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MOWCAP

UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific

Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register nomination form

Part A: Essential information

1 Summary (max 100 words)

Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifīn, is one of the most prominent and most comprehensive biographies in Farsi written by Taqī al-Din Muhammad Owḥadī Husseini Daqāqī Balīyānī (1565-1630 AD.). This book contains the biographies of about 3500 poets who are from Afghanistan, Iran and the Indian subcontinent from the past to the time of the author. It is not only important as it mentions famous poets of each period but also it is a very useful source for a better understanding of Persian poetry especially at the time of Safavids in Iran and Gurkani kings of India as well as trend of evolution of Persian poetry in Iran, the Indian subcontinent and Pakistan.

Moreover, it includes precious historical data about cities of India, Afghanistan, Iran and Transoxiana. This book was so important that as the biographers after Owḥadī's used it as a source.

The existing manuscript is of old and authentic manuscripts of *Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifīn* and is kept in Malek Library and Museum Institution.

2 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Akbar Irani

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2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Publisher of Arafat al-Ashiqin

2.3 Contact person(s)

Dr. Akbar Irani

Manager of written Heritage Research Institute

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
<i>written Heritage Research Institute</i>	Enqelab square No. 1182, second floor, Unit 9 Postal ID: 1315693519 Mailbox: 569-13185 Tehran Iran

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+98-21- 66490612	+98-21- 66406258	akbar.irany@gmail.com

3 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

3.1 Title of documentary heritage item or collection

Title: *Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifin*

This manuscript belongs to 11 H. /17 AD. and has been written in Nasta'liq style.

This MS is written in four straight columns and one Obliquely set line (CHALĪPĀ) column (words are aslant written with 45 degree). Titles and marks are in SHANGARF (red color) style.

It contains 608 folios, 23 lines on each page. Its pages dimensions being 35.0 X 22.0 in centimeters. The paper is made of TERMEH (old paper) and covered by tanned ewe skin engraved by burning.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

This manuscript under the number 5324 is kept in the treasury of Malek National Library and Museum Institution and has been introduced in the catalogue of manuscripts of this library

3.3 Photographs or a video of the documentary heritage

Compact Disc is included bearing visual information on parts of the nominated manuscript

3.4 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

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Hossein Agha Malek, a merchant and collector, purchased this book and kept it in his personal library. It is written some ownership notes on the book that demonstrates the date of the book dated back to the author's lifetime.

3.5 Bibliography

Numerous researches have been carried out by Iranian and European scholars regarding Avesta and its history. Many works have been published on the topic. A facsimile copy of the nominated manuscript incorporating an extensive introduction by Dr. Katayoon Mazdapour is currently in print:

- Owḥadī Daqāqī Balīyānī, Taqī a-Din Muhammad, *Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifīn*, 1388/2009, (7 vols.), edited by Seyed Muhsen Najī Nasrabadi, Tehran, Asatir Publications;
- Owḥadī Daqāqī Balīyānī, Taqī a-Din Muhammad, *Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifīn*, 1389/2010, (8 vols.), edited by Zabihollah Sahebkarī & Ameneh Fakhr-Ahmad, Tehran, Miras Maktoob Research Center;
- Golchin Maani, Ahmad, 1363/1984, *History of Farsi Tazkaras (Biographis)*, (2 Vols.), Tehran, Sanaei Library Printing House;
- Golchin Maani, Ahmad, 1369/1990, *Caravan of India*, (2 Vols.) Mashad, Astan Qods Razavi Publications
- A Collection of Essays on *Arafāt al-Āshiqīn*, 1393/2014, (6 essays by 6 writers), bi-seasonally Magazine of *Ayeneh-ye Mīras*, No. 35. As follows:
- Ale-Davud, Seyed Ali, *Importance & Status of Arafāt al-Āshiqīn*, 1390/(March) 2012, *Jahān-i Ketab*, pp. 272-274 in Farsi;
- Ale-Davud, Seyed Ali, *of Arafāt al-Āshiqīn: A Look on its Author's Life & Works*, Fall 1374/1995, *Nāmeḥ-ye Farhangestān*;
- Alizadeh, Ali, *Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifīn*, 1390/2012, *Ayene-ye Pazhūhesh*, No. 131;
- Anonymous, *A Study on Tazkara-i Arafāt al-Āshiqīn va Arasāt al-Arifīn*, Monthly Magazine of *Ketab-i Māh-i Adabiyāt*, March 1389/1991;
- Irani, Akbar, *Literary Transactions of Iran and India and their Reflection in Arafāt al-Āshiqīn*, edited by Tahmoures Sajedi and Ahmad Edarehchi Gilani, Magazine of *Nameh-ye Roshan*, pp. 49-61.

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organisations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Name: Saeid Shafieioun

Qualifications

Address

Name	Qualifications	Address
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Name	Qualifications	Address
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I assert that the above named referees have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination for the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World* Register, and their names to appear on the website. (Contact details will not appear on the website or be disclosed by the MOWCAP to any third party).

