This paper presents an analysis of three manuscript copies of the
Collection of Proverbs by
al-Maydānī from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the
Russian Academy of Sciences, the Oriental Department
of Gorky Library, St. Petersburg State University, and the
National Library of Berlin.

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To date, more and more relevant are studies related to the study of various manu-
scripts that were created in the eastern languages. Knowledge and experience accumu-
lated over the centuries were reflected in the pages of numerous treatises on philosophy,
history, philology, medicine and other fields of knowledge.

As the number of manuscripts grew they formed private and public collections. The
largest of which are based in Damascus, Baghdad, Medina, Basra, Merv, Nishapur, Bukh-
ra, Jerusalem, Cairo, Kairouan, Cordoba, Istanbul and a number of other cities. With the manuscripts so widely distributed there is a need for their systematization [1, p. 4].

While originally the area of distribution of manuscripts was mainly limited to Muslim countries the situation drastically changed in the 16th and 17th centuries when Europeans grew interested in Oriental languages and cultures as a whole and Arab manuscripts, in particular. Gradually, collections of Arabic manuscripts began to take shape in European libraries and private collections initially in Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, France and Sweden, and later in other countries. During the same period, the first attempts were made by European Arabic scholars to systematize the accumulated library collections of Arabic manuscripts. V. Postel, J. Golius, S. de Sasi and I. Reiske laid the foundation for the further development and cataloging of the Arabic manuscript heritage. Nevertheless, these were only the first attempts to systematize the knowledge of Arabic manuscripts. Studies involving a comprehensive analysis of medieval Arabic writings did not come out until the 19th century. The same period saw the creation of the first academic catalogs of the largest collections of Arabic manuscripts held at various libraries including at the National Library in Paris, libraries in London, Berlin, Madrid, Vienna, Munich, Leiden, St. Petersburg, Oxford, and Copenhagen.

At the end of 19th century, K. Brokelman makes an attempt to make an overview of all the accumulated material about Arabic writings, mainly relying on printed catalogs. The first edition of his two-volume work, *The History of Arabic Literature* [2; 3], was published in 1898 and became a reference point for further work in this field. Brokelman's work was continued by the Turkish researcher of the Arabic manuscript heritage, literature and art F. Sezgin, who wrote the thirteen-volume *History of the Arab Heritage* [4], which is considered to be the most complete work on the history of Arabic science and literature.

In Russia, A. B. Khalidov and I. B. Mikhailova compiled a comprehensive bibliographic reference book of Arabic manuscripts published in 1982 [1], the first and still unique Russian undertaking in creating a consolidated bibliography of Arabic manuscript catalogs.

In the 20th century, interest in manuscript collections persisted and the first detailed descriptions of valuable manuscripts came out that did not only contain studied texts but a detailed textual analysis of them. Despite the emergence of new works on the description and systematization of manuscripts, much of the Arabic manuscript heritage still remained unexplored, which, first of all, was due to the sheer amount and variety of material [5, p. 63].

We should mention Russian researchers C. G. Zaleman, V. R. Rosen, V. F. Girgas, A. A. Romaskevich, I. Yu. Krachkovsky [6], A. B. Khalidov [7], O. B. Frolova [8], V. I. Belyaeva, M. S. Pelevin [9], as the ones who studied Oriental manuscript collections, and some of them also supplemented collections in different years. However, despite the lively interest of researchers in the manuscript collections of St. Petersburg and other oriental studies centers of Russia, only a small part of them was subjected to close analysis, and most remain unexplored [10, p. 26–31].

Various methods are used for a comprehensive study of manuscript composition. First of all, you should pay attention to the study of external features of the work — its size, degree of dilapidation, quality and condition of the binding and paper, as well as the presence or absence of filigree. All these nuances make it possible to make precise conclusions about the time of the creation of a particular manuscript. The external characteristic
of the composition is the type of paper, handwriting, the presence or absence of a paper line (lines of vertex and ponceau), information about ink, handwriting — are also an important part of the study of a manuscript. The next stage is a deeper analysis of the text of the work, revealing its features, comparing it with similar texts. Detailed study of the text often allows the scholar not only to accurately date the manuscript, but also to establish who the copyist was, and also to whom it belonged. At the moment, researchers have a significant arsenal of modern methods of studying manuscripts, starting with infrared and ultraviolet studies of ink and paper and ending with a nuclear analysis, which allows obtaining the most complete information about the origin and features of a manuscript.

