



SOURCE STUDIES OF LIBRARIES IN CENTRAL ASIA DURING THE "SECOND MUSLIM RENAISSANCE"

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: September 20 th 2023 Accepted: October 20 th 2023 Published: November 24 th 2023	In the palaces of Amir Temur and his descendants there were rich libraries where unique works of the ancient world and the Middle Ages were preserved. Madrasah and khanaqah students analyzed many books from various fields of science. In Samarkand there were rich libraries of Amir Temur and Mirza Ulugbek, in Herat of Mirza Boysunkur, Sultan Hussein Boygaro and Alisher Navoi. Authors of that time often dedicated their works to the library. For example, as Giyosiddin Koshiy noted in the introduction to his works, he dedicated them to the library of Ulugbek. Libraries not only stored various books, but also taught the art of calligraphy. Scientists in various fields have made extensive use of libraries. For example, the library of Alisher Navoi was widely used by Mirkhond, his grandson Khondamir and others. The book treasures contained manuscripts of valuable works in various fields of science. The owners of the library tried to enrich it with new works.

Keywords: Library, manuscripts, education, literature and art, archiving, copying and cover, responsible staff, calligrapher, cover-artist, knowledge, science and culture.

INTRODUCTION

The contribution of libraries to the development of education, literature and art, to the development of science in the Timurid state is great. Libraries and madrasahs were closely connected with each other and served as a center for the transfer of knowledge to the people. Mirzo Ulugbek built a very large library in Samarkand for the efficient creation of scholars. This library was founded during the reign of Amir Temur, and Mirza Shahrukh made a great contribution to its enrichment. Mirzo Ulugbek himself paid constant attention to replenishing his library with new books. This library is part of the scientific school of Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand. At one time, Badi az-Zaman donated valuable books to the large Shahrukh library in Herat. Badi az-Zamon opened a large library in Balkh. The owners of the library appointed special people who were involved in its work. They were assigned the following tasks:

- ✓ preservation of manuscripts;
- ✓ constant replenishment of the library;
- ✓ creating copies and covers;
- ✓ repair of damaged manuscripts;
- ✓ control over the expenditure of funds allocated to the library.

MAIN PART

During the times of Amir Temur and the Timurids, many achievements were achieved in various fields, a lot of work was done in the field of creation,

transmission and preservation of books, which are the scientific and artistic thinking of man. Skilled calligraphers completed the task of leaving books for generations. In this regard, there were few copies of books, even from one copy, that is, in the form of a handwritten letter (autograph) of the author. The manuscript was kept in various libraries, namely royal libraries, private libraries, madrasahs and private libraries. During this period, in the famous madrasahs of Movarunnahr and Khorasan, including Samarkand, Bukhara, Herat and Balkh, special rooms were allocated for the library, where rare manuscripts were stored and protected by responsible employees. Among these rare manuscripts, classical works written in the 15th-16th centuries and occupying a special place in the history of science and civilization have reached us, which are currently stored in Uzbekistan and in various libraries around the world. The libraries were freely used by scientists, all madrasah teachers and students. In particular, Alisher Navoi's library was widely used first by Mirkhond, then by his grandson Khondamir. He communicated with Alisher Navoi, observed his human qualities with his own eyes and wrote a work dedicated to him, "Makorim al-akhlaq" ("Book of Noble Qualities").

Their owners also tried to enrich the libraries. For example, Shahrukh Mirzo copied a number of works stored in the library of Mirzo Ulugbek in Samarkand. Libraries actively contributed to the development of science, education, literature and art, which flourished in the Timurid state. It can be seen that madrasahs and



libraries were closely connected with each other and both were centers for the transfer of knowledge to the people. During the time of Mirzo Ulugbek, libraries were replenished with rare books on various subjects. Thanks to the great interest of Mirza Ulugbek in geometry, arithmetic, mathematics, history and literature, the works of such famous scientists as Batlimus (Ptolemy), al-Khorezmi, al-Farabi, al-Fargani, Abu Mahar Balkhi, Abdurrahman, the books of the Sufi, Nasiruddin Tusi have been preserved and others in Arabic and Persian, as well as the works of his teachers Ghazizade Rumi, Ghiyaziddin Jamshid Qoshi and his students Ali Kushchi.

