

Music, Literature, Dance and Fashion / Literature

Literature, besides being a vehicle of change was also the sphere in which the 19th-century spirit of change manifested itself. In the “West”, as a result of encounters with specific genres of “Oriental” folk literature, and as a reaction to 18th-century rationalism, romanticism became the dominant style in literature and in art. Romantic and scholarly Orientalism was a product of this interplay. In Arab and Ottoman lands, neoclassicism in literature of all genres as well as the relative proliferation of women writers was an outcome of this interaction. Regardless of their literary affiliation, whether to neoclassicism or romanticism, Arab and Ottoman authors, influenced by Europe, shifted their focus to new themes such as social justice, the rights of women, civil rights and nationalism.



Working Number:	TR2 193
Name:	A Scene from the Turkish Harem
Holding Museum:	Pera Museum
Date:	Second half of the 17th century
Materials:	Oil on canvas
Curator Justification:	This painting by two Austrian artists is supposed to demonstrate certain aspects of the daily life of Ottoman women. As the text explains, unable to go outside the women were entertaining themselves inside, with music and dance.



Working Number:	PT 076
Name:	Histoire de la Princesse Boudour (Conte des mille et une nuits), Translation by J.C. Mardrus of The Story of the Princess Boudour: Tales of a Thousand and One Nights
Holding Museum:	
Date:	Calouste Gulbenkian Museum
Materials:	Paris: F.L. Schmied, 1926
Curator Justification:	Binding: black and green morocco by Georges Bretté (1893–1969), with one lacquered plate by Jean Dunond (1877–1942) Histoire de la Princess Boudour was a French translation of a famous tale from the Arabian Nights. While on the one hand tales like this facilitated the establishment of European Romanticism on the other they opened the eyes of intellectuals to the importance of folk literature of the “East”.



Working Number:	JO 029
Name:	Brass head of flagpole
Holding Museum:	Jordan Museum for Costumes and Jewellery, Department of Antiquities
Date:	Early 20th century
Materials:	Brass; casting
Curator Justification:	Brass artefacts such as this were mounted on flagpoles carrying the standards of people's affiliation when attending religious festivities. Festivals were held in honour of holy people, maybe to mark a birthday or to commemorate martyrdom.



Working Number:	TR2 001
Name:	Dolmabahçe Palace Theatre under construction
Holding Museum:	Ömer M. Koç Collection

Date: 1857
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Dolmabahçe Palace Theatre under construction, one of the earliest depictions of any landmark in Istanbul, taken by James Robertson.



Working Number: LB 122
Name: Portrait of Butrus al-Bustani
Holding Museum: "A`lam fi Zakirat Lubnan"
Date: 19th century
Materials: Oil painting
Curator Justification: Butrus al-Bustani (1819#93), educator and activist, was one of the pre-eminent figures of al-Nahda (the Awakening), the Arabic renaissance that was centred in Lebanon during the mid-19th century. A central member of the team (including the Americans Eli Smith and Cornelius Van Alen Van Dyck), al-Bustani worked on the first Arabic translation of the Bible. He also founded the National School (madrasa al-wataniyya) in Syria in 1863 on secular principles. In the late 19th century he was responsible for the creation of the first modern Arabic encyclopaedia.



Working Number: FR 164
Name: Les Folies Turques: quadrille
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1875
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The fascination inspired by "Oriental" tales was reflected in many artworks in Europe. Along with Arabian tales some others appeared, such as the Turkish tales.



Working Number: FR 165
Name: Fête Égyptienne: Divertissement de Concert pour Piano: op. 3
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1891
Materials: -
Curator Justification: "Egyptomania", triggered by Napoleon's expedition to Egypt, was revived during and following the opening of the Suez Canal. Egyptian-style items, whether authentic or just made to appear so, became highly fashionable.



Working Number: FR 179
Name: Théâtre Impérial du Châtelet. Aladdin and the magnificent lamp; the genies of the lamp (ballet).
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1863
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Hailed as "magical", the ballet performed at the imperial Théâtre du Chatelet in 1863 was inspired by the famous tale from the

Arabian Nights about Aladdin. Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp was designed and choreographed by Bashir Dennerly and Hector Cremieux.



Working Number: FR 182
Name: Shéhérazade, a ballet by Michel Fokine. Stage sketch.
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1913
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Scheherazade, the legendary Persian Queen and central storyteller from the Arabian Nights, was represented in many ways in European cultural life. Here she is depicted as a character in the Ballet Russes' production Scheherazade, choreographed by Michel Fokine to music by the Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, staged in Paris in 1910.



Working Number: FR 183
Name: Shéhérazade
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1895-1897
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Scheherazade is the central figure in one of the world's most influential literary works the Arabian Nights. She must relate a series of stories (over a period of one thousand and one nights) to the king to stay her own execution and in doing so save the lives of many other women.



Working Number: FR 190
Name: Dans le harem: Divertissement Arabe. For piano.
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1894
Materials: -
Curator Justification: A frontispiece that provides another example of the influence that the "Orient" had on 19th-century European intellectuals.



Working Number: FR 191
Name: Nuit d'Orient. [waltz for piano, op. 11]
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1901
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The image of the "Orient" was translated into various European artistic forms. The pyramids and Sphinx, for example, were a constant element of the European iconography.



Working Number: PD 025
Name: Portrait of Edgar Allan Poe
Holding Museum: -

Date: 1848
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Edgar Allan Poe was among the most notable representatives of Romanticism, which flourished at the beginning of the 19th century in Europe. Romantic writers saw human emotion, negative or positive, as the main fount of aesthetic experience.



Working Number: LB 125
Name: Portrait of Shaykh Nasif al-Yaziji
Holding Museum: "A`lam fi Zakirat Lubnan"
Date: 19th century
Materials: Oil painting
Curator Justification: Nasif al-Yaziji (1800–71), father of the translator of the Bible, Ibrahim al-Yaziji, was a leading figure of al-Nahda. Al-Yaziji moved to Beirut in 1840 to teach Arabic; in 1847 he became a government corrector of the first translation of the Bible into Arabic (initiated by Smith, al-Bustani and Van Dyck). In the same year, along with al-Bustani, he founded the first literary society in the Arab world, the Syrian Association for the Sciences and Arts.



Working Number: FR 184
Name: Illustrations of the One Thousand and One Nights, vol. 1
Holding Museum: National Library of France
Date: 1840
Materials: -
Curator Justification: The Arabian Nights was first translated into French in the 18th century and made a great impact on European imaginations. The Calcutta I (Shirwanee) and Bulaq (Cairo) editions are two among the original four corpuses; among the most popular translations are those by A. Galland, Edward Lane, R. F. Burton and J. C. Mardrus.



Working Number: PD 037
Name: The Italian anarchist Amilcare Cipriani
Holding Museum: -
Date: Second part of the 19th century
Materials: -
Curator Justification: Amilcare Cipriani (1844#1918) participated in the second Italian war for independence age 15. In 1860 he fought with Giuseppe Garibaldi in the Expedition of the Thousand in Sicily. In 1997 he volunteered to fight against the Ottomans in Greece. He was imprisoned in Italy many times for his socialism, alleged anarchist activities and his writing, which was banned by the government as subversive.
