

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Department of AYUSH

THE COUNCIL

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Department of AYUSH. Established in 1978, the CCRUM started functioning from 10 January 1979, and ever since it has been busy researching into various fundamental and applied aspects of Unani Medicine. Over the years, the CCRUM has emerged as the world leader in the field.

THE NETWORK

20 research Centres of the Council are functioning in different parts of the Country.

THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

- * Clinical Research
- * Drug Standardization
- * Literary Research
- * Survey & Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Some significant achievements of the Council are as follows:



**Developing Research
in
Unani Medicine**

CLINICAL RESEARCH

- Has developed 24 Unani Drugs which are purely natural, standardized and without any side effects, for successful treatment of leucoderma, sinusitis, viral hepatitis, eczema, malaria, rheumatoid, arthritis and bronchial asthma.
- Has filed patents on seven of these drugs.

DRUG STANDARDIZATION

- Has evolved Standards for 222 single and 385 compound Unani drugs.
- Has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for taking up advanced research in the field of drug development.

LITERARY RESEARCH

- Has translated from Arabic and Persian into Urdu language 25 Unani Medical Classics mostly manuscripts. And has edited and published these works.

SURVEY & CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

- Has collected 59462 specimens of 1730 medical plants from the wild.
- Undertaking successful cultivation of four important medicinal species.
- Has gathered and documented 6650 folk medicinal claims.

PUBLICATIONS

- Has produced over 1000 research papers and brought out 116 research publications, besides regular publications of a bimonthly CCRUM Newsletter, Quarterly Urdu Journal Jahan-e-Tib and Annual Report.

For further information, please contact

Director General

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

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IAMMS ACTIVITIES

EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY (From April to June 2011)

World Health Day

Each year WHO selects a very important global health problem and targets this on World Health Day. This year the theme of World Health Day (April, 7) was "Antimicrobial resistance: no action today, no cure tomorrow". Antimicrobial resistance is not a new problem but one that is becoming more dangerous; urgent and consolidated efforts are needed to avoid regressing to the pre-antibiotic era. On World Health Day 2011, WHO introduced a six-point policy package to combat the spread of antimicrobial resistance! It called on governments and stakeholders to implement the policies and practices needed to prevent and counter the emergence of highly resistant microorganisms.

Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh has been celebrating WHO Day for the last many years. It also instituted an annual lecture series in the memory of Professor Mohammad Nasim Ansari, FRCS. Since 2007 this lecture has been organized every year on World Health Day along with other activities commemorating the establishment of WHO. Prof. Ansari is remembered as an eminent founder faculty of the Medical College at Aligarh Muslim University. He commanded great respect in the medical college community as well as the university at large. This annual lecture is organized to cherish his memories.

This year, Ibn Sina Academy, in collaboration with WHO Regional Office

(SEARO), New Delhi, arranged WHO Kits consisted of materials related to this year's theme on "Antimicrobial resistance: no action today, no cure tomorrow". The Academy also exhibited postal stamps released on previous themes of WHO Day from many countries.

Professor S. Zillur Rahman, while starting the programme, briefed the past activities of the Academy in the area of public health.

Professor Mohammad Hanif Beg, an eminent cardiac surgeon from the Department of Surgery, JNMC, AMU, delivered the Fifth Prof. Nasim Ansari Memorial Lecture. He apart from his lecture and slides presentation on trauma related accidental injuries, expressed his deep sense of condolence and shared some personal familiarity with Dr. Naseem Ansari.

Dr. M. Athar Ansari, Chairman, Department of Community Medicine, spoke on the significance of WHD theme. He said, we live in an era in which we depend on antibiotics, and other antimicrobial medicines to treat conditions that decade ago, or even a few years ago in the case of AIDS, would have proved fatal. When antimicrobial resistance - also known as drug resistance - occurs, it renders these medicines ineffective. This year on World Health Day, WHO called for intensified global commitment to safeguard these medicines for future generations.

Prof. Ashraf Malik, Principal, JNMC, AMU, while presiding said, "Antimicrobial resistance - the theme of World Health Day 2011- and its global spread, threatens the continued effectiveness of many medicines used today to treat infectious diseases". He also reported about the new discovery of a bacterium from

the water of Aligarh District by the Dept of Microbiology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh.

On the same occasion, a book authored by Dr. Asad Faisal Farooqui on "Hindustan Mein Urdu Tibbi Sahafat: Aghaz wa Irtiqa" was released by Nawab Ibn Saeed Khan Chattari.

Many academicians from different field of specializations attended the program. To name a few retired professors, Zakia Ather Siddiqi (Education), Saeeduz Zafar Chughtai (Physics), Abdul Bari (Arabic), Ishrat H. Farooqui (Commerce), SM Razaullah Ansari (Physics), Hashim Rizvi (Physics), KM Mishra (Hindi), Zahoor Mohammad (Polytechnic), etc, also participated in the function.

