

## PREFACE

The present work is the result of a Solicited Research Topic titled “Basic Research on Religious Culture and Politics in Central Asian Mountain Areas in the Last Three Centuries,” which was carried out between 2011 and 2012 at TIAS: the Department of Islamic Area Studies, in the Center for Evolving Humanities, part of the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology at the University of Tokyo.

This work introduces the historical documents found and copied from private archives in the villages in the region on the right bank of the Panj River, present-day Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Province, the Republic of Tajikistan, during our two expeditions. The work is divided into two volumes: the first and current one produces facsimiles of the documents, and the second presents the introduction to the documents.

Because of the acceptance of Ismailism, Badakhshan has characteristics that make it stand out from other regions of Central Asia. However, historical sources, particularly relating to Ismailism, are so scarce that insufficient study has been carried out. This work attempts to apply the original sources for the study of the history of the region. These are reproduced courtesy of the owners of the documents, to whom we would like to express our deep regard for preserving them from generation to generation and our profound gratitude for allowing us to use them for study purposes.

This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 23820017 (Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity Start-up).

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