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CONTENTS

TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH	3
S. Levitt. Sinhalese Painted Wooden Bookcovers T. Sultanov. Turkic Versions of the Tārīkh-i Rashīdī in the Manuscript Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies.	3 17
Vladimir Polosin. Two Late Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Fiscal Documents from the Manuscript Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies	30
TEXT AND ITS CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	35
E. Rezvan. The Qur'ān and Its World: IV. "Raise Not Your Voices above the Prophet's Voice" (Society, Power and Etiquette Norms)	35
PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS	45
T. Deryagina, O. Frolova. Antoni Muchliński and His Collection of Arabic Manuscripts in the St. Petersburg University Library	45
ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES	54
M. Carter. The Platonic Edition: Some Consequences of Computer Editing for Text-Based Scholarship in Arabic Grammar	54
PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT	59
O. Bolshakov. The St. Petersburg Manuscript of the <i>Maqāmāt</i> by al-Ḥarīrī and Its Place in the History of Arab Painting	59
BOOK REVIEWS	67
Manuscripta Orientalia in 1997, vol. 3, Nos. 1—4 (list of contributions)	70

Front cover:

"Abū Zayd and al-Ḥārith talking". Fragment of a miniature from manuscript C 23 of the *Maqāmāt* by al-Ḥarīrī in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies.

Illustration to *maqāma* 50, p. 349, 17.5 × 9.0 cm.

Back cover:

"Abū Zayd as a teacher in a school at Ḥimṣ". A miniature from manuscript C 23 of the *Maqāmāt* by al-Ḥarīrī in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies.

Illustration to maqāma 46, p. 318, 18.0 × 19.5 cm.

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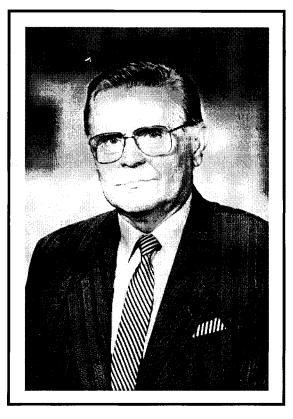
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The editorial board of the journal Manuscripta Orientalia, Thesa Publishers (St. Petersburg), and Dekadi Publishing Ltd Oy (Finland) announce with deep regret the death of Mr Kalevi Jääskelainen, a man who helped greatly with the foundation and promotion of our journal. Mr Kalevi Jääskelainen was born on July 21, 1929, in Finland, not far from Vyborg. As a result of military conflicts of 1939—1940 and 1941—1944 between Finland and the Soviet Union, he was forced, first in 1939 and then in 1943, to leave his native land in seach of refuge. In post-war Finland Mr Jääskelainen tried a variety of professions before he went into business. He spent several years in South-East Asia where he acquired his love for Oriental culture. Being a man of wide-ranging interests, Mr Jääskelainen wrote two books (on history and medicine) and succeeded in founding a Publishing house of his own. The last years of his life he dedicated wholly to his publishing activities and aided in the creation of Manuscripta Orientalia. In the summer of 1997, he visited St. Petersburg and, though seriously ill, spoke of his far-reaching plans concerning the publication of books and CD-ROMs dealing with Oriental manuscripts. Now, that he is no longer among us, all of us who worked with Mr Jääskelainen, hope to continue with the journal and other publishing projects he planned, as a fitting contribution to his memory and the publishing business to which he was so devoted.

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Manuscripta Orientalia in 1997

