

### **How Carl Brockelman knew about manuscripts from Kazan?**

After presentation of my paper "Islamic Manuscripts held at Kazan University Library" at the second conference of TIMA (August 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> 2006) Dr Ayman Shihadeh asked: "If Arabic manuscripts of your library still are not catalogued how Carl Brockelman (in GAL) knew about manuscripts from Kazan?" That was a question I never thought.

It was not very difficult to learn that C.Brockelman's knowledge about manuscripts in Kazan was based on articles of Th.Menzel (1878-1939)<sup>1</sup> and I.Yu.Kratchkovskiy (d.1953)<sup>2</sup> written in 1924-1928. Th.Menzel mainly cited Kratchkovskiy's article and in addition he used data from local publications (Vystavka kultur narodov Vostoka; Kazanskiy Muzeyniy Vestnik). Both articles were written before manuscripts, mentioned in articles, came to possession of Kazan University.

I.Yu.Kratchkovskiy never visited Kazan. He wrote his overview on manuscripts in Kazan based on a list of manuscripts held at private collection of 'Alim-djan al-Barudi (1857-1922) which in 1922 was passed to the "Central Oriental Library-Museum". In 1927s after several reorganizations, books and manuscript collection of the Library-Museum were transferred to the Library of Kazan University. The mentioned above list was compiled by A.I.Khuri, teacher of Kazan Ecclesiastic Academy (on Kratchkovskiy's request) and included 600 items. Kratchkovskiy picked out from this list about thirty codices, which even today present the most interesting Arabic manuscripts of Kazan University. Among them there are the earliest manuscripts of the collection dated by 12<sup>th</sup> century:

1. The first volume Abu Hamid al-Gazali's "Kitab al-mustasfa" dated by Muharram 506/1112-1113 (?);
2. Abu Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Dinavari's "Takwim al-lisan" dated by 560/1164-1165;
3. The first volume of Ibn Miskawayh's history "Tadjarib al-umam [wa ta'aqib al-himam]" dated by 590/1194; and others.

Th.Menzel's article and I.Yu.Kratchkovskiy's advice helped to Louis Massignon et Paul Kraus to obtain a microfilm of manuscript from Kazan for their studies on al-Halladj<sup>3</sup>. At the beginning of the 1990s W.Madelung required a microfilm of al-Gazali's "Kitab al-mustasfa".

Comparison of manuscripts named by Kratchkovskiy in his overview with those de visu shows that most of these manuscripts are still exist (just a few items are not identified yet); it seems that only a few of inaccuracies were assumed by the famous scholar. For the time being we are able to conclude that C.Brockelman mentioned in his "Geschichte..." more than ten manuscripts from Kazan.

<sup>1</sup> Menzel Th. Das Heutige Russland und die Orientalistik. I. // Der Islam. XVI (1927). – S. 129 – 151; ego же, Das Heutige Russland und die Orientalistik. II. // Der Islam. XVII (1928). – S. 59 – 96.

<sup>2</sup> Kratchkovskiy I.Yu. Sobranie arabskikh rukopisey v Kazani (1924) / Izbrannye sochineniya. Vol.VI. – Moskva, 455-459 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Recueil de textes inedits concernant l'histoire de la mystique en pays d'Islam. Reunis, classes, annote et publie par Louis Massignon. Paris, Librairie orientaliste Paul Geuthner, 1929. – pp.57– 61; Akhbar al-Hallaj. Text ancien relatif a la predication et au supplice du mystique musulman al-Hosayn b. Mansour al-Hallaj, publie, annote et traduit par Louis Massignon et Paul Kraus. Paris, 1936.