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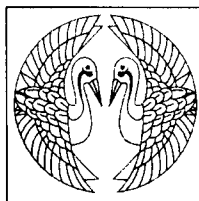
The portrait of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great (r. 324—337), the founder of the Byzantine Empire. Miniature from a Christian-Arabic manuscript entitled *al-Durr al-manzūm fī tāriḫ mulūk al-Rūm* (C 358) in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, fol. 11b, 11.8 × 9.5 cm.

Back cover:

Plate 1. Portrait of two Roman Emperors — Stauracius (r. 811) and Michael I (r. 811—813). Miniature from the same manuscript, fol. 101b, 11.9 × 7.5 cm.

Plate 2. Portrait of the Roman Emperor Leo VI the Wise (r. 886—912). Miniature from the same manuscript, fol. 120a, 11.2 × 10.0 cm.

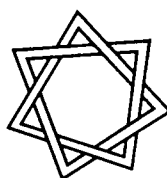
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PROCEEDINGS
of the 17th Congress
of the Union Européenne
des Arabisants et Islamisants

(Saint-Petersburg
on 21—26 August 1994)

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H. Waardenburg-Kirkpatrick,
E. Rezvan.

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We take pleasure in presenting materials from the seventeenth Congress of the Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants (UEAI). This major international forum drew 73 specialists from fifteen countries (Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and other European nations, as well as from America, Israel, and Lebanon).

The following topics were presented for discussion at the Congress:

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- ❁ **Textual criticism and research methods;**
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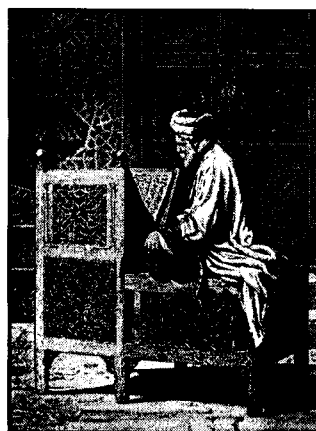
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OF THE UEAI



Thesa
St. Petersburg
1997



ASIATIC MUSEUM. TREASURES FROM ST. PETERSBURG ACADEMIC COLLECTION OF ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPTS (CD-ROM SERIES)

In 1995, various institutions began the publication of CD-ROM series based on the international manuscript heritage. The "Memory of the World" program of the UNESCO was initiated in order to realise new approaches to safeguarding documentary materials and to make the first step toward creating a decentralised interactive world library.

It is our pleasure to introduce here another project in the field:

"Asiatic Museum. Treasures from St. Petersburg Academic Collection of Oriental Manuscripts (CD-ROM Series)". Among eighty-five thousand manuscripts in 65 living and dead Oriental languages, which are preserved in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies (formerly the Asiatic Museum founded in 1818), Russian Academy of Sciences, there are many rare or unique religious, historical, and scientific works awaiting their publication.

In 1997–2000 at least ten extremely interesting manuscripts from the collection are expected to be published in the proposed series:

✓ Issue No. 1. "Secret Visionary Autobiography" of the Fifth Dalai Lama Ngag-dbang blo-bzang rgya-mtsho (1617–1682). His work is an outstanding example of Tibetan spirituality, being both the record of Dalai Lama's years-long visionary experiences and a description of the most esoteric rituals of Tibetan Buddhism as well.

Author of the publication — Dr. Vladimir Uspensky

✓ Issue No. 2. A three-volume manuscript of great importance from both the textological and codicological points of view. It appears to represent one of the earliest Arabic translations of the Bible, as well as the oldest copy of such a translation. The MS was transcribed in Damascus in 1236 from an original executed in Antioch in 1022. In 1913, the MS was presented by Gregory IV, Patriarch of Antioch, to the Russian Tsar Nicholas II.

Author of the publication — Dr. Valery Polosin.

