



**LIBRARIANSHIP IN INDIA DURING THE BABUR AND IN THE
KINGDOM OF THE BABURIS**

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ABSTRACT

The historical and literary heritage left by Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur is extremely valuable in terms of subject matter and scientific significance. He left about ten large works. Undoubtedly, the famous "Boburnoma" is in the first place among them. In this work, the author is portrayed as a statesman and historian, a great poet, a military commander, and a geographer. This work, written in the old Uzbek language, is a unique human document in terms of its essence and content, like the work of Herodotus. In addition, "Boburnoma", as noted, is also an invaluable chronicle that faithfully reflects the historical events that the author himself participated in or heard about. We would like to compare Babur to Herodotus, who is considered the "father of history" in the world in terms of this quality.

Keywords

historical, literary heritage, monument, statesman, geographical scientist,
human document, chronicle

**BOBUR VA BOBURIYLAR SALTANATI DAVRIDA HINDISTONDA
KUTUBXONACHILIK**

ANNOTATSIYA

Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur qoldirgan tarixiy va adabiy meros mavzui jihatidan favqulodda sermazmun va ilmiy ahamiyati jihatidan juda qimmatli yodgorliklardir. Undan o'nga yaqin yirik asarlar qoldi. Ular ichida, shubhasiz, birinchi o'rinda mashhur «Boburnoma» turadi. Muallifi ushbu asarida davlat arbobi va tarixchi, ajoyib shoir va harbiy sarkarda, geografik olim sifatida gavdalanadi. Eski o'zbek tilida yozilgan ushbu asar mohiyati va mundarijasi



jihatidan Xerodot asari kabi o'ziga xos bir insoniy hujjatdir. Bundan tashqari, «Boburnoma», ta'kidlanganidek, muallifining o'zi ishtirok qilgan, yoki eshitgan tarixiy voqealarni o'ta halollik bilan aks ettiruvchi bebaho yilnoma hamdir. Boburni esa xuddi mana shu sifati jihatidan jahonda «tarix otasi» hisoblanmish Xerodotga qiyoslagimiz keladi.

Kalit so'zlar

tarixiy, adabiy meros, yodgorlik, davlat arbobi, geografik olim, insoniy hujjat, yilnoma

Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur founded the Babur dynasty in India, and his first actions were to pay serious attention to the development of Islamic knowledge. On the one hand, Babur and Baburis paid attention to large-scale construction works, on the other hand, they collected scientists, poets, painters and calligraphers under their patronage and created a favorable environment and material conditions for their creative activities. Among these works, librarianship also occupied an important place.

It should be emphasized that Babur dreamed of establishing a special library while he was still in Andijan-Fergana. William Erskine, the most reliable English researcher, also emphasizes this.⁷³ But the worries of his life, full of battles and rushes, did not allow this noble dream to come true in his time.

During the time of Babur Mirza and his forefathers, Indian culture developed as it has in all phases of history. Indian scientist KMY Yusuf writes: "Baburis were great patrons of science. Due to their favorable policy, art and literature flourished in India."

At that time, there was a palace library in Andijan. Babur Mirza collected the works of Alisher Navoi, Abdurrahman Jami and other writers and scientists. During his travels, he carried his library carefully and used it a lot.

Zahiriddin Babur spent his free time, especially the last moments of his life, in his library. While he read a lot, wrote poems, traveled far away, and lived with homesickness, he suffered from occasional attacks of illness. One such attack will be in 1528. Babur writes: "*Odina kuni, oyning yigirma uchida harorate badanimda zohir bo'ldi. Andoqkim, jum'a namozini masjidta tashvish bila o'tadim, namozi peshin ehtiyotini*

⁷³Leyden Erskine's works on oriental literature are stored in the British Museum under the number 26055-26621. These rare manuscripts, as well as Ereke's works on various scientific fields, were donated to the British Museum by his son James Cloud in 1805. This collection includes manuscripts from the period of Khumov and Jakhangir in AD 26008 26620, Akbar Shah in ADD 2020 2062, ADD. 20061230 Mar Haydar Davlat's Tarikhi Rashidi, ADD 20607 Abul Fazil's Akbarnama and dozens of other unique manuscripts. In addition, more than 436 works of Erskine on Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Sanskrit, Hindi are also ADD in the British Museum. Stored under numbers 26119-26554. (See Ch. Ryu "Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in the British Museum". London, 1879, 1851, 1883 parts 11-11-111).



qilib, kitobxonada bir zamondin so 'ng mashaqqat bila o'tadim. Indini, yakshanba kuni isitib, ozroq titradim."⁷⁴

Along with government, politics, literature and art, Babur had a special love for books and libraries. According to Gulbadan Begim, Babur always spent his free time in his library in Agra. Babur had a private library apart from the palace library. In addition to the books he brought from his native land, this library also contained books brought during his travels and military campaigns.

