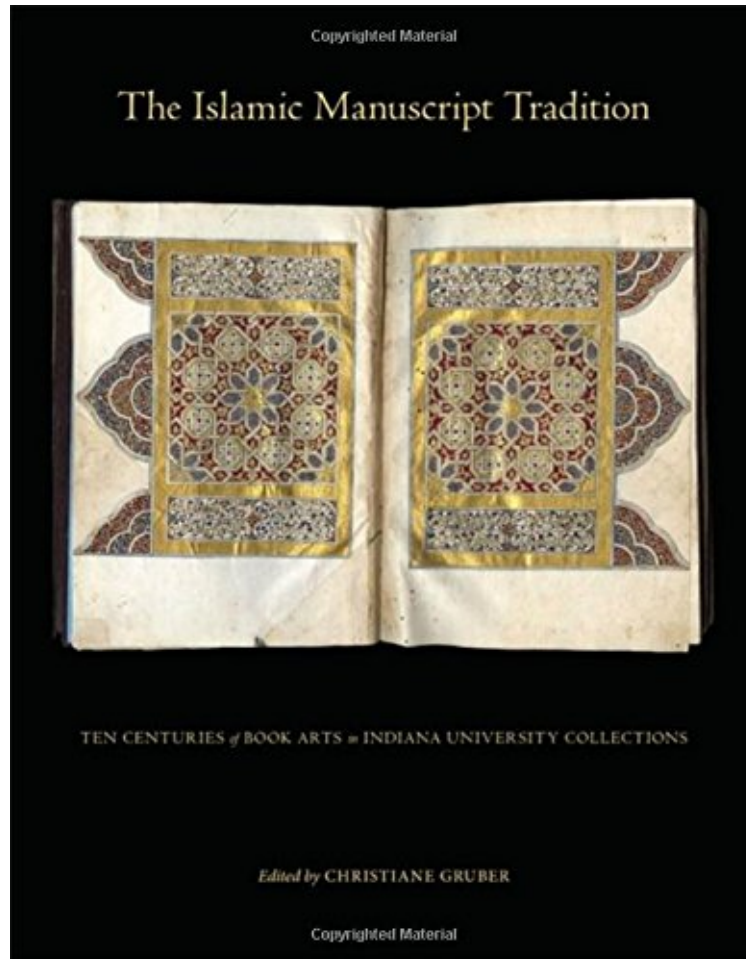


# The Islamic Manuscript Tradition: Ten Centuries of Book Arts in Indiana University Collections

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Over the course of ten centuries, Islam developed a rich written heritage that is visible in paintings, calligraphies, and manuscripts. The Islamic Manuscript Tradition explores this aspect of Islamic history with studies of the materials and tools of literate culture, including pens, inks, and papers, Qurans, Persian and Mughal illustrated manuscripts, Ottoman devotional works, cartographical manuscripts, printed books, and Islamic erotica. Seven essays present new scholarship on a wide range of topics including collection, miniaturization, illustrated devotional books, the history of

the printing press in Islamic lands, and the presence and function of erotic paintings. This beautifully produced volume includes 111 color illustrations and provides a valuable new resource for students and scholars of Islamic art.

"This handsome, large-format volume presents eight essays written in conjunction with an exhibition of the rich collection of Islamic books at Indiana University.... This book is a pleasure to hold and to read.... Highly recommended." *Choice*, July 2010 (Choice 2010-01-00)"Includes so much new and unpublished material... [and] it puts the collection of Islamic manuscripts at Indiana University on the map." Stefano Carboni, Department of Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (Stefano Carboni, Department of Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)This handsome, large-format volume presents eight essays written in conjunction with an exhibition of the rich collection of Islamic books at Indiana University. The introductory essay by editor Gruber provides a concise overview of the field from the time of the Prophet Muhammad to the modern period, including general remarks on the important place of calligraphy and painting in books within Islamic culture. Other essays treat topics dealing mostly with the early modern period. Particularly interesting and unusual are essays on Ruth Adomeit's collection of miniature manuscripts and on the miniature volumes in Indiana. Other essays discuss a 19th-century illustrated Turkish prayer manual, the earliest (18th-century) official Turkish printed books, a cartographic volume from the earliest Ottoman press, a 19th-century condensed Shahnama made for a Sikh patron in India, and a late-19th- or early-20th-century amuletic manuscript from northern Nigeria. Because such late manuscripts are less frequently studied by scholars, these essays make a valuable contribution. Noteworthy are the more than 100 color reproductions of very high quality and often-large scale. This book is a pleasure to hold and to read. **Summing Up: Highly recommended.** Lower-level undergraduates through faculty/researchers; general readers. --Choice L. Nees, University of Delaware, July 2010 (L. Nees, University of Delaware 2010-01-00)"This handsome, large-format volume presents eight essays written in conjunction with an exhibition of the rich collection of Islamic books at Indiana University.... This book is a pleasure to hold and to read.... Highly recommended." *Choice* (Choice)"It is Gruber's scholarship that makes this book a desirable addition to a reference or circulating collection.... Her introductory essay could serve as course reading for classes on art history or Islamic culture and civilization; it stands alone as a readable, attractive, and extensively footnoted summary of the distinctive artistic character of Islamic book arts through the centuries." *Journal of Religious Theological Information*, 9:3, 2010 (Journal of Religious Theological Information 2010-01-00)"Collected studies often are uneven and inconsistent affairs, reflecting the distinctive perspectives and expository idiosyncrasies of their various contributors. Not so here, however, where tight editorial control was clearly exercised, and epistolary style uniformly regulated.... Besides simultaneously enriching the corpus of Islamic books and the study of Islamic book arts, this handsome volume does Indiana University proud." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (Journal of the American Oriental Society)"[T]his is a useful source material on the development of Islamic book art from the 9th to the 20th centuries in different parts of the world, and will be an essential information tool for all those interested in the Islamic artistic and aesthetic traditions, specifically in the art of the book which is a highly prized item of Islamic material culture." *Journal of Oriental and African Studies* (Journal of Oriental and African Studies)About the AuthorChristiane Gruber is Assistant Professor of Islamic Art at Indiana University Bloomington. She is editor (with Frederick S. Colby) of *The Prophet's Ascension: Cross-Cultural Encounters with the Islamic Mi'raj Tales* (IUP, 2009) and author of *The Timurid Book of Ascension (Mi'rajnama): A Study of Text and Image in a Pan-Asian Context* and *The Ilkhanid Book of Ascension: A Persian-Sunni Prayer Manual*.