

UDC(UO‘K, УДК): 821

TURKISH AND TURKIC MANUSCRIPTS IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY⁸**Emek ÜŞENMEZ***Associate Professor**Istanbul University**E-mail: emek.usenmez@istanbul.edu.tr***Adambaeva Nargiza Kadambayevna***Translator of article**Associate Professor, Doctor of Philology**Oriental University**Tashkent, Uzbekistan***ABSTRACT**

The British Library's (National Library of England) founding date back to the 1750s. Previously operating within the British Museum, the library was separated from the British Museum through a legal regulation and became an independent structure under the name British Library. Officially opened by the Queen in 1998, the British Library houses more than 150 million documents. The British Library is considered the second largest library in the world in terms of the books and other content it contains. The British Library building is located in central London, right next to St Pancras-Kings Cross station, which is considered a meeting point for national and international train services. There is no catalog prepared for Turkish manuscripts in the British Library that currently contains all Turkish manuscripts in the library. The Turkish manuscript catalogs and brochures prepared in 1888 and 1958 are insufficient for today's researchers. The Turkish manuscripts in the British Library are very diverse. From Göktürk Turkish, representing Eastern Turkic languages as a basis and starting point, to Old Uyghur Turkic, Karakhanid-Khwarazmian-Kipchak Turkic, Chagatai Turkic, and Azerbaijani Turkic, representing Western Oghuz Turkic languages, Old Anatolian Turkic, Ottoman Turkic, and Turkish of Turkey, it is possible to access numerous manuscripts written in these languages. In addition to these, the British Library houses works in almost all Turkic dialects (Bashkir, Uzbek, Tatar, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Chuvash, etc.). This study provides a general overview of Turkish manuscripts in the British Library. It aims to trace the history and development of existing Turkish manuscripts by presenting the history of the library. Turkish manuscripts have been roughly classified according to their period; examples of some manuscripts from the relevant period are presented. Notes on catalog and brochure work on Turkish manuscripts, and how and where the Turkish manuscripts in the library were acquired, are also included. The works have also been classified according to their content. The British Library, with its collection of approximately 4000 Turkish manuscripts covering a wide range of fields such as divans, journals, biographies, decrees, history books, literature, music, astronomy, commentary, the Quran, etc., attracts the attention of researchers in this respect.

KEY WORDS

British Library,
Turkish Manuscripts,
London, England,
Eastern Turkish, Western
Turkish, Charles Pierre
Henry Rieu, Glyn Munro
Meredith-Owens, United
Kingdom.

Received: January 27,
2026**Accepted:** February 30,
2026**Available online:** May
10, 2026

⁸ Original article in: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320570322_British_Library'deki_Turkce_Yazma_Eserler
republished and translated article

For citation (Iqtibos keltirish uchun, для цитирования):

Emek Ü., Adambaeva N. Turkish and Turkic manuscripts in the British library. // Komparativistika (Comparative Studies). — 2026. — Vol.3, № 2(10) — B. 77-118.

BRITANIYA KUTUBXONASIDAGI TURKIY QO'LYOZMALAR

Emek ÜŞENMEZ

*Dotsent**Istanbul universiteti**E-mail: emek.usenmez@istanbul.edu.tr**Adambayeva Nargiza Kadambayevna*

Tarjimon

dotsent, f.f.f.d., Oriental universiteti

Toshkent, O'zbekiston

ANNOTATSIYA

Britaniya kutubxonasi (Angliya milliy kutubxonasi) ning tashkil etilishi XVIII asrning 50-yillariga to'g'ri keladi. Ilgari Britaniya muzeyi tarkibida faoliyat yuritgan kutubxona huquqiy tartibga solish orqali Britaniya muzeyidan ajralib chiqdi va Britaniya kutubxonasi nomi bilan mustaqil tuzilmaga aylandi.

1998-yilda qirolicha tomonidan rasman ochilgan Britaniya kutubxonasida 150 milliondan ortiq hujjat saqlanadi. Britaniya kutubxonasi dunyodagi ikkinchi yirik kutubxona hisoblanadi. Britaniya kutubxonasi binosi London markazida, milliy va xalqaro poyezd qatnovlarining uchrashuv nuqtasi hisoblangan Sent-Pankras-Kings-Kross stantsiyasining yonginasida joylashgan. Britaniya kutubxonasida turk qo'lyozmalari uchun tayyorlangan va hozirda kutubxonadagi barcha turk qo'lyozmalarini o'z ichiga olgan katalog mavjud emas. 1888 va 1958-yillarda tayyorlangan turk qo'lyozma kataloglari va risolalari bugungi tadqiqotchilar uchun yetarli emas. Britaniya kutubxonasidagi turk qo'lyozmalari juda xilma-xildir.

Sharqiy turkiy tillarni asos va boshlang'ich nuqta sifatida ifodalovchi ko'kturk turkchasidan tortib, g'arbiy o'g'uz turkiy tillarini ifodalovchi qadimgi uyg'ur turkchasi, qoraxoniylar-xorazmiylar-qipchoqlar turkchasi, chig'atoy turkchasi, ozarbayjon turkchasi, qadimgi anatoliya turkchasi, usmonli turkchasi, Turkiya turkchasigacha bo'lgan tillarda yozilgan ko'plab qo'lyozmalarga murojaat qilish mumkin. Bularidan tashqari, Britaniya kutubxonasida deyarli barcha turkiy lahjalardagi (boshqird, o'zbek, tatar, qozoq, qirg'iz, chuvash va boshqalar) asarlar saqlanadi.

Ushbu tadqiqotda Britaniya kutubxonasidagi turk qo'lyozmalari haqida umumiy ma'lumot berilgan. U kutubxona tarixini taqdim etish orqali mavjud turk qo'lyozmalarining tarixi va rivojlanishini kuzatishni maqsad qilgan. Turk qo'lyozmalari davriga ko'ra taxminan tasniflangan, tegishli davrga oid ayrim qo'lyozmalardan namunalar keltirilgan. Turk qo'lyozmalari ustida olib borilgan katalog va broshyura ishlari, kutubxonadagi turk qo'lyozmalari qayerdan va qanday qo'lga kiritilganligi haqidagi qaydlar ham berilgan.

Asarlar mazmuniga ko'ra ham tasniflangan. Devonlar, jurnallar, tarjimaiy hollar, farmonlar, tarix kitoblari, adabiyot, musiqa, astronomiya, tafsir, Qur'on va boshqalar kabi keng qamrovli sohalarni qamrab olgan 4000 ga yaqin turkiy qo'lyozmalar kolleksiyasiga ega Britaniya kutubxonasi shu jihatdan tadqiqotchilar e'tiborini tortadi.

KALIT SO'ZLAR

Britaniya kutubxonasi, Turk qo'lyozmalari, London, Angliya, Sharqiy turkcha, G'arbiy turkcha, Charlz Pyer Genri Riu, Glin Manro Meredit-Owens, Buyuk Britaniya.

**ТУРЕЦКИЕ И ТЮРКСКИЕ РУКОПИСИ
В БРИТАНСКОЙ БИБЛИОТЕКЕ**

Emek ÜŞENMEZ

Доцент

Стамбульский университет

E-mail: emek.usenmez@istanbul.edu.tr

Адамбаева Наргиза

Переводчик

доцент, д.ф.н.ф., университет “Oriental”

Ташкент, Узбекистан

АННОТАЦИЯ

Основание Британской библиотеки (Национальной библиотеки Англии) восходит к 1850-м годам. Библиотека, ранее функционировавшая в составе Британского музея, была отделена от Британского музея посредством правового регулирования и стала самостоятельной структурой под названием Британская библиотека. Британская библиотека, официально открытая королевой в 1998 году, хранит более 150 миллионов документов. Британская библиотека считается второй по величине библиотекой в мире по количеству содержащихся в ней книг и другого контента. Здание Британской библиотеки расположено в центре Лондона, в непосредственной близости от станции Сент-Панкрас-Кингс-Кросс, которая считается местом встречи национальных и международных поездов. В Британской библиотеке нет отдельного каталога турецких рукописей, который содержал бы все турецкие рукописи, находящиеся в библиотеке. Каталоги и брошюры о турецких рукописях, подготовленные в 1888 и 1958 гг., недостаточны для современных исследователей, потому что хранящиеся в Британской библиотеке турецкие рукописи очень разнообразны. В библиотеке можно получить доступ к многочисленным рукописям, написанным на различных тюркских языках: от гёк-тюркского тюркского, представляющего в качестве основы и исходного пункта восточные тюркские языки, до древнеуйгурского тюркского, карахандско-хорезмийско-кипчакского тюркского, чагатайского тюркского и азербайджанского тюркского, представляющих западные огузские тюркские языки, древнеанатолийского тюркского, османского тюркского и турецкого языка Турции. Кроме того, в Британской библиотеке хранятся произведения почти на всех тюркских языках (башкирском, узбекском, татарском, казахском, кыргызском, чувашском и др.).

В данном исследовании представлен общий обзор турецких рукописей в Британской библиотеке. В контексте истории библиотеки в нем отражены история турецких рукописей и их развитие. Турецкие рукописи были приблизительно классифицированы по периоду; приведены примеры некоторых рукописей соответствующих периодов. Кроме того, в работе приводятся замечания о каталогах и брошюрах по турецким рукописям, а также о том, как и где были приобретены находящиеся в собрании библиотеки турецкие рукописи. Произведения также были классифицированы по содержанию. Британская библиотека с ее богатой коллекцией, включающей около 4000 турецких рукописей разных жанров и тематики (диваны, журналы, биографии, указы, исторические книги, литература, музыка, астрономия, комментарии, Коран и т. д.), продолжает привлекать к себе внимание исследователей.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА

Британская библиотека, турецкие рукописи, Лондон, Англия, Восточный турецкий, Западный турецкий, Чарльз Пьер Генри Риз, Глин Манро Мередит-Оуэнс, Великобритания.

ABSTRACT

The foundation date of the British Library (The National Library of England) dates back to the 1750s. The library which had previously served in the British Museum was separated from the British Museum through a legal regulation and was brought to an independent structure under the name British Library. The British Library officially opened by the Queen in the year of 1998 contains over 150 million documents. The British Library is regarded as the world's second largest library in terms of books and other contents. The building of The British Library is located in the immediate vicinity of the St. Pancras-Kings Cross station which is considered to be the meeting point of national and international train services in central London.

There are not any catalogs in the British Library prepared for Turkish manuscripts and containing all Turkish manuscripts in the library as of today. The catalogs and brochures in Turkish manuscripts prepared in 1888 and 1958 are not enough for today's researchers. The British Library has a wide variety of Turkish manuscripts. It is possible to find a great number of manuscripts written in the language of Gokturk, Old Uyghur Turkic, the area of Karahanlı-Harezmi-Kipchak representing the East Turkic, and Azerbaijan Turkic, Old Anatolian Turkish, Ottoman Turkish and Turkish Turkish representing Western-Oghuz Turkic from Chagatay Turkic. Apart from these, the British Library has treatises in almost all Turkish dialects (Bashkort, Uzbek, Tatar, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Chuvash, etc.).

In this study the Turkish manuscripts in the British Library are outlined. By presenting the history of the library, it was aimed to follow the navigation and the exploration of current Turkish manuscripts. The Turkish manuscripts are roughly classified according to their own era; some examples from the manuscripts of the relevant period were presented. The catalog and brochure studies about the Turkish manuscripts are also included in the notes on how to obtain the Turkish manuscripts in the library. The works were also classified in terms of their contents. The British Library which has around 4000 Turkish manuscripts written in various fields such as ottoman poetries, journals, a collection of biographies, decrees, history books, literature, music, astronomy, interpretation, Koran has been attracting researchers' attention.