Finally, as soon as Babur arrived in the Indian city of Amristar, he got some respite from the worries of life, even if only temporarily, and began the work of creating a preliminary library and arranged for the purchase of various books from the inhabitants.

He announced the purchase of books through special publishers in Indian cities. According to Babur's order, a special building for the library was built in Amristar for the first time. Until that time, it was not known in the history of the East that a building had been built for a library. The kings before Babur had adapted a certain room in their palaces for a library. Later, after moving from Amristar to Delhi, Babur built a special building for the library in this capital city as well. A large amount of gold was spent on organizing a library in this new building, and Navbahor Begim, one of his favorite scholars, entrusted the organization of these works. According to Erskin, this virtuous woman should be considered the first female library director in the world. Although libraries were organized, they did not have any special directorship.

All collected books in the library organized by Babur in Delhi and Amristar were placed on special shelves in terms of scientific direction and language. Books in each language are separated by subjects and typed in special places. William Erskine reported that the library had a large list book in which the total number of books was recorded in alphabetical order. This list is organized in such a way that it is possible to quickly find a book in a certain language and a field of science. Such an arrangement was a novelty in the experience of medieval Eastern librarianship.

Another innovation was that, in addition to the arrangement of books by language and field of science, a separate encyclopedic list was made. For example, a person looking for books with the names of Alexander or Bukrates (Hippocrates) would be able to find them quickly. According to the data, this method is still not used in some central libraries.

Another of Babur's innovations in the Delhi library was the establishment of a special translation department. From the time of Khumayun Mirza, great attention was paid to the translation of scientific books. Especially during the times of Akbar,

⁷⁴ZM Babur. Boburnoma, Tashkent, Sharq publishing house, 2002, pp. 241-242.



Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, the translation department of the library created by Babur expanded so much that about a thousand people from prominent scientists of various fields were engaged in the translation of scientific works on a special state assignment. They are regularly paid by the state. Later, the library founded by Babur in Delhi was called the "Library of the Kingdom of India" and was considered one of the largest libraries in the world.

Unfortunately, when the rule of the Babur dynasty ended and India became a colony of Great Britain, the "Library of the Kingdom of India" was looted; most of it was transported to London.

Several hundred volumes of books, formerly kept in Babur's library, are now kept in a private library called "Khudabakhsh" in Patna, India. One of the rare books here is the book "Yusuf na Zulaikha" copied by the famous Indian calligrapher Mir Ali, whose price today is equal to 100 thousand British pounds. Another unique work is the famous "Gulistan" of Sheikh Muslihiddin Sadi, this is a copy with the author's signature, and therefore it is considered one of the most valuable books in the world.

All sultans and rulers from Babur's descendants were masters of science, literature, poetry and music. Therefore, the library founded by his grandfather was divided into different subjects and enriched with books dedicated to Eastern philosophy and education, as well as poetry. Such great attention to the development of science during the Babur dynasty seems like a myth from the point of view of our time. One of the reasons for the popularity of the Babur Empire in the whole world is the well-established breeding activities.

It is known that in the past centuries it was not customary to print a book in the current sense in the East. All books consisted of manuscripts, and many copies were artistically copied, and it was common to draw various images and decorate them with colors. All this work was done by hand. Therefore, a lot of time and labor was spent on these works, and the prices of such manuscript books would be high. Wherever Babur saw and heard about such an illustrated and decorated scientific manuscript, he bought it at any cost and thus steadily enriched his library. For example, during Babur's lifetime, he bought twelve copies of Firdausi's famous illustrated work "Shahnoma" for gold and brought them to his library. During the later Baburi period, rare copies of "Shahnoma" were collected, and their number reached 70. The largest number of copies of Ferdowsi's work was kept in Babur's library in the world.

All governors of the Babur Kingdom always patronized the development of enlightenment and were great enlighteners. One of the ministers in Babur's state, Syed Maqbar Ali, wrote that one of the main tasks of the Ministry of Civil Affairs was to build schools, madrasas and colleges. Babur's eldest son, Prince Humayun,



was very interested in geography and astronomy, loved books and collected them carefully.

