

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE HAGUE, MUSEUM MEERMANNOWESTREENIANUM/HUIS VAN HET BOEK

Address: Prinsessegracht 30

The museum, particularly devoted to preservation and exhibition of books and manuscripts, was founded in 1848 and comprised the estate of the collector W.H.J. baron van Westreenen van Tiellandt (1783–1848). A substantial part of the collection had belonged to a distant relative, Johan Meerman (1753–1815), whose library was sold in auction in 1824. Only a few items have been acquired since 1935.

The museum's collection comprises about 20,000 books and 339 manuscripts, among these a few in Arabic, described in Boeren's Catalogue, pp. 146–147 and 197–198. Two of them, copies of Korans, had their origin in the Ottoman Empire: Hs. 10 E 29, an undated copy, made part of a *vakf*, founded by the *kapudan*, İbrâhîm Paşa, in 1118/1706–1707 (see the inscription on f. 1a, where an impression of his seal is also found)—already in 1711 the manuscript was offered by the missionary among Armenians, Jaques Villette, to Charles Dauchez, rector of the *Collège de Clermont* in Paris (and purchased by Meerman in 1764)—and Hs. 10 E 30, described below.

Literature: P.C. Boeren, *Catalogus van de handschriften van het Rijksmuseum Meermannowestreenianum* (The Hague 1979); W.A. Laseur & Jos van Heel, *Het Museum Meermannowestreenianum 1848–1960. Een bijdrage tot de geschiedenis en zijn bewoners* (The Hague 1998).

Hs. 10 E 30

Three Turkish recipes

The manuscript contains an undated and incomplete copy of the Koran. A description of the contents in German is found on the first flyleaf, *recto*. An ornate inscription, equally in German and in green ink, informs us that the manuscript (*dieses Türchische Buch*) had been captured from a Turkish tent by an officer named Fuchshofer, in the service of the Bayreuth regiment of the Count (*Markgraf*) Karl August of Brandenburg, at the fortress of Arscia in the aftermath of the Battle of Siclos (Siklós) on 12 August 1687, but

had later donated it to Johan Rossmann, the author of the inscription, on 20 November 1687 (10th flyleaf, *verso*). Baron van Westreenen bought the manuscript from the bookseller Friedrich Augus Helm in Halberstadt on 1 August 1836 (e-mail from Jos van Heel, 21 February 2009).

The last flyleaf, *recto*, contains three recipes, with lists of ingredients, for two ointments to allay fever in horses and a medical powder to relieve melancholy (*sevdā*); three headings, followed by, each, 5 lines.

Catalogue entries: CCO 2797 (V, p. 311); Voorhoeve, p. 278; Boeren, *Catalogus*, p. 147.

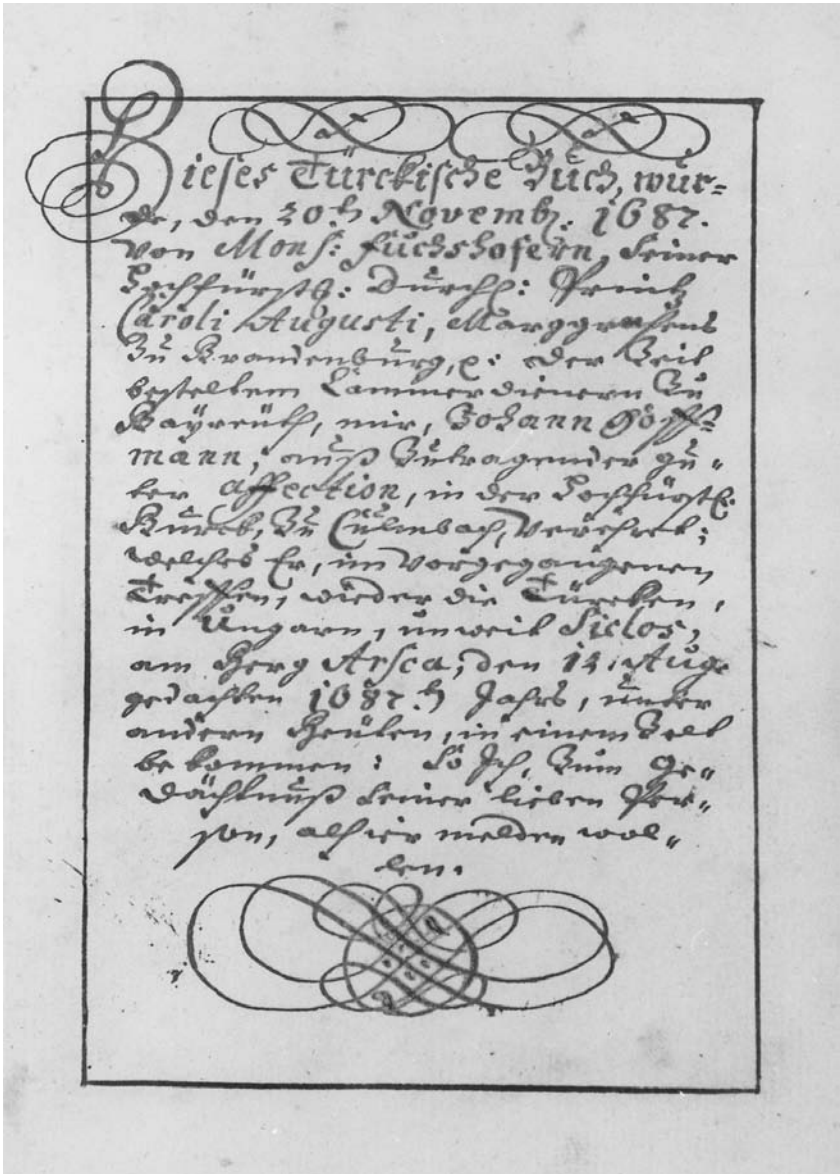


Figure 29. The Hague, Museum Meermanno-Westreenianum Hs. 10 E 30, 10th flyleaf, verso. Ornate inscription in German, stating that the manuscript had been obtained as war-booty in Hungary in 1687.

ات صاده تبون
 قلم جنکاري کوز طمش
 عده الدلین زیتون فای
 بوز کر اولین اجزالی سختی
 ایدوب ایسجان ایسجان سورملر
 غایت ایدمجربدر

بنوع درجات حرارت تبون
 بارده طونر کورده کوز طمش
 بر مقدار بر مقدار بر مقدار
 بوز کر اولین اجزالی سختی ایدوب
 کفایت مقداری زیتون یاغ ایسجان
 ایدوب ایسجان ایسجان بارکیور

زکبت سفود
 قرنفل ودرین قاقول
 ورم ورم ورم
 کباب زورنبا ودرنفل
 ورم ورم ورم
 حولینه زنجیر شکر راورتر
 ورم ورم ورم
 سورالیمون فایسجان محربدر

Figure 30. The Hague, Museum Meermanno-Westreenianum Hs. 10 E 30, last, *recto*. Three recipes in Turkish added to a copy of a part of the Koran, 17th century of earlier.