Vol. 3, Nos. 1—4

Bibliography of Books and Articles by Ronald Eric Emmerick: 1992—1996 Compiled by M. Maggi	No. 1, pp. 4—5
TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH 1	
M. Maggi. Two Reinterpretations in the Khotanese Sudhanāvadāna * M. Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya. Tibetan Eighth-Century Documents on Wood from Miran * O. Akimushkin. The Library-Workshop (kitābkhāna) of Bāysunghur-Mīrzā in Herat. Valery Polosin. Arabic Manuscripts: Text Density and its Convertibility in Copies of the Same Work A. Shikhsaidov, A. Khalidov. Manuscripts of al-Ghazālī's Works in Daghestan * O. Akimushkin. On the Date of al-Ṣiḥāḥ al-'Ajamiyya's Composition A. Sazykin. The Oirat (Kalmyk) Version of the "The Story of Güsü-Lama" * E. Kychanov. "The Altar Record on Confucius' Conciliation", an Unknown Tangut Apocryphal Work I. Kulganek. Manuscripts and Sound Records of the Mongol-Oirat Heroic Epic "Jangar" in the Archives of St. Petersburg S. Levitt. Sinhalese Painted Wooden Bookcovers. T. Sultanov. Turkic Versions of the Tārīkh-i Rashīdī in the Manuscript Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies.	No. 1, pp. 6—8 No. 1, pp. 9—13 No. 1, pp. 14—24 No. 2, pp. 3—17 No. 2, pp. 18—30 No. 2, pp. 31—32 No. 2, pp. 33—38 No. 3, pp. 3—7 No. 3, pp. 8—10 No. 4, pp. 3—16
Vladimir Polosin. Two Late Eighteenth-Century Ottoman Fiscal Documents from the Manuscript Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies	No. 4, pp. 30—34
TEXT AND ITS CULTURAL INTERPRETATION	711
* E. Rezvan. The Our'an and Its World: II. The Miracle of the Book (The Our'an and Pre-Islamic Literature) * E. Rezvan. The Our'an and Its World: III. "Echoings of Universal Harmonies" (Prophetic Revelation, Religious Inspiration, Occult Practice)	No. 1, pp. 25—32 No. 3, pp. 11—21
 S. Klyashtorny. About One Khazar Title in Ibn Fadlān	No. 3, pp. 22—23 No. 4, pp. 35—44
PRESENTING THE COLLECTIONS	
T. Pang. Manchu Collections in Paris	No. 1, pp. 33—39 No. 2, pp. 39—41
O. Yastrebova. Reconstruction and Description of Mīrzā Muḥammad Muqīm's Collection of Manuscripts in the National Library of Russia	No. 3, pp. 24—38
T. Deryagina, O. Frolova. Antoni Muchliński and His Collection of Arabic Manuscripts in the St. Petersburg University Library.	No. 4, pp. 45—51
MANUSCRIPTS CONSERVATION	
M. Blank, N. Stavisky. Conservation of Medieval Manuscripts in the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America	No. 3, pp. 39—45
ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS AND NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES	
Val. Polosin, E. Rezvan. To the CD-ROM Edition of the St. Petersburg Arabic Bible G. Lezin, K. Boyarsky, E. Kanevsky, A. Popova. Programming of Texts Conceptual Treatment P. Zemanek. Corpus Linguistics and Arabic M. Carter. The Platonic Edition: Some Consequences of Computer Editing for Text-Based Scholarship in Ara-	No. 1, pp. 40—47 No. 2, pp. 42—48 No. 3, pp. 46—51
bic Grammar	No. 4, pp. 54—58
PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT	
A. Kabanoff. On an Anonymous Manuscript Higashi Ezo iko	No. 1, pp. 48—50
St. Petersburg State University Library	No. 2, pp. 5057

¹ In this list of contributions, the articles marked by asterisk were prepared with the support of the Russian Humanitarian Fund.

