

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
CALCUTTA
1995

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Front Cover : 'Ali, the fourth Caliph of Islam in consultation with his companions' —a beautiful illustration from 'Khawar Namah', a Persian manuscript by Ibn-i-Husam, written in 17th Century, representing the finest specimen of Indian Mughal miniature painting and calligraphy, taken from 'Buhar' collection kept in the Rare Books Division of the National Library.

Inside Cover :

Above : Some illuminated rare manuscripts and documents of the Rare Books Division.

Below : An inside view of an Alcove of Rare Books Division.

Back Cover : 'Buraq' (a celebrated animal said to carry Prophet Muhammad from Jerusalem to heaven), a fine illustration from 'Hamlah-i-Haydari,' a Persian manuscript by Mirza Muhammad Rafi Khan Badil, dated A.D. 1828; a poetical account of Prophet and first four Caliphs of Islam.

(Pic : Reprography Division – National Library.)

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The National Library Newsletter

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THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW :

This Newsletter is a combined issue from January to December, 1994. It has highlighted the rare collection division of the National Library with photographs taken from the very old and rare manuscripts.

Dr.D.N. Banerjee, Director, National Library attended the Annual Meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and also the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) held at Havana, Cuba from 21 to 28 August, 1994. The IFLA Conference was held in a Latin American country for the first time.

From January to Mid April 1994, the National Library witnessed unprecedented lawless and damaging agitation for a trivial administrative matter by one of the service associations. Fortunately, the normal services of the Library were maintained all-through by a band of dedicated workers. The Library authority had to take strong actions, as per rules, to restore order and peace in the Library. Since then a number of special projects were taken which were long overdue. Thousands of unbound old newspapers were bound. The binding of books and journals had been started with a new system with petty repairs on the spot. To accommodate more new books, new stacks had been provided in the Stack Division making more space in the existing areas. For prompt and efficient reprographic services, a revised new system had been introduced giving more facilities to the research scholars. A long standing demand of the Library users had been fulfilled by arranging book exhibitions in the Library auditorium where they could recommend books for purchase. Catalogue of a large number of new books had been entered into database for quick retrieval under the programme of modernisation of Library. A number of seminars and exhibitions were held during this year.

The present Annual issue (1994) of the Newsletter provides detailed information on the Rare Books Division and Urdu Language Division in continuation of projecting the activities of various Divisions/Sections of the Library.

RARE BOOKS DIVISION :

The National Library which was opened to the public on the 1st of Feb. 1953, grew up from the collection of the Imperial Library (1891) which was an amalgamation of Calcutta Public Library, Fort William College Library, Home Department Library and some other Government departmental libraries during the period of Lord Curzon in 1903. Naturally, the National Library has got a lot of rare category publications in its general as well as in different special collections. Many of these rare items were kept either in general collection or in almirahs in different divisions. With the recommendations of the Review Committee, the present Rare Books Division started functioning as a separate division in December, 1973 under the direct charge of an Assistant Librarian. As printing developed in India on a wide range at the beginning of 19th Century, the main criterion of the policy for the selection of a rare book adopted by the National Library was books published on India and printed in India before 1860. There are of course many other kinds of valuable and rare books and manuscripts which are being preserved and made available to the readers in the Rare Books Division. A small microform library attached to the Rare Books Division is also engaged in dealing with regular library services.

The Division comprises of an area of 2760 Sq.ft. with Air-conditioning facilities to house about ten thousand volumes of rare books and manuscripts. This area is divided into 12 alcoves, containing books, MSS and Microforms with aluminium framed fire resistant partitions which are always kept under lock and key. The Air-conditioning plant is to run for 24 hours to maintain constant temperature.

At a glance, the figure of the holdings of Rare Books Division is as follows:

1. Monographs, Periodicals & Newspapers	4700 vols. approx.
2. Paper manuscripts	3000 vols. approx.
3. Correspondence and diaries	250 vols.
4. Palm leaf MSS	334 vols.
5. Tibetan Xylographs	878 vols.
6. Microfilms of MSS & Archives	344 rolls.
7. Microfiches (Cards)	1000

With the above noted holdings, the Rare Books Division performs the functions of a full-fledged library in a miniature form. Its main functions include acquisition, accessioning and processing of the rare materials. Manuscripts, correspondence, diaries, microfilms are all catalogued in this division. Indexing of private papers is a regular project work. A due response is given to the reference queries which include sufficient technical responsibilities, reply to letters, supply of bibliographies etc. Receiving scholars and attending the visitors are also a part of the day-to-day work of the Division.

There is a reading room in the main hall of the division which can accommodate 20 readers at a time. No material housed in the division is allowed to be taken out and for that the division has to run its own reader's service with constant vigilance against mutilation or damages to the rare materials used by the readers. Only the serious readers and researchers are allowed to use the holdings of the Division. Servicing of microforms to readers came under the purview of the division since April 1979. The division also maintains the agreement, if any, made regarding use of gifted documents. Reproduction of the holdings is allowed as per library rules.

Preservation and Conservation of the rare materials always receive much attention. Though kept in well-maintained air-conditioned area, books and MSS are given regular periodic checks. Necessary treatment is made available through different conservation skills and techniques which include binding, mending, deacidification, fumigation, lamination, encapsulation, micro-filming etc. Many of the documents in the division including MSS have already been microfilmed.

The division has the privilege of receiving and attending scholars and distinguished visitors from India and abroad throughout the year. Special exhibitions are being arranged in the division on the occasion of the visit of the dignitaries. Its visitors' book is a collection of autographs with remarks by famous persons.

