

PREFACE

In an ever-evolving literary landscape, examining historical texts and their intricate features is crucial for understanding the cultural and intellectual heritage of human civilizations. With this in mind, I am pleased to present this volume, a study that delves into the captivating world of Zoroastrian manuscript paratexts.

The aim of this book is to offer readers a nuanced and multidimensional analysis of the paratexts found mostly in Avestan manuscripts, specifically focusing on colophons and marginal notes. These elements, though often overlooked, provide invaluable insights into the historical, social, and cultural contexts in which these manuscripts were created and circulated. By examining these paratexts, we are granted a unique opportunity to delve into the minds of the scribes, readers and users who have engaged with these texts over the centuries.

This work represents the apex of detailed research carried out during a project funded by the German Research Academy (DFG) entitled ‘The Colophons of Iranian Avestan Manuscripts’ (Project number 239666954, from 2013 to 2018). It is my hope that it will not only contribute to the growing body of literature on the paratexts of Zoroastrian manuscripts but also inspire further investigations into the rich and diverse history of this extraordinary literary tradition.

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In conclusion, I fervently hope that this book will illuminate the intriguing world of Zoroastrian manuscripts and their paratexts. May it ignite curiosity and inspire readers to embark on their own exploratory journeys into these manuscripts.

Saloumeh Gholami, Frankfurt am Main, July 2023