

MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES IN PAKISTAN

By
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T.I.



Lahore: 1989

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The first museum in Pakistan was established in Karachi in 1851 i.e. only two years after the British armies stepped on the soil of this country. Sir Bartle Frere was its founder. It was soon followed by a more ambitious institution - the present day Lahore Museum in 1864. The MacMahon Museum at Quetta, and Peshawar Museum, Peshawar were established in 1900 and 1907 respectively. The first purely archaeological museum was established in 1918 at the ancient site of Taxila followed by one each at Moenjodaro in 1925 and Harappa in 1926. The first archival museum was established in the Punjab Secretariat in 1924 whereas the first private museum open to public was started in the Faqir Khana, inside Bhati Gate, Lahore in 1937. Majority of the other museums, established during this period, were mostly meant for teaching in educational institutions.

When the country was declared independent in 1947, there were only 16 museums. Among them only eight were really public museums. Soon after independence, the earliest of all the museums - Victoria Museum, Karachi was abandoned and its collection scattered. Admittedly, this was too meagre a number for a country then having a population of about 50 millions. Even these few museums were nothing more than store houses of some specific collections. Their educational potentials were never exploited and their display was seldom made appealing aesthetically.

The nascent Government of Pakistan soon became aware of this problem. Over a period of time, the Government, on the one hand, planned to have more museums in various parts of the country and, on the other hand, decided to rebuild, expand and reorganize almost all the existing museums. Within four decades, not only the number of museums increased manifold but the quality of display and services were improved a lot. By establishing new museums devoted to subjects like science and

technology, natural history, army, navy, fine arts, folk arts and crafts, we were able to dispell the old notion that what Pakistani museums present is only archaeology.

Although the last 42 years have brought a lot of healthy changes in the museum movement in this country, but a lot more is desired still to be done. The total number of museums is still much less then the number to be desired in a country so rich in its cultural heritage, so diversified in its ethnology and so prolific in its prolonged history. We need a more equitable distribution of these museums in various parts of our country. Certain classes of museums - children museums, history museums, period-houses, ethnological museums, science museums, educational museums, etc for example, are still to be conceived, planned and organized. Real educational services are yet to be organized in majority of our museums. What to speak of catalogues, most of our museums still do not have even their guide books.

The list of museums being presented here is only an index of the present state of museums in Pakistan. This bare list of museums and galleries shows what we have achieved in the field of museology. But, at the same time, it also serves as a reminder of what our country still lacks in museum-building. This is the first humble presentation of the Pakistan Society of Archaeology and Museums which, as yet, is only a few months old. The members are requested to bring to our notice any short coming or omission in the list.

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General Secretary
The Pakistan Society of
Archaeology & Museums.

Lahore Museum, 15th September, 1989.

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General Secretary,

The Pakistan Society of Archaeology & Museums

Sr. No.	Name of Museum	Place/ Province	Founded/ Enlarged in	Scope
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1.	Victoria Museum	Karachi (S)	1851/Defunct since 1948.	Archaeology, Arts, Crafts.
2.	Lahore Museum	Lahore (P)	1864/1967	Archaeology, History, Fine Arts, Applied Arts, Crafts & Ethnology.
3.	Peshawar Museum	Peshawar (F)	1907/1968	Gandhara Sculptures, Islamic Arts & Crafts, Tribal Ethnic Material.
4.	Agricultural Museum, Agricultural University	Faisalabad (P)	1909	Botany
5.	Natural History Museum, Govt. College	Lahore (P)	1910	Natural History.

Note:

