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### Front cover:

“Kakubha Rāginī”, watercolour, gouache, gold and ink on paper. Deccan, second half of the 18th century.  
Album (*Muraqqa'*) X 3 in the Fabergé collection at the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies,  
fol. 20b, 7.6 × 11.5 cm.

### Back cover:

**Plate 1.** “Gujarī Rāginī”, watercolour, gouache, gold and ink on paper. Deccan, second half of the 18th century. Same  
Album, fol. 21a, 6.5 × 11.5 cm.

**Plate 2.** “Gunkāli (Gunkāri) Rāginī”, watercolour, gouache, gold and ink on paper. Mughāl, second half of the 16th  
century. Same Album, fol. 24b, 11.5 × 12 cm.

**Plate 3.** “Kakubha Rāginī or Sorāṭh Rāginī”, watercolour, gouache and gold on paper. Deccan, second half of the  
18th century. Same Album, fol. 26b, 10.0 × 19.0 cm.

**Plate 4.** “Rāginī” (unidentified), watercolour, gouache and gold on paper. Deccan, second half of the 18th century.  
Same Album, fol. 27a, 11.5 × 17.0 cm.

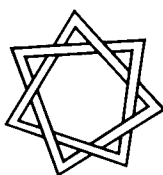
THESA PUBLISHERS  
IN CO-OPERATION WITH  
ST. PETERSBURG BRANCH  
OF THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL STUDIES  
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



# **Manuscripta Orientalia**

*International Journal for Oriental Manuscript Research*

Vol. 7 No. 3 September 2001



**THESA**  
**St. Petersburg**

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Subscription orders may be made directly to the publisher — Thesa, 14 Dobrolyubov Str., office 358, 197198 St. Petersburg, Russia (tel./fax: + 7 (812) 238 9594; e-mail: [bi@thesa.ru](mailto:bi@thesa.ru)).

Subscription orders are accepted for complete volumes only, orders taking effect with the first issue of any year. Claims for replacement of damaged issues or of issues lost in transit should be made within ten months after the appearance of the relevant issue and will be met if stocks permit. Back issues are available.

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Журнал зарегистрирован Северо-западным региональным управлением Госкомитета РФ по печати 24. 03. 2000 г.

Регистрационный номер: П 4312.

Учредитель и издатель — ООО «Теза»

197198, Санкт-Петербург, ул. Добролюбова, д. 14, офис 358.

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

Dear readers,

In the current issue of *Manuscripta Orientalia* we begin the publication of materials presented at two important international conferences.

The first, "Preservation of Dunhuang and Central Asian Collections. Third International Conference" was held in Berlin, (13–16 May, 1998) (see: <http://idp.bl.uk/>). The organizers invited colleagues from German scholarly centers, from Paris, Copenhagen, St. Petersburg, London, Kyoto, Ürümqi and Peking, as well as from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The papers presented were extremely important, and I am confident that topics such as recent advances in <sup>14</sup>C dating techniques will be of interest to most of our readers.

The second conference, "Oriental books and manuscripts collections and new information technologies. MELCOM XXIII", was organized by the European Association of Middle East Librarians (see: [www.uni-bamberg.de/unibib/melcom/home.html](http://www.uni-bamberg.de/unibib/melcom/home.html)) and held in St. Petersburg, May 28–30, 2001 (for details, please, visit: <http://orient.thesa.ru/congress/>).

Colleagues from Russia, USA, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, UK, Sharjah, Iran, Israel, Holland, Uzbekistan, Lebanon and Egypt took part in it. The 24 papers presented in St. Petersburg covered the following topics: automation for Middle-Eastern collections; Internet resources for Middle Eastern librarianship; Oriental manuscripts and new information technologies, manuscript studies; rare material collections; acquisition policies and co-ordination between libraries.

In introducing the above-mentioned publications, I would like to stress that the studies they contain represent the latest developments in international manuscript studies. These studies also reflect the general level, tendencies and perspectives which will determine the future development of research connected on the conservation and preservation of Oriental manuscripts and rare materials, acquisition policies of the world's leading libraries and research centres, the influence of the new information technologies and current approaches to automation on Oriental collections. The present issue of *Manuscripta Orientalia* starts publishing the papers delivered at the conferences; these are contributions by Catherina Koch (Germany), Elisabeth Zack (Holland — Egypt), Hala Kaileh (Palestine — France), and O. F. Akimushkin (Russia).

I would like to stress that these new publications do not represent a move away from our traditional policy of presenting to the world Orientalist community new research by Russian scholars. We will also continue publishing the article series that has brought our journal so many new readers.

**Efim A. Rezvan**  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Notes to Contributors

Manuscripts must be written in English.

Manuscripts must be clearly typewritten with numbered pages, double linespacing and wide margins throughout. Italic and bold typeface should be avoided. Use underlining where text is to be italicised. The title should be as brief and informative as possible. The institute at which the work has been done should be indicated at the head of each paper. Authors are requested to include their e-mail address if one is available.

## Submissions

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