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AN INTRODUCTION OF PERSIAN MANUSCRIPT
HERITAGE IN
RESEARCH LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

The research library under Directorate of Libraries, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir was established in 1879 at Jammu named as SRS library followed by establishing SPS library at Srinagar in 1898. In 1904, the Department of Research and Publication was established and, in 1919, the SPS library was separated from the SPS museum and brought under the control of Department of Research and Publication. Since 1879, the department is engaged in the dissemination of knowledge and information by providing free library and reading room facilities to people of Jammu and Kashmir through this network¹. In this library, there is a total collection of precisely about 5506 manuscripts and it can be considered as one of the richest repositories of manuscripts not only in India but also in Asian sub- continent. Different scripts like Nastaliq, Naskh, Sarda, Devnagri etc and diverse languages have been used for writing these manuscripts. These manuscripts are written on various materials including birch bark, cloth and handmade papers and cover a variety of subjects including archery, architecture, arts, astrology, drama, ayurvedha,

grammar, history, literature, meditation, poetry, religion and philosophy. These manuscripts are treasures of vast expanse of knowledge to be helpful for scholars in their research work. A good number of credible research papers and publications on Kashmir have their source material originating from these manuscripts².

All manuscripts have been digitalised and have been made available in DVD format in order to preserve this wealth of information and wisdom for prosperity by National Mission for the Manuscripts. These digitalised manuscripts are yet to be archived that form part of our automation and networking of public libraries project. The next step will be that the information about these manuscripts will be available on the web. Besides this, their storage on scientific lines is also being taken care of. These manuscripts have been stored in fire proof storage in the research library³.

Its collection has two major divisions: The Persian/Arabic and the Sanskrit. The former has a total of 3364 manuscripts including 2349 in Persian, 719 in Arabic, 198 in Kashmiri, 67 in Urdu, and a few in other languages. The Sanskrit division, with 2142 manuscripts includes 1939 in Sanskrit, 8 in Punjabi, 3 in Dogri, 186 multi-languages and 3 each in English and Tibetan languages⁴.

The Persian manuscripts incorporate wide range of subjects like Astrology, literature, Sufism, Geography, Biography,

Philosophy, Medicine, History, Islamic jurisprudence, Prosody, Ethics, so on and so forth. Some of the very rich collections include:

☆ **Ajaib-ul-Makhlooqat wa Gareeb-ul-Maujoodat**, A Treatise on Cosmology, Astronomy and Monster scribed by Umad-ud-Qazwini and contains 660 folios with size 32×20 cm.

☆ **Asrar-ul-Abrar**, the 18th century Biography of Rishies of Kashmir scribed by Baba Dawood Mishkati with 5 manuscripts and contains 330, 266, 286, 237 and 180 folios with size 17.2×9.5cm, 11×19.2cm 25×18.5cm, 19.5×11.8cm & 33×19cm respectively 5.

☆ **Ajaaib-ul-Aalam**, a treatise on Geography scribed by Mulla Moin-ud-Din Hirati and contains 145 folios with size 12×12cm.

☆ **Baharistan-e-Shahi**, a 1654 A.D History of Kashmir scribed by Maulana Abdul Rehman Jami and contains 108 folios with size 32.2×25cm.

☆ **Bostan-e-Saadi**, a treatise on Literature scribed by Sheikh-Saadi Sheerazi and contains 148 folios with size 19×13cm.

☆ **Dastoor-us-salikeen**, a treatise on Sufism scribed by Baba Dawood Khaki with 7 manuscripts and contains 170, 95, 265, 251, 316, 312 & 587 folios with size 23.3×11.7cm, 26×17.5cm, 21×16cm, 20.5×17cm, 28×18cm, 31.2×18.5om & 24.5×15cm respectively.

☆ **Dar-us-Salam**, a treatise on Ethics scribed by Sheikh Abdull Razaq Naqshbandi Kashmiri and contains 259 folios with size 20.4×13cm.

☆ **Deewan-e-Hafiz**, a treatise on Literature scribed by Hafiz Sheerazi and contains 414 folios with size 14.9×3cm.

☆ **Fawaid Ferozshahi**, a treatise on Encyclopaedia of terminologies scribed by Sharaf Mohammad Atayi and contains 705 folios with size 27.5×15.3cm.

☆ **Gulshan-i-Dastoor**, a treatise on Agriculture scribed by Nath Danith and contains 456 folios with size 24×13.5cm.

☆ **Ghayas-ul-Lughat**, a treatise on Dictionary scribed by Mohammad Ghayas-ud-Din Rampuri and contains 390 folios with size 37.5×22.3cm.

