفَضُ كِفْلِ الْكُفْرِ وَتَوْهِينُهَا
 صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَالْمَغَابَةِ وَسَدِّ مَنَاهِلِ كِتَابِهَا
 وَدَعْوَتِ فِرْعَوْنَ الْكَلِمَةَ النَّبَوِيَّةَ الْوَقُوفَ وَمِنْ حَكْمِ الْمَصْطُوفَةِ ضَبُوقًا اقْتَصَرَتْ
 فِيهِ عَدْلُ الْحَادِيثِ الْوَجِيزَةِ وَتَلَفُظَتْ فِيهِ مِنْ مَعَادِنِ الْأَثَرِ الْبَيْتَانِ
 وَبِالْفَتْحِ فَتَحُّوهُ بِرِجَالِهِمْ فَفَتَحَتْ الْقَشْرَ وَأَخَذَتْ الدُّبَابَ وَطَسَّنَتْ
 سَمًّا تَقْرُدُ بِهِ وَضَاعَ كِتَابِي فَقَالَ قَدْ لَدَّكَ الْكُنْيَةُ الْمَوْلَى لِقَةِ فِيهِ
 النَّوْعُ وَكَالْفَائِقِ وَالشَّهَادَاتُ وَحَوِيٍّ مِنْ نَفَائِسِ الصَّنَاعَةِ الْحَيَاتِ
 مَا لَمْ يَبْدَعْ قَبْلَهُ فِي كِتَابٍ وَرَتَّبْتُهُ عَلَى حُرُوفِ الْمَجْمُوعِ مَرَّعِيًّا أَوَّلَ
 الْحَدِيثِ ثُمَّ بَعْدَهُ تَسْمِيْلًا عَلَى الْقَطَائِبِ وَسَمِّيَتْهُ بِالْجَامِعِ الصَّغِيرِ
 مِنْ حَرِيثِ الْبَشِيرِ الَّذِي لَا زَمَّ مَقْتَضِي مِنْ كِتَابِ الْكَبِيرِ الَّذِي
 سَمِّيَتْهُ بِجَمْعِ الْجَمْعِ وَقَصِدْتُ فِيهِ جَمْعَ الْأَحَادِيثِ النَّبَوِيَّةِ بِرِجَالِهَا
 وَهَذِهِ رِجَالُهَا بِجَمْعِ الْمَسَائِرِ قَلْبًا دَلِيلًا فِي أَوْدَانِهَا تَسْتَلِدُّ مَدْيَ

عن المشايخ لا من ملحه عم لحوالة الأربعة ثم لهم إلا ابن ماجه
 حم لا محمد في مسنده عم له بنه في زوايدك للحاكم فان كان في مسند
 اطلقت والابن بنته خد البخاري والادب تخ له في التاريخ حب لابن
 حبان في صحيحه طب للطبراني والكبير طو له في الاوسط طص
 له في الصغير من سعيد ابن منصور في سنن لابن ابي شيبة ع
 لعبد الرزاق في الجامع ع لابي يعلى في مسنده قط للدارقطني فان كان
 في المسند اطلقت والابن بنته في اللد يفي مسنده الفرد وسجل
 لا ينعيم والحلبه هب للبيه في شعب اليمان هق له في السنن
 عد له بن عدي في الكامل عن العقييل في الضعفا خط للخطيب
 فان كان في التاريخ اطلقت والابن بنته والله اشال النور في قبوله وان
 يجعلنا عنده من حزمه المنكحين وحزمه رسولنا امين اغا الامال
 بابنيات و لكل امرع مانوي فن كانت حجر ترالي الله ورسوله
 ففجرته اليه ورسوله ومن كانت حجر ترالي دينها صيها او امرأة يلكها
 ففجرته اليها ماها جر اليه في عم من عمير الخطا بيت حل قط في غريب الما
 عن ابي سعيد ابن عساكر في اماليه عن انس الرشيدي في جزير من يخرج
 عن ابو بصيرة ح حرق المسمرة
 ان باب الجنة فاستفتح فيقول الخازن من انت فاقول محمد فيقول بك
 امرت ان لا افتح لاحد قبلك حم من عن انس اخبر من يدخل الجنة رجل يقال له
 اخبر قريته من قري لا سلام خراب المسديسة ن عن ابي هريرة
 اخبر من يحشر اعيان من مؤمنين لا يريد ان المديسة يتفغان بغنم ما يجيها
 وحوط حتى اذا بلغا ثنية الوداع خزا على وجوههم ما عن ابي هريرة
 اخبر احد الناس من كلام النبوة الا وفي اذا استقم فاضم ما
 ابن عساكر في تاريخه عن ابي مسعود البصري

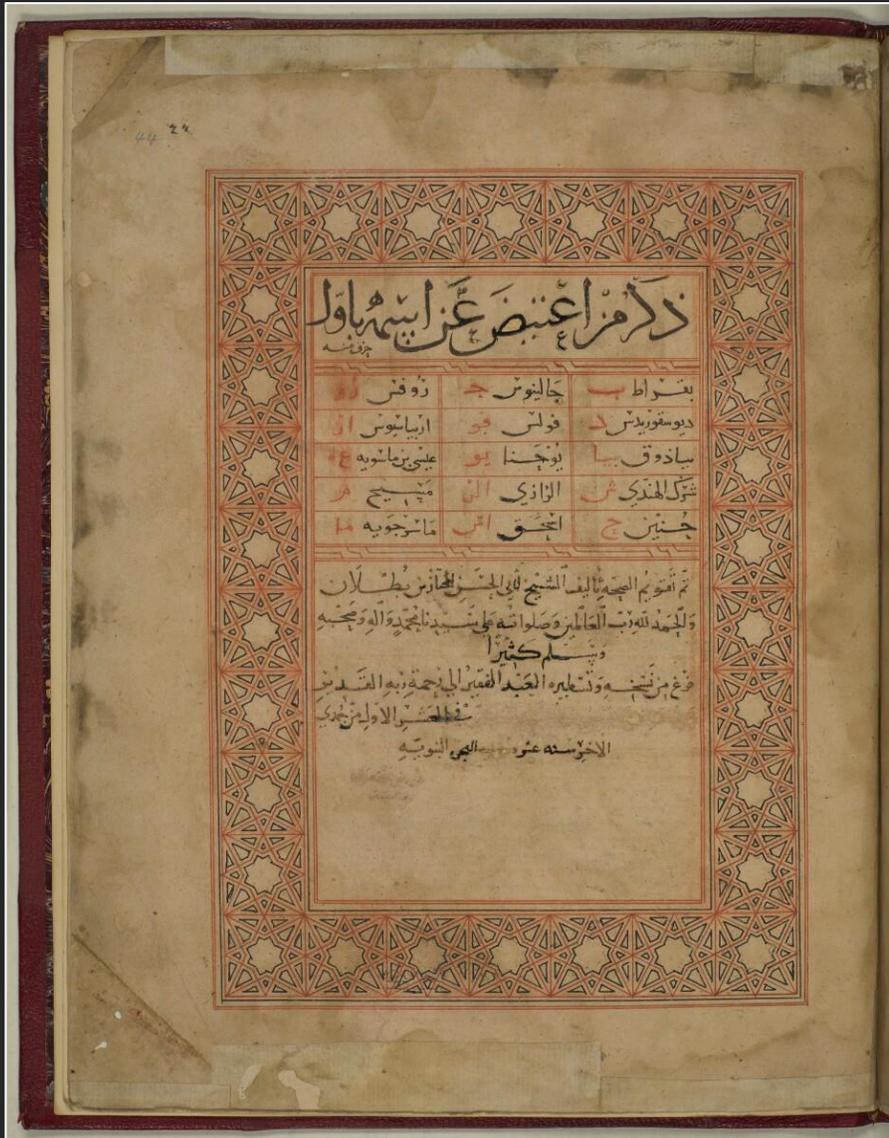
هذا هو المتن

عن ابن عمر في رواية مالك في رواية مالك عن ابن عمر

Jalāl al-Dīn al-Suyūṭī, *Jāmi‘ al-jawāmi‘* (“Compilation of compilations”), in this work al-Suyūṭī promises “the short, abbreviated essence of hadiths and early records, ignoring the shell and taking only the nut.”

SIGLUMS III

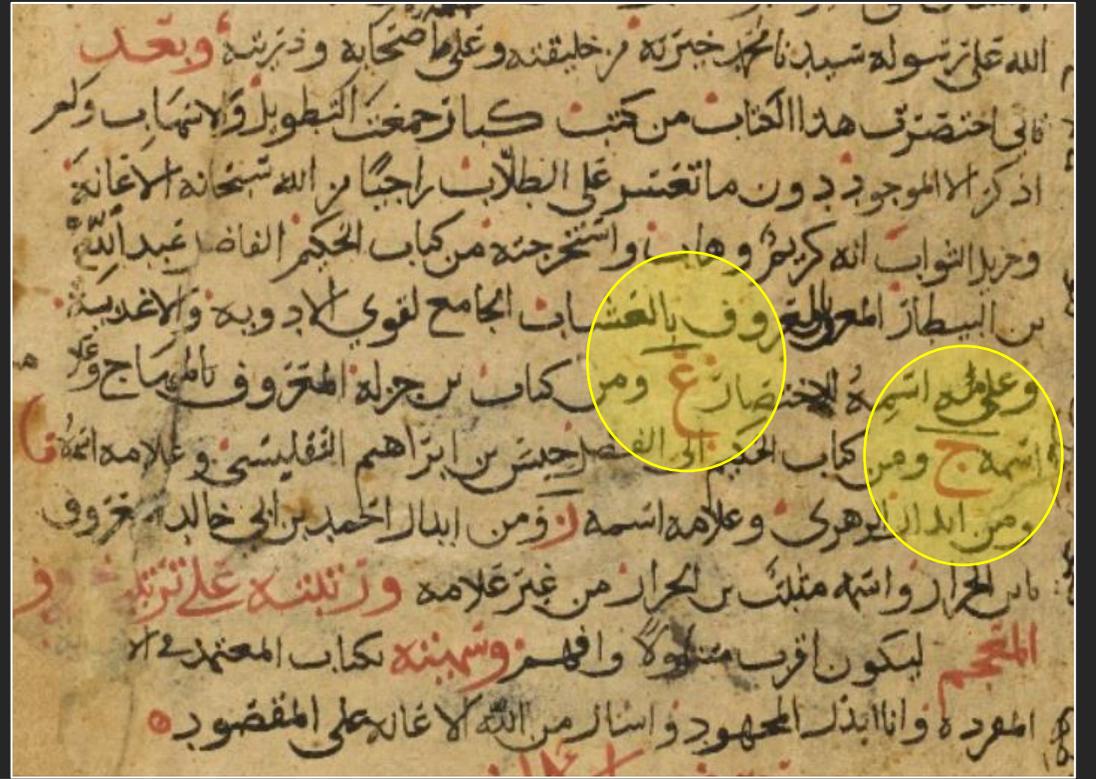
Ibn Buṭlān (d. 1063 ca.), *Taqwīm al-ṣiḥḥah*
(*Tacuinum sanitatis*)



MS London British Library Or 1347, f. 44r. The abbreviations use the beginning of the name, at times including the article.
Source: British Library/Qatar Digital Library

SIGLUMS IV

'Umar ibn Yūsof, Kitāb al-mu'tamad fī al-adwīya al-mufrada



MS London British Library Or 3738, f. 1v. Abbreviations for the sources of another pharmacological compendium. Source: British Library/Qatar Digital Library

TABLES & DIAGRAMS

A general name for them is *Jadwal* (pl. *jadāwil*), though they can be differently designated on the basis of their shape.