Among the precious holdings of the Division, the following are worth mentioning :

1. The earliest printed book in the Rare Books Division is 'Naturalis Hysteriae Liber Primus...' by Cail Plynia Secundai, published in Parma in 1481. Text of the book is in Latin. This is the oldest publication available in the National Library. Title of the book is written in the colophon. All the letters of the book had been rubricated i.e. illustrated in red by hand. The book bears the seal of Kitab College, Fort William, Calcutta.
2. Another early printed edition-'Colloquios do simplese drogas eusas medicinaes da India...' by Garcia de Orta, printed in Lisboan, 1872. The book is on the drugs and medicinaes of India in simple narrative form. It is a facsimile of the 1563 prints of Goa press.
3. Pantographia : containing accurate copies of all the known alphabets in the world together with an English explanation of the peculiar force or power of each letter to which are added, specimens of all well authenticated oral languages forming a comprehensive digest of phonology by Edmund Fry, published from London in 1799. The book is on vellum (skin of unborn calf).
4. A copy of the Debates of the House of Lords, on the evidence delivered in the trial of Warren Hastings, Esq,... London, printed by J.Debrett, Piccadilly, 1797. This volume was presented by Warren Hastings to Nathaniel Brassy Halhed, writer of the "Grammer of Bengal Language" on 19th April 1812. The book bears the signature of Warren Hastings.
5. Another price possession of the collection is Biblia damulica... published in 1723 from Tranquebar. This Tamil Translation of the Bible was done by Ziegenbalg of the Danish Mission at Tranquebar of the present Tamilnadu

(Madras) state. This Mission founded in 1706, set-up a press and issued some books of which this is one of the earliest specimen. This is also a specimen of Tamil printing after its cradle stage.

There are also a large number of books in European languages published in 17th and 18th Century and few in the 16th Century.

The library has a very good collection of 18th and 19th century journals and newspapers. Of these, special reference may be made of the first newspaper of India, Hicky's 'Bengal Gazette' or "Calcutta General Advertiser" (1780-81) known as Hickys Gazette which started on Saturday, 29th Jan., 1780.

Books in Indian languages issued by the Serampur Missionaries and Fort William College are fairly represented in this collection. Some of the price possessions are :

1. "Grammatica Hindoslanca" by Benjamin Schulzii, in 1745.
2. "ALLAPHABETUM Brammanicum Seu Indostanum" published in 1771 from Rome.
3. "A Malabar and English dictionary..." by John Philip Fabncus, Wepery (Vapery Press near Madras) in 1779. "The Pilgrims progress..." by John Bunyan. Printed by Missionary Press at Vepery in 1793 which was written in parallel columns in English and Tamil.
4. "A Dictionary of the English and Malabar languages... printed from Vepery Press in 1786.
5. "A Grammar for learning the principles of the Malabar languages properly called Tamil or Tamulian language", 2nd Ed., Madras, 1789.
6. The Oriental Linguist..." by John B. Gilchrist, printed by Ferris and Grunway, Calcutta, 1798.
7. "A vocabulary in two parts..." by H.P.Forster, published in 1799 from Calcutta at Ferns and Co.
8. "Grammar of the Malabar language" by Robert Drummond, Bombay, printed at the Courier Press in 1799.
9. "Raja Pratapaditya Charita" by Ram Ram Basu. Printed from Mission Press at Serampore in 1801.
10. "The Ramayunu, a poem in five volums..." by Kirtee Bass, printed at the Mission Press, Serampore in 1802. It is the first version of the most popular Bengali translation of the Ramayana.
11. "Prem Sagar..." by Lulloo Lal, printed in 1810 and published from Sunscrit Press.
12. "Upadesh Katha..." Stewart's historical anecdotes with a sketch of the history of England. Translated by Rev.W.T.Adan and printed at the Calcutta School Book Society's press in 1825.
13. "The Cural of Tiruvalluvar..." with the commentary of Parimelaragar, an amplification of that commentary by Ramanuya cayi-rayar and an English translation of the text by Rev. W.H. Drew. Printed and Published by American Mission Press, Madras in 1840.

14. "A Course of Mathematics in Goojrattee language" by Charles Hutton and Bowny Caslee Hutton, 2 vols; published from Bombay in 1928.
15. "The Gita Govinda..." by Jaya Deva, tr. from the Sanscrit in Oriya by Dharani Dhar, printed at the Mission Press at Cuttack in 1840.
16. "The tales of Vikramarka..." by Ravepate Gooroomoorte, Deputy Teloogoo Master in the College of Fort St. George, printed at the Hindu Press, Madras in 1850.
17. "Hitopodesa..." printed at the Mission Press, Serampore in 1804. In the introduction Mr. H.T. Colebrooke said, "In this first attempt to employ the press in multiplying copies of Sanscrit books with the Devnagari Character, it would be no matter of surprise... that the table of corrections should be large... to promote and facilitate the study of... in the College of Fort William".
18. "Grammer of the Mahratha language..." by W.Carey, Serampore, 1805.
19. "Illustrations of the grammatical parts of the Guzerattee Mahatta and English languages", printed at the Courier Press, Bombay, 1808.
20. "Grammer of the Bengali Language", 2nd Ed. printed at the Mission Press, Serampore in 1805.
21. "Grammar of the Sanscrit language", 2nd Ed., printed at the Honorable Company's Press, Calcutta in 1805.
22. "Rajneeti..." by Narayan Pandit, printed at the Hindoostanee Press in 1809. The book covers the civil and military policy of the Hindus translated from the original Sanskrit.
23. "A geographical description of the Punjab..." by Bute Shah. Tr. from the Persian in Panjabi by Munshi Bahlol, printed at the American Presbyterian Mission Press at Ludhiana, 1850.

