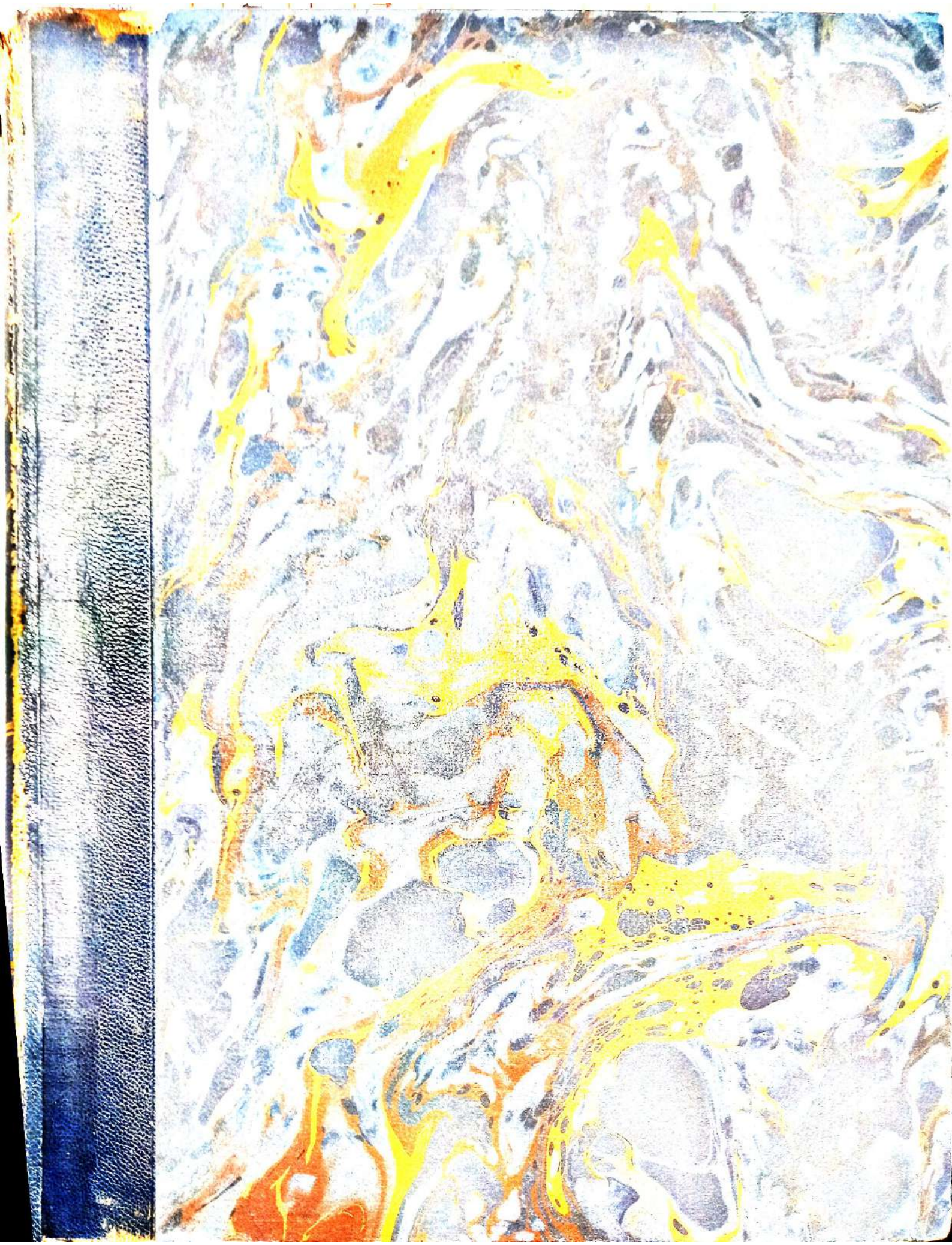
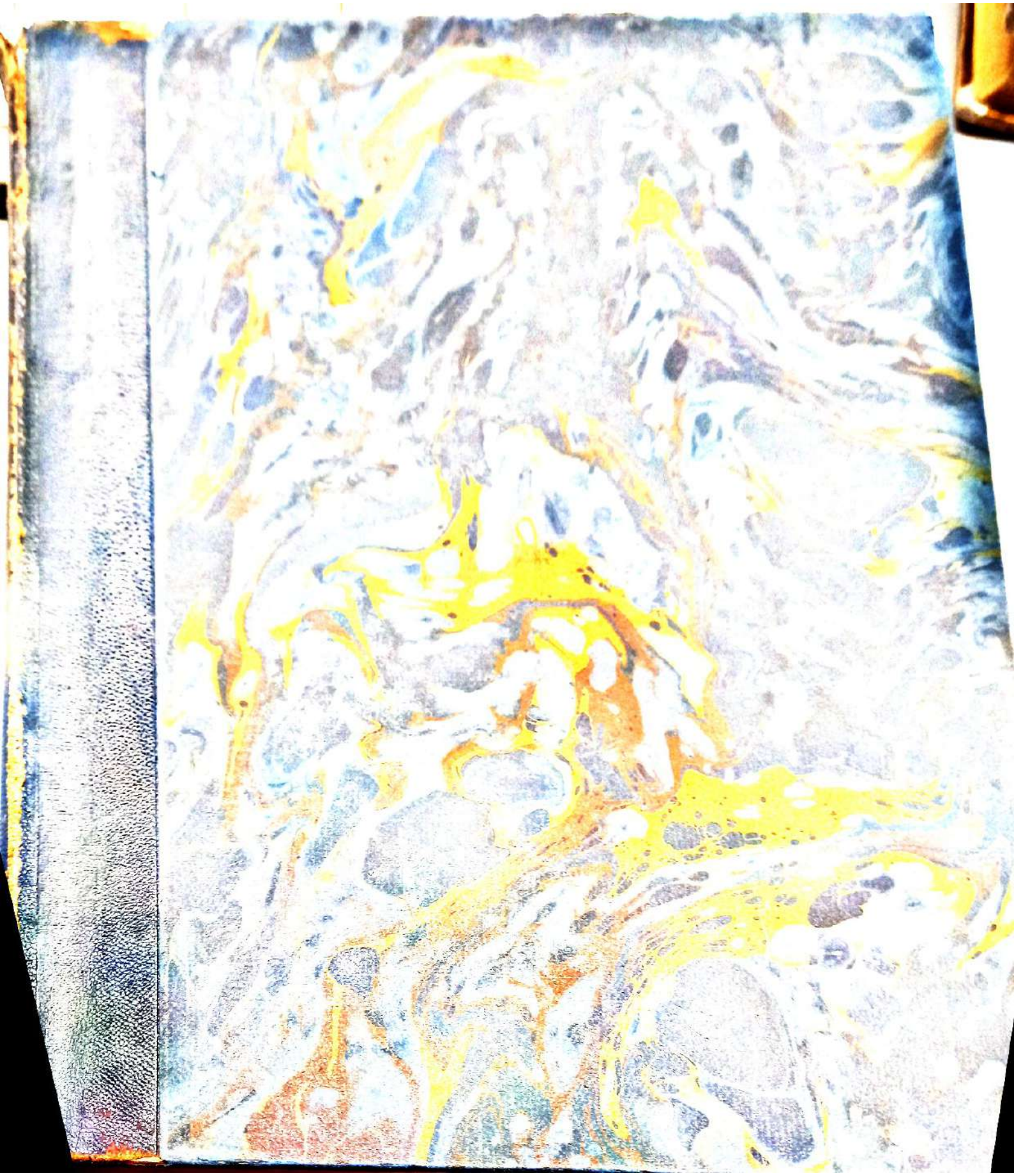




