

## **The necessity of correction and publication the manuscripts of American Libraries**

Dr. Ahmad Reza Yalameha<sup>1</sup>

---

**ABSTRACT:** *Ancient manuscripts and handwritings are considered as national identity as well as an important part of cultural heritage and identity of a country. Moreover, they are the most important primary sources for research on culture and nationality of a country. Correction and publication of these works has great value. In fact, it causes treasures from various sciences to revive and to be at mankind's disposal. A critic or editor's perspective on manuscripts is very different from the perspective of those considering them technically. The expert of manuscript deals with manuscripts not only as a national repertory but also as exquisite works. Furthermore, he/she carries out an analysis of them in terms of dating back, content, line, history and much other important information. Today, there are more than three hundred thousand Persian manuscripts all over the world which are mostly unknown. As such, comprehensive literary history cannot be provided until these works are precisely analyzed and identified by researchers and experts. America is one of the countries in which there are numerous manuscripts from various Islamic countries. In view of the fact that these manuscripts have been provided to various intermediaries on different grounds such as shopping, dedication, contribution etc., it seems necessary to identify and introduce original versions of the libraries of different states.*

**Keywords:** *cultural identity, worldwide libraries, manuscripts, American libraries, correction and publication.*

---

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Researchers and scientists believe that the first step in research is to identify research tools in order to be able to access the treasures of the past and present of human knowledge in libraries and documentation centers as well as making use of these treasures as their scientific support at every stage of their research. Periods before the industry of invention of printing and publishing had been one of the most important periods of librarianship in Iran and the world that all works were editing and writing as manuscripts and hand writing. These works are the most important written heritage of a nation and they have played a significant role in the growth and evolution of science from past until now and they should be available to researchers by introduction, critical edition and deserved print and its various aspects should be investigated. These precious ancient manuscripts have been scattered around the world and they are found in the most famous libraries of the world until most remote and unrecognized places. It must be understood that in recent centuries, many Iranian and Islamic works have been transferred to countries, and especially Western countries and scientific and artistic centers for various reasons, including neglect and lack of adequate attention to their actual value; or social, political and economic conditions of our time in different ways, such as donating, purchasing through intermediaries, the spoils of war and so on. After the Westerners and orientalist realized the significance and importance of Iranian scientific heritage, they seek to collect these exquisite works by various ways. In fact, these works are now available to these scientific centers and some libraries are full of these Iranian and Islamic manuscripts and some times the number of these manuscripts and handwritings reach to several thousand collections in such centers that the list only was compiled only for some of these collections and or handful works of these valuable collections have been introduced and published. Many of these works have remained in oblivion corner and even a list for some of these eastern works and collections have not been established and perhaps because of unfamiliarity of list of foreign journalists with text of copies that are without the title of book, author name and date of written or compilation, errors have been also taken place in their recording and cataloging and recording the features and precise cataloging of them is possible only by technical attitude and opinion by specialists of cardiology. Country America has had many libraries in various states because of its size and wide (as the fourth largest country in the world). There are 123 thousand libraries in 50 states of this country that there are over 58 million of manuscripts in these libraries.

129 libraries of a total of libraries available in this country have Persian manuscripts, and totally nearly 35 thousand of manuscripts have been recorded and cataloged so far in the 129 libraries. Library of American National Congress is among the most famous libraries in America in which there are Iranian and Islamic manuscripts. It is the oldest Cultural Institute of America and the largest library in the world, which is in the capital of this country that is, Washington. The part of manuscripts of this library has forty million rare

---

<sup>1</sup>Professor of Persian Language and Literature, Azad University of Iran, Dehaghan branch.

manuscripts, books and hand writings that include various topics. Moreover, it has about 600 thousand copies of periodical, books and Persian versions which need to be examined by Iranian scientists and researchers. Repertory of Persian books of this library contains valuable books such as manuscripts of EskandarNamehNezami, thirteen-volume commentary of MasnaviMaulana of Mohammad TaqiJafari, Liturgy of Khwaja Abdullah Ansari, Tohfato al Momenin, works of Jami, Travelogues of NaserKhosrou (Refer: Article of manuscript in American libraries of Muhammad Moridi and Kasai, 2004: 142-138).

Another important library in America that has a number of Persian manuscripts is the library of the University of Chicago. Thirty-three Persian manuscripts have been cataloged and recorded in this library and its oldest is Nafahat Alones of Jami with a history of writing and also summary of Alashar and ZobdehAlafkar of Taghialdin Mohammad Kashani with date of writing 1100 AH (refer to DaneshPazhoh, 1979: publication of manuscripts of central library of Tehran University, 11th Volume).

The Library of Michigan is another library in America that has 1450 Islamic manuscripts. Among these works, the manuscripts such as MantaqAlteyre of the Attar Neyshabouri, which dates back to sixteenth century, can be found. Shahnameh of Ferdousi written by Abdul QadeerSavedjiQazvini, the alchemy of happiness of Ghazali which dates back to 1058 are among the Persian manuscripts available in this famous library. Princeton Library and Library of California University are two other famous libraries in America that have Persian ancient manuscripts and hand writings. Manuscripts of Library of the University of California, is one of valuable collections of Islamic manuscripts in the USA, which has 7373 handwritings and 2878 Arabic versions and 1198 Persian version and 3000 Turkish version can be found among these works. Princeton University Library also has 484 Persian manuscripts that among its manuscripts can point out to the Baharestan of Jami, Rubaiyat of Khayam (DaneshPazhoh, 1979: 14-11).