Manuscripts collection :

The National Library of India which serves mainly as the permanent repository of the printed cultural heritage of India has in its possession a small holdings on MSS representing almost all basic and important branches of knowledge to a great extent. These Manuscript collection are mostly part of some collections belonging to eminent personalities of India which were donated by their heirs. There are more than 3000 MSS preserved in the Division which are in different forms : mainly personal archives, loose letters, diaries and some magnificent dossier of correspondence. The Tamil Manuscript in palm leaves include a major part which have proved their significance for unique record and characteristics. Except the letters and correspondence in English the Manuscripts are mostly in Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit, Bengali and Tamil languages. These manuscripts bear authentic records, beautiful illustrations, fine calligraphy alongwith certain other features.

Some of the notable collections are worth mentioning :

Buhar collection : This is the oldest gift collection presented to the Imperial Library in 1904 comprising a precious collection of rare books and manuscripts in Arabic,

Persian and Urdu languages. It was the personal collection of Munshi Sayyad Sadruddin of Buhar in Burdwan, District of West Bengal who was very eminent for his love of learning. The collection is extremely rich on all important branches of Arts and Science which include Religion (mainly Islam), History, Philosophy, Medicine, Astronomy, Music and Poetry. Some of the volumes are famous for beautiful illustration, specimen of fine calligraphy, authenticities of records, etc. A few most valuable of this price collection are mentioned here.

Quran Sharif : The Holy Quran written in fine Naskh, with two first pages of the beginning profusely decorated with gold, not dated (apparently 11th Century A.D. – 17th Century A.D.). Another illustrated copy of Holy Quran, written in a beautiful Mimik Naskh by Emperor Aurangajib is in the custody of the trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall in Calcutta in accordance with the agreement with the donors.

Shah Namah : An exceedingly valuable copy of the famous epic poem 'Shah Namah' by the celebrated Persian poet Hakim Qusim Firdausi (933-1020 A.D.).

Khawar Namah : Khawar Namah is a beautifully illustrated copy representing the finest specimen of Indian miniature paintings and calligraphy.

Shathiyyat : Sufic aphorisms on mystic doctrine, illustrated by the sayings and deeds of eminent saints and mystics by Prince Dara Shikuh, who completed it, according to the preface, in A.H. 1062 = A.D. 1651.

Tarikh-i-Harat : A unique history of Harat written in the beginning of the 8th Century, A.H. by an unknown author who was himself a witness to most of the events narrated by him.

Ajaibul Makhlukat : A very valuable and rare cosmographical work composed in the beginning of the latter half of the sixth Century A.H.

Sir Jadunath Sarkar Collection : It was gifted to the Library in 1959 comprising valuable rare documents in different languages and large no. of Persian manuscripts on later Mughal period. These manuscripts are generally transcripts of rare originals scattered in different libraries of India and abroad. They contain invaluable notes and comments by the historian himself representing useful references to the study of Mughal history.

Thibaut Collection : Having a good number of manuscripts in Sanskrit language, the collection is rich in Indian Philosophy, Religion, Literature, History, Astrology etc. This personal collection of eminent scholar Dr. George Thibaut was gifted to the Library by his heirs.

Vaiyapuri Pillai Palm-leaves Collection : With its wealth of Palm-leaves manuscripts, this personal collection of great scholar and historian, Prof. V.P. Pillai, was gifted to the Library by his heirs in 1960. This old Tamil collection broadly deals with literary classics, religious texts, linguistic works, such as dictionaries (in verse) grammatical works and collection of proverbs. A check list is available with this Division.

Jivaka Chintamani : The earliest Tamil manuscript available in the collection is Jivaka chintamani, one of the great fine epics in Tamil. This is a work by a Jaina Monk-poet, known as Tiruttakka Devar (9th Century A.D.). This work gives us the story of Jivaka, a Jain Emperor. There are many works in Sanskrit that deals with this story but none of these are earlier to this work in Tamil. An added importance to this work lies in the fact that the poet used a particular type of easy fluent metre known as 'Viruttam' in a long continuous narrative of 3150 stanzas.

Besides, Bengali manuscript of Jibanananda Das, Bishnu Dey, Fragments of Bibhuti Bhusan Bandyopadhyay's manuscripts of 'Pather Panchali' are worth mentioning. There are several other collections and manuscripts of the eminent scholars and personalities which are furnished in the chart given below.

In addition to the manuscript collection already depicted, the Division also holds a valuable correspondence and diaries of eminent personalities. The magnificent dossier of correspondence, consists several thousand letters and other papers belonging to Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. These papers form a record of this great leader's lifetime devotion to the services of the country and reveal a broad perspective of India in transition covering a period of 45 years upto 1947. In order to make its use easy and convenient and to facilitate reference to the accessible bound volumes, the library has published a check list (1st series) in 1961.

The Chart of Manuscript Collection in Rare Books Division is as follows :

	Arabic	Persian	Urdu	Bengali	English	Hindi	Tamil	Sanskrit	Total
Buhar Collection	467	483	2	—	—	—	—	—	952
Jadunath Sarkar Collection	—	206	—	—	62	—	—	—	268
Thibaut Collection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	410	410
Vaiyapuri Pillai Collection	—	—	—	—	—	—	370	—	370
MSS of Jibanananda Das	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Hidayat Husain Collection	9	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Imambara Collection	72	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	140
Zakaria Collection	9	29	5	—	—	—	—	—	43
Harinath Dey Collection	—	—	—	—	88	—	—	—	88
MSS of Sarojini Naidu	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
MSS of Mani Bardhan	—	—	—	69	—	—	—	—	69
MSS of Asit Halder Ram Das Sen Collection	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
MSS of Bibhuti Bhusan Bandhopadhyay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	103	103
Rewa Collection	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Hari Das Nandy Collection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	60
MSS of Vishun Dey	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	14
National Library & Other Collection	124	163	14	68	101	5	—	114	589
Total	681	955	21	162	255	5	370	790	3239

Eminent personalities and their archives are part of this rich collection. This collection represents great scholars like Tej Bahadur Sapru, Balkrishna Sheoram Moonge, Ramananda Chatterjee, Satish Chandra Mukherjee, Womesh Chandra Banerjee, Jadunath Sarkar, Govind Sardesai, Sarat Chandra Bose, Subhas Chandra Bose, Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, Lalmohan Ghosh, etc.