CATALOGUE

OF

THE TURKISH MANUSCRIPTS

IN

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

BY

CHARLES RIEU, PH. D.

KEEPER OF THE ORIENTAL MSS.

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PREFACE.

THE Present Catalogue embraces all the Turkish MSS. now extant in the British Museum. They are 483 in number, viz., 444 in Western, or Osmanli, Turkish, and 39 in Eastern Turkish, or Chaghatai, for which the more comprehensive native term of Turki has been adopted. Although belonging to the same family of speech, these two branches are sufficiently wide apart to be treated as separate languages, and the literatures to which they gave rise run in quite distinct channels. It has therefore been thought best to deal with the Turki MSS. in a separate division at the end of the Catalogue.

The Turkish of Āzerbāijān, on the other hand, is more closely allied to the Western than to the Eastern branch. As MSS. in that dialect contain exclusively poetical works, they have been grouped together at the end of the section of Turkish poetry.

In the classification and description of MSS. the same plan has been followed as in the Persian Catalogue. The same attention has been given to the chronological sequence of works in each class, and comparatively few have been left without the determination of a precise or approximate date of composition. If less development has been given to the biographical notices of authors, the reason is that the ground was found better prepared. In many cases a simple reference to Baron von Hammer's classical writings rendered any further statement superfluous. Hammer's colossal work supplies an inexhaustible fund of information on Turkish history and literature, and, although it may occasionally require control in matters of detail, it still is, and will long remain, an indispensable guide for whosoever enters upon that study. References to his two standard works, "Geschichte des Osmanischen Reiches," Pesth, 1827—35, and "Geschichte der Osmanischen Dichtkunst," Pesth, 1836—38, will be found on every page.

