

EAP630: Manuscripts from Kokand Khanate (1710-1876) court library from the museum sources of Kokand and Fergana valley and private collections

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2013 award - Pilot project
£5,220 for 5 months

Archival partner: Kokand Literary Museum

Further Information

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**“Manuscripts of Kokand Khanate (1710-1876) court library from the
museum sources
of Kokand and Fergana valley and private collections” for the period of
01.06.2013 – 30.11.2013**

During the work on the project held in Kokand and Fergana valley, the EAP630 team visited seven places where manuscripts’ were preserved. Three places are located on the territory of Fergana valley and four places in Kokand (ex-capital of Kokand khanate). The work included observation and research estimation.

Fergana valley:

1. Fergana Museum of Natural Geography and History.
2. Museum of Art in the town of Margilan (Fergana valley).
3. Andijan Museum of Natural Geography and History.
4. Kokand Literary Museum.

The private collections from town of Kokand:

5. Ahmadjan Madaminov.
6. Lutfulla Zahidov.
7. Sadulla Zahidov.

The preliminary observation work was held in several places.

During the research work on Kokand manuscripts I visited Russian National Library in St.Petersburg where I found a rare manuscript sealed by the last ruler of Kokand Khanate Sayyid Muhammad Khudayar-khan (1845–1858, 1862, 1865–1875). (the assistants Dr. O.Yastrebova, Dr.I.Katkova). Later I have found such seals on the manuscripts of Kokand Literary Museum, Fergana Museum of Natural Geography and History, Museum of Art in the town of Margilan (Fergana valley), Andijan Museum of Natural Geography and History and in the private collections from the town of Kokand. Summarising the work of this Pilot project I consider that about 80-90 manuscripts could be digitised during the future Major project. Four manuscripts were digitised in the frame of this Pilot project. Their descriptions are below.

During the work three trips were made to Ferghana valley. Kokand Literary Museum is the main archive for our observation which has connections with other collections. This archive was created in 1961 and contains 1500 ms and documents. Kokand Khanate (1710-1876) was conquered by the Russian Empire and replaced

by the Turkestan region headed by Russian Governor-General (1876-1917). Kokand palace possessed a large library like many other Muslim palaces. There is no exact data and description of this library's collection. However, in some ms collections in Russia and Uzbekistan one can find mss sealed by Kokand Khans. For example, in the Russian National Library in St.Petersburg I found a rare manuscript sealed by the last ruler of Kokand Khanate Sayyid Muhammad Khudayar-khan (1845–1858, 1862, 1865–1875). So in future I hope to continue the research work in the Russian National Library in St.Petersburg and in the collections of Uzbekistan.

Kokand Literary Museum

Distinctively, this project does not focus on the restoration of the library of Kokand Palace but preservation and digitisation of Kokand manuscript heritage in general. Kokand court library could be only the main corpus for historical investigation. But the identification of these manuscripts in Kokand Literary Museum takes special attention as the museum has no catalogue with description but only the list of titles of manuscripts

Kokand literary museum named after G.Gulyam was organised in 1961 and belongs to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Museum's archive has about 14,000 exhibits. From them more than 1500 are hand-written books created between 15-20th C. in Arab, Persian and Turkic (Chaghatay) languages. Besides, the museum has more than two thousand lithographic books, 35 vaqf documents, about 10 shadjara (genealogy), and also an archive of poets and writers of the 20th C. The most ancient manuscript of the museum is the work by 'Abdallakh ibn' Abd al- Rahman Husayni, copied in 1434 – the comment of khadis "Me'radj al-a'mal". Chronologically the closest to us is Mahmud Hakim Yayfani's manuscript (the writer from Kokand, lived in the 19-20th centuries) under the name "Hullas al-Tavarikh", written in 1925. In this museum, manuscripts on poetry, musicology, astronomy, geography, medicine, logic, Sufism, the Muslim law and Arab grammar, as well as comments on Qur'an and khadis are preserved.

According to the preliminary data, Kokand Literary Museum contains more than 600 ms of literary works, and more than 500 religious works. Most of them are works for teaching Islam in madrasah and schools in the mosques. There are also valuable works. The scholars of the museum have not classified Kokand ms yet and supposed to make such classification in the following way:

- 1) Colophon : containing writing about Kokand and its suburbs as the places of copying
- 2) Colophon : containing writing data about copyist having nisba like Kokandi, Yafani or other places of Ferghana valley
- 3) Seals having Kokand legends like the seal of the last ruler of Kokand Khanate Sayyid Muhammad Khudayar-khan.

- 4) Any other data in the text regarding to Kokand milieu (notes of author or copyist)

Private collections of Kokand

A) Dr. Ahmadjan Madaminov (1925–2008). Ahmadjan Madaminov was a scholar in the field of Persian literature and worked as a fellow-researcher in Kokand Literary Museum. He inherited his family collection, which consists of 60 ms: 31 ms dealing with poetry, 20 ms on Muslim theology, 5 ms on Sufism, one ms on traditional medicine (thibb, one ms on Arabic grammar (nahwu). One part of it is now located in the state archive and the other part belongs to family.

