

Book of Protection, In Syriac

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early 19th century[?]

Title Statement

Book of Protection, In Syriac Book of Protection, In Syriac MSS 16684

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:42:20 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: Syriac, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16684

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1369

Unit Date

early 19th century[?]

Mixed Materials

BW 42 (box)

Container

1 (folder)

Language

Syriac

Extent

0.03 Cubic Feet 1 letter folder miniature book manuscript

Condition Description

Good

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Bernard Quaritch by the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on December 6, 2019.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16684, Book of Protection, In Syriac, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Content Description

The book of protection, in Syriac is a scarce and richly-illustrated miniature manuscript compendium of protective charms in Syriac. It contains prayers and incantations invoking saints and others for protection against fear, implements of war, sickness, lunacy, headaches, dogs, and the evil eye, wolves, snakes, scorpions, and much else.

It is neatly written in a single hand in black and red ink within red borders and contains 19 illustrations to the text. In contemporary dark brown with original blind-ruled goatskin over pulp boards, with a carrying pouch in contemporary leather with flap. It is a rare example of a Syriac book of protection. It shows how manuscripts can embody folk beliefs and serve as talismans. It also enriches knowledge of book history and Middle Eastern book culture.

Keywords

Traditional medicine

Miniature books.