

*Elyazmalar Katoloğu Cüngler II.* (red.: C. V. Gehramanov). (*Katalog Rukopisoi Djungi* (Na azarбайдjanskom jazıke). Azerbaycan SSR Elmler Akademiyası, Respublika elyazmalar fondu, "Elm" Neşriyatı, Bakı-1977; 200 s.

In Turkish literature besides manuscripts which treat individual topics, there are also those of anthological nature containing works on different topics. These are called "*Mecmu'a*" or "*Cönk*". *Mecmu'a* and *Cönk* differ both in terms of the material they contain and their forms.

The *Mecmu'a*'s resemble the note-books we gave today, in shape. They open from left to right and are written and read from right to left. These contain mostly the poetry, literary compositions, letters, and other writings of the poets and authors of the classical literature.

The anthological manuscripts called *Cönk* contain all the forms of *tekke* literature, works of the bards, minstrels and other products of folklore as well as folkloric material. They are shorter in length and wider than the *mecmu'a*, in form. Among the folk in Turkey, the *cönks* have been called *dana dili* (calf's tongue) or *siğır dili* (ox tongue).

In short, the *mecmu'a* were prepared by the sophisticated intellectuals and contained selections favoured by them, whereas the *cönks* were prepared by the middle class and the literature enthusiasts of the villages, towns and cities; and reflect their tastes, understandings of aesthetics and culture. Yet, we can not assert that *cönks* and *mecmu'as* contain absolutely different products of literature. On the contrary, many of them contain works which should belong to one another. Such *cönks* and *mecmu'as* of mixed nature are of utmost importance because they reflect the *transitory culture* of the times they were prepared. If *mecmu'as* belong to *Divan* literature and hence to the upperclass and the *cönks* to the laymen then the anthologies with mixed contents belong to the folk of the *transitory culture* acting almost like a bridge between the two. This is clearly observed when such anthologies are closely examined.

The second volume of The Union Catalogue of Manuscripts in *Respublika Fondu* (State Archives), prepared and published by the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences, has been devoted to the *Cüngs*. In the catalogue, a specific description is not given for the term *cönk* and it is observed that both *mecmu'as* and *cönks* are given under the title *cüng* (*cönk*).

According to the information M. Sultanov gives in the *mukaddime* (introduction); in the catalogue, the descriptions of 238 *cüings* written in Turkish, Arabic and Persian are given. They are described in terms of their language, date and place of composition, composers, miniatures and ornamentations, sizes, numbers of registration and orthographical characteristics.

Although such a catalogue is very valuable, if better descriptions of the works together with their opening and finishing lines or paragraphs were given and if the anonymous works were also included, the catalogue could be put to better use and would save the researchers time.

However, considering the fact that the preparation of such catalogues is a tiring process, this book is a useful and valuable service to the researchers of the field. We thank the preparation committee.

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