STRUCTURED ABSTRACT

The foundation date of the British Library (The National Library of England) dates back to the 1750s. The library which had previously served in the British Museum was separated from the British Museum through a legal regulation and was brought to an independent structure under the name British Library. The British Library officially opened by the Queen in the year of 1998 contains over 150 million documents. The British Library is regarded as the world's second largest library in

terms of books and other contents. The building of The British Library is located in the immediate vicinity of the St. Pancras-Kings Cross station which is considered to be the meeting point of national and international train services in central London.

There are not any catalogs in the British Library prepared for Turkish manuscripts and containing all Turkish manuscripts in the library as of today. The catalogs and brochures in Turkish manuscripts prepared in 1888 and 1958 are not enough for today's researchers. The British Library has a wide variety of Turkish manuscripts. It is possible to find a great number of manuscripts written in the language of Gokturk, Old Uyghur Turkic, the area of Karahanlı-Harezmi-Kipchak representing the East Turkic, and Azerbaijan Turkic, Old Anatolian Turkish, Ottoman Turkish and Turkish representing Western-Oghuz Turkic from Chagatay Turkic. Apart from these, the British Library has treatises in almost all Turkish dialects (Bashkurt, Uzbek, Tatar, Kazakh, Kirghiz, Chuvash, etc.).

In this study the Turkish manuscripts in the British Library are outlined. By presenting the history of the library, it was aimed to follow the navigation and the exploration of current Turkish manuscripts. The Turkish manuscripts are roughly classified according to their own era; some examples from the manuscripts of the relevant period were presented. The catalog and brochure studies about the Turkish manuscripts are also included in the notes on how to obtain the Turkish manuscripts in the library. The works were also classified in terms of their contents. The British Library which has around 4000 Turkish manuscripts written in various fields such as ottoman poetries, journals, a collection of biographies, decrees, history books, literature, music, astronomy, interpretation, Koran has been attracting researchers' attention.

It is difficult to say a clear thing about the current situation and the number of Turkish manuscripts in the British Library (The National Library of England). It is possible to talk about roughly 4000 manuscripts in Turkish. However, in this number 4000, there are sometimes voluminous ottoman poetries, history books, religious works as well as fragments consisting of only one page or sheet. According to the information obtained from the library, there are about 4000 Turkish manuscripts in the British Library. But we only have access to catalog information of about 1300 of these manuscripts.

An attempt is being made to prepare a catalog in the form of a hand list of all Turkish manuscripts preserved in the British Library. However, this issue has not yet been adequately addressed in terms of reading and cataloging a large number of Ottoman Turkish manuscripts, especially the writings of Chagatay and other Turkish dialects.

It is possible to obtain more comprehensive information about the relevant manuscript in the independent works about the manuscripts kept in the library. The information provided in the current catalog work or manual lists is more limited and more problematic.

The Turkish manuscripts in the British Library vary in their contents. Thousands of manuscripts written in the field of ottoman poetries, Masnavi, journals, medical works, musical works, encyclopedias, history books, diplomatic correspondences, decrees, recollections, geographical works, mathematics, science, astronomy, faith, mysticism, Islam, Bible, Koran, interpretation, politics, grammar, language, literature, anthology are waiting for researchers. The journals and other works within must be carefully studied.

History

The British Library's founding date dates back to the 1750s. The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom. In this text, expressions such as British Library, National Library of England, and National Library of England are used to express the same meaning.

Although the official name of the country is the United Kingdom, the commonly used incorrect term England also refers to the United Kingdom. The legal foundations of the British National Library were laid in 1969. The intention to establish the British Library emerged in the report of the National Libraries Committee established in the British Parliament. In 1971, the official report on this matter was accepted, and the British National Library gained legal status. The British Library Act, presented to Parliament in 1972, was approved by Parliament, but the British Library was only able to begin its active operations on July 1, 1973.

With this legal process, various departments have been added to the British Library, which operates as a part of the British Museum.

The oldest and most famous of these departments is, of course, the Library of the British Museum. One of the oldest and most established departments of the museum, the foundations of this library were laid in 1753. Initially, a printed books department was established, and over the following 200 years, it has become the largest department of the British Museum. This library served as a general library, i.e., a public library. Furthermore, a procedure called "legal deposit" has been implemented for the Library of the British Museum. Individuals or legal entities transfer a copy of their books to the library in exchange for a legal protocol. In this way, the library gains books, and the books of individuals or institutions are legally preserved in the library as a collection.

In this context, the Library of the British Museum possesses some of the world's leading collections. Indeed, the collections of the Soviet statesman Lenin,

dating from the late 19th century, are available to readers in a specially constructed reading room within the Library of the British Museum. It is even said that Lenin donated so many books to the library that their number exceeds those in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The Lenin collection is not considered a legal deposit. The Library of the British Museum contains not only printed books but also a very wide range of materials including music recordings, maps, manuscripts, special collections, and periodicals. Records show that Lenin used the pseudonym Jacob Richter. Besides Lenin, there are also collections belonging to famous figures such as Karl Marx, Charles Dickens, George Bernard Shaw, and Virginia Woolf.

Another unit of the British Library, the Patent Office Library (renamed the National Library of Science and Invention after 1962), was founded in 1855. Its purpose was to ensure legal procedures for making copies of the library's works available for general use, and to prevent illegal printing, copying, etc.

The National Central Library was founded in 1916. Its purpose was to serve students, providing them with books on loan, resources, etc. In 1966, it moved to its new building near the British Museum. The National Lending Library for Science and Technology constitutes the third largest part of the British Library. Established in London in 1916, it moved to Yorkshire in 1961. In 1973, the British Library Lending Division and related units were brought together under one roof. In 1985, the name of the division was changed to the British Library Document Supply Centre. The unit's aim is to provide technical data and support services to libraries across the UK. Orders from within and outside the country, copying services, photocopying, scanning, etc. are handled by the relevant unit. Looking at the figures for the year, it is possible to talk about a very high volume of work.

In 1974, the British Library was divided into two institutions. One was The British National Bibliography, and the other was The Office of Scientific and Technical Information.

From the 1950s onwards, The British National Bibliography functioned as a company, providing services such as publishing, printing, and technical data analysis. The Office of Scientific and Technical Information was a department transferred from the Ministry of Education and Science and became the Research and Development department of the British Library. In 1999, the function of the existing department was transferred from the British Library to the Library and Information Commission, now known as the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

One of the most important departments of the British Library is the India Office Library and Records.

The India Office Library and Records, a unit within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, came under the umbrella of the British Library in 1982. In 1983, when the British Library took over the British Institute of Recorded Sound, the India Office of the Library and Records expanded its collection and volume.

This unit, further enriched with special collections and recordings, was renamed Sounds Archive and is today considered one of the world's leading sound archives.

Today, the British Library, which operates in a highly modern and functional building, has a long history of relocation from the British Museum.

The space problem at the British Museum first emerged in the early 1900s. Finding space and storing millions of books, collections, maps, and newspapers was no easy task. Initially, a separate building was allocated for newspapers, which is now located in Colindale. It operates under the name British Library Newspapers.

During the Second World War, the bombing of London by Germany damaged the collections within the British Museum. Heavy bombing, particularly in the 1940s, caused significant damage to the library. During this time, books and collections were temporarily moved to the Royal Arsenal. Following storage problems in the 1960s, a location was acquired in Bloomsbury, where storage continued until 1967. The annual report prepared in 1973-74 emphasized that the library urgently needed a new location.

Architect Colin St John Wilson worked on a plan for the library building in the 1960s. This plan, intended to be built right next to the British Museum, was not accepted by the local authorities for various reasons. As a result of the final decision, taking into account the size of the library, the number of staff and units, the vacant and spacious area west of St Pancras train station was determined as a suitable site for the new library building. In 1974, the government of the time allocated 6 million pounds for the construction of the library. Due to the inability to reach a consensus on the library plan and similar issues, increasing costs, budget problems, etc., the construction of the British Library building was significantly delayed. The official opening of the library was performed by the Queen in June 1998. The transfer of books and other materials from the British Museum took approximately 3 years.

Library Contents

The British Library is considered the second largest library in the world in terms of the books and other content it contains. Housing more than 150 million documents, the British Library building is located in central London, right next to St. Pancras-Kings Cross station, considered a meeting point for national and international train services. The exterior of the British Library building, which is quite detailed and planned according to its specific usage area, is made of red brick

in accordance with the classic English architectural style. The library also has a large underground storage area. This section is specially designed for book storage. Ordered books are delivered from these underground storage areas to the relevant units via conveyor belts. The minimum waiting time for an ordered book to reach the reading room is 70 minutes.

When you exit Kingscross metro station, one of London's busiest places, where thousands of people pass through every day, the magnificent St. Pancras church, one of the most splendid buildings of the Renaissance era, catches your eye on the main street. This magnificent building now serves as a hotel. To escape the crowds, traffic, and noise of the street, simply step into the British Library gardens. A bronze statue of Newton greets you in the gardens. Immediately to the right, the Science and Congress Center operates independently from the library building. After passing through security at the automatic doors leading to the main building, you'll find an information desk right in front of you. To the left of the entrance is a shop selling various publications and souvenirs. Walking up the stairs to the left, you'll see the exhibition of rare books within the British Library. Here you can find ancient Quran manuscripts, Bibles, Latin works, early English books, recordings of famous musicians, valuable manuscript copies, maps, Far Eastern manuscripts, stamp collections, and many other rare objects. Upon entering the library, in the very center is an inner library made of glass, resembling an elevator cabin from bottom to top. This library was built during the reign of King George III. It contains the books of George (1760-1820).

Turkish Manuscripts in the British Library

The core of the library, enriched by the private collections and support of leading collectors and royal researchers in England, consists of manuscripts and rare collections.

Today, the British Library (National Library of England), one of the leading libraries in the world, houses millions of books and collections. The British Library is extremely important not only for Turks but also for the nations of Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and other continents. Especially after the second half of the 19th century, England, which was striving to dominate the world with its colonial system, showed a special interest in Islamic manuscripts and collections, especially those from the Middle East. Today, there are thousands of manuscripts in the British Library.

Besides manuscripts, the British Library also houses a large number of printed Turkish works.

The number of Turkish works in the library, both printed and manuscript, can be expressed in tens of thousands.

Turkish works are not limited to Turkey, the Balkans, and the Middle East. Manuscripts and printed works from almost every part of the Turkic world are kept in the library. In addition to printed and manuscript works in many Turkic dialects such as Bashkir, Tatar, Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Crimean, Yakut, Chuvash, Uzbek, Turkmen, Azerbaijani, and Karakalpak, thousands of manuscripts written in Göktürk, Uyghur, Karakhanid, Khorezmian, Kipchak, Chagatai, and Ottoman Turkish are also preserved in the British Library. All of these works in the library are referred to under the name of Turkish. In classification studies, expressions such as Ottoman Turkish, Kok Turkish, Uyghur, Chaghatay, and Eastern Turkic are used. The British Library has Turkish works written in almost every alphabet used by the Turks throughout history, including Göktürk (Runic), Old Uyghur, Cyrillic, Arabic, and Latin. Factors such as donations and purchases played a role in acquiring Turkish manuscripts for the British Library. The role of Western orientalists in donations is particularly significant.

