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Rare manuscripts stored in the funds of the National Library and their historical significance

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Abstract. This article analyzes rare manuscripts stored in the funds of the National Library of Uzbekistan, their sources of origin and historical significance. Based on the content, period and scientific value of the manuscripts, their place in the national and world cultural heritage is highlighted. The processes of preservation, restoration and digitization of manuscripts, as well as current issues of their research, are also considered. The research results show that rare manuscripts serve as an important scientific basis for studying the past as a historical source.

Keywords: National Library of Uzbekistan, rare manuscripts, historical source, cultural heritage, fund, restoration, digitization, scientific research.

As you know, there are many libraries in our country. The National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi is the main center of education in our country. As is known, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-1729 dated March 20, 2012 "On measures to organize the activities of the Information Resource Center of the National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi" and the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 98 dated April 4, 2012 have achieved a number of positive results in ensuring the fulfillment of the tasks set forth in it, organizing information and library activities in the interests of developing national and world culture, science and education in our country, providing information and library services to the population, especially young people, through the introduction of modern information and communication technologies, creating favorable conditions and a wide information resource base to fully satisfy their intellectual potential, knowledge, spiritual, moral and cultural needs. The library is comfortable and cozy in every way. It has a book reserve that meets the interests of children and adults[1].

The collection of the National Library of Uzbekistan is of particular value not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the Central Asian region, containing more than two hundred thousand copies of unique sources. Of these, more than 28 thousand are manuscripts, rare and valuable publications stored in the service fund.

Manuscripts and lithographs written in the lands of Transoxiana (Turkestan) and Khorasan in the 14th-19th centuries, as well as books published in Western Europe in the 17th-18th centuries, are among the unique monuments of the fund. The move of the National Library of Uzbekistan to a new building in the center of the capital of the Republic in 2011 opened a new page in the history of the library's collection of manuscripts, rare and valuable publications. Now the "Rare" reading room, the resource storage room, as well as the "Book Museum" of the library have been transferred to the Manuscripts, Rare and Valuable Publications Service.





The reading room and book storage rooms, as well as the departments where staff work, fully meet international standards in terms of temperature, humidity, and lighting requirements.

The adoption of Resolution No. 202 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 9, 2012 "On measures to ensure the preservation of rare, especially valuable and unique publications, to systematically increase and enrich their fund" played an important role in ensuring the careful preservation of rare and especially valuable publications in the republic, the systematic purchase of printed publications, works of literature and art, manuscripts and graphic documents, manuscripts, as well as rare publications of historical, scientific, artistic and cultural value held by the population. The work and hard work of hundreds of figures are evident in the layers of the library's long history. They traveled from village to village, went door to door whenever they could, searched for works related to our culture and spirituality, and translated manuscripts printed in foreign languages into Uzbek. The works included in the symbolic network of the library include not only the rare works of our ancestors, but also the writings of representatives of other nationalities.

The most valuable monuments include the "Uthman Quran", which was copied during the Ottoman period and stored in the library of the Khan's Palace (recently stored in the Hastimom Mosque in our capital), N.I. Veselovsky's architectural monument with information about the city of Samarkand and the Guri Amir Mausoleum, and documents testifying to the invasion and plundering of our country by the tsarist army [4].

On July 5, 2024, the National Library of Uzbekistan hosted another training session on "Issues of Preservation, Digitization and Use of Rare Publications", organized by the "Manuscripts, Rare and Specially Valuable Publications" service.

The methodological workshop was held via the zoom platform with the participation of specialists from the National Library and regional AKM, TAKM. During this training session, the head of the "Manuscripts, rare and valuable publications" service, A. Qilichbayev, provided detailed information about the basic concepts of preserving rare funds, existing shortcomings and their solutions. He also spoke about the priority tasks in digitizing these publications. The session was rich in interesting discussions, questions and answers, and suggestions. It was attended by 701 specialists from the National Library and regional AKM, TAKM[2].

Speaking about the modern state of historical science, it is worth noting that there is a tendency to understand its subject in an interdisciplinary field. Historical science is observed at the intersection of cultural history and social history. In this regard, attention is paid not only to the emergence of scientific knowledge, but also to its application and dissemination. Modern researchers turn to such categories as the cultural environment, socio-cultural tradition, intellectual landscape and discourse. Today, many decisions and programs are being adopted to teach history and historical sciences and develop research in this area. Just one example is the





Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On measures to further improve the management and financing of scientific research institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of social and humanitarian sciences and to increase the effectiveness of scientific research" [5].

For more than a quarter of a century, I have been engaged in the study of our classical literature, the works of Alisher Navoi. Unfortunately, I have also seen some officials and eras who treated the scientific and spiritual heritage left to us with indifference. Several years ago, when one of our teachers addressed the responsible persons and said that we should determine the number of all manuscripts in our country and collect information about them in one center, his ideas were not paid attention to. Nowadays, the growing interest in studying what manuscripts related to Uzbekistan exist not only in our country, but also around the world, gives us special peace and joy[6].

In conclusion, the rare manuscripts stored in the funds of the National Library of Uzbekistan are invaluable sources reflecting the centuries-old scientific, cultural and spiritual heritage of our people. They embody valuable information in history, literature, philosophy, religion, art and other areas. These manuscripts are of great importance in studying the history of not only Uzbekistan, but also the entire Central Asian civilization. Their preservation, scientific research and transfer to future generations are an important condition for preserving the national heritage.

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