What has been stated in the preface to the third volume of the Persian Catalogue respecting the origin of the Persian collection, applies, in a great measure, also to the Turkish collection. Most of the private collections there mentioned comprised some Turkish MSS. Here, as there, the most important contribution is due to the collecting zeal of Claudius James Rich, whose name will be found attached to no fewer than 124 of the MSS. described. These include our earliest Turki text, the Ḳiṣaṣ i Rabghuzi,

composed A.H. 710 (p. 269), a valuable collection of Chaghatā'i poems, with dates ranging from A.H. 754 to 914 (p. 284); notices of contemporary poets, by Mīr ʿAli Shīr (p. 273); the Khamseh, or five narrative poems, of the same author (p. 292); the Dīvans of Sulṭān Ḥusein Beiḳara (p. 256), and of ʿObeid Khān Uzbek (p. 300); a hitherto unnoticed Turkish history, written under Bāyezīd II. by Bihishti (p. 44); the authentic record of the great Suleimān's reign, by Jelāl Zādeh Muṣṭafa (p. 49); the rare life of Selīm I., by the same writer (p. 50); early copies of Ḥamdi's Iskender Nāmeh (p. 164), and of Sheikhi's Khusrev u Shīrīn (p. 165); lastly, the biographies of poets by ʿAhdi, brought down to A.H. 1001 (p. 76).

Next in point of numbers is a collection of 106 Oriental MSS. formed by M. Alexandre Jaba, late Russian Consul at Erzerum, the only one in which Turkish forms a preponderating element, amounting to forty-nine volumes. One of the most curious is a Shahnāmeh translated from Firdausi for Sulṭān Ḳanṣauh Ghauri, the last of the Memlūk kings of Egypt, A.H. 913 (p. 152). The following are also worthy of notice:—A Turkish history, written under Murad III. by Seyyid Loḳman (p. 54); the Khamseh, or five Mesnevi poems, of Yaḥya Beg, the Albanian (p. 180); the rare Divans of Mesīḥi (p. 171), Isḥāḳ Chelebi (p. 176), Gharāmi and Raḥīmi (p. 179); and a history of the Kurds, translated from the Persian of Sheref Khān, for a descendant of the author (p. 70).

Twenty-nine MSS., brought from Egypt in the year 1801 by Col. Hilgrove Turner, comprise an early copy of the Ḥulviyyāt i Sulṭāni, a work composed about A.H. 850 by Ismā'īl Beg, prince of Kastamuni (p. 11); a Turkish history by Jemāli, the original of Hans Lewenklau's "Neuwe Chronica" (p. 46); and an otherwise unknown translation of the Arabic biography of Turkish ʿUlemā (p. 72).

The collection formed by Col. Robert Taylor, Rich's successor in Baghdad, although prominently Arabic, includes twelve Turkish MSS., among which the following are especially valuable:—A detailed history of Bāyezīd II. and Selīm I., written by an anonymous dependant of the latter Sultan (p. 45); a history of religious sects, translated, with additions, from Shehrestani (p. 35); two copies of Nazmi Zādeh's history of Baghdad (p. 41); and the geographical dictionary of Sipāhi Zādeh (p. 110).

Eight MSS. brought from India by the late Col. George Wm. Hamilton are mostly in Eastern Turkish. They include the rare lives of saints and sufis by Mīr ʿAli Shīr (p. 274), four Mesnevis of the same author (p. 293), and an early copy of his Divan (p. 294).

To William Erskine, the learned translator of the Memoirs of Baber, the Museum is indebted for a copy of the original Turki text (p. 280), and for the Ferhād u Shīrīn of Mir ʿAli Shīr (p. 294). Two choice copies of the Divan of the last-named poet (p. 295) were brought from Persia by Sir Charles A. Murray, and from the same country came, through the Rev. T. H. Sternschuss, a life of Sheikh Ṣafi ud-Dīn, the ancestor of the Ṣafevis (p. 281), and a translation of the Sheref Nāmeh, with curious additions (p. 71).