Muhshaira

1. Shaikhar Sanstha organized a Mushaira at Ibn Sina Academy on April 30, 2011, which was presided by Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Shri Sudhir Chawdhri president Distt. Punchait, Aligarh was the Chief Guest. In this occasion Shaikhar awards were presented to Shahid Anwar, Delhi and Dr. Mahavir Duwaidi.
2. Shaikhar Sanstha organized another Mushaira on the occasion of Shaheed Uddham Singh day on June 30, 2011. Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function. Famous poet Jamna Prasad Rahi was the Chief Guest.
3. Aazar Academy organised a Mushaira Aik Shaam Fasih Chaudhri ke Naam on June 15, 2011 under the presidentship of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. The chief guest of the function was Mr. Malikzada Jawed (Delhi) while Dr. Syed Jawed Akhtar was guest of honour. Before, the mushaira, Dr. Saghir Afrahim, welcomed the guests

followed by introduction of Fasih Chaudhri by Prof. Abdul Alim.

The programme ended with concluding remarks by Professor Anis Ahmad Ansari and vote of thanks by Musharaf Hussain Mahzar.

Sham-e-Afsana

Ghalib Study Centre, Ibn Sina Academy, organized a Sham Afsana on May 17, 2011. Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi presided over the function. It was started with the introductory remarks of Syed Moinuddin Alvi. Khalid Faridi, Anjum Kidwai and Meher Ilahi Nadeem read their Afsana (Short story). Prof. Atia Abid and Prof. Tariq Chhatari presented comments on the short stories. At the end, the vote of thanks was moved by Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman.

Book Release Function

Tafseer –e- Ayat –e- Mushkilah by Syed Shahid Husain released by Maulana Tilmizul Hasnain, U.S.A. on April 1, 2011

Condolence Meeting

Condolence Meeting on the sad demise of Prof. Syed Ameer Hasan Abidi, the eminent scholar of Persian, passed away on 4th of May 2011. He had a deep interest in the welfare of Ibn Sina Academy and used to attend any program whenever he gets the chance.

Syed Ameer Hasan Abidi was born in 1921 at Ghazipur UP. He joined as a lecturer in 1945 at St. Stephens College Delhi University. Prof. Abidi's death is a great loss of Persian as well as Urdu literature, remarked Professor Syed Zillur Rahman, President Ibn Sina Academy and Dr. Khaliq Anjum during a condolence meeting held at the office of Anjuman Tarraqi Urdu (Hind), New Delhi under the chairmanship of Professor Saddiqur Rahman Kidwai.

Visits of Delegates and Personalities

Following dignitaries and personalities visited the Academy:

1. Dr. Javid M Shafi MD MRCP, Baltimore, U.S.A. April 2, 2011
2. Mostafa Pourmohammadi, Film Maker, Iran, April 20, 2011
3. A. O. Mushfiqur Rahman, Assistant Director Drug Administration, Khulna, and Mohd. Masihuzzaman Inspector of Drugs, Comilla, Bangladesh, May 28, 2011
4. Mr. Sohail Ahmad Taj, Australian Prime Loans Pvt. Ltd, Melbourne, May 31, 2011

Delegates

1. Delegates Environmental Studies-II on May 7, 2011. Delegates Environmental studies-I on May 11, 2011
2. Mrs. Munjula Chawla Serials Librarian from the Library of Congress office, on June 6, 2011. The Library of Congress office in New Delhi acquires government, Institutional and commercial publications, in print and non-print format for the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and other research libraries in the United States, which offer facilities for research on South Asia.

On these occasions, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman addressed the participants and gave an account of the History of Unani Medicine and about the values of culture and heritage. He showed them also the Museums of Ibn Sina Academy.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES AT IBN SINA ACADEMY

Sixth Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture (2011)

The Sixth 'Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture (2011) will be delivered by Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai, on 26th October, 2011.

Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai hails from Patna and belongs to a learned family. His father Dr. M A Hai was a legendary physician and was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' by Government of India. Dr. Ahmad is a formerly Professor and Head of the Department of General surgery, Patna Medical College, Patna. Being himself a renowned surgeon of international fame, he authored many research papers including articles on history of medicine. His article on 'Abul Qasim Al-Zohravi as a surgeon' is well cited! He proposed "Medical University Project", which is an extension of Hai Medicare and Research Institute.

Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture is an annual event and being held at Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, by the courtesy of National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Department of Education, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India.

Two days National Seminar on "Hakim Ajmal Khan-Life and Achievements"

Ibn Sina Academy is going to organize a two-day national seminar on "Hakim Ajmal Khan-Life and Achievements" on 26-27 October, 2011.

