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SECTION FROM A MINIATURE KORAN WRITTEN IN RAYHANI,
ORIGINAL LEATHER BINDING

EGYPT, PERHAPS IRAQ; C. 1300

EACH LEAF: 5.7 × 4.8 CM

This stamped and partly gilded leather volume comprises *juz* 27 of a copy of a Koran that was originally in 30 parts. The text panel is only 3.1 cm high and each page holds five lines. The main text was written in a fine *Rayhani* script, while the larger chapter headings were written in *Thuluth* with gold. Markers for each verse are gold dots outlined in red, while markers for each tenth verse are large roundels in the margin.

Well-preserved medieval Korans in miniature format are exceedingly rare, and one might wonder what purpose they served in their day. Perhaps they were intended for use on journeys or perhaps they were curiosities of a kind.

Published in:
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