

**MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER**  
**MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS ON MEDICINE AND PHARMACY**

*REF N° 2004-03*

**PART A-ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

**1. Summary**

The present collection of medical manuscripts is unique. Some of these manuscripts are available only in this collection. Only a few manuscripts of other books have been recorded in the manuscript depositories of the World. However, all of these books are fundamental works and once were widely used all over the Muslim World. With time many manuscripts were lost. Therefore, the present collection is unique and irreplaceable. It is kept by the Institute of Manuscript of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS) named after Mahammad Fuzuli.

Three items are being nominated for inscription on the Register as a set of documents on a specific theme. These are the:

- Zakhirai-Nizamshahi (Supplies Of Nizamshah) by Rustam Jurjani.
- Al-Qanun Fi at-Tibb (Canon Of Medicine, The Second Book) by Abu Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna).
- Al-Makala as-Salasan (Thirteen Treatise) by Abu al-Qasim al-Zahravi (Abulcasis).

**2. DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR**

- 2.1 **Name (person or organization)** – Institute of Manuscript of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS) named after Mahammad Fuzuli
- 2.2 **Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated** - Nominated by the organization preserving the documentary heritage.
- 2.3 **Contact person(s)** – Adilov Mamed Musa oglu, the director of the Institute of Manuscripts of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS).
- 2.4 **Contact details ( include address, phone, fax, e-mail)**

The Institute of Manuscripts of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS) . 8, Istiglaliyyat street , Baki-1, Azerbaijan  
Tel: ( 99412) 92-31-97

e-mail: [manuscript@dcacs.ab.az](mailto:manuscript@dcacs.ab.az)

**3. IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE**

**3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

Medieval manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy.

These are stored by the Institute of Manuscripts of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS) which possesses a rich collection of old manuscripts – a total of 12 000 manuscripts. IMANAS has a number of valuable medieval manuscripts in the field of medicine in Persian, Arabic, Azeri, Turkish and other languages. The collection includes 363 old medical manuscripts, of which 222 are written in Persian, 71 in Turkish and 70 in Arabic. Hence, the majority of books are written in Persian. Some of these books were compiled or copied in the territory of Azerbaijan Republic; others were brought from other countries in different historical periods. For example, our collection includes one of the most ancient

manuscripts of “Canon” by the famous Ibn Sina. This valuable manuscript was copied in 1143 in Baghdad. The Uzbek scholars who translated Ibn Sina’s book from Arabic into Uzbek and Russian languages widely used our manuscript.

The valuable medical manuscripts in Persian kept by the Institute of Manuscripts are as follows: *Ikhtiyarat-i Badii*” by Haji Zeynalabdin Attar (copied in the 18<sup>th</sup> century), “*Kifayat al-Mujahida*” by Mansur bin Ilyas (copied in 1653), “*Tuhfat al-Muminin*” by Muhammad Mu’min (copied in 1713), “etc. Some of the precious medical books in Persian were compiled by natives of different regions of Azerbaijan, including such monuments of the 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries as “*Jam al-Baghdadi*” by Yusif bin Ismail Khoyi (the original of this book was written in Arabic in 1311, but in our collection there is a medieval translation of this book into Persian), “*Kitab al-Mudavat*” by Abdul Majid Hakim, “*Siraj at-Tibb*” by Hasan bin Riza Shirvani, “*Fava’id al-Hikmat*” by Haji Suleyman Qajar Iravani, “*Mualijat-i Munfarida*” by Abulhasan Maraghai, “*Khirga*” by Murtuza Gulu Khan Shamlu Ardabili, etc.

There are many copies of some Arabic, Persian, Azerbaijani and Turkish medical manuscripts in the Baku’s Institute of Manuscripts. They are as follows: “*Tuhfat al-Muminin*” (written in 1669) by Muhammad Mu’min – 33 complete and incomplete copies; “*Zad al-Musafirin*” (written in 1728) by Muhammad Mahdi – 13 copies; “*Garabadin*” by Muzaffar bin Muhammad Shafa’i (1586/7-1628/9) – 9 copies; *Ikhtiyarat-i Badii*” by Haji Zeynalabdin Attar (written in 1368) – 5 copies. There are some rare and valuable samples having world importance between these manuscripts. Some of these manuscripts are presented for inclusion in the UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register.

