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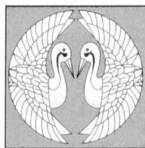
Front cover:

“The Holy Family with Attendants”, *Muraqqa’* (E 14) in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Lucknow school, mid-18th century, fragment of folio 91 a, 10.0×13.3 cm. Watercolour, gouache.

Back cover:

“The Madonna Praying before the Crusifix” (top left), “The Madonna of St. Luke” (top right) and “Ibrāhīm ibn Adham and Angels”(bottom), *Muraqqa’* (E 14) in the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, attributed to Manohar Dās, Mughāl school, ca. 1590—1595, folio 53 a. Sizes: 6.0×7.2 cm, 2.8×5.8 cm, 14.8×19.5 cm. Watercolour, ink and gold on paper.

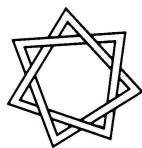
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OUR ARCHIVE

Dear colleagues,

The article published below opens a new rubric — “Our archive”. It is hardly a secret that many of the Russian-language publications on Eastern manuscripts and documents have remained inaccessible to our colleagues in the West, either because of the language barrier or because these publications were often issued in small editions for specialists only. However, a significant number of them still remains topical, introducing into scholarly circulation little-known or even unknown manuscripts or containing the analysis of facts collected over decades of research on sources and documents.

Dozens of Russian scholars dedicated their lives to studying the written legacy of the peoples of the East. Alas, time marches on and many names have been forgotten amid the colossal changes which have overtaken Russia and the huge amount of information Orientalists now confront. Luckily, library shelves have preserved for us the results of the inquiries and hopes, reflections and research of our colleagues from numerous scholarly centres of the former USSR.

A vast area encompassing many newly independent states continues to use the Russian language as a common tongue for intellectual discourse. One of the many Russian scholars who devoted his life to the study of the Eastern written legacy was Georgy Nikolaevich Chabrov (1904—1986). It is to his memory that we dedicate the first publication in our new rubric, and it is his article that we publish on the pages below.

*Familiarizing the readers of **Manuscripta Orientalia**, who live in 30 countries, with the scholarly heritage of famous Russian Orientalists, we are fortunate to be able to rely on the help of our friends from all the former republics of the USSR and our friends in the West. The biographical information on G. N. Chabrov which follows is based on materials prepared by V. Germanov at the journal's request and under the direction of Dr. Vincent Fourniau, Director of the Institut Français d'Études sur l'Asie Centrale (IFEAC), to whom we express our sincere gratitude.*

We are also much indebted to our French and Uzbek colleagues for their help in readying this publication.

E. Rezvan, Editor-in-Chief

GEORGY NIKOLAEVICH CHABROV (1904—1986) AND HIS WORKS

G. N. Chabrov was born on January 19, 1904 in St. Petersburg. In 1927, he completed the Faculty of Linguistics and Material Culture at Leningrad (today St. Petersburg) University. His closest teachers at the University were A. A. Andreev and S. N. Valk.

Between 1927—1930, Chabrov worked in various institutions in Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, Yaroslavl, and Tashkent. The year 1936 marked a turning point in his life, since in this year his career as a scholar and pedagogue began. In 1936, he joined the staff of the Republic Museum of Arts in Tashkent as a research fellow and academic secretary. For some time after 1941, he held the post of director of the history section at the USSR Nizami State Pedagogical Institute in Tashkent, but in 1943, he entered the active army. After the end of the Second World War, he started his work as academic secretary of the Uzbek SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of History and Archaeology. From 1948 on, Chabrov was a senior lecturer in the section (*kabinet*) of history of the USSR and head of the sector of museum studies at Central Asian State University of Tashkent. Between 1966 and 1971, he stood at the head of the sector of bibliography at the USSR Nizami State Pedagogical Institute in Tashkent. Beginning with the organization of the Tashkent State Institute of Culture in 1971, and until his retirement in 1980, he headed the sector of the history of the USSR at that institution. He died on January 22, 1986.