It is anticipated that the upcoming seminar would focus more light on the life and achievements of this legendary figure. Delegates are requested to please contact the secretariat, National Seminar on "Hakim Ajmal Khan-Life and Achievements" at Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh or email: ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, has been appointed as:

1. Member, Editorial Board, Qutbshāhī's Heritage, Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies, University of Bonn,

Germany. The aim of the project is to print in facsimile some works of the Qutbshahi's heritage in Iran with the cooperation of Majma' Zakhâ'r-i Islami in Qum. It will be supervised by Professor Eva Orthmann and Dr. Mohammad Karimi Zanjani Asl of the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies.

2. Chairman, Unani Formulary Sub-Committee, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, Govt. of India, vide letter dated 07.06.2011
3. Member, Executive Committee, All India Muslim Educational Conference (Aligarh). During felicitation ceremony, many well wishers hoped that the new committee would work in the real spirit for which the Conference was established way back in 1886 by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

The primary aim of All India Muslim Educational Conference (AIMEC), earlier also known as All India Muhammadan Educational Conference, was to create a 'Muslim University', which is fulfilled. M.A.O. College, Aligarh, has been converted to 'Muslim University'. As in a civilized society, we maintain and continue to follow a few norms for historical reasons. AIMEC is also continuing till today as such, which is a phenomenal achievement by itself. Moreover, it is still publishing its 'Gazette', which is undoubtedly an important literary journal comprising articles on oriental learning, views and reviews under the editorship of Professor Riyazur Rahman Khan Sherwani, a man of high scholarship and integrity, and having a legacy of his family and its support to Aligarh Movement. Under the auspices of the AIMEC in 1948, a comprehensive work plan was also undertaken for translating Islamic Classical literature, for which Prof. M. M. Sharif (then

- Chairman of Philosophy Department, AMU) was one of the leading figure. Under his guidance, Imam Al-Ghazali's most famous literary work, "Incoherence of the Philosophers", was translated into English. This translation was republished by ADAM Publishers, New Delhi, in 2007. (ISBN 81-7435-555-3). The last known session of AIMEC was held in 1993 under the Chairmanship of Professor Rashiduzzafar, the then Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard. The Conference also elects five of its members for AMU Court.
4. Attended the Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee meeting on April 19, 2011 at CCRUM, New Delhi
 5. Attended the meeting of All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat on May 14, 2011 at New Delhi

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy) has submitted the following paper for publication, with the title: "An Indian Family of Mathematicians: A ā'ullāh, Lu fullāh, Khayrullāh and Imāmuddīn", Proceedings of the International Conference on "The History of Mathematics and Astronomy in Islamic Era" in Tarbiat Modarres University (Tehran), held on Dec. 8-10, 2009. Cf. its abstract in the last section p. 11.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, and currently pursuing PhD from the School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney, Australia, has attended and participated the following conferences:

1. U.W.S. Future Research Forum 2011, Penrith Campus, U.W.S., June 8, 2011
2. First meeting of the Health Services and Outcomes (HSO) Research Group, Campbelltown Campus, UWS, June 27, 2011

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS ON HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCES

2nd International Conference on "Biomedical Sciences and Methods in Archaeology", Turkey, 15-18 Sept. 2011

The Department of the History of Medicine (University of Crete) and The Faculty of Health Sciences (Yeni Yüzyıl University) are organizing the 2nd International Conference on "Biomedical Sciences and Methods in Archaeology" from 15-18 September 2011 at Kusadasi, Aydin, Turkey.

This Conference aims to highlight numerous new trends in bio-archaeology research that are made possible by the rapid development of current biomedical science and technology. These innovative approaches will shed new light on the mystery of human skeletal remains within their archaeological and historical contexts. Interesting debate on the use of bio-archaeological data as primary sources for the construction of the history of health and disease is expected during this conference. Researchers and scholars in the fields of medicine, history of medicine, bio-archaeology, medical and molecular genetics, paleopathology, physical anthropology, archaeology, and related disciplines are invited to participate.

For updated information about the Congress, please visit web page: <http://bioarchaeology-congress.com>

Seminar "A Look into Ancient Apothecaries", July 18th, 2011

Alain Touwaide will deliver a seminar talk for the Smithsonian Institution Resident Associates on July 18, 2011, entitled "A Look into Ancient Apothecaries". He will discuss the first results of laboratory tests

including DNA sequencing of ancient medicines recovered from archaeological remains in the Mediterranean. His latest findings are from a 130 B.C. shipwreck - the so-called Relitto del Pozzino, which sank off the coast of Tuscany, and contained a dried mixture of a dozen medicinal herbs. Touwaide examined ancient Greek, Latin, and Arabic texts, including Dioscorides and his Roman successor, Galen, and who described materials and how they should be ground, mixed, prepared, and used.

