



MANUSCRIPTS OF QUR'ANS PREPARED FOR CENTRAL ASIAN RULERS

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ABSTRACT

The article provides information about the rare copies of the Qur'an in the world's manuscript funds. They are mainly manuscripts specially prepared for the rulers who ruled the state in the Central Asian region.

KEYWORDS

Amir Temur, Ibrahim sultan, kitabat, Khudoyar Khan, Qur'an, manuscript, ruler, sultan, Umar Okta.

INTRODUCTION

The region of Central Asia has been mentioned as one of the most important scientific centers of the Islamic world for centuries. The aforementioned facts are supported by the written records left by the local scientists as well as the surviving architectural monuments. The world's renowned manuscript funds and museums are currently decorated with manuscripts, particularly those created in the area, which are considered masterpieces of Muslim literary art. Among these, the Holy Qur'anic manuscripts that were produced directly at the behest of the monarchs

or given to them as presents are prized as exceptional mementos.

The main results and findings

It should be mentioned that the leaders of the Central Asian kingdom, like other Muslim sultans, had distinct approaches to studying the Holy Qur'an. For instance, scientists who have written about Amir Temur's life claim that he has known the entire Holy Quran by heart since he was a little boy. The host's extensive reading of the holy text is well recognized. Likewise, it is undeniable that unique literature was



produced just for him to read. About this, Qazi Mirahmad Munshi mentions in his book “Gulistoni Hunar” that Sahibqiran Amir Temur received a copy of the Holy Qur'an in an exquisite manner, thanks to the efforts of a talented calligraphy named Umar Okhta [1. - S. 97.]. A piece of it is now kept in the Metropolitan Museum of the United States. The result of further research showed that the manuscript was copied in Samarkand between 1400-1405. So, Umar Okhta copied the Koran manuscript for the ruler in Samarkand. So, Umar Okhta copied the Koranic manuscript for the ruler in Samarkand. Later, it is said that Mirzo Ulug'bek prepared a special tablet for this book. This manuscript is large in size, 222×155 cm. Copied from seven lines to

one sheet. Copying the Holy Qur'an with such large-sized “Jalili muhaqqaq” letters requires great responsibility from the calligrapher. If we pay attention to the inscription, it can be said that the tip of the reed pen was 1 cm wide. This manuscript is rare among ancient copies of the Holy Qur'an.

The Bavarian State Library of Germany also keeps a manuscript of the Holy Qur'an copied in Iran in 1450 as a gift to one of the Timurid princes. This manuscript is 41 by 32 centimeters in size and has 451 pages. Regrettably, the identity of the prince to whom it was given is still unknown (see photo).



Among the Central Asian rulers, Ibrahim Sultan (1394–1435), the second son of Shah Rukh, showed a particular fondness for books. "Zafarnama" contains the following sentences related to Sultan Ibrahim. "...

if Ibn Muqla were resurrected, his (Ibrahim Sultan's) pencil would have touched his eyes."



Research has shown that he patronized science, built mosques and madrasahs, and was one of the great calligraphers of his time.

There have been discovered three Holy Qur'anic manuscripts ascribed to Ibrahim Sultan ibn Shahrukh ibn Amir Temur. The first of them was prepared in 1424.

The size is 81.7 x 61.7 cm. The manuscript's pages 1b–2a are well-made. This manuscript is kept at the Mashhad Holy Library.

The second manuscript was copied in 1427 in Shiraz and is now kept in the US Metropolitan Museum of Art (see photo).



The third manuscript was copied in 1430. It is kept in Shiraz's Porso Museum (see photo).



It is necessary to do a comparative study of these manuscripts related to Sultan Ibrahim, to determine whether they have moved in libraries over the years.

Another unusual manuscript is the Qur'anic manuscript, number № 2171, which is housed in the main fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The manuscript was prepared with a high level of art by a scribe named Muhammad Amin Halwai. It has a total

of 443 pages. Each page of this manuscript is decorated, and 4 pages have a separate plate. A well-known scribe of Ubaydullah Khan (940/1533–946/1539) and his son Abdulaziz Khan (947/1540–957/1549) from Shaibanid is said to have written this text, according to the investigation [2. – S.47]. We still do not have enough information about whether the manuscript was prepared for the ruler. However, since the scribe's work was in the palace, and according to the codicological characteristics of the manuscript, it can be known that it was specially prepared (see photo).



Manuscripts of the Holy Qur'an stored in the main fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan under numbers №№ 722-723 were also copied in 1286/1869 by a scribe named Muhammad Niyaz Khukandi as a gift to the Khan of Kokand Khudoyor Khan (1845-1875, with

breaks). The manuscripts were copied in suls script, and almost all the pages were worked at the level of art. Especially sheets 1b-2a are decorated. The fund contains the 1st quarter of the holy book in the manuscript number 722, and the 2nd quarter in the copy numbered 723 [3. sheets 1b-2a].



It is well known that the holy book was given special attention by rulers like Amir Temur, Boysungur Mirza, Ibrahim Sultan, and Khudoyar Khan, who had copies of the Holy Qur'an manufactured as presents for important people.

Furthermore, in the past, Central Asia and other Muslim nations had proficient scribes of the Holy Qur'an. In the future, careful examination of old manuscripts kept in global funds will allow for the identification of copies of the Holy Qur'an produced for different monarchs.

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