

**Final Report on American Institute of Pakistan Studies Grant
Junior Fellow - Walter Hakala – University of Pennsylvania, Ph D Student**

Grant Period: September 2007-March 2008

Site of Research: London, U.K.

Purpose: Archival Research

Walter Hakala, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, was funded by AIPS to undertake 45 days of research at the British Library in London. He also spent four months traveling to various libraries and collections throughout North India with a CAORC Multi Country Grant through AIIS. He used this time to collect and edit manuscript material relating to late Mughal Persian lexicography and early Urdu poetry. In his doctoral dissertation, Walter will show how Persian lexicography was essential to the composition and appreciation of Urdu poetry in the early 18th century, and likewise, how dictionaries themselves utilized poetic elements—through extensive quotations of poetry to demonstrate proper usage of terminology or even in the popular genre of versified children’s vocabularies—to contribute to the formation of a seemingly new literary language in Delhi.

In India, Walter was able to copy out and collect digital images of manuscript and print materials at several major libraries, including those in the Arabic Persian Research Institute (Tonk), the Raza Rampur Library (Rampur), Maulana Azad Library (Aligarh), Jamia Hamdard Library (New Delhi), the Zakir Husain Library at Jamia Millia University (New Delhi), Punjab Central State Library (Patiala), and several other smaller collections in New Delhi. He continued his work in London, editing, among other texts, twelve different manuscript copies of the *Khaliq Bari*, a famous Arabic, Persian, and old Hindavi vocabulary in verse, popularly attributed to Amir Khusrau, the famous Persian poet of 13th and 14th-century Delhi. In addition to this, Walter examined numerous collections of Urdu and Persian poetry most unpublished and several of them autographs—gaining insights into modes of poetic composition and appreciation in 18th-century South Asia.

Walter was able, through his AIPS funding, to attend several conferences. He contributed a paper, entitled “The Preservation of Language: the *Khaliq Bari* in Translation,” at a conference on the translation of Persian and Arabic manuscripts at the Arabic Persian Research Institute, Tonk. He also participated in a series of seminars on topics such as the practical techniques required in editing Persian manuscripts (Aligarh Muslim University), scribal culture in the early modern period (Oxford), multilingualism in Persianate South Asia (Cambridge), and on methods of deciphering medieval Persian seals (SOAS).

Walter’s work will be of interest not only to those working in the fields of Indo-Persian and Urdu literature, but will also speak to broader problems in South Asian history by challenging notions of broad cultural decline in 18th-century north India and by detailing the sophistication of pre-colonial pedagogical, philological, and literary practices.