Submitted by: Emanuela Appetiti, Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions, Inc. (<http://medicaltraditions.org/>)

The First International Congress of Eurasian Maritime History

The First International Congress of Eurasian Maritime History will be organised in 2012 in Istanbul (Turkey). The congress details can be found at: <http://congress2012.pirireis.edu.tr/>.

Colleagues working on Islamic maritime history are most welcome!

11th Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India

On behalf of the organising committee of the 11th Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India it gives me great pleasure to invite all members of ASCEPT to the "Historical city of Patliputra", India on the occasion of Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India, being held on 18th to 20th November 2011.

The most important event of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India every year is when scientists, physicians, and pharmacologists in general meet face to face at the annual meeting in different parts of India. These meetings are a valuable forum for practitioners of modern and traditional systems of medicine for

gathering feedback, recording and documenting experiences on various aspects of pharmacovigilance. This year, 'John Autian Oration' and 'K.C. Singhal Oration' shall be delivered by three eminent pharmacovigilance experts: Prof. Saad Shakir (Director of the Drug Safety Research Unit, Southampton, UK), Ronald H B Meyboom (the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Uppsala, Sweden) and Alex Doodo (WHO Consultant on Pharmacovigilance and President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana).

Further details can be found at:
http://sopi2011patna.com/about_sopi.html

Submitted by
Syed Ziaur Rahman,
Secretary, International Affairs, SoPI

DOCUMENTATION / CORRESPONDENCES

To,
National Institute of Indian Medical
Heritage, Hyderabad (AP), India

Subject: Revival of "Indian Association of
History of Medicine"

I have come to know about some positive efforts to revive the "Indian Association of History of Medicine", which was formed way back in 1987 by Dr. D.V. Subba Reddy. I full agree with the need of such association and thus congratulate those scientists, physicians and historians who are striving hard to bring forth the past glory of this association (IAHM). Since I worked throughout my life in the field of history of medicine, I can understand its relevance and need in the society. I myself have founded 'Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences' a decade back in Aligarh for the sole reason of promoting documentation and heritage

of medical history. Thus, I not only open heartedly support the revival of the Association, but also request all those persons who are involved in reviving it, to contact me at any point of juncture if they need my help.

With best wishes and regards,
Syed Zillur Rahman
President,

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine
and Sciences, Aligarh

Hakam II

**By Muhammad Tariq Ghazi
Ottawa, Canada (Friday 24 June 2011)**

"Hakam II was an expert in all prevalent sciences. He loved books. He had posted agents in all cities known for schools and scholars like Damascus, Baghdad, Constantinople, Cairo, Kairouan, Makkah, The Madinah, Kufa and Basra, etc. These agents would look for valuable books, buy them at whatever price they were available and send them to Hakam. Writers were encouraged to send first copies of their books to Hakam. ... Hakam's personal library was so great that it looked like a royal palace. Bookshelves were made of costly wood like sandal and ebony, each labelled with golden cards showing books of what science were stacked therein. The library had employed thousands of calligraphers and bookbinders. Total volumes in the library were estimated at around 600,000. Books catalogue was in 44 volumes, listings limited only to titles and names of authors. Very few of those books were not read by Hakam. Every book that he had read would carry his comments in the margins. The first inside cover of each book had carried the book's title and genealogy of the author written in Hakam's own handwriting" - Akbar Shah Khan Najibabadi, Tarikh e Islam, 3:133-134, Nafis Academy, Karachi, 1979

Hakam (915-976), second Umayyad 'caliph' in Cordoba, was a voracious reader – if not to be classed among great scholar – and great monarch. Perhaps he was only such person in the whole history. It is reported that he had read 60 percent of more than 600,000 volumes catalogued in his library. A conservative European estimate puts the number of volumes at 400,000, with one Spanish historian comparing Hakam's library with its contemporary 192-volume library at the monastery of Ripoll in the nearby Catalonia. The estimate was based on his commentaries written on the margins of books he had read. Being a busy king, he might not have found time to write margins on the remaining 40 percent books or they might not be worth a comment. Anyway, being able to have read about 400,000 books in a life of only 61 years is mind-boggling.

Cordoba, Al-Hakam's capital, was captured by northern Christians in 1236 and all the academic wealth such as Al-Hakam's library was then destroyed, setting the pattern for similar destruction of more than 1,000 private and city libraries that existed in the last Muslim principality of Granada when it was lost to Spaniards in 1492.

