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PERSO-INDICA
*An Analytical Survey of Persian Works
on Indian Learned Traditions*

Young Researchers' 2nd Indo-Persian Workshop: Writing in the Indo-Persian World

May 23-24th, 2024 (10 AM to 6.30 PM UTC+2)

in

Marseille and Online

Campus La Vielle Charité, 2 Rue de la Charité, 13002 Marseille, France
Salle A

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Organised by:

Victor Baptiste (EPHE) and Raffaello De Leon-Jones Diani (EHES)

With collaboration by Inayatullah Din (EHES) and Lingli Li (Göttingen-EHES)

General Presentation

Indo-Persian studies have recently received renewed attention in the field of History, Religious studies, Sociology, Gender studies, Art History and or Philology. Many pioneering books have been published in South Asia India, North America and Europe by scholars such as Muzaffar Alam, Sunil Sharma, Corinne Lefèvre, Dalpat Rajpurohit, Pankaj Jha, Francesca Orsini and many others, inspiring new works by PhD and postdoctoral students. In Europe itself, the efforts of scholars such as Françoise “Nalini” Delvoye at the EPHE in Paris, Fabrizio Speciale at the EHES in Paris and Marseille, Eva Orthmann at the Georg-August-Universität of Göttingen or Stefano Pellò at the University Ca' Foscari in Venice, have accompanied a new generation of young scholars exploring different themes in Indo-Persian culture and history.

The first edition of this workshop, held at the EHES Marseille in May 2023, was meant to be a first step taken to gather some of these young scholars who, unfortunately, are still very scattered across the continent and struggle with the classical partition of areal disciplines separating “South Asian studies” (*études indiennes*) and “Iranian studies” (*études iraniennes*).

The workshop was held at the Vieille Charité campus of the EHESS in Marseille, in a port city open on the Mediterranean Sea, rich in multicultural history, that is currently turning into a new centre for Indo-Persian studies in France thanks to the efforts of Fabrizio Speziale, an endeavour to which we wish to humbly contribute. The goal of this first informal edition of the workshop was to assess the situation, allow the students and young scholars gathered to exchange on their subjects, difficulties and future perspectives and set up a program for the coming years.

The scope of this workshop is international: it will be held in hybrid format, both on site and online in order for students and young scholars, located in South Asia or elsewhere, to be able to attend and participate.

Writing in the Indo-Persian world

The practice of writing is an essential one in South Asian history, one that perhaps goes back to the very first civilization found therein, the Indus Valley Civilization. Over the centuries, the technical, economic, social and the cultural shifts brought about by the inclusion of South Asia in the Persianate and Islamicate cosmopolises has had profound impact on South Asian writing. From scriptural change to material cultural evolution, from palmleaf manuscripts in *brahmi*-derived scripts to Persian texts on bound paper, the story of writing in South Asia is a pregnant one, with a lasting impact to this day. A reflection on the practice of writing in South Asia goes beyond the linguistic aspect of it all but rather brings into the light important questions such as the readership and the economy behind book exchange and production. Furthermore, when considering the Persian language, such a reflection puts to the fore an important yet often neglected fact: that South Asian readership and textual production in Persian largely outweighed the Iranian.

Writing does not exist in a vacuum: manuscripts, and especially manuscripts produced for the elite, are often decorated and illustrated. A reflection on writing will therefore necessarily also cover topics such as calligraphy, illumination, bookbinding, paper-production as well as the data contained in manuscripts in and around the text, mobilizing disciplines such as palaeography, codicology, and diplomatics.

Registration and Participation: Attendance is free and open to all. Please kindly let us know if you wish to attend by filling the following Google Form, and indicating if you will be attending online or in presence. This allows us to plan for seats and catering. <https://forms.gle/9QZk92YATLE2PEHQ6>

Abstracts (In order of presentation)

May 23rd

Paper, Literacy and Economy of Bookmaking in Kashmir c.1500-1900

By Shakir-ul Hassan (University of Delhi)