Humayun provided an administrative building in Delhi for a madrasa and ordered the conversion of an amusement and auditorium inside the fort built by Sher Shah into a library.⁷⁵

Humayun Mirza, who ascended the throne after Babur, greatly enriched his father's library. He asked Kamoliddin Behzod, a famous miniaturist and painter in the East, to make pictures for the books "History of Temuri" and "Riyaz ul Adviya" and sent the books to Khurasan. Humayun Mirza was particularly interested in geography and astronomy. That's why he bought books related to that field, no matter how expensive they were.

The books collected by khans and khagans and rojas require the construction of a large library. Akbar was the first to establish such a library. The books in this library were related to different fields of science. There was also a large collection of calligraphy books. The most skilled calligraphers gathered in Akbar's court, and the most famous of them was Muhammad Husain Kashmiri.⁷⁶

Babur's library was enriched especially during the reign of Akbar Shah. In particular, its translation section has expanded considerably. During the reign of Akbar Shah, many scholars from other countries were invited to work in the library. Akbar Shah built a special hotel next to the library for foreign scholars to stay. During his time, the library was so widespread that even scholars from Egypt came on scientific trips. However, Egypt was considered one of the scientific centers of the world at that time. During the reign of Akbar Shah, a person named Inoyatillo Sherozi was appointed as the director of the central library of the state. It was his duty to manage all visitors who came to work in the library. Therefore, many servants, officials, and secretaries were attached to Inoyatillo Sherozi's discretion.

The second new thing that Akbar Shah did was to make many copies of the books in the royal library founded by Babur, that is, to increase the number of manuscript books. According to the investigations of English researchers, the state library founded by Babur collected 52,000 books under Akbar Shah, and their total number was more than 400,000 volumes. This was not a fortune for that time.

After Akbar, the library expanded further during Jahangir's reign. Jakhangir was the first among the Baburis to learn European languages. Therefore, he enriches the state library with books written in Western European languages. A separate section will be opened for European books. He also buys the famous scholar Shamakhshari's interpretation of the Holy Qur'an for two thousand gold. (It

⁷⁵I. Hoshimov, The reign of the Babur dynasty in India, Tashkent, "Teacher", 1996, p. 93.

⁷⁶I. Hoshimov, The reign of the Babur dynasty in India, Tashkent, "Teacher", 1996, p. 95.



is now stored in the Khudobakhsh library.) Jakhangir organized a picture gallery in the library for the first time and built a new building next to the library for this purpose.

Unfortunately, in the 17th century, signs of crisis began in the Kingdom of the Baburis, and this situation was also reflected in spirituality. After the country fell into the hands of the British, the library of the kingdom was blessed; scientific works were taken everywhere, first of all to England. Today, unique manuscripts of that period can be found in the libraries of Calcutta, Hyderabad, Delhi, as well as in the "Salarjang" museum and in the private libraries of some Europeans.⁷⁷

Jakhongir Shah was able to read and write Persian and Turkish Uzbek languages at an excellent level. Considering the development of education, he announces various decrees. In one of them, if a wealthy person died without an heir, all their wealth was transferred to the state, and the construction of schools, madrasas, and synagogues was carried out from their account. Jakhangir built madrasas not long after his accession to the throne. These madrasahs were always full of students and teachers. He also established a madrasa in Dekhla and renovated the Darul Baqo madrasa, which had fallen into disrepair.

Daro Shukokh, the eldest son of Shah Jahan, was a talented scientist and a great enlightener in the Babur dynasty. The Babur family was proud of him. As he knew Arabic, Persian, and Sanskrit and wrote poems, he wrote many centuries as a scientist. At the same time, he translated Indian encyclopedias, calendars, and several books on Sufism into Persian. The Englishman William Siiman wrote that Daro Shukoh was a legendary figure... he was an enlightener by nature. Aurangzeb allocated a lot of money for the education and acquisition of science of Muslims and helped to build a number of schools and madrasahs.⁷⁸

There were special women's schools in the Babur dynasty. The daughters of the nobles and rich families were educated at home, while the daughters of the common Hindu population received their elementary education in schools together with the boys, and their talents were well acquainted with religious literature.

In India, since ancient times, the doors of education have been opened wide to women, especially those who are well-educated in classical and sacred books and literature. During Akbar's time, girls from noble families were always educated and tried to make them enlightened. Some women and girls have demonstrated their high talents in the field of literature and history. For example, Babur's daughter Gulbadan Begim was the author of the historical work

⁷⁷S. Jalilov. Thoughts on Babur. "Sharq" publishing-printing joint-stock company, Tashkent-2006. In this article, we remembered the memory of the late teacher S. Jalilov and the late director of the Kokan Literary Museum Sultankhan Sotvoldiev and prepared it for publication, enriching it with other information. (Treasures from India, pp. 82-86).