This is history, and it is painful as history often is. So, there is no point in hollow self-glorification so as to minimise the pain. A mention of Al-Hakam's contribution is also not to encourage another fit of revulsion of others. Nonetheless, one wonders if this history can be re-enacted in today's real world. The answer is a simple no. Assess the academic status or scholarly pursuits of today's leaders of the world. Position of Muslims rulers among other leaders is all the more pitiable. Barring a few, they can't jump over the lowest bars. In order to

justify their lack of education or low academic calibre they might say Akbar the Great was an illiterate leader too. Yes, the Boy King could not have time or mentors to learn as much as his father and grandfather. But Akbar was intelligent enough to gather nine best brains of India in his cabinet to help initiate India's last Golden Age that had ended in 1707. The world's other illiterate or semi-literate rulers had not been so intelligent.

Nonetheless, this is also not the issue. The issue is merely to assess a normal leader's intellectual capacity and his ability to translate his policies into a civilized political movement. That is a difficult task. Plato had dreamed of philosopher-kings, but knew – as Aristotle proved – that such men were few. Politics is a different science and a difficult art, and in spite of all the theoretical efforts of people from Farabi to Foucault politicians had never been known for intellectual proclivity. However, their actual contribution to civilization and advancement of knowledge stands out equally if not more prominently when compared with the vision of philosophers. That is where a political leader's value is estimated. Again, very few politicians qualify to enter the test.

On that score, Al-Hakam II stands taller than philosophical shoulders of Plato. One was a thinker looking at political game from the stalls; the other was a proactive politician who had the brains to imbibe philosophical views of thousands of scholars. It is obvious that he must be using those intellectual ideas in governing his country and in producing a civilization that prepared Europe outside Spain to get out of Dark and Dim Ages. The world has surely produced thousands of other Platos, but it failed to produce just one more Al-Hakam. No one knows anything about philosophical wealth Al-Hakam's

had left in his bibliotheque, thanks to the destructive frenzy of the conquistadors, the Spanish politicians who did not allow Al-Hakam's library and written philosophy to survive.

Our lesson is that rarity survives only rarely; and progress is a process of passing through the age-old rut that we know as norm.

OTHER NEWS

Begum Sultan Jahan Hall of residence at AMU

The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. P. K. Abdul Azis laid the foundation stone of two Women's Hostel Block at Begum Sultan Jahan Hall of residence with a cost of Rs. 200 Lacs on 2nd June 2011. AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. K. Abdul Azis also released 'Sultania-2011', annual Hall Magazine. The Vice Chancellor also inaugurated Begum Sultan Jahan Hall of residence for 224 PG and Research scholars with a cost of Rs. 356.68 lacs.

This news item reminds us about some memoirs that are preserved in the library and museum of Ibn Sina Academy. The life of H.H. Begum Sultan Jahan was amazing. Her private and public life is remarkable. She was a true and faithful to the Muslim religion and to her community.

It is evident from her pictures that even though she was a ruler but used to cover her face in all public ceremonies in her kingdom or outside.

She even travelled to England and attended a royal ceremony there but never opened her face in public. This shows her courage and faith in the religion and its teaching.

A personal broach with her name marked, a travel fruit plate and some 'royal orders' are also preserved in the museum of Ibn Sina Academy.

Begum Sultan Jahan was Chancellor of AMU Aligarh from 1920 to 1930. During the crises of 1928-29 at AMU Aligarh, she took keen interest in the affairs of AMU to bring it out of chaos and made efforts to appoint Sir Ross Masood as Vice-Chancellor of AMU Aligarh. This was a turning point in the history of AMU as Sir Ross Masood's presence in campus gave a new look to the newly established Aligarh Muslim University.

Please add the name of the writer, or your own, if you have compiled this piece.

First National Workshop on Urdu Translation of Science Books at AMU

Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, Executive Member, Ibn Sina Academy said that science books should be translated at a large scale so that a large number of Urdu knowing people may be able to access the science education with ease.

Dr. Hisamuddin, Director, Centre for Promotion of Science said that the objectives of the Centre are to propagate science education at elementary levels especially in Deeni Madaris and Muslim Managed Educational Institutions. He said that the Centre from its inception in 1985, had worked for the training of science teachers of Madrasahs and regular Muslim managed schools in order to make them able to teach with better results. He said that science education among Muslims is a matter of concern and the Centre is working to bring the large chunk of Muslim students getting education in seminaries into the national mainstream. Dr. Hisamuddin thanked all the resource persons and the

participants who were instrumental in making the workshop a success.

Dr. Irfana Begum, Project Coordinator, EDUSAT, Vigyan Prasar presented the complete and comprehensive report of the First Workshop on Urdu Translation of science books and apprised of the accomplishment of the target. She said that six books and thirty popular articles on science were translated from English or Hindi into Urdu. It was a great achievement of the workshop. Earlier, Professor Naheed Banu, former Director of the Centre highlighted the aims and objectives of the Centre for Promotion of Science and its role in the development of science literature in Urdu.

