CHAPTER ONE

AMSTERDAM, AMSTERDAM MUSEUM

Address: Kalverstraat 92, Nieuwezijde Voorburgwal 357

The museum, formerly the Amsterdam Historical Museum, first opened its doors to the public in 1926. It houses the city's art collection brought together from the 17th century onward. The collection was later expanded with donations. Among the holdings of the museum is a part of the collection of fine and applied art of Abraham Willet (1825–1888), which includes a library comprizing some manuscripts, among them one Turkish item (described below), acquired though his widow, Louisa Willet-Holthuysen (1824–1895), who bequeathed her possessions to the city of Amsterdam. Two modern Turkish letters, composed for the museum for an exhibition in 1985 by two anonymous refugees describing their painful experiences in the Netherlands, are still kept in a file *tentoonstellingsdocumentatie Allemaal Amsterdammer* found in a box labelled 1985/5b.

Literature: Geert-Jan Koot & Fransje Kuyvenhoven, "The 'Willet-Holthuysen' Collection of Books", in *Art Libraries Journal* 12/1 (1987), pp. 32–38.

Hs. LA 2047

Yūsuf u Züleyhā

يوسف و زليخا

A 16th-century illustrated copy of a narrative poem in *meşnevî* rhyme on the story of Yūsuf and Züleyhā by Meḥmed Ḥamdullāh, who used the pen-name of Ḥamdî (d. 909/1503). It was the first Ottoman version on this theme and was completed by the poet in 897 (1491–1492) according to the concluding chronogram: 'in exactly 897 the poor Ḥamdî finished this poem' (*sekiz yüzle toksan yedide temām/ bu nazmı temām etdi Ḥamdî fakîr*, f. 222a:2). The last word of the final chronogram (quoted below) results in the same number. The title is written in white in a gilt headpiece on f. 1b; the name of the author, *Ḥamdî Çelebi b. eṣ-Şeyḥ*, also in white occurs in another headpiece on f. 2a. The last chronogram is followed by a riddle colophon (cf. below). A description on the author and contents in Dutch is found on the last flyleaf, *recto*; it states that the manuscript was completed in 1562 (but cf. below). The manuscript contains nine coloured miniatures (23a, 47b, 60b,

77b, 118b, 166a, 194b, 215b and 216a); six pages (89a–b, 153a–b, 154a–b) have, apart from the borders, remained blank but had obviously been destined for further pictures. One of these contains the year 1235 (1819–1820). (For another, incomplete, copy of the same work see Leiden, UB Cod.Or. 14.561.)

Bound in embossed dark brown leather, possibly of Western origin; cream glazed paper; (1) + 222 + (1) folios; 177 × 104 mm and 126 × 65 mm; 15 lines or less on pages containing slanting lines; catchwords; small *nesih* of calligraphic quality; headings in gold and blue, occasionally in green; multiple borders in gold contained within double blue lines; rich floral illumination in gold, blue, red, pink and green on ff. 1b–2a; writing surface filled in with gold on ff. 2b–3a; completed by Meḥmed b. Ramaẓān in the early afternoon of Wednesday 24 *Rebīʿü l-âḥir* 969 (1 January 1562); an owner's inscription of Bursalı Şāliḥ Ağa at the Kōrḥane barracks and of 'Keyfli Ṭanacī' İbrāhīm Ağa, with a price of '54', is found on the first flyleaf, *verso*; a small circular bookplate of Abraham Willet (cf. the Introduction, above) is found on the inner back-board.

Begins (1b):

ذکر اولناسه اول اسم الله * هر نه بشلنسه آخر اوله تباه

The work proper ends (221b):

شکر و منت خدای سبحانه * که بو نظمی بتوردی پایانه

The concluding chronogram ends (222a):

قودی اهل درده بونی یادکار * مرادی اولاردن دعای منیر

The copyist's chronogram ends (*ibidem*):

هر که این را بخواند از کرمش * یاد کردن بخیر جرسندم

Colophon (*ibidem*):

وكان الفراغ من تعليقه في اول الربع الثالث من اليوم الرابع في رابع العشر الثالث من الشهر الرابع في تاسع العشر السابع من المائت العاشره على يد العبد الكثير كذا ... العصيان محمد بن رمضان [عثمان] عفى عنها العفو المنان حامداً الله تعالى و مصلياً على نبيه صلا الله عليه و سلم

Catalogue entries: [Frans Coenen], *Catalogus der Bibliotheek van het Museum Willet-Holthuysen* (Amsterdam 1896), p. 208; Flemming 51 and Sohrweide II, 246, where other MSS are mentioned; see also Fihris 5144–5153 (IV, pp. 278–279); Kut, Manisa, p. 131; Schmidt 15, 60; TYTK (Süleymaniye, Ali Nihat Tarlan) 287–288.

Literature: cf. Flemming, pp. 37–38; M. Naci Onur, "Hamdullah Hamdi'nin Yûsuf ve Züleyhâ'sındaki bazı millî motifler", in *Türk Dünya Araştırmaları* 38 (1985), pp. 113–127.