The topic of my thesis is “A Critical Edition of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran (Persian text)”. By the grace of God, I have been able to present a fresh assessment of his poetry, most notably with the inclusion of many compositions ‘discovered’ by me in the course of my research.

In order to gain insight into his poetry and to know more about him and the important events in life, I began by looking for the manuscripts of his Diwan.

I obtained the original manuscript of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran from Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna. However while going through it, I realized that it was written during the lifetime of Mirza Kamran. This implied that there might exist poetry that has not been included in it. Consequently I began an extensive search for other copies of the manuscript.

My efforts bore fruit when I discovered another copy of the manuscript of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran, this one preserved at the Raza Public Library, Rampur. Furthermore, I have also discovered compositions made by him that have not been included in either copies of his Diwan. This was with the help of Tazkiras and Beyaz like Mutakhab-ut Tawarikh, Reyaz-ush-Sho’ra, Haft-Iqlim, Safina-e-Khushgo, Makhzan-ul-Gharaib, Subh-e-Gulshan, and most importantly Beyaz-ul-Ash’aar.

Now by the grace of the Almighty, I have completed my thesis as best as I could.

My thesis is organised into two parts. These are further divided into chapters, which are in turn divided into sub-parts.
PART ONE
This part consists of three chapters:
1. Introduction.

Chapter one
The first chapter is in turn sub-divided into three parts.
   i. Introduction.
   ii. Life and events of Mirza Kamran.
   iii. Family status of Mirza Kamran.

In the first part I have written about the birth and education of Kamran. In the second part I have discussed in detail important events in Kamran’s life and the relations between him and his brother Humayun. In the third part I have presented information about Kamran’s family and relatives in detail.

Chapter two
The second chapter is divided into four parts,
   i. Critical study of Mirza Kamran’s poetry.
   ii. Rampur manuscript of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran.
   iii. Bankipur manuscript of Diwan-e-Mirza Kamran.
   iv. Conclusion.

In the first part this chapter I have critically analysed the poetry of Kamran. A study of Kamran’s compositions reveals that he had composed various forms of poetry such as lyrics, quatrains (rubayyat), distich (qat’at), mathnawi and saquinama. However, his specialty was the composition of lyrics. I have quoted the views by some historians and tazkira-writers about Kamran’s poetry. In order to better assess his poetry, I have compared some of it with that of some highly regarded poets like Hafiz, Naziri, Ghalib, Jami, Babaur and Humayun. Apart from that I have given some examples of ornamentation and novelties in his poetry such as the use of Talmeeh, Iste’ara, Tajnees, Mubalegha, Tashbeeh and Eiham.

In the second and third parts of this chapter, I have described the manuscripts of Rampur and Bankipur and discussed the differences between them. The Bankipur Diwan has consists 22 seals and 5 signatures.
I have written down in detail about the shapes and writings of the seals and signatures. In the fourth part of the second chapter, I have presented my conclusion about what has been discussed in the present thesis.

Chapter three
In the third chapter I have mentioned the sources such dictionaries, encyclopedias, diwans and various other books that I have used in my treatise.

PART TWO
In the second part of my thesis, which is in Persian, I have compared both Diwans. I have also tried to record, with the help of Beyaz and Tazkiras, those compositions made by Mirza Kamran that have not been included in either of his Diwans. The poetry is presented in alphabetical order.

I have endeavoured as best as I could to collect as much material as was possible for me to. I have also done my best to collect the fact about Mirza Kamran’s life, events, and his family members. I have left no stone unturned within my reach in the completion of my thesis.

Date: 23/12/05

(Shabistan Baqa)