Tibetan Xylographs : Xylographs means block prints. These are also a very important part of our rare collection. These Xylographs made from bark of rare Nepali trees are available in about 100 volumes comprises more than 800 items. The Xylographs were presented to the National Library by Honourable Dalai Lama after his visit to the Library.

The Division has plans for several important projects in order to facilitate readers and reference service. The ongoing and future projects include :

- a) Proper and up-to-date processing of all rare materials including microforms.
- b) Indexing of all private papers, i.e. MSS, correspondence, diaries, etc. of eminent personalities available in the division.
- c) Publishing Catalogues/Handlists/Checklist of the holdings.
- d) Adopting modern techniques such as computerisation, microprocessing etc. to facilitate comprehensive services of the rare materials.
- e) The Division has already undertaken a vital project for better preservation of the Indian Cultural Heritage to store the rare documents in the shape of microfilms.

The following volumes of Catalogues of the Division's holdings have already been published by the National Library.

Catalogue Raisonne of Buhar Library — Vol. 1.1921.

Catalogue Raisonne of Buhar Library — Vol. 2.1923.

Sapru Correspondence : a check list (First Series), 1961.

Catalogue of Persian manuscripts in Jadunath Sarkar Collection, 1972 (Mimeographed).

Harinath Dey : Centenary Volume, 1977.

Bishnu Dey : Catalogue of Manuscripts, 1980 (Handlist)

Vaiyapuri Pillai Collection : Palm leaf manuscripts in Tamil : a check list, 1983. (Hand list).

Tibetan Xylographys — a check list.

The above details are not a complete account of the rare books and manuscripts available in the National Library. Apart from those mentioned above, there are a good number of valuable rare books and manuscripts on different languages which are lying in other divisions of the library. These volumes, claiming a rightful place of being presented to the readers and scholars, could not be brought to the Rare Books Division mainly due to lack of space. However, it is confidently believed that a full proof measure for preservation of all sorts of rare materials could be accomplished as soon as the proposed six storied building of the National Library called, "Bhasha Bhawan" comes into being, which is now under construction.

URDU DIVISION :

The Urdu Division of the National Library is situated at the 7th floor of the Annexe Building. This Division was formed in the year 1968 and functioning as a separate division since 1973 with a nucleus of 15,000 volumes. The work in connection with the Delivery of Books Act, 1954 to acquire books and periodicals was transferred to this Division from Acquisition Division. The present collection of books and bound volumes of periodicals in the language is about 30,000. This division receives books and periodicals in Urdu from almost all the states of the country under the provisions of D.B.Act.

In the last Century, Calcutta was one of the flourishing centres of Urdu studies. With the start of Hindustani Press in 1801 there sprang up many more Printing press in Calcutta and suburbs like Metiaburuj, Hooghly and Murshidabad. The publications of these Press are rarely found today. The Urdu Division fortunately holds quite a good number of such publications which are more useful to the scholars of general history of Urdu language and literature and in the history of early imprints of Bengal. The periodical and newspaper collections are also very rich. The files of different periodicals are the source material for the research scholars. Under the D.B. Act, 1954 (as amended in 1956), at present, the Division receives annually 400 books and 35,000 issues of periodicals. The second source of acquisition is by purchase. Generally rare and out of print publications in this language are being purchased for the library after inviting list from the various rare books dealers. The Division also purchases books published before passing the Act of 1954. The third source of acquisition is through Gift & Exchange. The Division accepts valuable and important publications offered by the individuals and institutions as a gift after proper scrutiny. The function of the Division is also to acquire books by Exchange.

The Urdu collection of the National Library has been gradually built-up over the years since the Imperial Library came into existence. The importance of this collection depends largely on the books published in the 19th Century and particularly those published in the middle of the 20th Century. Most of these books acquired from the individual collections such as BUHAR COLLECTION, IMAMBARA COLLECTION, JADUNATH SARKAR COLLECTION, ZAKARIYA COLLECTION, SAPRU COLLECTION etc. The Division has also a good collection of Pakistani books and periodicals such as : Urdu Encyclopaedia, Complete Set of Rasul Number and Complete set of Encyclopaedia of Islam.

Some of the rare books and notable collections are mentioned below :

1. Akhlaq-i-Hindi by Mir Bahadur Ali. Calcutta, 1803.
2. Kuliyat-i-Mir. Calcutta, 1811.
3. A Collection of Hindustani Exercise printed for the Public Examination. Calcutta, 1812.
4. Bagh-o-Bahar by Amir Khusrau. Calcutta, 1838.
5. Qissah Chahar Darwesh by Amir Khusrau. Calcutta, 1838.

6. Muntakhabat-i-Hindi by John Shakespeare. London, 1838.
7. Khirad Afroz by Abul Fazal, 1857.
8. Jam-i-Jahan Numa by Shiv Prasad. Lucknow, 1859.
9. Divan-i-Ghalib by Asadullah Khan Ghalib. Lahore, 1914.
10. Muraqqa-i-Chughtai by Asadullah Khan Ghalib. Lahore, 1914.
11. Araish-i-Mahfil by Syed Haider Bakhsh Haidari. Calcutta, 1938.
12. An account of geographical, historical and statistical of the Chinese Empire. Calcutta, 1948.

