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Front cover:

Illuminated pen-box (*qalamdān*). painting and lacquer on papier-mâché. Persia, 18th century, collection of the St. Petersburg Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (Kunstkamera), Russian Academy of Sciences (No. 270443). Courtesy of the Museum.

Back cover:

Samples of Arabic calligraphy, Turkey (?) 1688—1689. Bibliothèque nationale de France. Manuscrits orientaux, arabe 4648. 21,5×13,5 cm. Courtesy of BNF.