APPENDIX.

English Translations of Omar Khayyam’s Quatrains and their Features

In the following I have sorted alphabetically almost all of the known published translations of Omar Khayyam's Quatrains. It is worth mentioning that only few of them have been translated directly from the original Persian text. Most of these translations are based on prior English or French translations of the *Ruba’iyyat*.

- **Angha, Nahid. Selections.** Poems from: Khayyam, Rumi, Hafez, Moulana Shah Maghsoud. - San Rafael, translated with the greatest care to preserve the original meaning and graceful style of these timeless poets. A glossary of Sufi terms is also included: International Association of Sufism Publication, 1991


- **Arberry, Arthur J.** *Omar Khayyam*; a new version based upon recent discoveries by Arthur J. Arberry. - New Haven, Yale University Press, 1952


- **Aryanpur, Abbas.** *The Ruba‘iyyat of Omar Khayyam*. A new translation. Rendered into English verse by Abbas Aryanpur (Kashani) and Manoochehr Aryanpur. - Tehran: College of Translation, 1971

- **Avery, Peter.** *The Ruba‘iyyat of Omar Khayyam*; translated / by Peter


Those who dominated the circle of learning and culture-
In the company of the perfect became lamps among their peers,
By daylight they could not escape from the darkness,
So they told a fable, and went to sleep

Alas, the book of youth is finished,
The fresh spring of life has become winter;
That state which they call youth,
It is not perceptible when it began and when it closed

*Avery, Peter. The Ruba'iyat of Omar Khayyam; A modern version of 235 quatrains, claiming to be "as literal an English version of the Persian originals as readability and intelligibility permit, translated by Peter Avery and John Heath-Stubbs. - London, Allen Lane, 1979*
• Azmi, I. *The mirror & the eye*: Ruba’iyyat of Omar Khayyam translated by Iftikhar Azmi; illustrated by Richard Kennedy. - Andoversford, Whittington, [cop. 1984]


> In spring if a houri-like sweetheart
> Gives me a cup of wine on the edge of a green cornfield,
> Though to the vulgar this would be blasphemy,
> If I mentioned any other Paradise, I'd be worse than a dog

• **Fitzgerald, Edward.** (1809 - 1883) He first published a collection of Ruba‘iyyat anonymously in 1859, with notes and a biographical and critical essay on “Omar Khayyam, the Astronomer-poet of Persia,” Fitzgerald brought out three subsequent editions – in
1868, 1872, and 1879- expanding the number of quatrains to 110 in the first of these, and then cutting back 101 in the last two. These various editions involved continuous revision and rearrangement. His translation is known to be a free translation.

1859

Here with a Loaf of Bread Beneath the Bough, 
A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse—and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
And Wilderness is Paradise enow.

1868

Here with a little Bread beneath the Bough
A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse—and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

1872

A Book of Verses underneath the Bough,
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

1879 and 1889

A Book of Verses underneath the Bough,
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow!

- **Gallienne, Richard Le.** (1866-1947) produced a verse translation, subtitled "a paraphrase from several literal translations", in 1897. In his introductory note to the reader, Le Gallienne cites McCarthy’s "charming prose" as the chief influence on his version. Some example quatrains follow:

  Look not above, there is no answer there;
  Pray not, for no one listens to your prayer;
  Near is as near to God as any Far,
  And Here is just the same deceit as There.

"Did God set grapes a-growing, do you think,
And at the same time make it sin to drink?
Give thanks to Him who foreordained it thus--
Surely He loves to hear the glasses clink!"

- **Garner, J. L.** He published an English translation of 152 quatrains in 1888.

Yes, Loved One, when the Laughing Spring is blowing,
With Thee beside me and the Cup o'erflowing,
I pass the day upon this Waving Meadow,
And dream the while, no thought on Heaven bestowing.


A gourd of red wine and a sheaf of poems
A bare subsistence, half a loaf, not more
Supplied us two alone in the free desert:
What Sultan could we envy on his throne?


- **Heron-Allen, Edward.** (1861-1943) published a prose translation in 1898.

  Example quatrain (equivalent of Fitzgerald’s quatrain XI in his 1st edition):
  
  I desire a little ruby wine and a book of verses, Just enough to keep me alive and half a loaf is needful; And then, that I and thou should sit in a desolate place Is better than the kingdom of a sultan.

- **Hofer, Philip.** *Four quatrains from the Ruba’iyyat* - Cambridge : The Four Winds Press, 1973


- **Kasra, Parichehr.** *The Ruba’iyyat of `Umar Khayyam; Ttranslated and with*
an introd. and notes by Parichehr Kasra. - Delmar, Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1975. (Scholars' facsimiles & reprints. Persian heritage series; 21. UNESCO collection of representative works. Persian series)

- **Khan, Yussuf.** *The unknown Omar Khayyam.* 79 quatrains translated by Yusuf Khan. - West Worthing : Fantasma, 1947

- **Lang, Andrew.** *From Omar Khayyam.* Rhymed from the prose version of Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy by Andrew Lang. - The Andrew Lang edition of the Rubaiyat. - Monroe : The Lilliputian Press, 1935