The Library has many valuable works by foreign authors which are of immense interest to the students of early Urdu and Hindi. The notable among them are J.B.Gilchrist's "Grammar of the Hindustani Language". The Library also holds some old and important journals among which worthy of mention would be a few issues of the famous Urdu Journal 'al-Hilal' and 'al-Balagh' edited by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad published in the year 1912 at Calcutta.

A good number of authors and scholars visits the Division throughout the year. This Division also extends separate Reading Room facilities to its scholars. It attends queries and supplies bibliographical references to the scholars across the country. Proper assistance has been extended to the authors and scholars in locating the rare Urdu books and manuscripts preserved in the Rare Books Division. Under the publication programme, this Division has been recently taken up a special project of 'Union Catalogue of Urdu Periodicals' for printing.

VISIT ABROAD :

The Director Dr. D.N. Banerjee attended Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and 60th Annual Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), held at Havana, Cuba during 20th to 27th August, 1994.

The IFLA Conference was attended by about 3000 delegates coming from all over the world. The CDNL was represented by about 50 countries. The opening ceremony was inaugurated by Mr.A.H.Davalos, the Cultural Minister of Cuba who was also the Chairman of Honorary Committee of the IFLA Conference. There were two important exhibitions held, one was poster exhibition and another was book/technical appliances exhibition. The closing ceremony was also attended by the same Minister of Culture. It ended with traditional colourful songs of Cuba.

The main theme of IFLA 1994 was "Libraries and Social Development". The discussions were held on the experiences of the functions and the roles played by libraries in the improvement of people's living conditions and on the future development of the library activity. Several papers were presented on :

- Libraries, family and society
- Library policies for social and cultural development
- New library technologies and social development
- Library Co-operation
- Libraries and conservation of environment etc.

In Conference of Directors of National Libraries where among others, resolution on resource sharing through modern technique such as Networking was adopted. The present poor condition of Russian National Library and the destruction of ex-Yugoslavian National Library was also received special attention for restoration and maintenance.



The Director in front of the National Library of Cuba, Havana along with other Directors of National Libraries.

EXTENSION LECTURE :

Dr.T.A.V.Murthy, Librarian, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, delivered a lecture on 'Multimedia Application to Cultural Heritage Material' on 29.4.94 in the National Library Auditorium.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS :

Mrs. Dipali Ghosh Assistant Library and Information Officer, Mr. Ashwini Mondal and Mr. Ashim Mukhopadhyay Library and Information Assistants were deputed to participate in the XVI National Seminar of IASLIC held from 19-22 December, 1994 at Indian Institute of Technology, Powai, Bombay. The theme of the Seminar was 'Networking of Libraries : Problems and Prospects'. The Director, National Library attended the Seminar as a special guest. About 500 delegates were present at the Seminar from various parts of the Country and abroad and discussed on the various problems and prospects of library network in India. The recommendations adopted in the Seminar were mainly to systematise the Indian libraries into a library network to give an appropriate shape to the existing library and information systems and services in an effective manner.

The Sikkim Government organised a Seminar on Impact on environmental pollution of cultural property in collaboration with Indian Association for the Study of Conservation of Cultural Property, New Delhi on 25th to 30th October, 1994 at Gangtok. The Seminar was inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri P.Shiv Shankar. The National Library deputed Shri N.N.Sarkar, Library & Information Officer to participate in the Seminar. He presented a paper under the title 'Library Management with non-chemical methods'.

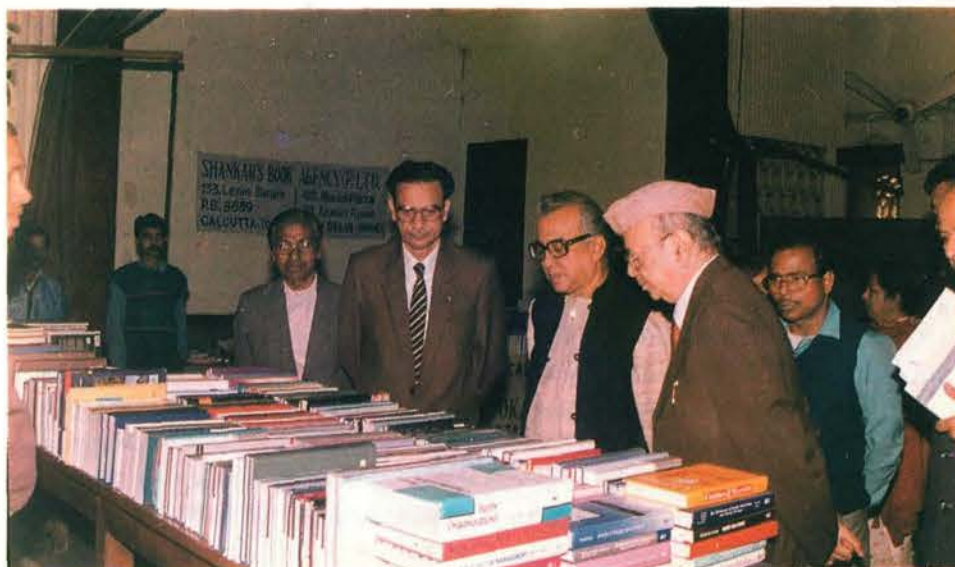
During the year, two Hindi Workshops were organised in the National Library, Calcutta on 3rd & 4th February and on 1st & 2nd August, 1994. Dr.D.N.Banerjee, Director, National Library, inaugurated the Workshops. Thirty eight members of the staff took part in the said Workshops. Resource persons from other institutions and from the National Library conducted the Workshops successfully.

