

TDV İSAM
Kütüphanesi Arşivi
No TK/61.1

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August 19, 1981

Professor Bill Fierman
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Dear Professor Fierman:

Thank you for your letter of June 24, 1981. Unfortunately, I received your letter only two days ago. After having come back from the States, I went to Turkey in late June and came back this week. Because of this long vacation, I was not able to reply your letter until today.

I know your excellent paper prepared for the State Department. John Soper had given me a copy of it and I have used several findings of you in my dissertation. On the title page, however, we were unable with John to read the date it was originally prepared and submitted to the State Department. Because of this, I could only mention your name and the title of your paper in the footnotes of my dissertation. Can I ask you to kindly write me the date of your paper and whether it is published or not elsewhere? So, I can give full information about your work in my dissertation. I haven't finished the final draft of my dissertation yet. I still have to write two more chapters and prepare the bibliography section. Since English is not my mother tongue, first I think in Uzbek and then write in English. So, the writing process of my dissertation is going very slow. I, however, plan to finish the full first draft of the dissertaion by the end of November 1981. Prof. Edward Allworth is my advisor and he reads my chapters. I will ofcourse send you a copy of my dissertation when it is in final form. By the way, my dissertation is entitled: "Nationality Identity In Soviet Kazakh and Uzbek Prose Fiction of the Post-Stalin Period." I try to make comparisons between Kazakh and Uzbek fiction. My M.A. essay at Columbia was on "Nationality identity in Kazakh Soviet Lyric Poetry of the 1960s and 1970s." Next week I will send you a copy of it.

I plan to defend my dissertation in May 1982. I hope during my two months stay in New York and Washington (May and June 1982), we can see each other and talk over Central Asia "Turkistan." After the exams, I want to work on a project which I have been thinking for a long time. When I was an undergraduate student at the Istanbul University, have started to collect the original works of the Reformist (Jadid) Central Asian writers and poets

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whose literary works were published between 1910 and 1938. In the libraries of Türkiyat Enstitüsü in Istanbul, Milli Kütüphane in Ankara, New York Public Library and the library of Congress I found many valuable literary works from the above mentioned period. Also, from the personal libraries of the Turkestanian emigrants living in Turkey and West Germany I did obtain some additional books. I have about 125 literary works (prose, poetry and drama) that were published between 1900 and 1940. Ofcourse, I have only the xerox copies and microfilms of most of the 125 books or pamphletes whose original copies are at the above mentioned libraries.

So, I think I have enough material to prepare a multi-volume work on the modern Central Asian literature between 1900 and 1938. First two volumes will be devoted to Uzbek literature. It can be entitled: Uzbek Literature: The Forbidden Works (1910-1938). The first volume will be consisted of Uzbek original literary works both in original script (Arabic and Latin) and their transcriptions with full attention to phonetics and pronunciation (such as credits will be given to vowels for ö, ü, ĩ and other letters which are presently being omitted in the Uzbek Soviet orthografy, but which are very important parts of Uzbek language). This first volume will be devided into three parts: 1- Poetry, 2- Prose fiction (short stories and parts of long stories and novels), 3- Drama (short dramas like first Uzbek drama written in 1912 by Mahmudkhoja Behbudi is only 10 pages. So, its full text will be given in this volume, however, only the important parts of long Uzbek dramas by Cholpan, Fitrat and others will be given in the volume. The second volume will be the English translations of the literary works which are collected in the first volume. I will be responsible for the preparation of the first volume. So far, John Soper, Larry Clark, David Staats have responded possitively to participate in translating the original Uzbek literary texts into English. I will be very happy if you also participate in this project. I liked your translations in your paper on "Uzbek Ethnic Feelings."

If you decide to participate, please let me know. Then I can give you more information on which Uzbek literary works I have in mind for the first volume and my transcription system. I think these two volumes of Uzbek literary works and their English translations will be an important contribution in the study of Central Asian literature. The Uzbek intellectuals in Uzbekistan will be very impressed by learning such work is published in the United States!

Hope to hear your views on this subject.

Sincerely,


Timur Kocaoglu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
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24 June 1981

Mr. Timur Koca-oglu
RFE/RL Inc.
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Am Englischen Garten
8022 Munich West Germany

Dear Mr. Koca-oglu:

As one of the other people working on contemporary Uzbekistan and particularly Uzbek literature, I have heard about you on several occasions. However, I don't believe we have ever been in direct contact.

Marc Zlotnik, a personal friend who works at the FBIS in Washington, mentioned to me recently that you had presented some of your findings there concerning contemporary Uzbek fiction, particularly the historical novel. Both contemporary fiction in general and the historical novels in particular are of great interest to me. I thought it might be beneficial from my standpoint (and hopefully from yours) if we compared notes on our respective research.

I don't know whether you saw the project which I originally put together for the US State Department on Uzbek feelings of ethnicity as expressed in contemporary belles-lettres; I had sent John Soper a copy, and I know that Jim Critchlow had one. My current research interests are primarily continuations of things I began in that project, including ethnic identity as revealed in fiction, rehabilitations of political and literary figures, historical and architectural monument restoration, and pride in Uzbek language, music and folk crafts. (In the event you haven't seen a copy of the project I am referring to, I would be happy to send on a copy.)

I would be very interested if you could give me some idea of your own direction of research. On the one hand I am interested in the substance of the findings; on the other, it would help avoid duplication of research efforts.

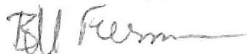
I am spending most of this summer doing research; since I teach Soviet politics and an introductory political science course here at the University of Tennessee, my research

tends to come in spurts, when I do not have a lot of classroom duties.

I don't read any other Turkic languages; my approach to the whole field is through Soviet politics. I wrote my dissertation on the politics of language development in Uzbekistan between 1917 and 1940. I don't read many Uzbek books these days simply because of the difficulty in getting my hands on them. I do subscribe, though, to more periodicals than I have time to read! I spent the academic year 1976-77 doing research in Tashkent (perhaps "trying to do research" would be a more accurate description?); I have applied to go back for six months beginning January, 1982, but I am not overly optimistic that I will be let into the country. Consequently, I anticipate doing most of my research from here in Knoxville in the foreseeable future.

I would appreciate reading anything you might care to share about your own research interests. From what Jim Critchlow says, you're kept extremely busy by RFE/RL work; in any case, I hope you will find an opportunity to write in the near future.

Sincerely,



Bill Fierman