Together with the need to comprehensively study and systematize information about available Arabic manuscripts, it is necessary to emphasize the role of detailed descriptions of individual manuscripts that allow us to establish general patterns in the works of Arab authors.

Among Arabic manuscripts, *Mağma' al-'amṭāl* (Collection of Proverbs) by al-Maydānî is of particular research interest. We studied three copies of the manuscript: copy B-908 from the collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which includes two parts; copy No. 804 from the collection of the Oriental Department of Gorky Library at St. Petersburg State University, containing only the first part of the work; and copy Lbg. 815 from the collection of the National Library of Berlin, which includes the second part of the work of al-Maydānî.

Abû al-Faḍl 'Aḥmad b. Muhammad al-Ŷībūrī al-Maydānî was born in the city of Nishapur in the Maydān district. The year of his birth was not established. Al-Maydānî died in 518 AH, which corresponds to the year 1142 according to the Christian calendar.

The medieval Muslim scholar Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī wrote about al-Maydānî, “He (al-Maydānî) is an excellent scholar, grammarian, linguist. He died in 518, is buried in Maydān. The composition *Al-ğāmi' fi al-'amṭāl* (Collection of Proverbs) belongs to him, and this is a beautiful work” [11, p. 511–513].

Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī also describes the following curious story: when al-Maydānî completed the work on *Al-ğāmi' fi al-'amṭāl*, the writer and philosopher Abû al-Qāsim al-Zamaḥšārī got jealous of how comprehensive and good al-Maydānî’s work was. Al-Zamaḥšārī took a pen and added the letter *nūn* to the name of al-Maydānî, which turned the latter’s name into *al-Namaydānî*, which in Persian means someone who does not know anything. When al-Maydānî discovered this, he took one of the works of al-Zamaḥšārī and also added the letter *nūn* to the author’s name to make it read as *al-Zanaḥšārī*. This name means in the Persian language the one who sold his wife. This story is mentioned in a number of sources, including the B-908 manuscript from the collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts on page 1.

Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī wrote, referring to contemporaries who knew al-Maydānî personally, the following, “If intelligence, nobility and generosity had a face, it would be the face of al-Maydānî” [11, p. 513].

Al-Maydānî studied with outstanding scholars of his time, one of whom was the famous Koran commentator Abû al-Ḥasan al-Wāḥidī. The famous al thinker Abû al-Ḥasan al-Bayhaqī and al-Maydānî’s son Sa'id became the students of al-Maydānî himself.

In the catalog of A. B. Khalidov said that al-Maydānî is

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1 Another version reads *the one that has bought a wife*. 

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“a popular collection of Arabic proverbs arranged in an alphabetical order; each proverb is accompanied by a more or less understandable explanation (of individual words, grammatical constructions, the origins and uses of the proverbs). The collection has the author’s foreword and consists of 28 chapters on the number of letters in the Arabic alphabet. There are also the 29th chapter, listing the days (battles) of the Arabs and the days (battles) of Islam and the 30th chapter, which contains sayings of Muhammad and prominent figures of Islam. The time of copying is the 17th century. Sheets 01 a and 1a have the owners’ inscriptions. Sheet 1a carries a small oval stamp and an Asian Museum stamp” [12, p. 65–66].

The writing we are interested in has various names. ’Ibn Ḥallikān — a famous Arab writer and jurist — called the work al-Maydānī Kitāb al-ʿamṭāl (Book of Proverbs) [13, p. 6]. Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī referred to it as Gāmiʿ al-ʿamṭāl. The most common title today is Mağmaʿ al-ʿamṭāl. Al-Maydānī himself refers to his work as Mağmaʿ al-ʿamṭāl in the introduction on sheet 6 of copy 804 and on sheet 3 of copy 908 (Fig. 1, 2).

Fig. 1. Copy sheet 804 (from the Oriental Department of Gorky Library, St. Petersburg State University)
Здесь представлена страница рукописи, которая является копией листа 908 из Института Восточных рукописей Российской академии наук.

**Fig. 2. Copy sheet 908 (from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences)**
Manuscript B-908 from the collection of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences is called Maḏmaʿ al-ʿammāl al-Maydānī. The dimensions of this copy are 25 cm by 16 cm. The copy includes 286 sheets. The cover of the composition is ornamented, half-leather. In general, the book is in good condition.