### **3.2 Description of the documented heritage**

The manuscript was copied in 1249 Hijra (1834) in the Nastaliq script. The text is written in red on white paper. Titles are written in red. The cover is of leather and decorated with medallion. Format: 17x21 sm; number of leaves: 202; code: B-39/19955

#### **a) Zakhirai-Nizamshahi (Supplies Of Nizamshah) by Rustam Jurjani.**

“*Zakhirai-Nizamshahi*” by Rustam Jurjani is the original work resembling “*Zakhirai-Kharazmshahi*” by Zeynaddin Ibn Abu Ibrahim Jurjani (12<sup>th</sup> century), the famous Central Asian author. The manuscript is unique and is not found in other manuscripts deposits in the world. In any case, its name is not shown in any known catalogues of the world. The date of compilation is not known, but the manuscript was copied in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (954 by Hijra). The book provides descriptions of pharmaceutical properties of medicinal herbs, animal substances, minerals and complex medicines. It influenced the development of medicine and pharmacology in Persian-speaking countries and those areas where Persian was in use. It was partially researched in Azerbaijan. The work is preserved as a manuscript and still is not translated and published.

The manuscript was written in the nasta’lik script on white paper in black ink. The titles are written in red ink. The binding is of black leather. The first page is decorated with an ornament. The format: 16x25 cm, number of leaves – 487, code M220/5305.

#### **b) Al-Qanun Fi at-Tibb (Canon Of Medicine, The Second Book) by Abu Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna).**

It is the oldest manuscript of Canon in Azerbaijan and one of the oldest in the World. The manuscript was copied in 537 Hijra (1143) in Baghdad. The “*Canon of Medicine*” is a famous work in the field of pharmacology and medicine. The second book is primarily devoted to pharmacology. It contains pharmaceutical descriptions of hundreds of natural medicines: plants, minerals and animal substances. The uniqueness of the manuscript is in that it is one of the most ancient manuscripts of “*Canon*” in the world which was copied only 104 years after the author’s death. During the Middle Ages, the “*Canon of Medicine*” influenced the development of medical sciences in the whole Muslim World and Christian

Europe. The second volume of “Canon of Medicine” was translated into Uzbek and Russian basically from the abovementioned Baku manuscript (Tashkent, 1980-1982).

The manuscript is written on the thick white paper. The text is black, titles are written in red ink. Format: 18x20 cm, number of leaves: 186, code: M136/17026

**c) Al-Makala as-Salasun (Thirteen’s Treatise) by Abu al-Qasim al-Zahravi (Abulcasis).** One of the tomes of a comprehensive book about “Surgery and Surgical Instruments” written in Arabic. This unique manuscript is one of the rarest and most ancient manuscripts of this book in the World. The book contains pictures of approximately 200 medieval surgical instruments. Zahravi (who died in 1013) is the only medieval author who provides pictures of so many surgical instruments, and explains methods of their application. This work influenced the development of surgery in the Muslim East and Europe. In medieval Europe Abu al-Qasim was known as Abulcasis. The facsimile of the Baku manuscript and its translation into Russian by Professor Ziya Bunyadov was published in Moscow in 1983.

The 13<sup>th</sup> century copy of the 11<sup>th</sup> century book. It was written in black ink on thin white paper with filigrees. The titles of chapters are made by bold type. One of the rarest manuscripts in the world, it contains pictures of many surgical instruments used in ancient times.

#### **4. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION /ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA**

##### **4.1 Authenticity**

All items of the nomination are completely original. They were used in research studies in IMANAS by specialists in history, history of medicine, paleography, etc. The documents were examined by an expert group consisting of Dr. Mamed Adilov, Arif Ramazanov, Dr.Kamandar Sharifov, Dr.Farid Alakbarov, Dr. Mohsun Naghiyev. More information about these manuscripts may be found in the sources listed below.

