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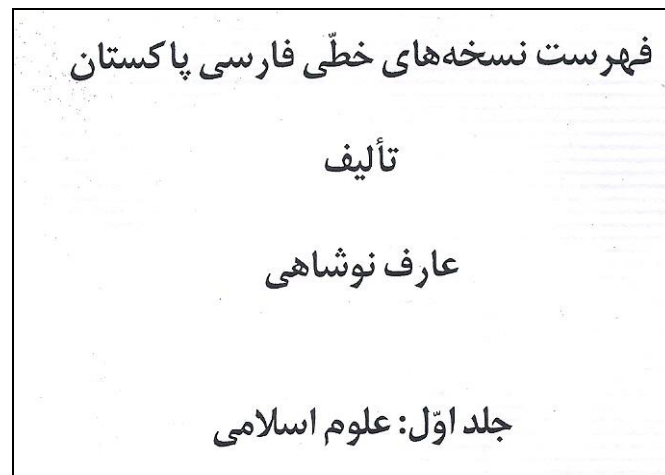
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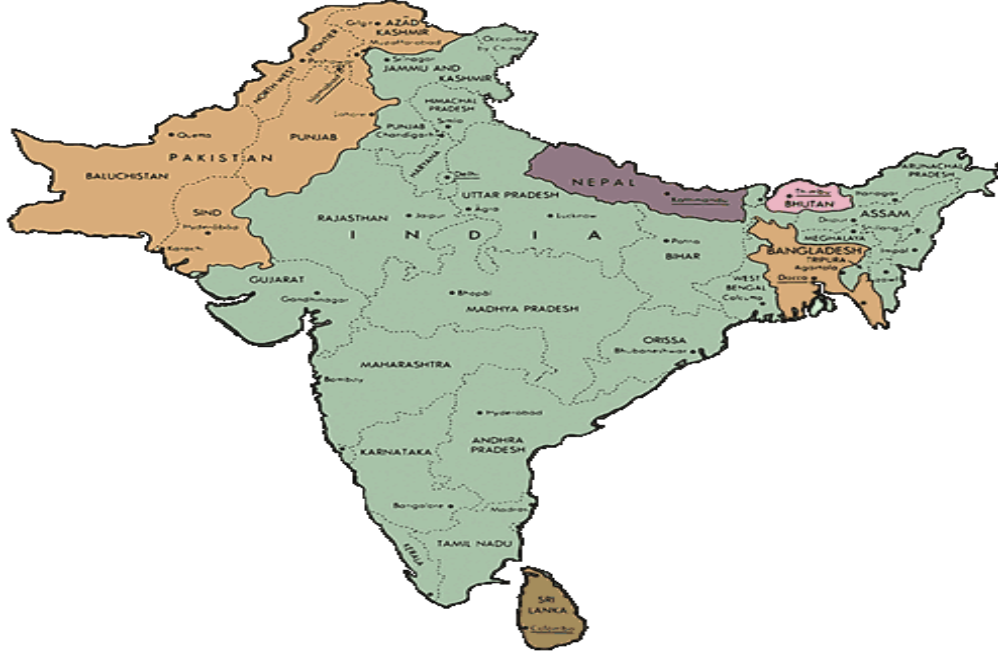
## **Union Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Private libraries of Pakistan**

(Vol. 1: Islamic literature)

**Final Report**



## 1. Subcontinent : The hub of manuscripts



Presence of Persian language and literature in the subcontinent (Bangladesh, India & Pakistan) since last 1000 years made it a hub of Persian manuscripts. In almost all parts of subcontinent there are centers which have very rich collection of manuscripts known all over the world. Some of these centers are:

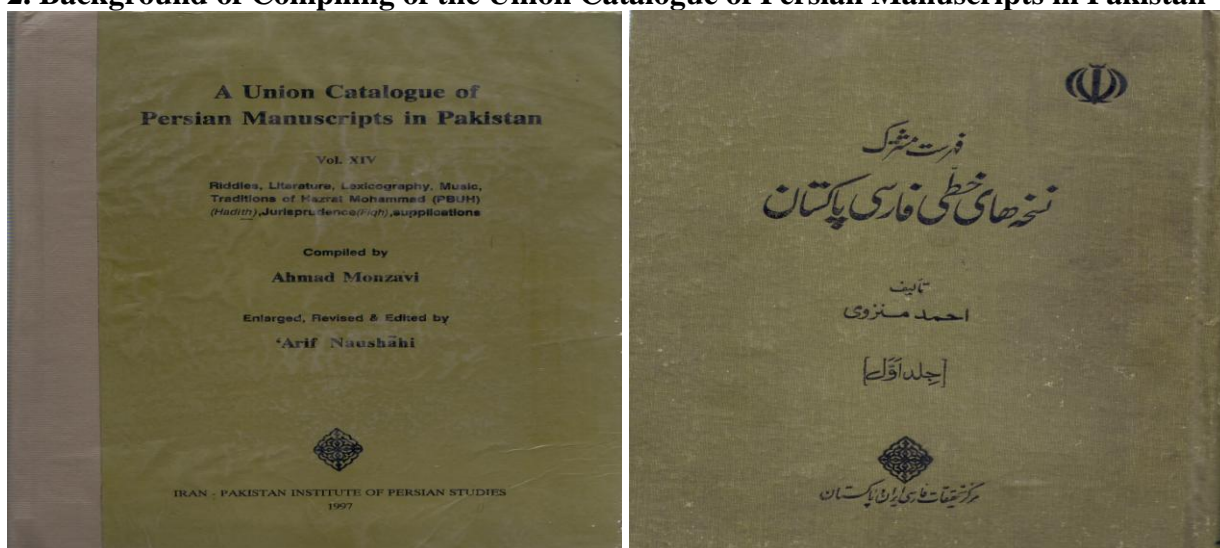
- Dacca University Library (Dhaka)
- Asiatic Society of Bengal (Kolkata)
- Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public library (Patna)
- Raza Rampur State Library (Rampur)
- Andhra Pradesh State Library (formally Asifiya), Hyderabad
- Salarjang Museum and Library (Hyderabad)
- Azad Library Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh)



As far as Pakistan is concerned, cities like Lahore and Multan (also Uch اوج nearby Multan) are the Old Persian language and literature centers in Pakistan. The *Kashfalmahjub* by ‘Ali B. Usman Hujveri, the first Persian book of Islamic mystics was written in Lahore. Nooruddin Muhammad Oufi Bukhari completed his *Lubabal albab* the Persian *tazkara* of poets. The most important libraries in Pakistan holding huge number of manuscripts are:

- Punjab Public Library (Lahore)
- University of the Punjab Central Library (Lahore)
- National Museum of Pakistan (Karachi)
- Ganjbakhsh Library of Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies (Islamabad)

## 2. Background of Compiling of the Union Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Pakistan



*The union catalogue of Persian manuscripts of Pakistan* فهرست مشترک نسخه های خطی فارسی پاکستان compiled by Ahmed Monzavi, Islamabad, 1982-1997, 14 volumes is the only existing example of

this kind of catalogue. This union catalogue was a project of Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad as well as published by this Institute. This catalogue covers all kinds of Persian manuscripts preserved in private and public sector.




### 3. Principal aims of my project



The principal aim and purpose of this project was to prepare a descriptive union catalogue of Persian manuscripts preserved in public sector, institutes, private collections and libraries of **Pakistan** which are virtually unknown and neglected .Most of these manuscripts are in possession of unknown people in remote areas and small towns and villages.

### 4. Project plan

The announcement of the approval of project was made by The Islamic Manuscript Association “TIMA” in January 2011. The cataloguing process of manuscripts was completed during January- August 2011. In this phase I collected the data about books and took notes about physical condition of manuscripts. In second phase a hand written draft was prepared for typesetting. In third phase the draft was handed over to a typist and he typed the draft with computer word processor. Persian typesetting software “*Zarnegar*” has been used for this purpose. Proofs were read carefully thrice and corrections were made to make sure that the final version is without mistakes. This phase was completed in September-October, 2011.

The final typed and composed version is held by me who will be used for publishing a book in the future. The files have also been copied to a hard drive for additional security. The raw hand written draft is also saved.

Action	Jan, 2011	Aug, 2011	Oct, 2011	Dec, 2011
The announcement of the approval of project was made by The Islamic Manuscript Association “TIMA”.				
The cataloguing process of manuscripts was completed.				
Composing of Hand written Draft of Project was completed.				

Final Report of Project submitted to TIMA.				
Announcement of Project completion.				

## 5. Compiling the Union Catalogue

The best and ideal situation for preparing a union catalogue of manuscripts is to visit all libraries and collections personally and take notes from every manuscript directly. But this practice needs a life of Noh because of huge numbers of manuscripts. On other hand the manuscripts are scattered all over the country and to cover the entire area is not possible for one person. I marked some important libraries and private collections and visited those sites myself and catalogued a remarkable number of manuscripts. To make the union catalogue more useful and comprehensive I also used the raw data which was collected from the Achieves of Iran-Pakistan Institute of Persian Studies, Islamabad. This data was provided by some educated cataloguer to Institute after completion of *The Union Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Pakistan* by Ahmad Monzavi. In some cases my source of information was published catalogues and articles regarding Persian manuscripts in Pakistan.

My project has been completed as a supplement to Monzavi's *The Union Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Pakistan*. All the entries of my catalogue have been compared with Monzavi's catalogue. If I found similarities between my data with Monzavi's catalogue I omitted the details and just made a reference to Monzavi's catalogue. If I found some incomplete information or mistakes by Monzavi it has been completed and corrected. All data was examined with some external sources and information about authors, copyists and books added.