



 Research Article

THE MANUSCRIPT "MAJMA' AL-ARQAM" IS AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL SOURCE FOR STUDYING THE ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONS OF THE BUKHARA EMIRATE IN THE LATE 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURIES

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Tangirov Sherzod Abduraxmonovich

Doctoral Student At Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The manuscript "Majma' al-Arqam" by Mirza Badi-Divan holds significant importance in the development of science in Central Asia, particularly in Bukhara. This work, written in Arabic, Persian, and Turkic, serves as a key source for studying the scientific and cultural history of the Bukhara Emirate in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, as well as the administrative relations of that period. The article highlights the importance of this source in examining the administrative relations of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

KEYWORDS

Mirza Badi-Divan, "Majma' al-Arqam," manuscript, administrative relations, positions, taxation relations, Orientalist A.B. Vildanova, collection.

INTRODUCTION

One of the rare and fascinating sources for studying the administrative relations of the Bukhara Emirate in the late 18th and early 19th centuries is the manuscript "Majma' al-Arqam." This work belongs to the renowned Uzbek scholar of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Mirza Badi-Divan, who is known for his scientific works in the fields of the alphabet and arithmetic. The manuscript discusses the

administrative relations of the Bukhara Emirate, as well as scientific achievements and traditions in mathematics, especially arithmetic. [1, p. 183] The work is among the key sources for understanding the administrative structure of the Bukhara Emirate.

LITERATURE REVIEW



"Majma' al-Arqam" was written in Bukhara in 1210 AH (1796). The title of the work is recorded on its first and last pages. In the "Catalog of Oriental Manuscripts," the author of the work is listed as unknown. Copies of the manuscript are preserved in the library of UzMU under number 171914, in the library of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Leningrad under number B 2147, and in the Firdavsi Public Library in Dushanbe under number 649. The work consists of a brief introduction and five chapters. [2] The manuscript was specifically studied by the Russian Orientalist A.B. Vildanova, who published it in Russian in 1981, with necessary comments, a preface, and additional research. [3]

"Majma' al-Arqam" serves as an official manual for the clerks of the khanate's divan, detailing the management of financial and land taxation in the Bukhara Khanate. Works of this nature in Oriental languages are relatively rare, often intended for a narrow group of individuals, particularly divan clerks, and not widely disseminated. The manuscript describes the main principles of state governance, financial and tax administration, the preparation of tax revenue lists, expenditure reports, and the formalization of land and other endowment deeds. Additionally, it provides detailed information on the duties of officials within the Bukhara state apparatus. [4, p. 8]

In the introduction to the guide accompanying the translation of the manuscript, A.B. Vildanova interprets the title "Majma' al-Arqam" in Russian as "Предписания фиска" or "Financial Instructions" and "Tax Instructions." Studies have shown that the phrase "Majma' al-Arqam" originates from two Arabic words: Majma' (مجمع), meaning "collection," "assembly," or "compilation," derived from the verb jama'a (جمع), which means "to gather" or "to compile"; and Arqam (أرقام), meaning "numbers" or "digits," being the plural form of the word raqm [رقم]. [6] Thus, the

manuscript can also be translated as "Collection of Numbers" or "Compilation of Digits."

According to A.B. Vildanova, the manuscript was likely written between 1798 and 1801. She also notes that its author held important positions in the central administration of the Bukhara Emirate. [4, p. 11]

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Research on the subject indicates that the manuscript served as an official manual for state financial and land tax reporting. It outlines the fundamental principles of administrative, financial, and tax management, the preparation of tax revenue lists, expenditure tables, documents on the allocation of land and other property, and other matters. Since state officials involved in finance needed to possess knowledge of mathematics and other exact sciences, the author of the manuscript included information on arithmetic, algebra, geometry, astronomy, chronology, metrology, coin minting, and other sciences. [1]

The manuscript comprises a brief introduction and five chapters. The introduction provides an overview of the reasons for writing the work, its structure, and content. The first chapter explains the rules of service in the state administrative system. The second and third chapters describe the procedures for managing state treasury revenues and expenditures. The fourth chapter focuses on mathematics, detailing operations with units, tens, hundreds, and larger numbers, their use in calculations, various arithmetic operations, tables, and special letters and terms. The work also provides explanations of geometric operations, offering practical applications for the effective governance and economic activities of the state. The fifth chapter is dedicated to astronomy, numbers, latitude and longitude degrees, and methods for determining the dimensions of areas. [2]



In the final part of "Majma' al-Arqam," the administrative system and titles in the Bukhara Emirate are described. The significance of this source in analyzing the administrative style of the period lies in the precise information it provides about the highest to the lowest positions within the state apparatus.

Regarding the positions and their authorities, Mirza Badi-Divan notes that rulers of Mawarannahr governed according to Sharia law through high-ranking officials such as the Shaykh al-Islam (the highest religious authority) and subordinates like qadis, muftis (including military muftis), and muhtasibs. The lowest positions in this hierarchy were those who spent most of their time teaching students.

Among the highest-ranking appointments made by the Amir, positions responsible for maintaining order and ethics among officials and servants held special importance. Some positions were also filled based on candidates' knowledge, sayyid lineage, ethnic affiliation, and other criteria (e.g., Sadr).

A particularly significant position was "Otaliq," meaning "father" in Turkic, which entailed care and responsibility. The author describes "Otaliq" as a position granted for its incumbent's caregiving qualities, emphasizing the expectation of similar kindness and respect toward other citizens. This position also oversaw water distribution matters. [4, p. 93]

From the late 18th to the early 20th century, studies on the administrative relations of the Bukhara Emirate, as well as its positions and their responsibilities, include references by foreign travelers and Orientalists such as Khanikov in "Описание Бухарского ханства" ("Description of the Bukhara Khanate") [7, p. 148], and Arminius Vambery in "Путешествие по Средней Азии" ("Travels in Central Asia") [8, p. 266]. Works by individuals who held significant positions in the

emirate, such as Mirza Salimbek's "Tarikh-i Salimi" [9, p. 36] and Muhammad Ali Boljuvoni's "Tarikh-i Nafei" (completed in 1927) [10, p. 23], indicate that the positions and their functions described in "Majma' al-Arqam" remained largely unchanged into the early 20th century.

CONCLUSION

In the Bukhara Emirate, from the late 18th to the mid-19th century, a complex administrative network characteristic of Muslim states was in place. The features of the emirate's central executive authority and local governance, as well as the positions and their functions, are reliably documented in Mirza Badi-Divan's "Majma' al-Arqam." Due to the author's active participation in the emirate's central administration, the work stands out for its credibility and detail. The manuscript is a significant contribution by Mirza Badi-Divan to science and one of the most important scholarly sources of its time, serving as a vital reference not only for history but also for the history of mathematics and linguistics.

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