

The History of the Period of Amir Timur and the Timurids through the Eyes of the Historian Khofizi Abru

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Summary: This article provides detailed information about Sahibkiran Amir Temur and historian Hafiz Abru, who wrote important sources reflecting the history of the Temurid period and its rich historical and geographical scientific heritage.

Keywords: Amir Temur, Shohrukh Mirzo, Khafizi Abru, Sharq, Herat, Aleppo, Movarounnahr, Turkestan, Bukhara, Samarkand, Nasaf, Kesh, Termez, Khujand.

Thanks to independence, an objective study of the history of the period of Amir Temur and the Timurids began. This period was able to produce great historians who became famous in historical science not only on a national scale, but also throughout the Eastern world.

Among them we can say such historians as Giesiddin Ali, Nizamiddin Shami, Khofizi Abru, Muiniddin Natanzi, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, Abdurazzak Samarqandi, Mirkhand, Khondamir. Among these scientists, the role of the historian Khofizi Abru is especially great. According to sources, he began his activity in one of the campaigns of Sahibkiran Amir Timur as a secretary, was also known as a scientist, a strong chess player, worked as a court historian of the Temurians until the end of his life [1]. Known by the name of Khofizi Abru, an outstanding historian, scientist and ethnographer, his real name was Shahabuddin Abdullah ibn Lutfillah bin Abdurashid al-Hawofiy.

He was born around 1361-1362 in the city of Hirot. According to historian Abdurazzak Samarqandi, Khofizi Abru was born in Havof, near Khirat, studied in Hamadan and died in 1430 (1431) in Zanjan (northwest of Iran). According to historian Abdurazzak Samarqandi, Khofizi Abru was born in Havof, near Khirat, studied in Hamadan and died in 1430 (1431) in Zanjan (northwest of Iran) [2].

He traveled many times throughout his life, traveling from India to Syria through the Eurasian territory, the Caucasus and some areas of present Russia. The scientist himself wrote about it like this: «During long-distance campaigns from the north-west, Movarounnahr, Turkestan, Dashti-Kipchak, Khorasan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Iran, Mughani, Georgia, Great and Small Armenia, all the lands of Russia and Damascus, the banks of the Frot River.. the Caspian coast... From the east I could see the city of Kabul... I have seen Molton, Uch, and Delhi, the largest city in India, and have walked on the banks of the Ganges river several times» [3].

The historian, as well as the author of the work “Zafarnoma”, served as a historical scientist first in the Tamerlane Palace, and then in the Shahrukh Mirzo Palace. He had religious discussions with the scholars of Hirat and Halab. He gave royal gifts to those who thought differently from him (that is, thought differently).

It is known that Amir Temur had a very sharp discussion with the scientist Sharafiddin Halabi, and then stood up for him and ordered him and his students to give valuable gifts. Their number was approximately 2000 [4]. Thus, Khofizi Abru came into the confidence of Tamerlane and was known as a good conversationalist in his palace. The scientist was a direct escort in the campaigns of

Shokhrukh Mirzo. The historian is the author of a number of historical and historical-geographical works, such as “Zaili Zafarnomai Shamiy”, “Zaili Jome ut-tavorih”, “Tarikhi Hafizi Abru”, “Majmua at-tavorihi sultaniya”, “Zubdat ut-tavorihi”, “Boisunguri”. On behalf of Shokhrukh Mirzo, Khofizi Abru wrote two works. One of them has a historical and geographical content, created between 1414 and 1420. It was created on the basis of an unknown book in Arabic in the X century. According to the St. Petersburg orientalist Yu. E. Borshchevsky, it was called “Kitab al-masalik wa-l-mamolik” and was written by Hassan ibn Ahmad Mukhallabi. In 1414, Shahrukh Mirzo commissioned Khofizi Abru to translate this work into Persian and revise it based on other sources [5]. The value of this work lies in the fact that it is enriched not just by translation, but by new data. In addition to describing the geographical location of each region, this work also contains a brief political history. Of great importance is information about the confluence of the Amu Darya into the Caspian Sea, as well as information about Movarounnahr and its major cities, such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Nasaf, Kesh, Termez, Khojent. The brightest handwritten copies of the work are kept in the libraries of England and Russia (St. Petersburg). Khofizi Abru is one of the historians who directly continued the series of events mentioned in the work of historian Nizamiddin Shami. His work “Zubdat at-Tavorikh” is among the works that give valuable information about Amir Temur and the history of the Temurid’s era. A scientist, on behalf of Shahrukh Mirza. He also wrote additions to the works of such historians as Tabari, Rashidaddin and Nizamaddin Shami, who passed before him. The work “Zaili Zafarnomai Shomi” is an appendix to the “Zafarnoma” of Nizamiddin Shami and continues the description of historical events in the work until February 18, 1405 [5: B. 197].

The latest events of Amir Temur’s life and work, which were not included in Nizamiddin Shami’s “Zafarnoma”, are covered in “Zaili Zafarnomai Shami” (“Appendix”) Khofizi Abru, and the account of events brought to February 18, 1405 [6]. Written in 1417, “Zaili Jameh ut-Tavorih” is a continuation of “Jome ut-Tavari” by Rashidudin Fazlullah, which reflects the history of Iran from 1304 to 1370. The historical and geographical work known as “Tarikhi Khofizi Abru” presents a world map in the form of a circle and other maps. One of the important aspects of this map is the drawing of a degree grid, geographers consider this work a masterpiece of Khofizi Abru. This work describes the waters of the Earth, mountains, countries and their cities and villages, as well as the detailed geography and history of Persia, Karman, Khorasan and the geography of Movarounnahr. In particular, there is a lot of information about cities and settlements like Bukhara, Samarkand, Nakhshab, Kesh, Termez, as well as about the latitudes and longitudes of Saykhun, Jaykhun, Murghab and other rivers, countries and regions (difference, monthly path, daily path).