#### REFERENCES:

- a) Catalogue of Manuscripts. Part.5. Medicine. Editor F.Seyidov. Manuscript from the collection of IMANAS. Code 111d/23 (in Azeri).
- b) Ibrahimov Aga Ami. On some medical manuscript. Materials of the Republican Fund Of Manuscripts. Part 2, 1963, pp.18-32 (in Azeri).
- c) Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts. Part 1. Editor in chief: J.V.Gahramanov, Baku, Elm Publishing House, 1984 (in Russian).
- d) Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts. Part 2. Editor: K.K.Sharifov, Baku, Elm Publishing House, 2000 (in Russian).
- e) Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts. Part 1. Editor: N.J.Geyushov, Azerbaijan & Ornak Publishing Houses, 1994 (in Russian).
- f) Alakbarov Farid. 2000.Voices From the Ages: Baku's Institute of Manuscripts. Azerbaijan International Magazine, 8.2:50-55 (in English)

##### **4.2 World significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability**

The nomination includes very rare and valuable manuscripts on medicine and pharmacology. One of them (Zakhirai-Nizamshahi by Rustam Jurjani) is not found in other collections of the world. Our manuscript of “Canon” by Ibn Sina is one of the oldest in the world. All these books influenced the development of medicine and pharmacology not only in Azerbaijan, but also in many other neighbouring countries which serves to demonstrate that this collection is of world significance and consequently requires special care and attention.

**Zakhirai-Nizamshahi (Supplies Of Nizaianshah) by Rustam Jurjani.** This manuscript was not found in other countries of the World.

**Al-Qanun Fi at-Tibb (Canon Of Medicine, The Second Book) by Abu Ali Ibn Sina (Avicenna).** One of the oldest manuscripts by Ibn Sina in the World.

**Al-Makala as-Salasin (Thirteen's Treatise) by Abu al-Qasim al-Zahravi (Abulcasis).** One of the oldest manuscripts of this famous work in the World.

#### 4.3 Criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style

**Time:** Appropriate. Manuscripts were copied from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Place:** Appropriate. The manuscripts were written and copied in the territory of the medieval Muslim East, the area containing Azerbaijan.

**People:** Appropriate. Manuscripts were widely used by physicians of medieval Azerbaijan in their healing practice.

**Subject and theme:** Appropriate. These are manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy which correspond to the theme "Medieval manuscripts on medicine and pharmacy. The manuscripts contain detailed medical information related to healing of many diseases and properties of herbs, minerals and different animal substances as well as complicated medicines.

**Form and style:** Appropriate. All these documents are handwritten books providing medical and pharmacological information. These are scholarly texts written by the medieval authors.

#### 4.4 Issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management

The documents are under proper supervision and are well preserved

### 5. LEGAL INFORMATION

#### 5.1 Owner of the document heritage

Republic of Azerbaijan

#### 5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name, and contact details, if different to owner)

The documents are protected by the Republic of Azerbaijan. IMANAS is directly responsible for their preservation.

#### 5.3 LEGAL STATUS

a ) **Category of ownership.** The property of the state.

b) **Accessibility** –Satisfactory.

c) **Copyright status** – Institute of Manuscripts of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS)

d) **Responsible administration** - Institute of Manuscripts of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (IMANAS)

### 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### 6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage?

No, there is no specific plan. As all documents in the Institute of Manuscripts are managed according to the same plan, there is no separate management plan for this documentary heritage.

### 7. CONSULTATION

---

7.1 No consultations were necessary as the owner is the nominator.

**B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION.**

**8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK**

8.1 There are no direct threats to these heritage documents.

**8 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION**

8.2 It is preserved in IMANAS.

**C. LODGEMENT.**

M.M.ADILOV

(signature).....(date)...17 January, 2005 (revised).....