Dr. Gauhar Raza, Scientist, NISCAIR, Mr. Mohammad Khalil, Scientist 'F', former Editor Science Ki Duniya and Dr. Obaidur Rehman, Scientist, CSIR emphasised that there is an immense need of translation of scientific articles and science books into Urdu so that Muslim masses would become aware of the developments in various scientific fields. Dr. Subodh Mohanti, Scientist 'F', Academic Head, Vigyan Prasar, drew attention of the participants and the audience towards the requirement of the work as it is felt that most of the Urdu literate persons are unaware of the development in the field of science, the basic requirement for the growth of the country.

JOURNALS / PUBLICATIONS

1. First volume of the Proceedings of the Tenth North African Colloquium on the History of Arabic Mathematics, held in Tunis from 29th to 31th of May, 2010. Ed. Mahdi Abdeljaouad
2. David A. King, *Astrolabes from Medieval Europe*, Aldershot & Burlington VT: Ashgate - Variorum,

(Variorum Collected Studies Series CS977), 2011, ISBN 978-1-4094-2593-9, LCCN 2010940591

3. *Medical Synonym Lists from Medieval Provence: Shem Tov ben Isaac of Tortosa: Sefer ha - Shimmush*. Book 29. Leiden, E.J. Brill, 2011; X, 542 pp. ISBN13: 9789004167643

This volume contains the first critical edition of Book 29 of Shem Tov ben Isaac's *Sefer ha-Shimmush* and a lexicological analysis of the medico-botanical terms in the first of the two synonym lists of this book. The *Sefer ha-Shimmush* was compiled in Southern France in the middle of the thirteenth century. The list edited in this volume consists of Hebrew or Aramaic lemmas, which are glossed by Arabic, Latin and Romance (Old Occitan and, in part, Old Catalan) synonyms written in Hebrew characters. Containing over 700 entries, this edition is one of the most extensive glossaries of its kind. It gives scholars a wide overview of the formation of medieval medical terminology in the Romance languages and Hebrew, as well as within the Arabic and Latin traditions.

“Ross Masud” – a book by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman

Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind) published a biography of Sir Ross Masud written by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. Sir Ross Masud had served as fourth President of Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu. Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu is an integral part of Aligarh Movement as it was launched during the annual session of All India Muslim Educational Conference at Delhi in 1902-03. Prof. Thomas Arnold Walker of MAO College served as Founding President and Maulana Shibli Nomani as Founding Secretary. Sir Ross Masud was the only grandson of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and was first full time Vice-Chancellor of

Aligarh Muslim University and also one of the founders of Osmania University, Hyderabad.

Born in Delhi on 15 February, 1889, Sir Ross Masud had the best possible pedigree. He was the grandson of Sir Syed. His maverick father, Syed Mahmud had the unique distinction of being the first Muslim to graduate from the Cambridge University (1871) and whose elevation as judge of the Allahabad High Court at the age of thirty-two (1882) made him the youngest ever appointee to the post. Masud lost his grand-father while aged nine, the titular guardianship of a progressively declining father too disappeared four year later. A young Masud was practically under the guardianship of Mr. Theodore Morison on behalf of the Government of United Provinces. He had his early education at the MAO Collegiate School Aligarh followed by a series of Government Schools in UP until 1906 when it was decided to send him to England for further education. After obtaining B.A Honours in History of the University of Cambridge (Christ College), he secured an appointment in the prestigious Indian Education Service in 1913. He held the positions of Headmaster in Govt. High School, Patna and then Professor of the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack (Orissa). In 1916, he joined the Nizam Government as the Director of Public Instruction in Hyderabad and was later promoted as Secretary Education Department of the same Government, a position that he retained till 1928 when he took over as Vice Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University.

The author of "Ross Masud", Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman is founding President of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh and former Dean,

Faculty of Unani Medicine, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Prof. Rahman had also published following two articles on Ross Masud earlier to this book:

1. *Matai-e Garan Baha Masood*, Souvenir Federation of Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association of North America, USA, 2003
2. *Ross Masud - Bahaisiyat Sadr-e Anjuman Tarraqi-e-Urdu*, Hundredth Anniversary of Anjuman Tarraqi-e-Urdu Hind, New Delhi, February 28 - March 2, 2003

An Indian Family of Mathematicians: Asād ullāh, Lutfullāh, Khairullāh and Imāmuddīn