Manuscripts and handwriting collection donated by the Iranian nation, Caro Minasian (Isfahan) that includes 300 Persian manuscripts is one of the collections of manuscript available in the Library of the University of California U.C.L.A,

Court of SeyyedHosseinTabatabai known as NiyazJoshaghani and with NiyazIsfahani is one of these manuscripts of Manyasian collection in the Library of the University of California, This Court consists of lyrics and the refrain, and it is reserved with the number 432 in this library. NiyazJoshaghani that has come with the name of NiyazEsfahani is of the thirteenth century poets of AH of Joshaghan in Kashan. Some have written under the pen name of him as Niyazi. His grandfather, Mir Shah TaqiJoshaghani had been valid for Safavid especially Shah SoleimanSafavid and had been of the poet and the owner of virtue in the Safavid era. Niyaz lives during the reign of Fath Ali Shah Ghajar (1212 - 1250 AH). He is one of the skilled and little-known poets of return literary style that unfortunately has been written very little about him in biographies and books of literary history. As it comes from low information contained in biographies, he had been calligrapher In addition to being poet and he has mastered at writing the manuscripts. Niyaz had special skill in the forms of a poem, in lyricism and all return literary style features such elegance and beauty are found well in his poems. His lyrics are romantic and in this form of poem follows the lyrics of Iraqi poets specially Saadi and Hafez. Although had been imitated in the odes from poets of Khorasani style. Subjects of his odes are praise, ethical implications and advice. In the biography of Delgosha about Niyaz has been come like this: "His name is Sayed Hussein of Holy Tabatabai Sadat of Joshaghan and he is one of the needs of Neighborhood of scholars. He is among usher of sciences and his part of it is as amount of divisor. It is said that he writes prescriptions good. There is not much of this of his life "(Navab-Shirazi, 1972: 479).

There are different versions of Court of NiyazIsfahani in the libraries of Isfahan, Qom, Tehran, Mashhad and over ten manuscripts have been identified and cataloged of this court and but Available version in U.C.L.A University is one of the most complete versions of court of this poet which has not been corrected and printed until now and it is needed to be copied and critical correction with court of this poet that has been published by Ahmad Karami from publisher of "we" in Tehran. Two other works are remained in addition to court of NiyazEsfahani. One of them is his treatise that has been written in nastaliq and Naskh and it is available in the library of parliament with the number of 14036 and other one is political treatise of Niyaz that it is about government and politics in Persian language.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

There are many ancient manuscripts and handwritings that were forgotten in different libraries around the world and are out of reach. Correction and printing each of these works, is restoration and recovery of cultural and national treasures and works of the ancients of a nation. In recent centuries many versions of the Orient were taken by different people to Western countries and they have been located by various intermediaries for social, political and economic reasons or by sale or donation or endowment in different libraries of West that it is necessary to recognize and correct and print these works one by one to claim that we have comprehensive literature history of the country. America is one of the vast countries that has many versions of Iranian and Islamic monuments and the Orient in its multiple libraries that there are more than 58 million manuscripts in its

libraries and most of them have not been identified and printed so far and perhaps many of them have been recorded and categorized in writing due to being unfamiliar the foreign persons and journalists who writes list with text of manuscripts, (especially manuscripts that they do not have beginning or end and they have no author's name and date of writing) and it is essential that it investigated in precise and technical way by editors and codicologists familiar with these works.

#### **SOURCES AND REFERENCES**

- [1]. Brown, Edward. (1990). History of literature in Iran from Safavid until the present, translation of BahramMeghdadi Tehran: Morvarid publishers.
- [2]. BanarvanyKhalifa, Baahman. (2008). List of manuscripts collection of Caro Minasyian Library of U.C.L.A University , Literature Monthly book, No. 20, 134 in a row.
- [3]. DaneshPazhoh, Mohammad Taghi. (1979). Journal of manuscripts Tehran 4 4.Derayati, Mustafa.(2010). List of manuscripts from Iran (Dena), Tehran: Library of Parliament.
- [4]. Sobhani, Tofiq. (2006). History of literature in Iran, Tehran: zavar publisher.
- [5]. Kasai, Ali. (2004). Islamic manuscripts in the world, Journal book, the issue of Bahar.
- [6]. Marzolf, Ulrich. (1992). Classification of Persian tales, translation of KeytavosJahandari, Tehran: Soroush Publisher.
- [7]. milehervi, Njib. (2001). history of version processing and critical edition of manuscripts, Tehran, published by the Ministry of Culture. University Library, No 4, Year 27.
- [8]. Moridi, Muhammad. (2012). the article of manuscripts in the libraries of America, Almakhtotat.
- [9]. Nasiri, Mohammad Reza. (2005). works creators, Tehran: Community of cultural works and figures.
- [10]. Navab-Shirazi, Ali Akbar. (1992). Delgosha biography, edited by Mansour.RastegarFasaie, Shiraz :Navid Publications