Before moving to its current building, the British Library operated within the British Museum. During this time, the Sloane and Harleian libraries, located within the British Museum, formed the core of the Turkish manuscript collection in the present-day British Library. According to information obtained from library data, the British collector Claudius Rich (1787-1820) donated 124 Turkish manuscripts to the library. Among these works is *Kıyasü'l-Enbiyâ*, written in Chagatai Turkish. The Turkish manuscripts collected by Claudius Rich were also compiled in a catalog. The catalog essentially contains works from Add. 7830-7939 in the British Museum. This catalog, containing a total of 109 Turkish manuscripts, forms the basis of the second catalog compiled in 1888 by Charles Pierre Henry Rieu (1820-1902). Claudius Rich, who traveled through Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, is known to have served on a diplomatic mission in Baghdad on behalf of the United Kingdom in the early 19th century. Alexandre Jaba (1801-1894), the Russian consul in Erzurum, was a researcher who studied Orientalism in St. Petersburg. 49 volumes of Turkish manuscripts from Alexandre Jaba's collection, who served in Erzurum between 1848 and 1866, have been transferred to the British Library. Among these manuscripts, *Divans* (collections of poems) hold a significant place. Foremost among these were British orientalists, travelers, and collectors. Many orientalists or diplomats who served in the Ottoman Empire, India, Russia, and the Middle East on behalf of the United Kingdom kept the works they purchased in their personal libraries or donated them to various libraries in the United Kingdom. Osman Oskar Rescher (1884-1972), an orientalist who switched from German to Turkish citizenship and continued his studies in Istanbul, is an important figure among orientalists. He donated a portion of his numerous Arabic, Persian, and Turkish

manuscripts to the British Library. A large part of Osman Oskar Rescher's collection was donated to Yale University and some universities in Germany.

The Scottish orientalist Elias John Wilkinson Gibb (1857-1901) is one of the largest donors of manuscripts to the British Library. Particularly interested in Ottoman works and Divan literature, 320 Turkish manuscripts from his collection were donated to the British Library after his death. (Ferrard, *Encyclopedia of Islam*; 14, pp. 64-66) His printed works were given to Cambridge University. The Turkish Encyclopedia's entry on "Gibb" states that Elias John Wilkinson Gibb's library contained 325 manuscripts in Turkish, Arabic, and Persian; of these, 10 were biographical dictionaries (*tezkire*); 160 were Divans (collections of poems); 19 were Masnavis (narrative poems); and 15 were anthologies. (Turkish Encyclopedia, 1969; 17, pp. 342-343). General Sir Tomkyns Hilgrove Turner (1764-1843) was a British military officer who accompanied the famous Rosetta Stone from Egypt to England.

His son-in-law, Henry Octavius Coxe (1811-1881), was a British scholar and librarian. He initially worked as the curator of manuscripts at the British Museum. Later, Henry Octavius Coxe, who worked at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, can be said to have been influential in bringing the Turkish manuscripts from his father-in-law General Sir Tomkyns Hilgrove Turner's collection to the British Museum and indirectly to the British Library. Another British collector who donated manuscripts to the British Library was Sidney John Alexander Churchill (1862-1921), primarily a British diplomat. He served for many years as the British consul in Iran. Sidney John Alexander Churchill, who was fluent in Persian, donated his manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Hebrew to the British Museum, and indirectly to the British Library. The "Churchill Manuscripts" hold a special place in the library's catalog of Persian manuscripts.

The 12-volume manuscript of the extensive Redhouse Dictionary, compiled by the renowned Turkologist and orientalist Sir James William Redhouse (1811-1892), was transferred from the British Museum to the Turkish manuscripts section of the British Library. In 1935, Rıza Nur (1879-1942) sent all his works to the British Museum with a letter of guarantee. As is known, the manuscripts in the British Museum were later transferred to the British Library. In his letter of guarantee, Rıza Nur requested that his works not be published until 1960. As is known, many authors have donated their works to this library under the legal deposit system implemented by the British Library. It is difficult to say anything definitive about the current status and number of Turkish manuscripts in the British Library. Roughly speaking, it is possible to speak of around 4000 Turkish manuscripts. However, this number of 4000 sometimes includes voluminous divans, history books, religious works, as well as fragments consisting of only a single page or leaf. According to information

obtained from the library, the British Library has approximately 4000 Turkish manuscripts. However, we can only access catalog information for about 1300 of these manuscripts. An initiative is underway to prepare a catalog in the form of a handlist of all Turkish manuscripts preserved in the British Library. However, sufficient work has not yet been started, especially regarding the reading and cataloging of manuscripts in languages other than Ottoman Turkish – such as Chagatai and other Turkic dialects. The Turkish manuscripts in the British Library can be classified chronologically under the following headings according to the historical process of the Turkish language:

1. TURKISH MANUSCRIPTS IN GÖKTÜRK AND UYGHUR SCRIPT.

The Old Turkic manuscripts in the British Library, written in Göktürk and Uyghur scripts, originate from East Turkestan. Marc Aurel Stein (1862-1943), a Hungarian researcher and expert in Asian studies, participated in three different research expeditions to Central Asia between 1900 and 1916. During these expeditions, numerous documents were found in East Turkestan, particularly around Turfan. The Cave of the Thousand Buddhas near Dunhuang was a key point of this expedition. Hundreds of manuscripts, metal objects, paintings, etc., were recovered from this cave. The items obtained as a result of these expeditions, known as the Marc Aurel Stein collection, are now exhibited in museums such as the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in England. Manuscripts and other written documents from the Marc Aurel Stein collection in the British Library are available to readers. According to library records, there are approximately 441 manuscripts written in the Göktürk and Uyghur alphabets. The general Marc Aurel Stein collection mentions approximately 46,944 items⁹. Irk Bitig, an Old Uyghur period work, was also obtained as a result of a research trip by Stein and is now preserved on the shelves of the British Library. (Or. 8212/161)

The manuscript registered under catalog number Or. 8212/108 contains poems written in Old Uyghur Turkish.

Among the fragments in runic script, we can mention the manuscript pieces registered under inventory numbers Or. 8212/161, Or. 8212/104, Or. 8212/1692, Or. 8212/79, Or. 8212/78.

Language / Script	Number of manuscripts / blockprints	Number digitised
‘Phags-pa (script)	2	2
Arabic (language)	2	2

⁹This information was taken from the British Library International Dunhuang Project website:http://idp.bl.uk/pages/collections_en.a4d Accessed: 02.03.2017.

Language / Script	Number of manuscripts / blockprints	Number digitised
Arabic (script)	2	2
Avestan (language)	0	0
Avestan (script)	0	0
Bactrian (language)	0	0
Brahmi (script)	11,778	11,603
Chinese (language)	21,248	13,797
Chinese (script)	21,246	13,795
East Syriac Madnhāyā (Nestorian) script	0	0
English (language)	171	146
Forged items	24	24
French (language)	9	9
Gandhari Prakrit (language)	410	355
German (language)	1	1
Greek (language)	0	0
Greek (script)	0	0
Gupta (script)	9	6
Hebrew (script)	1	1
Hephthalite (script)	0	0
Judeo-Persian (language)	1	1
Kharosthi (script)	429	374
Khitan (language)	0	0
Khitan Large Script	0	0
Khotanese (language)	2,364	2,312
Old Turkic (script)	13	12
Latin (language)	0	0
Manichaean (script)	10	9
Middle Persian (language)	6	4
Mongolian (language)	17	10
Mongolian (script)	15	8

Language / Script	Number of manuscripts / blockprints	Number digitised
Nagari (script)	0	0
New Persian (language)	0	0
Not applicable	66	57
Old Turkic (language)	115	30
Pahlavi (script)	0	0
Pala (script)	0	0
Parthian (language)	5	5
Sanskrit (language)	8,735	8,646
Siddham (script)	2	1
Sogdian (language)	95	64
Sogdian (script)	74	50
Syriac (language)	0	0
Tangut (language)	4,060	3,608
Tangut (script)	4,052	3,599
Tibetan (language)	7,050	4,248
Tibetan (script)	7,062	4,260
Tocharian A (language)	0	0
Tocharian B (language)	1,268	1,262
Tocharian C (language)	0	0
Tumshuqese (language)	5	5
Unidentified (language)	254	227
Unknown (script)	2	1
Uyghur (script)	313	180
Zhang-zhung (language)	0	0
Total	46,944	35,852

A catalog prepared by the British orientalist Lionel David Barnett (1871-1960), a Sanskrit expert, includes some works written in Old Turkic and Uyghur Turkic. This catalog is merely a handbook and is not printed. It is available in the Reading Room of the Asian and African Studies section, located on the third floor of the library. The catalog, which includes all the collection items (Chinese, Tibetan,

etc.) obtained from the Hotan research trips, including those written in Old Turkic-Uyghur Turkic, was published in 2002 (Prods O., 2002).

2. WORKS WRITTEN IN EASTERN TURKIC

After works written in Ottoman Turkish, manuscripts written in Eastern Turkic are the second most numerous in the British Library. The first catalog, prepared by Rieu in 1888, included a total of 39 Eastern Turkic manuscripts. Apart from a few Turkish translations of the Quran that can be included in the Karakhanid-Khwarazmian Turkic period, most of the manuscripts written in Eastern Turkic date from after the 16th century. The majority of these manuscripts, belonging to the Chagatai Turkic language period, are from the late Chagatai Turkic period and were written in the 18th-19th centuries. The Rieu catalog includes a total of 33 Chagatai Turkic/Eastern Turkic works and their descriptions. Of these, 22 are in verse and 11 are in prose. The number of Chagatai works in the library has increased over time.

The Rieu catalog includes a total of 33 Chagatai/Eastern Turkish works and their descriptions. Of these, 22 are in verse and 11 are in prose. The number of Chagatai works in the library has increased over time. These works, which show diversity in subject matter, include divans (collections of poems), masnavis (narratives), collections, medical works, musical works, encyclopedias, history books, diplomatic correspondence, decrees, memoirs, geographical works, works on mathematics, science, astronomy, faith, Sufism, Islam, the Bible, the Quran, commentaries, political treatises, grammar, language, literature, and anthologies. Among the Turkish works preserved in the British Library, the works of Ali Shir Navai, one of the most powerful figures in Chagatai and Turkish literature, hold a special place. Almost all of the Chagatai/Eastern Turkish works classified in the Rieu catalog are from the complete works of Ali Shir Navai. This situation is one of the clearest indicators of the frequency and readability of Ali Shir Navai's works.

While the Rieu catalog, compiled at the end of the 19th century, contained only 33 Chagatai/Eastern Turkish works, this number has increased today, but the situation is too complex to express with a precise figure. According to library data, there are 148 Chagatai/Eastern Turkish works in 75 volumes.

However, let us immediately state that this number is not definitive. Because some collections contain dozens of different works. For example, the collection with catalog number Add. 7914 contains 13 different manuscripts encompassing the works of almost all Chagatai poets. Therefore, the task of identifying and classifying Turkish works within the British Library will take some time.

Works Written in Karakhanid-Khwarazmian-Kipchak (13th-15th Century) Turkish

Among the works preserved in the British Library that can be included in the 13th-15th century Karakhanid-Khwarazmian-Kipchak period, it is possible to mention some interlinear Turkish Quran translations and a few religious works.

Mukaddimetü'l-Edeb/Zemahşerî

This work, Mukaddimetü'l-Edeb/Zemahşerî Or. 1174, consists of 190 folios. It measures 26.5 x 18 cm, and each folio contains 5 lines, each 11.5 cm long. Written in large-sized Naskh script with all vowels, the page edges of the work are not framed. The manuscript is recorded with the date H. 1 Recep 864 (M. 1460). Mahmud b. This work, written by Omar al-Zamakhshari al-Khwarizmi (1075-1144), presents a dictionary containing classified words. Zamakhshari wrote this work with the aim of teaching Arabic to the Turks. The work provides the Persian and Turkish equivalents of an Arabic word.

