

Introduction to the Catalogue of the Persian manuscripts in the Central Library of the Punjab University (2 Vols.)

The Punjab University Library holds the biggest collection of manuscripts in Pakistan having 14,482 titles in Arabic, Persian and Urdu and 1871 titles in Hindi and Sanskrit as of February 22nd, 2007. Manuscript collections are divided into different general and personal collections under:

General Collection: This collection includes single titles which were purchased from or donated by individuals.

Azad Collection: This collection which includes 398 Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts was donated by Muhammad Husayn Azad (1830-1910) family.

Pirzada Collection: This collection was purchased from Pirzada Muhammad Husayn 'Arif (1856-1928) and consists of 165 manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

Kayfi Collection: B. M. Datatriyah Kayfi (1866-1955) donated this collection to the library. It has 130 manuscripts in Persian and Urdu.

Woolner Collection: This collection consists of 8671 manuscripts in Sanskrit and Hindi and is named in honor of Sir A. C. Woolner.

Shirani Collection: This collection was purchased from Hafiz Mahmud Khan Shirani (1880-1946). It consists of 2284 volumes of manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

Mahbub 'Alam Collection: The son of late Malawi Mahbub 'Alam (1862-1937) donated this collection consisting of 348 manuscripts.

Azar Collection: It was purchased from the son of Prof. Siraj al-Din Azar (1892-1947). It has 1500 manuscripts.

Published Catalogues of Manuscripts in Punjab University

The University of the Punjab is one of the oldest centres for cataloguing manuscripts in the subcontinent. Professional librarians as well as university professors, cataloguers and MA students have worked on various catalogues at different times. The result has been lengthy articles or books which are listed hereunder chronologically:

1926-1936:

Sayyid 'Abd Allah, *Khazā'in Makhtūtāt Punjab University Library, Lahor* (Manuscript Collections in the Punjab University Library, Lahore) in *Oriental College Magazine*, published by the Oriental College of Punjab University, Lahore, in 25 issues from May 1926 to August 1936.

1932-1942:

Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Punjab University Library,

Vol. I, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 1932, xiii+276pp.

Vol. II, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 1941, xvii+292pp.

This catalogue includes 9000 manuscripts in Sanskrit.

1942-1948:

‘Abd Allah, S. M. *A Descriptive Catalogue of Persian, Urdu & Arabic Manuscripts in the Punjab University Library,*

Vol. I, Persian Manuscripts, Fasciculus I-History, 1942, University of the Punjab, Lahore, iv+1-130.

Vol. I-Persian Manuscripts, Fasciculus II-Persian Poetry, 1948, University of the Punjab, Lahore, xix+131-575.

In these two volumes, 711+188 Persian manuscripts in different collections of the library have been catalogued.

1967; 1969-1975:

Bashir Husayn, Muhammad, *Fihrist-i Makhtūtāt-i Shirani*, first edition by *Pakistan Research Society Journal*, University of the Punjab, Lahore, January to April 1967; second edition by Pakistan Research Society, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Vol. I, 1975, x+1-201; Vol. II, 1969, vi+198-411; Vol. III, 1973, iv+412-835. The catalogue records 3139 Persian manuscripts in Shirani Collection.

1971:

Afzal Malik, Muhammad, *Urdū Makhtūtāt Punjab University Library* (Urdu Manuscripts of the University of the Punjab) in *Qaumī Zabān* Magazine, Karachi, January 1971, pp. 40-52; March 1971, pp. 64-76; April 1971, pp. 36-49; June 1971, pp. 56-60.

1975:

Kawkab, Qazi ‘Abd al-Nabi, *Punjab University Library kī Nādir ‘Arabī Makhtūtāt kī Fihrist-i Mufassal* (*A Descriptive Catalogue of Rare Arabic Manuscripts in the Punjab University Library*), Vol. I, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 1975, xiil+373 pp.

This is a detailed catalogue of 81 Arabic manuscripts.

1982:

Kawkab ‘Abd al-Nabi, *Handlist of Arabic Manuscripts in the Punjab University Library*, Revised by Sayyid Jamil Ahmad Rizvi, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 1982, x+552 pp.

1986:

Rizvi, Sayyid Jamil Ahmad, *Dhakhīrah Shirani mīn Urdū Makhtūtāt* (Urdu Manuscripts in Shirani Collection), Muqtadirah Qaumī Zabān (National Language Authority), Islamabad, 1986, 38 pp. It catalogues 500 Urdu manuscripts in the Shirani Collection.

1986:

Naushahi, Sayyid Khizr ‘Abbasi, *Fihrist-i Nuskhīhāyi Khattiy-i Kitābkhānah-yi Dānishgāh-i Panjāb, Lahor, Ganjīniy-i Azar*, (Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Azar Collection of the Punjab University Library, Lahore), Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad, 1986, xvi+592 pp.

It is a descriptive catalogue of Persian manuscripts in Professor Azar Collection.

1990:

Ahmad Khan, *Al-Makhtūtāt al-‘Arabiyah fī Jāmi‘at al-Bunjāb bi Lāhūr (Fahrais Muntaqī)*, (Subject Catalogue of the Arabic Manuscripts in the Punjab University Library, Lahore), Mahd al-Makhtūtāt al-‘Arabiyah, Kuwait, 1990, 143 pp.

It is a subject catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts.

The present Catalogue

The present catalogue records manuscripts which have not so far been catalogued, or otherwise needed more data to complete the descriptions in the above-mentioned published catalogues.

It includes data concerning manuscripts in Azad, Pirzada, Kayfi, Shirani and General collections in two parts.

In the first part, treatises and books bound in one volume are described separately according to their catalogue number under each collection.

In the second part, single treatises and books are classified according to subject and arranged alphabetically under each subject heading, and only a reference has been made to the manuscripts fully described in the first part. The manuscripts already recorded in *Fihrist-i Mushtarak-i Nuskhīhāyi Khattiy-i Pākistān* (A Union Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Pakistan), Ahmad Monzavi, Islamabad, 1983-1997, 14 vols.) have not been fully described and only a reference to “*Mushtarak*” has been made for those titles. But manuscripts

which are recorded for the first time in this catalogue have been fully described. However, the opening lines in each manuscript have been also copied. The present catalogue completes the records for all manuscripts in the Punjab University Library, Lahore.