In addition, it contains the "Khamsa" of Nizami Ganjavi, who was greatly admired by Mirza Ulugbek, Khusraw Dehlavi, Hafiz Sherazi, Ahmad Yungnaki, Rashiddin Watvot, Otamalik Juvaini, Hamdullah Mustovfia Qazvini and other poets and writers. In addition, in the complex of Mirzo Ulugbek madrasah (madrasah and observatory), the books necessary in the field conditions were also available in the libraries of the complex. If necessary, scientists also used the works of Mirzo Ulugbek in the royal library. After the death of Ulugbek, the royal library included Mirza Abdullah, Abu Said Mirza and Sultan Ahmed Mirzos, who sat on the Samarkand throne, as well as the enlightened statesman and poet Ahmad Vafai, who was then the governor of Samarkand. Mirzo Ulugbek. But the fate of the books at the observatory became the cause of various disputes and discussions.

It is also possible that the royal library of Mirzo Ulugbek was transported here when moving from the capital Samarkand to Bukhara in the 16th century. His teacher, the famous scientist Giyasiddin Jamshid ibn Masud ibn Mahmud al-Qoshi, mentioned in Ulugbek's preface "Zij", actually came from the city of Koshan, Iraqi Ajam. He willingly traveled to Samarkand to meet Mirzo Ulugbek, having found other Zij researchers in Ajam, Iraq, and having learned of Mirzo Ulugbek's endless interest in Zij (page 25). Here he worked at the Samarkand Observatory and created a number of works related to astronomy and mathematics. As Al-Qoshi mentioned in the introduction, he dedicated it to the Library of Ulugbek. In particular, in Samarkand he completed his treatise "Az-Ziji al-musamma bil khakani fi takmil az-Ziji Elkhani" ("Zijlari khakhani (compiled) to improve Elkhani zijari") and presented it as a gift to the king Ulugbek Library.

Mirzo Ulugbek's library contains the works "Tazkira" ("Memories of Nasiriddin") and "Tuhfa" ("Royal Gift"), written by the famous astronomer Nasiriddin Tusi of the 13th century. Among them, Ulugbek himself gave excellent lectures in the madrasah. Considering the height of Mirzo Ulugbek's

passion for mathematics, his teacher Kazizoda Rumi 815/1411-1412. Mahmud ibn Muhammad ibn Umar al-Jaghmini (or Chaghmini) and Shamsiddin Muhammad al-Husayni al-Samarkandi (13th-14th centuries) "Al-Mulahas fil-haya" ("Abbreviations of disasters") and "Ashkol" in the same year they wrote commentaries on the works of at-ta'sis" ("Basic Sentences"). These works were copied and stored in the library. Another teacher of Mirza Ulugbek, Ghiyaziddin Qoshi, sent a letter from Samarkand to his father in Koshan (Iran) about the work of an unknown author "Tajnis al-Hisab" ("Like Arithmetic"). Naturally, the library kept several copies of this work. In 850/1447, Aloyddin al-Bukhari wrote a commentary on the work "Fiqh al-Akbar" ("Great Jurisprudence") by Abu Hanifa an-Numan ibn Thabit ibn Zuta (died 150/767), dedicated to Ulugbek. This commentary is also kept in several copies in the library. According to Ghiyaziddin al-Koshii, Abu Rayhan Beruni's work "The Law of Masudi" was one of the books that Mirza Ulugbek and his surrounding scholars always needed for Qazi-Zod Rumi, Ghiyaziddin al-Koshii and others.

