

The Near East Section was established in 1945 following the end of World War II.



Lacquer book cover, Nineteenth-Century Qajar Era Iran, Kirkor Minassian Collection.

It has in its custody materials in several formats: from exquisite manuscripts to early printed books; and from historic and contemporary newspapers, on microfilm and microfiche, to political and cultural ephemera—in over 40 languages of North Africa and the Middle East, as well as those of the countries and peoples of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Its Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Turkic & Iranian language collections are renowned for their high scholarly quality, as are the Armenian, Georgian and Central Asian language materials which are growing rapidly and constitute major research collections. The largest collection—the Arabic—is rich in manuscripts and early printed books, as well as in newspapers, serials and monographs in numerous fields including in literature, the social sciences, and the humanities. The Armenian collection is representative of the literary tradition, in manuscripts and printed works, accomplished both in Armenia and in its extensive, historical

diaspora. The Persian collection holds a number of splendidly illuminated manuscripts which are now digitized, as well as a unique collection of lithographs and early imprints which are currently being digitized. Its twentieth century collections of books and journals is very extensive as well. The Turkish collection is strong in both modern works and Ottoman printed materials and includes both manuscripts as well as digitized materials such as the Abdul Hamid II gift books and album collections. Efforts to collect works published in Georgia and in the post-Soviet States of the Caucasus and Central Asia have proved remarkably fruitful.

In its continuing efforts to make its collections accessible to researchers in the United States and beyond, the Section has continued to digitize and mount many of its vital collections.

The Section hosts a variety of special events, such as annual symposia, briefings, exhibits, lecture series and other programs to highlight its collections and to promote their use by scholars and researchers.

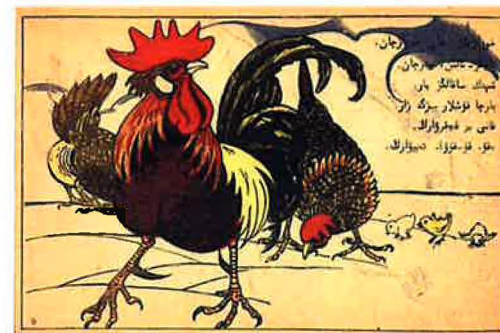
The Near East Section's specialists in the languages, countries and cultures of the Near East offer group and individual briefings both off site and on location. Queries from researchers and scholars are encouraged via Ask-

a-Librarian, email, telephone, or in person.



Illuminated illustration of Mecca in Jazuli's famed "Dala'il al-Khayrat" manuscript, copied 1785.

SELECT WEB PAGES



Elbek's *Hayvanlar*, early children's book, 1926, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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<http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/>

Near East Section Home Page

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/nes/neshome.html>

The Near East Section Illustrated Guide

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/guide/neshillguide.html>

Library of Congress Transliteration Tables

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Library of Congress Online Catalog

<http://catalog.loc.gov/>

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1765 AD.

THE NEAR EAST SECTION OF THE AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN DIVISION

Thomas Jefferson
Building, LJ-229
1st & Independence
Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C.
20540-4823

Hours of Service:
M - F
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Division Chief
Lanisa Kitchiner
Email: lkitchiner@loc.gov

**Section Head & Turkic
World**
Joan Weeks
Email: jwee@loc.gov
Phone: (202) 707-3657

Arab World
Dr. Muhannad Salhi, Area
Specialist
Email: msalhi@loc.gov
Phone: (202) 707-4518

**Huda Dayton, Arab
Librarian**
Email: hudayton@loc.gov
Phone: (202) 707-0686

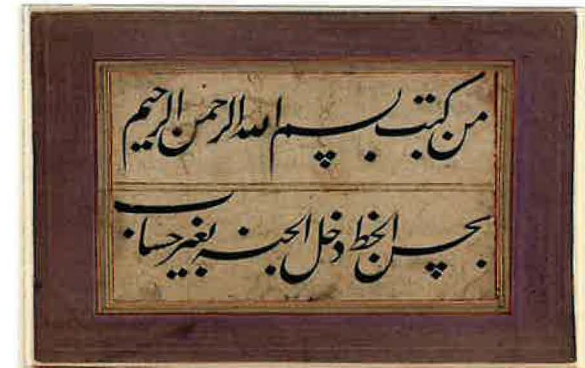
Iranian World
Hirad Dinavari,
Reference Librarian
Email: hdin@loc.gov
Phone: (202) 707-4518

**Armenian/Georgian
World**
Dr. Khatador Mouradian
Email: kmouradian@loc.gov
Phone: (202) 707-3365



"Patmutiwn varuts
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Awetaranchin",
Armenian Manuscript
on Saint John the
Apostle, copied 1765
AD.

THE NEAR EAST SECTION



A Levha, Islamic Calligraphy, Nasta'liq script, 18th-19th
centuries, Kirkor Minassian Collection.

AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN DIVISION AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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