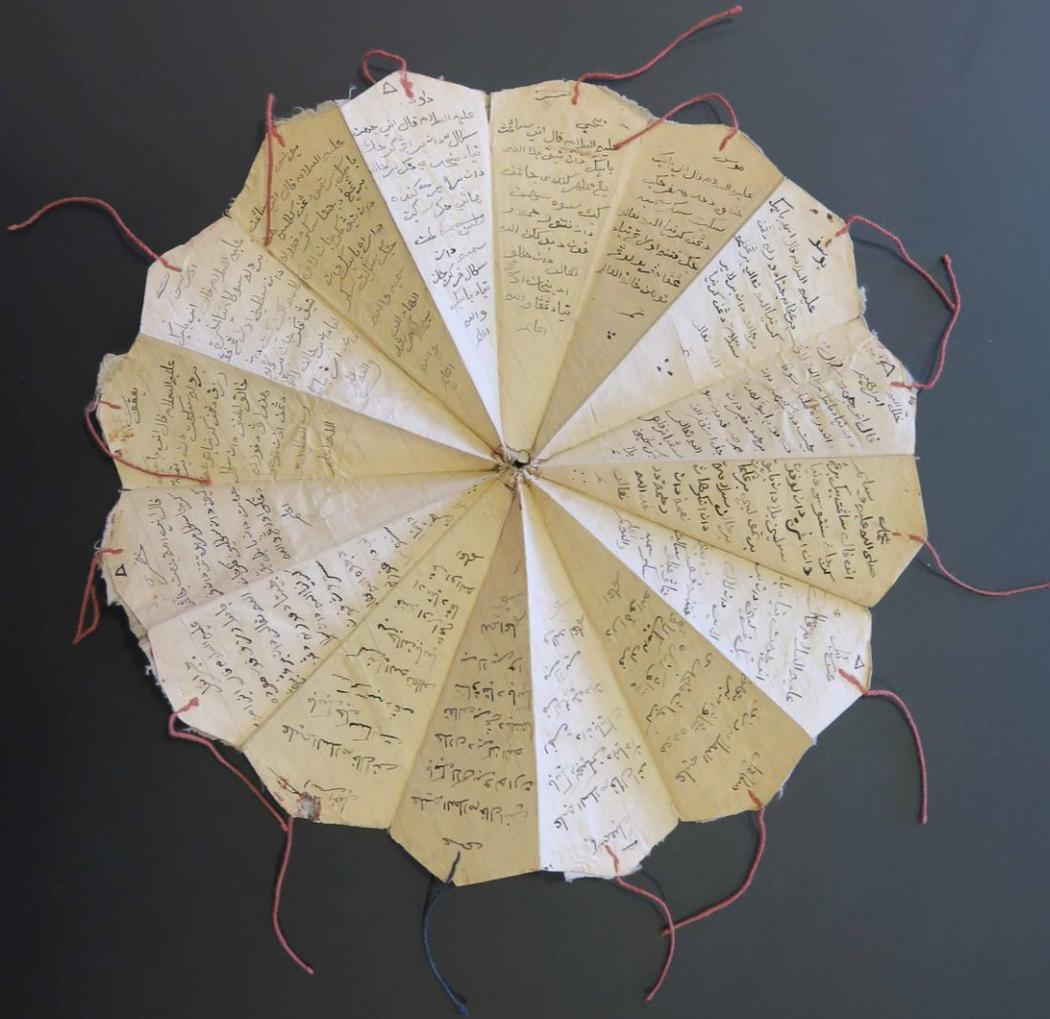


What is the difference between a *jadwal* and a geometrical layout?

Does the geometrical array imply a logical relation between different sets of elements?

The 28 Lunar Mansions, MS Leiden Or. 5, ff. 5v-6r

DIVINATORY DEVICE



'Wheel diagram' divided in 16 pointed sectors, thin cords (7cm ca., all red except for one, which is blue). Each sector has the name of a Prophet or an Archangel at the top, followed by a short text with the divinatory response.

Use: one folds the device and then opens it at random, by pulling one of the chords

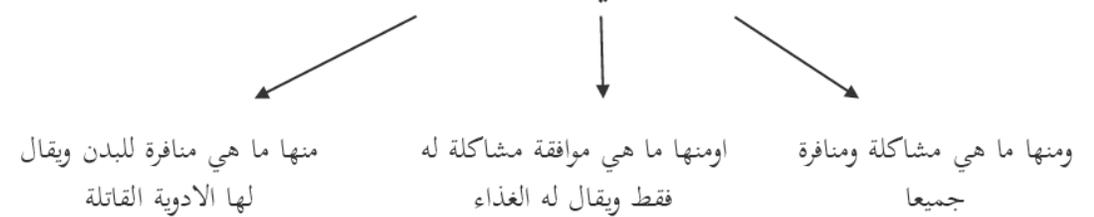
MS Leiden Or. 8505 (1)
Witkam, *Values of Old Paper*, p. 30-31
<http://islamicmanuscripts.info/Files/witkam-2022-value-old-paper.pdf>

TASHJĪR (TREE DIAGRAM)

[MS Bodleian Huntington 600, f. 15v]

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
جوامع احدى عشرة مقالات من كتاب جالينوس في الادوية المفردة ترجمه حنين

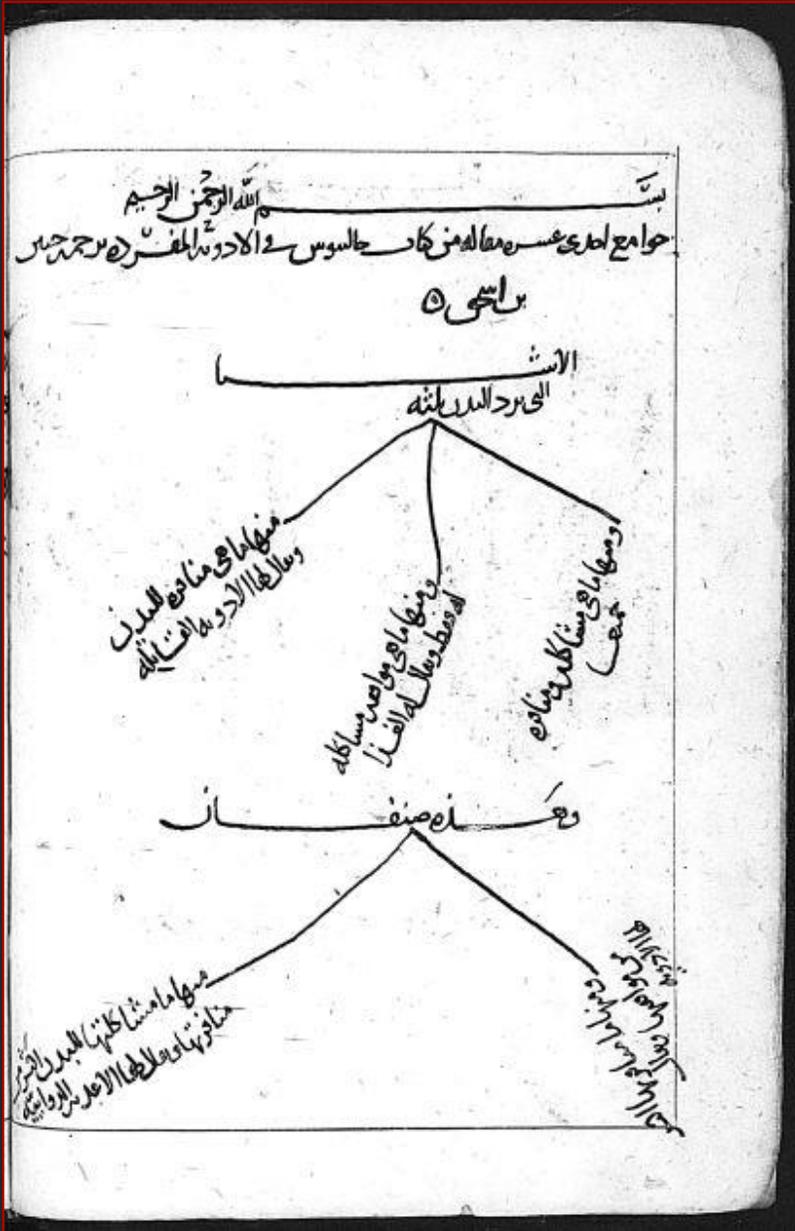
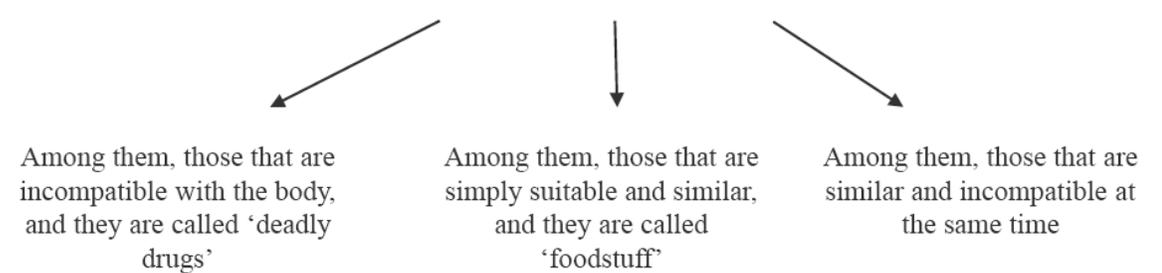
الاشياء التي يرد البدن ثلاثة



[MS Bodleian Huntington 600, f. 15v]

In the Name of God the Merciful the Compassionate
Summary of the eleven chapters from Galen's *Book on Simple Drugs*
translated by Hunayn

