

Sirik has great tourism and economic potential



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The coastal city of Sirik, located in the eastern part of Hormuzgan Province, is keeping up with the Oman Sea's Coastal Development Plan. The government has recognized the tourism potential of this region and is taking steps to develop it.

With a population of 53,000, it is one of the six coastal towns of Hormuzgan Province. Due to its proximity to the Sea of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, it has the potential to become a tourism hub and the golden gateway to beautiful beaches.

This town has unique beaches, beautiful landscapes, natural and divine views, and suitable welfare facilities and equipment, making it one of the important tourist destinations in Hormuzgan Province.

Sirik is surrounded by 76 villages under its supervision. Due to its geographical location and suitable

coastal and marine conditions, Sirik has the potential to develop tourism, export and import sectors, especially considering its proximity to the countries bordering the Persian Gulf. This development can create favorable social and cultural conditions for economic prosperity, not only for the people of the region but also for many people in other parts of the country. Speaking in an interview with IRNA, Abbas Raeisi, deputy head of Hormuzgan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization for tourism affairs, said that lighting of 400 meters of beaches in Sirik's City Park has been provided.

He added that the eastern coasts of Hormuzgan Province, especially Sirik, are easily accessible to tourists due to being alongside the main road.

He said that creating a tourism infrastructure can have a significant impact on the economy and

employment in the region. By investing in the tourism infrastructure, steps can be taken to improve the quality of life for residents and promote economic growth.

Sirik County is set to have the second-largest port in Hormuzgan Province, after Shahid Rajaee Port. This development is expected to have a significant impact on the economy and employment in the region.

This port would have commercial, fishing, and tourism applications. The projects for the construction of internal and external access routes in the east of Hormuzgan Province have progressed by 91%. This development is a positive sign for the growing economic transactions and the prosperity of maritime trade in the region. The construction of access routes will improve the transportation infrastructure and facilitate the movement of goods and people.



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Persian manuscripts in Polish collections

It remains difficult to track down the provenance of some of the Persian manuscripts in Polish collections. These include an early Qajar copy of the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, illustrated by twenty-four paintings which belonged to the collection of the historian and politician Leon Lipinski (1857-1938 CE). He had a predilection for conservatorial problems and has greatly contributed to the organisation of cultural heritage and monument preservation in Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). In his mansion he created a collection of European art-painting, sculpture, drawings and old books from Spain, Italy, Holland, England and Poland, a large part of which was later transferred to the Royal Castle at the Wawel in Krakow. This was according to his testament (1938) in which he expressed his will to bestow the material to the Ossolinski National Institute in Lwów, known as Ossolineum.

The Ossolineum is one of the largest scientific libraries, as well as one of the oldest still existing publishing houses in Poland. It was founded in

1817 in Lwów by Count Józef Maksymilian Ossolinski (1748-1829).

After World War II, the Ossolineum was moved to Wrocław, the historical capital of Lower Silesia. Both Lwów and Wrocław, which had already developed a scholarly interest in the Oriental world since the 16th century, thus became a centre of linguistics, especially Hebraic philology. This explains why the great number of Oriental manuscripts is found in Lower Silesian libraries. Most books from church and monastic libraries of the province were relocated to the National Museum of Wrocław when it was established in 1947.

At present the collection preserves only one illustrated Persian manuscript, a two-volume copy of the Masnavi-ye Ma'navi of Rumi, copied in Shahjahanabad, Delhi, in 1662-3 and illuminated with twenty illustrations.

Although the first Polish translations of parts of the Masnavi — made from a third language — were published in the latter 1800s, it was a slightly more recent attempt by



Main building of the Ossolineum.

Tadeusz Micinski (1873-1918) that inspired the composer Karol Szymanowski (1882-1937) in 1914-6 to write his Third Symphony, entitled Song of the Night. It is worth mentioning that the influence of Persian poetry and music can be recognised in some of Szymanowski's earlier compositions too.

Such an Orientalist, "Sufi"-like predilection was characteristic of the early modernist Young Poland movement (1891-1918), and this phenomenon affected a wide range of Polish culture of the time, including music, literature and the visual arts. Proponents of the movement combined diverse

tendencies and, in a continuation of Romanticism, often turned to a vaguely defined "East" for mysterious settings. The Wrocław University Library also has a collection of Persian manuscripts, including two illustrated copies. This Library was established after World War II by merg-

ing two pre-war libraries, the former Municipal Library and University. Originating from the library of Count Hans Oppersdorf at Oberglogau, one of the manuscripts is a late 18th-century copy of the Tuti-Name of Ziya' al-Din Nakhshabi, with ninety-seven illustrations. The history of the Oberglogau library reaches back to the 16th century, to the times of Hans Oppersdorff (1514-1584). Successive owners continued to acquire new books and thereby by the end of 19th century it consisted of several thousand volumes. One of the most important trustees was Count Hans Georg von Oppersdorff (1866-1948), who inherited the library in 1889. He was well-educated and interested in Oriental languages: He is said to have been fluent in eight languages and even able to write essays in Hebrew. In 1927, Oppersdorff donated the Tuti-Name, together with a few other Oriental manuscripts, to the Wrocław (then Breslau) University Library. He also assigned 49,000 books from the family library to the Regional Li-

brary (Landesbibliothek) of Upper Silesia. But the books that remained in Oberglogau have so far counted 35,000 volumes. In addition, Oppersdorf was the owner of another huge library in his Berlin residence. Some historians suggest that his unquenchable desire to increase his libraries went beyond his financial capabilities and brought him to the brink of bankruptcy. The second illustrated Persian manuscript in the Wrocław University Library is a copy of the Yusif wa Zulaykhe of Jami, which originally came from the Church of Mary Magdalene. Based on mediaeval foundations, the golden age of this library occurred in the 16th century, when the collection of the religious reformer Jan Hess (1490-1547 CE), among others, was incorporated into the library. The library of the church, including the Yusif wa Zulaykhe, became part of the Municipal Library in 1865, and, after World War II, the Wrocław University Library. The previous ownership of the Jami manuscript cannot be established.