Title: Introducing 'Khatt-i Baburi' or the 'Script of Babur'
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1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to bring to the attention of the Unicode Technical Committee a writing system known as Khatt-i Baburi (خط بابرى), or the 'Script of Babur'.

The script is attributed to Babur (1483–1531), a nickname of Ẓahīr ad-Dīn Muḥammad, the Timurid prince who established the Mughal dynasty in India in 1526. Tradition holds that Babur invented the script and used it to produce a manuscript of the Qur'ān. A copy of this text is believed to be held in the collections of the Central Library of Astan Quds Razavi in Mashhad, Iran.

The script is written from right-to-left. It appears to be unrelated to other writing systems, although specimens suggest that it might be a cypher of the Arabic *abjad* (see figure 1). Additional research is required before any firm conclusions may be drawn about its origins. Charts of the script show a repertoire of 29 characters; 28 of which are basic letters and 1 is a consonant-vowel ligature.

The term 'Khatt-i Baburi' may actually refer to two separate scripts attributed to Babur. The available specimens label these as the بابرى *bāburī* and مشهد *mašhad* scripts (see figures 4 and 5). The name 'Mashhad' refers to the city where Babur's manuscript of the Qur'ān is located. Additional research is needed to determine the relationship between the two. The Baburi script is illustrated in a Persian manuscript that contains what appear to be one or more different writing systems (see figures 2 and 3). The relationship between the Baburi script and these scripts is also unknown.

Academic studies of the script have been presented by Azimjanova (1963) and Alparslan (1976).

2 Tentative Character Repertoire and Properties

The Baburi letters have tentatively been assigned Arabic names and properties.

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xx00;BABURI LETTER ALEF;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx01;BABURI LETTER BEH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx02;BABURI LETTER TEH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx03;BABURI LETTER THEH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx04;BABURI LETTER JEEM;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx05;BABURI LETTER HAH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xxxx;BABURI LETTER KHAH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx07;BABURI LETTER DAL;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx08;BABURI LETTER THAL;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx09;BABURI LETTER REH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0A;BABURI LETTER ZAIN;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0B;BABURI LETTER SEEN;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0C;BABURI LETTER SHEEN;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0D;BABURI LETTER SAD;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
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xx0E;BABURI LETTER DAD;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx0F;BABURI LETTER TAH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx10;BABURI LETTER ZAH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx11;BABURI LETTER AIN;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx12;BABURI LETTER GHAIN;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx13;BABURI LETTER FEH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx14;BABURI LETTER QAF;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx15;BABURI LETTER KAF;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx16;BABURI LETTER LAM;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx17;BABURI LETTER MEEM;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx18;BABURI LETTER NOON;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx19;BABURI LETTER WAW;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1A;BABURI LETTER HEH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1B;BABURI LETTER LAM ALEF;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
xx1C;BABURI LETTER YEH;Lo;0;AL;;;;;N;;;;;
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3   References

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Азимджанова, С. А. [Azimjanova, Sabahat A.]. 1963. "Новые Сведения о „Хатт-и Бабури"" ["New data concerning Khatt-i Baburi"]. (XXVI International Congress of Orientalists. Papers presented by the USSR delegation.) Москва.

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یگیت ['Yeget']. "خط بابری". `http://yeget.blogfa.com/post-85.aspx`
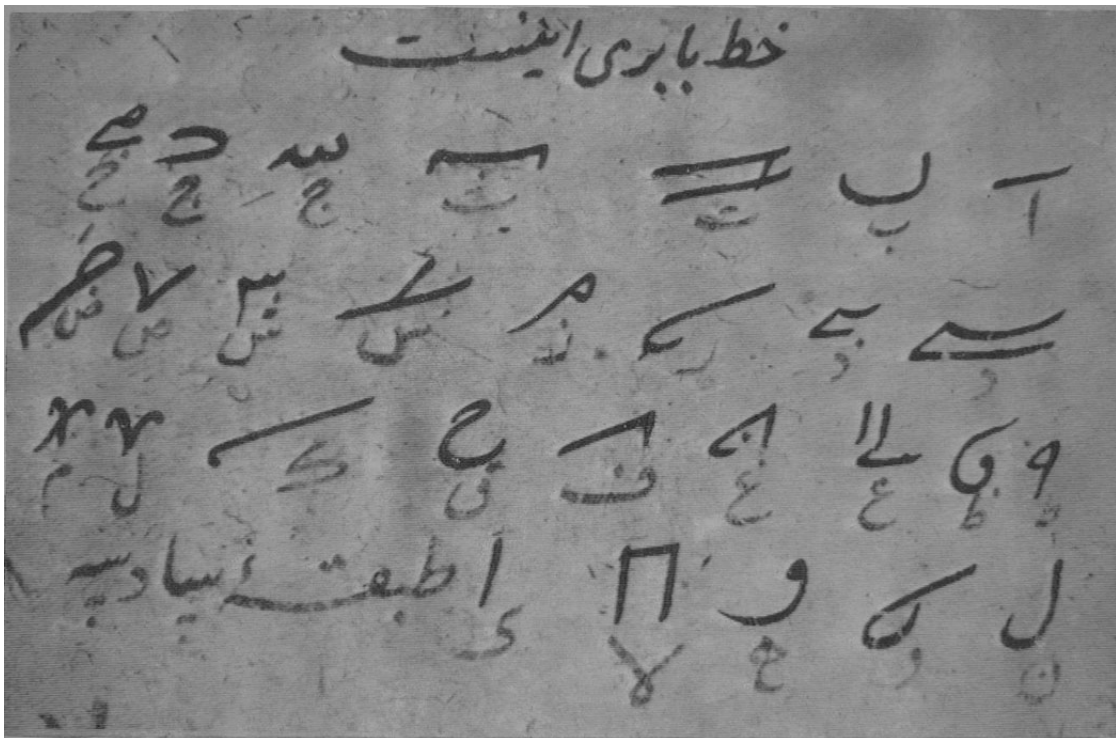
4   Acknowledgments

