NOTE: The pages in this book are ordered from right to left. This means that to view the pages in order, you should go to the last page of the document and read what would be from “back-to-front” for a Western manuscript.
by Hatib Mehmed Efendi (d. 1187 AH / 1773 CE), a celebrated Ottoman artist.

**fol. 6a:**
*Title:* Page of pen exercises  
*Form:* Album page of calligraphy  
*Label:* This is a sheet of pen exercises (karalama). Such pen exercises were commonly collected in albums. In their technique and design pattern, the borders of this page are comparable to ebru (marbled paper) made by Hatib Mehmed Efendi (d. 1187 AH / 1773 CE), a celebrated Ottoman artist.

**Lower board outside:**
*Title:* Binding  
*Form:* Binding  
*Label:* This sheepskin-covered binding, with central lobed medallion and central pane filled with chamois leather, was produced in Ottoman Turkey and probably dates to the twelfth century AH / eighteenth CE.

**Acquisition**  
Walters Art Museum, 1931, by Henry Walters bequest

**Binding**  
The binding is not original.

Probably dates to the twelfth century AH / eighteenth CE; sheepskin-covered boards; central oval medallion; pendants and cornerpieces; gold-painted border; central panel filled with chamois leather
portion, while thuluth (the larger hand) is used for the top lines.

fol. 3b:
Title: Page of Ottoman calligraphy
Form: Album page of calligraphy

fol. 4a:
Title: Page of Ottoman calligraphy
Form: Album page of calligraphy

fol. 4b:
Title: Page of Ottoman calligraphy
Form: Album page of calligraphy

fol. 5a:
Title: Page of Ottoman calligraphy
Form: Album page of calligraphy
Label: This page bears the name of the celebrated Ottoman calligrapher Şeyh Hamdullah (Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī, d. 926 AH / 1520 CE). The colophon may be translated into English as follows: This was written by Ḥamdu Llāh, [who is] known as the sheikh's son, [while] praising God--exalted is he--and praying for his messenger Muhammad and his family, the pure ones, all of them, and praying for their safety. [This was] at the time of his hoariness as his hair glistened white and his head trembled and he was close to the state of decrepitude, being 80 and some odd years old. May God have mercy on those who act equitably and forgive and those who consider [things] closely and pray, because mankind was made to abide in deficiency and here am I, characterized by forgetfulness and disobedience.

fol. 5b:
Title: Page of pen exercises
Form: Album page of calligraphy
Label: This is a sheet of pen exercises (ḳaralama). Such pen exercises were commonly collected in albums. In their technique and design pattern, the borders of this page are comparable to ebru (marbled paper) made
Incipit:

Hand note: Written in calligraphic, vocalized naskh and thuluth scripts in black ink
Decoration note: Decorated marbled borders; polychrome illuminated frames; polychrome floral motifs on a gold ground; illuminated verse markers

Decoration

Upper board outside:
Title: Binding
Form: Binding
Label: This sheepskin-covered binding, with central lobed medallion and central pane filled with chamois leather, was produced in Ottoman Turkey and probably dates to the twelfth century AH / eighteenth CE.

fol. 1b:
Title: Calligraphic page with verses from chapter 2 of the Qur'an
Form: Album page of calligraphy
Text: Chapter 2 (Sūrat al-baqarah), 2:65-68
Label: This calligraphic page with verses from chapter 2 (Sūrat al-baqarah) 2:65-68 is framed by an outer border of marbled paper.

fol. 2a:
Title: Calligraphic page with verses from chapter 4 of the Qur'an
Form: Album page of calligraphy
Text: Chapter 4 (Sūrat al-nisāʾ), 4:103-106
Label: This calligraphic page with verses from chapter 4 (Sūrat al-nisāʾ) 4:103-106 is framed by an outer border of marbled paper.

fol. 2b:
Title: Page of Ottoman calligraphy
Form: Album page of calligraphy
Label: This page is inscribed with passages from hadith literature (accounts of what the Prophet Muhammad did or said) and is written in naskh and thuluth scripts. Naskh, the smaller hand, is used for the text on the lower
Colophon

5a:


Translation: This was written by Ḥamdu Llāhī, [who is] known as the sheikh's son, [while] praising God--exalted is he--and praying for his messenger Muhammad and his family, the pure ones, all of them, and praying for their safety. [This was] at the time of his hoariness, as his hair glistened white and his head trembled and he was close to the state of decrepitude, being 80 and some odd years old. May God have mercy on those who act equitably and forgive and those who consider [things] closely and pray, because mankind was made to abide in deficiency and here am I, characterized by forgetfulness and disobedience.

Comment: Fully vocalized colophon giving the name of the calligrapher, Ḥamd Allāh al-ma’rūf bi-Ibn al-Shaykh, and stating that it was executed when he was 80 years old.

Support material

Paper

Mounted on thin pasteboard

Extent

Foliation: 10

Leaves have been numbered 1-5 for digitization purposes; text appears only on one side of the conjoint leaf

Collation

Catchwords: None

Dimensions

23.0 cm wide by 30.0 cm high

Layout

Columns: 1

Ruled lines: 5-11

Contents

fols. 1b - 6a:

Title: Muraqqa`
Abstract
This album (muraqqa`) of calligraphy in an accordion format was compiled in Ottoman Turkey in the twelfth century AH / eighteenth CE. It consists of leaves bearing fragmentary passages from the Qur’an (chapter 2 [Sūrat al-baqarah], 2:65-68 and chapter 4 [Sūrat al-nisā’], 4:103-106); sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (hadith); and two sheets of pen exercises (kharalama). The Qur’anic verses and the passages of hadith are written in vocalized naskh and thuluth scripts in black ink. Fol. 5a bears the name of the Ottoman calligrapher Şeyh Hamdullah (Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī, d. 926 AH / 1520 CE). Şeyh Hamdullah was the most celebrated calligrapher of his time and influenced subsequent generations of calligraphers. Each page in the album is framed by eighteenth-century marbled borders. The sheepskin binding with central lobed medallion has a central panel filled with chamois leather and probably dates to the twelfth century AH / eighteenth CE.

Date
10th century AH / 16th CE -- 12th century AH / 18th CE

Origin
Turkey

Scribe
As-written name: Ḥamd Allāh al-ma’rūf bi-Ibn al-Shaykh  
Name, in vernacular:

Note: Ḥamd Allāh al-Amāsī, known as Ibn al-Shaykh or Şeyh Hamdullah (d. 926 AH / 1520 CE), was the most important calligrapher of the early Ottoman period.

Form
Album

Language
The primary language in this manuscript is Arabic.
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A digital facsimile of Walters Ms. W.672, Album of Ottoman calligraphy
Title: Muraqqa`