In 1946, Chabrov defended his dissertation on the history of Central Asia — *Ocherki istorii planirovaniia i stroitel'stva russkikh gorodov dorevoliutsionnogo Turkestana* (Essays on the History of the Planning and Construction of Russian Cities in pre-Revolutionary Turkestan), — and in 1966, his higher degree (doctoral) dissertation *Izobrazitel'nye istochniki po istorii Srednei Azii i Kazakhstana v XVIII — pervoi polovine XIX vv.* (Depictive Sources on the History of Central Asia and Kazakhstan in the 18th — First Half of the 19th Centuries). During his nearly half-century of work on the History Faculty of Tashkent State University, he developed and taught special courses on written sources for the history of Central Asia [1] as well as the history of engraving and Russian art from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century. In 1960, Chabrov organized at the main library of Tashkent State University a scholarly circle for studying the history of Central Asia and Uzbekistan. Until 1969, its sessions allowed many scholars in Tashkent to deliver over 1,000 papers on the study of Central Asia, the history of geographic discoveries, the history of book culture, and library science.

A scholar of vast interests — an historian and archivist, art historian, and expert on sources — Chabrov is, however, known primarily as an expert on books (together with N. A. Burov and E. K. Betger), whose pioneer investigations on a history of book culture in Turkestan (and in the Soviet republics of Central Asia) were well known. Chabrov began his work as bibliographer with the article “Pervye litografirovannye izdaniia proizvedeniĭ Alishera Navoi v Srednei Azii” (“The first lithograph editions of works by ‘Alī Shīr Nawā’i in Central Asia”), which appeared in 1948 [2]. But the most significant analytical study on book history in Turkestan remains to this day his 1954 work “Iz istorii poligrafii i izdatel'stva literatury na mestnykh iazykakh v dorevoliutsionnom Turkestane” (“On the history of polygraphy and the publishing of literature in local languages in pre-Revolutionary Turkestan”) [3]. It provided the first synthetic overview of extensive archival information, and literary and other sources.

In the first half of the 1960s, bibliographic science was enriched by the appearance of an entire series of scholarly articles by Chabrov; resting on a solid base of sources and analytically astute, they treated the history of books in Turkestan. The collections *Kniga. Issledovaniia i materialy* (The Book. Research and Materials) contained his articles “Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Semēnov kak knigoved” (“Aleksandr Semenov as a book specialist”) and “U istokov uzbekskoi poligrafii. Khivinskaia pridvornaia litografiia. 1874—1910 g.” (“The origins of Uzbek polygraphy. The Khīwan court lithography. 1874—1910”) [4]. In the article “Khudozhestvennoe oformlenie turkestanskoĭ litografirovannoĭ knigi (1880—1917)” (“The artistic format of Turkestani lithograph books (1880—1917)”) [5], Chabrov gave his analysis of the art and mastery of Uzbek lithographers, artists of the lithograph book who innovatively combined in their creative efforts national traditions of the manuscript book with European and Russian methods of formatting printed books. The fundamental two-volume academic edition *400 let russkogo knigopechataniia* (400 Years of Russian Book-printing) also contained sections by Chabrov on the history of book-printing in Central Asia in the late nineteenth — early twentieth century. Taking into account the conception and goals of the edition, Chabrov provides a general overview of the centuries-long book culture of Central Asia, casting light on the history of manuscript, lithograph, and type-set books.

Chabrov was the first to publish an article on Central Asian bindings in the Soviet literature on books. This work, which was published in 1964, still stands and is of interest to specialists in the subject [6]. His other articles “O natsionalizatsii poligraficheskikh predpriatii v Turkestanskoï ASSR (1918—1920 gg.)” (“On the nationalization of polygraphic enterprises in the Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic: 1918—1920”) [7] and “Problemy izucheniia istorii uzbekskoï knigi” (“Problems in studying the history of the Uzbek book”) [8], providing a theoretical basis for research on book history in the republic, at the same time correctly the need to gather and provide a bibliography for all print and lithograph books. As he remarks, “To this day we do not have a list of lithograph editions, full lists of Uzbek type-set books issued in the pre-Revolutionary period and published in the Soviet period”. He notes also that for these reasons it is absolutely necessary to compile a bibliography of all editions encompassed by the concept of the “Uzbek book”. This remark remains valid today.