☆ **Haq-ul-Yaakeen**, a treatise on Islamic Jurisprudence scribed by Mohammad Baqir Bin Mohammad Taqi and contains 489 folios with size 30.5×17.6cm.

☆ **Ikhtiyarat-i-Badeei**, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Ali Bin Hussain Ansari Attar with 6 manuscripts and contains 405, 328, 350, 207, 386 & 102 folios with size 25.4×17.5cm, 24.7×15.7cm, 25.5×16cm, 24×34cm, 21.5×16.5cm & 19.8×12.5 cm respectively

☆ **Ilum-i-Nujoom Wa Ramal**, a treatise on Astrology scribed by Mulla Tughra Mashadi and contains 105 folios with size 24.6×17cm 6.

☆ **Maghazi-un-Nabi (SAW), Zarooria**, a treatise on Sufism and Seerat scribed by Sheikh Yaqoob Sarfi/Baba Dawood Khaki and contains 178 folios with size 24×14cm.

☆ **Makashif-ul-Asrar**, a treatise on Astrology scribed by Pandit Birbal Kachroo and contains 299 folios with size 28×16.3cm.

☆ **Nukat-ul-Quran**, a treatise on Philosophy of Quran scribed by Mulla Hussain Rahnuma and contains 196 folios with size 20×11.2cm.

☆ **Qitat-i-Khusnawisi**, a treatise on Calligraphy scribed by Abdul Rehman Jami and contains 101 folios with size 13×10.5cm/ 31×19.4cm.

☆ **Rishalah Kuliyyat-i-Rami**, a treatise on Archery scribed by Mir Amin-ud-Din Jiyo and contains 125 folios with size 23×14.5cm.

☆ **Riyaz-u-Shura**, a treatise on Biography and History scribed by Quli Walh Ali Daghistani and contains 705 folios with size 24.5×14cm 7.

☆ **Sarf-i-Hawai**, a treatise on Grammar scribed by Noor-u-Din Zahoori Tarsheezi and contains 81 & 143 folios with size 30×17cm and 34×24cm respectively.

☆ **Sharah Mukhtasar wa Akalaq-i-Mohsini**, a treatise on Ethics scribed by Hussian Waix Kashfi and contains 122 folios with 17.5×9cm.

☆ **Tabeer Nama**, a treatise on Dreams and Interpretations scribed by Mulla Bahauddin Matto and contains 340 folios with size 23.5×15cm.

☆ **Tafseer-i-Azizi**, a treatise on Tafseer scribed by Shah Abdul Aziz and contains 411 folios with size 23×15cm.

☆ **Tarikh-i-Hassan vol. I**, a treatise on Geography of Kashmir scribed by Ghulam Hassan Khoihami and contains 108 folios with size 33.3×20cm.

☆ **Tarikh-i-Kabeer vol. II**, a treatise on Political Science scribed by Haji Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Miskeen Sarai Bali and contains 50 folios with 25.5×16cm.

☆ **Waseelat-ul-Wusool ila Diyarar Rasool (SAW)**, a treatise on Seerat scribed by Khwaja Mohammad Azam Dedmari with 6 manuscripts and contains 186, 156, 78, 110, 128 & 91 folios with size 13.7×9.6cm, 18.5×11cm, 32×19.5cm, 23.5×15cm, 16.5×10.5cm & 17×10.5cm respectively.

☆ **Zad-ul-Ma'aad**, a treatise on Prayers scribed by Durwesh Bengali and contains 127 folios with size 20.5×12.5cm.

☆ **Zakhirat-ul-Mulook**, a treatise on Islamic philosophy scribed Mir Syed Ali Hamdani with 11 manuscripts and contains 137, 221, 198, 160, 193, 303, 25, 172, 118, 214 & 149 folios with size 25.3×15cm, 20.5×12cm, 23×13.5cm, 23.5×14cm, 25×15cm, 21×11cm, 24×13cm, 22×11.5cm, 30.78×12cm, 24×16.5cm, 25×15.5cm respectively 8.

Besides, some of the wonderful manuscripts present in the Research library are bi-lingual and tri-lingual i.e., written in more than one languages particularly in Persian/Sanskrit and Hindi. Actually, some works are originally presented in Persian and the contents have been translated in Sanskrit and Hindi. For others the case is reverse. The works are originally in Sanskrit and the same have been translated in Persian or/and Hindi in the same volume by the same author. Hereunder, mention may be made of a few of them.

1) **Account papers of Patshala**, a treatise on Dharma scribed by Upadhyaya Sridatta written in languages, Persian/ Hindi, Dogri and script, Devanagri with 588 folios and size 27×25cm, 69.5×24.7cm, 38×35cm respectively and Acc. No. 662.