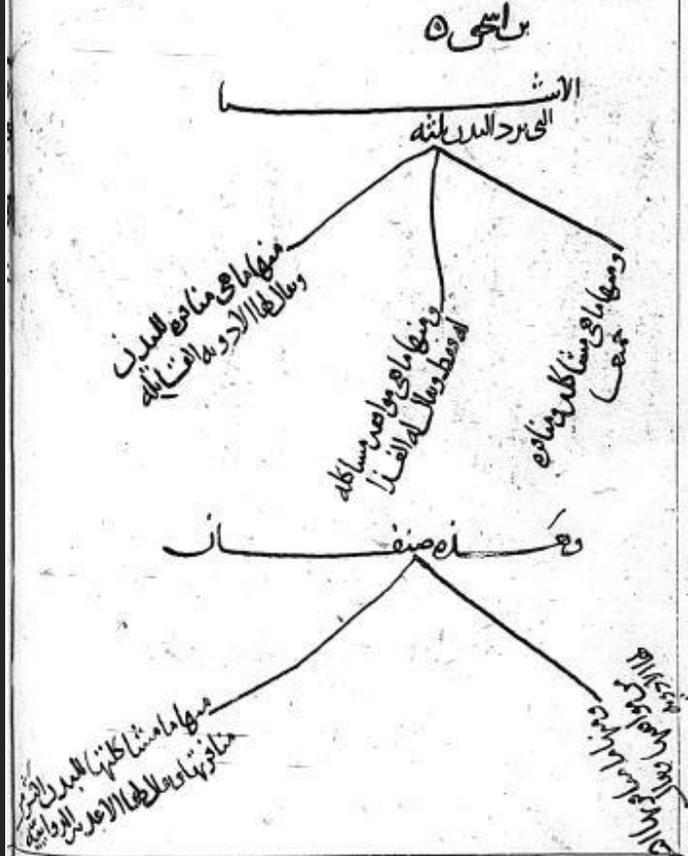
The things that reach the body are three:



اوتارا الادوية	الخنازير الكاذبه	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية
اورا الادوية	اصناف الادوية	اصلاح الادويه	اصناف الادويه	طبايع الادويه	اشياء الادوية

JADWAL VS TASHJİR

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
 حوامع اطري عشره مما له من كتاب جالسوس في الادوية المفترده و محمد بن

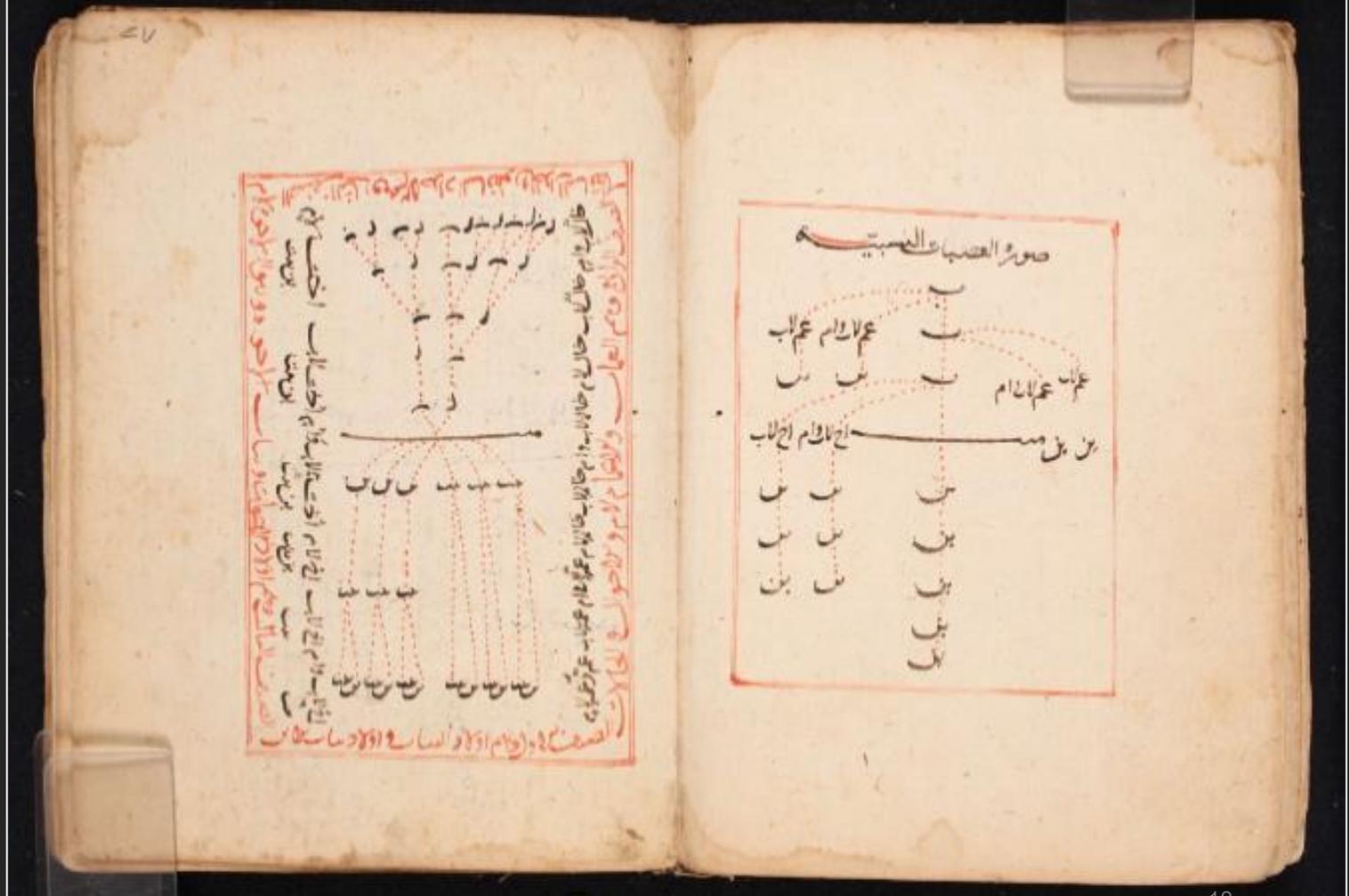


DIAGRAMS ON INHERITANCE LAW

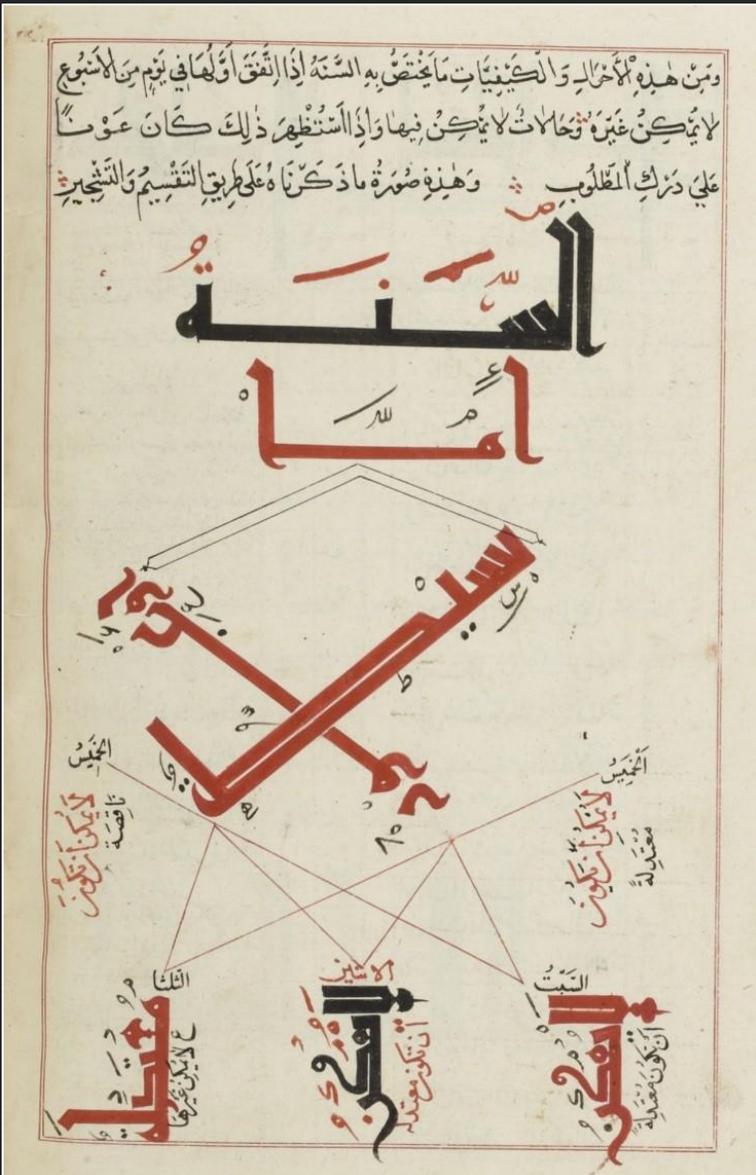
MS Jerusalem Khalidi Library MS 472, f. 26v-27r
Source: VHMML



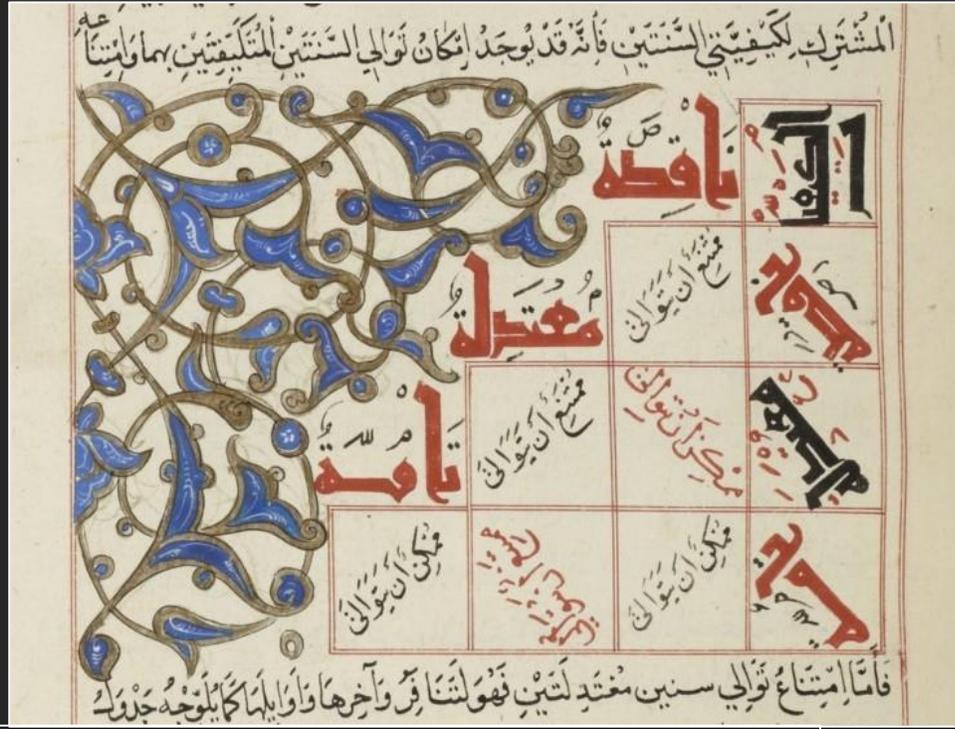
Al-Bisṭāmī, *Encyclopaedia of Sufism*
MS Jerusalem Khalidi Library MS 692, f. 12r
Source: VHMML