Historiographical purview of the early modern papermaking and bookmaking in South Asia has not been adequately studied. Relatively recent art surveys vis-à-vis Kashmir under aegis of 'visual turn' concentrate on skillful conceptions of sculptors, shawl-makers, metalworkers and structural elegance of pietistic buildings while the oft-neglected Islamic bookmaking techniques await specialized study. Counter to the contentions of professional orthodoxy, this study marks a big shift in tracing the economy of book vis-à-vis political and cultural matrix in Kashmir. Shawls and paper formed commercial products of Kashmir, yet, the former has received immense historical devotion, of course, it being component in robes of honour (*khil'at*). This essay reclaims historical trajectory of paper-industry (*khāgaz-sāzi*) and manuscript culture (*mas'udāt*) in Kashmir c.1500-1900 since the gradual diffusion of perdurable paper as writing-material proved instrumental in adding seminal agency to literate mentality. It effected the growth of textual-cum-scribal communities viz., *khatāt*, *khushnavāsiyan*, *ganāie*, *munshi* and *kārkun* in urban cities without displacing pre-existent forms of birchbark documentation (*bhojapatra*). It attends to economy of bookmaking in Kashmir that honed within Timurid visual vocabulary and substantive essence of illustrated bookmaking operations as this craft rolled into commercial mass-production by late eighteenth-century.

Keywords: Islamic bookmaking, Manuscript, Birchbark, Textual communities, Timurid

An Epigraphical Journey to Qutb Shahi Necropolis

By Mahdieh Khajeh Piri

The epigraphically documented tombs are an essential feature of the Qutb Shahi Necropolis and are the most extensive and the best epigraphically documented in India. The Qutb Shahi sultans were of the Shia religion. They displayed their religious beliefs by carving beautiful inscriptions on their tombstones so uniquely that we do not see their examples on tombstones in any other part of the Deccan region.

This study is inspired from examining inscriptions of the graves of Qutb Shahi Necropolis, located in Hyderabad, India. The Qutb Shahi dynasty ruled from the Golconda fortification between 1512 and 1687 AD for over 171 years before Aurangzeb conquered Deccan in 1687 AD. They built a dynastic necropolis in a peaceful corner north of the Golconda fort, spread over 106 acres of land. The site has over 100 structures, including mausoleums, funerary mosques, hammam, garden structures, and step-wells. Seven out of eight Qutb Shahi Sultans, their immediate family, and the officials who served them, including Hakims and concubines, are buried at the site.

Overall, 193 graves made of black basalt, granite, and lime finish survive at the site; 38 graves have inscriptions, and 14 of these graves bear the names of the deceased and their date of death.

They combined Quranic verses, Shahada (declaration of faith), and invocations to fourteen Infallibles (Prophet Mohammad, Fatima, and 12 Imams) to portray Qutb Shahi Sultans as a propagator of Twelver Shii doctrine and protector of Sharia.

The art of inscription writing is one of the most important historical and artistic elements of the Qutb Shahi Necropolis. It will be examined on 38 out of 193 graves with Arabic and Persian inscriptions. In this article, I shall examine the following topics related to the inscriptions:

(i) The Shiite beliefs of the Qutb Shahi Sultans and the manifestation of these beliefs in the epigraphic program of the inscriptions. (ii) The type of scripts used in the inscriptions and the investigation of their development from the construction of the tomb of the founder of this dynasty Sultan Quli Qutb al –Mulk (d.1543) until the construction of the last unfinished tomb of Fatima Khanum, the daughter of Sultan Abdullah Qutb Shah in 1087. (iii). Analysis of the form and shape of the graves. (iv) The study of the conscious collaboration of patrons and artists that is reflected on epigraphic program.

The practise of the Persian headings in Avadhī manuscripts

By Victor Baptiste (EPHE)

A number of manuscripts of Avadhī *Pemakathās* (“romances”) written in the Perso-Arabic script contain headings written in Persian, inserted before each stanza (*dohā-caupāī*), which describe the content of the coming verses. This is a feature found both in the ancient illustrated manuscripts of *Candāyān* (15th-16th century) and in some of the later manuscripts of the 18th century. In this presentation, I will address the technical terminology problems that we are facing to describe these elements with the classical Persian codicological vocabulary (*sar-faṣl*, *sar’unvān*, *sar-khaṭ*, *surkhī*?) in order to reflect on the unique function that these Persian descriptions had for their readership. I will then describe the recurring components of these headings and analyse the scribal practises involved (graphical elements, conventions, scripts used). I will focus on three manuscripts, two 15th and 16th century manuscripts of *Candāyān* (Manchester, Berlin) and one 18th century manuscript of *Padmāvat* (Paris) in order to establish a typology of the headings based on their contents. This will allow a reflection to unroll on the multilingual vernacular and persianate reading practises of Early Modern South Asia. Indeed, in this presentation, I will attempt to demonstrate that these headings were meant to lead the gaze of a highly literate readership, capable of identifying literary tropes, symbols and new poetic meanings across different languages. The intricate nature of the *Pemakathās*, written in a Neo-Indo-Aryan language, but following many of the conventions of the Persian *maṣnavī*, is indeed an exceptional material for inter-lingual and inter-literary meditations focusing on poetic creativity (*khayāl-pardāzī*) and literary meaning (*ma’nī-afrīnī*). The headings were, as a result, not only here to help the reader in identifying the elements and interesting tropes of the vernacular text but were also acting like a first layer of interpretation and intertextual analysis.