2) **Asbab-uk-Alamat in Hindi**, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Yadunatha Sarma written in languages, Persian/Hindi and script, Devanagri with 692 folios and size 35.8×18cm and Acc. No. 621.

3) **Bostan**, a treatise on Tale(Didactic) scribed by Sheikh Saidi in languages, Sanskrit and Persian and script, Devanagri with 304 folios and size 34×18cm and Acc. No. 392.

4) **Bostan(of the original Persian)**, a treatise on Tale(Didactic) scribed by Sheikh Saidi in languages, Sanskrit and Persian and script, Devanagri with 412 folios and size 33×18cm and Acc.No. 390.

5) **Bostan**, a treatise on Tale(Didactic) scribed by Sheikh Saidi in languages, Sanskrit and Persian and script, Devanagri with 99 folios and size 22.5×17.5cm and Acc. No. 391.

6) **Bostan**, a treatise on Tale(Didactic) scribed by Sheikh Saidi in languages, Sanskrit and Persian and script, Devanagri with 153 folios and size 33.5×17.5cm and Acc. No. 391(a) 9.

7) **Chikitsa Grantha(4 parts)**, a treatise on Ayurveda scribed by Sankara Carya in languages, Hindi/Sanskrit/Persian and script, Devanagri with 641 ,1130, 1420, 830 folios and size 37.5×23cm, 35.2×24.9cm, 25×23, 37.5×23.5cm and Acc. No. 630.

8) **Danish Nama**, a treatise on Purana scribed by Govinda Carya

in languages, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 141 folios and size 34×18cm and Acc. No. 351.

9) **Gulistan (4 parts)**, a treatise on Kosa scribed by Lala Chand Kavi in languages, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri/Nastaliq with 292, 258, 219, 290 folios and size 39.2×18cm, 34.6×18.3cm, 34.3×18cm, 34.4×18cm and Acc. No. 615.

10) **Gulistan**, a treatise on Kosa scribed by Lala Chand Kavi in languages, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 84 folios and size 33.5×17.7cm and Acc. No. 692 10.

11) **Haft Zabari**, a treatise on Kosa scribed by Sangari Gupta in languages, Hindi, Sanskrit, English and Persian and script, Devanagri/Nastaliq with 498 folios and size 52.7×35.5cm and Acc. No. 522.

12) **Illāg-ul-Amaraz**, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Nitisera in languages, Sanskrit and Persian and script, Devanagri/Nastaliq with 418 folios and size 35.5×22cm and Acc. No. 393.

13) **Ilm-ul-Amaraz**, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Nitisera in languages, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 542 folios and size 33.5×19cm and Acc. No. 423.

14) **Inshiai Khadimi**, a treatise on Anatomy scribed by Sridas in languages, Urdu, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri/Nastaliq with 192 folios and size 23×14.5cm and Acc. No. 375 11.

15) **Jami Ul Tib**, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Laugaksi Bhaskara in languages, Sanskrit, Hindi and Persian and script,

Devanagri/Nastaliq with 477 folios and size 34.5×20cm and Acc. No. 479.

16) Karima(2 parts), a treatise on Dharma scribed by Visvanatha in languages, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri/Nastaliq with 54 and 36 folios and size 34×18.3cm, 34×16.5cm and Acc. No. 627.

17) Karina, a treatise on Dharma scribed by Visvanatha in languages, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 36 folios and size 33.5×20cm and Acc. No. 385.

18) Kosa, a treatise on Kosa scribed by Isvarasna in languages, Hindi, Sanskrit, English and Persian and script, Devanagri/Nastaliq with 416 folios and size 40×3cm and Acc. No. 592 12.

19) Masdar Nama, a treatise on Kosa scribed by Kulluka Bhatta in languages, Urdu, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 84 folios and size 33.5×20.5cm and Acc. No. 394.

20) Qanuni-Tib, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Laugaksi Bhaskara in languages, Sanskrit, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 485 folios and size 35.5×21cm and Acc. No. 493.

21) Qanuni-Tib, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Laugaksi Bhaskara in languages, Sanskrit and Persian and script, Devanagri/ Nastaliq with 302 folios and size 36×22cm and Acc. No. 478.

22) Qanuni-Tib, a treatise on Medicine scribed by Laugaksi Bhaskara in languages, Sanskrit, Hindi and Persian and script, Devanagri with 160, 267 folios and size 38.3×28cm and 38×23cm

and Acc. No. 686 13.

The Directorate of libraries has been endeavouring hard to publish the manuscripts for the benefit of scholars. So far, the publication of manuscripts is mandatory now. About 112 manuscripts have been published in its original languages including Sivasutra Vimarmshine in Sanskrit, the oldest book on the Idealistic Monism or Advaita Saivagama of Kashmir, Kashmir Saivism, a brief introduction of the history, literature etc 14.

