



# The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

## **Oriental manuscripts collection**

ca. 800 B.C.E. - ca. 1920 C.E

MssCol 2301

### **Summary**

**Title:** Oriental manuscripts collection

**Date:** ca. 800 B.C.E. - ca. 1920 C.E

**Size:** 82 linear feet (8 boxes, ca. 400 v.)

**Source:** Gift, purchase, Various

**Abstract:** Collection consists of examples of indigenous manuscripts from Asia, Europe and Africa. Some are transcriptions of classical or religious texts, including copies of the Koran, the Bible and Buddhist texts. Also included are dictionaries and commentaries on religious and literary subjects, as well as soothsayer books and amulets to ward off evil spirits. Manuscripts are written on many different materials, such as stone, bark, palm leaves, vellum, and hand-made paper. Many are in their original bindings and several are accompanied with traditional wrappings, covers, boxes, and items connected with their ceremonial use. While some are illuminated, most of the manuscripts were chosen as scholarly examples of calligraphy and bookmaking.

### **Conditions Governing Access:**

Some manuscripts may be too fragile for use; microfilm must be used where available.

**Conditions Governing Use:** Selected manuscripts may not be reproduced without permission of Curator of Manuscripts

**Preferred citation:** Oriental manuscripts collection, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

### **Scope and Content Note**

Collection consists of examples of indigenous manuscripts from Asia, Europe and Africa. Some are transcriptions of classical or religious texts, including copies of the Koran, the Bible and Buddhist texts. Also included are dictionaries and commentaries on religious and literary subjects, as well as soothsayer books and amulets to ward off evil spirits. Manuscripts are written on many different materials, such as stone, bark, palm leaves, vellum, and hand-made paper. Many are in their original

bindings and several are accompanied with traditional wrappings, covers, boxes, and items connected with their ceremonial use. While some are illuminated, most of the manuscripts were chosen as scholarly examples of calligraphy and bookmaking.

**Arrangement:** Twenty-seven series: I. Arabic; II. Armenian; III. Batak; IV. Buginese; V. Chinese; VI. Copto-Arabic/Copto-Boharic; VII. Egyptian; VIII. Ethiopic; IX. Hebrew; X. Hindi; XI. Japanese; XII. Javanese; XIII. Manchu; XIV. Mangyan; XV. Pali; XVI. Persian; XVII. Prayer Boards; XVIII. Printing Blocks; XIX. Punjabi; XX. Sanskrit; XXI. Siamese; XXII. Sinhalese; XXIII. Slavic; XXIV. Syriac; XXV. Tamil; XXVI. Tibetan; XXVII. Turkish