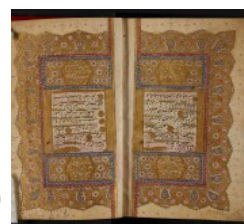**Title:** Dala'il al-Khayrat
Language: Arabic
Date: unknown

This manuscript was likely penned by a student or follower of Imam Al-Jazuli—the 15th century Moroccan Sufi leader. The images featured from this devotional prayer book depict the locations of the Prophet and the first two caliphs, Abu Bakr and Omar.

Title: Durr-ul-Mukhtar
Language: Arabic
Date: Hijri calendar (circa 1060)
Gregorian calendar (circa 1650 AD)

This is a work of instructional Islamic guidance on daily religious and social life, including themes of worship, commerce, and social interactions.

Title: Tutinama
Language: Persian
Date: unknown

Tutinama is a series of 52 moral tales dating from the 14th century. The original authorship is credited to Nakhshabi, a Persian physician and Sufi saint, who adapted his tales from ancient Sanskrit stories. Use the QR code to the left of the panel to access an English translation.

Title: Qu'ran
Language: Arabic
Date:
Hijri calendar (circa 1335)
Gregorian calendar (circa 1917 AD)

This small manuscript is a complete copy of the Qu'ran. The featured pages illustrate the manuscript's elaborate design work around chapter headings. This motif is repeated throughout the work.
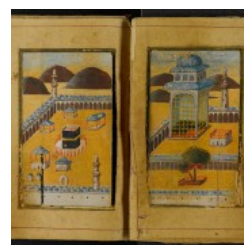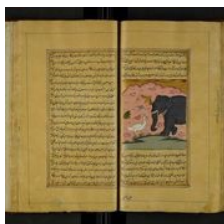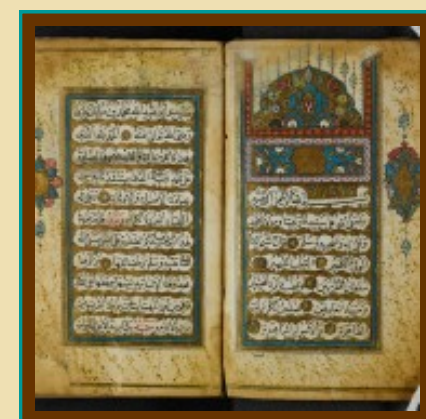
Title: Unknown
Language: Arabic
Date: unknown

The small prayer book, featuring gold leaf and ink drawings, includes various names and attributes of the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace). Exhibited pages depict the Great Mosque in Mecca.

Virtual Exhibit QR Code:

Virtual Exhibit URL:

http://uknowledge.uky.edu/world_yome_calligraphy

Middle Eastern Passage

Calligraphic Manuscripts from University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center

Title: Qu'ran
Language: Arabic
Date: circa late 19ᵗʰ century

This small illuminated manuscript of the Qu'ran was designed to be carried as evidenced by the highly decorated case with carrying strap. The featured pages include the opening chapter of the Qu'ran.

Title: Storehouse of Mysteries
Language: Persian
Date: unknown; likely predates 1550 AD

This is the first of five long narrative poems, or the *Panj Ganj* (the Five Treasures), written by the Persian poet widely known as Nizami. Originally published around 1165 AD, *The Storehouse of Mysteries* consists of twenty stories in verse centered on religious and ethical themes.

Title: Commentary on Islamic Law
Language: Arabic
Date: Hijri calendar (circa 1032)
Gregorian calendar (circa 1623 AD)

This book of Islamic law, written by the 14ᵗʰ century Hanafi jurist known as Sadr Al-Shari'a, addresses personal and societal rites, as well as religious matters including prayer and fasting. The index and a page with copious annotations are featured.

Title: Shahnameh
Language: Persian
Date: circa late 19ᵗʰ century

Shahnameh is an epic poem that conveys the history of pre-Islamic Persia. The work is comprised of 62 stories told through nearly 50,000 rhyming couplets. Its author, widely known as Ferdowsi, completed the work in 1010 AD over a period of 33 years. *Shahnameh* is a seminal work of Persian literature, folklore, and cultural identity.

Title: Dala'il al-Khayrat
Language: Arabic
Date: Hijri calendar (circa 1215)
Gregorian calendar (circa 1800 AD)

The Dala'il al-Khayrat is a manual of blessings on the Prophet Muhammad penned by the 15th century Moroccan Sufi leader of the Berber Tribe of the Jazulah widely known as Imam Al-Jazuli. It was the first major work in Islamic history to compile peace litanies, prayers, epithets, and blessings on the Prophet.

Title: The Fruit Orchard
Language: Persian
Dated: Hijri calendar (1252)
Gregorian calendar (1836 AD)

This manuscript dates from 1252 in the Hijri calendar and is a fine example of the first work of Persian poet and writer Sa'di. Written in rhyming couplets, this work consists of anecdotes that convey Sa'di's insight into human psychology and interaction. He completed the original in 1257 AD. Sa'di's works have been translated into several languages, and his examinations of ethics and cultural mores have inspired essayists, poets, historians, and world leaders since his late 13th century writing.
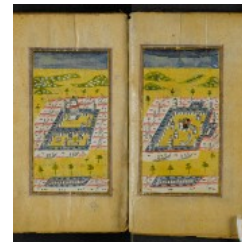
Title: Qu'ran
Language: Arabic
Dated: unknown

This manuscript includes four chapters from the Qu'ran. The displayed pages highlight the work's unique floral stenciling. Use the QR code to the left of the panel to access an English translation.