HINDI DAY CELEBRATION :

Hindi Day was celebrated on 14th September, 1994 in the National Library Auditorium which was chaired by Dr.D.N.Banerjee, Director, National Library. An extempore competition was the main item of the celebration. Five cash prizes were awarded to the winning candidates in order of merit in Hindi and Non-Hindi speaking groups. Prof. Shiv Nath Pandey, Hindi Department, Presidency College, Calcutta was the Chief guest.

EXHIBITIONS :

The National Library, Calcutta, for the first time organised series of Book Exhibitions to move closer to the users of the Library and to involve the scholars in the Book Selection process of the Library. Under this programme, the first

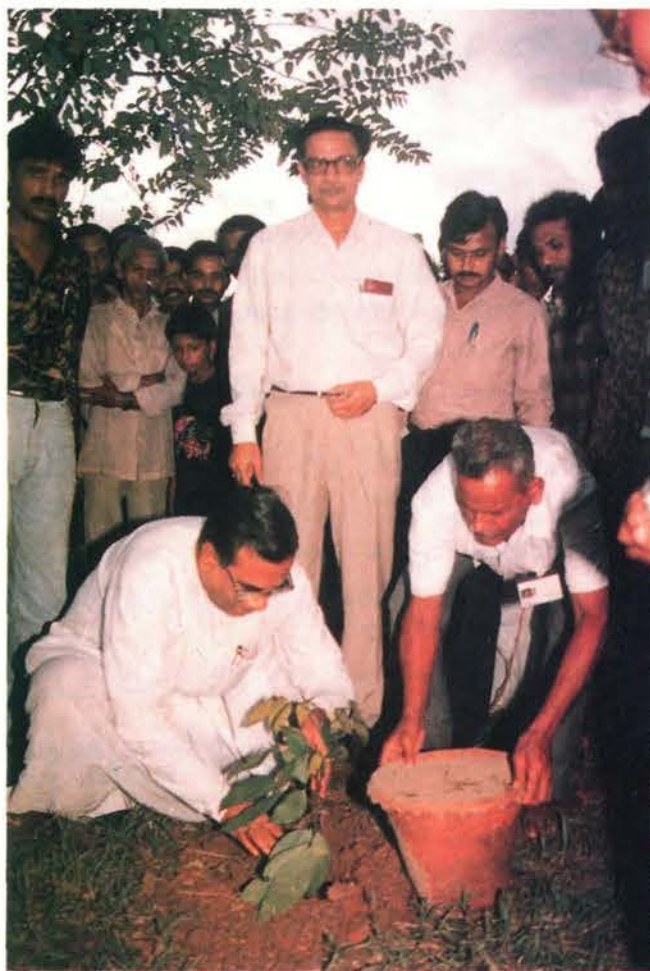


Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder, Ex Union Minister of Education and Dr. P. Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University are selecting books for Library in the Book Exhibition.

Exhibition was on important foreign publications for consideration of the scholars for purchase. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Dr.D.N.Banerjee, Director in presence of Dr.Pratap Chandra Chunder, Ex.Union Minister of Education and Prof.Pabitra Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta. The Exhibition was remain open for three days from 30.8.1994 to 1.9.1994 in the National Library Auditorium.

PLANTATION DAY :

The National Library, Calcutta observed a 'Plantation Day' on the 22nd July, 1994. It was organised through a Seminar and planting of some saplings of uncommon varieties. Dr.D.N.Banerjee, Director, National Library inaugurated the Seminar and Shri.Prasanta Kumar Chatterjee, Hon'ble Mayor, Calcutta Municipal Corporation was the Chief guest. The Seminar was followed by ceremonial plantations by the Director and the Mayor.



The Mayor of Calcutta is planting a rare variety of sapling during Plantation Day Celebration.

GIFT AND EXCHANGE :

The National Library thankfully received the following notable publications as a gift during the year 1994 as shown under the respective donors.

1. India and America : American publishing on India, 1930-1985 by Barrier N.Gerald. New Delhi, American Institute of Indian Studies, 1986.
Donor : The Director General, American Institute of Indian Studies, D-31, Defence Colony, New Delhi-1100024.
2. Five hundred leaders of influence, 1st ed. published by American Biographical Institute, 1993.
Donor : American Biographical Institute, 5126 Bur Oak Circle, P.O.Box-31226, Raleigh, North Carolina-27622.
3. Five important Persian publications.
Donor : The Ambassador, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 5 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001.
4. International Industrial linkages and Economic interdependency in Asia, edited by Takao Sano and Chiharu Tamamura. Tokyo, Institute of Developing Economics, 1993.
Donor : Institute of Developing Economics, Tokyo, Japan.
5. Taekwan - Do : The Korean art of self defence by Choi Hong Hi. International Taekwon - Do Federation, 1993.
Donor : International Taekwon - Do Federation, 4216 - Regency Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.
6. Jaina logic and epistemology by Harimohan Bhattacharya. Calcutta, K.P.Bagchi & Co. 1994.
Donor : M/S K.P.Bagchi & Co., 286, B.B.Ganguly St., Calcutta-700012.
7. Immortal love of Rama; Rama the mighty Virtuous warrior by G.B.Kanuga. New Delhi, M.B.K.Charitable Research & Education Society, 1993.
Donor : G.B.Kanuga, Hon. Secretary, M.B.K. Charitable Education and Health Research Society, New Delhi-110065.
8. The Concept of property and the origin of crime, by K.S.R. Raza. Dhaka, Ratna Prakasan, 1991.
Donor : K.S.R.Raza, Bangladesh Supreme Court, Jessore, Bangladesh.
9. Several important publications on Hungarian History.
Donor : Ramaniars Historical Studies, 1029, Euclid Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, U.S.A.
10. Gheorghe Credit Productivity by Amalendu Guha and Zaman. Stockholm, Betuany books, 1993.