S. M. Razaullah Ansari

Abstract

To start with, I may recall that in all Medieval Indian madrasahs, mathematics (Riyādiyāt), astronomy (Nujūm, Hay 'at) and logic (Mantiq) was part of the curriculum of the rational sciences ('Ulūm-i 'Aqliyah), in particular following the decree of Emperor Akbar (reigned 1556-1605) and also when the Dars-i Nidāmiyah was introduced about 1732 A.D. in Indian madrasahs. From the list of the most important mathematical books of the rational sciences used in madrasahs, I select the very popular book, *Khulasat al-Hisāb* by the Iranian Bahā'-uddīn al-Āmilī (1547-1622), whose Arithmetic was introduced into India by Mullā Murshid Shīrāzī during the reign of Emperor Shahjahan (1628-1658). Another book used also extensively was 'Alā'uddīn 'Alī Qushchī (1438-1474), *Fārsī Hisāb* or *Mīdān al-Hisāb*. Both these books were printed in the 19th century a number of times in India. Evidently, the standard arithmetical books in Arabic, e.g., *Miftāh al-Hisāb* by Jamshīd al-Kāshī (d.1430)

and 'Uyūn al-Hisāb by Bāqar Yazdī (1547-1622) were also known in the medieval period and we find even today their manuscripts in Indian collections. However, here we wish to present mathematical works of a well-known Indian family of Ustād Ahmad Mi'mār (d.1649), the architect of Taj Mahal, that is the mausoleum of Emperor Shāhjahān's Queen, Mumtāz Mahal. Several of his sons and grandsons were also muhandis, the architects.

Asādullāh (d.1657) , who flourished in the reign of Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, is known to have translated from Sanskrit into Persian one book of algebra, originally written by Bhāskara (11th c.) with the title, Bījganit, He was also the author of Khulāsatul Rāz, a book on arithmetic, algebra and mensuration. It is in verse form.

Lutfullāh (d. 1682) was the author of 10 works, out of which 5 deal with mathematics. He is especially known for his Muntakhab, written in 1681, which is actually a translation (cum commentary on) of Khulāsatul Hisāb by Bahāuddīn al-'Āmilī (d.1622), whose both books on mathematics and astronomy (Tashrihul Aflak) were very popular in Indian madrasahs, and on which Indian scholars wrote commentaries. I shall delineate his writings in some details.

Khairullāh Khān Muhandis (d.1748), who was the son of Lutfullāh, was the director of Raja Sawāi Jai Singh's observatory at Delhi, in which capacity he compiled the Zij-i Muhammad Shāhī. This Zij contains the tables of trigonometrical functions, in steps of 1 minute of arc. According to my to-date survey, Khairullāh has written eight more mathematical-astronomical tracts.

In this talk, I wish to present salient features of most of these works, which are extant only in manuscript form.

[Invited Talk delivered at the Conference on "The History of Mathematics and Astronomy in Islamic Era" in Tarbiat Modarres University (Tehran) held Dec. 8-10, 2009.]

Risala-i-Judiah

Dr. Cyril Elgood

What must strike even the most superficial of readers is the extra-ordinary versatility of Avicenna. He was a physician, a philosopher, and a poet. Often his work overlapped the limits of these subjects and he would, for instance, his medicine in verse.

The Syed Zillur Rahman in his collection of essays on Avicenna has contributed the final chapter himself. It lists all the existing writings of this extra-ordinary man. He has found no fewer than 238 surviving books and papers of which 35 are on Medical Subjects. The majority of this writings are in Arabic, but 23 are in Persian. Among these last is a small treatise called *al-Judiah*, which is the subject of the present book.

Far the best known of Avicenna's medical is *al-Qanoon*, commonly called The Canon of Medicine. But in addition to this encyclopedic work, he wrote a considerable number of smaller treatises on Materia Medica of which the best known and most important is his book on Cordials which he called *al-Adviat-ul-Qalbia*. This work is not yet available in any European language. But it has, however, been recently translated into Urdu.

Several other works on Materia Medica exist, for the most part written in poetry. As none of these have been printed or made accessible to the general reader, it is very laudable that Hakim Zillur Rahman has given to the world (at least to the Urdu-speaking world) a book which contains a detailed introduction, the text and a

translation. He is not quite the first in the field. However, for the same thing has been done for the Persian-speaking world by Dr. Mahmud Najmabadi a few years ago at the time of the Avicenna Millennium.

How and from where did Avicenna gain this remarkable knowledge of drugs which enabled him to write the large section on *Materia Medica* in his *Canon* and also gave him enough experience to compose a whole book on drugs for the heart, a pharmacopeia, and many minor treatises on the subject? Among these last is the pamphlet called *al-Judiah* or The Excellent One, the subject of the present work, which is a series of well proven prescriptions for various diseases.

The lines of Avicenna's medical training are well known. He did not start to study medicine until he was sixteen. He had for his tutor a Christian physician of Jurjan. He in turn selected for the young lad a Moslem doctor practicing in Bokhara, a town to which his father had moved when the boy was only five.

There is no evidence that Avicenna visited any town other than Bokhara while he was a medical student, for he even began practice there. The city, however, contained an excellent library of which Avicenna himself states that he made good use and which was destroyed later by a mysterious fire.