B) Dr. Lutfulla Zahidov (1927–2015). Worked as assistant to the Professor of Philological Faculty, in Kokand Pedagogical Institute. His private collection consists of 14 ms touching on Persian poetry.

C) Sadulla Zahidov (1926–2008) – Worked as a teacher of mathematics at secondary school. In the beginning of 1930s he finished madrasah. His family collection consists of 19 ms and belongs to his elder brother Dr, Lutfulla Zahidov.

The Other Libraries of Ferghana Valley

The results of observations in the other libraries of Ferghana Valley are the following:

1) Ferghana Museum of Natural Geography and History

After the preliminary observation in the museum we found 28 manuscripts, the rest part of the collection comprised of lithographs. The manuscript part of the collection consists of 8 books for teaching in madrasah and school, 12 literary works, 7 – Muslim theology and one on Sufism.

2) Museum of Art in the town of Margilan (Ferghana valley)

The collection consists of 26 manuscripts: 14 – poesy; 12 – Muslim theology. There is no catalogue or description, so it took time for identification.

3) Andijan Museum of Natural Geography and History

There is no information about the exact number of ms in this Museum as it is under restoration. They also have no specialist in the staff of Museum. We managed to investigate 38 ms: 22 ms – poesy; 14 ms – Muslim theology; two ms - Sufism

The preliminary observations in these three museums are less fruitful than it was expected earlier. However, in Ferghana Museum we found manuscripts having an original seal of Sayyid Muhammad Khudayar Khan (1845–1858, 1862, 1865–1875)

In addition, I can make conclusions for potential work on a future major project:

- 1) The gathering of Kokand Literary Museum is undoubtedly the main object for digitisation during the Major Project
- 2) During the future project I hope to continue the work on looking for Kokand manuscripts in the museums, private collections of Kokand, and other towns of Ferghana Valley (укажи названия)
- 3) The investigative work in Tashkent. Since the beginning of colonisation in 1865 by the Russian empire, Tashkent has become the capital city and the center of political, cultural and academic life. Supposedly, some manuscripts from Kokand could be possessed by Tashkent collectors.

Summarising, I hope to make digital copies of 80-90 manuscripts in total.



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Prof. Dr. Aftandil Erkinov

20.07.2016.

Appendix

Manuscripts of Kokand Literature Museum (Kokand, Uzbekistan)

“Ghara’ib al-sighar” (Wonders of Childhood)

Author: ‘Ali Shir Nawa’i (1441-1501) – an outstanding poet of Chagatai literature. ”Wonders of Childhood” is recognised to be the first *divan* by ‘Ali Shir Nawa’i. Language: Chagatai turk. The manuscript was copied in 1242/1826-27 in Kokand. The manuscript is completely readable. Kokand paper, written by cursive nasta‘liq, black ink. Text is divided in two columns with pagination. Copyist: Mirza ‘Ali Khokandi. Hard paper cover with three stampings. Size : 140x250. 148 ff.

“Sharh-i Mavlana Hayali ala “Aqa’id al-Nasafi”

Author: Mavlana Hayali. This work was written as prose commentary on the famous work “Aqa’id al-Nasafi” which deals with the problems of faith in Islam (*aqida*). Language: Arabic. The manuscript is completely readable, written by cursive nasta‘liq, black and red ink. The manuscript was copied in 1269/1852-53. In Kokand, in madrasah Narbuta-khan (Kokand ruler of 1763–1798). Copyist: Muhammad Shakir-khvdja b. Muhammad Salih-khadja. Hard paper cover with three stampings. Size : 150x250. 174 ff.

“Sharh-i viqaya”

Author: ‘Ubaydallah b. Mas‘ud. The work deals with the problems *fiqh*. Language: The manuscript is completely readable written in cursive nasta‘liq, black ink. Some commentaries and corrections were written on glosses. Copyist: Shah Ali b. Mirali Bukhari. The manuscript has a seal of the last ruler of Kokand Khanate Sayyid Muhammad Khudayar-khan (1845–1858, 1862, 1865–1875) sealed 64 times. Kokand paper. Hard paper cover with three stampings. Size: 170x240. 242 ff.

Lazzat al-visal

The prose work deals with sexual relations. Language: Persian. The manuscript is completely readable. Illuminated by miniatures on the following pages (73a-b, 74a-b 75a-b 76a-b 77a-b 78a-b 79a-b, 81a-b, 82a-b,83a-b,84a-b,85a-b,86-a,87-6,88a-b,89a-b,90a, 93b, 96a, 97b, 99a, 100a, 102b, 104b, 106a, 107b, 135a). Written in middle nasta‘liq. The text is framed by golden lines with pagination. Black and red ink, copied in Kokand in 1336/1817-18. Copyist: Muhammad Nasir khaja b. Muhammad Shakir Khokandi. Fabric paper. Hard paper cover with three stampings. Size: 130x190. 135 ff.