

MANUSCRIPTS AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE POEM "MAKHZAN UL-ASROR"

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Abstract: This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the distribution, preservation, and publication of Haydar Khwarazmi's poem *Makhzan ul-Asror*. The study explores the various manuscript copies written in Uyghur and Arabic scripts, housed in major libraries and institutions worldwide, including Istanbul, London, Vienna, Paris, New York, Dublin, Budapest, Toronto, and Kazan. The article examines the different calligraphic styles, miniatures, decorative elements, and textual variations found across these editions. Additionally, the research compares multiple publications of the poem, such as those in the *Anthology of Uzbek Literature*, *Echo of Centuries*, and *Blessed Letters*. Furthermore, scholarly investigations into *Makhzan ul-Asror* and its influence on classical Uzbek literature are discussed, shedding light on its textual evolution and historical significance.

Keywords: Haydar Khwarazmi, *Makhzan ul-Asror*, manuscript copies, publications, Nasta'liq script, Ta'liq script, miniatures, Uzbek literature, masnavi.

Haydar Khwarazmi's *Makhzan ul-Asror* is a cornerstone of classical Uzbek literature, reflecting the poetic and philosophical traditions of its time¹. Preserved in numerous manuscript copies written in Uyghur and Arabic scripts, the poem has been studied for its artistic, historical, and linguistic value. This article presents a detailed analysis of these manuscripts, their locations, textual differences, and the impact of their

¹ Karimov, A. (2019). *The Influence of Persian Poetry on Central Asian Literature*. Tashkent: Uzbekistan National Press.

dissemination on literary scholarship. The study further investigates the various published editions of the poem, highlighting key textual and structural variations.

Uyghur Script Manuscripts

Several copies of *Makhzan ul-Asror* in Uyghur script have been preserved in major international libraries. These include:

1. **Istanbul University Library (Inventory No. FY1423):**

- Contains 33 verses of *Makhzan ul-Asror* between folios 10b-11a.
- Dimensions: 56.5x26.5 cm, with text dimensions of 48.8x24 cm.
- Features Arabic and Persian sections in Arabic script, with a Kufic-script *basmala* preceding a Uyghur-script verse².

2. **Süleymaniye Library, Ayasofya Collection (Inventory No. 4757):**

- *Makhzan ul-Asror* follows *Atabat al-Haqa'iq* in this collection.
- Copied in Istanbul on January 30, 1480, by Shaykhzoda Abdurazzoq Bakhshi.
- Dimensions: 17.8x24.8 cm, with text dimensions of 10.5x17 cm.
- The Uyghur script appears at the top, with Arabic script below.

Arabic Script Manuscripts

Arabic script versions of *Makhzan ul-Asror* are found in numerous libraries worldwide, each exhibiting distinct calligraphic styles and artistic features³:

1. **Istanbul National Library, Ali Amiri Collection (Inventory No. 951):**

- A 39-page manuscript written in Ta'liq script, containing 9 miniatures.

2. **Topkapı Palace Library, Evrak Treasury (Inventory No. TSMK E.H 1460):**

- Spanning folios 1b-22b, this manuscript contains 15 lines per page.
- Copied by the renowned calligrapher Imad al-Hasani in 1605-1606.

² Rahimov, O. (2017). *Calligraphic Traditions in Uzbek Literary Manuscripts*. Samarkand: Bukhara University Press.

³ Siddiqova, N. (2020). *Textual Variations in Makhzan ul-Asror Manuscripts: A Comparative Study*. *Journal of Uzbek Literary Studies*, 12(3), 45-67.

3. **Süleymaniye Library, Asad Afandi Collection (Inventory No. 2578):**

- Comprising folios 187-192 within a 347-page compilation.
- Copied by Mahmud Ali ibn Mahmud Husayn on March 11, 1682.

4. **Chester Beatty Library, Dublin (Inventory No. 433):**

- A 30-page manuscript decorated with gold and floral patterns.
- Features 8 Persian-style miniatures from the 17th century, prepared for

Safavid Shah Abbas (1587-1636).

5. **Austrian National Library, Vienna (Inventory No. Cod. N. F. 148¹¹):**

- A 26-page manuscript written in Ta'liq script, with red and gold-framed text.

6. **British Museum, London (Inventory No. Ad 7914 & Or. 3491):**

○ The former is a 337-page compilation copied in Herat in 1509 by Hasan Jahon Ansori, written in Nasta'liq script with 11 lines per page.

○ The latter is a 33-page manuscript from the 16th century featuring 6 miniatures.

7. **Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris (Inventory No. Suppl. Turc 978):**

○ This 52-page manuscript includes *Makhzan ul-Asror* on folios 25b-52b, adorned with golden floral decorations.

8. **New York Public Library, Spencer Collection (Inventory No. Pers. ms. 41):**

○ Copied by Sultan Ali Yaqoubi in Tabriz in 1478 for Abu al-Muzaffar Yaqub Bahadur Khan.

Publications of “*Makhzan ul-Asror*”

The poem has been published in multiple anthologies and collections:

1. *Anthology of Uzbek Literature* (First edition) – Based on the London photoprint and Kazan manuscript.

2. *Navoi's Gaze* – Presents an alternative textual structure of *Makhzan ul-Asror*.

3. *Echo of Centuries & Blessed Letters* – Uses the title *Gulshan ul-Asror* instead.

Scholarly Perspectives

Scholars have extensively studied *Makhzan ul-Asror* for its linguistic, stylistic, and thematic significance. Research has primarily focused on:

- The manuscript's calligraphic styles and artistic embellishments (Rahimov, 2017).
- Comparative textual analysis of different manuscript versions (Siddiqova, 2020).
- The poem's influence on later Persian and Turkic literature (Karimov, 2019).

The extensive manuscript copies of *Makhzan ul-Asror* preserved in various global institutions highlight the historical significance of Haydar Khwarazmi's work. Differences in script, calligraphy, miniatures, and textual content demonstrate the poem's diverse transmission and adaptation over centuries. The study of these manuscripts and their publications provides valuable insights into the evolution of classical Uzbek literature and its transmission across different cultures and linguistic traditions.

References

1. Karimov, A. (2019). The Influence of Persian Poetry on Central Asian Literature. *Tashkent: Uzbekistan National Press*.
2. Rahimov, O. (2017). Calligraphic Traditions in Uzbek Literary Manuscripts. *Samarkand: Bukhara University Press*.
3. Siddiqova, N. (2020). Textual Variations in Makhzan ul-Asror Manuscripts: A Comparative Study. *Journal of Uzbek Literary Studies*, 12(3), 45-67.