Vernacular Bhakti Writings in Persianate India: Exploring the ‘Muslim Language’ of the *Pranami* Texts of the Seventeenth Century

By Mohd Rehmatullah (Jamia Millia Islamia)

The paper seeks to address the issue of the presence of ‘Muslim language’ in the large corpus of *Pranami* vernacular devotional and hagiographic literature of the seventeenth century. Those

critical of the beliefs and practices of the *Pranami* community use the term ‘Muslim language’ to imply the excessive influence of Islam on the *Pranami* religious preachers, particularly Prannath, the seventeenth-century founder of this *Bhakti*-based devotional community, and also the preponderance of Persian and Arabic words in the *Pranami* devotional and hagiographic texts. This paper seeks to argue that it was a common practice among many Mughal-period *Bhakti* poets and hagiographers to draw upon Islamic ideas, particularly *Shia* millenarianism, and also upon Arabic and Persian languages and literary cultures. These cultural and literary interactions did not distract the Pranamis and other *Bhakti*-based communities from their vernacular and devotional moorings.

Based on an exploration of a large number of *Pranami* vernacular texts of the seventeenth century, including *Kulzam Swaroop* and *Bitak*, the research paper is also intended to make a further contribution to the understanding of the burgeoning field of the formation of early modern Indian Hindi literary cultures and their historical context. The paper also addresses the issues of readership of these literary texts and the audience of the storytellers. The paper makes an attempt to answer the question of whether these texts were intended solely for the *Pranami* followers or were also targeted at a larger audience and social groups in the Indo-Persian world within the Mughal Empire.

In undertaking an exercise of this nature, the two-way interaction between orality and literacy assumes particular significance, which has been touched upon in this paper. Two major literary genres in the *Pranami* literary traditions are *Bani* and *Bitak*, both of which have their roots in the North Indian vernacular literary traditions of the period. The subject matter of this paper is how *Pran Nath* and the *Pranami* storytellers used these indigenous forms to put forward millenarian claims derived from Islamic traditions.

The art of rewriting the mystical: an introduction to a nineteenth-century manuscript of the *Qiṣṣah-i Rāja Kunvar Sen o Rānī Citrāvalī*

By Annalisa Bocchetti (Ghent University)

With this contribution, I aim to shed light on an unexplored Urdu manuscript from early nineteenth-century North India, namely the *Qiṣṣah-i Rāja Kunvar Sen o Rānī Citrāvalī* (‘Story of King Kunvar Sen and Queen Citrāvalī’). As a result of my current research, I contend that this manuscript represents an Urdu retelling (*dar naẓm-e-Urdū*) of the *Citrāvalī*, a Sufi *premkathā* composed in Avadhī by Sheikh Usmān (1613 CE). In keeping with tradition, Usmān’s mystical text provides a fascinating allegory of Creation and the seeker’s mystical journey through the narration of the love story of Prince Sujān and Princess *Citrāvalī*. Throughout the text, symbolic artistic and painting imagery is used to convey complex Sufi ideas of ontology and metaphysics.

No translations or retellings of Usmān’s poem have surfaced so far, except this anonymous *qiṣṣah* that appears two centuries later, listed in the *Catalogue of Hindi, Punjabi and Hindustani Manuscripts* (Blumhardt 1899). Although the text is written in Urdu, scattered Persian interpolations can be found within and around the text, indicative of contemporary writing practices. The anonymous author, whose manuscript appears to be commissioned by Colonel George William Hamilton (1807-1868), states that the story is popular in India and is included in the repertoire of storytellers/historians (*mu’arrikh*) (folio 24). The adapted text retains the vernacular artistic semantics and painting symbolism of the *premkathā* (1613 CE) but presents them in a language and narrative form for an Urdu-speaking public. Considering the importance of historicizing the source, I shall first describe the cultural and literary legacy of the Urdu manuscript within Islamicate India’s transregional storytelling networks that allowed texts to travel across scripts, languages, and genres. Therefore, I propose that the Sufi

story was part of the repertoire of storytellers flowing through the multilingual manuscript tradition of India.