✓ Issue No. 3. *Zuhar al-riyāq wa-nuzah al-murtāq* ("Flowers of the Garden and the Pleasure of Walking There"), a unique 14th-century manuscript from Baghdad, which contains an anthology compiled by Manṣūr b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. 'Abdallāh b. Abī Ṣubayḥ al-Shanbakī (al-Shunbukī?) al-Asadī. The MS is the autograph of the compiler who at times reports in the text on the progress of his work. Neither the author, nor his work are mentioned by any reference-books on Arabic literature. Most interesting is that the book was created in a ravaged Baghdad, then a mere shadow of the 'Abbāsīd empire's glorious capital. The work provides rare evidence for the literary activities in the city after its devastation by the Mongols as well as for literary sources which were then available.

Author of the publication — Prof. Anas Khalidov.

✓ Issue No. 4. One of the most important Qur'ānic MSS in the world, dated to the 8th century A.D. Eighty-one large parchment folios in *Hijāzī* script contain about 40 per cent of the text of the Qur'ān. The MS of the Qur'ān comprises full text of twenty-two *sūras* and fragments of another twenty-two. The MS also contains corrections in the orthography of the sacred text, which were made in red ink, most probably a century after the date of copying. Besides, the space between separate *sūras* is filled with coloured ornaments (very interesting compositions of triangles, arcs, intertwined or intersecting lines, sometimes evocative of nomadic jewelry) with *sūra* titles and information about the number of *āyāt*. The MS was displayed at the exhibition "Pages of Perfection" (Paris—New York—Lugano—Salzburg) in 1995–1996.

Author of the publication — Dr. Efim Rezvan

✓ Issue No. 5. A fifteenth-century illustrated Turkish manuscript of the *Iskandar-nāma* ("The Book of Iskandar"), which contains a poem-*mathnawī* by Aḥmadī (1334/35–1412/13), written in Old Anatolian Turkic at the end of the fourteenth century. In 1931, the MS was displayed as an item of Persian book art at the International Exhibition of Persian art in London. However, stylistic features of several miniatures in the MS testify to its Ottoman provenance and reflect an early, very special and, undoubtedly, intriguing period in the development of Ottoman painting, when its own original manner was emerging. The style of the miniatures is marked by a charming simplicity and naive realism which almost wholly disappeared in the sixteenth century.

Author of the publication — Dr. Irina Petrosyan

✓ Issue No. 6. "Gulshan" ("Flower-Garden"), a unique Qājār manuscript which is going to be presented at the exhibition "The Qājār Epoch: Two Hundred Years of Painting from the Royal Persian Courts" organized by the Brooklyn Museum of Art and scheduled for 1998. This large-sized eighteenth-century MS (68.0 × 48.5 cm) is a real poetical library enclosed in one volume. It includes 103 poems of different genres and lengths by 47 authors of the eleventh–eighteenth centuries. The MS is illustrated with 100 first-class coloured miniatures by at least 3 painters from Iṣfahān (the size of the miniatures varies from 18.2 × 28.5 cm to 37.0 × 26.5 cm).

Author of the publication — Prof. Oleg Akimushkin

- ✓ Issue No 7. A richly illustrated fifteenth-century manuscript containing the Mamlūk treatise “*Kitāb al-makhzūn ft jami’ al-funūn*” by Ibn Abī Khazzām al-Khuttālī. The writing was not only a kind of manual meeting practical needs for the military training of Sulṭān guards and Mamlūks, but also for arranging Cairo's colossal *furūsiyya* festivals, forerunners of the carousel festivals at European courts. The St. Petersburg copy of the treatise is of prime importance both for the history of the text and the Mamlūk school of book miniatures. The MS was displayed at the exhibition “Pages of Perfection” (Paris—New York—Lugano—Salzburg) in 1995—1996.

Authors of the publication — Dr. Efim Rezvan and Dr. Alikber Alikberov

- ✓ Issue No 8. The manuscript of *Kankai Ibun* (“*Remarkable Facts about the Sea Surrounding [the Earth]*”) was produced in 1807 on the basis of questions put to four Japanese sailors who had returned home after nearly 11 years of seafaring. In 1793, their ship was overtaken by a typhoon. In 1803, after many adventures the sailors made their appearance in St. Petersburg where the Tsar Alexander I granted them an audience. Year later four of them returned home on board of the Russian sloop *Nadezhda*. The St. Petersburg MS of the work is one of the most authoritative and close to the autograph MS. Apart from its great value for the history of the text, the MS is richly illustrated with coloured drawings depicting much of what the sailors saw during their long voyage through to Russia and back to Japan.

