BOOK REVIEWS


The valuable contributions made by the Hamdard Foundation Pakistan in different fields under the seasoned leadership of Hakim Mohammed Said hardly need any introduction. The treatise under review is another addition in this bulk of contributions. Though brief yet it is a pioneering work, much needed in view of the age-old fraternal ties between the Muslims of the Indo-Pak sub-continent and the Turks. In his excellent introduction Hakim Mohammed Said has briefly shed light on the history of these ties and has justly derived the conclusion that, "the friendship and sincerity subsisting between the peoples of Pakistan and Turkey is a phenomenon of historical continuity."

During the Ninth Turkish Congress of History to celebrate the birth centenary of Kemal Ataturk, Hakim Mohammed Said had the opportunity of visiting the Turkish Historical Society and it was then that he felt the need for such a bibliography. The scope and object of the work can best be delineated by quoting his own words:

"The aim of the bibliography presented here is not to provide simply a routine compilation but to highlight the historic relations between the Muslims of the sub-continent and Turkey...."

"Books on the sub-continent and the Muslim world invariably contain some matter on Turkey. However, this bibliography includes all those books which shed light on various aspects of Turkey in one or the other context. Some entries are incomplete as the books referred to were not available or their information was based on articles published in magazines or bibliographies cited in books. We have also made use of catalogues of the booksellers and publishers, in which case, as it is obvious, complete entries were not possible."

(Introd. pp. 6-7).

The number of titles entered is approximately 1000 in the Urdu and 170 in the English section (including quite a large number of articles published in periodicals, newspapers, encyclopaedias etc). The caption, "Turkish Bibliography" (p. 8, Eng. Sec.) is probably a misprint and should be "English" instead of "Turkish". The pagination from left to right is done on
top of each page and continues through the Urdu section as well. The Urdu pagination at the bottom and running from right to left however, discontinues with the end of the Urdu section. The English index, "Key to Titles" (p. 18, Eng. Sec.) refers to the pagination on top while the Urdu index Ishāriyyah (p. 61, Urdu Sec.) refers to one on the bottom. This creates a bit of confusion which is further enhanced by the amusing fact that the references supplied in the Ishāriyyah, are systematically faulty. One has to add 5 to each number in order to get the correct reference. For example the first entry in the Ishāriyyah refers us to p. 11 which means 11+5=16. The reason is that the Urdu introduction comprising 5 pages has been added after finalizing in Ishāriyyah etc. Consequently p. 1 of the Urdu bibliography- (which lacks a caption)-became p. 6. If, in a subsequent edition each entry in the bibliography is allotted a serial number and the same is referred to in the indices, much confusion can be avoided in addition to supplying the reader with the exact number of entries. This however, deducts nothing from the basic value of the work for which all the workers of the Hamdard Library who joined hands to compile it must be congratulated and, of course, Hakim Mohammed Said himself be felicitated for originally conceiving the idea and seeing it through.

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