Figure 1: Persian manuscript showing 'Baburi' letters with Arabic correspondences (from Azim-janova 1963: Figure 1).
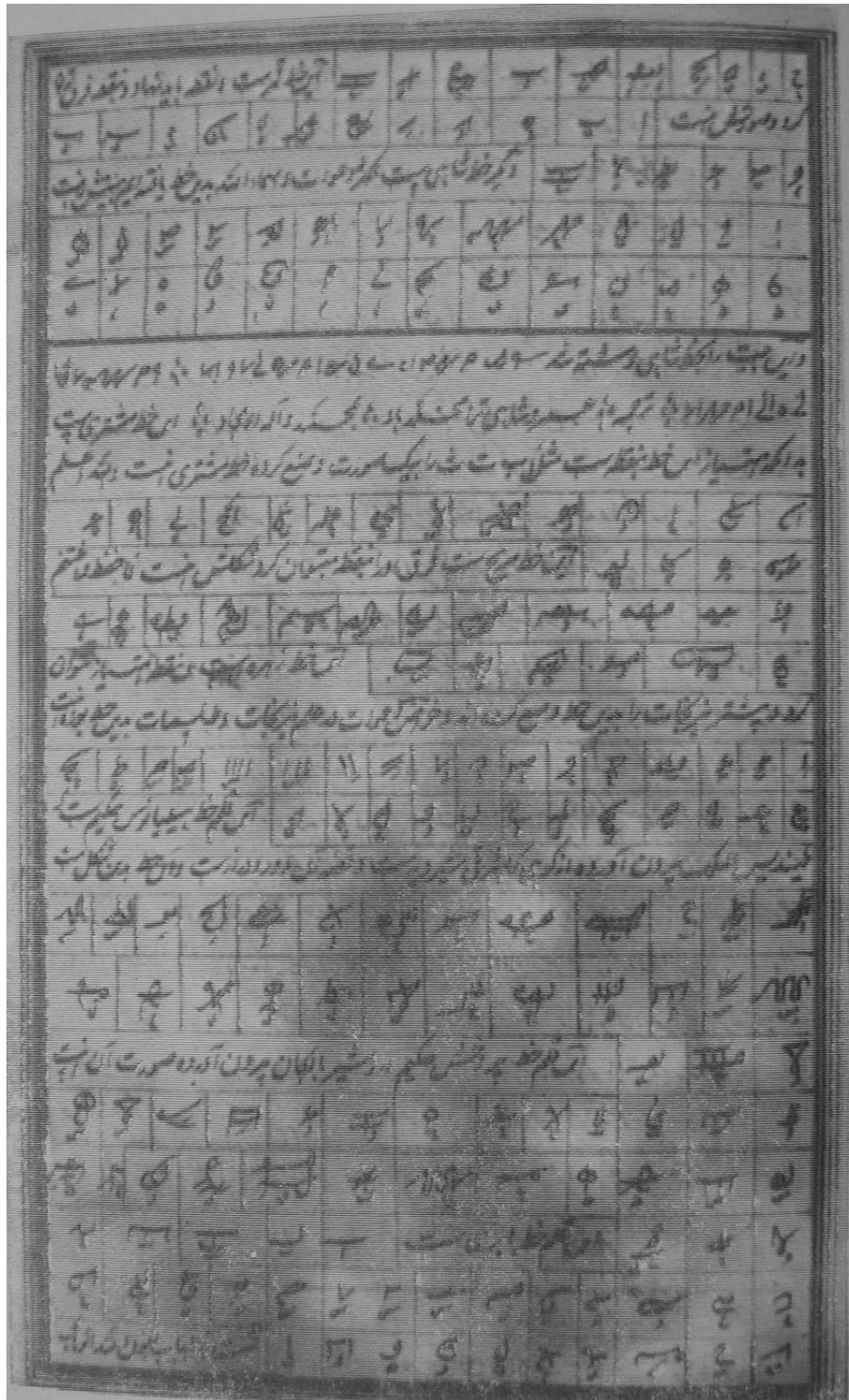
Figure 2: A Persian manuscript showing the 'Baburi' script (from Azimjanova 1963: Figure 2). The 'Baburi' letters are given in the last three rows of the folio. Other unidentified scripts are also illustrated in the folio.
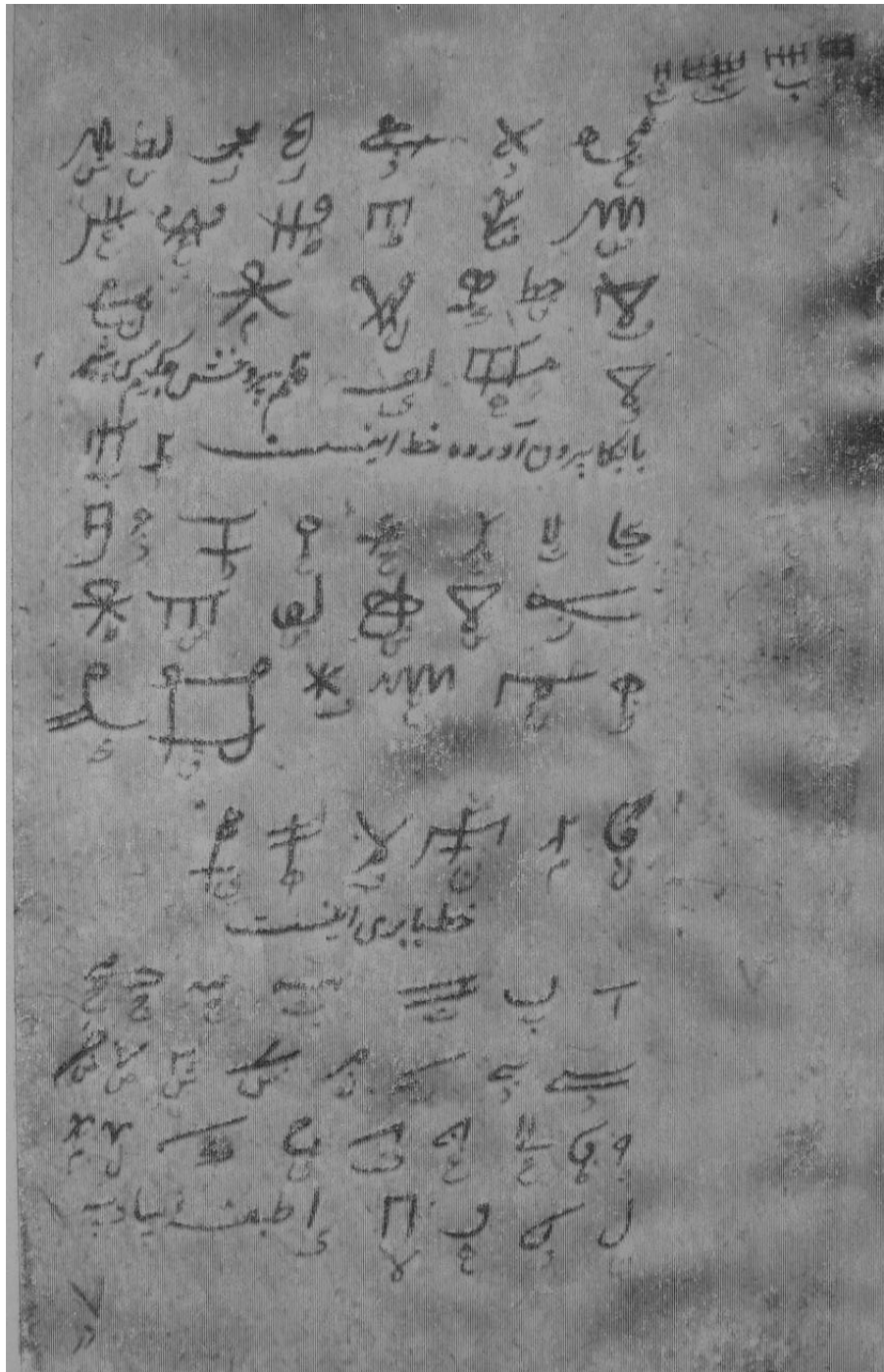
Figure 3: A Persian manuscript showing 'Baburi' letters (from Azimjanova 1963: Figure 3). The 'Baburi' letters appear in the bottom half of the folio. It is unclear which script is illustrated in the upper half of the folio, which are also shown in the folio in figure 2.

Figure 4: Letters of the 'Baburi' and 'Mashhad' scripts with Arabic correspondences (from 'Yeget').

Figure 5: Letters of the 'Baburi' and 'Mashhad' scripts with Arabic correspondences.