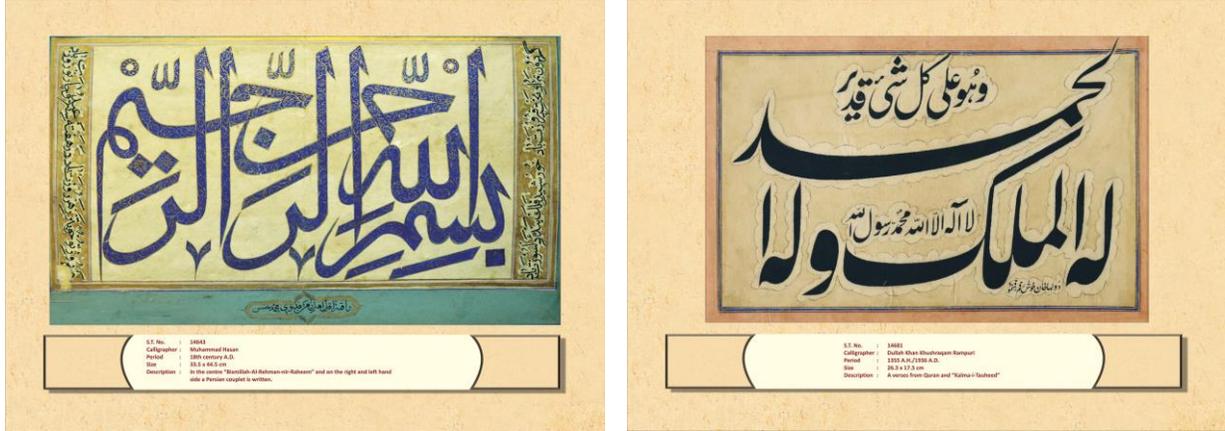


EMBASSY OF INDIA

MUSCAT

Press release



The first ever 'Festival of India' in Oman is being organized by Embassy of India, Muscat, with support of Ministry of Culture of India from November 2016 to March 2017. It was launched by H.E Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs on 15 November at Al-Bustan Palace Auditorium wherein an Indian ballet troupe 'Hritaal' presented a mesmerizing performance. Hritaal troupe had, thereafter, performed in Suhar, Sur and Salalah. As part of Festival of India in Oman, the Embassy had, thereafter, organized an Indian Calligraphy Exhibition from 21st November to 3rd December 2016 at Promenade of Oman Avenues Mall, Muscat. The Exhibition was followed by performances of a semi-classical Indian musical troupe led by Padmashree Dr. Soma Ghosh in Muscat, Salalah, Suhar and Sur. Thereafter, a folk music and dance troupe from Jammu and Kashmir State of India visited Oman, as part of Festival of India, and gave scintillating performances in Muscat, Salalah, Suhar and Sur.

The Indian Calligraphy Exhibition had attracted a large number of visitors, both Omani and Expatriates. In view of the continued interest in learning more about Indian Islamic Calligraphy tradition, the Embassy will be organizing another Exhibition of Indian Islamic Calligraphy in collaboration with the Omani Fine Arts Society. The Exhibition will be on display from 20th to 25th March 2017 at the premises of Omani Fine Arts Society and can be visited on all days from 21st to 25th March 2017 from 9am to 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm to 8pm.

Over 40 pieces of calligraphic work, artistically inscribed with selected verses from Holy Quran, will be showcased at the Exhibition. Among the calligraphic works, which will be exhibited, are:

- Folio from 7th century Quran in Kufic script attributed to Hazrat Ali (R.A.)
- Folio from 8th century Quran in Kufic script attributed to Imam JafarSadiq
- 16th century Quran decorated with gold on the orders of Mughal Emperor Akbar
- 12th-18th century manuscript folio written within gold floral jidwal
- A folio from 9th century Quran in Kufic script attributed to Imam Raza
- Name of Nawab Kalb-i-Ali Khan written in the shape of a flower pot in 18th century
- Persian verses & text written in Arabic Language in 1887. AD
- Quranic verses written in beautiful style of calligraphy in 1888 AD
- Persian couplet written in a beautiful style of calligraphy in 1878 A.D. by Ghulam Rasool
- 18th century calligraphy by Muhammad Hasan
- A verse from Quran about the direction of "Darood-e-Pak" by Dullah Khan KhushraqamRampuri in 1936 AD.
- A beautiful calligraphy of "AyatuKursi" of 18th century
- Persian rubai relating to the importance of calligraphy by Ilahi Bakhsh of 18th century
- A verse from Quran and "Kalma-i- Tauheed" by Dullah Khan KhushraqamRampuri in 1936 A.D.
- Bismillah-al-rehman-nir-raheem" & "Darood-e-Pak" by Muhammad Hasan in 1869 A.D.
- Saying of Hazrat Ali (R.A.) relating to importance of calligraphy & writing by Aaqa Ali Qari in 18th century
- Five Ahadis & few Quranic verses in praise of Prophet Muhammad & Hazrat Ali (R.A.) by Syed Abdul Abbas Naqvi al Bukhari, etc.

The above Exhibition has been brought to Oman by Rampur Raza Library, which is a treasure house of Indo Islamic learning and arts. It was setup in 1774 by erstwhile Ruler of Rampur State, Nawab Faizullah Khan, who ruled the State

up to 1794. His inherited collection of valuable manuscripts, historical documents, Mughal miniature paintings, books and other works of art kept in Toshakhana formed the nucleus of the Library. Later, Nawab Muhammad Yusuf Ali Khan 'Nazim' invited well known calligraphers, illuminators and binders from Kashmir and other parts of India to Rampur to produce works of Calligraphy. The later Nawabs continued to enrich the collection.