Muhabbetname/Khwarizmi

Muhabbetname/Khwarizmi is a poetic work written in Khwarezmian Turkish. It was written in 1353 by someone nicknamed Khwarezmi, about whom almost no information is available, at the request of Muhammad Hoca Bey. Two copies exist in the British Library. The first of the copies of the mesnevi called Muhabbetname is in Uyghur script (Or. 8193 160-13) in the collection with catalog number Or. 8193, and the other is in Arabic script (Add. 7914/collection 290-313) Add. It is kept in the journal with catalog number 7914.

Qisas al-Anbiya/Rabguzî (Add. 7851) (Or. 5328)

As the name suggests, this work, which contains stories of the prophets, belongs to the 14th-century Khwarazmian Turkic language. Known as Rabguzî, after the place name Ribat-ı Oğuz, the author wrote the stories of the prophets in a simple language. One of the first prose examples from the Khwarazmian region, the only known copy of Qisas al-Anbiya (Add. 7851) was in the British Library. As a result of our research in the library since 2014, we have learned that another copy of the work is registered under catalog number Or. 5328.

The manuscript registered under catalog number Or. 5328 actually contains two different works. The first work is a summary of Rabguzî's work, while the second work contains the life of Hoca Muhammed Sâdık Kirmânî. Furthermore, in British Library records and catalog information, the terms Khorezmian, Kipchak, or Karakhanid Turkish are unfortunately not used. This work, known to date from the 14th century, is presented in British Library records as a Chagatai Turkish work. This is certainly not an accurate naming and classification. However, the situation

has not changed in an article published in Turkey, and Rabguzî's Kısâsü'l-Enbiyâ is presented as a Chagatai Turkish work instead of a Khorezmian Turkish work.

Works Written in Chagatai Turkish

Mevlana Sekkaki

The British Library, which possesses numerous unique and rare copies, also houses the only known copies of some Turkish manuscripts. Considered one of the principal poets and early representatives of the pre-classical Chagatai Turkish language period, the only known copy of Mevlana Sekkaki's Divan¹⁰, consisting of qasidas and ghazals, is kept in the British Library under catalog number Or. 2079 (Yakup P., 402-412).

Recent research has revealed a second copy of Mevlana Sekkaki's Divan in the Abu Rayhan al-Biruni Library of Oriental Studies at the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, under catalog number P. 7685.

Haydar Kharezmi/Mir Haydar Tilbe

A copy of the mesnevi titled Mahzenü'l-Esrâr (Add. 7914/collection 115-141) by Mir Haydar Tilbe/Haydar Kharezmi, who is estimated to have written in the late 15th and early 15th centuries, is preserved in the collection with catalog number Add. 7914, while a separate copy is kept under catalog number Or. 3941.

Lutfi

The Divan (Add. 7914/collection 158-227) and the mesnevi Gül ü Nevruz (Add. 7914/collection 50-114) of Mevlana Lutfi, considered the greatest poet of the 15th century after Navai, are kept in a collection.

Yusuf Emiri

The manuscripts of the mesnevi Dehnâme (Add. 7914/collection 228-272) and the work Beng ü Çağır (Add. 7914/collection 290-313) of Yusuf Emiri, a 15th-century writer who was the grandson of Timur and one of the courtiers of Baysungur Mirza, are kept in a collection.

Hocendi/Hucendi

Another Chagatai poet, Hocendi, has a masnavi called Letâfetnâme (Add. 7914/collection 142-157) which is preserved in the collection with catalog number Add. 7914.

Seyyid Ahmed Mirza

A descendant of Timur, the only known copy of his 320-verse mesnevi titled Taaşuk-nâme (Add. 7914/collection 273-289), which he presented to his uncle Shahrukh in 1435, is preserved in the collection with catalog number Add. 7914.

¹⁰ M. Isa Waley, Chaghatay Manuscripts in Eastern Turkic languages in the British Library, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library.

Ahmedî

Ahmedî, who lived in the second half of the 14th century and the first half of the 15th century, has the only known copy of a 130-verse mesnevi about the debate of stringed instruments, which is located in the British Library.

The work titled Münazara/Tanburun Stringed Instruments Debate (Add. 7914/collection 314-321) is preserved in the collection with catalog number Add. 7914.

Yakînî

Yakînî, one of the Turkish emirs from Herat, wrote a small work titled “The Debate of the Arrow”, composed in a mixture of prose and poetry. This work is preserved in a mecmua (manuscript collection) with the catalogue number Add. 7914, on folios 314–321.

“Ali Şir Nevâî”

Ali Şir Nevâî, recorded in literature as the most prolific, powerful, and great poet-writer of Chagatai Turkish, wrote 29 works in mixed prose and poetry. It is known that, apart from his Persian divan written under the pseudonym Fânî, his other 28 works were widely read both in his own time and in later periods. We encounter many of Ali Şir Nevâî’s works in libraries in India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Germany, France, Austria, and Ireland. In the British Library in England, it is possible to find nearly his entire corpus. The works of Ali Şir Nevâî found in the library are as follows:

Divans (Or. 401, Or. 1374, Or. 1375, Or. 3492, Add. 7910, Add. 7911, Add. 7912, Add. 7913)

(Hazâinü’l-Maânî)

- Garâibü’s-Sıgar
- Nevâdirü’ş-Şebâb (Or. 1158)
- Bedâyiü’l-Vasat
- Fevâidü’l-Kiber

Hamse (Add. 7908)

- Hayretü’l-Ebrâr (folios 1–41)
- Sedd-i İskenderî (folios 42–113)
- Seb’a-i Seyyâre (folios 114–159)
- Leylî vü Mecnûn (folios 160–193)
- Ferhad ü Şîrîn (folios 194–250)

In another “Hamse” with the catalogue number Or. 400, the masnavi “Hayretü’l-Ebrâr” is not included. Additionally, the order of its contents is different from that of Add. 7908:

- Ferhad ü Şîrîn (folios 194–250)

- Leylî vü Mecnûn (folios 84–133)
- Seb'a-i Seyyâre (folios 134–201)
- Sedd-i İskenderî (folios 202–291)

The masnavi titled Hayretü'l-Ebrâr, which is a part of the Hamse, is preserved independently under the catalogue number Add. 7909; Ferhad ü Şîrîn is preserved under Add. 26325.

Tadhkiras (Biographical works)

Mecâlisü'n-Nefâis (Or. 403, Add. 7875)

Nesâimü'l-Mahabbe (Or. 402)

Religious-moral works

Mahbûbü'l-Kulûb (Or. 2871)

Hüseyin Baykara

Hüseyin Baykara, one of the Timurid sultans who reigned and produced works in the second half of the 15th century, greatly valued figures such as Ali Şir Nevâî and Abdurrahman Câmî / Molla Câmî, and showed closeness to these names in the fields of literature, culture, and arts. Two copies of his Divan, consisting of lyrical poems written under the pseudonym Hüseyinî, are preserved in the British Library under the catalogue numbers Or. 3379 and Or. 3393.

Shiban Khan (Shaybani Khan)

It is observed that Shiban Khan, the ruler of the Shaybanids, produced literary works in the late 15th century and the early 16th century.

In the work titled Risâla-i Ma'ârif, written by Shiban Khan for his son Muhammad Timur Bahadur, the fundamental principles of religion are presented in a clear and understandable language. The work also includes moral advice illustrated through examples from the hikmets (wisdom sayings) of Khoja Ahmed Yesevi and Kul Suleyman Bakirghani (Hakim Ata). The only known copy of Risâla-i Ma'ârif is preserved in the British Library under catalog number Or. 12956.

The only known manuscript of Shiban Khan's religious-ethical masnavi Bahr al-Hudâ, composed in 1508, is preserved in a collection in the British Library under catalog number Add. 7914 (mecnua, folios 314–321).

Muhammad Salih

Although the exact dates of his birth and death are unknown, it is known that he lived in the second half of the 15th century and the early 16th century. He was from Khwarezm and came from a distinguished family.

He was a literary figure who served in the courts of two prominent figures of Chagatai literature - both rulers - Husayn Bayqara and Shiban Khan. After leaving the service of Husayn Bayqara and joining Shiban Khan, he was granted the

titles “Amīr al-‘Ulamā” (Leader of the Scholars) and “Malik al-Shu‘arā” (King of Poets) by Shiban Khan.

In his work Shaybānīnāma, a poetic chronicle written in the masnavi form and considered one of the important historical sources of the period, he narrates the life and battles of Shiban Khan between 1499 and 1506. The only known copy of this work is preserved in the Austrian National Library under catalog number 1156. However, a manuscript preserved in the British Library under catalog number Or. 3222, recorded as Shaybānī-nāmah, is a prose history of Turkestan. This work, copied in Bukhara in the 16th century, consists of 149 folios.

BaburShah

Gazi Zahir al-Din Muhammad Babur Shah, who ruled the Babur State in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, is one of the prominent figures of Chagatai literature. He gained worldwide fame particularly in the field of memoir literature. His work, written in the form of memoirs and known as the Baburnama (Vekayi / Vaqi‘at), is preserved in the British Library under catalog number Add. 26324. Written in a simple and sincere style, this work is considered a masterpiece of Turkish memoir literature and Chagatai prose. It is one of the most important historical sources concerning the events of its time. Through this work, it is possible to understand not only the political events of the period but also its social and cultural life, as well as its worldview.

Ubaydullah Khan

Ubaydullah Khan, the nephew of Shiban Khan and one of the Shaybanid rulers, composed poems under the pen names Ubaydī and Qul Ubaydī. His Divan, consisting of these poems, is preserved under catalog number Add. 7907.

Abu'l-Ghazi Bahadur Khan

In the second part of the manuscript with catalog number Add. 11725, the work Shajara-i Tarākima is included. The British Library is a highly rich source in terms of the Chagatai works it contains.

Major Chagatai Dictionaries in the British Library

The principal Chagatai dictionaries and their catalog numbers are as follows:

- Abushka Lughat / al-Lughāt al-Nawā’iyya (Add. 7886)
- Fazlullah Khan Lughat / Lughat-i Turkī (Add. 6646)
- Lughat-i Turkī / Turkmen ibn Bayram Ali (Or. 1912)
- Kitāb-ı Zabān-ı Turkī / Kelürnāme (Or. 1912)
- Senglāh Lughat (Or. 2892)
- Alfāz-ı Jalīyya fī Bayān al-Lughāt al-Turkiyya / Khoja Tayyib Bukhari Naqshbandi (Add. 16759)

3. Works Written in Western Turkish

The Turkish works in the British Library are classified under the title “Turkish and Turkic manuscripts.”

The term Turkish refers to texts written in Ottoman Turkish, while Turkic broadly refers to Eastern Turkish/Chagatai and modern Turkic languages (such as Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, etc.), including both manuscripts and some printed works. Texts written in Göktürk and Uighur scripts are classified as Old Turkish. Another noteworthy point is that Eastern Turkish/Chagatai texts are sometimes recorded as Eastern Turkish. This suggests that the classification of works in the library has not always been carried out using precise terminology. While Eastern Turkish refers to Chagatai texts, Western Turkish - considered to begin with Old Anatolian Turkish and Ottoman Turkish is generally referred to as Ottoman Turkish.

Azerbaijan –Tabriz Region

The Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin (Or. 4126), whose only manuscript copy is preserved in the British Library, holds great importance for both Turkish and Azerbaijani language and literature.

Works such as the Divan of Shah Ismail Khatai (Or. 3380) and the Divan of Kavsī (Add. 7927) represent the Azerbaijan –Tabriz branch of Western Turkish.

The Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin (Or. 4126)

Kadı Burhaneddin is a poet who made significant contributions to the development of Turkish literature in the 14th century. In addition to Turkish, he was proficient in Arabic and Persian, and he was also a judge (qadi), a scholar, and a statesman.