As the story of *Citrāvalī* is adapted into the *qiṣṣah* genre, the paper will explore questions related to assessing the manuscript's socio-historical nature and its reception within Indo-Muslim milieus. Thus, using information gathered from the text's body and margins, I intend to gain insight into the identity of agents involved in the revival of the story and the changing readership who could engage with the adapted text, appealing to their tastes, models, and expectations. Introducing selected parts of the Urdu manuscript for the first time, I will illustrate how the text shows the influence of the Urdu and Persian reading culture of Islamicate India.

The Persian Translation of *Śivapurāṇa* and Eighteenth-Century North Indian Śaivism

By Ayelet Kotler (Leiden University)

Our knowledge of the historical circumstances under which people have composed, read, copied, and translated Sanskrit puranic texts has many gaps. This is, as they say, not a bug, but a feature of puranic discourse: two fundamental characteristics of *purāṇas* are their claim of primordially and sacredness on the one hand, and the process of 'composition-in-transmission' that produced them, on the other. Yet, despite the puranic composers' best efforts to disguise their historicity, cultural-historical research that is firmly rooted in rigorous philological work on *purāṇas* is possible, as has been shown by the ongoing reconstruction of the different stages of the transmission of the *Skandapurāṇa* in Sanskrit.

One productive and perhaps surprising place to look at when studying the transmission, transformation, and reception of *purāṇas* is the corpus of Persian *purāṇa* translations from the eighteenth century. It is productive because studying translations is always a crucial component of any attempt to map and understand the transmission and reception of a textual tradition. It might be somewhat surprising, though, to examine Persian translations to shed light on the transmission history of *purāṇas*: as if the "composition-in-transmission" of *purāṇas* does not make life hard enough for scholars when it comes to determining with any accuracy the historical circumstances of any given text, Persian translations of Sanskrit literature, too, are notorious for being silent on their sources. Without the painstaking job of a close comparative reading of a range of Sanskrit manuscripts and recensions against the Persian translation, it is impossible to pinpoint the sources with which Persian translators in early modern South Asia worked. Not only that, but Persian translators of narrative literature in early modern South Asia are also known for not considering faithfulness in translation a guiding literary ideal.

Yet, studying Persian *purāṇas* can illuminate not only matters of textual transmission and criticism, but also severely understudied cultural-historical aspects of Persian translations of Sanskrit literature. The strong association between Persian and Islam in scholarship on early modern South Asia has often led researchers to examine Sanskrit-Persian translations primarily as sites of religious encounters between Hinduism and Islam as well as a tool of Mughal political self-fashioning. Persian translations that were produced outside the Mughal court, like those of Sanskrit *purāṇas*, by Persianized Hindu scribes, have thus been badly neglected.

This paper explores the Persian translation of the *Śivapurāṇa*, composed by Kishan Singh 'Nashāt' of Sialkot, probably in 1730, and entitled *Shiv Puran*. Exploring the Persian *Shiv Puran* and the work of Nashāt more broadly is extremely productive not only because it is a valuable source in reconstructing the life and education of Persianized Hindu scribes in the early eighteenth century, thus complementing existing scholarship on "the world of the munshi". It can also uniquely shed light on aspects of the social history of lay Śaiva communities in northern South Asia, the ways in which early modern readers understood and used *purāṇas*, and the muddled textual transmission of the *Śivapurāṇa* in Sanskrit and beyond.

Writing, Imagery, and the Monastic Everyday: The Social Lives of Premodern Manuscripts

By Kartik Maini (they/them/theirs) (University of Chicago)

