



History, Geography and Archeology

Elahe Mahbooub Farimani

Rank: 2nd Winner in the Adult Section

Degree: Ph.D.

Research Title: Review of Financial Offices in Safavid era (Case Study of Astan Quds Razavi Dafater-e Tujihat Payment - Offices)

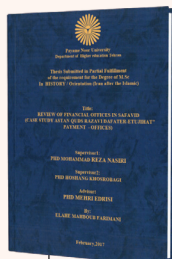
Kind of Research Work: Doctoral Dissertation



About Researcher

Elahe Mahbooub Farimani was born in June 1976 in Fariman, Iran. She passed her primary and secondary school in this city. She admitted to Ferdowsi University of Mashhad in the field of history in 1994. In 2000, she started her master's in the field of Islam history at University of Tehran and defended her thesis entitles "Study of the reasons of the growth of Sufism in Transoxiana in the 4th to 7th centuries AH" under the supervision of Dr. Mansour Sefat Gol and Dr. Gholamhossein Zargarinejad in 2002. She accepted in Payamnoor University of Tehran for PHD degree in Islamic Iran history field. In 2016, she defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Review of Financial Offices in Safavid era (Case Study of Astan Quds Razavi Dafater-e Tujihat Payment - Offices)" under the supervision of Dr. Houshang Khosrow Beigi and Dr. Mohammad Reza Nasiri.

She employed by the Astan Quds Razavi Archive Center in 1999 and as a research expert, started working with old documents. She succeeded in collecting and publishing six books in the documents field in these years. Some of them are: History of Astan Quds Razavi Library from Safavi to Qajar, documents of the presence of foreign governments in Iran, selection of documents of the presence of women in Astan Quds Razavi from Safavi to Pahlavi, etc. She has also published articles in national and international publications. Teaching "Documents and Inscriptions" in the history department of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and also holding documents identification workshops are among her other activities.



Abstract

Financial books were one of tools used by Divan Estifa (Office of Finance) to record revenue and expenditure of the country in a specific method. Toojihat (Instructions books) was one of the books used to record current expenditures of the state. The objective of this study is to investigate structure and function of Toojihat books at Safavid era. The study will elaborate the format and content of the books, editing, organization, and evolution of the books during this era. The research method is based on archival documents and library resources. Statistical samples were selected and studied from historical manuscripts, archival documents related to Estifa science, plus Astan Ghods Razavi accounting documents dated back to Safavid era. The information deducted from the references later analyzed using a qualitative- quantitative method and by comparing various data. The results of this study indicate that in Toojohat books, the expenses were first organized in two sections; instructions and regulations. Afterward, purchase orders and notes were recorded and their payment resources were identified. All of the proceedings were then controlled by chief comptroller to ensure accuracy of recordings.

Toojihat books were organized into two sections based on their format; the first part included heading of each account in which principal topics, the dates and details were input according to specific regulations. In the second part, body of documents, payment orders and resources were registered. The content of the documents written in the Toojohat books were diverse based on the source of expenses. Therefore, the books were full of administrative and sometimes religious documents which are valuable for other studies. It was also noticed that the format and the components of the books were changed during Safavid era. Based on the content of the books and comparison of expenses from Shah Abbas I and other periods, it is observed that more modifications and expenses were registered during Shah Soleyman and limited expenses recorded during Shah Safi periods. Review of Toojihat books reveals that financial system of Safavid dynasty was based on a logical manner and their budget was planned using these books contents. Since one of our study sample of Toojohat book was from Astan Ghods Razavi, it is seen that income and expenses records were rigorously reviewed in religious donation section. This would show Safavid religious policy for support of donated properties and importance of mortmain in their economics.