The only known manuscript of the Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin, written 624 years ago, was taken to London among the books of Thomas Fiott Hughes, who worked at the British Embassy in Istanbul, and is currently preserved in the British Library (Or., no. 4126). This copy was transcribed in 796 AH (1393–94 CE) by one of Kadı Burhaneddin’s scribes, Halil b. Ahmed. The manuscript is vocalized and written in a fine Seljuk naskh script.

It is particularly important that the Divan was copied during the poet’s lifetime. The opening pages are illuminated, and the folios are ruled. The Divan consists of ghazals (pp. 1-581), rubā’īs (pp. 582-585), and tuyughs (pp. 586–608), containing over 1,300 ghazals, twenty rubā’īs, and 115 tuyughs. The work is not arranged in the classical order; rather, the poems appear to have been organized according to the order in which they were written. Kadı Burhaneddin did not use a poetic pen name (takhallus) in his poems.

The first study on the Divan was conducted in 1895 by the Russian orientalist P. Melioransky, who translated and published twenty rubā'īs and twelve tuyughs into Russian. Later, Elias John W. Gibb examined the poet's literary personality and provided examples of his poetry. F. F. Godsell published four ghazals along with all the rubā'īs and tuyughs, accompanied by a preface by Cenab Şahabeddin (Istanbul, 1922).

A facsimile edition of the Divan was published by the Turkish Language Association (Istanbul, 1944), and its critical edition was prepared by Muharrem Ergin (Istanbul, 1980). Ali Alparslan's work titled Selections from the Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin (Ankara, 1977) includes an extensive study of the poet along with 100 ghazals, seven rubā'īs, and eighteen tuyughs with commentary.

The poet's language belongs to the Azerbaijan branch of Old Anatolian Turkish. As one of the limited surviving works representing the linguistic material of this period, the Divan is of great importance.

The Divan of Shah Ismail Khatai (Or. 3380)

This is a collection of poems by Shah Ismail, the Safavid ruler and a poet-king like Jahan Shah (Hakiki) of the Qara Qoyunlu. Using the pen name Khatai, Shah Ismail is a significant figure for the Turkish of the Azerbaijan–Tabriz region.

The manuscript consists of 83 folios, measuring 24 × 16 cm, with each folio containing 12 lines of approximately 7 cm in length. Written in an elegant style in nasta'liq script, the manuscript is composed on paper painted red and sprinkled with gold. The margins are framed with golden lines. Bound in decorated leather, the manuscript was copied in the 16th century.

The Divan of Hakiki (Or. 9493)

This is a collection of poems by Jahan Shah, one of the Qara Qoyunlu rulers and a poet-king. The manuscript, copied in 893 AH (1487-88 CE), is written in both Turkish and Persian. It is an important source for examples of 15th-century Azerbaijan –Tabriz poetic language.

The Divan of Kavsī (Add. 7927)

This manuscript consists of 119 folios, measuring 20.5 × 14 cm, with each folio containing 15 lines of approximately 10 cm in length. Written in a connected style resembling shikasta script, the manuscript is thought to have been copied in the 18th century.

Menāqib-i Sultān al-Awliyā (Or. 5772)

The work titled Menāqib-i Sultān al-Awliyā is a copy written in Azerbaijani Turkish of the manuscript catalogued as Or. 7576.

Layla and Majnun (Add. 7936)

Within a manuscript collection copied in the 18th century, there is a masnavi titled Layla and Majnun, written in Azerbaijani Turkish, located between folios 108–115. There is no record of the author or the scribe anywhere in the manuscript, and thus the authorship of the work remains unknown.

Turkmen Literary Sphere

Mahtumkulu Firaki / The Divan of Mahtumkulu (Or. 11414)

Mahtumkulu Firaki (1724–1807), the national poet of the Turkmens, was born in 1724 in the Turkmensahra (Khorasan) region. He was the son of Devlet Mehmet Azadi, who was also a poet.

Mahtumkulu received his education in madrasas in Bukhara and Khiva, where he learned Arabic and Persian. Having studied in various madrasas across the Turkestan region, he completed his higher education at the Shirgazi Madrasa in Khiva.

The Divan containing the poems of the 18th-century Turkmen national poet Mahtumkulu is preserved in the British Library under catalog number Or. 11414.

Old Anatolian Turkish (13th–15th centuries)

Old Anatolian Turkish, which constitutes one of the important stages of the Turkish language, represents the first phase of Western Turkish. It holds a particularly significant place for tracing the early development of the Oghuz written language.

Before presenting the catalog information of the major works belonging to the Old Anatolian Turkish / Western Turkish period preserved in the British Library, it is useful to briefly review this period and the historical development of Western Turkish.

Old Anatolian Turkish emerged as a literary written language based on the Oghuz dialect. Following the migration of Oghuz-Turkmen tribes from Turkestan to Anatolia under Seljuk rule, Oghuz-Turkmen dominance began in Anatolia from the 11th century onward.

These migrations had already begun before the Seljuk Sultan Alp Arslan's victory in the Battle of Manzikert, but intensified significantly after this triumph. Increasing pressure from the Karakhanids and Ghaznavids in Turkestan also led to a greater influx of Oghuz-Turkmen groups into Anatolia.

The Turks who settled in Anatolia established their own cultural identity. As a result of these migrations that began in the 11th century, a literary written language based on the Oghuz dialect emerged and developed in Anatolia. This language,

which produced its first written examples in the 13th century and continued until the end of the 15th century, is called Old Anatolian Turkish¹¹.

Old Anatolian Turkish is divided into three sub-periods:

- a. The Seljuk Period
- b. The Anatolian Beyliks Period
- b. c. Transition Period to Ottoman Turkish¹²

Faruk Kadri Timurtaş treats Old Anatolian Turkish somewhat differently from the general classification. He basically divides it into two parts, historical and modern, within Turkish of Turkey. He includes Old Anatolian (Turkish) in the first group, that is, the first period of Historical Turkish of Turkey, and classifies the written language, which is based on Oghuz Turkish and formed in the Anatolian region, as follows:

I- Historical Turkish of Turkey (13th-20th centuries)

1. Old Turkish of Turkey (13th-15th centuries):
 - a. Old Anatolian Turkish (13th century)
 - b. Old Ottoman Turkish (14th-15th century)
2. Ottoman Turkish (16th-20th centuries):
 - a. Classical Ottoman Turkish (16th-mid-19th century)
 - b. New Ottoman Turkish (Mid-19th century - Early 20th century)

II- New Turkish (20th century)

Faruk Kadri Timurtaş approaches the subject from a different perspective when defining Old Anatolian Turkish. Timurtaş characterizes the 11th and 12th centuries as the Transitional Period or Middle Turkish. He states that the Ottoman

¹¹Various terms have been used for Old Anatolian Turkish. While Westerners used the term Old Ottoman (Altosmanische) for this period of the language, Faruk Kadri Timurtaş preferred the designation Old Turkish of Turkey. Usages such as Seljuk language and Seljuk texts are also encountered. The term Seljuk language was used by Reşit Rahmeti Arat in his article titled "Classification of Turkish Dialects" (Reşit Rahmeti Arat, "Türk Şivelerinin Tasnifi", *Türkiyat Mecmuası*, 1953, p. 114). Similarly, Johannes Benzing and Karl Heinrich Menges characterized 13th-century texts as Seljuk texts (Johannes Benzing and Karl Heinrich Menges, "Classification of Turkish Dialects", *Tarihî Türk Şiveleri* [editors: Mehmet Akalın, translator: R. Küçükboyacı], Sevinç Matbaası, Ankara, 1979, p. 3). Ahmet Bican Ercilasun, on the other hand, expresses the view that the term Old Oghuz Turkish would be healthier because it is more inclusive and comprehensive, and he proposes the use of this term. However, the most widely used among these designations is Old Anatolian Turkish. For detailed information on the subject, see: Ahmet Bican Ercilasun, *Başlangıçtan Yirminci Yüzyıla Türk Dili Tarihi*, 7th Edition, Ankara, 2009, pp. 429-430. In his article titled "Classification of Turkish Dialects" (*Türkiyat Mecmuası*, Volume 10, 1953, pp. 59-139), Reşit Rahmeti Arat, under the section "Oghuz-Seljuk", states that this period represents the linguistic period that came after the earlier Oghuz-Turkmen, and that the Seljuk language, Old Ottoman, and contemporary Turkish dialects are included in this section. See: Reşit Rahmeti Arat, "Türk Şivelerinin Tasnifi", *Türkiyat Mecmuası*, Volume 10, 1953, p. 114.

¹²This classification is a general classification made for Old Anatolian Turkish.

and Azerbaijani Turkish dialects, which emerged from the 13th century onwards, constitute Western Turkish, but that these two dialects diverged in the 14th century. He also notes that the first period of Ottoman Turkish, which includes Seljuk Turkish and continued until the middle of the 15th century, was formerly generally called “Old Ottoman Turkish”, but that the terms “Old Anatolian Turkish” and “Old Ottoman Turkish”, which have been widely used recently, are not very accurate. Faruk Kadri Timurtaş argues that the term “Old Ottoman Turkish” is inappropriate because it does not encompass the Seljuk period, and that it would be more accurate to call this period “Old Turkish of Turkey” (Timurtaş, 1994, p. VIII).

Ahmet Caferoğlu, in his work “History of the Turkish Language” did not address the topic of Old Anatolian Turkish in the section on Oghuz Turkish. In this section, Caferoğlu states that the Oghuz dialect was the second literary language alongside Karakhanid-Hakanian Turkish, that Mahmud al-Kashgari gave the characteristics of the Oghuz Turkish of that period, and that the migration of the Oghuz from Turkestan to Anatolia and the inconsistent, strange, and very different views of European scholars about the Oghuz were discussed (Caferoğlu, 2000, 42-44).

The starting and ending points are the 13th and 15th centuries. The Old Anatolian Turkish language period, considered to be centuries old, holds an important place in the Turkish language in terms of authors and the works produced. This period is the first phase of Western Turkish and enabled the formation of literary Turkish based on the Oghuz dialect in the Anatolian region. Turks migrating westward from Turkestan created a different language period in a different geography. This covers a period of approximately 200 years. The Old Anatolian Turkish language period is quite rich in terms of authors and works. During this period, numerous original and translated works were produced in Turkish. The poetic and prose works produced by authors such as Ahmed Fakih, Yunus Emre, Aşık Paşa, Hoca Mesud, Ahmedî Dai, Ahmedî, Hatiboğlu, and Şeyhi shed light on the Old Anatolian Turkish language period. Generally covering the period from the beginning of the 13th century to the end of the 15th century, not all of the linguistic relics of this period have survived to our hands.

There are many poets and writers who created works in Old Anatolian Turkish. However, most of their works have not survived to the present day. Or, many of the existing works are kept in libraries outside of Turkey. Names such as Aşık Paşa, Yunus Emre, Ahmedî, Sultan Veled, Hoca Mesud, Hoca Dehhani, Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, Gülşehri, Ahmed Fakih, Kadı Burhaneddin, Şeyhi, Ahmed-i Dai, and Hatiboğlu are among the leading poets and writers of this period.

