

PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS

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RECONSTRUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF MĪRZĀ MUḤAMMAD MUQĪM'S COLLECTION OF MANUSCRIPTS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF RUSSIA

The reconstruction of the Mīrzā Muḥammad Muqīm's collection was started with a Persian manuscript containing several works on Sufism (call number PNS 39). It drew our attention thanks to the list of partly abridged book-titles written in a nice small-size *nasta'liq*. The writing is entitled: اسامی کتابها بدست ما بودگی ("Names of the books that have been in our possession") (fol. 1b).

Besides, the owner of the manuscript has marked fols. 2b and 447a with the prints of his two seals dated by 1273/1856—57 and 1278/1861—62 and containing his name — Muḥammad Muqīm. The small treatises in the margins of fols. 2b—89a and 302a—303b are written by the same hand as the list on fol. 1b. They are dated by different months of the year 1285/1868—69, the full name of the transcriber is given as Mīrzā Muḥammad Muqīm b. Muḥammad Amīn-jān Kīshī. On fol. 2a he writes about the acquisition of the manuscript which "used to go from one hands to another" until he bought the book containing the work by Ḥusayn Wā'iz Kāshifī (d. 910/1504—05) entitled *Rashaḥāt 'ayn al-ḥayāt* highly appreciated and admired by him. In addition he calls himself "the most neglected dog" of the *khwājagān* (the history of this Sūfī order is described in Kāshifī's work).

Thus, we can see that Mīrzā Muḥammad Muqīm b. Muḥammad Amīn-jān Kīshī has left quite many traces of his ownership of the manuscript. The question arose whether it was possible to find other manuscripts from his collection listed on fol. 1b of PNS 39 (29 items). While attributing these manuscripts we used the owner's inventories (4 more such lists slightly differing from that of PNS 39 were found in other Muḥammad Muqīm's books), as well as his seal-prints. It turned out that a greater part of this collection was preserved till now in the National Library of Russia (NLR).

The seal-prints belonging to Muhammad Muqīm are of three types:

1) the first one, the earliest and at the same time the simplest in decoration, has the shape of a rectangular measured 0.9×1.2 cm. It bears the inscription "Muḥammad Muqīm" in *naskh* and the date 1273 (1856—57);

2) the second one, dated by 1278 (1861—62), is an oval, its area being 1.4×1.7 cm, with an eight-pointed star and with the words in *nasta'liq*: محمد مقیم داغدارست ("Muḥammad Muqīm is *dāghdār*" (branded or broken-hearted));

3) the last seal is oval-shaped with *nasta'liq* inscription "Mīrzā Muḥammad Muqīm 1279". The area of the seal is 1.4×1.7 cm. The date corresponds to A. D. 1862—63 (see *Appendix 1*).

In two other manuscripts, PNS 198 and PNS 321, all the three types of seal-prints are used, the fact confirming that all of them could belong to one person.

23 manuscripts from Mīrzā Muḥammad's library with his seal-prints or other signs left by the owner are found in the National Library of Russia, five of them having the owner's brief inventories. In the present paper we give a table of the identified manuscripts with their descriptions as they were given in different lists. These descriptions are usually very short, comprising an abridged title of the work (or works) in the book. Sometimes the owner mentions the name of the author, copyist, presence of illustrations or illumination, the beauty of the script, and the size of the MS: if the manuscript is of dimensions like TNS 9 or PNS 1, the owner mentions that it is دوورقه — of double-folio size (see *Appendix 2*).

Some of the manuscripts in question had been previously identified in the Catalogue by G. P. Kostygova [1] as belonging to the "Kaufman collection". Their description was given in the Library's Printed Report of 1871. That year 98 manuscripts were transferred to the Imperial Public Library (at present NLR) by K. P. von Kaufman, the governor-general of Turkestan in 1867—1882. All these manuscripts were partly found in the Palace of *bek* after the capture of the town of Shahrīsabz, and partly bought by A. L. Kun whose commission was to collect manuscripts, other hand-written documents and ethnographic materials in Central Asia [2]. Description of only 25 of the 98 above mentioned manuscripts are given in the Report, 8 of them originate from the Muhammad Muqīm's collection, namely PNS 175, PNS 309, PNS 192, PNS 180, PNS 285, PNS 219, PNS 205, PNS 315 [3].

We can, therefore, assume that the whole Mīrzā Muqīm's collection was in Shahrīsabz at the time when the town was captured by the Russian troops. Thus we fix the date of the entrance of all the manuscripts of the Muḥammad Muqīm's collection, including those not mentioned in the Report.

From the dated owner's marks we can also judge about the approximate time of Muḥammad Muqīm's ownership of the collection. All the marks, including dates of the seals,