

Research On “Sanglox” And “Maboni Ul-Lug’At” In Great Britain

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Abstract: This article examines the study of Alisher Navoi’s works in England, focusing on the research conducted in Britain on “Sanglox” and “Maboni ul-lug’at,” which are based on Navoi’s writings. The contribution of British researchers to Navoi studies is acknowledged.

Keywords: Manuscript, catalog, Navoi scholar, lexicon.

Introduction: Alisher Navoi is one of the most prominent figures whose works have widely spread across the world, “without conquering by the sword”. Significant research on the poet and statesman’s life and creativity has been conducted both in Uzbekistan and abroad. Uzbek scholars such as N. Mallayev, M. Kholbekov, A. Abduazizov, A. Erkinov, R. Abdullayeva, G. Khallieva, Z. Mirzayeva, and O. Tojiboyeva have written studies and articles on the research of Navoi’s works abroad.

Although Europeans became familiar with Navoi’s works in the 16th century, the in-depth study of his life and creativity mainly began in the 19th century. The first biography of Navoi in Europe was introduced by French scholar Barthélemy d’Herbelot de Molainville in his 1697 publication *Bibliothèque orientale*, a comprehensive dictionary of essential knowledge about the East.

In England, Orientalists who studied Navoi’s work during the late 19th and 20th centuries include Charles Rieu (1827–1902), Hermann Ethé (1844–1917), Eduard Sachau (1845–1930), Edward Granville Browne (1860–1901), Sir Edward Denison Ross (1871–1940), Gerard Clauson (1891–1974), and Alfred Biston (1911–1995).

Several factors contributed to Navoi's works finding their way to Great Britain. Specifically, the political situation associated with the increasing influence of England in Central Asia during a certain period, the gifting of rare and valuable copies of Navoi's works by some Uzbek khans to this country, the acquisition of

Navoi's works by English entrepreneurs alongside numerous manuscripts collected by the Timurids during England's colonization of India, and the transfer of Navoi's manuscripts from Iran, Russia, and Turkey (due to Baddiuz Zaman Mirza) to the British Museum, Bodleian Library, Windsor Library, and other locations in Great Britain. Furthermore, wars and treaties between nations have led to the transfer of many valuable books to the treasuries of countries with different languages and cultures.

As noted above, from the 17th century onwards, and particularly during the 18th and 19th centuries, the British Empire's political and economic interests in India, the Middle East, and Central Asia spurred the development of Oriental studies. In 1823, the Royal Asiatic Society was founded. At the beginning of the 20th century, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) was established at the University of London, marking a new era in British Orientalism.

Charles Rieu, originally from Geneva, is recognized as the first Navoi scholar in England. During his many years at the British Museum, he compiled the "Catalogue of Turkish Manuscripts" (1888) and the "Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts" (1871-95). Furthermore, he completed the second part of the "Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts," begun by the English Orientalist William Cureton (1808–1864).

Information about Rieu's catalogue (description) was initially provided in the bibliographic book “Materials for a Bibliographic Index of Printed Works by Alisher

Navoi and Literature about Him” (Материалы к библиографическому указателю печатных произведений Алишера Навои и литературы о нем), compiled in 1940 by the Russian Orientalist A.A. Semenov. Specifically, it is mentioned that Charles Rieu's catalogue of Turkish manuscripts contains information about 13 works by Alisher Navoi. Furthermore, the lexicography section of the Turkish catalogue describes the "Abushqa," "Sanglox," and its accompanying "Maboni ul-Lug'at." In his description of «Sanglox» (No. 2892), Rieu provides detailed information about Mirza Mehdi Astrobodi's court activities, the reasons for compiling the dictionary, and the history of lexicography. Although the book is bibliographic in nature, the scholar examined numerous sources to provide each piece of information, scientifically substantiating precise historical data.

German Orientalists Eduard Sachau and Hermann Ethé, along with Alfred Biston, also made notable contributions. Sachau began the Catalogue of Persian, Turkish, Hindustani, and Pushtu Manuscripts (1889); Ethé completed the second part, and Biston finished the third part in 1955 at Oxford University Press. These catalogs also describe Sanglox, compiled for Navoi's works.

Among philological works, Mirza Mehdi Khan's «Sanglox» dictionary and its accompanying grammatical essay, "Maboni ul-lug'at" ("Fundamentals of Language"), stand out. Mirza Mehdi Khan completed his «Sanglox» in 1758-1760 (AH 1172-1173). Four manuscript copies of this work exist worldwide. One copy is in the Gibb Collection, another in the British Museum, a third in the Bodleian Library (Oxford), and a fourth in the Süleymaniye Library (Turkey). Clearly, three of the four extant copies of the globally rare "Sanglox," compiled based on Navoi's works, are preserved in Great Britain, a fact that hints at the significant collection of rare Navoi-related manuscripts housed there. Eduard Sachau and Hermann Ethé's "Catalogue of the Persian, Turkish, Hindustani, and Pushtu Manuscripts" notes that while only one source is described, almost all of Navoi's contemporaries are mentioned, highlighting the significant attention paid to the individuals connected to the source in the book and the illumination of the period's history.

When discussing Mirza Mehdi Khan Astrobodi's «Sanglox» dictionary, compiled for Navoi's works, the English Orientalist Gerard Clauson (1891-1974) deserves special mention. In 1960, he published a facsimile edition of «Sanglox» in London, making it widely accessible (Sanglâx: a Persian guide to the Turkish language, by Muḥammad Mahdī Xān. Facs. ed. 71+113 p. 732 facs. L. 1960). For this publication, he

utilized copies from the British Museum (No. 2892) and the Bodleian Library. B. Hasanov, who conducted a comparative study of dictionaries compiled for Navoi's works, notes the superiority of «Sanglox» over other dictionaries in all respects, the unparalleled contribution of Clauson in popularizing the book, and the expediency of using Clauson's edition to correct errors in existing dictionary publications.

The grammatical essay appended to "Sanglox," "Maboni ul-lug'at," was published in 1910 in Calcutta using lithographic methods by Sir Denison Ross (1871-1940), a prominent English scholar of Chagatai language and literature. This contributed to the further popularization of Navoi's work in the West. Furthermore, as the first director of SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), Ross dedicated significant attention to Central Asian studies throughout his career. Ross also deeply analyzed Navoi's language, style, and philosophical ideas in his works. He included examples from Navoi's works in Chagatai poetry anthologies, published articles on Navoi's life and work in "The Turkestan Review," and conducted research on the unique characteristics of the Chagatai language, its relationship to Persian, and Navoi's contribution to the development of this language. He translated excerpts or summaries of Navoi's works into English, making them accessible to Western readers.

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