



Workshop: European Readers and Authors of Indo-Persian Texts

Friday, September 9th 2016
Room 120,
C.K Choi Building

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Dr. Shahbaz : The presence of the Europeans in South Asia and their interest in learning local languages was certainly not hindered nor limited to the purpose of becoming acquainted with Indian creeds and culture; it envisaged going further expeditiously by producing texts in local languages such as Persian, about western religious culture as well as European scientific knowledge. The present communication will deal with the ways and levels of knowledge transmission by European authors via translation. For more precisions, we will focus on a Persian manuscript of this kind entitled *Mir'āt al-ḥukamā* (The mirror of wise men), written by a certain Yunus Beg Angerizi preserved at Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.

Dr. Speziale : Historians of sciences have generally perceived the European scholars' use of Muslim languages as a phenomenon limited to the Medieval period when Greco-Arabic scientific sources were translated into Latin. This paper attempts to re-examine this issue by looking at the Persian scientific texts written and translated for the Europeans in South Asia. The scientific texts and translations made for the British appeared during a period of about half a century, from the mid 1770s to the mid 1830s. The first English translations of two classical Indian scientific works, the *Bījagaṇita* and the *Śālihotra* were not made from the Sanskrit text but from the Persian adaptations made by Indian Muslim scholars during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Further, some of the Persian texts written for the Europeans dealt with the medical and scientific learning of Muslim scholars. This aim of this paper is to examine the uses and the adaptation of these texts in the colonial environment and the ways the British looked at Persian works as a means to become acquainted with the traditions of their Hindu subjects.



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