The historian Khofizi Abru wrote his historical work called “Mazhmua” (“Collection”), written in 1423-1427, he also used the “Zafarnom” of Nizamiddin Shami and continued the course of events of the reign of Shah Rukh until 1420 [6: B. 7]. The text and translation of the individual parts of “Mazhmua” were published by Honbobo Bayani in 1938, F. Tower in 1959, K.M. Maitre in 1934 [2: B. 196].

In 1423, by the decree of Shahrukh Mirza’s son Boisungur Mirza, the scientist began writing a four-volume work entitled “Majma at-tavorihi Sultaniya” (“Collection of stories dedicated to the Sultan”) and finished it with a description of the event of 1427 [6: B. 7]. This work is divided into 4 parts [8]: 1) Pre-Islamic prophets and kings of Iran; 2) The Prophet Muhammad and the Arab Caliphs (before al-Mu`tasim); 3) The history of Iran in the Seljuk and Mongol periods (before the time of Ilkhan Abu Said); 4) “Zubdat ut-tavorihi Boisunguri”. Especially important is the fourth part of the work, which has an independent meaning [2: B. 197].

In the work “Zubdat ut-tavorihi Boisunguri” (“Cream of History”) Movarounnahr is described as follows: “Most of Movarounnahr in the land administration is located in the fifth of the seven

climatic zones. The country starts at 95 degrees west of the Khalidan Islands - This is the length of Khorezm, and to Kashgar and Khotan their length is 107 degrees, i.e. 12 degrees. [3:Б.91].

This part of the work reflects the history of Amir Temur and the Temurid princes and is called "Zubdat ut-tavorihi Boisunguri" ("Selected Stories dedicated to Boisungur") to show that it is dedicated to Mirza Boisungur [6:Б.7]. The fourth part of this work, written on behalf of Shahrukh Mirza's son Boisungur Mirzo, along with important additions to the history of the reign of Amir Temur, reflects the details of life that took place in Khuroson and Movarounnahr before 1427 after the death of Tamerlane. [9].

Currently, three copies of the work "Majma at-Tavorikh" ("Cream of History") are known, one of which is kept in the Oxford Library, the second in the Saltikov-Shchedrin Library in St. Petersburg and the third and the third in the Manuscripts Fund of the Abu Rayhon Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan [3:Б.90]. When these three copies of the manuscript are folded, the full content of Khofizi Abru's geography is reflected. Another historical and geographical work of Khofizi Abru was written in 1414-1420, in science it is known as "Geography of Khofizi Abru". The book contains information about the creative work of Amir Temur, Shahrukh Mirzo during their reign. Currently, there are about ten works of the scientist, and one of them is kept in the fund of the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. (Khofizi Abru. Geography. The Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Tashkent state university of oriental studies. No. 5361).

During the years of independence of Uzbekistan, some excerpts from the work were translated into Uzbek and published [10]. The rich scientific heritage of Khofizi Abru is being investigated by modern scientists. In particular, orientalist O. Buriev cited in collections materials on the improvement of the Temurid era from the works of Khofizi Abru; "Zubdat at-tavarih" (Translated by O. Buriev. - In memory of contemporaries Amir Temur and Ulugbek. - T.: Teacher, 1996. Pages 299-310; Geography". Translated from the Persian by O. Buriev. - From the sources of the Timurid rule period. Editorial Board of M. Khairullaev and others - T.: "Folk heritage", 1996. p.62-75; From "Zaili Zafarnomai Shamiy". (Translated from the Persian by O. Buriev) - In this collection. p.75-81; From "Zubdat at-Tavarih" (Translated from the Persian by O. Buriev) - In this collection. p. 81-83; Nizamiddin Shami. Zafarnoma. Translated from the Persian by Yu. Khakimjanov. The translator of the translation, the preparatory for the publication and the responsible editor A. Urinboev. The compiler of comments and dictionaries X. Karomatov. O. Buriev, translator and compiler of Persian commentaries written by Khofizi Abru "Zayl" ("Appendix") to "Zafarnoma". - T.: "Uzbekistan", 1996. - page 528; Nizamiddin Shami. Zafarnoma. O. Buriev, translator and compiler of Persian commentaries written by Khofizi Abru "Zayl" ("Appendix") to "Zafarnoma". Pages 380-404, 445-448 [10:Б.49].

O. Buriev also defended his PhD dissertation on the geographical heritage of Khofizi Abru (1988).

The historical heritage of Khofizi Abru is studied not only by scientists of our country, but also by scientists of the world. In particular, Tajik researcher Reza Golizadeks Akhangar Narges Wahab, who defended his dissertation on "The peculiarities of the historical views of Khofizi Abru" in 2005, helps to get some information about the famous historian and his works [11]. Thus, information about the historian Khofizi Abru and his rich historical and geographical heritage, who wrote important sources reflecting the history of Amir Temur and the Timurids period, has not yet been fully researched. This will require new and improved scientific research in the future.

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