 V. Goreglyad. The Manuscript of Kankai Ibun in the Collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies * L. Menshikov. An Album of Illustrations to the Famous Chinese Novels O. Bolshakov. The St. Petersburg Manuscript of the Maqāmāt by al-Ḥarīrī and Its Place in the History of Arab Painting 	No. 2, pp. 58—67 No. 3, pp. 54—68 No. 4, pp. 59—66
ORIENTAL ICONOGRAPHY: SEMANTICS	
K. Samosyuk. The Guanyin Icon from Khara-Khoto	No. 1, pp. 51—61 No. 1, pp. 62—64
BOOK REVIEWS	
Kıbrıs İslâm Yazmaları Kataloğu. Hazırlayanlar Ramazan Şeşen, Mustafa Haşim Altan/Cevat İzgi. Giriş Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. İstanbul: 1415/1995, XLI, 86 pp. (in Turkish), LII, 630 pp. (in Arabic), 14 Plates (facsimile).	
By I. Petrosyan	No. 1, pp. 65—66
Peter Zieme. Altun Yaruq Sudur, Vorworte und das erste Buch. Edition, Übersetzung der alttürkischen Version des Goldglanzsütra (Suvarnaprabhāsottamasūtra). Turnhout, the Brepols Publishing House: 1996, 230 pp., with 88 Plates. — Berliner Turfantexte, XVIII.	
By S. Klyashtorny	No. 1, pp. 66—68
The Baburnama. Memoirs of Babur, Prince and Emperor. Translated, edited and annotated by Wheeler M. Thackston. New York—Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996, 472 pp.	
By T. Sultanov	No. 1, pp. 68—69
V. D. Ushakov. Frazeologiia Korana. Moscow: Vostochnaia Literatura, 1996, 203 str. V. D. Ushakov. Phraseology of the Qur'ān. Moscow: Vostochnaya Literatura, 1996, 203 pp.	
By L. Torlakova	No. 1, pp. 70—71
 Mirza Mukhammad Khaĭdar. Ta'rikh-i Rashidi. Vvedenie, perevod s persidskogo A. Urunbaeva, R. P. Dzhalilovoĭ, L. M. Epifanovoĭ. Tashkent: Izdatel'stvo "Fan", 1996, 727 str. Mīrzā Muḥammad Ḥaydar. Tā'rīkh-i Rashīdī. Introduction, translation from Persian by A. Urunbaev, R. P. Djalilova, L. M. Epifanova. Tashkent: "FAN", the Publishing House of the Republic of Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, 1996, 727 pp. 	
By T. Sultanov	No. 2, pp. 68—70
Catalogue of Acehnese Manuscripts in the Library of Leiden University and other collections outside Aceh. Compiled by P. Voorhoeve in co-operation with T. Iskandar. Translated and edited by M. Durie. Leiden University Library (Legatum Warnerianum) in co-operation with Indonesian Linguistics Development Project (ILDEP). Leiden: 1994, 391 pp. — Bibliotheca Universitatis Leidensis. Codices Manuscripti, XXIV.	
By E. Rezvan	No. 2, pp. 70—71
Stefano Carboni. Following the Stars: Images of the Zodiac in Islamic Art. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. New York: 1997, 48 pp.	
By I. Petrosyan	No. 2, pp. 71—72
A Buddhist Terminological Dictionary. The Mongolian Mahāvyutpatti. Edited by Alice Sárkozi. In collaboration with János Szerb. — Asiatische Forschungen, Bd. 130. Harrassowitz Verlag: Wiesbaden, 1995, XXIV, 836 pp.	
By A. Sazykin	No. 3, pp. 69—71
A. Muminov. Katalog Arabograficheskikh rukopisei muzeia-zapovednika "Azret-Sultān" v gorode Turkestan.	
Turkestan: Mura, 1997, 139 str. A. Muminov. Catalogue of Arabographic Manuscripts in the Museum-Trust "Azret-Sultān" in the City of Turkestan. Turkestan: Mura, 1997, 139 pp.	
By E. Rezvan	No. 3, pp. 71—72
Toruko-isuramu jidai chuo Ajia bunka no sōgōteki kenkyū (A Synthetical Study on Central Asian Culture in the Turco-Islamic Period). Kyoto: 1997, 160 pp.	
By T. Sultanov and V. Goreglyad	No. 4, pp. 67—68
Tadzaddin al-Bulgari. <i>Bol'shoĭ Tirĭak (Bol'she protivoiadie)</i> . Izdanie teksta, perevod s arabskogo, predislovie, kommentariĭ A. B. Khalidova. Kazan': 1997, 52 str.	
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By I. Wojewódzki	No. 4, pp. 68—69