A series of later works — “Knigoizdatel'skoe delo v dorevoliutsionnoi Srednei Azii (1871—1917 gg.)” (“Book-publishing in pre-Revolutionary Central Asia: 1871—1917”) [9], “Nachalo knigoizdatel'skogo dela v dorevoliutsionnom Turkestane” (“The beginning of book-publishing in pre-Revolutionary Turkestan”) [10], “Problemy izucheniia istorii knigoizdatel'skogo dela v respublikakh Srednei Azii” (“Problems in studying the history of book-publishing in the republics of Central Asia”), in which he notes future

avenues for approaching the history of the book in Central Asia in the Soviet period [11], “Èkslibris i ego mastera” (“*Ex libris* and its masters”) [12] and, finally, “Uzbekskii èkslibris” (“Uzbek *ex libris*”) [13], which began the study of the Uzbek book graphics — greatly contributed to the developing of Central Asian book study.

Chabrov, who taught from 1963 to 1983, first on the Library Faculty of the Nizami State Pedagogical Institute in Tashkent and later of the Tashkent State Institute of Culture, was also the author of a special course entitled “The book in pre-Revolutionary Turkestan”. Materials for this special course and his scholarly notes provided the basis for the work he wrote late in life; it was *Kniga dorevoliutsionnogo Turkestana* (The Book in Pre-Revolutionary Turkestan) [14], which has unfortunately remained unpublished as have a number of other works of Chabrov [15].

The major part of the scholars life was spent in Uzbekistan, now an independent state. He came to the country as a young man, and he was among those numerous Russians who did much to develop its humanities and sciences. He lived as an Orientalist in an ancient part of the Orient, the cradle of many Eastern cultures, and was wholly devoted to the main topic of his scholarly research — Eastern book history. A man of vast learning, he also did much to develop education in Uzbekistan, and he had many followers in studying Central Asian book culture who continue to advance his investigations in the field.

Notes

1. He discussed this work in the article “Opyt razrabotki spetsial'nogo kursa po istochnikovedeniiu istorii Srednei Azii” (“Attempting to develop a special course on the use of sources on the history of Central Asia”), *Voprosy arkhivovedeniia*, 2 (1963), pp. 69—71.
2. In *Zvezda Vostoka*, 3 (1948), pp. 98—100.
3. In *Trudy Sredneaziatskogo universiteta*, 57 (1954), pp. 77—98.
4. See *Kniga. Issledovaniia i materialy*, 3 (1960), pp. 409—19; *ibid.*, 4 (1961), pp. 317—29.
5. See *Trudy Instituta istorii AN Tadzhikskoi SSR*, 29 (1960), pp. 205—24.
6. The article entitled “K izucheniiu sredneaziatskogo knizhnogo pereplëta” (“On the study of Central Asian book-binding”) was published in *Narody Azii i Afriki*, 2 (1964), pp. 136—41. The English translation of this article is published below.
7. In *Nauchnye trudy Tashkentskogo universiteta*, 238 (1964), *Institut nauki*, book 50, pp. 134—41.
8. *Ibid.*, 261 (1964), *Bibliografiia*, issue 10, pp. 88—90.
9. In *Uchenye zapiski Tashkentskogo Gosudarstvennogo Instituta im. Nizami*, 71 (1966), pp. 8—31.
10. See *Knigovedenie*, 5 (1970), pp. 3—4.
11. *Ibid.*, 2 (1968), pp. 14—8.
12. In *Zvezda Vostoka*, 1, pp. 149—52.
13. In *Tvorchestvo*, 10 (1971), p. 4.
14. *Kniga dorevoliutsionnogo Turkestana. 1868—1917* (The Book in Pre-Revolutionary Turkestan. 1868—1917), type-written (1982), 110 pp. (in Chabrov's personal archive).
15. *Knigovedenie v Turkestane (1870—1917 gg.)* (Book Studies in Turkestan: 1870—1917), type-written (1970), 16 pp. (in Chabrov's personal archive); *E. K. Betger o printsipakh postroeniia i metodakh raboty otdelov starinnoi i redkoi knigi* (E. K. Betger on the Structural Principles and Work Methods of Sections of Old and Rare Books), type-written (1971), 8 pp. (in Chabrov's personal archive); *Tipografiia dorevoliutsionnogo Turkestana, vypuskavshie knigi i broshyury v 1868—1917* (Typographies of Pre-Revolutionary Turkestan Which Issued Books and Brochures in 1868—1917), type-written (1972), 12 pp. (in Chabrov's personal archive).