The library is an abode for the scholars to un-reveal the embedded pearls of knowledge in these manuscripts. Till date very few scholars including from the P.G Deptt. of Persian, University of Kashmir with the dire efforts of the present Head of the Deptt. Of Persian, **Professor Syeda Rukaya**, have shouldered this grave responsibility and have encouraged many scholars to edit, translate and evaluate them. Till date the scholars and the faculty of the Department of Persian have worked (edited & translated) upon the following manuscripts of the Research Library and, besides, some have worked upon these manuscripts for their M.Phill and P.hD. programmes:

1. **Prof. M.S.Niazmand** Editing and Translation of Maktoobat Syed `Ali Hamadani.
2. **Prof Syeda Rukaya** (a) Translation of Hidayat-ul-Mukhliseen.
(b) Translation Entitled {Tazkira-i-Mashaekheen Kashmir}
(c) Editing of {Tahfat-ul-Fuqara}.

3. **Prof M.M.Masoodi** Editing and Translation of Chihal Asrar
4. **Dr. M.Y. Lone** Editing and Translition of Wajeez-ul- Tawarikh.
5. **Dr. Altaf A. Wani** Editing and Translation of Maghazeh-ul-Nabi by Sarfi.
6. **Dr Shadab Arshed Mir** Editing of Deewani Mir Illahi.
7. **Dr Neelofer Naaz Nehvi** Editing of Shahnamah Kashmir.
8. **Shabir Ah Bhat** Editing of Ainul Irfan by Abdul Wahab Noori¹⁵

Presently, the Manuscripts which are being worked upon by the scholars of the Dept. of Persian include:

1. Editing and Translation of Bagh-i-Sulaiman.
2. Editing and Translation of Akbar Nama.
3. Editing and Translation of Hidayat-ul-Aama.
4. Editing and Translation of Zubdat-ul-Azkar.

Editing and Translation of Munakhib-u-Tawarikh 16.

This scholar is also working on "Rasial of Mullah Tughra Mashadi" whose five Manuscripts are present in the Research Library of University of Kashmir. They are entitled as under.

1. **Ilhamiya**, a treatise on Literature scribed by Tughra Mashadi and contains 102 folios with size 21×11cm and Acc. No. 1032.
2. **Insha-e-Tughra**, a treatise on Literature scribed by Tughra Mashadi and contains 67 folios with size 23.4×15cm and Acc. No.2820
3. **Majmooa Rasail Tughra Mashadi**, a treatise on Biography/ Literature/Sufism and contains 82 folios with size 15×8cm and Acc. No. 730.

4. **Qoot-i-Rooh yani Muqamat-i-Mousiqi/Munshat-i-Tughra**, a treatise on Literature scribed by Tughra Mashadi and contains 60 folios with size 21×21cm and Acc.No.661.

5. **Munshaat-i-Tughra**, a treatise on Literature scribed by Tughra Mashadi and contains 227 folios with size 23.9×13.6cm and Acc. no. 2648.

The tireless efforts of the Research Library ultimately bore fruits for the authorities successfully published a few titles which highly benefited the Research scholars from different disciplines. A few of them include:

1. Taran-E-Saroor.
2. Tarikh-i-Hassan Vol. I.
3. Tarikh-i-Hassan vol. II.
4. Tarikh-i-Hassan vol. III.
5. Tarikh-i-Hassan vol. IV.
6. Tarikh-i-Kashtiwari.
7. Tarikh-i-Syed Ali.
8. Qaseedai Gouslia 17.

It is high time that the scholars across disciplines from Humanities, Social sciences and also from Pure sciences have to decide seriously for unveiling the embedded treasures of knowledge en-composed in these thousands of rare manuscripts of Kashmir which shall result into an endangered heritage if immediate attention shall not be paid to conduct serious research on these treasures.

Notes and References

1. Information collected from the members of Research Library University of Kashmir.
2. Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts Deptt. Of Libraries and Research , Govt. of J&K, p. 1.
3. Ibid, p. 2.
4. Ibid, p. 2.
5. Ibid, p. 8.
6. Ibid, p. 8, 15, 21, 23, 27, 33-40.
7. Ibid, p. 56, 69, 86, 92, 98, 101, 116, 120,131, 134.
8. Ibid, p. 2.
9. Ibid, p .215, 228, 252.
10. Ibid, p. 256, 277, 279.
11. Ibid, p. 280, 282.
12. Ibid, p. 291, 309.
13. Ibid, p. 328.
14. Ibid, p. 2.
15. Information collected from the Deptt. of Persian.
16. Information collected from the scholars of Deptt. Of Persian.
17. Information collected from the members of Research Library, University of Kashmir.