Donor : Amalendu Guha, P.O.Box 870, Sentrum, 0104, Oslo, Norway.

Under the **Exchange programme**, the National Library sent the following publications to other countries as a gift.

1. Indian National Bibliography (INB) to 30 countries.
2. The National Library Newsletter to 76 countries.

VISITORS :

The following noted eminent Indian and foreign personalities visited the Library during 1994.

A four member delegation headed by Dr.Mohammad Mehdi Mirhan, Press Attachee to the Iran Cultural House, New Delhi.

Dharam Vir, Secretary (Retd.) Election Commission of India, New Delhi.

Lt. Gen. O.P. Kaushik, AVSM, VSM, Chief-of-Staff, Head Quarters, Eastern Command, Fort William, Calcutta.

A group of 40 members headed by Dr.Kishore Ch. Padhy of Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri, Orissa.

Sh. Sheikh Aktar, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran.

Sh. Asoke Kr. Chakraborty, I.A.S. Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Sh. P.K.Khanna, Chief Justice, Gouhati High Court, Gouhati, Assam.

Dr. Ghazyiskandrani, Al Badel Al Tebiah, Saudi Arabia.,

Dr. Zbinden Paul and Thomas Paul, Ch - A700 Fribourg, Switzerland.

Mr. Beverly P.Lynch, Dean & Professor, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Mr. M. Shamsul Islam Khan, General Secretary, The Library Association of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr. Paul Kwiatkowskyj, International Marketing Director, VCH Publishers, West Germany.

Mr. Sylvie Hakaire, Editions Technip, Paris, France.

Mrs. Aysa Jhorna, Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr. James J. Shite, Hunt Institue, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A.

Mr. Rauffer Heinrich, Cultural Advisor to the city of Dachau, Augsburg, Str. 13, Germany.

Dr. Syed Mohammad Khatemi, Advisor to the President of Iran and Chairman, National Libraries of Iran, Iran.

Mr. Subrata Ganguly, Str, Technical School in Yelbert Langenbergerstr – 120, 42555 Velbert, Germany.

Mr. Gurdit Singh, Harvard Divinity School, 35, Franc's Avenue, Cambridge, Ma 02138, U.S.A.

Mr. I. Brochled & Mr. V. Gavin, don 108, Prepeld Mirror, Moscow.

Dr. Michael Leahy, University of Kent, Canterbury, U.K.

Mr. A. F. M. Badin Rahman, Director, Dept. of Public Libraries, Govt. of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr. Dominik Wujastyk, Associate Curator, South Asian Collections, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, U.K.

Mr. Michael Mcwilliam, Director, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, U.K.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE :

Approximately, more than two hundred Indian Research Scholars and students from different Universities and Research Institutions across the country had come over to the National Library for academic consultation on their respective field of subjects during the period under report.

The following noted Foreign Scholars from abroad visited the India's National Library for academic consultation during 1994.

Sl No.	Name & Address	Sl No.	Name & Address
1.	Akio Tanabe, Tokyo, Japan.	4.	Dr. Brahma Chawdhury, Dept. of English, Conlordia College, Canada.
2.	Aktar Rokshna, Talimari, Rajshahi, Bangladesh.	5.	Chandana Dutta, Patharghata, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
3.	Anne Hardgrove, 117, S.Drchar St., North field, U.S.A.	6.	Damayanti Datta, Churchill College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, U.K.

Sl No.	Name & Address	Sl No.	Name & Address
7.	Holger A. Bok, Norn 15, 1381 6x Weesp, Netherlands.	16.	Sanjida Akhtar, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.
8.	Lvtz Trettin, Niederwallstr, 73, Berlin, Germany.	17.	Shamima Ali, 4, Coniston Gardens, Redbridge, Essex, U.K.
9.	Mario Prayer, Rome, Italy.	18.	S.M. Rafique Islam, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.
10.	Mary E. Labara, University of S.C, U.S.A.	19.	Sumie Nakatami, Tokyo, Japan.
11.	Md. Israil Khan, ICCR Scholar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.	20.	Swati Chattopadhaya, University of California, Burkley.
12.	Md. Mahferul Lagu, Dt. P. C. Thakurgaon, Bangladesh.	21.	Tamara Anne House, 253 Fernleoge, U. S. A.
13.	Mkhael Sean Silvestr, New York, U. S. A.	22.	Tetsuyij Nakatami, Tokyo, Japan.
14.	Pampa Roy, Middle Sex, U. K.	23.	Utpal Kumar Sarkar, 3, Green Corner, Green Road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.
15.	Polly Trout, Boston University, Boston, U. S. A.		

ADMINISTRATION :

MANAGING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBRARY DEPARTMENTAL CANTEEN :

A Managing Committee of the National Library Departmental Canteen has been constituted with the following Departmental Officers for the period of three years.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | Dr. D. N. Banerjee,
Director, National Library,
Calcutta. | — | Chairman
(Ex-Officio) |
| 2. | Shri K. S. Rao,
Assistant Library &
Information Officer,
National Library. | — | Honorary Secretary
(Director's nominee) |
| 3. | Shri Y. Acharya,
Librarian, Central
Reference Library,
Calcutta. | — | Member
(Director's nominee) |
| 4. | Shri Monotosh Kabasi
Administrative Officer,
National Library. | — | Member
(Director's nominee) |
| 5. | Smt Zakia Sultana,
Assistant Library &
Information Officer,
National Library. | — | Lady Member
(Director's nominee) |
| 6. | Shri Badal Chandra Ghosh Roy,
Library and Information
Assistant, National Library. | — | Member
(Association's representative) |
| 7. | Shri P. P. Guha,
Lower Division Clerk,
National Library. | — | Member
(Association's representative) |
| 8. | Shri.Gouri Shankar Majumdar,
Assistant Halwai,
N.L.D. Canteen. | — | Member
(Representative of the Canteen
Staff) |

APPOINTMENTS :

National Library welcomes the following new appointees.