- **Laws, Ernest E.** *The Ruba’iyyat of Omar Khayyam;* Fitzgerald’s interpretation, rearranged to include new quatrains embodying an adaptation of further thoughts from Omar by Ernest E. Laws. - Tisbury, Element Books, 1983. - (Nadder Books)

- **Lister, Henry Bertram.** *The Ruba’iyyat of Omar Khayyam.* A century of paraphrased quatrains by Henry Bertram Lister. - San Francisco : La
Boheme Club, 1945

**Lister, Henry Bertram.** *Rubai’yyat of Omar Khayyam: orphan quatrains by Henry Bertram Lister.* - San Francisco, La Boheme club, 1935

**Lister, Henry Bertram.** *Omar Khayyam.* By Henry Bertram Lister. - San Francisco: , 1936

**Lister, Henry Bertram.** *The Rubaiyat quatrains 1201 to 1268 and Omar Khayyam’s stag party.* By Henry Bertram Lister. - San Francisco: La Boheme Club, 1936


  **Mahmoud, Parvine.** *The Rubai’yyat.* The original Persian text and a literal translation. With an introduction presenting Omar Khayyam and his poetry, by Parvine Mahmoud. Tehran: San’at Rooz (Kashani) Press, 1996

- **Mccarthy, Justin Huntley.** (1859-1936) published prose translations of 466 quatrains in 1888.
In spring time I love to sit in the meadow with a paramour perfect as a Houri and a goodly jar of wine, and though I may be blamed for this, yet hold me lower than a dog if ever I dream of Paradise.


- **NN.** *Rubá‘iyyat of Omar Khayyam.* - Stodham : Stewards, 1950

  **NN.** *Rubá‘iyyat of Omar Khayyam.* - Belfast : Seymour Press, 1945

  **NN.** *Rubá‘iyyat of Omar Khayyam.* Lettering and Illustrations by Barbara Ross Jones. -, 1941

  **NN.** *An Omarian alphabet.* Arranged and published by Clarke W. Walton. -


• **Powell, Frederick York.** *Quatrains from Omar.* Frederick York Powell. With an introduction and bibliographical note by Frank Ankenbrand. - Monroe : The Sunnyside Press, 1936


• **Rosen, F.** *The quatrains of 'Omar Khayyam;* newly translated with an introduction by Friedrich Rosen; with eight illustrations. - London, Methuen, 1930


> Awake! The turret’s caught in noose of light,  
> Day’s Khosrow flung the wine in bowl of night;  
> Carouse! The Morning Crier let resound  
> The melody Drink ye with stars in flight.

> Since no one can Tomorrow guarantee,  
> Enjoy the moment, let your heart be free;  
> Ah, drink, my Moon, in moonlight for the moon  
> Will make its rounds but won’t find you and me!

• **Smith, David Eugene.** *The Rubá’íyat of Omar Khayyam;* set forth in meter by David Eugene Smith; based upon a verbatim translation by Hashim
Hussein; illustrations by Rassam-i Arjangi. - New York, B. Westermann Company, 1933

**Stokes, Whitley.** *Some more of Omar's quatrains.* By Whitley Stokes. - Monroe: The Lilliputian Press, 1936

**Talbot, Arthur.** This version completed in 1908; here are his quatrains 40, 149, respectively:

> Whether my destin'd fate shall be to dwell
> Midst Heaven's joys or in the fires of Hell
> I know not; here with Spring, and bread, and wine,
> And thee, my love, my heart says "All is well."

> Give me a scroll of verse, a little wine,
> With half a loaf to fill thy needs and mine,
> And with the desert sand our resting place,
> For ne'er a Sultan's kingdom would we pine.

• **Thompson, Eben Francis.** The complete Ruba’iyyat of Omar Khayyam; translated by Eben Francis Thompson. - Victoria: New Humanity Books, 1990. - (Masterpieces of Sufi Literature Series)


**Thompson, Eben Francis.** *The Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam*’ founded on the Persian by Eben Francis Thompson. Worcester, 1932 *The Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam* was the result of a process of miniaturization to produce smaller and smaller books. It was ranked the smallest book in the world and it still holds a high rank in the present list of ‘super miniatures’.

• **Thorner, Horace.** The Ruba’iyyat of Omar Khayyam: a new version by
Literal translation (by Thorner [iv]):
Those who are endowed with knowledge and virtue, who by
their profound learning have become the torches of their
disciples; even they have not made one step outside of this
deep night. They have babbled some fables and returned to sleep.

Rhymed translation (by Thorner [iv]):
Only the seeming-wise it was who sought
To thread the pearls of knowledge with their Thought
For they were wearied by that twisted Thread
And fell asleep – and Dreams were all they taught.


  **Whinfield, E.H.** The quatrains of Omar Khayyam; the Persian text with an

In the sweet spring a grassy bank I sought,
And thither wine, and a fair Houri brought;
And, though the people called me graceless dog,
Gave not to Paradise another thought!

Give me a skin of wine, a crust of bread,
A pittance bare, a book of verse to read;
With thee, O love, to share my lowly roof,
I would not take the Sultan’s realm instead!