ABSTRACT
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Byazs (anthologies) and Tazkirahs (biographies) play important role to establish the authenticity of the works of poets and writers. The reliability depends upon the period of their compilation- lesser the time elapsed more authentic is the compilation. "Majmua-e-Lataef- wa-Safeena-e- Zaraef" is one of the most important and valuable early poetical collections compiled towards the close of the ninth century in India. Its author "Saif Jam Herwi" migrated from the city of Herat and lived in India where he joined the court of Sultan Feeroz Shah Tughlaq (the third king of Tughlaq dynasty) and experienced many ups and downs in Delhi Sultanate. He also witnessed the sack of Delhi by Tymur Lung. Afterwards, he moved to Jaunpur and joined the court of Sultan Mubarak Shah Sharq (the second king in the Sayyed Dynasty at Jaunpur in India who succeeded to the throne (A.H. 803)) and remained there till death.

The author compiled this important work during a very long period from the time of Sultan Feeroz Shah Tughlaq to Sultan Mubarak Shah Sharq.

1. شهید ملک عظمی فرخزاده و شاه خشت تختالدشکان و امتیاز دستان و شیخ
2. سلطان اشترخان تختالدشکان

The above lines were written in praise of Sultan Feeroz Shah Tughlaq and Mubarak Shah Sharq which show the presence of the author during their reigns.
The anthology contains poetic works ranging from the time of Firdosi to that of Hafiz and Jami and also includes verses of a number of Indian poets like Tajuddin Reeza, Ilyas Herwi, Maulana Hamid Qalandar, Jamaluddin Istaji, [their verses has been critically edited by Dr. Nusrat Ansari (not published)], Mutahir Kara (whose Diwan, based on this anthology, has already been published), Jamaluddin Isphahani, Izzuddin Sherwani, Zaheeruddin, etc., who have composed Qasidas in praise of Sultan Feeroz Shah and Sultan Mubarak Shah Sharq, which are not mentioned in any other Tazkira or Byaz and are unknown to Iran also. Thus, it is an important source of Indian History as well as a rich literary heritage of India and Iran. Many incidents of historical importance, composed by these poets, are preserved in the Byaz which are not available elsewhere.

Tajuddin Reeza says:

ملک لیکوختوئی آوربده بہ چنگ
داده انعنام سفندان را بنگ
زر فشنکی نمودہ بی بربی
کرده ز آفاق صیبت حاتم طی
صیب کرده بہ سپیم خاص و عمام
خورده بینسان شمرده جتیل دام

Mutahar Kara says:

قیهما آراسته دیوار او از جوزو کل
سفرش ار دیبا بسماط از پرینان آورده اند
Maulana Hamid Qalandar (known only by his work "شیرازی" شیرازی) has mentioned Jajnagar in one of his Qaseedas written in praise of Sultan Feeroz Shah.

The anthology contains many verses of not only unknown but some contemporary as well as celebrated poets of India and Iran also, like Saadi, Amir Khusrau, Zaheer Faryabi, Salman Saoji, Hasan Sijzi, etc. that are not found even in their Diwans/Kulliat compiled and published by renowned scholars. Thus the anthology becomes a unique and reliable work of literary heritage.

The aim of the present thesis is to decipher and identify the verses of known and unknown poets available in this anthology. Thus, it has become possible to add many verses in the Diwans/
Kulliats of even very renowned poets. It has also become possible to trace names of a few hitherto unknown poets. As the anthology is in mss. form and not reachable to scholars and Persian lovers, the work has added importance providing easy accessibility.

In the present work a study of the first volume of the anthology has been taken up critically. The thesis is divided into five chapters.

In Chapter I the information related to Byaz, its name and period have been provided in detail. The author has included many verses of Hafiz in this Byaz. Being contemporary to Hafiz, this Byaz becomes one of the oldest and reliable sources related to Hafiz's work.

In Chapter II importance of Tadhkiras and anthologies to discover unknown poets, writers and their contributions to Persian language and literature have been discussed at length.

In Chapter III the study of the contents of "Majmua-e-Lataef-wa-Safeena-e-Zaraef" have been taken. The anthology is based on but the compiler has failed to provide definitions of every only examples are quoted. In the thesis definitions of almost every mentioned have been provided. The contents of the Majmua have been compared with historical books and other available sources. Furthermore, those verses which are rare and not mentioned in any other source have been critically edited.

Chapter IV is divided in two parts. In the first part the merits and demerits of anthology have been highlighted and in the second part the available information has been summarized.

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(Fezia Waheed)
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

No efforts takes final shape unless help in rendered from various corners. I too received help and guidance from many quarters. But initially I am most indebted to the grace of Almighty God who inspires entire humanity towards knowledge, truth and eternal joys. I being all the praises and commendations to the Almighty for providing strength to the work of my research, which helped me to overcome the troubles on the toilsome journey.

I have no words to express the gratitude which I woe to respected, Padmashree (Late) Prof. Nazir Ahmad "Professor Emeritus of the Department of Persian, A.M.U., Aligarh" legendary figure and a scholar of his own kind. He has been a source of inspiration for me.

I wish to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed supervisor Prof. Maria Bilquis, Department of Persian, Aligarh Muslim University, for her expert guidance, persistant interest, scholarly criticism and constant encouragement throughout the course of the study. I am also thankful to the chairman, for providing facilities in the Department.

I extend my sincere thanks to the University Grants Commission, (J.R.F) ICHR (J.R.F) and Aligarh Muslim University for providing financial assistants with out which it would have not been possible to complete this work.
My thanks and best wishes are due to Dr. Nusrat Ansari, Shaista Waseem, Tabassum, Lubna, Najeeba, Javed and Mohd. Khursheed Alam. I am thankful to all the staff members of the Urdu Section, Manuscripts Section of M. A. Library, Mr. Shamshad Ali Seminar Incharge and the office staff of the Department of Persian, A.M.U. for their help at various stages.

Words cannot express my deepest thank and gratitude to my father, my mother, brothers, sisters, who stood with me in adversity and prosperity with continuous strive and endeavor and whose love, patience and sacrifice are vested in every day in my life.

My special thanks to Mr. Mohd. Shahid Alam for the composing of the thesis.

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