TRIANGULAR TABLES II



MS Paris BnF Arabe 1489, f. 59r and 60r (detail). Source: www.gallica.bnf.fr



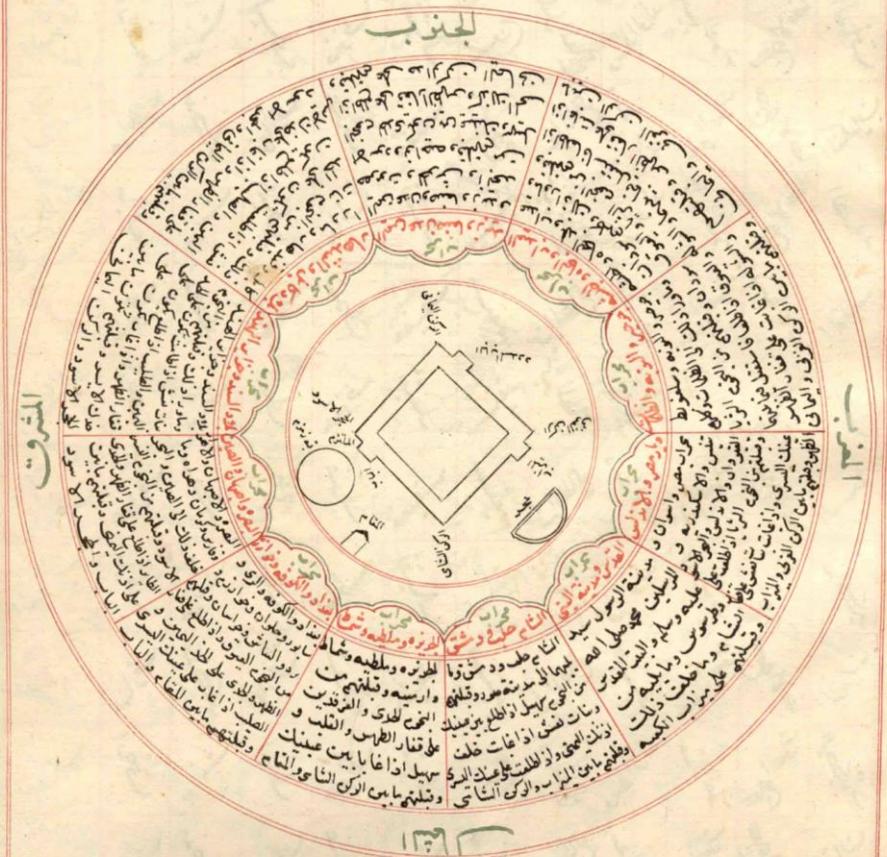
Tree-diagram from al-Bīrūnī's *Chronology* illustrating the complex relations between imperfect, intermediate, and perfect years, MS Paris BnF Arabe 1489, f. 59v.

Shawl-shaped table (*taylasān*) from al-Bīrūnī's *Chronology* that shows in a simple and direct way whether imperfect, intermediate, and perfect years can follow each other, without knowledge of the complex reasoning outlined in the tree-diagram.

CIRCULAR DIAGRAM (DĀ'IRA)

صَوْرَةُ الْكَعْبَةِ الْمُعْظَمَةِ زَاوِيَّاتُهَا اللَّهُ شَرَفًا وَذِكْرُ التَّوْحِيدِ بِهَا

وذكر التوجه إليها في اوقات الصلوات من جميع البلاد والجهات وما يستدل
به من الكواكب وما يقابل منها الانسان والله الموفق بمنه وكرمه ولحمده وحده



The Ka'ba at center of the world and a circular diagram to know the direction of the *qibla* from any city or region.

MS Leiden Or. 5, f. 37r

CIRCULAR DIAGRAM WITH EXTENSION



Zīlī, Commentary on Ibn Ḥabīb's abridgement of al-Nasafī's treatise *Manār al-anwār*

Ms Khalidi Library Jerusalem MS 180, f. 7r

CIRCULAR MAPS

Istakhrī's world map (4/10th century). The world represented as a flat disc, surrounded by the Ocean River. *Kitāb al-Masālik wal-Mamālik*. Manuscript dated 589/1193.



SOME ARABIC SOURCES ON INK AND BOOK MAKING

- *Zīnat al-kataba* ('The ornament of the scribes') by Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Zakariyyā' al-Rāzī, (d. 313 or 323/925 or 935);
- *ʿUmdat al-kuttāb wa-ʿuddat dawī al-albāb* ('The staff of the scribes and implements of the wise men') by al-Muʿizz b. Bādīs at-Tamīmī al-Ṣanhāǧī (d. 454/1062)
- *al-Muḥtaraʿ fī funūn min al-ṣunaʿ* ('The findings on the techniques of craftsmanship') by al-Malik al-Muẓaffar Šams al-Dīn Yūsuf b. ʿUmar al-Ġassānī (d. 694/1294–95)
- *Kitāb al-azhār fī ʿamal al-aḥbār* ('The most beautiful flowers on the production of inks') by Muḥammad b. Maymūn b. ʿImrān al-Marrākušī al-Ḥimyarī (7th/13th c.)
- *Kitāb ʿuyūn al-ḥaqāʿiq wa-īdāḥ al-ṭarāʿiq* ('The best of true facts and the explanation of their ways') by Abū al-Qāsim al-ʿIrāqī (7th/13th c.)
- *Zahr al-Basātīn fī ʿilm al-Mashshātīn* ('Garden's Flowers on the knowledge of sleight of hand) by Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr al-Zarḥūrī (9th/15th c.)
- *Kitāb al-Nuǧūm al-Šāriqāt* ('Book of the bright stars') by Muḥammad ibn Abī al-Ḥayr al-Ḥasanī al-Dimašqī, (10th/16th c.)

INKS

Midād

Carbon ink, made from soot or charcoal

Līqa

Metallic coloured ink

*lit. the tuft of threads or pad inside the inkwell

Hibr

Iron-gall ink, made from gall nuts and vitriol (shinier and more resistant but aggressive on paper)

Source: Colini, *I Tried It*, 2021



Pranking the secretary: pour some tamarisk juice inside his inkwell, then the ink will not stick to the pen and he will be unable to write until he washes everything clean.

Source: al-Iskandarī, *Kitāb al-ḥiyal al-Bābiliyya*

COLOURED INKS

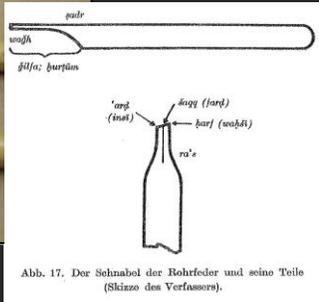


Many different colours were prepared in various ways (mineral, vegetal, animal ingredients): red, green, yellow, blue, pink, brown.

Maghribi inkwells
Source: *Ter Lugt* Collection, Leiden

Book of prayers, 12th/18th cent.?, *Dhakhīrat al-muḥtāj fī al-ṣalāh*
MS Jerusalem, Āl Budeiry 321, f. 1v
Source: VHMML

WRITING IMPLEMENTS



Grohmann, *Arabische Paläographie I* (1967), p. 120
 Reed pens from *Ter Lugt* Collection, Leiden



Ruling board and line-applier from *Ter Lugt* Collection, Leiden



Ottoman divit and three Qajar penholders. Source: MET

Ottoman paper scissors (يا فتاح), Private collection



Ink wells in different materials from *Ter Lugt* Collection, Leiden



CHRYSOGRAPHY – WRITING IN GOLD

If you want to write in gold, then prepare **white fish glue that puffs up quickly**, cut it as thin as possible, put it in fresh water for one day and one night, until it becomes moist and soft.

Then **purify it with a clean linen cloth**, and **write directly with it if the weather is warm**; whereas, **if the weather is cold, the fire has to be rekindled because it solidifies quickly**. When it has become solid, put it on the fire until it becomes fluid.

When you have written with it what you want, **take some pure red gold beaten into thin leaves**, and **press it on the writing**, but do not wait long before doing this. If the gold plunges during the operation with the glue, then warm the gold on the fire, remove the vitriol in order not to let it become opaque to your detriment.

And **when you have pressed it, leave it for two days, and burnish it with the *humāhān* (hematite?) stone**. Then **outline it in black with a suitable reed**, and there is **nothing better than a hair brush to do this**, because it is more durable in its mixing [with gold] and more flexible on the overcoats, and prevents the gold from lifting when it passes over it, and this is well known to you

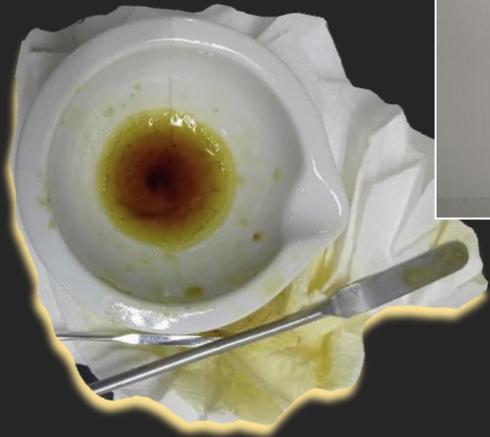
And if the gold is melted, then writing with it is better than impressing it; gold, silver, iron, and tin are the same in this.

CHRYSOGRAPHY – WRITING IN (ARTIFICIAL) GOLD I

Vegetal artificial gold: safflower, saffron

&

Mineral artificial gold



As for the heart of the safflower, take an exquisite mature heart of safflower, in the peak of its first blossoming, pour on it one quarter of its amount of wine vinegar and sour pomegranate water—if it is available—prepare a vessel and pour in it some ground gum arabic; remove every day the yellow water that comes to its surface. And when there is no yellow water left, pour it from the bottle into a paper filter, tight in the bottom and larger on the top, keep it in this, and use it: and this is all there is to know about it. The sun does not have to touch it, since the sun washes it out. Once it has become solid, make it into grains with gum arabic, and it will become similar to sumac. And when you need some of it, moisten it with vinegar and use it, and it is quite intense.