Signature

Full name (Please PRINT)

Sayed Reza Salehi Amiri
Iranian National Committee for
the Memory of the World

Date

4 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address: Imam Khomeini Avenue, the streets of the United Nations (National Park)	
<i>Malek National Library and Museum</i>	Mailbox 111555/547 Tehran - Iran	

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+98-21-664726613	+98-21- 66705974	

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
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Telephone	Facsimile	Email
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4.3 Legal status

Malek National Library and Museum

4.4 Accessibility

Accessing the original copy is only possible under certain circumstances. However, the digitized copy of the book is available for all researchers to access their required information.

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4.5 Copyright status

The copyright owner of the nominated manuscript is the Malek National Library and Museum

5 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 First criterion: authenticity.

There are a number of manuscripts of the same work. According to the researches, this MS is the most authentic manuscript of Arafāt al-Āshiqīn. For the same reason, editors have used this MS as the base manuscript. Ownership notes of this MS belong to 1032 H. /1623AD., 1055 H./1645AD., 1068 H. /1657AD. and 1069 H. /1658AD. Considering the fact that the time of composition of the book is 1024 H. and the author's death date is 1040 H. /1630AD., we can reach a conclusion that this MS was written when he was alive. The ownership notes can show the background of the book.

5.2 Second criterion: world significance.

Regarding the fact that Owḥadi paid attention to poets of some regions such as the Indian subcontinent, Transoxiana, Aran and Anatolia, Iran and Afghanistan, it proves the widespread use and influence of Farsi in extensive lands of the Middle East where in some poets whose mother tongue was not Farsi but they knew Farsi poems and even rhymed in Farsi. This language was considered as shared heritage of people living in these regions. Farsi has had very close connection with their feelings and arts. To write this book, Owḥadi travelled to different cities of India, Iran and Afghanistan and collected many information. As Farsi was the official language of Gurkani kings as well as the mother tongue of Afghans and some parts of Transoxiana and throughout Iran, this book clearly shows the scope of Farsi and its spread in these regions .

5.3 Third, world significance

Time:

Owḥadi was born and educated in Iran. Firstly, he composed poems in the court of the imperial king of Safavids, Shāh Abbas but some year later he moved to India. When he resided in Agra, he began writing this book. At that time Jahāngīr was the king of India. Existence of fairly good stability in India and Iran encouraged him to write a book about poets.

Place:

As mentioned earlier, Owḥadi travelled to different regions of Iran and India and he paid attention to and studied the literary and cultural communities of the destinations. He collected a part of his information about his contemporaneous poets in different regions through travels. For example he travelled to the following places in Iran and collected directly some information about his contemporaneous poets: Isfahan, different places in Fars such as Shiraz and Lar, Kerman Khorasan, Qavin, Kashan and Qum . In Afghanistan he visited Kandahar, Kabul and in India: Lahore, Agra and Gujrat. He also travelled to Transoxiana and Turkistan and collected information about those

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regions.

People:

This book has a look on different people with their manners, habits, lifestyles, literary communities, socio-economical atmosphere, religion as well as ethnic groups.

Subject and theme:

This Tazkira (biography) has been partitioned into 28 chapters ('Arseh) by alphabetical order and each Arseh contains three divisions (Qurfeh). Each Qurfeh is originally made for separating poets of three literary periods in Persian literature. Respectively, early poets (chronologically a bit far from the time of the author), middle poets (chronologically close to the time of the author but not contemporaneous) and contemporaneous poets.

Form and style:

Writing biography is one of the important writing styles in the history of the Persian literature. Usually in this type of biographies, poets' names are alphabetically cataloged. This book employed the same method. After a brief biography for each poet, an example of his/her poems was mentioned.

6 Other matters taken into account: rarity, integrity and threat

Rarity

There exist a number of manuscripts of Arafāt al-Āshiqīn but the manuscript in question is the most authentic one and was written when the author was alive.

Integrity Within

This text is complete and contains all chapters and was written by a single scribe with one calligraphic style.

Threat

Considering the fact that this MS has been reproduced and the original one is kept in a standard enclosure, no thread can harm it.

Attach a separate statement if space is insufficient!

7 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? Are there strategies to preserve and provide access to it?

YES NO

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8 Any other information

Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this item(s) / collection on the Asia/Pacific *Memory of the World Register*.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

Malek National Library and Museum Institution is a devoted library that has been founded by a famous Iranian merchant. He purchased many manuscripts and printed books and gathered them in one place and according to his will, this library was endowed for public pious purposes (waghf). This library has a safe building and this manuscript is kept under standard conditions in a treasury specifically dedicated to manuscripts. Digital copies and microfilms have been produced from the original manuscript.

9 Checklist

Nominees may find completing the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to MOWCAP.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MOWCAP website reviewed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | summary completed (maximum 100 word) (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/Origin/Background/Provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration signed and dated that all referees have given their written permission for their names to appear on the MOWCAP website (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner - completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of authenticity (section 5.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented of world significance (section 5.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented against one or more additional criteria (section 5.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information presented on rarity, integrity and threat (section 6) |

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- Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan provide details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 7)
-
- Any other information provided - if applicable (section 8)
-
- Sample photographs or VDO prepared for MOWCAP use (if required)
-
- Printed copy of Nomination Form made for organisation's records
-
- Electronic copy of Nomination Form made for MOWCAP use (if required)