

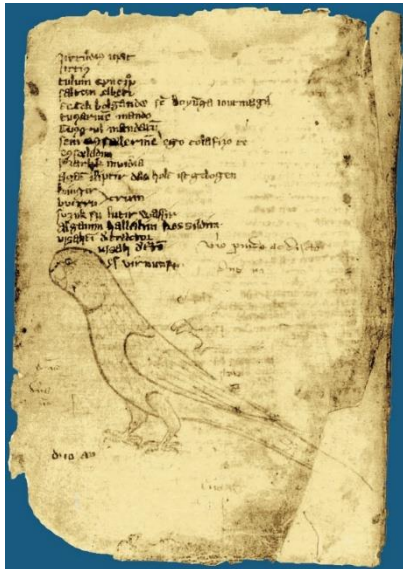
THE CUMAN-KIPCHAK – LITERATURE

OVERVIEW

The Cuman-Kipchak language existed as a language of communication within the Golden Horde from the first half of the 13th century.

The *Codex Cumanicus*, composed in the 14th century in the Crimea, is the only source providing important information on Cuman culture, their language, folkloric materials like riddles, wise sayings from religious texts etc. The Cuman language appears in several dialects in the *Codex Cumanicus*.

LITERATURE



Codex Cumanicus

The *Codex Cumanicus* is the only written source for the Cuman (Kipchak) language, and was written in 1303. It is preserved in the library of St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice.

The *Codex Cumanicus* is considered as a manual that designed to help Catholic missionaries communicate with the Cumans. It consists of two sections having many contributions by various writers: 1- a dictionary of the Cuman language with glossaries written in Latin, Persian, German and Cuman, and information on the grammar of the Cuman language, and 2- folkloric materials like Cuman riddles, a collection of wise sayings from religious texts translated in the Cuman language etc.

A page from the Codex Cumanicus

Riddles

Riddles, being one of the anonymous folk poetry genres of Turkic literature, were included in the *Codex Cumanicus*, and they are the oldest recorded documents which contain very important information on Cuman folklore and literature, as well as that of other Turkic groups. The *Codex Cumanicus* contains 47 riddles.

Discussion/Questions

1-For what purpose was the *Codex Cumanicus* composed?

Readings

1- Dikhanbayeva, A.Ye, Shaimerdinova, N.G., "Kipchak Riddles of the Codex Cumanicus Monument As the Common Heritage of All Turkic-Speaking Peoples", in *Journal of Positive School Psychology*, 2022, Vol. 6, No. 10, pp. 150-161.

2- Golden P. B., *Codex Cumanicus*, Central Asian Monuments, Edited by H. B. Paksoy, Gorgias Press, 2019.

3-Jafarov, B.& Dadaboev, O., "Codex Cumanicus" - Ancient Turkic Manuscript", in *Journal of Hunan University* (Natural Sciences), Vol. 49. No. 08, August 2022.