Avicenna states in his autobiography that he found Medicine easy. By this he must mean that he had no difficulty in that aspect of Medicine which demands only a good memory. Experience, upon which successful practice depends, is another matter. His use of drugs which is the result of experience, not memory, is therefore of peculiar interest to us, later day readers.

Scarcely had he set up in practice when his father died and for various reasons Avicenna thought it better to move to Khawarazm. Here he found a wider culture and better opportunity for self-improvement than existed in Bokhara. Now began his active life of writing and movement. In turn he lived and worked in Jurjan, in Ray, in Hamadan, and finally at Isphahan. Journeying, politics, dissipation can scarcely have been the best background for serious and for gaining experience of the effect of drugs on the human body. It must have been his very retentive memory that allowed him to recall later the reactions of his patients to the various drugs that he employed. For in *al-Judiah* we have recorded what he considered the most excellent of drugs for certain disease which he had been called upon to treat.

Upon what did he base his therapeutics? Seeing that he began by training with a Christian physician I conclude that the teaching of the Christian Hospital of Jundi Shapur formed the base of his pharmaceutical training. This hospital formed part a very ancient university, a university which was at its brightest when the Arab invasion of Persia occurred in 636 A.D. Their Medical School seems to have specialized in pharmacology. "They made rapid progress in Science" wrote *al-Qifti* the historian "developing new methods in the treatment of disease along pharmacological lines so that their therapy was judged superior to that of the Greeks and the Hindus".

The last official act of the Hospital was the issue of Pharmacopoeia composed by Sabur bin Sahil in 869, possibly the first hospital pharmacopoeia ever to be issued. A prescription from this book was still in use in the time of Avicenna and many of the names were still current. Such names, showing their

Christian origin, were the Messianic Electuary and the Apostles Salve.

When Shapur is defeated the Roman Emperor, part of the treaty of peace involved the surrender of the town of Nisibis to Persian suzerainty. Many of the inmates of Nisibis fled to the nearest town, Edessa, and founded a new university there. Later Edessa, became involved on the losing side of a theological dispute and were suppressed. The teachers of the university, whether men of Nisibis or Edessa, long familiar with Greek and in possession of many medical manuscripts, fled to Jundishapur and began the hellenisation of what had been up to that time a Syriac University where Greek was not even spoken. The newcomers taught a pure Hippocratic and Galenic Medicine.

That Avicenna possessed knowledge of Greek pharmacy is made clear by his many quotations of Compound Drugs which carry with them their Galenic names. Such are the Electuary of Mithridates, the Electuary of Andromache, and many others, listed in the Canon. Like other pharmacists of his day Avicenna gives a long list of purgatives, which he calls *Ayarajat*. One in particular he styles *Ayaraj-i Fiqra*. Now, these are not Persian words and are certainly corrupt Greek, being in the original *Hiera Pikra* or The Bitter Purge. It is interesting to note that up to late Victorian times in England a laxative sweet was on sale under the name of History Piccory.

The foundation of the College of Translators by the Caliph al- Mamun in 830 A.D. gave an enormous impetus to Greek Medicine, for it was cheaply Greek manuscripts which they set about translating. Furthermore, the Caliph borrowed physicians, from Jundi Shapur. Thus by the days of Avicenna a complete

synthesis of Christian, Syriac and Greek therapeutics had been achieved, such was the *Materia Medica* which was taught to Avicenna in his early days and upon which he must have drawn when he set himself to write his various pharmacological treatises.

But Greek medical manuscripts were not the only medical works that the College of Translators gave to the Arab world. They did not neglect India which had long possessed medical system independent of Greece and many drugs of Indian origin were known to Avicenna.

Finally, it must not be forgotten that the Arabs themselves introduced into the pharmacopoeia a large number of drugs of which both Greeks and Indians were ignorant: Such are mercurial ointment though some dispute this and think it came from India. By the time of *Ibn al-Baytar* the Medical properties of more than 1400 herbs were known, and chemicals, like sulphuric acid, alcohol, and vinegar were used for the first time as Medicines by Arab physicians. Of most of these Avicenna must have been aware.

A study, then, of Avicenna's treatises on *Materia Medica* is a study of the pharmacopoeia of Arabian Medicine at a time when it had reached its zenith. In itself this short treatise *al- Judiah* is worth little and may or may not add to our knowledge of the drugs of those days. But it must be obvious that any scrap of writing by such a genius as Avicenna deserves study and that any translation from the original into another language helps, in the quest for further knowledge. I consider that all historians of Medicine should be grateful for this work of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman who has here given us another Avicenna.

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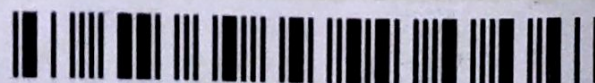
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