Source: Raggetti, *Cum Grano Salis*, p. 314-315

CHRYSOGRAPHY – WRITING IN (ARTIFICIAL) GOLD II

Vegetal artificial gold: safflower, saffron

&

Mineral artificial gold

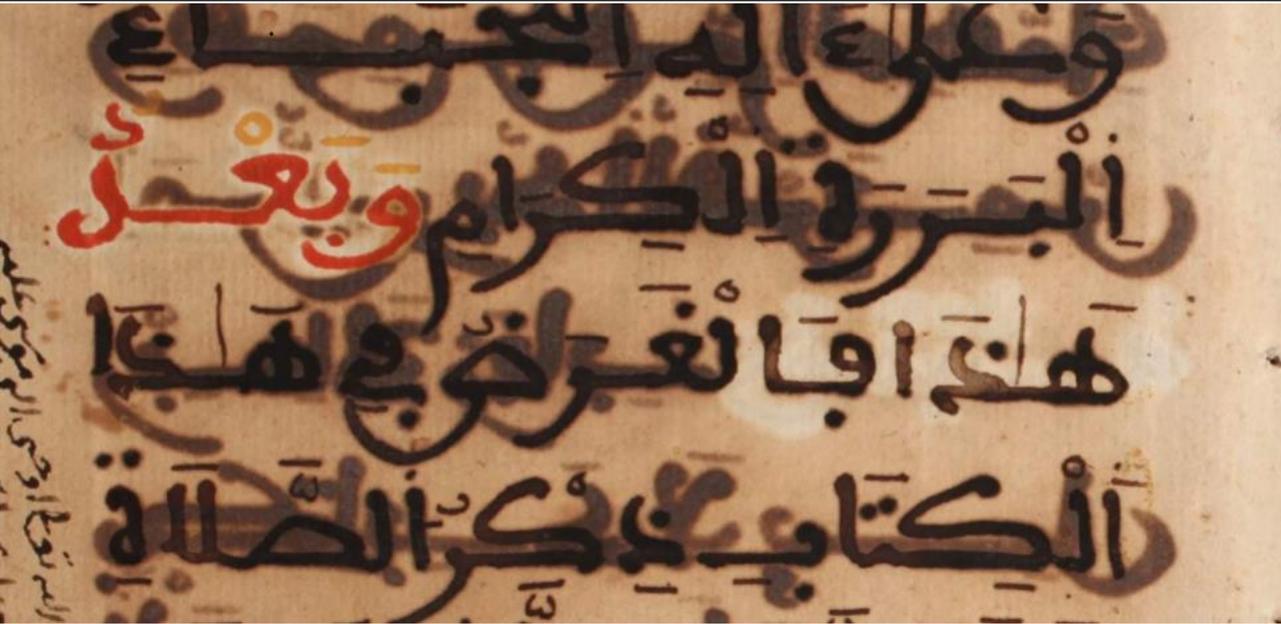


Take one part of dissolved talc, two parts of honey, one part of *qalqant* and this is red vitriol—put everything in a vessel and whip it with the hand. Then put it into a ‘gourd’ or an alembic, and let it precipitate. Then put its precipitate into a long-necked flask, seal it for twenty days; then it will take on different colours, but be patient until it steadily takes on the colour of red gold, write with it and it will be beautiful.

Kitāb al-iṣāba fī lawāzīm al-kitāba (‘Book on the art of penmanship’, MS Berlin Sprenger 1918)

Source: AlchemEast.eu

DAMAGES TO BOOKS - INK



Metallic inks, on the long run, damage the paper.

The lighter spots are such because the rubrications seem to have protected small portions of the paper from the 'chemical leaking' of the ink.



ABLU 00484

DAMAGES TO BOOKS - INSECTS



Try with a white sheet behind the page you wish to read or photograph
MS Jerusalem Khalidi Library MS 962., fol. 2v-3r
Source: HMML

YĀ KABĪKAJ



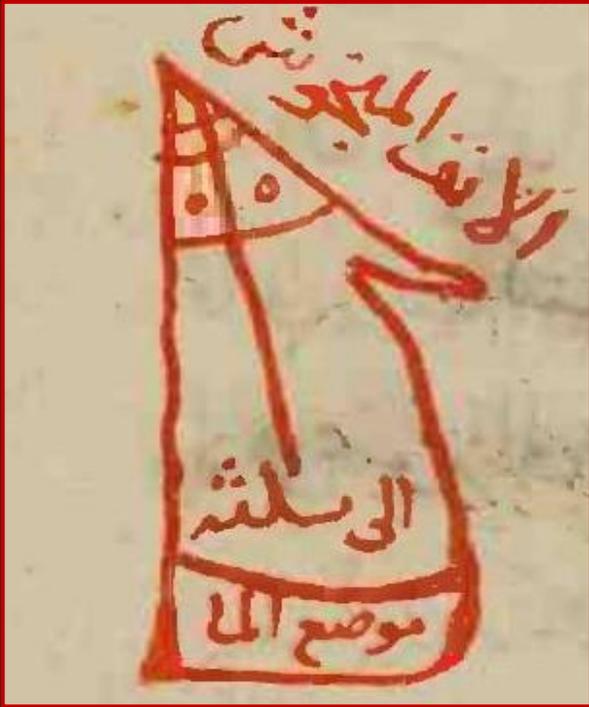
From a plant with the property to keep insects away to the invocation to the jinn who rules over the insects, asking him to spare the book

MS McGill's Osloer Library arab. 7508, fol. 277r



Aristotle's *Kitāb as-Siyāsa fī tadbīr al-riyāsa*
MS Berlin Landberg 121, fol. 1r

TECHNICAL DIAGRAMS



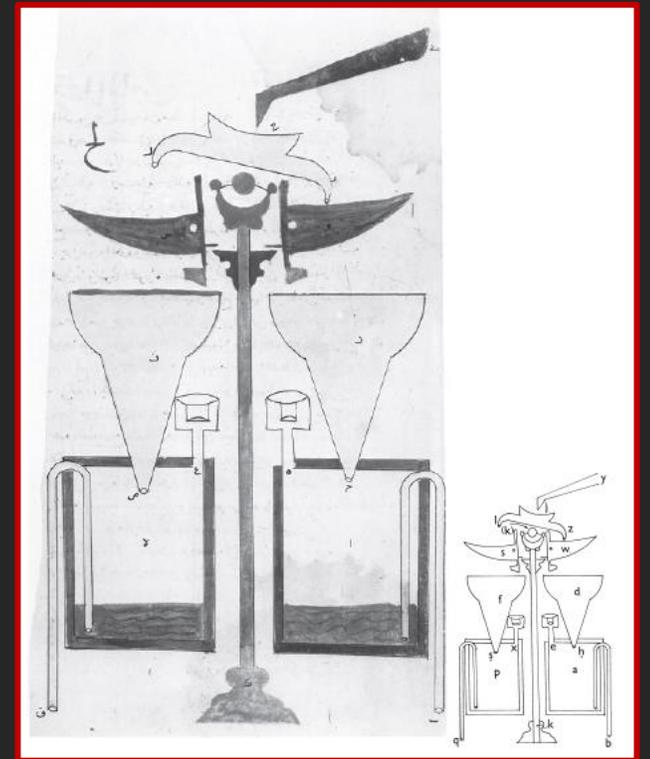
The 'puffing monkey', a simple automaton by al-Zarkhūrī: a closed copped vessel, filled with water for one third, the head is elongated, steam comes out from the nose when it is heated on the fire.

MS Leiden Or. 119, p. 39



One of the perpetual flutes described by al-Jazarī: the steam goes through the pipes and the flute plays.

Al-Jazarī, *The Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices*, 1974, p. 173



PAINTING AND ILLUSTRATING – SOME STUDIES

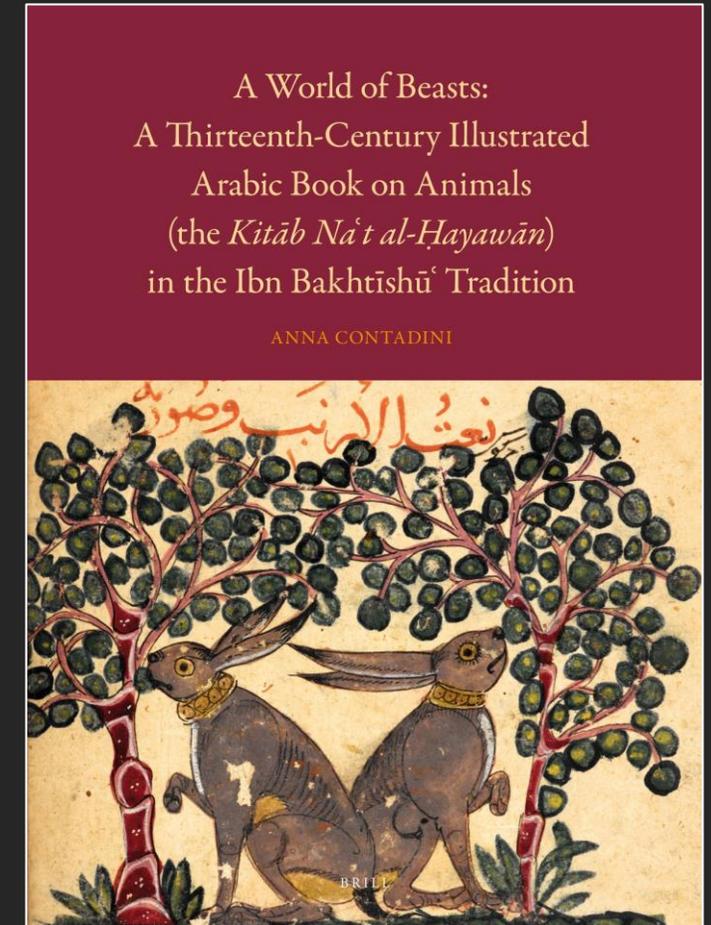
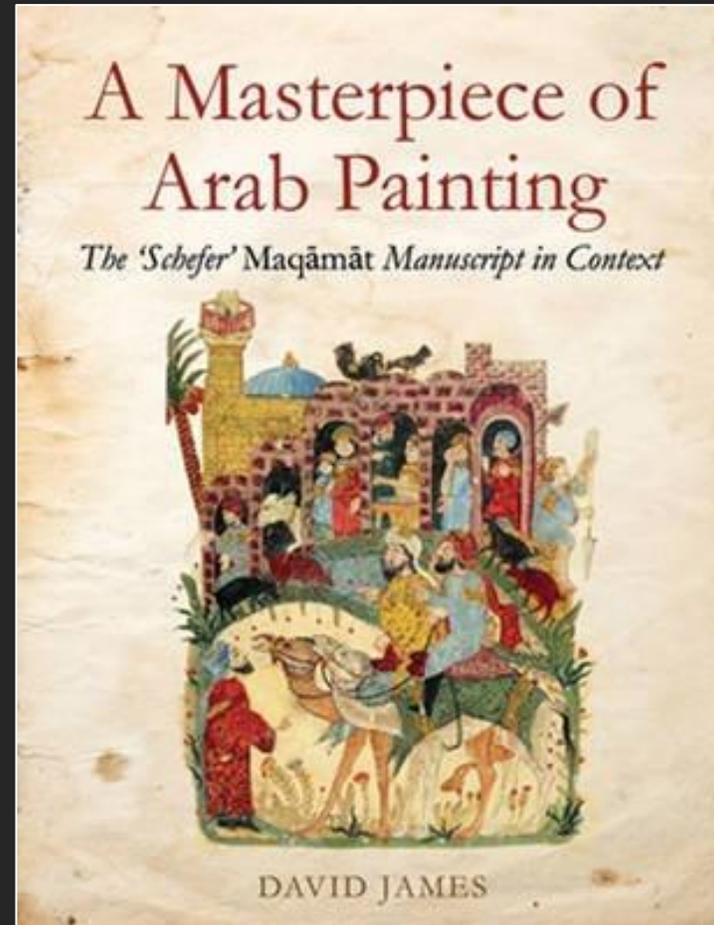
HdO