Early modernity was, for Indic traditions, a period of intense institutionalization through monasteries or seminaries (*maṭhas*) modeled after Sufi *khānqāhs* and *ribāṭs*. The *maṭha*, we know, was a space of brisk textuality where literary, scholastic, and philosophical canons were being reimagined, and the charismatic authority of saintly men & women slowly forged. This paper is grounded in one such tradition – the Rāmdāsī *sampradāya* of Samarth Rāmdās (c. 1608-1682) – and the textual ephemera of its many *maṭhas* in the Deccan. I aim to use manuscripts produced at Rāmdāsī *maṭhas* in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to address questions of social history. Writing and imagery, I argue, helped the *maṭhas*' inhabitants find their institutional bearings in a deeply uncertain world marked by internecine warfare, sectarian rivalries, and the vicissitudes of state-sponsored scribal labor. Early modern Rāmdāsīs confronted the precarity of their times through everyday *devotional* labors that helped bring the monastery into being. Such labors were primarily textual, ranging from the kind of writing that aided self-cultivation (e.g., copying Rāmdās' utterances by hand) to ordinary acts of recording transactions, gifts, and deaths. I examine three registers of evidence – the *maṭha*'s inventorial ledgers, its images of worship, and the occultic designs or devices (*yantras*) that curiously adorn much of its textual record – taking, in each case, their deceptive mundanity seriously. Bringing diverse languages (Marathi, Hindi/*bhāṣā*, Sanskrit, Persian), scripts, and sensibilities together, Rāmdāsī scribes yoked writing's workaday fluencies to transcendental ends. In so doing, they opened devotional religion (*bhakti*) to the transformative powers of the written word and the drawn image.

May 24th

A Source Critical Study of Persian Manuscript *Tazkirat ul-Muluk*: A Seventeenth Century Historical Text

By Dr. Ghulam Ahmad Raza (Research Assistant, History Division, Ministry of Defence)

The present paper deals with a source critical study of an unpublished manuscript, *Tazkirat ul-Muluk* written by Rafiuddin Ibrahim Shirazi in the early seventeenth century. The manuscript has neither been edited, nor translated or published. This is an important historical source for the understanding of history of medieval Deccan in particular and Mughal India and Safavid Iran in general. This is a rich source for study of connected history of medieval period. It is also very helpful source to understand history writing of premodern India. There are numerous copies of the manuscript. The present study aims to establish the best copy highlighting differences found in the copies and reasons for discrepancies. The study of this paper gives an overall understanding of the manuscript and the author's perception of history and history writing.

In this paper, I have attempted to answer some specific questions like which is it the best? How to find the best copy? what is the criteria of selection? where are other copies of the manuscript available? what are problems with other copies etc.? The study of the paper helps in determining the best copy in the presence of various copies of the manuscript.

Keywords: Manuscript, Comparison, Variation, Redaction, Historiography and Deccan

Between Chronicler and Archivist: Munshi Inayatulla and the *Tarikh-i Riyasat-i Kalsia*

By Girija Joshi (EHES-CEAH)

This paper offers a reflection upon scribal practices in nineteenth- into early-twentieth century Panjab, as they relate to Persianate histories (*tawarikh*) from this period. Such works in Persian and Urdu had begun increasingly to be commissioned by various Panjabi *riyasats* and their dependents (*namak-khwaran*) from the early nineteenth century, as a means of undergirding their territorial claims vis-à-vis the expanding empires of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the English East India Company (Dhavan 2007). While some of these works appeared as finely-produced courtly books, a significant number seem to have been family histories kept in private possession, that minutely record the evolving relations between Panjabi *riyasati* households, the networks of their relations (*rishtedaran*), and the lands that they controlled (*patti*). Such works continued to be produced even after the Company's conquest of trans-Satlaj Panjab in 1849, partly under colonial encouragement, but also out of their own initiative as savvy precautions against attempts by rivals, dependents, or the British to place claims on their territories.

This paper samples a handful of texts from across this spectrum of *riyasati* lineage histories, before focusing upon one particular account, the *Tarikh-i riyasat-i Kalsia* (c. 1908), written by a certain Munshi Inayatulla in simple Urdu. This lengthy and detailed history of the Kalsia state comprises a chronicle of the different battles fought and won by its rulers, as well as a number of detailed sketches of the lineages (*khandan*) of the subordinate relations that had historically served the Kalsia *sardars* (referred to by Inayatulla as '*tazkiras*'). It also contains extensive marginal notes, numerous genealogies (*shajara-nasab*), copies of some significant orders issued by the colonial and Kalsia authorities, and of speeches given by the *sardars*. As such, the text is as much a chronicle (*tarikh*) as it is an archive of the affairs of the extended Kalsia household, an archive with parallels to those of older vintage maintained by powerful landholding families in other regions (Chatterjee 2020; Thelen 2021).

