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Presentation on manuscripts and rare books
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Information on Manuscripts

Manuscripts, regarded as some of the most sacred national treasures, are of great importance for understanding the true history, culture, and civilization of every nation, particularly the Tajik nation. They have played a significant role in the development of human civilization.

The manuscripts of Persian-speaking peoples, including the Tajiks, which have survived from ancient centuries to the present day, are preserved in various museums and libraries around the world. These historical monuments serve as important and reliable sources of knowledge and enlightenment for researchers and scholars and represent a source of pride for the medieval world.

Today, the National Library makes a valuable contribution to the collection, preservation, conservation, and study of the manuscript heritage of our ancestors. Through the dedicated efforts of its staff and with the assistance of book lovers from different cities and districts of the republic and abroad, its collection continues to grow year by year. It should be noted that manuscripts have played a prominent role in the development of numerous fields, including literature, culture, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, religion, governance, and other branches of science. It is through these manuscripts that we have been able to preserve the rich and invaluable legacy of our ancestors—scholars, scientists, poets, and writers—for many years and make it available to researchers and academics today.

From the very beginning of its establishment, the Library paid special attention to the collection, study, and promotion of manuscripts. In May 1933, the Research Institute under the People's Commissariat of Education of Tajikistan transferred the first collection of rare manuscripts to the A. Ferdowsi Library. A year later, the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Rare Books was established at the Library. Today, this department serves as the principal repository of valuable manuscripts. Its primary mission is the collection, study, processing, preservation, and conservation of manuscripts and lithographic books. Alongside these activities, the department's staff made considerable efforts in organizing and compiling the first catalogues of manuscripts, which are now accessible to readers.

At present, the Golden Collection of the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Rare Books of the National Library preserves 2,758 rare manuscripts dating from the 13th to the 19th centuries. These manuscripts are written in various scripts and in several Eastern languages, including Tajik (Persian), Uzbek, Arabic, Urdu, and Uyghur. It is worth mentioning that upon the opening of the new building of the National Library, 19 manuscript and lithographic works from the personal library of the President of the country were donated to the Library. This demonstrates that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, particularly the Founder of Peace and National Unity, Leader of the Nation and President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, pays special attention to the enrichment and preservation of the manuscript heritage of our ancestors.

Today, more than 90 of the rarest manuscripts are exhibited in the “Book Museum” of the Department of Oriental Manuscripts and Rare Books, attracting thousands of local and international visitors. Among these manuscripts, special prominence is given to *The History of al-Tabari* by Muhammad Jarir al-Tabari, *Tarikh-i Firuz Shahi* by Zia Barani, *Zakhirat al-Muluk* by Ali ibn Shahab al-Din Hamadani, *Geometry and Thirty Chapters on Astronomy* by the renowned mathematician and astronomer Nasir al-Din Tusi, as well as the immortal epic *Shahnameh* by the great epic poet Abulqasim Ferdowsi. These works have been translated into many languages and have been the subject of extensive scholarly research worldwide.

Thank you for your attention