The paper is fine laid paper, all apparently from the same lot. The top piece bears part of a watermark on the left-hand margin about halfway down. It appears to be the top half of a bell design showing a crenellated ‘three finger’ outline.

Overall dimensions: 7.3 (top); 7.4 (bottom) × 124.6 cm.
Dimensions of printed area: 5.1 × 92 cm.

Letters .2–1 cm in height.

83 lines of text: one handwritten line written vertically at the top; nine lines, thirteen lines; one line framing the last text section in an oval pattern; 26, thirteen, fifteen, five lines.
Text is in naskh, pointed and vocalized.

Decorated with fillets, lozenges and a rectangular border around the text.

This piece represents a complete amulet. At top is a handwritten invocation (letters .4–2.3 cm high) of ten words. The piece is composed of three paper strips, each 41.5 cm in length with overlaps of ±1.4 cm.

The first text section is co-terminus with the bottom of the first strip of paper. The second section is framed by double fillet lines 1 mm. apart. The first text line is in a double fillet frame; the second line is curved above an arch of a single line. There is no frame at the bottom. A 2.3 cm space follows. The remainder of the text is bordered by a tall arch of two lines 1 cm apart containing a line of text. The horizontal text is divided into four sub-sections (of 26, thirteen, fifteen and five lines) by double fillets ca. .15 cm apart. Subsections two and three are surrounded by two oval designs as a result. The last section is beneath an arch within the larger arch. One line of ‘magic numbers’ appears at the end.

Some minor holes and tears are found; little text is affected. Some ink has bled through to the verso; some discoloration, especially on joints (due to paste or glue) is also evident.

The previous owner, Mr. J.W. Th. Van Meeuwen, had the paper examined by the Archaeological Institute in London and that report is available. If the text dates, as the paper appears to, to the fifteenth century, it pushes the terminus ad quem for known Arabic block prints forward one hundred years and makes piece roughly contemporary with Gutenberg.

* Previously owned by the Antiquariat van Meeuwen, The Hague, Netherlands.
The lab report from the University of London Institute of Archaeology, dated 10 October, 1989, and written by Dr. N.J. (Nigel J.?) Seeley and Dr. A.T.N. Bennett (signed 20 Oct. 1989) suggests a possible match with the watermark numbered 3984 in C.M. Briquet, Les filigranes: dictionnaire historique des marques du papier, vol. 2 (Leipzig: Hierseman, 1923). This would place the creation of the amulet sometime in the first half of the 15th century, perhaps 1436–37 (Venice), 1437–38 (Palermo), or 1444 (Fabriano), assuming the paper is of Italian manufacture, as is indicated by the watermark.

**Transcription**

1. بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم نصر من الله وفتح قريب
2. اللهم يك انت وعليك توكلت
3. وعندك اختصشت وتك أكتب
4. ونعمتك اصبت واسبتي
5. اللحم انت ربي اغفر ذنبي ونسر لي
6. أمعي وبارك لي في رقفي وأصلح لي
7. ديني ودنياي يا مالك النواصي حبين
8. في الصلاة بغضني في المعاصي
9. وصل الله على سيدنا محمد وآله وسلم
10. الهيكل الشريف نافع

(In reverse along arch *) [.. ولن المال ..] [.. قوله الحق ..]

11. بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
12. الله الذي لا هو الحي
13. القيوم لا تأخذه سنة ولا
14. نوم له ما في السماوات وما في
15. الأرض منها الذي يششع (sic)
16. عنه rake ما يعلم ما بين
17. أديهم وما خلفهم ولا يجتلو