The text of the piece is preceded by an inscription made on the title page of the copy (Fig. 3): Kitāb al-ʿammāl al-sāʾir al-ṣahir bi-maḏmaʿ al-ʿammāl talif al-Maydānī rahima-hu Allāh taʿālā (Translation: The book of well-known proverbs in the collection of proverbs under the authorship of al-Maydānī, may Allah be merciful to him!).

On the left-hand side of the title sheet there is a text written without dots in letters and without any voices: Al-Ḥusayn Yūsuf min al-ʿabd al-faqīr al-ṣalāḥiyya al-mudarris bi-al-madrasa kull man ḡalaba īlay-hā (unintelligible) ’afā Allāh ān-hu wa ḡafara la-hu (Translation: Al-Ḥusayn Yūsuf from a poor slave, school teacher. Aleppo. God forgive him!).

Fig. 3. Title sheet of copy B-908 (from the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
On the first sheet of this copy to the left of the Asian Museum stamp\(^2\) there is an inscription containing information about the owner of the book. In this phrase, there are also no points for letters and vowels (Fig. 4):

\[
\text{min kutub al-‘abd al-faqīr al-sayyid Yūsuf b. al-sayyid Husayn al-Ḥanāfī ṣādim al-sunna al-nabawīyya bi-Ḥalab. ‘Ufiya an-hu. (Translation: From the (collection) books of the poor slave of Mr. Yūsuf, the son of Mr. Husayn al-Ḥanāfī, the servant of the Sunnah of the Prophet in Aleppo. God forgive him!).}
\]

\(^2\) Sig. Mus. Asiat. C. A. 1818.
Then follows the inscription: \textit{al-ḥamd li-Allāh tamallaka-hu bi-al-šarī al-ṣarī al-ʿabd al-faqīr ʿilā maylā-hu al-ʿali}. The next fragment of the text is crossed out, but readable; this traditionally happened when the book changed owner and the name of the previous owner of the manuscript was struck out or completely erased:

\textit{al-sayyid Muḥammad b. al-sayyid ʿAli al-ṣahīr bi-ʿAbū al-ʿIzz}. The text follows without strikethrough: \textit{al-Ḥalabī min al-ṣayḥ Muḥammad al-Šāmi fī mazād matrakāt al-muftī fī šahr ḍumādī al-ṭānī sana 1153} (Translation: Thank God, it became the property of a poor slave with the legitimate acquisition of Mr. Muḥammad, the son of Mr. Alī, known as ʿAbū al-ʿIzz (\textit{further without strikethrough}) al-Ḥalabī from Sheikh Muḥammad al-Šāmi (\textit{purchased}) at the auction of the mufti's things in the month of Jumad al-sani, in 1153).

Below on this sheet there is a stamp on which it is possible to decipher only some words: \textit{qāla, rabbi, Muḥammad}.

On the same sheet, the information about al-Maydānī, mentioned by Yāqūt al-Ḥamawī, is repeated.

B-908 European copy paper with filigree; yellowed. The text of the copy is written in a clear, intelligible handwriting, which is a combination of \textit{nas} and \textit{ruq'a} handwriting. The main text is written in black ink, but individual words and phrases are highlighted in red ink. On the back of the first sheet there are traditional \textit{unwān} and \textit{basmala}. The text of the piece is limited to the back of the first sheet; on the second sheet it is inscribed in a gilded frame. On the margins of some pages there are comments made in different handwritings in black, rarely red ink. Throughout the text of the work al-Maydānī there are custodes. Each sheet has 33 lines (Fig. 5). It is written in the collage on the last sheet number 286 (Fig. 6):

\textit{ʿintahā kitāb al-ʿamthāl al-ğazīr wa-al-ʿamthāl wa-al-ḥamd li-Allāh al-wāhid al-karīm al-mutāʾal wa-sallā Allāh ʿalā sayyidi-nā Muḥammad wa-ʿahli-hi wa-ʿazwāği-hi wa-ḍuryati-hi wa-ʿahl bayti-hi wa-ʿaṣhābi-hi tasallam}³ \textit{tasli̇man ʿilā yawm al-dīn ʿamīn ʿamīn ʿamīn mīm mīm mīm}⁴ (Translation: The proverb book is completed, which is full of comparisons and proverbs, thank God the One, the Bountiful, the Most High. God blessed our master Muḥammad, his family, his wives, his descendants, his relatives and associates, and he blessed him until the day of judgment. Amen, Amen, Amen, the End.)

The scribe's name, which is sometimes present even in the collage, is not indicated in this case.