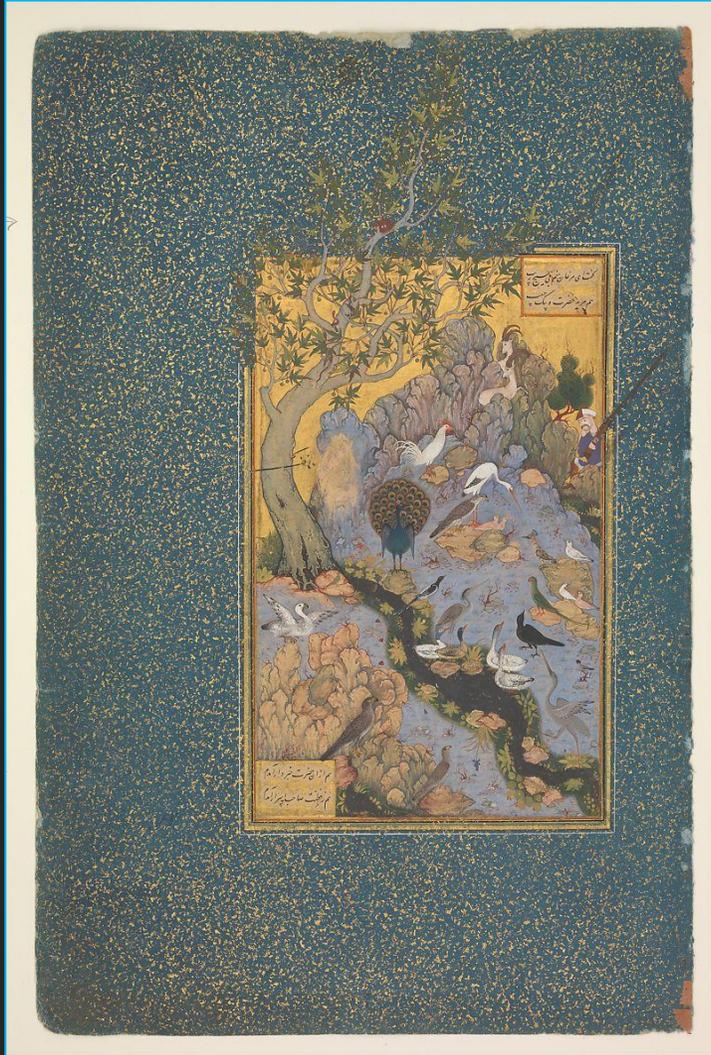
Arab Painting
Text and Image in
Illustrated Arabic Manuscripts

Edited by
Anna Contadini

BRILL

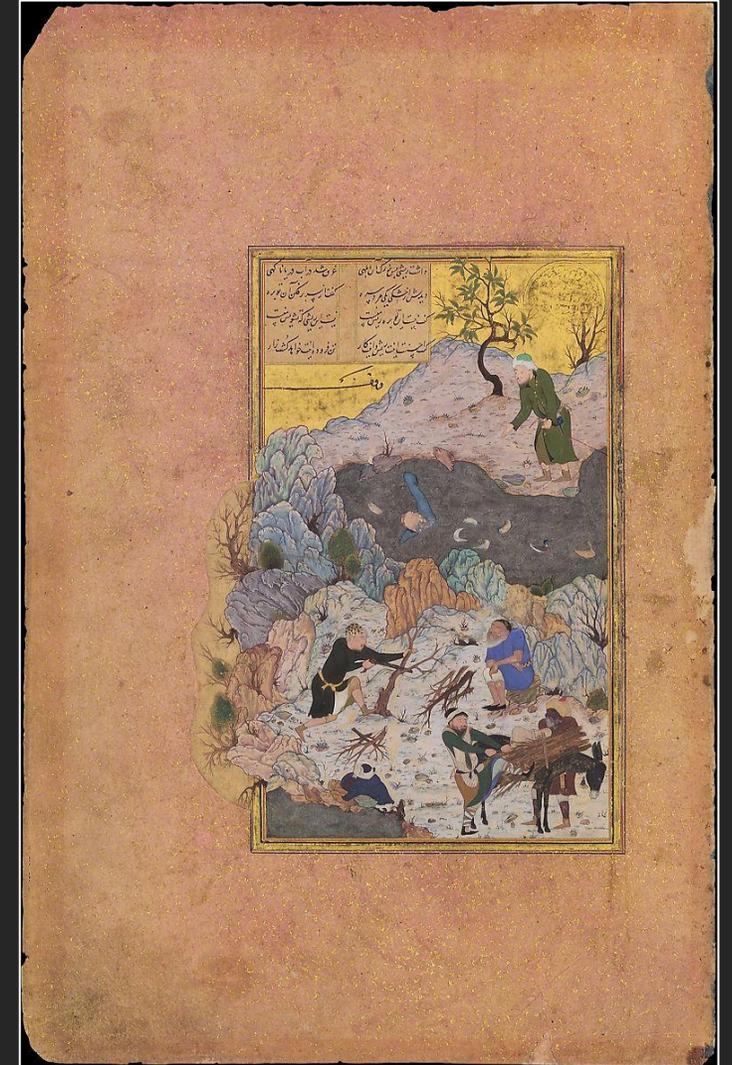


MINIATURES



The concourse of birds from 'The Language of Birds', Iran 1600 ca.
Source: MET Museum

- Use of space and perspective
- Details
- Breaking the frame
- 'Writing under siege'
- Margins



The anecdote of the man who fell in the water from 'The Language of Birds', Iran 1600 ca.
Source: MET Museum

RECYCLING



Manuscript leaf with painting. The recto contains six lines of text in four columns, interrupted by a pastiche painting of six figures, four on the right side in helmets and chains and two on the left side. The verso holds two clippings of unrelated text pasted in different directions.

Columbia University, Rare Books & Manuscript Library, MS Or 152c

Source: Openn

AN ALMOST UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF MINIATURES...



Unknown miniatures actioned off in Catawiki in 2021-2022
Source: Catawiki



Lithograph?

IT'S A MARKET...



Daniel Good Rare Books and Engravings

19th century Mughal Indo-Persian manuscript miniature Tiger Hunt

€441,95 EUR

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Add to cart

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Indo-Persian manuscript miniature

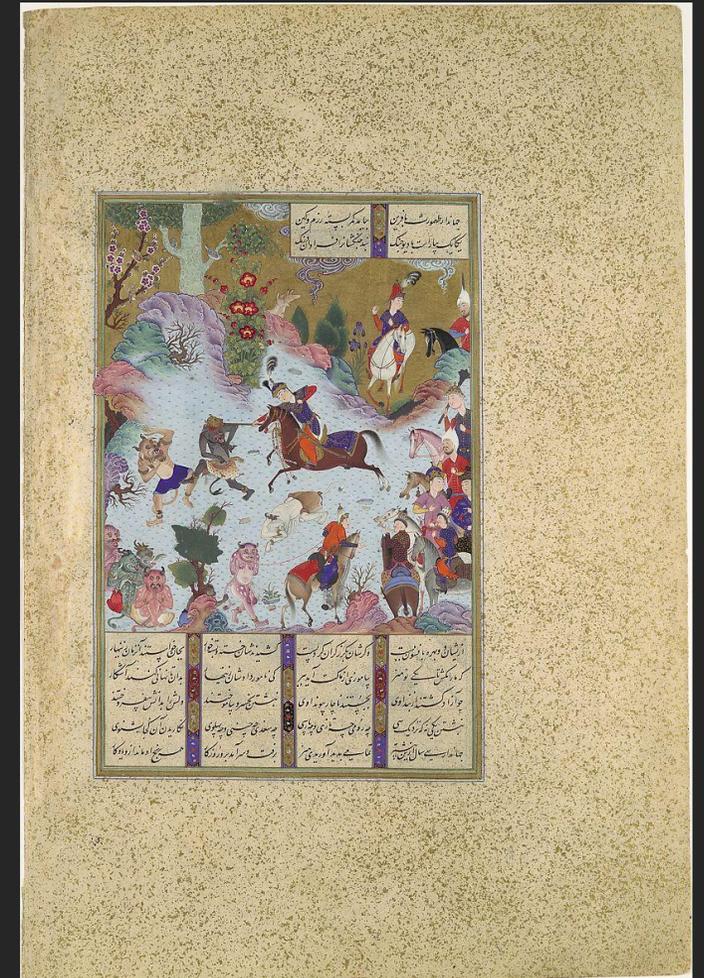
19th c. or earlier (likely Mughal Era). ORIGINAL ANTIQUE (not recent reproduction)

Arabic manuscript to verso, paper

Large 8vo, 27.8 x 18 cm.

Beautiful unidentified manuscript in fine calligraphy in black ink. Illustrated with a border in blue and gold tempera. Tiger hunt in vivid colours and heightened with extensive use of gold.

Source: <https://rarebooksandprints.com/>



Folio 23v from the *Shahnama* (Book of Kings) of Shah Tahmasp, 1525 ca., Tabriz
Source: MET Museum

FORGING MINIATURES, TAMPERING WITH THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE



Two miniatures, allegedly from the Istanbul University Library, depicting Ottoman astronomers with anachronistic instruments (left) and physicians curing smallpox (above), purportedly from the *Canon of Medicine* by Avicenna (980-1037).

Source: <https://aeon.co/essays/why-fake-miniatures-depicting-islamic-science-are-everywhere>

“Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.”
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.



