

Acknowledgements

This publication first originated in Research Group 963, 'Manuscript Cultures in Asia and Africa', based at the University of Hamburg, Germany. The DFG (German Research Foundation) was a generous supporter of this endeavour. The results of the discussions conducted by the young scholars participating in this research group have been integrated into this work.

It is my pleasure to thank a number of people who have all uniquely contributed to the completion of this piece of writing in different ways. First and foremost, I would like to thank Tilman Seidensticker, the mastermind behind this project. He wrote an outline defining the state of the art, objectives and methodology, and he has proof-read large parts of the book. Any mistakes which may be found in the execution of the project he initiated are solely my responsibility, of course. My thanks also go to Jasmin Elshamy from the University of Jena, who took the task upon herself of turning my lists of deviations in the arrangement of verses for the four poems into graphic tables. I also gratefully recall the intervention of Sara Nur Yildiz (Orient-Institut Istanbul); her help allowed me to secure access to the manuscripts of the didactic poems kept at the Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul, which I examined during a stay in 2011. Thanks are due to the five libraries I worked with – Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München (BSB), Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SBB), Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (SUB), Süleymaniye Library of Istanbul and Princeton University Library – for providing microfilms, paper or digital copies of their manuscripts as well as granting permission to publish pictures from them. I owe special thanks to the editors for accepting this work for publication in the series of books entitled *Studies in Manuscript Cultures* (SMC). I also gratefully acknowledge the help of Joe McIntyre, the English-language proof-reader who corrected many of my mistakes and improved my style of writing in English. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to CSMC's editorial assistant, Cosima Schwarke, who worked on the typescript in its final stages.

Florian Sobieroj, Jena, July 2015

