Nomination form
International Memory of the World Register

The copy of the manuscript of Mahammad Fuzuli’s “divan”
ID Code [ 2016-36 ]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The presented manuscript copy of the divan – collection of poems written in native (Turkish) language by great Azerbaijani poet Mahammad Fuzuli is preserved at the Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS under code M-236. The notes on it give information that the copying of this manuscript was completed in 1572. The mentioned divan includes the poems written in different genres of Oriental poetry – 295 ghazals, 41 qitas, 2 musaddases, 5 mukhammases, 3 murabbehs and 75 rubais.

Not only in Azerbaijan, but also in Turkey, Central Asia there are a lot of people who love Fuzuli. In his lyric poems, especially in ghazals Fuzuli expresses a lover’s emotions describing the touchy feelings, pure love of his tender heart, fascinates his readers by the power of the word and invites them to think, perceive the world, beauties of life and build friendship and love.

Fuzuli’s fame and love to his works let lots of people spread the poet’s divan included ghazals by copying them as manuscripts. For the research of the poet’s heritage, naturally there’s a great need to older and more complete copy that we talk about.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)
Institute of Manuscript of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage
The documentary heritage is preserved at the Institute

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)
Academician Teymur Karimli, Director of Institute of Manuscripts

2.4 Contact details
Name | Address
--- | ---
Teymur Karimli, Director of Institute of Manuscripts | 26, Istiglaliyyat street, Baku, Azerbaijan AZ1001
3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Title: The manuscript copy of Mahammad Fuzuli’s divan
Institution: Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS
Description: The mentioned divan includes the poems written in different genres of Oriental poetry – 295 ghazals, 41 qitas, 2 musaddases, 5 mukhammases, 3 murabbehs and 75 rubais. These works cover the lyric heritage of the poet.

This manuscript consists of 71 leaves and its size is 27x15. It was written on thick yellowish paper. The text which was copied with nastaliq script was framed with gold. Being very perfect one this copy is well preserved.

The manuscript is preserved under code M-236.

3.4 History/provenance

Great Azerbaijani poet Mahammad Fuzuli was born in 1494 and died 1556 year in Kerbala city close to Bagdad. The exact date of completion of divan - a collection of lyric poems in his native language is unknown. But the copy of divan manuscript preserved in the Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS, is considered to be one of the oldest (perhaps the oldest). There is a date shown on two areas of the book. As shown on page 71 b of the book, the copyist began to copy the divan in June of 1569. From the last date we can find out that divan’s copying was finished by Mahmud ibn Davud Ulunyavi known by pen name Saidi in 1572, 16 years after the death of the poet.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

| Name | Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS | Address | Telephone: (+99412) 4928333 | Facsimile: (+99412) 4928289 | E-mail: kerimli.t@mail.ru |

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

| Name | Institute of Manuscripts | Address | Telephone: (+99412) 4928333 | Facsimile: (+99412) 4928289 | E-mail: kerimli.t@mail.ru |
4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

the Institute of Manuscripts is legally in charge of the preserving the nominated manuscript.

4.4 Accessibility

The item may be accessed at the Institute of Manuscripts

4.5 Copyright status

The copyright status of the nomination belongs to the Institute of Manuscripts

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

From the notes on the work by the copyist Mahmud ibn David Ulunyavi it appears that the copy of manuscript was ended by him in 1572.

Based on the antiquity, proximity to the age of the author and from the analysis of divan poems researchers came to the conclusion that, a copy of divan was made on copy compiled by poet himself and further improved.

See: Preamble "The most ancient and perfect Fuzuli diwan" written by an academician Hamid Arasli on the book "Fuzuli diwan" published by ANAS in 1958, page 8

5.2 World significance

Mahammed Fuzuli is one of the most notable and well-known representatives of literature of Turkic peoples of the Islamic period with widespread impact. His works have always been popular not only in Azerbaijan but also in Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and in Central Asia, and read with great love. Poems from the divan written by Fuzuli are still the most favorite examples of classical literature lovers in these countries. Most of the poems read to mugham accompaniment during gatherings in these countries are from Fuzuli’s poetry. Fuzuli’s diwan was published many times in Tabriz, Cairo,
Istanbul, Khiva and Tashkent during the 19th century. This once again shows the geographical prevalence of his works.

1. This work is the most vivid example of Azerbaijani Turkish poetry once developed in Karbala city of modern Iraq.

2. Despite the Turkish people living currently in Kerbala and Iraq there are not poetry examples of such large-scale popular in this area.

4. As a songster of the love and beauty the object and the subject of the poems included in Fuzuli’s divan is humanism, secular and mystical love. At the same time, it should be also noted that his works are closely related with people’s lives. Fuzuli’s poetry has led to the beginning of a new era in the Azerbaijani, Ottoman literature and the literature of Turks of Central Asia.

The unique deep lyricism and Fuzuli’s mastership had a strong influence on the formation of the artistic taste of subsequent literature, writers and readers. Azerbaijani poets like Mesihi, Saib Tebrizi, Qovsi Tebrizi, Seyid Azim Shirvani, Ottoman poets like Baqi, Tofiq Fikrat, Ziya Pasha, Abdulhaqq Hamid, Namiq Kamal, Uzbek poets like Babarahim Meshreb, Munis Kharezmi, Omar khan Amiri, Muhammed Rza Agahi and a lot of others could be mentioned as being influenced by Fuzuli’s poetry.

5. A strong aesthetic effect of Fuzuli’s poetry on readers is firstly due to its emotional, figurative language and lyrical style. This style can be seen in numerous naziras- imitative poems written by other poets to his works even today. Fuzuli’s lyric poems are the most loved examples even today.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

1 Time

Fuzuli was a founder of a new literary school distinguishing from the previous tendencies not only in the Azerbaijani poetry, but also in whole Turkish literature. Humanism, high poetic qualities, lyricism are characteristic features of this poetry. Fuzuli’s divan attract attention just for these peculiarities.

2 Place

Fuzuli lived and created in Bagdad city. He wrote his divan in the same city. During the 16th century the Turkish poetry, Ottoman and Azerbaijani Turks’ poetry written in native language was in the process of blossoming. Fuzuli’s poetry activities and divan was at the top of that process.

3 People

Fuzuli’s Turkish divan obviously reflects all humanist points of the Oriental including Azerbaijani literature. An idea of not distinguishing people for their origins, religions, nationalities is the most significant point of this divan.

4 Subject and theme

This divan presents a particular stage in the development of the Azerbaijani Turks’
literature. In the previous literature before him there had been a lot of similarities, even sameness between the Azerbaijani Turks’ poetry and Ottoman, Central Asia Turks’ one. But Fuzuli wrote in the introduction of his divan that the language of his poems definitely differed from the language of Central Asia and Ottoman Turks’ poetry.

5 Form and style

Being examples of fine poetry and artistic taste, the poems included Fuzuli’s divan strongly influenced the activities of the following generation of poets. Poets from Azerbaijan, Turkey and Central Asia used Fuzuli’s lyric poetry, skill, poetic images and imitated him. Even today, Fuzuli’s poetic language and taste is an object of imitation of the poets and gained readers’ love.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Even today, Turkish-speaking readers, poem lovers read Fuzuli’s Turkish poems with great pleasure, lots of imitative poems are written, songs are composed to his poems.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

As mentioned above, Fuzuli’s divan manuscript copied in 1572 and preserved in the Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS is the oldest copy known to us.