The value of the collection of Baron Alfred von Kremer, acquired since the publication of the Persian Catalogue, rests chiefly in its Arabic contents; but it comprises also fifteen Turkish MSS., among which may be mentioned, as of especial interest, early versions of the Futūḥ ush-Shām (p. 38), and of the Ḳābūs Nāmeh (p. 116); a history of the Turkish conquest of Egypt, translated, with additions, from Ibn Zenbel (p. 59); and Sudi's commentary upon the Divan of Ḥāfiz (p. 158).

Among many valuable Oriental MSS. secured for the Museum in the years 1885—87 by Sidney Churchill, Esq., Persian Secretary to the British Legation at the Court of Teheran, are nine Turkish MSS., first of which in importance is the famous Senglakh, or Turki-Persian dictionary, of Nādir Shāh's secretary, Mirza Mehdi Khan (p. 264), hitherto only known in Europe through a meagre abridgment. Others are the rare Divans of Sultan Ḥusein Beiḳara, the last of the Timurides of Persia (p. 299), of his contemporary, Shāh Ismā'īl, the founder of the Ṣafevi dynasty (p. 205), and of Emāni, a Turkish Emir at the Court of Shāh 'Abbās I. (p. 301); the Makhzen ul-Esrār of Mir Ḥaider Telbeh (p. 298); Maḥbūb ul-Ḳulūb, the last work of Mir 'Ali Shīr (p. 275); and the earliest Persian-Turkish dictionary, compiled about A.H. 850 by Luṭf-ullah Ḥalīmi (p. 137).

Out of thirty-four MSS. included in the Harleian Collection, the most valuable are:—An anonymous "Mirabilia Mundi," translated from an otherwise unknown Persian work, apparently of the fourth century of the Hijreh, and enriched with numerous miniatures (p. 104); the romance of Ebu Muslim (p. 214), and old copies of the earliest Turkish poems, the Gharīb Nāmeh of 'Āshiḳ Pasha (p. 160), and the Iskender Nāmeh of Aḥmedi (p. 162).

Among MSS. acquired independently of the above-named collections, and from various sources, the following may be pointed out to the attention of readers:—A contemporary account of the Georgian campaign of Lala Mustafa Pasha, written by 'Āli, A.H. 988 (p. 61); the history of Selīm I. in verse, by Shukri (p. 174); the Vīs u Ramīn of Lāmi'i (p. 175); the romance of Ḳirān Ḥabeshi, in three large folios (p. 219); an illuminated copy of the tale of Ferrukh-rūz (p. 229); a history of Chingīz Khān and his successors, concluding with Sheibāni Khān, and written for him, A.H. 908 (p. 276); the Divans of Ḳabūli (p. 184), and of Sekkāki, an early Chaghatāi poet (p. 284).

Osmanli Turkish, in its early stages of development, is as yet but imperfectly known. The Museum collection will be found to supply some valuable material for its study. Taking the conquest of Constantinople, A.H. 857, as a convenient line of demarcation between archaic and classical Turkish, the works above that limit will range in chronological order as follows:—

The Turkish translation of Ṭaberi (p. 22), A.H. 710.
The Divan of 'Āshiḳ Pasha (p. 160), A.H. 730.
A Ṣufi work, by Ḥāji Bektash (p. 246), circa A.H. 730.
Iskender Nāmeh, by Aḥmedi (p. 162), A.H. 792.

Futūḥ ush-Shām, by Ẓarīr Muṣṭafa (p. 38), A.H. 796.
The Mevlūd of Suleimān Chelebi (p. 240), circa A.H. 800.
Beshāret Nāmeh, by Refi'i (p. 164), A.H. 811.
Devlet Oghli's versified treatise (p. 9), A.H. 828.
Khusrev u Shīrīn, by Sheikhi (p. 165), circa A.H. 830.
Jāmasp Nāmeh, by 'Abdi (p. 167), A.H. 833.
Merjumek's Ḳābūs Nāmeh (p. 116), A.H. 8 35.

The works of the two brothers known as Yāziji Oghli (pp. 17, 105, 106, 168), the Tale of the Forty Vezirs (p. 216), and the Ḥulviyyāt i Sulṭāni (p. 11), were all written about the middle of the ninth century of the Hijreh. The undated romances of Ebu Muslim, Seyyid Baṭṭāl, and Ḳirān Ḥabeshi, are probably to be assigned, in their present shape, to the eighth, or to the first half of the ninth century.