The second copy we studied, No. 804 of al-Maydānī, belongs to the collection of the manuscript collection of the Oriental Department of the Gorky Library of St. Petersburg State University and is called \textit{Al-ğuz' al-ʿawwal min mağma' al-ʿamthāl al-Maydānī} (\textit{The first part of Proverbs al-Maydānī}).

The size of this copy is 23 cm by 17 cm. In total, there are 179 sheets in the composition. Cover copy cardboard. The paper is European, of varying density with filigree.

³ This was probably a mistake in the use of the verb form \textit{tasllam} instead \textit{sallam}.
⁴ The letter \textit{mīm} was repeated three times in the manuscript and signifies the end of the piece.
The text of the composition as well as in the copy of B-908 is written in two handwritings — nash and ruq'a, throughout the composition there are custodes. For the main text, the scribe used black ink, however the table of contents, the first word of each proverb and the commas are highlighted in red ink (Fig. 7).

It is interesting to note that the copy of the work was probably written by the famous Egyptian philologist at-Ṭanṭāwī, which is mentioned in I. Yu. Krachkovsky [14, p. 109], as well as from V. I. Belyaeva and P. G. Bulgakov [15, p. 25].

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5 at-Ṭanṭāwī taught at St Petersburg between 1840 and 1861.
Copy of Lbg. 815, belonging to the National Library of Berlin, also includes only one part of the composition of al-Maydānī, but unlike the copy of 804, this is the second part of the work. The copy is called *Al-ğuz’ al-ṭānī min mağma’ al-‘antāl al-Maydānī* (*The second part of the collection of proverbs al-Maydānī*).

The size of the Lbg list. 815 is 22.5 cm by 15.5 cm. The cover of the composition is leather, brown. The condition of the copy is satisfactory — in some places the paper was damaged by insects and subsequently restored. The paper without filigree, east, thick enough, yellowed. Some pages are strongly stuck together.
On the title page of the copy of Lbg. 815, there are numerous inscriptions in addition to the name of the composition and the stamp of the library, the letters in some of them are completely devoid of points (Fig. 8):

I. al-ḥamd li-Allāh (inaudible) fī nawba (inaudible) Ḥamad b. Muḥammad (part of the page is cut off) al-Mawsawī al-Ṣāfī’ī ḫātāf Allāh bi-hi

(Translation: Glory to God (inaudible) in possession of Ḥamad bin Muḥammad (part of the page is cut off) al-Mawsawī al-Ṣāfī’ī, may God be merciful to him)

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II. fuhrisat fī kutub al-ʿabd al-faqīr 'ilā raḥmat Allāh ḥallāṣ-hu Allāh min al-taḥāt 
ṯumma fī nawbat al-mawlaviya al-ṣāğiya walad ʿayḥ al-ṣuyūṭī

(Translation: This manuscript was included in the copy of books of a poor slave, his 
heavenly kingdom, May God save him from the consequences (sins), then in possession 
of the dervishes (?) Of the sheik's son)

III. al-ḥamd li-Allāh taʿālā taʿālā wahda-hu
ḥāḍā wa-mā qabla-hu mimmā šār fī nawbat al-faqīr 'ilay-hi subhāna-hu wa-taʿālā 'Abd 
al-Karīm b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. al-Šayḫ Ḥamza al-Ḥāshbāni al-
Dimaʾ qī ʿafara-hu Allāh fī raḡab min sanat 1113 bi-al-ṣirā al-ṣarʿī

(Translation: Glory be to God the Supreme One. This is both what was before and what 
the poor took over. 'Abd al-Karīm b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. al-
Šayḫ Ḥamza al-Ḥāshbāni al-Dimaʾ, God forgive him, in (month) rajab in 1113 by legal 
purchase)

IV. al-ḥamd li-waliya-hi ʿumma sāqa-hu sāiq al-taqdīr min qabla-hu ilā nawbat al-ʿabd 
al-faqīr Raḡab ʿibn 'Abd al-Karīm b. Muḥammad b. Ḥamza al-Ḥasanī 
ʿahasn Allāh 'awāqiba-hu wa-faqāṭal bi-al-ṣirā al-ṣarʿī fī sanat 1118

(Translation: Glory to his viceroy)

Then fate transferred (this book) to the possession of the poor slave Raḡab ʿibn 'Abd al-
Karīm b. Muḥammad b. Ḥamza al-Ḥasanī, may God make his affairs auspicious. It was 
acquired legally in 1118)

