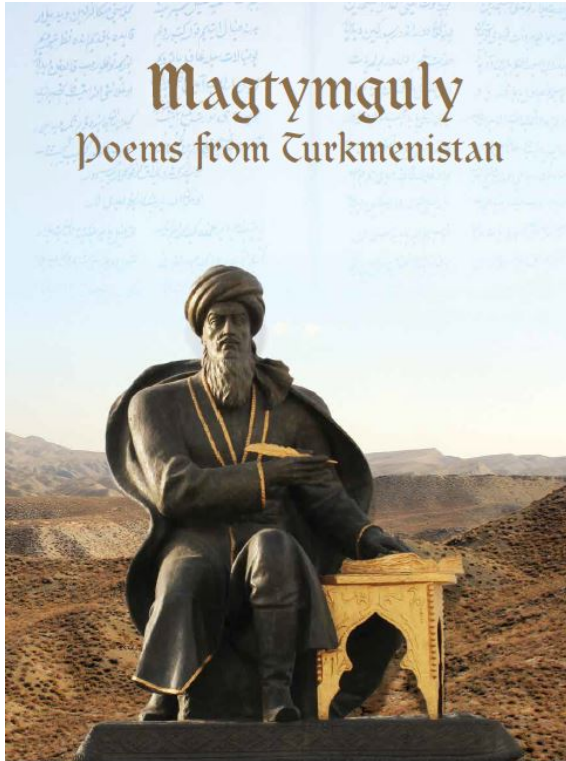




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Magtymguly: Poems from Turkmenistan features over one hundred poems by the preeminent Turkmen poet, Magtymguly (ca. 1724-ca. 1782). Presented in conjunction with the celebration of the 290th anniversary of the birth of the poet (2014), some of the poems in this publication are available in English for the first time. Magtymguly's passionate songs about love and war were originally performed by Turkmen bards, or *bagshy*, with the accompaniment of a two-stringed lute known as a *dutar*. The poems in this publication are drawn from one of the oldest known volumes of Magtymguly's oral poetry preserved in writing in the archive of the National Institute of Manuscripts in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. When sung, these poems evoke the world of eighteenth century Turkmenistan in a style that continues to be cherished there today. It is the translators' hope that these poems will instantly be recognized by English readers abroad as an excellent contribution to the world literary canon. The English translation has been prepared by Dr. Paul Michael Taylor, curator of Asian, Middle Eastern, and European Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institution, with the assistance of Turkmen language specialists.

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