
David J. Roxburgh. « “Many a Wish Has Turned Dust”: Pir Budaq and the Formation of Turkmen Arts of the Book »

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- 1 The essay is an attempt to throw light on Turkmen manuscript patronage, long considered to have been eclipsed by Timurid bibliophilism, which it emulated, and Safavid book production, which it preceded. Pīr Būdāq (d. 1466) has been selected as a case study for examining the realities for princely book production during the unstable period of late Qaraqūyunlū rule when Pīr Būdāq was appointed by his father, Jahānšāh (r. 1438-1467), as governor of Shiraz (1456-1460) and Baghdad (1460-1466) before killing him for his separatist overtures. Under these circumstances, book patronage may have been an expression of princely ambitions for Pīr Būdāq modelled on the precedent of Bāysonqor Mīrzā, yet the limitations of his resources forced him to narrow the focus of his repertoire. The shortage of skilled painters may explain the lack of illustrated manuscripts from his library and the emphasis of lyric poetry, which required fine calligraphy and illumination but no illustrations. Nonetheless, Pīr Būdāq could employ some of the finest calligraphers of his time, including Šaykh Maḥmūd, and was able to create a balanced collection of manuscripts. The surviving material from his library is examined in detail chronologically and stylistically in this article, which also offers a

full catalogue of his manuscripts with *ex libris* and a discussion of other books, which can be attributed to Pīr Būdāq on the basis of their colophons.

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