Some manuscripts from the Old Anatolian Turkish period kept in the British Library are:

Sultan Veled (1226/1235?-1312) and his Turkish poems (Or. 14564)

Sultan Veled (ks) is the eldest son of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi (ks). Born in Lârende (Karaman), Sultan Veled received a good education from his father and Shams-i Tabrizi. “Especially, Shams-i Tabrizi had a great influence on him. When Shams fled to Damascus in 643/1245, it was Sultan Veled who brought him to Konya to his father’s side” (Mecdut M., 1958, 1). Advancing in both exoteric and esoteric knowledge, Sultan Veled “became the sheikh of the Mevlevi order after the death of the first sheikh of the Mevlevi order, Çelebi Hüsameddin, and skillfully fulfilled this important duty until his death (712/1312).” (Özkan, 2004, 98)

Sultan Veled, who essentially wrote in Persian, has a considerable number of Turkish poems in his works. His Turkish poems, found in works such as Divan, İbtidâname, and Rebâbname, were first compiled and published by Veled Çelebi and Kilisli Muallim Rifat (Kilisli R., 1341-1923). According to information provided by Mecdut Mansuroğlu, İbtidâname contains 76 couplets; Rebâbname contains 162; and Divan (129 couplets) contains Turkish-Persian, Turkish-Persian-Greek ghazals (Mecdut M., 10-13).

Sultan Veled - Turkish Poems (Or. 14564)

This work, consisting of 32 folios, measures 33 x 21 cm. The manuscript is a compilation of Turkish poems written by Sultan Veled, the son of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, compiled by Franz Taeschner. Sultan Veled - Rebâbnâme (Or. 14565) This work, consisting of 20 folios, measures 32.5 x 21 cm. It is a handwritten manuscript of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi’s son, Sultan Veled’s Persian Rebâbnâme, compiled by Franz Taeschner from a Turkish translation.

Âşık Paşa - Garib-nâme (Or. 14383)

This is a religious and mystical work written by Âşık Paşa of Kırşehir in 1330. It is one of the most important Turkish works written in Anatolia in the 8th century.

This work, a type of mesnevi (narrative poem), is among the previously unmentioned manuscripts in the British Library. Consisting of 332 folios, it measures 25 x 16 cm, with 17 lines per folio. The poet Ali b. Muhlis al-Kırşehirî Written in ten parts by Âşık Paşa (733/1333). The surviving copy was transcribed in Naskh script by Mehmed b. Mahmûd al-Hârendi in 850 AH (1446-7 AD).

Âşık Paşa-Garib-nâme (Or. 14571)

This work, consisting of 361 folios, measures 26.5 x 16.5 cm, and each folio contains 15 lines. The work, titled Garibnâme, is a didactic mesnevi written by Ali b. Muhlis Kırşehirî. The surviving copy was transcribed in Naskh script with all

vowels by Mustafa bin Abdullah in 848 AH (1444 AD). The work is bound in the Seljuk style.

Ahmed Fakih - Kitâbu Evsâf-ı Mesâcidü'ş Şerîfe

One of the works written by Ahmed Fakih is Kitâbu Evsâfı Mesâcidi'ş-Şerîfe. The only known copy of the work is kept in the British Museum Turkish Manuscripts Collection No. 984713. This work, which is more comprehensive and voluminous than Çarhnâme, is written in vocalized Naskh script and consists of 21 folios. The work deals with Ahmed Fakih's impressions of his pilgrimage to Mecca with his friends. Ahmed Fakih, who describes cities such as Damascus, Jerusalem, Mecca, and Medina, put his impressions of these holy places into verse.

In the work, the poet loved the city of Jerusalem very much and stayed there for two months after his pilgrimage. Ahmed Fakih, upon his return, gifted this work, in which he recounted his impressions of his Hajj pilgrimage, to his friends who were unable to go on the pilgrimage and advised them to also go on the pilgrimage. (Mazıoğlu, 1974, 13)

Ottoman Period (16th-19th Centuries)

The Ottoman period occupies a large space among the manuscripts written in Western Turkish preserved in the British Library. Among thousands of prose and poetry manuscripts, literature, history, language, grammar, lexicography, politics, religion, Sufism, jurisprudence, the Quran, Quranic commentaries, music, astronomy, etc., stand out. In the field of poetry and literature, Divans undoubtedly come first. In addition to classical Divan poets, 18th and 19th-century Ottoman poetry examples occupy the top spot in the British Library's catalog of Turkish manuscripts. Poetry examples with a strong religious and Sufi focus are frequently seen. Necati Divan (Add. 7929), Mesihî Divan (Or. 1152), Garamî Divan (Or. 1148), Kütahyalı Rahimî Divan (Or. 1149), Bakî Divan (Add. 7922), Fuzulî Divan (Or. 406, Add. 7916, Add. 7917), Haletî Divan (Add. 19447), Sheikhülislam Yahya Divan (Or. 2835), Fehim Divan/Divan-ı Fehim (Add. 7924), Nabi Divan (Or. 407, Add. 7920, Or. 1161), Nailî Divan (Add. 7919), Bosnalı Sabit Divan (Or. 1160), Nedim Divan The following divans (or. 2836), Şeyh Galip Divan (Add. 23985), Nef'î Divan (Add. 7935), Usulî Divan (Add. 7917), Hevâî Divan (Or. 3290), Sırrî Divan (Or. 3290), İshak Çelebi Divan (Or. 1154), Azmizâde Hâletî Divan, Kâfzâde Fâizî (Or. 1156), Riyazî Divan (Or. 1156), etc., also represent the Ottoman-Istanbul field of Western Turkish. The official correspondence of the Ottoman State, which is world-renowned in the field of diplomatic correspondence, such as imperial

¹³The catalog number for the artwork was mistakenly given as Or. 9848 in the previously provided information. The correct number is Or. 9847.

decrees, edicts, and charters, are texts that have not been extensively studied until now.

Even solely for these works, which constitute the pinnacle of diplomatic correspondence, the British Library holds a significant place in terms of Ottoman history, language, and culture. In the British Library, history books are among the most valuable works written in the field of Ottoman studies. Copies of numerous works shedding light on Ottoman history, such as Peçevî History, Naimâ History, Tarih-i Râşid, Âşık Paşazâde History, Nişancı History, and others, are preserved in this library. Following divans (collections of poems), biographical dictionaries of poets hold an important place among works in the field of Ottoman studies. In particular, valuable copies of works such as Âşık Çelebi Tezkire, Tezkire-i Latîfî, Kınalîzâde Tezkire, and Tezkire-i Mevlevî are preserved in the British Library.

Works in Terms of Content

The Turkish manuscripts in the British Library show great diversity in terms of content. Divans, masnavis, collections, medical works, musical works, encyclopedias, history books, diplomatic correspondence, decrees, memoirs, geography works, mathematics, science, astronomy, faith, Sufism, Islam, the Bible, the Quran, commentaries, political treatises, grammar, language, literature, anthologies, and biographies thousands of manuscripts await researchers. In general terms, we can group the relevant manuscripts under the following headings:

Works Written in the Field of Music

Or. 7251

The manuscript, copied in the 19th century, contains a collection of songs.

Or. 7252

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains a collection of songs classified according to their modes and melodies.

Or. 7253

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains a collection of songs.

Or. 7254

The manuscript, copied in the 18th and 19th centuries, contains a smaller collection of songs compared to similar works.

Or. 8040

The manuscript contains a collection compiled from popular songs.

Or. 8041

Treaties and Edicts

Or. 12216.

The manuscript, copied in 1241 AH (1826-27 AD), contains a decree authorizing a Russian ship, commanded by Captain Ippolit Sevelin, to pass through the Dardanelles customs.

Or. 11688.

The manuscript, copied in 1256 AH (1840-41 AD), contains a decree concerning the Jewish community in Istanbul.

Lansdowne Roll, 23.

The paper roll, measuring 167 x 35.5 cm, contains 21 lines, each 24 cm long. Written in the regular Divani script, the page edges are not framed.

The manuscript is dated 982 AH (1574 AD). It was issued by Sultan Selim II to Holy Roman Emperor Philip II. The letter addressed to Maximilian bears the sultan's gold-gilded tughra at the top.

Cotton Roll, xiv. 10.

The paper roll, measuring 335 x 39.5 cm, contains 92 lines, each 26.5 cm long. Written in the regular Divani script, the page edges are not framed.

The manuscript is dated H. Zilhicce 1012 (M. 1604).

The letter written by Sultan Ahmed I to Queen Elizabeth of England guarantees that the previously agreed treaties between the two countries will continue during his reign.

The sultan's Nişan-ı Şerif (Imperial Order) and gold-gilded tughra are at the top of the letter.

Or. 3338.

The paper roll, measuring 175x42 cm, contains 75 lines, each 33 cm long.

Written in regular Divani script, the page edges are not framed. The manuscript is dated H. 1023 (M. 1614).

It is a copy, reproduced for preservation purposes, of the agreement between Sultan Ahmed I and James I, which guaranteed English trade (capitulations) in Turkish territories.

Sloane 3255.

The paper roll, measuring 205x50 cm, contains 93 lines, each 43 cm long.

Written in Divani script, the page edges are not framed. The manuscript is dated H.

1051 (M. 1641). This is a copy of the Ahdnâme or unilateral treaty signed by Sultan Ibrahim at the request of the envoy of King Charles I of England.

Works Written in the Field of History

Or. 10951

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains the work titled *Tevârih-i Âl-i Osmân*, which was created with excerpts from *Cihânnümâ* and *Âşıkpaşazâde History*.

Or. 9266

The manuscript, copied in 1013 AH (1604 AD), is the Turkish copy of *Behçetü't-Tevârih* and was written by Mustafa Fârisî.

Or. 9318

The manuscript, copied in 1183 AH (1769 AD), contains the work titled *Tarîh-i İzzî*.

Or. 6672

This is a copy of the *Nâimâ History*, written in the 18th century.

Or. 6691

The work, titled *Târih-i Temeşvâri*, contains the second part of Mehmed Edib Efendi's *History*, from 1789 to 1792.

Or. 9470

The manuscript, copied in 1144 AH (1732 AD), contains the work titled *Tarîh-i Râşid*.

Cosmology and Geography

Or. 4131

The manuscript, copied in the 17th century, contains the work titled *Bahriye*, consisting of maps written by Piri Re'is.

Or. 7164

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains the work entitled *Tuhfetü'l-Haremeyn*, consisting of maps written by Nâbi.

Or. 7304

The manuscript, copied in 1047 AH (1637-38 AD), contains the Turkish translation by Mehmet b. Mustafa of the work entitled *Harîdetü'l-'Acâ'ib*, originally written by Ibn al-Wardi, which is a work on geography, topography, and natural history.

Encyclopedias

Or. 5767.

The manuscript, copied in the 16th century and consisting of 125 folios, contains only a section related to medicine from a work that was originally an encyclopedia.

Or. 7335.

The manuscript, copied in 1011 AH (1602-03 AD), contains Nevî's encyclopedic work on science, entitled *Netâ'icü'l-Fünûn*.

Or. 8446.

The manuscript, copied in 1079 AH (1668-69 AD), contains a different copy of Nevî's encyclopedic work, *Netâ'icü'l-Fünûn*, which he wrote about science, coded Or. 7335.

Medical Works

Or. 10954.

The manuscript, copied in 1106 AH (1694-95 AD), contains Nida'î's work, *Menâfi'un-Nâs*, which he wrote about diseases and their treatments.

Or. 11062.

The manuscript, copied in 1264 AH (1847-48 AD), contains Osman b. It contains Abdurrahman's work, *Kitâbü'l-Nebât*, which he wrote about treatment with plants.

Or. 11063.

The manuscript, copied in 1094 AH (1683-84 AD), contains some studies written on medicine.

Or. 11064.

The manuscript, copied in 1022 AH (1613-14 AD), contains Musa b. Hacı Hüseyin b. Ali's work, *Münebbihü'r-Râkidîn*, which he wrote about the organs of the body and the possible diseases these organs may encounter.

Works Written in the Field of Mathematics

Or. 7308.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains the work entitled *Risâle-i Habîb* or *Vâfiyetü'l-Avkât*, written by Selimi about the curved quarter circle.