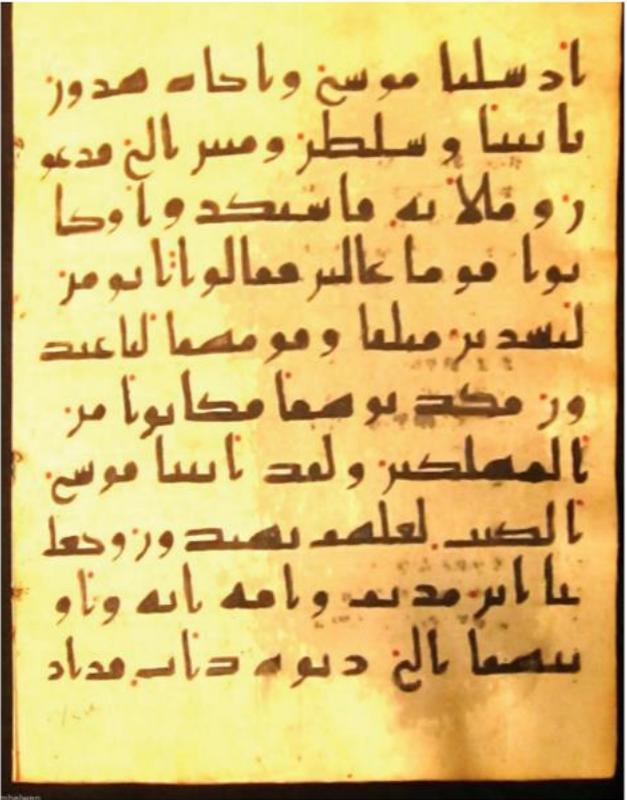
Source: Srikanth An, '15 Eye Opening Quotes by Business Magnate Warren Buffett', in: *Shoutmeloud*, 30 December 2014

Witkam, *Values of Old Paper*, p. 4
<http://islamicmanuscripts.info/Files/witkam-2022-value-old-paper.pdf>

COUNTERFEITED KUFIC FRAGMENTS ON EBAY

Fig. 2. The 'Kufi' fragment that was for sale from Mr. M. Balwan on eBay till June 13, 2014, then sold for US\$ 700. It is in the same hand as the fragment shown in fig. 1. Here as well the Ethiopian *textus inferior* is clearly visible. Photo M. Balwan, image code: \$(KGrHqV!!EFJGJ4TbvBSS3b8hRqQ--60_57

The text (Qur'an 23:45-50) reads:
 ارسلنا موسى واخاه هرون | بايتنا وسلطان مبين الى فرعون
 | ان ومالايه فاستكبروا وكا | نوا قوما عاين فقالوا انؤمن
 | لبشرين مثلنا وقومهما لنا عبد | ون فكنيوهما فكتوا من
 | المهلكين ولقد اتينا موسى | الكتب لعلهم يهتدون وجعلنا
 | بن مريم وامه ايه واو | بنهما الى ربوه ذات قرار
 At least one variant reading (line 2: *wa-mubin*) as compared to the vulgate text was included.



Source: Witkam, *Modern palimpsest*, 2014

Retrieve a suitable writing support (parchment)
 &
 Imitate the script

Forgeries must embody the historical and aesthetic expectations of potential buyer or victims of the fraud.

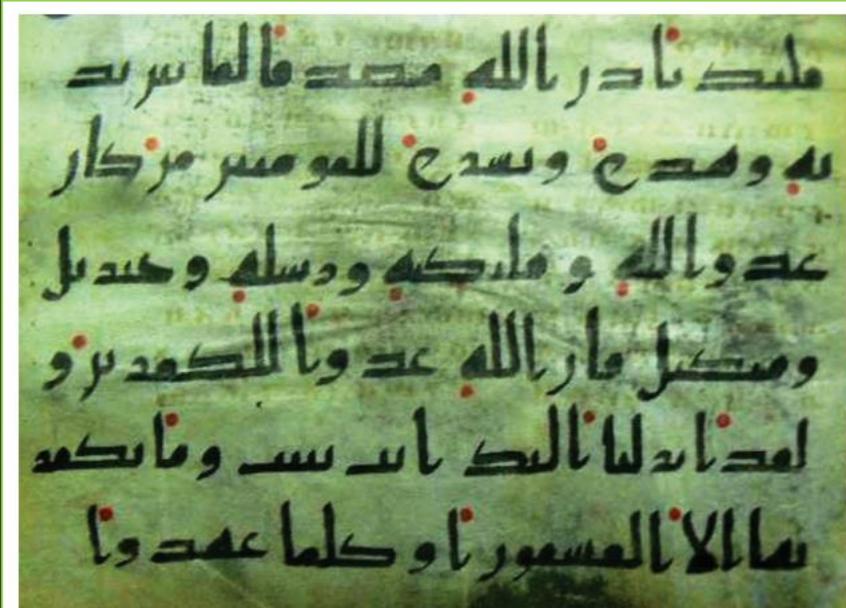


Fig. 1. Detail of one of the 'Kufi' fragments offered for sale on eBay in spring 2012. The Ethiopian *textus inferior* is clearly visible between the lines. Photo M. Balwan, eBay, image code \$(KGrHqVHJCCeE63YFwPy-BO2944bpRw--60_3.

For the amateur palaeographer, this is what one is supposed to read on the fragment (Qur'an 2:97-100):

| قلبك بانن الله مصنقا لما بين يد | يه وهدى وبشرى للمؤمنين
 | من كان | عدوا لله ومليكته ورسله وجبريل | وميكل فان الله
 | عدوا للكافرين و | لقد انزلنا اليك ايت بينت وما يكفر | بها الا
 | الصقون او كلما عهدوا |



Part 1	
Type	Manuscript
Place of Origin	India (?)
Century(ies)	18th century (?)
Year Range	1700-1800
Support	Paper
Page Layout	1 column, 25-34 lines per page
Catchwords	Yes
Writing System	Arabic
Script(s)	Naskh
Decoration	Illustrations painted over unrelated text
Notes	Leaves rebound with images on recto pages, although fol. 1r, fol. 3r, and fol. 4r were originally verso pages



MS Collegeville Steiner Ms.
Source: VHMML

'COMMODIFICATION'



FIGURE 1 The suggestive double illuminated opening page of Hātifi, *Haft Manẓar*. The paste-on *Sarlawḥ* and the gold penwork in the margins are later additions. MS Stuttgart, Linden-Museum, A41877L, ff. 1b–2a. PHOTOGRAPH BY EVA FASTENAU

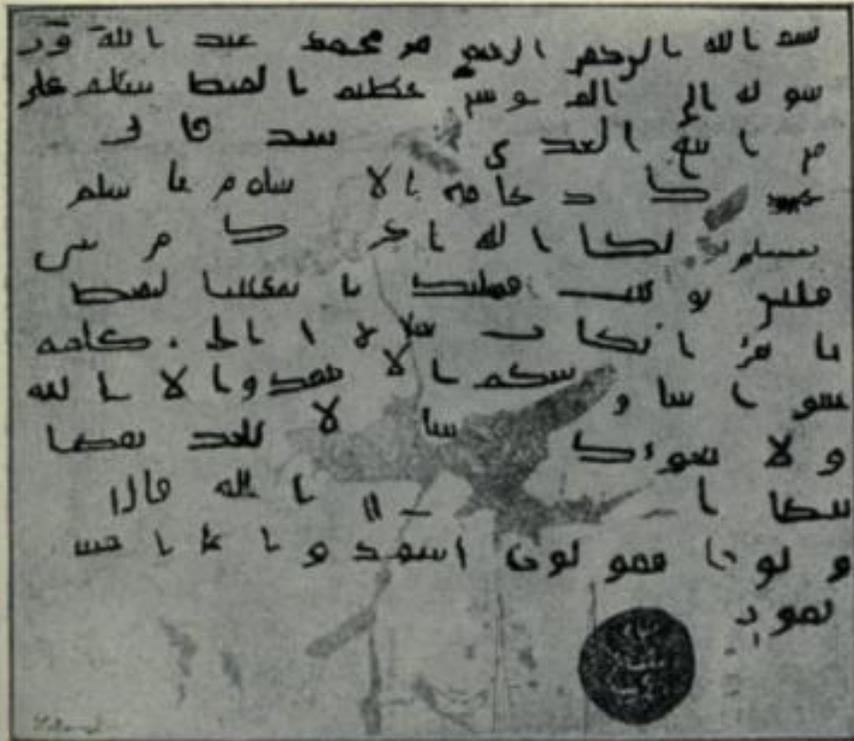
Source: Witkam, *Increasing the Value*, 2017



FIGURE 6 The suggested end of Hātifi's *Haft Manẓar*, with the fraudulent colophon written on erasure, mentioning Maḥmūd al-Mudhahhib as calligrapher, illuminator and miniaturist. MS Stuttgart, Linden-Museum, A41877L, f. 47a. PHOTOGRAPH BY EVA FASTENAU

- Hātifi's *Haft Manẓar* ('The Seven Belveders')
Incomplete manuscript beautified in order to hide its defect and increase its price on the market (probably 20th cent. operation)
- Margins cropped to eliminate catchwords
 - decoration of the margins
 - addition of a colophon mentioning an important calligrapher
 - Addition of a headpiece (*'unwān, sarlawḥ*)
- MS Stuttgart Linden-Museum A418771

FORGERY I – THE SEAL OF THE PROPHET



LETTER OF THE PROPHET TO THE "MUKAWQIS," DISCOVERED BY M. ÉTIENNE BARTHÉLÉMY; BELIEVED BY SEVERAL SCHOLARS TO BE THE ACTUAL DOCUMENT REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT.

From the "Hilal," Nov., 1904.

Source: Margoliouth, *Mohammed*, 1905

A number of prophetic traditions (*ṣaḥīḥ*) refers to a signet ring the Prophet used to wear.

It had an engraving and the Prophet forbade to imitate it.

The issue of a signet ring emerged when the Prophet sent official letters to the rulers of his time.

The seal was used by the first three Caliphs as well, then 'Uthmān tossed it in a well and the original seal was lost forever.

In the Topkapi one may see an Ottoman reproduction, which was clearly devised as object to be looked at and not used.

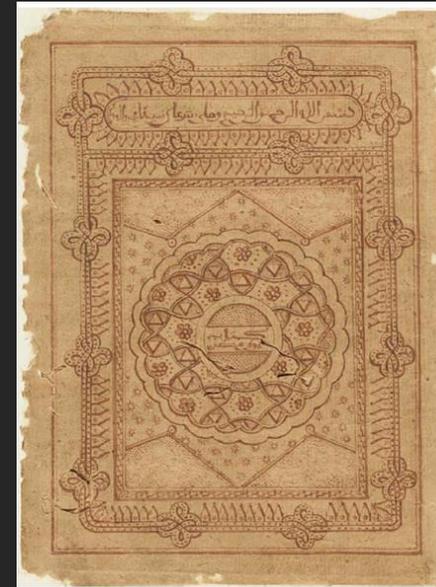
The letter is addressed to Al-Muqawqis, ruler of Egypt.

FORGERY II – ABBOT VELLA IN SICILY



Fig. 1: Alleged facsimile of the first text page of the *Codex Martinianus*. Source: *Codex diplomaticus*, Palermo, 1788. Leiden University Library, 913 A 13. Photograph by Jan Just Witkam, 2019.

Source: Witkam, *Sicilian Sweets*, 2020



The Maltese Abbot Giuseppe Vella forged two codices (*Codex Martinianus* and *Kitāb Dīwān Miṣr*, or 'The Council of Egypt', 1788 and 1793) to revive an imaginary past able to influence the present.