Within bracket 'S' stands for sind, 'P' for Punjab, 'B' for Baluchistan, 'F' for N.W.F. Province, 'FA' for Federally Administered Area and 'PSNK' for present state not known.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
6.	Archaeological Museum	Taxila (P)	1918/1928 & 1968	Archaeological material from Excavations.
7.	Archaeological Museum	Moenjodaro (S)	1925/1967	Archaeological material from Excavations.
8.	Archaeological Museum	Harappa (P)	1926/1967	Archaeological material from Excavations.
9.	Armoury Museum, Old Fort	Lahore (P)	1928/1980	Old Arms, Military Uniforms and Bands (Now in Haveli Jindan).
10.	MacMahon Museum	Quetta (B)	1900	Archaeology, Arts, Crafts (Now defunct)
11.	Botanical Museum, Gordon College	Rawalpindi (P)	1930	Botany (PSNK)
12.	Islamia College Museum	Peshawar (F)	1934	Zoology (PSNK)
13.	Faqir Khana Museum	Lahore (P)	1937	Arts, Applied Arts, Crafts, History.
14.	Sultani Museum	Dera Nawab Sahib near Ahmedpur East (P)	1938/1958	History
15.	Talpur House Museum	Tando Nur Muhammad Khan near Hyderabad (S)	Built in 1860-64	History.
16.	Zoo Museum	Bahawalpur (P)	1945/1960	Natural History.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
17.	National Museum of Pakistan	Karachi (S)	1950/1970	Archaeology, History, Ethnology, Manuscripts, Coins.
18.	Industrial and Commercial Museum	Lahore (P)	1950/1979	Industry and Commerce (Now defunct. Part of its collection transferred to Lahore Museum).
19.	Pakistan Forest Museum	Abbottabad/Peshawar (F)	1962/1966	Forest Products.
20.	Archaeological Museum, Karachi University.	Karachi (S)	1955	Archaeology.
21.	Natural History Museum, Karachi University.	Karachi (S)	1950's	Natural History.
22.	Education Museum, Sind University	Hyderabad (S)	1959	Education.
23.	Swat Museum	Saidu Sharif (F)	1959/1963/1969	Archaeology & Ethnology
24.	Archaeological Museum	Banbhore (S)	1960/1967	Archaeological Material from Excavations.
25.	Army Museum	Rawalpindi (P)	1961/1967/1988 (New Building)	Arms and Armoury. History of Pakistan Army.
26.	Bhittshah Cultural Museum	Bhittshah (S)	1962	Arts and Crafts.
27.	Air Force Museum	Peshawar (F)	1964	History of Air Force in Pakistan.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
28.	Princess Bamba Gallery, Haveli Rani Jindan, Old Fort	Lahore (P)	1964/1965/1980	Oil Paintings and personal belongings of Princess Bamba, grand daughter of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
29.	Mughal Gallery in Khawab Gah Jahangiri, Old Fort	Lahore (P)	1980	Mughal Period Paintings, Manuscripts, Coins etc.
30.	Archaeological Museum, Peshawar University	Peshawar (F)	1964	Archaeological Material from Excavations.
31.	Dam Site Museum	Mangla (P)	1967	Natural History, Geology.
32.	Umar Kot Museum	Umar Kot (S)	1968	Archaeology.
33.	National Museum of Science & Technology	Lahore (P)	1969/1976	Science & Technology.
34.	Talpur Gallery in Talpur Harem, Inside New Fort.	Hyderabad (S)	1972	History (Closed down after fire in 1987)
35.	Dir Museum	Chakdara (F)	1970/1979	Archaeology & Ethnology.
36.	Sind Provincial Museum	Hyderabad (S)	1971	Arts, Crafts, Archaeology and Anthropology.
37.	Bahawalpur Museum	Bahawalpur (P)	1974/Extension in 1980	Archaeology & Ethnology.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
38.	Archaeological Museum	Quetta (B)	1972	Archaeology.
39.	Folk Heritage Museum	Islamabad (FA)	1973/1979	Folk Arts & Crafts.
40.	Shakir Ali Residence Museum	Lahore (P)	1975	Personal belongings and painting of Shakir Ali
41.	Allama Iqbal Residence & Library, Mcload Road,	Lahore (P)	1960's	History and Literature (Now defunct).
42.	Geological Museum.	Quetta (B)	.../...	Geology.
43.	Guddu Barrage Museum	Guddu (S)	.../...	Barrage.
44.	Quaid-i-Azam Birth Place Museum	Karachi (S)	1953	History.
45.	Quaid-i-Azam Relics Museum	Karachi (S)	1976/1977 (Under Organization)	History and Relics.
46.	Allama Iqbal Museum,	Lahore (P)	1976/1977	History and Relics.
47.	Javaid Manzil;	Lahore (P)	1977	Paintings
48.	Chughtai Museum-Iqbal Manzil Museum-cum-Library	Sialkot (P)	1977	History and Relics.
49.	National Museum of Natural History	Islamabad (FA)	1986 (?)	Natural History.
50.	Jallu Park Museum	Lahore (P)	1987	Natural History.
51.	Punjab Archival Museum	Lahore (P)	1924	Archives of the Punjab.
52.	Sadequain Gallery	Islamabad (FA)	1986	Sadequain's Paintings & Calligraphies.
53.	National Art Gallery	Islamabad (FA)	1986/Temporary	Painting & Works of

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
54.	Sibi Museum	Sibi (B)	Building 1986	Arts by Pakistani Artists.
55.	Ziarat Residency Museum	Ziarat (B)	1988	Ethnography, Archaeology & History.
56.	Olympic Sports Museum	Lahore (P)	1985	History and Relics.
57.	Pakistan Movement Gallery, Islamia University	Bahawalpur (P)	1986 (?)	Sports Paintings & Sports-gear. Photographic History of Pakistan Movement.
Proposed/Under Construction				
1.	National Museum of Pakistan	Islamabad (FA)		
2.	Armed Forces Museum	Islamabad (FA)		
3.	National Gallery of Art	Islamabad (FA)		
4.	Punjab Folk Arts Museum,	Lahore (P)		
5.	National Museum of Pakistan Navy	Karachi (S)		
6.	Multan Museum	Multan (P)		
7.	Archaeological Museum	Mansura (S)		
8.	University Museum, Peshawar University	Peshawar (F)	Foundation laid in 1989	
9.	Children Museum in Children Complex	Lahore (P)	Building Inaugurated in 1988.	