
PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS

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MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF THE FORMER UZBEK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INSTITUTE OF MANUSCRIPTS (1978—1998)*

The Hamid Suleymanov Institute of Manuscripts (Academy of Sciences, Republic of Uzbekistan) is a rather young institution. It was created in 1978 on the basis of the Uzbek State 'Alī Shīr Nawā'ī Museum of Literature. This Museum, in turn, was founded in 1968 on the basis of a small museum of literature that had functioned under the Institute of Language and Literature (Academy of Sciences, Republic of Uzbekistan) since 1939. The manuscripts that had been gathered at this museum were later transferred to the collection of the Nawā'ī State Museum of Literature, which became one of the larger subdivisions of the collection at the Institute of Manuscripts after the latter's creation.

The founder of the first Institute of Manuscripts in Central Asia, and its first director, was Professor Hamid S. Suleymanov (1911—1979). After his death the Institute bore his name. From 1979 to 1998, when the Institute was closed, its director was Aziz Qayumov (b. 1926), a member of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. From 1969—1998 the Museum, and later the Institute, which possessed numerous Eastern manuscripts, published a collection of materials and studies on the history of Uzbek literature, under the title *Adabiy meros* ("Literary Heritage"). 68 issues appeared in all.

The collection we review here owes much to its founder, H. Zaripov (1905—1972), the first director of the Nawā'ī Museum of Literature. Beginning in 1950, manuscripts were gathered by H. Muhammadjanov (1883—1964), Sh. Afzalov, and A. Vorotnikova. By the time the State 'Alī Shīr Nawā'ī Museum was created in 1968, the collection contained 300 manuscripts. Until then, manuscripts had been gathered rather haphazardly. Later, the collection was expanded in a formal framework. After the Institute of Manuscripts was created in 1978 on the basis of the Museum, the manuscript collection had grown to more than 2,500 volumes.

According to Resolution No. 382 on the collection of written materials on culture and folk arts among the popula-

tion, issued on 30 August 1972 by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan and the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, manuscripts began to be gathered by purchasing them. Between 1972 and 1990, the Presidium of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences allotted 50,000 Soviet rubles annually for this purpose.

By 1982, the Institute's manuscript collection contained some 4,000 Arabic-script manuscripts written in Turkic (Chaghatay), Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and other languages. The collection of lithograph editions numbered some 5,000 volumes. At the time of the Institute of Manuscripts's closure, its collection numbered 7,329 volumes in all. It also possessed a large number of photocopies and microfilms received from other manuscript repositories.

In addition to the collection of manuscripts and lithograph editions, the Institute had a separate collection of folklore produced by the peoples of Uzbekistan and neighboring Central Asian republics. There was also a special archive of writers, philologists and cultural figures from modern Uzbekistan. All of these collections served as the basis for text research.

After the closure of the Institute of Manuscripts in 1998, its exhibition became an independent institution, the Nawā'ī Museum of Literature. The departments and collections of the Institute were attached to three scholarly institutions in the Uzbek Academy of Sciences: the collection of manuscripts and lithograph editions was transferred to the Abū Rayḥān Bīrūnī Institute of Oriental Studies (henceforth cited as IOS); the folklore collection went to the 'Alī Shīr Nawā'ī Institute of Language and Literature; and the archive of writers to the 'Alī Shīr Nawā'ī Museum of Literature.

The collection transferred to IOS became Collection No. 3 (IOS3), while the main collection is now known as IOS1, and the collection containing doubles — as IOS2. The Institute of Manuscripts collection transferred to IOS, which numbered 7,329 manuscripts, has brought the total number of manuscripts at IOS to 25,954.

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