Thus, Ulugbek's library had several copies of this work. As can be seen from the above, the library of Mirzo Ulugbek was one of the richest libraries. But no one can give a definite answer to where it is now. According to a number of historians, some of the books that Ali Kushchi, a student of Ulugbek, left Samarkand and took with him to Turkey are now in the Suleymaniye and Hagia Sophia libraries in Istanbul, and some are in Samarkand. Later, the manuscripts were transferred to the treasury of the Institute of Oriental Studies named after Abu Raikhan Beruni of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, and the rest were transferred to V. It is stored in the Dorn and N.R. funds. Khanikov, as well as in the British Museum in London. The work of the library was carried out by special people appointed by its owners, who monitored the creation of new copies. To do this, their task also included the correct distribution of allocated funds and the search for rare works to replenish libraries with new books. Libraries not only stored various books, but also taught the art of writing and making bindings. Calligraphers worked in libraries with clear and beautiful letters. Their owners also tried to enrich the libraries. Below is information from sources about the libraries of Herat and the artists who worked in them. In particular, Shahrukh copied for his library a number of works stored in the Samarkand library of Ulugbek. The library was repaired on time. Badi az-Zaman presented him with valuable books to the waqf.

Boysungur Mirza Library. Boysungur Mirza (1397-1433), brother of Mirza Ulugbek, was in Herat with his father Shahrukh Mirza. Boysungur Mirza is an



artist, poet, master of six types of writing, a knowledgeable and enlightened Timurid. Alisher Navoi also spoke about him with special tenderness and love, among other things he wrote: "Boysungur Mirza is a kind, generous, drunkard, artisan. Calligrapher, artist, musician and singer, I am a very unique person who came by education, I don't know, it didn't appear during the time of the king. Boysunur Mirza creates an excellent library in Herat, where he gathers the most famous scientists, calligraphers and artists. The head of this library was the librarian Maulana Jafar Tabrizi. Maulana Kavomiddin Sherozi, Muhammad Pakhlavon Kotibi, Maulana Shams Boisunguri, Baba Savdoyi were involved in this cultural and scientific center-library. The Baysungur library contained rare manuscripts on various subjects. It is important to note that this library, in turn, became a scientific center for the study of the scientific and artistic heritage of our great ancestors, which is why it is also called the Boysungur Academy. Scientific research in the field of humanities was carried out at the Baysungur Academy. In particular, on the basis of several handwritten copies, the "Shahnoma" of Abulkasim Firdavsi was created, and today the world scientific work "Shohnoma-yi Boisunguri" has been created in this scientific library. The preface to this copy was written by Baysungur Mirza, and this copy is kept in Tehran. After the death of Boysungur Mirza, this center of knowledge was named "Kutubhana-yi Humayun". According to information, this library later formed the basis of the library of Sultan Hussein Boykara.

Library of Sultan Hussein Boykara. The palace library of Sultan Hussein Boykara was for a long time managed by Maulana Khoja Muhammad Naqqosh (died 1507), then Kamoliddin Behzod (1456-1537), who distinguished himself in the field of miniatures, in 1500, and then Maulana Fasihiddin Sahibdar (died 927/1520 - 1521), succeeded) Maulana Haji Muhammad Naqqosh 904/1498-1499. After leaving Herat, he came to Balkh to serve Badi az-Zamon and was appointed to the post of head of his library in Balkh. Maulana Fasihiddin Sahibdar (d. 1521) served as a librarian (library manager) in the library of Sultan Hussein Boykara (reigned in Herat 1468-1506). He stood out among Astrobod's scholars for his great abilities and noble qualities. He served Alisher Navoi for a long time, and after his death he served his close friend Hussein Boykara. The great Hattot Maulana Sultan Ali Mashhadi (died in Mashhad in 1523) for a long time was engaged in copying books in the library of Sultan Hussein Boykara on the orders of Sultan Hussein Boykara and at the request of Alisher Navoi.

