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LIBRARIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DURING THE SOMONID PERIOD

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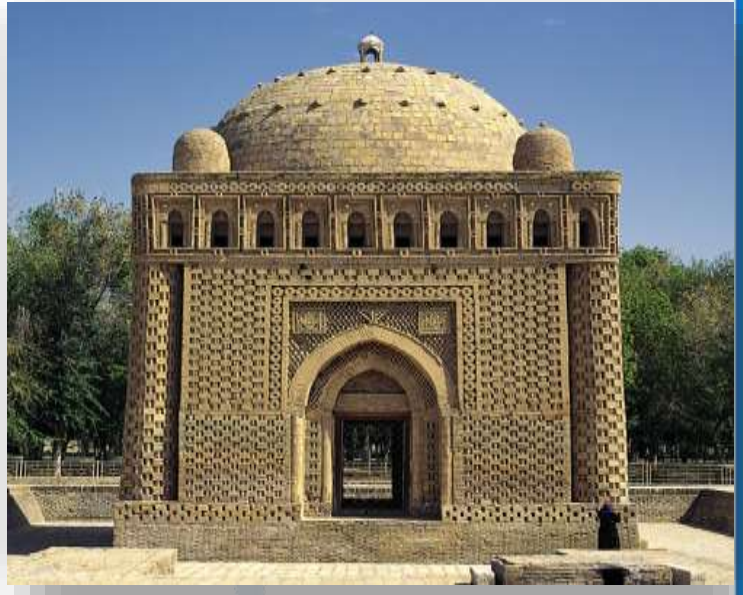
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Annotation. This article analyzes the development of library activities, the scientific and educational environment, and book culture during the Samanid period in the 9th–10th centuries in the regions of Transoxiana and Khorasan. It highlights the role of Bukhara and Samarkand as centers of science, where libraries served as essential sources for scholars, poets, and thinkers, based on historical evidence. Furthermore, the processes of book reproduction, collection, and preservation, as well as the role of libraries in socio-cultural life during the Samanid era, are examined. The findings show that libraries of the Samanid period not only contributed to scientific and educational progress but also laid an important foundation for the Eastern Renaissance

Keywords. Samanids, libraries, scientific and educational environment, book culture, Bukhara, Eastern Renaissance, thinkers, Transoxiana.

Main part: The Samanid era is one of the most significant periods in the history of Central Asia. This dynasty, which ruled in the territories of Transoxiana and Khorasan in the 9th–10th centuries, laid the foundation for the rise of science and culture, which was called the Eastern Renaissance. In particular, Bukhara, as the capital, became not only a political, but also a scientific and educational center. During the Samanid era, the activities of libraries played an important role in strengthening the foundations of the development of science. Respect for books and knowledge, the culture of collecting, organizing and preserving works developed. This process was of great importance not only for local scientists, but also for the intellectuals of the entire Islamic East.

The Samanid rulers continued the most advanced traditions of their time in patronizing scholars, writers, poets and scientists. Especially during the reign of Emir Nasr ibn Ahmad and his son Nuh ibn Mansur, the city of Bukhara became a major scientific center. Madrasahs, mosques and libraries were established here, where many works were collected. At that time, book copying, although based on manual labor, was highly developed. The copied works were often kept in state libraries and private collections. Libraries were enriched not only with religious works, but also with books on philosophy, medicine, mathematics, literature and history.



The palace libraries established in Bukhara were considered one of the richest sources of their time. Scientists had the opportunity to conduct scientific research here, compare their written works, and exchange ideas with other scientists. This situation revitalized the scientific environment and created the basis for the emergence of new ideas. In particular, the direct influence of libraries was felt in the activities of such scholars as Abu Abdullah Rudaki, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Abu Nasr al-Farabi. Historical sources indicate that Ibn Sina used the Bukhara palace library in his youth and read many of the works there. This fact shows how rich and scientifically significant the libraries of the Samanid era were.

Libraries during the Samanid era served as the mainstay of scientific and educational life in society. During this period, libraries were not only a place to store books, but also a center for scientific communication. The books collected in the libraries were open for free use by scientists, which accelerated the process of knowledge exchange. As a result, the Transoxiana region became one of the most advanced scientific centers of the Muslim East. Therefore, the libraries of the Samanid era are considered the foundation of the Eastern Renaissance.

Libraries also existed not only within the palace and madrasah, but also in the personal collections of some wealthy and intelligent people. This indicates the widespread general interest in books and science. In particular, some officials and merchants also had their own personal libraries, which were accessible to many students and young people thirsting for knowledge. The tradition of collecting books and passing them on to future generations was firmly established during the Samanid era.

Along with libraries, book copying workshops also played a significant role in the development of the scientific environment. The copied manuscripts were enriched with various decorations and elegant inscriptions. This process gave books not only scientific but also artistic value. Thus, libraries during the Samanid era played an important role not only in spiritual and educational development, but also in the development of art and literature.

The influence of the Samanid era libraries has been felt for many years. In subsequent centuries, the scientific environment created during this period and the collected works served as the

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basis for scientific centers of other states. Libraries in Khorezm, Ghazni, and Baghdad in particular continued the scholarly traditions that had developed during the Samanid period. This process was a decisive factor in the formation of a high period known as the Eastern Renaissance.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the libraries of the Samanid era played an invaluable role in the development of science, culture and enlightenment. They not only ensured the scientific progress of their time, but also left an indelible mark in history as an integral part of the cultural heritage of the entire Muslim East. Even today, by studying the activities of libraries and the scientific environment of the Samanid era, we can understand the values of our scientific heritage more deeply. This is of great importance in attracting the younger generation to science and enlightenment more broadly.

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