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Elements in the Global Middle Ages

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THE MARKET IN POETRY IN THE PERSIAN WORLD

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The Market in Poetry in the Persian World

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Abstract: “Poetic speech is a pearl, connected to the king’s ear.” This statement gestures to words as objects of material value sought by those with power and resources. The author provides a sense for the texture of the Persian world by discussing what made poetry precious. By focusing on reports on poets’ lives, they illuminate the social scene in which poetry was produced and consumed. The discussion elicits poetry’s close connections to political and religious authority, economic exchange, and the articulation of gender. At the broadest level, the study substantiates the interdependency between cultural and material reproduction of society.

Keywords: Persian poetry, Iran, South Asia, Central Asia, Middle Ages

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Contents

Introduction	1
1 A Walk in Poetic Timespace	7
2 Weights and Measures	16
3 Producers, Aggregators, Buyers	31
4 Complex Poetic Instruments	53
Conclusion	72
References	75