⁷⁸Ibid., p. 94.



"Khumayunnama", while Khumayun's niece Salima Sultan wrote works in Persian. Women such as Nur Jahan, Mumtaz Mahal, Jahanaro Begim, Zebunnisa were deeply educated and could easily read Persian and Arabic languages. Zebunnisa, who was well versed in Arabic and Persian language, wrote profound and attractive ghazals, was also a skilled calligrapher and built a rich library.⁷⁹

The rulers of the Baburis dynasty did not lag behind the caliphs of Kardub (Karlova) in the development of their thinking, and their success in the field of literature was significant. Scholars, poets, and artists gathered in the Baburis palace were always encouraged. Pakistani scientist Sheikh Muhammad writes, "With the establishment of the Babur state in India, a new era in the history of Islamic culture began."

Babur's successors, Nasriddin Muhammad Humayun and Kamran Mirzos, attached special importance to the work of the library. They not only enriched the library with books, but also left a great artistic and scientific legacy to their ancestors.

Akbar Shah, the famous grandson of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, had the richest library among his ancestors. His huge library is located on the side of the octagonal tower of Agra Fort.

It is known that science and art flourished during the reign of Akbar Shah. Talented people such as Abul Fazl, Faizi Mawlana, Fathullah Sherazi, Hakim Abu Ali Gilani, Hakim Abul Fath Gilani, Hakim Khamam Abdurakhim Khan Khanon, Maulana Abdul Qadir Badouni, Mulla Mubarak and Nizamuddin Bakhshi gathered in Akbar's palace. Each of them had their own library.

There are reports that Jakhangir (Salim), the author of "Tuzuki Jahangiri", the son of Akbar Shah, was also fond of this work. Even when he was traveling, he carried his personal books with him.

Shokhjahon Library, which gave the Taj Mahal Palace to the world architecture, is extremely rich and has special librarians working in it. In particular, Syed Jalal ibn Syed Muhammed Maqbul Alam worked as a Nazim (distributor of work). He is from the city of Ahmedabad and came to the post on the recommendation of his brother Syed Ja'far Badr A'lam. Before that, people named Etimadkhan and Inayatkhan worked in this position. The director of the library was a calligrapher named Abdurahim Khushnavis. After that, Muhammad Salih Abdullah Mushkin, the son of Rakam, took this position. Salima Sultana, the daughter of Gulrukhbegim, one of Babur's descendants, also had her own library. Salima Sultana's talent as a scholar and poet was highly appreciated by Jakhongir. He emphasizes that Salima Sultana made a great contribution to his work "Tuzuki

⁷⁹Ibid., pp. 94-95.



Jakhongiri". Jahangirshah's spouse Nurjahan Begim also had a private library. He enriched his library by buying books. For example, it is known that Komron Mirza took 3 seals. On the first page of this book, we read the following: "The value of this treasure is 3 mukhrs. Nuriniso Begim." This indicates that Nuriniso Begim bought this book before taking the pseudonym Nurjahan.

According to the information, the courtiers of the Babur kings also established their own library. For example, Sheikh Farid Bukhari, one of Jakhangir Shah's favorite courtiers, governor of Lahore and Ahmedabad, poet and poet Abdurahim Khan had a rich library. His library was served by book coverers, sahkhafts and painters. Maulana Naqqosh also worked in this library. He performed the duties of an excellent calligrapher, muzahib - gold solver, binder and cutter. He became famous for his poetry and painting skills.

Among the translators, it is permissible to mention the name of Mulla Muhammad Ali Kashmiri. He wrote poetry in Arabic and Persian, and translated the works of Haji Ziauddin from Arabic into Persian.

Maulana Sufi mainly did editorial work in this library. Tabulators named Mulla Muhammad Amin, Muhammad Husayn Kami, Bakhnay and Hamdami worked in the library of Abdurahim Khan Khanon. Also, they introduced the role of supervisor in the library. The person in charge assigned the work to the library staff. Mir Bojiy, who was originally from Turkestan sayyids, served as the nazim. 95 people worked under him.⁸⁰

Thus, the given information shows that people from different fields of science and culture served in the libraries of the Baburis palace and their ayans. The result of their work, the books, which are examples of cover art, calligraphy, painting, and illustration, are of great importance in evaluating the contribution of our great ancestors, the Baburis, to the development of human spirituality, in particular, to librarianship, and to studying the rich history, culture, and interaction of the countries of the Far and Middle East becomes important.

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