Through a consideration of the *Tarikh* as narrative and artefact, this paper reflects upon the scribal practices that the *riyasati* and colonial contexts of nineteenth-century Panjab fostered. On the one hand, the scribe emerges as archivist and accountant, keeping a watchful eye over the affairs of his patrons at a time of consistent threat to their wealth and sovereignty. He is an information-gatherer who combines intimate knowledge about marriages, adoptions, and illicit relations, with a detailed grasp of the royal fisc, lands, and tributaries. To a lesser extent, he also fulfils the role of a panegyrist, depicting his patrons in a flattering and heroic light in idioms drawn from Persian mythology. In each of these roles, he was something of a novelty in Panjab, many of whose myriad *riyasats* had emerged only in the late-eighteenth century, and had begun adopting written courtly and administrative records only in the nineteenth. It is this transition to a regime of careful written documentation, and of political sovereignty beyond the Sikh Khalsa, that Munshi Inayatulla's *Tarikh* allows us to trace.

The *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani* (c. 1724) of Khwajam Quli Beg Balkhi

By Rachel Cochran (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

This paper examines Khwajam Quli Beg Balkhi's two volume manuscript *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani* (c. 1724) held at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. This "peri-court" history was produced on the periphery of the Mughal empire in Abd al-Samad Khan's de-facto independent Lahore. Balkhi had served the Ashtarkhanid court in Balkh before he fled the area, was kidnapped, and eventually settled in Lahore. Through an analysis of *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani*'s contents, this paper examines how Balkhi's manuscript both drew from and reworked the tradition of Persian universal history writing, reflected in texts such as *Rawzat al-Safa* and *Habib al-Siyar*, which served as popular models for later Indo-Persian historians. It indexes the contents of *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani* and examines specific features of its introduction, conclusion, and colophon, including biographical elements. This study will also include a comparison of these elements with the structures of other paradigmatic early-modern universal histories. Particularly, it will examine Balkhi's portrayal of Kayumars, the mythical Persian king, considering Sholeh Quinn's recent comparative study of Kayumars in early modern Persian universal histories. This paper also discusses the circulation and scribal details of the extant copy of *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani*.

Through a preliminary survey of other manuscripts produced in Hindustan during this period that similarly dealt with the history of *Mawarannahr*, this paper points to a growing interest in the region and its rebellions in the early 18th century. In particular, *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani* contains an account of the 'Afghan' Mir Wais' 1708 rebellion against Safavid rule in Qandahar. The basic contours of this account match accounts given in several other manuscripts produced in Hindustan throughout the 18th century, including the manuscript *Mirat-i Waridat* (c.1736) authored by 'Warid'. Through examination of the colophon and selected contents of *Mirat-i Waridat*, the paper discusses the discrepancies between the manuscript held at Salar Jung Library in Hyderabad and other versions of this text and considers the possibility that Balkhi's work may have circulated in the Deccan. Finally, by analyzing the data contained in *Tarikh-i Qipchaq Khani*, this paper also makes the case that Balkhi authored the previously considered anonymous manuscript, the *Tarikh-i Shaybani Khan*, held at al-Beruni Library in Tashkent. Through examination of these topics, this paper aims to shed light on a little-known Indo-Persian manuscript that reveals transformations in early 18th century Persian historiography and demonstrates the challenges posed by the separate area studies silos of Central Asia, Iran, and South Asia for the study of Persian writing in India.

Making Miniature in Today's Bukhara

Qurbanov Firuz, Bukhara miniaturist
firuz.qurbanov.91farrux@gmail.com

When it comes to miniature painting, it requires a lot of patience. In Bukhara, it is still being studied according to the traditions of master apprenticeship, as the delicacy of drawing miniature paintings demands special time and attention to understand the hidden meanings behind each painting. Each master teaches his student the knowledge to the best of his ability. Normally, each master imparts his knowledge only after testing his student for a certain period

of time. This is a responsible and significant time for students. As for miniature paintings, they are mainly copies of works painted by ancient masters. Themes that can be often used include historical events, famous figures, literary works or fabric patterns. For example, Indian miniature paintings mainly depict historical events, such as the illuminated *Baburnama* and *Razmnama*, which are good examples. Iranian and Central Asian miniature works are often related to literary works like those of Nizami Ganjawi, Ferdowsi, and Hafiz. Bukhara school differs from all other schools especially with the colours of miniature paintings. In my talk, I will mainly introduce this by showing examples and by combining my own artwork.