

## Appendix B

### JRUL CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

TEL. 0161 306 6524

#### CONSERVATION TREATMENT

Reference: Persian Ms. 932

Contact: Carol Burrows                      Project: *Shahnama* Digitisation Project

Author : Ferdowsi                              Title: Shahnameh

Year: 1542

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**Dimensions**    (mm)            **H** 335                      **W** 202                      **D** 82

**Brief Description:** Modern European binding of original Persian manuscript pages. Bound in red/scarlet morocco, with the name and coat of arms of Dr Edward Craven Hawtrey gilt-stamped on the front and back covers.

**Other Information:** Contains 38 Shiraz type miniatures by two artists, a note from Turner Macan (first European editor of the *Shahnama*) and the order of the book runs from right to left.

**Collation:** 604 folios, hand written in the top left hand corner of the recto. The catalogue list 644 folios, the modern addition of flyleaves adjacent to the miniatures and endleaves could account for the 40 folios and are unnumbered.

#### TECHNICAL INFORMATION

##### **Bookblock:**

Original pages are Islamic paper pasted on to similar style paper, mixed with original pages and blank leaves of machine-made paper tipped in to protect miniatures. Machine-made paper and laminated, buffed paper flyleaves.

##### **Boards & Board Attachment:**

Strawboard attached to buffed paper laminated to endleaves, covered by doublure. Leather is red morocco.

##### **Endpapers:**

Machine-made paper laminated with buffed paper.

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## **Binding Structure:**

Modern rebinding (1830-1860).

## **Sewing:**

Sewn on five recessed cords.

## **Head & Tail Bands:**

Double core, triple coloured (white, light green, dark brown) both head and tail.

## **Ink & Pigments:**

Carbon black, verdigris, gold, and others.

## **Finishing:**

Gold and blind-tooled panelled lines on spine and covers. Crest stamped on both boards. Lettered on spine "FIRDUSI / SHAH- / NAMEH / PERSICE / M.S.S. / EX BIBLIOTHECA / REGIS / OUDE / ANN: HEDRÆ

## **CONDITION**

### **Bookblock:**

Overall solid in its shape, however the folios are weakened along the spine edge from rebinding into a western style. Mounting of original panes of manuscript onto a contemporary style paper has caused deformation and weakening of the miniatures.

**ff. 1 verso.** Good condition

**ff. 2 recto.** Good condition

**ff. 7 verso.** Good condition

**ff.15 verso.** Good condition

**ff.18 verso.** Small tear, fair condition

**ff. 27 verso.** Blue pigment fading, fair condition

**ff. 42 recto.** Blue pigment, good condition

**ff. 64 recto.** Blue pigment fading at edges, good condition

**ff. 70 verso.** Good condition

**ff. 78 recto.** Historic repair, good condition

**ff. 87 verso.** Imprint of the text pane on the recto is creating a deformation along the foredge of the miniature, gold in the top right is cockling with the paper and risks flaking away. Previous damage also in the top right hand corner. Fair condition, treat with care

**ff. 96 verso.** Fading of blue pigments, imprint of recto text pane. Good condition

**ff. 112 verso.** Fading of blue pigment, imprint of text pane on the recto visible, verdigris flaking off central fallen figure. Good condition, treat with care

**ff. 122 recto.** Imprint of text pane from verso visible and distorted face of central character of bottom left trio. The outline of the central gold image has become brittle, damage follows the black pigment to outline the image. Large portions of the image are missing and infilled. Poor condition, very fragile treat with utmost care

**ff. 164 verso.** Image distorted from the repairs on the recto, paper under tension from repairs, crack in the paper in the gold decoration in the centre of the miniature. Poor condition treat with care

**ff. 193 verso.** Particularly damaged, evidence of 'offensive' material being previously covered. Distortion of image from impression of text pane on recto. Pigments and images faded and worn, edge repaired and guarded. Fair condition, treat with care

**ff. 211 recto.** Imprint of text pane on verso visible, pigments slightly faded towards the foredge. Gold fragile, cockling with paper toward foredge. Verdigris damage on the bottom central figure. Fair condition, handle with care

**ff. 226 recto.** Impression from verso partially visible. Tear in the middle of the spine edge of miniature. Fair condition, handle with care

**ff. 247 verso.** Visible impression from recto, image has creases towards the foredge, small holes from verdigris degradation. Good condition

**ff. 273 recto.** Good condition

**ff. 291 recto.** Historic repair, fragile. Poor condition

**ff. 292 recto.** Good condition

**ff. 301 verso.** Verdigris is causing brittleness and holes, very fragile towards the lower edge. Fair condition, handle with care

**ff. 308 recto.** Image worn along impression from the verso. Good condition.

**ff. 318 recto.** Good condition

**ff. 329 verso.** Cracked to the left of page center and along the verdigris on the pagoda, fragments of verdigris missing, smudged face of figure second from the left at the bottom of the page, Poor condition, treat with care

**ff. 355 recto.** Missing section of mounted archer on the left of image infilled due to deterioration of the substrate by verdigris pigment. Poor condition, page fragile, treat with care

**ff. 371 recto.** Paper cracked along spine edge of miniature. Poor condition, treat with care

**ff. 381 verso.** Flyleaf missing, remnants present. Verdigris is causing embrittlement, small sections missing and infilled. Poor condition, treat with care

**ff. 385 recto.** Paper split around edge of text window near the spine edge

**ff. 387 recto.** Paper split around edge of text window near the spine edge

**ff. 389 verso.** Archer on the left has sections missing that are infilled due to verdigris deterioration. Fair condition, treat with care

**ff. 394 recto.** Paper split around edge of text window near the spine edge

**ff. 402 verso.** Cracks from verdigris deterioration, paper very fragile. Poor condition, treat with care

**ff. 408 recto.** Large gilt section. Good condition, handle with care

**ff. 433 verso.** Small holes, previous insect damage. Good condition

**ff. 449 verso.** Cracked and embrittled paper from verdigris damage. Distortion along foredge causing cockling of paper and pigments. Fair condition, handle with care

**ff. 460 recto.** Good condition

**ff. 477 verso.** Good condition

**ff. 510 recto.** Severe degradation of verdigris pigment cracking the paper and heavily staining the verso. Poor condition, handle with care

**ff. 525 recto.** Pigments cracked and flaking. Spine edge has been repaired for tears. Fair condition, handle with care

**ff. 539 verso.** Good condition

**ff. 561 verso.** Good condition, handle with care

**ff. 574 recto.** Good condition

**ff. 591 verso.** Skinned patches around the margin of the miniature. Good condition.

**ff. 604 recto.** Edge of text pane is lifting in places and is at risk of losing material

Care should be taken with all the miniatures but also all folios toward the front and back of the book as the stresses of rebinding will have made tears more likely.

### **Boards & Board Attachment:**

Boards are in good condition and the leather is in good condition but worn at the corners, along the spine edges and the head and tail of the spine. Back board, endpapers and folio 604 are loose of the bookblock but still attached to the overall structure.

### **Endpapers:**

Excellent condition though dirty.

### **Binding Structure:**

Solid and intact

### **Sewing:**

Excellent condition despite the loose board and attached folio at the end of the manuscript

### **Head & Tail Bands:**

Excellent condition

### **Ink & Pigments:**

Good condition overall. Verdigris and some yellow pigments are at various stages of deterioration throughout the manuscript. Gold illumination is at risk of coming away in some places due to distortion of the substrate.

### **Finishing:**

Good condition

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**TREATMENT**

Digitisation

**MATERIALS USED**

**Conservator: Mark Furness**

**Date: 16/1/09**