Kamoliddin Behzod (1456-1537) is a famous artist of the Middle Ages, a major master in the field of miniatures, in 1500 was appointed head of the library of Sultan Hussein Boykara. The miniatures made by him and his students have been preserved in various manuscript collections around the world, in manuscripts of the 15th-16th centuries. He worked for many years under the guidance of Alisher Navoi and created wonderful works of fine art. Sultan Hussein Boykara recognized the artist's talent in this field, considered it necessary to use his talent in the palace and in 1500 appointed him head of his library. Later, Behzad, who moved from Herat to Tabriz, headed the library of Shah Ismail II. Khondamir's work presents a copy of the sign of Shah Ismail II dated April 24, 1500, appointing Behzod as head of the palace library.

Alisher Navoi had his own personal library in Herat which full of valuable manuscripts. He worked under the patronage of Maulana Haji Muhammad Nakkosh (d. 1507) Alisher Navoi, a talent of his time who depicted even more amazing events with the help of miniatures, and who headed his library. When Navoi went to Astrobad, Maulana Haji Muhammad went to Balkh and was in the service of Badi uz-Zaman. The contribution of Alisher Navoi to the development of Khondamir (lived in 1474-1535) as a historian is incomparably great. Alisher Navoi provided Khondamir with the opportunity to use his rich library of that time and, together with many scientists, poets, artists, and calligraphers, supervised Khondamir's scientific work. Khondamir worked as an ordinary librarian in the Navoi Library, and in 1499 he replaced Mawlana Haji Muhammad Nakkosh as head of the library. Khondamir closely communicated with Alisher Navoi, observed his human qualities with his own eyes and dedicated the work "Makorim al-akhlak" ("Book of Noble Qualities") to him.

The Alisher Navoi Library served several famous khettos and artists. Among them, about 20 masters of art appeared, such as Maulana Sultan Ali Sabz Mashhadi, Khoja Hafiz Muhammad, Maulana Sultan Ali Koini, Maulana Zainiddin Mahmud, Khoja Mirak Nakkosh. Maulana Alauddin Muhammad had great calligraphy skills, copied books in the library of Alisher Navoi and achieved great success in this field. Maulana Sultan Ali Koini wrote clearly and beautifully in Nastak script. He copied books in the Navoi Library for many years. He entered Navoi's circle of interlocutors and like-minded people. Ustad Qasim Ali Chehragushay (master portrait painter) is a famous artist of his time, whose works are distinguished by exquisite execution. He received knowledge in this area from the library of



Alisher Navoi. Having the patronage of Navoi, he surpassed his peers and was always ready to serve him.

Libraries store books on various fields of science. Workshops were also held near the library. In them, young people were taught beautiful writing, because new copies were often made from rare copies. It was also necessary to create a good cover so that the book could be stored for many years. Cover masters prepared young people for this work in the library. The creation of new copies in the library is extremely important for mastering the scripts common at that time – naskh, nastalik, shikasta, suls and other calligraphy, as well as exquisite leather and cardboard bindings, design manuscripts of miniaturists. At that time there were different departments. These libraries have been used by various industry owners. For example, as mentioned above, with the library of Ulugbek, a number of scientists, with the library of Alisher Navoi, Mirkhond, the author of a major historical work "Rovzat as-safo" ("Garden of Musaffolik"), later his grandson Khondamir Keng created 13 historical and literary works. Muzaffar and other skilled masters of painting also created. According to Khondamir in his "Khulasat al-akhbar", about twenty artists worked in Alisher Navoi's library, such as Maulana Sultan Ali Mashhadi, Khoja Hafiz Muhammad, Maulana Sultan Ali Koini, Maulana Zainiddin Mahmud, Maulana Sultan Ali Sabz Mashhadi, Khoja Mirak Nakkosh. Libraries in the hospital. Hospitals during the Timurid period, including Dar al-Shifa in Herat, had their own rich libraries.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that the above information about libraries indicates that education was widely developed during the Timurids era. Alisher Navoi, the patron of science and education, actively helped in this. He supported every person interested in science, supplied him with books on a topic of interest to him, and supervised his scientific work. Libraries are of great importance in the development of science, education, literature and art in the Timurids state. Since the library was a place of learning and had great educational significance, it was inextricably linked with the madrasah and was a center for disseminating knowledge to the people.

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