

# **Persian Manuscripts in the S.P.S. Museum , Srinagar**

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S.P.S. Museum at Lalmandi Srinagar is one of the important treasures of antiquities. This museum has been founded by Maharaja of Kashmir- Sri Pratap Singh in 1897 A.D. Besides the marvel of art and literary accomplishments of savant-ancestors exhibited here, One can see hundreds of historical monuments and valuable Sanskrit, Sharda, Arabic and Persian manuscripts in the museum. These manuscripts are of literary, aesthetic, historical and scientific value and are the mirrors and aspirations of our thinkers and the vision of our seers.

There are about 150 Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit manuscripts preserved in this museum. In the following lines effort has made to introduce some of these manuscripts:

- I. **Holy Quran-** Bearing Acc. No;2709 is one of the precious manuscripts preserved in the collection of the Museum. This manuscript having historical importance for bearing seal of Aurangzab-e-Alamgeer-the sixth famous Mughal ruler and Son of Shah-Jahan. The margins of the MS are illuminated with gold and the captions have also been decorated with gold .

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- II. One manuscript in Persian about astronomy and astrology dedicated to Daniyal having 239 folios is also one the valuable manuscripts in the collection of S.P.S. Museum, bearing Acc. No. 2755.
- III. **Tafseer-e-Kabeer:** This manuscript has tremendous historical value and is in two vols. This is the translation and commentary on Holly Quran written by one of the famous scholars namely Fakhur-ud-Din Razi. The MS has been transcribed in an elegant and accomplished hand, bearing Acc. No. 5254 and has 530 folios.
- IV. **Tafseer-e-Quran:** This MS bearing Acc. No;5185 is the commentary on Holly Quran in Persian. It has been transcribed in the year 1112 A.H.
- V. **Bhagwat Gita :** This MS is the Persian translation of Bhagwat Gita- A well-known Holly Book of Hindus, bearing Acc. No:2358 and consisting of 318 leaves. One more MS of this book is also preserved in the museum collection.
- VI. **Makashaf-ul Asrar:** This MS pertains to the astronomy and is written in Persian Nastaliq hand. Present MS seems to be the 1st. Vol. of the book. Its writer is not known. MS bears Acc. No: 2433 and consists of 279 folios.
- VII. **Sanad:** One of the most important documents preserved in S.P.S. Museum is "Sanad" in Persian. This actually is a permit from Shah Jahan - the fifth Mughal emperor who has granted 100 kharwars of rice to one Bona Beigh. The document bears the Acc. No:1963 and seal of Shah Jahan.
- VIII. **Wasiqa Nameh:** Another significant document in the S.P.S. Museum collection is the "Wasiqa Nameh or "Wasiyat Nameh" of Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arifeen Shaikh Hamza Maqdoom popularly

known in Kashmir as Makhdoom Sahib. One paged this deed (document) is written in both Persian and sharda (Sanskrit) Scripts on the birch. One of the significant characteristics of this document is that it has been signed by some of the deciples of Hazrat Makhdoom like Khawaja Hasan Qari and Mulla Hussain,. The document bears some seals also. According to the Museum authorities the document is dated 984 A.H. (1578 A.D .) In accordance with this document all property and belongings of Makhdoom Sahib were transferred to his younger brother-Mohammad Ali Raina, the author of Taz Kirat-ul-Arfeen. Raina's signatures can also be seen on the document.

- IX. **Taufat-ul-Momineen:** This MS is of great value as this is the biographical treatise of some sufis and sages. This MS bears Acc. No:5356 and total number of leaves of the MS are 174 excluding the last leave which is damaged. The author of the books is Abdul Rasool.
- X. **Dewan-i-Raza:** This is the Dewan of Mohammad Raza Mushtaq- a famous Persian poet of Kashmir. The MS bears Acc. No:5290 and is dated 1317 A. H. This MS has only 29 folios.
- XI. **Shawahid-ul-Nabuwat:** This MS pertains to the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon his soul) and his prophithood. MS bears Acc. No: 5293 and has been transcribed in Safa-Pura (Kashmir) by one calligraphist Hafiz. The date of transcription at the end of the MS is given by the author as 1095 A.H. It has 158 leaves and is to be considered as one of the important Persian documents of the museum.
- XII. **Naqashbandi Silsileh:** This MS contains the biographical notes of the saints belonging to the Naqshbandi order. The MS seems to have been

transcribed about 150 years before. MS bears Acc. No.5292 and has 122 folios.

XIII. **Aetiqad Namah**: The author of the book is Noor-ud-Din Jameel. The present MS is dated 1253 A.H. It speaks about the God, Soul and divinity and consists of 18 folies.

XIV. **Tafser-e-Sura Yousf**: This MS is the commentary of one caption of Holy Quran in Persian. Date of transcription is not given in the MS. However the last page of the MS bears some seals which denote Hissam-u-Din 1314 A.H. MS bears Acc. No; 5294 and has 272 folios.

XV. **Rishi Nameh**: The author of this work is Baha-ud-Din Matoo. It deals with the saints and Sufis of the Rishi Order. This versified book is in the form of Mathnavi bearing the Acc. No.5255 and has 189 folios.

XVI. **Shah Nameh**: The author of this versified work is Firdowsi-a prominent Persian poet of Iran. The importance of this MS lies in the fact that it bears 21 beautiful paintings which are decorated in different colours, has 447 folios and its Acc. No. is 2708. This MS has been transcribed in 1258 A.H.

This short account of the MSS pertaining to poetry, prose, literature, history, ethics astronomy etc. preserved in the S.P.S. Museum Srinagar may undoubtedly give some idea to the readers about the hidden treasure of the S.P.S. Museum. If we are to build up and discover our future, then we have to protect these valuable MSS - the legacies of the past.