V. katab (inaudible) al-dūhād al-ʿizzī bi-taʿrī ṭaṣṣa ṭaṣṣa al-fard sana (illegible) Allāh al-
maḥmūd ʿalā kull hāl wa-naʿaḏ bi-hi min ḥāl ʿahl al-nāra 
wa-katab (illegible) laṭṭāf Allāh bi-hi 
faqīr 'ilā mawlā-hu yaṣāl 'afwa-hu wa-yargū 'atāyā-hu (illegible) 
yaqūf zallāt wa-yastur 'aʿura wa-yuḏhib ḍan-hu 
wa-yūlī-hi min-hu kull ʿayḥara-uma-hu wa-yaqāla-hu 'abdan la-hu 
'abda-ka wa-taʿṭṭaf ʿalay-hi wa-ʿurzuqh min faḍli-ka yā rabb al-ʿālimīn (illegible) 
wa-ṣallī ʿawwalan wa-ṣāḥ bella wa-bāṭina wa-ṣāḥ hira ʿalā Muḥammad wa-ali-hi wa-
ṣaḥbihim

(Translation: I wrote al-Izzī in the month of rajab ... a year ... in the name of God.) God 
is glorious and he will save from bad people. 

And wrote (illegible) let God be merciful to him. The poor (slave) asks his master for 
his forgiveness and his retribution (illegible). He asks for forgiveness of mistakes, (requests) 
to hide his shortcomings and to save him (from all bad things), to grant him that he 
(God) wishes to make him his slave. (He) is your slave, have mercy on him and grant 
him out of your blessings, Most High. Constantly raise the prayer explicitly and disgorged 
Muḥammad, his family and their companions)

7 Prophet Muhammad, the governor of God on earth. 
8 God is meant.
It should be noted that on the title page there is also an inscription duplicating a fragment of the text above, but written in a bad hand:

\[\text{faqir 'ilā mawā-hu yaşā' al 'afwā-hu wa-yarğū 'ātāyā-hu (illegible)}\]
\[\text{yağfur zallāt wa-yastur 'aura wa-yuḏhib 'an-hu}\]
\[\text{wa-yūlīh min-hu kull šay' yarūmu-hu wa-yağ'ala-hu 'abdān la-hu}\]

The entire text of the work is written in a clear and intelligible handwriting \textit{nasāh}. In the text there are custodes, there are rare comments on the fields. A distinctive feature of this copy is that the text is fully voiced (Fig. 9).
It should be noted that the National Library of Berlin also contains a complete list of works of al-Maydâni — Df. 62. Information about him is in the catalog of Arabic manuscripts of the library [16, p. 594], but it is impossible to see the copy itself at the moment, as it is in a dilapidated state and is not available for examination.

Structurally, the composition al-Maydâni includes 30 chapters, the names of which are arranged in alphabetical order. Moreover, the 28th chapter includes proverbs beginning with the letter yâ, the 29th chapter unites the names of festive and memorable days in history, and the 30th chapter is entirely devoted to the statements of the Prophet and righteous caliphs (Fig. 10).
Each chapter of the work begins with ordinary proverbs, followed by proverbs grouped by the use of the 'af'al in them (Fig. 11).

After that, the proverbs composed by the speakers of the Arabic language are not Arabs by origin — this part is called 'amtāl al-muwalladin (Fig. 12).
The subjects of the proverbs included in this literary work are diverse: the animal world, the planets, as well as citations from the well-known bait, which later became proverbs. It is interesting to note that a large number of such baits belong to the poet al-Mutanabbi. Some proverbs are grouped according to the use in them of the terms of kinship (mother, father, brother, etc.), others have a prehistory of appearance.
Let's consider some examples in more detail, dividing them into the appropriate groups.

1. Proverbs using the terms of kinship.
   - ‘īn al-ḥamāt ʿawlāʿat bi-al-kanna wa-ʿawlāʿat kannatu-ha bi-al-ẓanna
     They talk about constant hostility between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law.
   - ‘ilā ‘ummī-hi yalḥaf li-al-lahfan
     They say that when a person turns to his relatives for help.
   - ‘umm farašat faʿānāmat
     They speak of a good attitude to a member of a loved one.
   - ʿahlā-ka ʿahlā-ka ‘inna man lā ʿahl la-hu kasā‘ ʿilā al-hayğa bi-ġayr silāḥ
     They say when you need to support a loved one.
2. Proverbs using anatomical terminology.
- ‘iḏā ḡā al-ḥin ḡārat al-‘ayn
  ‘iḏā ḡā al-qadar ḡaṣiya al-baṣar
They say, when everything is already decided and nothing can be changed.
- ‘inna-hu la-ṣadid ḡafn al-‘ayn
They talk about a person who can stay awake for a long time.
- ‘aṁf fi al-samā’ wa-‘ist fi al-mā’
They speak of a stupid and arrogant person.

