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Colour plates:

Front cover:

The inside of the manuscript's front cover (on the left): Čudabandaka (Skt. Cūdāpanthaka; Tib. Lam-phran-bstan), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 5 (call number K 24), 15.0 × 16.0 cm.

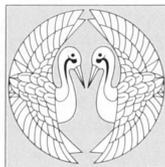
Back cover:

Plate 1. The inside of the back cover (from left to right): 1. Esru-a (Skt. Brahmā, Tib. Tshangs-pa); 2. Bigar (Skt. Śiva, Tib. ?); 3. Qormusta (Skt. Indra, Tib. brGya-byin), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 5 (call number K 24), 52.0 × 15.5 cm.

Plate 2. The inside of the front cover (on the left): Inggida (Skt. Aṅgaja, Tib. Yan-lag-'byung); (on the right) Bagula (Skt. Bakula, Tib. Ba-ku-la), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 4 (call number K 24), 53.0 × 15.5 cm.

Plate 3. The inside of the back cover (from left to right): 1. Qayanggiru-a (Skt. Lohakhaḍga Hayagrīva, Tib. Rta-mgrin lcags-ral-can); 2. Beiji Maq-a-kala (Skt. Aghora Mahākāla, Tib. Beg-tse); 3. Coytu Ökin tngri (Skt. Ekamātā Shrī Devī, Tib. Ma-cig dpal-ldan lha-mo), “The Great Yum”, MS, vol. 4 (call number K 24), 52.0 × 15.5 cm.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in SS Cyril and Methodius National Library, Sofia, Bulgaria. Ḥadīth Sciences. Compiled by Stoyanka Kenderova. London: al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation, 1995, 459 pp., with 8 Plates.

Since last five years Al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation proved to have been one of the most effective structures in the world doing a lot to support cataloguing, restoration, research and publication of Islamic manuscripts. One can mention the success of the publication of four-volume "World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts" (the final volume of English edition appeared in 1994, the Arabic one will be published in 1996). Following this project the Foundation has initiated a program to bring to light the contents of so far uncatalogued collections of Islamic manuscripts. Al-Furqān has already published handlists of the Library of Makkah al-Mukarramah and several private libraries in Yemen. The Foundation supporting activities in this field were a success in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal or are near to be successfully terminated by the publication of the catalogues and handlists of several important public and private collections. The expansion of the handlisting work with the financial support of the Foundation is expected to take place in Benin, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Togo, the Republic of South Africa, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Albania, and Pakistan. The full catalogues of the collections in Byelorussia, Lithuania and Tatarstan are being prepared now as well. The work under review has also been done within this important project.

The collection of the Islamic manuscripts (Arabic, Persian and Turkish) of the Oriental Department of the SS Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia was formed soon after the Library's foundation in 1878 with the acquisition of 2,485 manuscripts and old printed books from the Library of Mehmed Hüsrev Pasha in Samokov. In 1888 the collection was enriched with another 650 manuscripts and old printed books from the Library of Osman Pazvantoğlu of Vidin. A significant part of manuscripts has been acquired in the following years from the *waqf* libraries in Küstendil and Sofia, from the state and municipal institutions of many towns, as well as from private collections.

At the end of 1993 the total number of Oriental manuscripts was 3,698. The most numerous is the collection of Arabic manuscripts, which numbers more than 3,000 items. The Turkish collection includes about 500 manuscripts, while the Persian one — about 140.

The manuscripts represent a wide scope of Islamic science and literature. These are the copies of the Qur'ān and works on exegesis, *ḥadīth*, theology, law, and philosophy, works on history, geography, literature and language, etc.

Many scholars contributed to the compiling of the general catalogue of the Islamic manuscripts of SS Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia. A Bulgarian scholar Boris Nedkov devoted about twenty years of his life (from 1942 to 1960) to the describing of 450 Turkish manuscripts representing 350 works (unfortunately, his catalogue has remained unpublished). It should be noted that among those who participated in the work on the collection was a Russian scholar A. Shishmanov, a pupil of the famous arabist I. Yu. Krachkovsky. In 1913 he described 37 Arabic and one Persian manuscript of the Pazvantoğlu library collection.

'Adnān Darwīsh from Syria, after his six months' work in the Sofia National Library in 1963, published a two-volume catalogue (the first volume in 1969 and the second — in 1974) containing 1,025 codices (Qur'ān, *tafsīr*, works on geography and literature). Furāt Muḥammad Mahdī al-Jawāhīrī from Iraq made, between 1965 and 1967, about 1,830 short card descriptions of nearly 900 codices. Another specialist from Iraq, Yūsuf 'Izz al-Dīn, published in 1967 a catalogue of Arabic manuscripts, which includes 141 codices on history, geography and literature. The catalogue of Arabic manuscripts with a description of 95 copies of the Qur'ān was compiled and published by a Bulgarian scholar Dr. Petkova-Bozhanova in 1977. A little earlier, in 1973, the catalogue of the Persian manuscripts of the collection was prepared by Jamshīd Sayyār, who described 118 manuscripts representing 75 works.

However, many years had passed till the catalogue of the Arabic Manuscripts on *ḥadīth* sciences was published. Its author, a curator of the Islamic collection of the SS Cyril and Methodius National Library Dr. S. Kenderova, is well known to specialists for her contribution to the studies of the Ottoman (Turkish) archival documentary materials of the same Library. In the Catalogue under review she is meticulously following the traditional practice of describing of Arabic manuscripts.