Or. 7988.

The manuscript, copied in 950 AH (1543-44 AD), contains the work entitled *Umdetü'l-Hisâb*, written by Nasûh el-Silâhi el-Matrâki about arithmetic.

Or. 11133.

The manuscript, copied in 1154 AH (1741-42 AD), contains a passage taken from a work on geometry.

Or. 12095.

The manuscript, copied in 1111 AH (1699-1700 AD), contains the work entitled *Hendese-i 'Atik*, a mathematical work written by Muhâsib Çelebi Abdurrahim Ebu Bekr Maraşî.

Dictionaries

Or. 3653

The manuscript, copied in 948 AH (1541-42 AD), contains the work of Lütfullah b. It contains the incomplete work of Ebi Yusuf al-Halimi, a Persian-Turkish dictionary entitled *Bahru'l-Garâ'ib* or *Lûgat-i Halîmî*.

Or. 5097

The manuscript, copied in 1163 AH (1749-50 AD), contains the Turkish-Persian dictionary entitled *Vasîlatü'l-Makâsid*, prepared by Kâtib Rüstem.

Or. 7003.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains the work entitled *Tuhfe-i Şâhidî*, a Persian-Turkish dictionary with French explanations written in verse form.

Examples of Munsha'at

Or. 6304

The manuscript copied in 1101 AH (1689-90 AD) contains Nergisî's work titled *Münşeât*.

Or. 7123

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the work titled *Münşe'ât-ı Kânî*.

Or. 7140.

The manuscript copied in the 19th century contains a different copy of the work titled *Münşe'ât-ı Kânî*.

Or. 7159.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the work titled *Münşe'ât-ı Nâbî*.

Or. 7160

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains a different copy of the work titled *Münşe'ât-ı Nâbî*.

Or. 7161

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains a different copy of the work titled *Münşe'ât-ı Nâbî*.

Or. 7291

The manuscript copied in the 18th century is titled *İnşâ* and contains examples on letter writing.

Divans and Collections¹⁴

Or. 4126.

The manuscript copied in 796 AH (1393-94 AD) contains the Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin.

Or. 4127.

The manuscript copied in 843 AH (1439-40 AD) contains the Divan of Ahmedî.

Or. 5483.

The manuscript copied in the 19th century contains the Divan of Nedim and the Divan of İzzet Paşa.

¹⁴The Divans listed here are for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute the complete and essential works.

Or. 6295.

The manuscript copied in the 19th century contains the poems of Niyâzi Mısrî.

Or. 6440.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Rahmi Efendi of Crimea.

Or. 6890.

The manuscript copied in the 19th century contains the Divan of Servet Efendi.

Or. 7071.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Baki.

Or. 7072.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Ahmed Pasha and the Divan of Nadirî.

Or. 7073.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Ahmed Pasha, along with miniatures.

Or. 7078.

The manuscript, copied in the 17th and 18th centuries, contains the Divan of Nef'i, the Divan of Adnî, and the Divan of Veysî.

Or. 7084.

The manuscript, copied in the 17th century, contains the Divan of Bâki, along with miniatures.

Or. 7090.

The manuscript, copied in the 19th century, contains the Esrar Dede Collection along with aphorisms from Yunus Emre and Plato.

Or. 7101.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Fuzûlî.

Or. 7102.

The manuscript copied in 1061 AH (1650-51 AD) contains a different copy of the Divan of Fuzûlî.

Or. 7125.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Hüdâyi (Mahmud Helvacızâde).

Or. 7126.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Muhibbî and the Divan of Hüdâyi (Mahmud Helvacızâde).

Or. 7128.

The manuscript copied in 1205 AH (1790-91 AD) contains the Divan of Ibrahim Hakki and the Divan of Sezayi.

Or. 7137.

The manuscript copied in the 16th century contains the Divan of Cem Sultan.

Or. 7146.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Hayâlî Bey.

Or. 7148.

The manuscript copied in 937 AH (1530-31 AD) contains the Divan of Lâmi'î.

Or. 7162.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Nâbî.

Or. 7163.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains a different copy of Nâbî's Divan.

Or. 7166.

The manuscript copied in 1122 AH (1710-11 AD) contains Nâ'ilî's Divan.

Or. 7167.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains a different copy of Nâ'ilî's Divan.

Or. 7169.

The manuscript copied in the 17th and 18th centuries contains Nefî's Divan.

Or. 7170.

The manuscript, copied in the 19th century, contains the work titled Sihâm-ı Kazâ, written by Nefî.

Or. 7171.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains the Divan of Nedim.

Or. 7172.

The manuscript, copied in the 17th century, contains the Divan of Necâti.

Or. 7173.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th and 19th centuries, contains the Divan of Neş'et.

Or. 7174.

The manuscript, copied in 1240 AH (1824-25 AD), contains the Divan of Nesimî.

Or. 7176.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th and 19th centuries, contains the Divan of Nevres.

Or. 7188.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains the Divan of Rıza.

Or. 7189.

The manuscript, copied in the 17th century, contains the Divan of Rûhî of Baghdad.

Or. 7190.

The manuscript, copied in the 18th century, contains a different copy of the Divan of Rûhî of Baghdad.

Or. 7191.

The manuscript, copied in the 17th century, contains the work titled Kelimât, written by Eşref-i Rûmî.

Or. 7215.

The manuscript copied in 1207 AH (1792-93 AD) contains the Divan of Vehbi.

Or. 7221.

The manuscript copied in the 17th and 18th centuries contains the Divan of Yahya Efendi.

Or. 7226.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Sheikh Suleyman (Zati).

Or. 7227.

The manuscript copied in the 19th century contains a different copy of the Divan of Sheikh Suleyman (Zati).

Or. 7243.

The manuscript copied in 1077 AH (1666-67 AD) contains the Divan of Fehim.

Or. 7263.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Necâti.

Or. 7369.

The manuscript copied in 1201 AH (1786-87 AD) contains the Divan of Fitnat Hanım.

Or. 9475.

The manuscript copied in the 15th and 16th centuries contains the Divan of Adlî (Sultan Bayezid II).

Or. 9501.

The manuscript copied in the 19th century contains the Divan of Râtib. Or. 9513. The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Nevres Efendi.

Or. 982815

The manuscript copied in 1161-2 AH (1748-49 AD) contains the Divan of Bursalı Levhî Efendi.

Or. 10953.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Nâbî.

Or. 11058.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Hayretî.

Or. 11090.

The manuscript copied in 1274 AH (1857-58 AD) contains the Divan of Ravzî.

Or. 11131.

The manuscript copied in 1050 AH (1640-41 AD) contains the Divan of Atâyî.

Or. 11132.

The manuscript copied in the 17th century contains the Divan of Ulvî.

Or. 11164.

The manuscript copied in 1234 AH (1818-19 AD) contains the Divan of Halim Girayzâde.

Or. 11165.

The manuscript copied in 1222 AH (1807-08 AD) contains the Divan of İzzetî.

Or. 11197.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Dede Ömer Rûşenî.

Or. 11263.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Âşık Ömer.

Or. 11267.

The manuscript copied in 1096 AH (1684-85 AD) contains poems written by Hüseyin Lâmekânî.

Or. 11568.

The manuscript copied in the 18th century contains the Divan of Vecihî. Or. 12139.

The manuscript copied in 1198 AH (1783-84 AD) contains the Divan of Fitnat Hanım.

Or. 12183

¹⁵In a Master's thesis on the work, the catalog number was probably mistakenly given as Or. 982, and it was stated that the work is in the British Museum instead of the British Library. Özge Özbay, Bursalı Levhî Divanı (Review, Critical Text-Index), Unpublished Master's Thesis, Balıkesir University, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Balıkesir, 2013.

The manuscript copied in 1247 AH (1831-32 AD) contains the Divan of Keçecizâde İzzet Molla.

Or. 12185

It contains the Divan of Mehmed Ragıp Paşa, copied in the 18th century.

Or. 12194

It contains the Divan of Şeyh Gâlib, copied in the 19th century.

The Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin (Or. 4126), the only known manuscript copy of which is in the British Library, is of great importance for both Turkish and Azerbaijani language and literature. Kadi Works such as Burhaneddin Divan, Shah Ismail Hataî Divan (Or. 3380), Kavsi Divan (Add. 7927) represent the Azerbaijan-Tabriz region of Western Turkish, while similarly, works attributed to the early period of Old Anatolian Turkish include Ahmedi's Iskendername and Divan; Şerifi's Shahname; The Introduction of Kutbeddin İznikî, Necatî Divan (Add. 7929), Mesihî Divan (Or. 1152), Garamî Divan (Or. 1148), Kütahyalı Rahimî Divan (Or. 1149), Bakî Divan (Add. 7922), Fuzulî Divan (Or. 406, Add. 7916, Add. 7917), Hâletî Divan (Add. 19447), Şeyhülislam Yahya Divan (Or. 2835), Fehim Divan/Divan-ı Fehim (Add. 7924), Nabî Divan (Or. 407, Add. 7920, Or. 1161), Nailî Divan (Add. 7919), Bosnalı Sâbit Divan (Or. 1160), Nedim Divan (Or. 2836), Şeyh Galip Divan (Add. 23985), Nef'î Divan (Add. 7935), Usulî Divan (Add. 7917), Hevâî Divan (Or. 3290), Sırrî Divan (Or. 3290), İshak Çelebi Divan (Or. 1154), Azmizâde Hâletî Divan, Kâfzâde Fâizî (Or. 1156), Riyazî Divan (Or. 1156) etc. divans also represent the Ottoman-Istanbul field of Western Turkish.

Rıza Nur and his works

The works in this section consist of Rıza Nur's collected works. In 1935, Rıza Nur sent all the works he had written to the British Museum along with a letter of specification.

As is known, the manuscripts in the British Museum were later transferred to the British Library. Rıza Nur requested in his letter of guarantee that his works not be published until 1960.

Addenda (Rıza Nur Manuscripts)

Or. 12588

This manuscript contains all of Rıza Nur's works together.

Or. 12589

This manuscript, written in 1929, contains the work titled "The Revival of Turkey from Scratch".

Or. 12590

This manuscript, written in 1929, contains the work titled "A Few of My Poems, Prose and Articles".

Or. 12591

This manuscript, written in 1929, contains the work titled “My Life and Memoirs”. Conclusion and Evaluation The British Library, which houses millions of documents and manuscripts, is also a rich library in terms of Turkish manuscripts. The British Library, known as the world's second largest library, holds approximately 4000 Turkish manuscripts. However, this number could be much higher, as some manuscripts and collections contain multiple manuscripts. Therefore, a careful examination of each registered inventory item in the library is necessary.

From Göktürk texts written in runic script to the letters of Ziya Pasha, a writer of the Tanzimat period; from Manichaean texts written in Old Uyghur script to Rabguzî's Kısasü'l-Enbiyâ written in Khwarazmian Turkish; from Zemahşerî's Mukaddimetü'l Edeb dictionary to the Senglah Dictionary, the Abuşka Dictionary, the works of Ali Şir Nevaî, and Balikesirli Zâtî; from the Divan of Kadı Burhaneddin to the Divan of Shah Ismail; from Âşık Paşa's Garibnâme to Babur's memoirs; from Sultan Veled's Turkish poems to the works of Fakih Ahmed; from Şeyhi's Hüsrev ü Şirin to Khwarazmi's Muhabbetnâme; from Sultan Alparslan's letters to the letters and decrees of the Safavid and Ottoman sultans; From the Divan of the Turkmen national poet Mahtumkulu to the Divan of another Turkmen poet, Bayram Han; from Sufism to music, to songs; from Quranic commentaries and translations to works on mathematics, astronomy, and physics; from Yunus Emre to Esrar Dede; from Ahmet Pasha to Sheikh Galib; from the Divan of Aşık Ömer to Bayburtlu Zihni; from Central Asian history to Anatolian history, from Tarih-i Reşidî to Tarih-i Râşid; from the Divan of Keçecizâde İzzet Molla to the Divan of Fitnat Hanım, from the Divan of Enderunlu Fazıl to the Divan of Râsih-i Enderunî; From the poems of Niyazi Misri to the poems of Kırımlı Rahmi Efendi, The British Library, which preserves a very large number of Turkish works in Göktürk, Uyghur, Arabic, Latin, and Cyrillic scripts, is an important center for our cultural and literary history.

