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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* ("Istoriia Badakhshana"). Faksimile rukopisi. Izdanie teksta, perevod s persidskogo A. N. Boldyreva pri uchastii S. E. Grigor'eva, vvedenie A. N. Boldyreva i S. E. Grigor'eva, primechaniia i prilozheniia S. E. Grigor'eva. Moskva: Vostochnaia Literatura, 1997, 142 str. (vvedenie, perevod, primechaniia, prilozheniia), 256 str. (tekst pamiatnika).

*Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* ("The History of Badakhshān"). Facsimile of the text. Edition of the text, translation from the Persian by A. N. Boldyrev with the assistance of S. E. Grigoryev, introduction by A. N. Boldyrev and S. E. Grigoryev, notes and appendices by S. E. Grigoryev. Moscow: Vostochnaya Literatura Publishing House, 1997, 142 pp. (introduction, translation, notes, appendices), 256 pp. (text of the original).

Given the numerous troubles Russian scholarship is now experiencing, it is a special pleasure to greet the appearance of the *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān*, published by the Vostochnaya literatura Publishing House of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān*, a dynastic chronicle which narrates events during the rule of the last independent *amīrs* of Badakhshān, runs from 1067/1656—57 to 1880s. One should stress that this historical work is the **only** known example of regional historiography from Badakhshān, to this day a little-researched area located in the North-East of what is now Afghanistan and in the neighboring regions of the right bank of the Piandj River which form the Gorno-Badakhshanskaya autonomous region of Tajikistan. The *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* not only contains valuable and at times unique information on political history, but reliable materials on the ethnic and religious composition of the population as well as on the economic and cultural life of the country.

Only one copy of the *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* is known today. The work contains the text of the history of Badakhshān as well as three appendices: (i) a genealogy of

the *shāhs* of Shughnān; (ii) a biography of *sayyid* Shāh-Khāmūsh, forefather of the Shughnān *shāhs*; and (iii) a genealogy of *sayyid* 'Alī-Shāh-Walī, a relative of Shāh-Khāmūsh. The book was written in Persian by two authors: the first part of the history of Badakhshān, which covers the period from 1657 to 1809, belongs to Sang-Muḥammad Badakhshī; the remainder of the basic text and the appendices were penned by Faḍl 'Alī-bek Surkh Akhsar. The latter's work extends up through 1325/1907 and was copied by him at that time in the city of Osh. In the text, Faḍl 'Alī-bek calls himself the *mu'allif-i thānī* ("second author") and directly indicates the additions and corrections he introduced into the text of the first author, the *mu'allif-i awwal*.

At the close of the 1920s, an autograph copy by Faḍl 'Alī-bek found its way to the Manuscript Department of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies<sup>1</sup>. As a primary source on the history of Badakhshān this work immediately drew the attention of an outstanding authority on Muslim literature, A. N. Boldyrev, who completed a translation of the text into Russian by the mid-1930s. For a number of reasons, however, the text and translation were never published. Only in 1959 did the Leningrad State University press issue a small run of the text of the *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* prepared by A. N. Boldyrev<sup>2</sup>, although the translation was not published at that time. Only now, at the turn of the century, has a full edition of the text of the *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* together with translation appeared, thanks to the efforts of the editorial board of the series "Pamiatniki pis'mennosti Vostoka".

As was noted above, the translation of the *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān* is based on the autograph copy by Faḍl 'Alī-bek which is today held in the Manuscript Department of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies (manuscript B 2311). The edition under review here is a result of the combined work of two authors — Prof. A. N. Boldyrev (1909—1993) and his pupil and junior colleague, the St. Petersburg State University senior lecturer S. E. Grigoryev. As the authors note, "the translation be-

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<sup>1</sup> N. D. Miklukho-Maklaĭ, *Opisanie persidskikh i tadzhikskikh rukopiseĭ Instituta vostokovedeniia AN SSSR* (A Description of the Persian and Tadjik Manuscripts at the Institute of Oriental Studies, the USSR Academy of Sciences). Fasc. 3: Istoricheskie sochineniia (Moscow, 1975), No. 462.

<sup>2</sup> See *Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān*. "Istoriia Badakhshana" (*Ta'rikh-i Badakhshān*. "The History of Badakhshān"), fotografic reproduction of the text (of the Leningrad manuscript), introduction, indices. Prepared for publication by A. N. Boldyrev (The Leningrad State University Publishing House, 1959).