Sl No.	Name	Position to which joined	Date of joining
1.	Shri Raja Majumder	Dusting Bearer	01.7.1994
2.	Shri Shirshendu Singha	-do-	01.8.1994
3.	Shri Arun Kr. Mallic	-do-	08.9.1994
4.	Shri Samit Paik	Lower Division Clerk	26.9.1994
5.	Shri Haripada Biswas	Guard	27.9.1994
6.	Shri Kartick Ch. Dey	Mali	27.9.1994

PROMOTIONS :

The following members of staff of the Library promoted to the posts mentioned below during January to December, 1994. We congratulate them.

Sl. No.	Name	Promoted to the post of	Date of joining to the new post
1.	Shri Nikhil Dutta	Sr.Library & Information Assistant	22.6.1994
2.	Shri Nilkantha Chakraborty	Assistant	16.8.1994
3.	Shri Kanak Kr.Mondal (S.C.)	-do-	16.8.1994
4.	Shri Bishnu Pada Jamatia (S.T.)	-do-	16.8.1994
5.	Shri Sukumar Basak (S.C.)	Lower Division Clerk	22.9.1994
6.	Shri Tarun Kr.Das	Sr.Library & Information Assistant	3.10.1994

3.	Subject Index to the Author Catalogue. First Supplement, 1929.			Rs.	3.25
4.	Subject Index to the Author Catalogue. Second Supplement, 1939.			Rs.	3.94
5.	Subject Catalogue of Printed Books in European Languages.				
	Vol. 1	A	1966	Rs.	15.00
	Vol. 2	B	1973	Rs.	13.95
6.	Author Catalogue of Printed Books in Bengali Language.				
	Vol. 3	M-R	1959	Rs.	9.55
	Vol. 4	S-Z	1963	Rs.	4.70
7.	Catalogue of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit books.				
	Vol. 1	A-G	1951	Rs.	4.31
	Vol. 2	H-Q	1956	Rs.	13.75
	Vol. 3	R-Z	1973	Rs.	125.00
8.	Catalogue of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit Books.			Rs.	778.00
9A.	Asutosh Collection Catalogue, Supplement, 1947-1980 (A-Z), 1988			Rs.	6.00
	Vol. 1	(Fine Arts), 1985		Rs.	6.00
	Vol. 2	(Literature American & European), 1963		Rs.	11.88
	Vol. 3	History, Geography, Travels & Biography		Rs.	265.50
	Vol. 4	Science & Technology, 1983		Rs.	95.00
10.	A. Bibliography of Indology, Indian Anthropology, Vol.I, 1960.			Rs.	5.00
	B. Bibliography of Indology, Vol. 2 Indian Botany, Part (A-J), 1961.			Rs.	8.00
	C. Bibliography of Indology, Vol.2 Indian Botany Part-II K-Z, 1965.			Rs.	8.25
	D. Bibliography of Indology, Vol.III, Bengali Language & Literature, Part-I (Early Period) 1964.			Rs.	6.00

11. A Bibliography of Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias in Indian Languages, 1964.	Rs. 4.75
12. Bibliographical Control in India, 1988.	Rs. 75.00
13. Catalogue of Periodicals, Newspapers & Gazettes, Vol.-I, 1956.	Rs. 6.00
14. Author Table for Indian names, 1961.	Rs. 9.50
15. The Sapru Correspondence. A check list (First series) 1961.	Rs. 3.40
16. Index Translationum Indicarum, 1963.	Rs. 12.00
17. India's National Library: Systematizationa and Modernization by Km. Uma Majumder, 1987.	Rs. 210.00
18. National Library and Public Libraries in India, 1987.	Rs. 30.00
19. Rabindragrantha Suchi in Bengali Language, Vol.-I, Part-I, 1988.	Rs. 110.00
20. Indological Studies & South Asia Bibliography, 1988.	Rs. 115.00
21. Conservation of Library Materials, 1985.	Rs. 78.00
22. Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Buhar Collection, 1988.	Rs. 45.00
23. J. N. Sarkar's Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts (Xerox copy) 1988.	Rs. 40.00
24. Author Catalogue of printed Books in Tamil Language Vol.-I, letters, A-K, 1990.	Rs. 70.00
25. National Library and Public Library Development, 150 Anniversary of the Calcutta Public Library.	Rs. 169.00
26. Author Catalogue of Printed Books in Hindi Language, Vol.-I, letter A-B.	Rs. 185.00
27. Planning Modernizationa and Preservation Programme in South Asian libraries, 1990.	Rs. 280.00
28. Brochure on National Library, 1992.	Rs. 43.00
29. Glimpses of India through Western Eyes.	Rs. 45.00
30. Author Catalogue of Printed Books in English language, Vol.-I, Letter A, Suppl. (1962-1980).	Rs. 507.00
31. Dr. S. R. Ranganathan: a tribute.	Rs. 83.00

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|---|------------|
| 32. Bibliography of Nyaya philosophy, comp. by Dr. Krishna Chakraborty-Ganguly. | Rs. 346.00 |
| 33. A set of 16 post cards with coloured pictures selected from the National Library collections. | Rs. 40.00 |

CORRIGENDUM

In the previous issue of the Newsletter July-December, 1993, the Vol. XI should actually be Vol. X. The error is regretted.

**All enquiries and orders may be sent to :
The Senior Administrative Officer,
The National Library,
Belvedere, Alipore,
Calcutta-700 027,
INDIA.**