There is no catalog prepared for all Turkish manuscripts in the British Library that includes all the works. The first catalog of Turkish manuscripts in the library was made by the British orientalist, traveler, and antiquarian Claudius Rich (1787-1821). This catalog, consisting of 118 folios, has not been published. This first catalog of Turkish manuscripts, measuring 33x20 cm, includes the Turkish manuscripts collected by Claudius Rich. The catalog essentially contains works between Add. 7830-7939 in the British Museum. This catalog, containing a total of 109 Turkish manuscripts, forms the basis of the second catalog compiled in 1888 by Charles Pierre Henry Rieu (1820-1902).

The second cataloging of Turkish manuscripts in the British Library was done in 1888 by the Swiss orientalist Charles Pierre Henry Rieu (1820-1902), the head of the department. Charles Pierre Henry Rieu included 109 Turkish manuscripts, numbered Add. 7830-7939, in his catalog, which had previously been prepared by Claudius Rich. Originally an Arabic-Persian teacher, Charles Pierre Henry Rieu also prepared the library's catalog of Persian manuscripts. The number of Turkish manuscripts covered in this study is 483.

Approximately 70 years after this study, in 1958, the handlist prepared by the Welsh orientalist Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens (1921-1997) limited the information given in the handlist to only the title of the work¹⁶. Meredith-Owens showed a particular interest in Turkish manuscripts in the library, and after separately publishing the miniatures of Persian manuscripts, she also compiled the miniatures of Turkish manuscripts that contained miniatures (Glyn Munro, 1965).

In 1968, Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens also prepared a handlist of Persian manuscripts in the British Library (Glyn Munro, 1970). Zeki Velidi Togan says that during his time in London between 1954-56, he saw and examined about 500 of the manuscripts in the library one by one with the help of Meredith-Owens, who was then the director of Oriental Manuscripts at the British Museum. (Togan, 1959-1960, p. 133) Charles Pierre Henry Rieu (1820-1902) and Glyn Munro Meredith Owens (1921-1997), who worked in the Asian and African manuscripts section of the British Library and prepared the catalog and handlist of Turkish manuscripts, were Persian and Arabic experts. The information regarding the "language of the manuscript" in the initial register where manuscripts are entered into library inventories is sometimes confusing. A work in Turkish may be recorded in the register as Arabic or Persian. This situation is more common in works where the author or copyist information is missing and the author is not well-known.

It is also commendable that these individuals, while being experts in Arabic and Persian, also conducted studies on Turkish manuscripts. The study by Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens on the work of Aşık Çelebi, *Meşâirü'ş-Şuârâ* (Or. 6434), preserved in the British Library, holds an important place in our literary history (Glyn Munro, 1965).

In some Turkish sources, the place of publication of this valuable work is mistakenly given as London (Mustafa U., 2012,69-73). But normally, the place of publication of the work is Cambridge.

¹⁶ Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens, *Temporary Handlist of Turkish MSS., 1888-1958*, The British Library Publishing Division, London, 1959.

Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens (1921-1997), who stated that she took Turkish and classical literature lessons from the late Professor Fahir İz (Edibe D., 1969), was essentially a graduate of Cambridge University's Arabic-Persian department.

Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens (1921-1997), who stated that she took Turkish and classical literature lessons from the late Professor Fahir İz, is essentially a graduate of Cambridge University's Arabic-Persian program. She stated that she became interested in Turkish because of the Turkish words she heard from the Azerbaijani Turks during her time in Iran and because of her profession, and that she tried to learn Turkish on her own¹⁷.

By the 2000s, the small handbooks compiled by M. İsa Waley were not very different from the handbook work prepared by Glyn Munro Meredith-Owens.

A catalog prepared by the British orientalist Lionel David Barnett (1871-1960), a Sanskrit expert, includes some works written in Göktürk and Uyghur Turkish¹⁸.

The Turkish manuscripts in the British Library are very diverse in terms of content. Divans, masnavis, collections, medical works, musical works, encyclopedias, history books, diplomatic correspondence, decrees, memoirs, geography works, mathematics, science, astronomy, faith, Sufism, Islam, the Bible, the Quran, commentaries, political treatises, grammar, language, literature, and anthologies — thousands of manuscripts await researchers.

A noteworthy aspect of the library's content is its collection of works and writers on Sufism. In addition to works written about Mevlevi writers and Mevlevism, there are also works whose authors or scribes are Mevlevi. The Divan of Hasan Akif of Thessaloniki, also known as Akif al-Mawlawi, is preserved under catalog number Or. 11198. The biographical work titled Sefine-i Nefise-i Mevleviyân, written by Mustafa Sakib Dede (died: 1735) on the Mevlevi path, is preserved under catalog number Or. 14327. The copyist of this work is Hafız Osman Nakşibendî, a member of the Nakşibendi order. This work, registered under catalog number Or. 4111 and titled Reşahât Ayn el-Hayât, recounts the lives of Nakşibendi saints. The manuscript was translated into Turkish by Mehmet Maruf in 1191 AH (1777-8 AD). Manuscript number 12119 contains the work titled Tuhfetü'l-İrşâd

¹⁷M. İsa Waley, *Islamic Manuscripts in Eastern Turkic Languages in the British Library*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library. M. İsa Waley, *Ottoman Manuscripts in the India Office Library Collection*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library. M. İsa Waley, *Chaghatay Manuscripts in Eastern Turkic Languages in the British Library*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library.

²⁴Lionel David Barnett, *Preliminary, List of Manuscripts in Languages of Central Asia and Sanskrit*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library

and the Divan of Rızaeddin Beşiktaşî Nakşibendî. Registered under number 7061, the work titled Tezkire-i Mevlevî was written by Seyyid Esrar Dede in the 19th century, and describes the lives of Mevlevi dervishes. Manuscript number 7139 was copied in 1199 AH (1784-85 AD) and contains a different copy of the work titled Hall-i Tahkikât or Cezîret-i Mevlevî, which is a commentary on the Masnavi written in verse. 7578. The manuscript numbered 7578, copied in 1137 AH (1724-25 AD), contains the work titled Silsilenâme-i Celvetiye, written by İsmail Hakkı. More comprehensive information about the manuscript can be obtained through independent studies on manuscripts preserved in the library, both past and future. The information provided in the current catalog or hand lists is limited and concise.

REFERENCE:

1. Arat, Reşit Rahmeti. (1953). "Classification of Turkish Dialects", *Türkiyat Mecmuası*, Vol. 10, İstanbul, pp. 59-139.
2. Barnett, Lionel David. Preliminary, List of Manuscripts in Languages of Central Asia and Sanskrit, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library.
3. Benzing, Johannes, Menges, Karl Heinrich. (1979). "Classification of Turkic Languages", *Historical Turkic Dialects* (editor: Mehmet Akalın, translated by: R. Küçükboyacı), Sevinç Matbaası, Ankara.
4. Caferoğlu, Ahmet. (2000). *History of the Turkish Language*, Enderun Kitabevi, İstanbul, pp. 42-44.
5. Dolu, Edibe. (1969). "Âşık Çelebi and an English Orientalist", *Hayat Tarih Mecmuası*, Year: 5, Issue: 11, 1 December.
6. Ercilasun, Ahmet Bican. (2009). *History of the Turkish Language from the Beginning to the Twentieth Century*, 7th Edition, Ankara.
7. Ferrard, Christopher. (1996). "Gibb, Elias John Wilkinson". *Encyclopedia of Islam*, Vol. 14, Diyanet Foundation Publications, İstanbul, pp. 64-66.
8. Mansuroğlu, Mecdut. "The First Products of Turkish Language and Literature in Anatolia", *TDED I*, pp. 10-13.
9. Mansuroğlu, Mecdut. (1958). *Sultan Veled's Turkish Poems*, İstanbul University Faculty of Literature Publications: 765, İstanbul.
10. Mazioğlu, Hasibe. (1974). *Kitâbu Evsâfî Mesâcidi'ş-Şerîfe*, Turkish Language Association Publications, Ankara.
11. Meredith-Owens, Glyn Munro (Editor). (1965). *Mesa'ir Us-su'ara or Tezkere of 'Asik Celebi- E.J.W.Gibb Memorial Lecture*, Gibb Memorial Trust, Cambridge.
12. Meredith-Owens, Glyn Munro. (1968). *Handlist of Persian Manuscripts, 1895-1966*, The British Library Publishing Division, London.

13. Meredith-Owens, Glyn Munro. (1965). *Persian Illustrated Manuscripts*, The British Library Publishing Division, London.
14. Meredith-Owens, Glyn Munro. (1959). *Temporary Handlist of Turkish MSS., 1888-1958*, The British Library Publishing Division, London.
15. Meredith-Owens, Glyn Munro. (1970). *Turkish Miniatures*, The British Library Publishing Division, London.
16. Özbay, Özge. (2013). *Bursalı Levhî Divanı (Analysis-Critical Text-Index)*, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Balıkesir University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Balıkesir.
17. Özkan, Mustafa. (2004). *Turkish Language in History*, Filiz Kitabevi, İstanbul.
18. Poyraz, Yakup, "Our Distant Manuscripts: The First Eastern Turkish (Chagatai) Manuscripts Registered in the British National Library", *International Journal of Social Research / The Journal of International Social Research*, Volume 4/16, pp. 402-412.
19. Rieu, Charles. (1888). *Catalogue Of The Turkish Manuscripts In The British Museum*, London.
20. Skjærvø, Prods Oktor. (2002). (with Contributions by Ursula Sims-Williams) *Khotanese Manuscripts From Chinese Turkestan In the British Library: a Complete Catalogue With Texts And Translations*. London, British Library.
21. Timurtaş, Faruk Kadri. (1994). *Eski Türkiye Türkçesi*, Enderun Kitabevi, İstanbul.
22. Togan, Zeki Velidi. (1959-1960). *Londra ve Tehran'daki İslamî Yazmalardan Bazına Dair, İslam Tetkikleri Enstitüsü Dergisi*, III (1-2), İstanbul, pp. 133-160.
23. *Turkish Encyclopedia*. (1969). "Gibb, Elias John Wilkinson". Vol. 17, Ministry of National Education Publications, Ankara pp. 342-343.
24. Uzun, Mustafa. (2012). "Tezkire (Turkish Literature)". *Turkey Diyanet Foundation Islamic Encyclopedia*, Vol. 41, pages: 69-73, İstanbul.
25. Veled Çelebi-Kilisli Rifat. (1341-1923). *Divan-ı Türkî-i Sultan Veled*. Ministry of Education, İstanbul.
26. Waley, M. Isa, *Chaghatay Manuscripts in Eastern Turkic Languages in the British Library*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library.
27. Waley, M. Isa, *Islamic Manuscripts in Eastern Turkic Languages in the British Library*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library
28. Waley, Waley, M. Isa, *Ottoman Manuscripts in the India Office Library Collection*, Unpublished Handlist, London, British Library.
29. http://idp.bl.uk/pages/collections_en.a4d Access: 02.03.2017.