3. Proverbs about women.
- ‘inna al-nisā’ ‘aqā’ q al-‘aqwām
They say to emphasize the equality of women and men.

4. Proverbs using the image of animals.
- ‘iḏā ḡarād Allāh halak al-namla ‘anbat la-hu ḡanāḥayn
  If God wants an ant to die, he will give him wings.
- ‘iḏā ḡakarta al-ḏi‘b
  ḡā‘idd la-hu al-‘aṣā
  If you remember the wolf, prepare a stick.
- ‘iḏā lam yanfa‘-ka al-bāzī
  fantif riša-hu
  If you do not need a falcon, pluck it.

5. Proverbs using the grammatical form ‘af‘al.
- ‘aḥsar min zarqā’ al-yamāma
They talk about a person with excellent eyesight.

6. Poetic lines that have become proverbs.
- ‘iḏā ‘akramta al-karīm malakta-hu wa-‘inn ‘anta ‘akramta li-al-la‘īm tamarradā
  Doing good to a noble (man), you multiply his nobility, if you do good to the low
  (man), he becomes even lower.

The fact that Maḡma’ al-‘amtāl continues to be reprinted can only indicate that the
interest in the work of al-Maydānī is still unabated. Most proverbs, which the author in-
cluded in his work several centuries ago, are used to this day.

The study of the surviving copies of this manuscript makes it possible to get the most
complete understanding of one of the most major works of the Arab thinker and scholar
al-Maydānī, and also enables researchers to look at the whole cultural and historical layer
through the prism of proverbs used in living speech.

The medieval culture of the Muslim world cannot be fully understood without a com-
prehensive study of the entire Arabic manuscript tradition and a thorough examination of
Arabic manuscripts. Attention to Arabic manuscripts derives from their immense histori-
cal and cultural significance as an invaluable source of information about the most diverse

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9 According to legend Zarqā’ al-yamāma is the name of the woman whose sharp eyes allowed her to see a person who was at a distance of a three-days’ walk from her.
fields of science, art, history of political and religious thought in the Middle East and in neighboring regions.

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В последние десятилетия одним из приоритетных направлений изучения рукописной книги является кодикология. Статья посвящена анализу трех списков рукописи «Сборник пословиц» известного мусульманского ученого-лингвиста al-Maydānī. Два списка хранятся в рукописных коллекциях Санкт-Петербурга (Институт восточных рукописей РАН и восточного отдела Библиотеки им. М. Горького СПбГУ), третий принадлежит коллекции Национальной библиотеки Берлина. Сочинение al-Maydānī представляет собой сборник арабских пословиц, расположенных в алфавитном порядке. Каждая пословица сопровождается комментарием, касающимся отдельных слов, грамматических конструкций, а также происхождения и употребления. Сборник снабжен предисловием автора и включает двадцать восемь глав по числу букв арабского алфавита. В двух дополнительных главах перечислены дни битв арабов, собраны изречения Мухаммада и выдающихся деятелей ислама. Изучение сохранившихся списков рукописи позволяет составить наиболее полное впечатление об одном из самых крупных и значимых сочинений арабского мыслителя и ученого al-Maydānī, а также дает возможность исследователям взглянуть на целый культурно-исторический пласт сквозь призму употребляемых в живой речи пословиц. Интерес к произведению al-Maydānī сохраняется и сегодня, а его сочинение Mağma’ al-‘ammāl продолжает переводиться. Большинство пословиц, которые автор включил в свое произведение несколько веков назад, широко используются по сей день. Без целостного охвата всей арабской рукописной традиции и многопланового рассмотрения арабских рукописных книг невозможно понять существенные аспекты средневековой культуры мусульманского мира. Таким образом, внимание к арабской рукописной книге, которая является бесценным источником свидетельств о самых разнообразных областях науки, искусства, истории политической и религиозной мысли на Ближнем Востоке и в сопредельных регионах, объясняется ее огромным историко-культурным значением.

Ключевые слова: кодикология, арабская рукопись, списки рукописи, арабский язык, пословицы, фольклор.

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