The Danish Orientalist Tychsen was able to decipher it, but other scholars like de Guignes were less naïve.

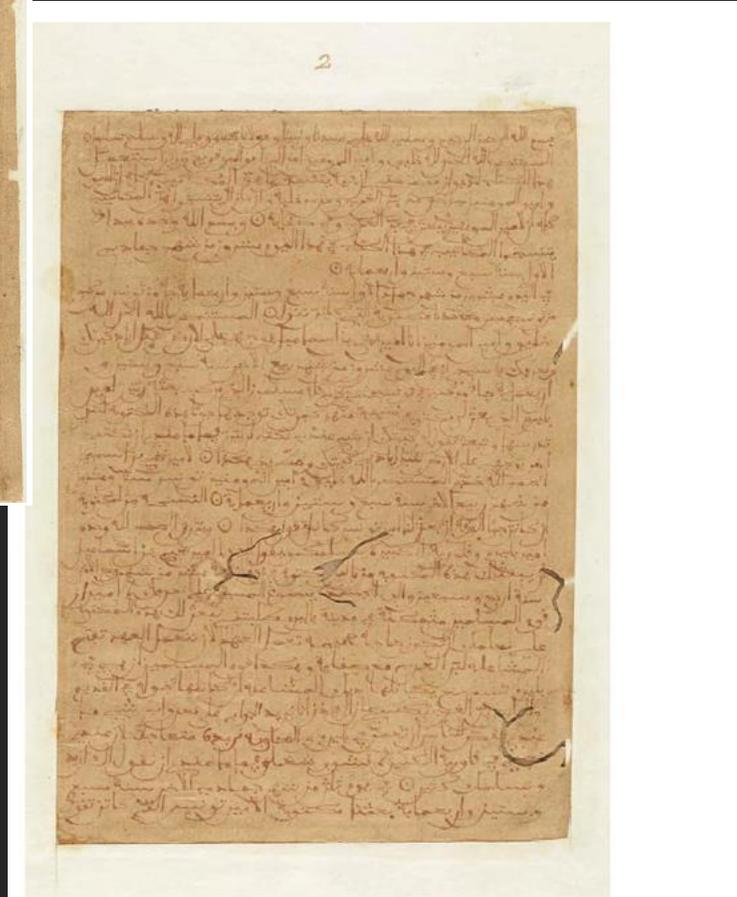
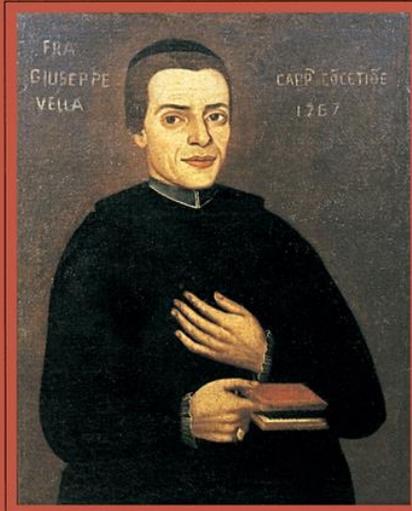


Fig. 4: First text page in Vella's manuscript of the *Kitāb Dīwān Miṣr*, 'The Council of Egypt', MS New York, Columbia University Library, Smith Or. 388, p. 2. Photo Columbia University Library.

AN ARTISTIC AFTERLIFE FOR VELLA

Leonardo Sciascia



**Il Consiglio
d'Egitto**



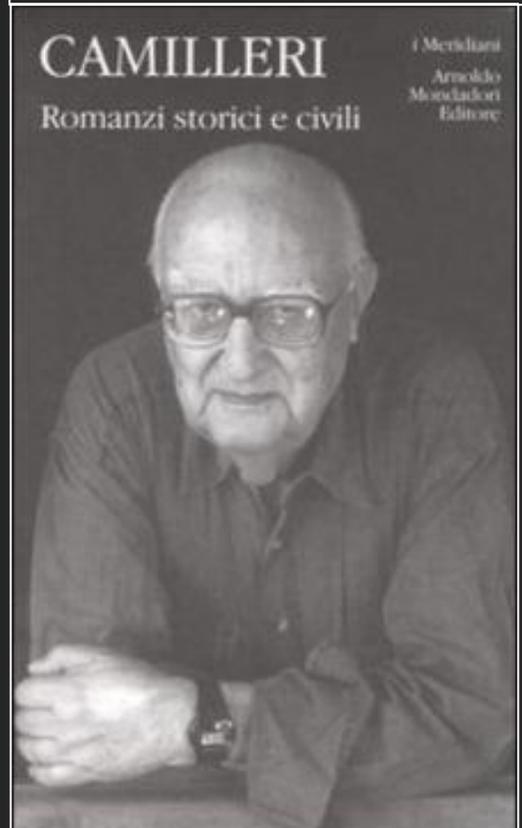
ADELPHI

Sciascia, *Il Consiglio d'Egitto* (novel), 1963



Il consiglio d'Egitto (film), 2002

*Le «Croniche» di uno scrittore
maltese, 2004*



THE FIRST MEDICAL *IJĀZA* AND THE PITFALLS OF PRECURSORISM

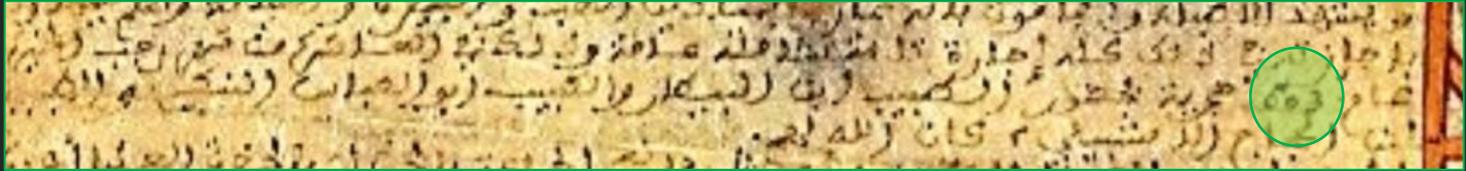
إجازة في الطب من جامعة القرويين بفاس



Precursor of the *Licentia Docendi* (Alfred Guillame, 1930s), before European Universities started to issue them.

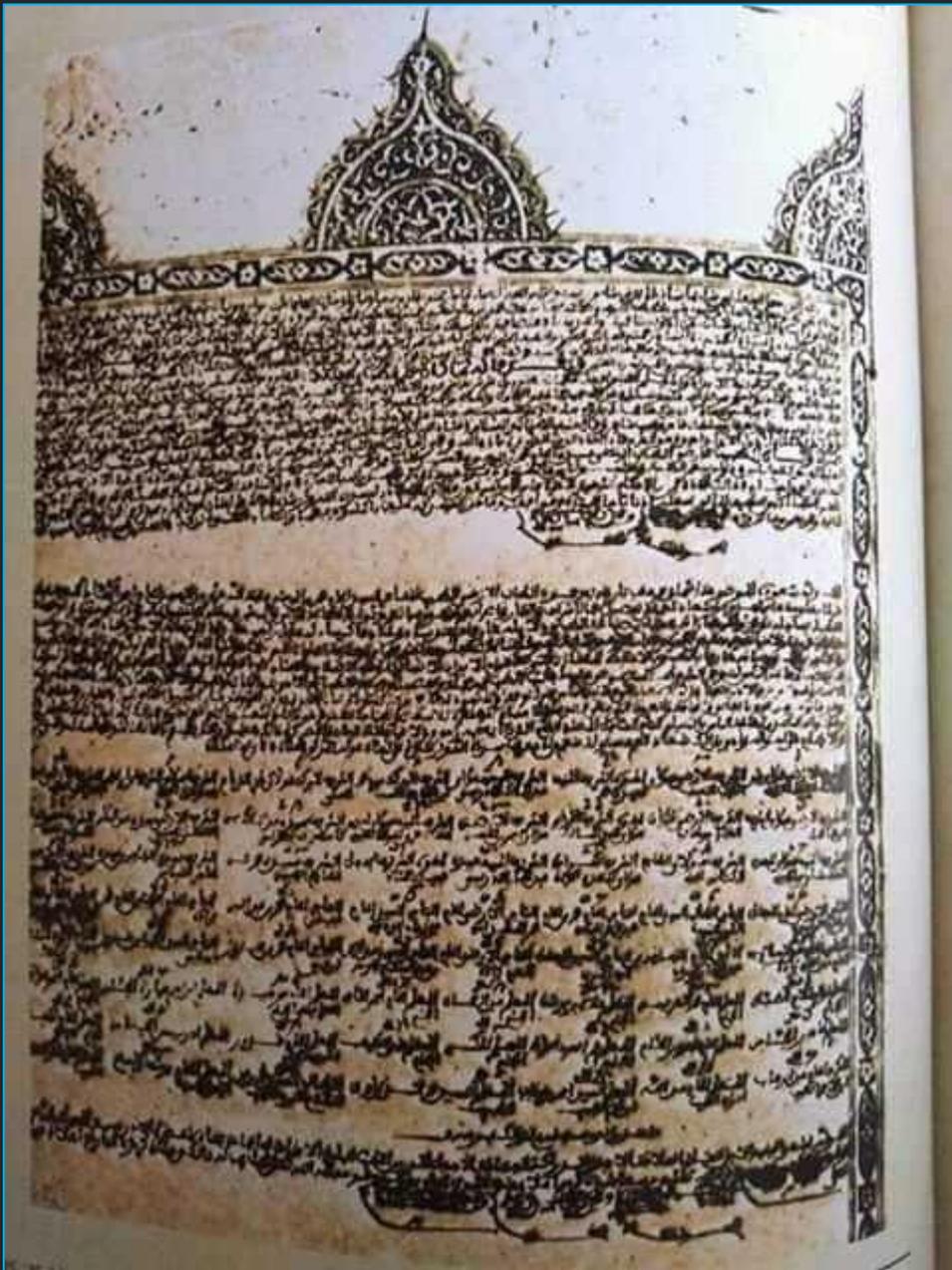
The Mosque of al-Qarawiyyin was founded in 859 CE in Fez and had a madrasa attached to it. In 1963 it was incorporated into Morocco's modern university system with the name of "University of Al Quaraouiyine".

The certificate is dated 603 H (sic!), that is 1207 CE.



إجازة تامة شاملة عامة، وذلك في العاشر من شهر رجب عام 603 هجرية بحضور ابن البيطار، الطبيب أبو العباس النباتي (النبطي) والطبيب ابن الحجاج الإشبيلي كان الله لهم

Source: Cherradi, *First Certificate*, 2020



A Moroccan News website shows the image of a different document, specifying that the writing support is deer parchment and the script Arabic-Andalusian...

Education

Al Qarawiyyin University in Fez, World's 1st Institution to Issue Medicine Degree

The university was not only the first in the world, but also the first to issue a degree in medical studies.

Source: Morocco World news

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