Author of the publication — Prof. Vladislav Goreglyad

- ✓ Issue No. 9. A unique Sanskrit manuscript entitled “*Conspectus of Sacred Texts*”, which was found in Central Asia (Turkmenistan) by a Buddhist Teacher of the early first millennium A.D. The MS is written in Old Indian script *brāhmī* on birch bark. Initially, it belonged to a Buddhist preacher, whose activity took place about the tenth century A.D. among monks and laymen on the territory of contemporary Turkmenistan. The writing contains a conspectus of Buddhist dogmatic texts — *sūtras*, the disciplinary code — *vinaya*, and didactic stories of the *jātaka* and *avadāna* type relating to one of the Hīnayāna Buddhist schools, namely Sarvāstivāda. The conspectus seems to have been written partly by the owner himself, and partly by a professional scribe. The MS is unique in many respects. But first and foremost it deserves special attention because of its antiquity. Historians of Buddhism have never possessed such an old text which shows the everyday professional activity of a preacher and the intellectual scope of that activity. The specialists on Buddhism will find in it new, important information on the history of the Buddhist Canon.

Author of the publication — Prof. Margarita Vorobyova-Desyatovskaya

- ✓ Issue No. 10. Illustrated Mongolian manuscripts and xylographs of “*One Hundred Thousand Verses*” (or “*The Great Yum*”, Skt. *Mahā-Prajñāpāramitā* in one hundred thousand *ślokas*). Block-print editions and manuscripts of “*The Great Yum*” from the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies differ both in the number of illustrations (up to 112) and the contents of the pantheon they represent, being especially valuable for the study of Buddhist iconography and Mongolian iconography in particular.

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*The Author and Coordinator of the project — Dr. Efim Rezvan, Manuscripta Orientalia
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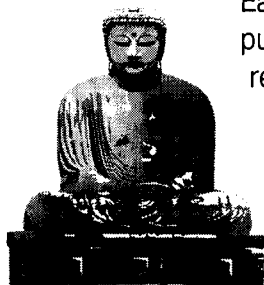
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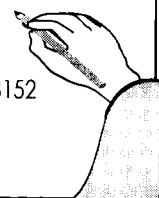
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AUTHORS

Prof. Dr. *Jost Gippert* — at present Professor of comparative linguistics at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität (Frankfurt/M), specialist in the field of Indo-Germanic textology and philology, expert in Japanese and Chinese studies. He is an author of several computer programs for processing texts in European and Eastern languages.

Dr. *Shimon M. Iakerson* — Senior Researcher of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, specialist in the history of Hebrew culture, expert in the field of the Hebrew manuscript and first printed book tradition, author of a series of monographs and articles.

Prof. Dr. *Anas B. Khalidov* — Head of the Near Eastern Department of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, expert in the field of Arabic manuscript tradition, culture and literature, author of manuscript catalogues, monographs, and articles.

Prof. Dr. *Vladimir V. Kushev* — Chief Researcher of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, specialist in Iranian studies, expert in Afghan literature and culture. He is an author of a series of catalogues of manuscripts, monographs and articles.

Prof. Dr. *Elena N. Mescherskaya* — Senior Researcher at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, expert in Syriac literature and culture, author of two monographs and a series of articles in the field.

Mrs. *Alexandra I. Mikhaylova* — former researcher at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, specialist in Arabic manuscripts and literature, author of two catalogues of Arabic manuscripts and a series of articles.

Dr. *Efim A. Rezvan* — Deputy Director of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, specialist in Arabic and Islamic studies, author of a number of monographs and articles dealing with Russian-Arab relations, the history of Islam and Oriental studies computing.

Dr. *Arzu A. Sadykhova* — Senior Lecturer on the Arabic language and literature at the North-Western Personnel Centre (St. Petersburg), specialist in Arabic literature, author of a number of articles in the field.

Prof. Dr. *Nataliya N. Tumanovich* — Senior Researcher at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, specialist in the Persian history and literature, author of a number of monographs and articles in the field.

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