Turkish Manuscripts in the Royal Ontario Museum,
Toronto
This is a single leaf fragment—a short section of what must have been a very long and richly illustrated manuscript. It includes (on its side “a”) a miniature painting, presumably the reason why it was extracted from a fine MS, whose present location is unknown. The best MS of this very long work is in Topkapı Saray Müzesi, Hazine 1519, containing 56,506 verses. A transcription of that MS into the modern Turkish (“Latin”) alphabet was published in Ankara in 1999, indicating in the margins the folio numbers of that TKS manuscript, and assigning verse numbers. These verse numbers have been added below to identify the corresponding lines in the ROM manuscript.

Begins (side a)

A miniature occupies the full 4 column width and the space of 4 lines of the lower part of side (a) of this MS. It depicts an episode just preceding the battle between the Persian hero Rüstem and (unknown to him) his own son Sührāb. A regally clad horseman wearing a “crown” around his helmet, topped by a large feather, is mounting a horse, accompanied by a warrior on foot who is armed with a sword, a shield and a bow and quiver. Facing the horse and holding its bridle is another warrior, also with quiver and shield. Behind them is yet another man similarly armed, followed by two horses. The picture is not titled,