Early texts in Eastern Turkish are fewer, but, from their archaic character, linguistically still more important. They begin at the same date, A.H. 710, with the Ḳiṣaṣ i Rabghuzi (p. 269). The next-following are :—

Maḥabbet Nāmeh, by Khwārezmi (p. 290), A.H. 754.
Makhzen ul-Esrār, by Ḥaider (p. 286), A.H. 812—17.
Gul u Naurūz, by Luṭfi (p. 285), A H. 814.
Deh Nāmeh, by Emīri (p. 288), A.H. 833.
Ta'ashshuḳ Nāmeh, by Sidi Aḥmed (p. 289), A.H. 839.
The Divans of Sekkāki and Luṭfi (pp. 284, 288), about 850.

The following is a chronological list of our earliest dated MSS. :—

A.H.	Page.	A.H.	Page.	A.H.	Page.
855	166 *b*	967	160 *a*	986	170 *a*
863	17 *a*	969	178 *b*	987	273 *a*
864	134 *a*	970	65 *b*	988	21 *b*
887	294 *b*	—	280 *a*	—	180 *b*
890	166 *b*	972	174 *a*	—	213 *a*
914	284 *b*	—	179 *a*	—	253 *a*
933	167 *a*	973	135 *a*	989	135 *b*
936	251 *b*	—	175 *b*	—	226 *b*
938	172 *a*	977	228 *a*	990	61 *b*
940	164 *a*	980	176 *b*	—	116 *b*
950	251 *b*	982	23 *b*	991	40 *b*
959	227 *a*	—	78 *a*	996	184 *a*
960	45 *b*	—	137 *b*	997	245 *b*
—	155 *b*	983	108 *b*	—	53 *a*
961	177 *b*	984	12 *b*	998	183 *a*
966	157 *b*	985	223 *a*	999	19 *a*

A few undated MSS., which may be assigned to the fifteenth century, are described at pp. 23 *a*, 162 *a*, 164 *a*, 165 *b*, 166 *b*, and 269 *b*.

Whether Turks are naturally less fond than Persians of the pictorial art, or whether they are more generally restrained by religious scruple from its cultivation, it is a matter of experience that illuminated Turkish MSS. are exceedingly rare, and rarer still are those which have escaped defacement at the hands of ruthless zealots. The following short list comprises all those which the Museum collection can offer :—

DATED MANUSCRIPTS.

	Page.	A.H.
Jāmasp Nāmeh . .	167	933
Nuṣret Nāmeh . .	61	990
Shemā'il Nāmeh . .	53	997
Pāshā Nāmeh . . .	191	1040
Dīvān i Bāḳi . . .	187	1046
Leila Mejnūn . . .	206	1075

UNDATED MANUSCRIPTS.

	Page.	
Khusrev Shīrīn . .	166.	15th cent.
Wonders of Nature	104.	16th cent.
Humāyūn Nāmeh .	228.	— —
'Ajā'ib ul-Makhlūḳāt	107.	— —
Tale of Ferruḳhrūz	229.	— —
Album of drawings	211.	17th cent.

With Eastern Turkish MSS. the case is different, and the proportion of illuminated volumes is far greater. Such MSS. come mostly from Eastern Persia, especially from Herat, and, in point of ornamentation, they are not distinguishable from Persian MSS. of the same class. The four following MSS. contain miniatures :—Gul u Naurūz (p. 285 *b*), A.H. 914 ; Makhzen ul-Esrār (p. 298), 16th cent. ; Tevārīkh Guzīdeh (p. 276), 16th cent. ; Ḥairet ul-Ebrār (p. 294), A.H. 1006. A fifth, the Divan of Nevā'i (p. 295), is remarkable for rich and highly-finished illuminated borders.

The only part of the Turkish collection descriptions of which have already appeared in print consists of sixty-nine Rich and fifteen Kremer MSS. Short Latin notices of the former were published by their owner in the years 1813-14, in the third and fourth volumes of the "Mines de l'Orient." The latter have been described by Baron von Kremer, with the rest of his collection, in a Catalogue printed at Vienna, 1885. A list of the original and present Nos. of both sets, with references to the pages of the present catalogue, will be found at the end of the Numerical Index.

CHARLES RIEU.

June 29, 1888.

Ḥashmet. Divan (c. 1180) 204 *a*.
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Ḳavsi. Divan (c. 1100) 209 *b*.

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Ḳiṣṣah i Ebu Muslim, 213 *a*.
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Sīret i 'Antar, 215 *a*.
Sindbād Nāmeh, 232 *b*.
Ḥikāyet i Ḳirḳ Vezīr, 216 *a*.
Dāstān i Ḳirān Ḥabeshi, 219 *b*.
Hikāyet i Ḳāhir Dilāver, 222 *b*.
Tezkiret ul-Evliyā, 223 *a*.
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Ḳiṣṣah i Shīrvānshah u Shemā'il (982) 228 *b*.
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