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Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library

Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library

Opened for Public in October, 1891 by Maulvi Khuda Bakhsh

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Historical Perspective

Growing through the years ...

Khuda Bakhsh Library emerged out of a collection of **Maulvi Mohammad Bakhsh**, who hailed from Chapra, a district of Bihar. He was a man of letters and law and had a great passion for books. He collected about 1,400 manuscripts including some rare printed books.

When he was on his death-bed in 1876 he entrusted the whole lot to his son and wished him to open a library for the public whenever he should find himself in a position to do so. Khuda Bakhsh, thus, inherited from his father love for books and dedication to public service.

He made it a mission of life to establish a public library so as to fulfil his father's dream. He made all possible efforts to acquire rare books and manuscripts. He also borrowed services of a book-hunter to collect manuscripts from the learning centres in the Arab world. He devoted himself to this noble cause.

With the acquisition of books he laid foundation of a two-storied building for the library. It was ready in 1888 at the cost of Rs. 80,000 and the books were shifted to this newly-constructed beautiful building. To fulfil the long-cherished desire of his father, Khuda Bakhsh opened it for the people of Patna on 29th October, 1891 with 4,000 rare manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, apart from the printed books in Arabic, Persian and English.

The library was donated to the public and the Govt. of Bengal was made its trustee. It was modestly named as **Oriental Public Library** according to the Trust Deed. The people, however, prefixed his name in view of his great service to the public. Since then it is officially known as Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library. But popularly it is called Khuda Bakhsh Library.

Turning Points



The 26th Dec'1969 was a turning point in the annals of the Library when it was raised to the status of an **Institution of National Importance** by an Act of Parliament. Being an autonomous body it has been working since then under the control of the Govt. of India, Department of Culture



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Collection Development

One of its kind in the world ...

"The Patna Oriental Public Library is one of the finest collections on Moslem literature in the World," remarked V.C. Scott O'Connor, an orientalist of Edinburgh, England.

Khuda Bakhsh had struggled hard for years and paid fancy prices for rare manuscripts and books to build his precious collection. Slowly but surely, fame of this collection crossed even the international borders. The British Museum once made him a magnificent offer for his collection but he declined. He told to O'Connor ...

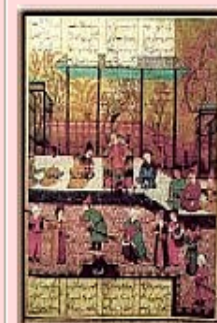
"I am a poor man and the sum they offered me was a princely fortune, but could I ever part for money with that to which my father and I have dedicated our lives ?"

... and as he said, his clear-cut features betrayed a single emotion; his large luminous eyes welled up with tears.

"No" he said "the collection is for Patna and the gift shall be laid at the feet of the Patna public".

The Library specializes in Islamic Studies, Tibb (Unani Medicine), Tazkira (Biography), Tasawwuf (Islamic Mysticism), Comparative religions, Medieval History, South East Asian History, West Asian History, Central Asian History, Medieval Science, Literature on Freedom Movement and National Integration as also Urdu, Persian and Arabic Literatures.

The Artifacts



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Online Catalogues

📖 Persian Volumes	
1.	Poetry (Vol-1)
2.	Poetry (Vol-2)
3.	Poetry (Vol-3)
4.	History (Vol-6)
5.	Indian History (Vol-7)
6.	Biography, Romances, Tales and Anecdotes (Vol-8)
7.	Philology & Science (Vol-9)
8.	Science & Arts (Vol-11)
9.	Commentaries on the Quran, Hadis Law, Theology & Controversial Works (Vol-14)
10.	Sufism, Prayers, Hinduism & History of Creeds and Sects (Vol-16)
11.	Mixed Contents (Vol-17)
12.	Persian Poetry, History, Biography & Tales (Vol-31)

📖 Arabic Volumes	
14.	Medical Works (Vol-4)
15.	Tradition (Vol-5)
16.	Theology (Vol-10)
17.	Biography (Vol-12)
18.	Sufism (Vol-13)
19.	History (Vol-15)
20.	Quaranic Science (Vol-18)
21.	Principles of Jurisprudence (Vol-19)
22.	Philology (Vol-20)
23.	Encyclopaedia, Logic, Philosophy and Dialectics (Vol-21)
24.	Science (Vol-22)
25.	Poetry and Elegant Prose (Vol-23)
26.	Ethics and Prayers (Vol-24)
27.	Miscellanies (Vol-25)



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Arabic Catalogue : Vol 4

Medical Works ...

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<input type="radio"/>	1. Kitab ul-Mushajjar	73.	Jami ul-Amani
<input type="radio"/>	2. Kitab ul-Agdiyah	74.	Kitab-u-Shafi fit Tibb
<input type="radio"/>	3. Kanz ul-Fawaid	75.	Risalah fis-Sumum
<input type="radio"/>	4. Kitab ul-Mansuri	76.	Kitab-u-Tasrih il-Ada
<input type="radio"/>	5. Bur'u's-Sa`ah	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Dictionaries of Medicine
<input type="radio"/>	6. Kitab-u Man la Yahduruh ut-Tabib	77.	Kitab ul-Hashaish
<input type="radio"/>	7. Kitabun fil-Waba	78.	Minhaj ul-Bayan
<input type="radio"/>	8. Kitabun fi-Hifz-is-Sihhat wa Lzalat il-Marad	79.	Al-Jaml (Ibn ul-Baytar)
<input type="radio"/>	9. Al-Mu`alajat ul-Buqratiyah	80.	Kitab ul-Mugni
<input type="radio"/>	10. Kitab-u-Gina wa Muna	81.	Kitab ul-Wuslat-I- Ilal Hhabib
<input type="radio"/>	11. Kitab-u-Tadbir-il-Habala	82.	At-Tadkirat ul-Hadiyah
<input type="radio"/>	12. Kamil us-Sana`ah	83.	Ma la Yasa ut-Tabib-a-Jahluhhu
<input type="radio"/>	13. Kitab ul-Mi'a	84.	Majma ul-Manafi'il Badaniyahh



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KITÂBU-'L-MUSHAJJAR.

By ابو زكريا يوحنا ابن ماسويه, Abû Zakariyâ Yûhannâ [Yahyâ] b. Mâsawayh, known to Europe as Mesua, a Syrian Christian whose father, Mâsawayh, served as an apothecary in the hospital of Gundeshâpûr for thirty years. Ibn Mâsawayh, being an intelligent youth, acquired the science of medicine then in practice. He was at first appointed to superintend the translation of ancient works, by the Caliph Hârûn-r-Rashîd, who placed at his service the best scribes of the day. He at last succeeded to the post of Gabriel, son of Bukhtishû', as private physician to the Caliph Al-Manşûr and his successors down to Wâsiq, in whose reign in A.H. 243 = A.D. 857, he died. He translated many books from Greek and produced many original works, such as كتاب نوادر الطبيه (Curiosities of Medicine), which he dedicated to Hunayn b. Ishâq.

For references to his life and works, see Ibn Abî 'Uşaybi'ah, vol. i., pp. 175-83; Ibnu-'l-Qiftî's Târikhu-'l-Hukamâ, pp. 380-91; Mukhtaşaru-'l-Duwal (Oxford edition), p. 226; Nâma-i Dawishwarâni-Nâsirî, vol. ii.