The Catalogue comprises 243 descriptions representing 124 works which are preserved, either completely or in fragments, in the Library. The material is divided into four parts: 1) *Uṣūl al-Ḥadīth*; 2) *Al-Ṣiḥāḥ al-Sittah* (The Six Greatest Collections); 3) Other collections; 4) *Arba'ūn Ḥadīthan* (Forty *Ḥadīths*) Collections. The author describes

each item in the utmost detailed way. Her standard pattern includes elements providing the exhaustive information on an item, which is arranged in five basic units:

I. Presentation of the work, the author and the particular manuscript as a copy of the work (including obligatory information about the work/copy and author/copyist, short description of the work, copy, its incipit and excipit);

II. Physical description of the manuscript (number of folios/pages, text size, text frames);

III. Palaeographic and codicological characteristics (information on paper and watermarks, ink, script, marginal and interlinear notes, decorations, binding, vocalisation of the text, etc.);

IV. Provenance and previous ownership of the copy, its history (entries, marginal notes, seal impressions, purchase and ownership recordings, *waqf* dedications are mentioned);

V. References.

The Catalogue is rounded off with twelve indices. They include the following:

1. Index of titles (in Latin script).
2. Index of titles (in Arabic script).
3. Index of authors, compilers and commentators.
4. Index of copyists.
5. Index of former owners.
6. Index of *waqf* dedications.
7. Index of other persons mentioned in manuscripts.
8. Index of geographical names.
9. Index of *waqf* libraries.
10. Concordance between the call numbers of the manuscripts and their description numbers.
11. Table of dates of copying.
12. Index of incipits.

Manuscripts from the Himalayas and the Indian Subcontinent. Catalogue 17. Sam Fogg Rare Books. Catalogue by Sam Fogg and Bob Miller. Photography by Matt Pia. Typesetting, Page Artwork and Printing by Titus Wilson and Son, Kendal, Cumbria. London: 1996, 161 pp.

The publication under review is a special type of a catalogue of Oriental manuscripts which came to Europe in the last few years through private collectors. As a rule, people travelling in the East enjoy buying various rarities, Oriental manuscripts among them, from local traders. The attention of non-specialists is attracted first of all by illuminated manuscripts. Illustrations — drawings, schemes, miniatures, are the only thing which allows this kind of collectors to estimate the contents of what they are buying. In our days, when Eastern medicine, philosophy and especially astrology and magic became more popular than the achievements of Western science, collectors' interest in the subjects enumerated above became even stronger. To evaluate from the scientific point of view the manuscripts which come to the European market and to provide the collectors with right recommendations is a very important task. Such recommendations not only allow to estimate the real value of many private collections, they help also to un-

derstand the achievements of Oriental culture accumulated and reflected in the manuscripts.

The book is notable by its high level of production. It is also supplemented with 15 colour and 4 black-and-white Plates.

Dr. Stoyanka Kenderova (who prepared her PhD thesis in the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies under the guidance of Prof. Oleg Bolshakov) may be praised for the depth and range of her scholarship which enabled her to produce an excellent work. We are glad to note that the Catalogue under review maintains the high standard of the series of works sponsored and published by al-Furqān.

We are also glad to point out the growing activities of our colleagues from SS Cyril and Methodius National Library in Sofia in presenting their collections' treasures. It is known that they have recently arranged the exhibition of the Qur'āns from the collection (the exhibition catalogue entitled "The Holy Qur'ān Through Centuries" was also sponsored by Al-Furqān). The publication of two CD-ROMs, one containing a richly decorated 13th century Qur'ān and the other — many hundreds of images of Greek, Bulgarian, Serbian, Walachian and Moldavian Tetraevangelia, as well as the 12th—17th centuries Qur'āns, should be mentioned, too.

Finally, we cannot but share the expectations and hopes of Sheikh Aḥmad Zakī Yamānī, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the International Advisory Council and the Board of Experts of Al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation, who, in the preface to Dr. S. Kenderova's Catalogue, noted that all the works to be published in this series would promote a greater awareness of the collections they describe and would be a great step towards the more profound study of this priceless manuscript heritage.

F. Abdullaeva and E. Rezvan

derstand the achievements of Oriental culture accumulated and reflected in the manuscripts.

The Catalogue is definitely helpful to the solution of these problems. Its makers — Sam Fogg and Bob Miller — published a detailed description of manuscripts originating from Tibet, Nepal and India, which may be of some interest to specialists.

179 items are presented in the Catalogue, of these 177 are manuscripts, block-printed books, religious paintings on paper and textiles, miniatures, etc. Two items (No. 13 "Prayer Wheel" and No. 41 "Buddhist inscribed brass vase, record of a religious donation") are objects of material culture. All descriptions are made by professionals. The most prominent experts from Europe and India were invited to describe and classify manuscripts and objects of art, among them Dr. Lore Sander from Berlin, a famous palaeographer, one of the authors of the six-volume *Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts from East Turkestan*; Prof. Nicholas Sims-Williams from London, expert in medieval manuscripts from Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia, as well as in the Middle Iranian languages and scripts; Dr. Ulrich Pagel working on the description of Tibetan manuscripts and xylographs of the British Library; Dr. Jane Singer, specialist in Sino-Tibetan iconography; Dr. Ian Alsop, expert in the