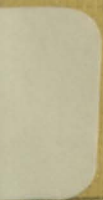


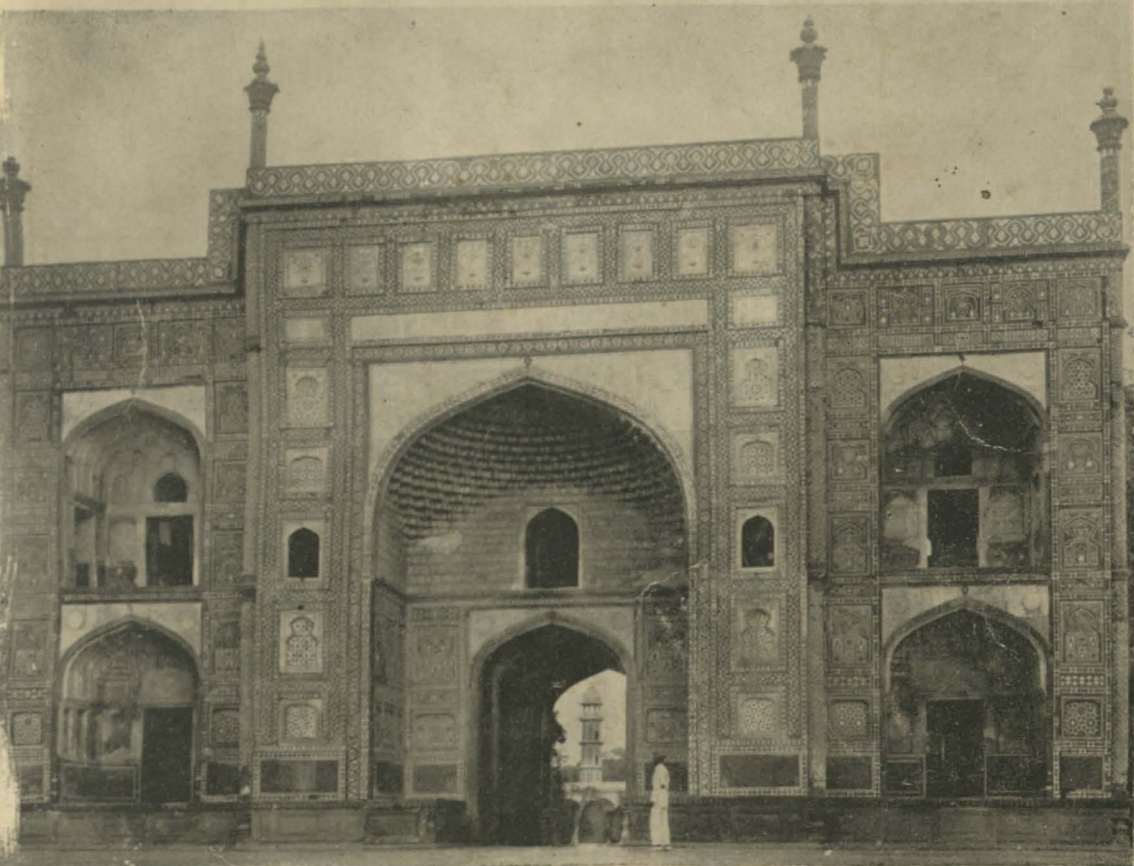
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# HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL MONUMENTS AT LAHORE



Entrance to Jahangir's tomb (About 1043 A.H.—1633 A.D.)

By  
MUHAMMAD WALIULLAH KHAN  
Superintendent of Archaeology  
Western Pakistan Circle, Lahore

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## LAHORE

Lahore, now a corporation city, is the capital of Pak-Punjab and the 2nd biggest city of Pakistan. It is not only one of the famous cities of the East, but also an ancient one.

The origin of Lahore is obscure though traditionally its foundation is attributed to mythic LAU son of Rama-Chandra, the hero of epic Ramayana of the pre-historic age. However, its first authentic historical mention is made by al-Biruni in his history, (*Tarikhul Hind*) completed about 1030-33 A.D. He says..... "Mandahukur, the capital of Lauhawar east of the river Irawa" (Ravi). Here Lahore is mentioned not as a city but as a province.

In A.D. 1021 Lahore was annexed by Mahmud of Ghazna after defeating Trilochnapala of Hindu Shahiya Kings of Kabul and since then up to 1186 A.D., a period of about 165 years, it enjoyed, in the beginning, the status of a provincial capital and afterwards as the capital, of 16 rulers of the Ghaznavid dynasty.

In A.D. 1186 Lahore was conquered by Mu'izud Din Muhammad bin Sam (Shihabud Din Muhammad Ghuri) who became Sultan of Delhi in 1193 A.D. and since then up to 1524 A.D. for a period of 338 years it remained the provincial capital of Turk, Khalji, Tughluq, Sayyid and Lodi Sultans of Delhi, about 37 in all excluding five more Sultans of Sury Dynasty who ruled it from 1540 to 1555 A.D., when it was re-captured by Humayun, the 2nd Mughal Emperor. However,

practically no important monuments of this period now exist at Lahore for which successive and ruthless devastations at the hand of ever new invaders, appear to be responsible.

Lahore, however, attained magnificence during the Mughal rule from 1524 to 1712 A.D., when its decline commenced. The Mughal rule lingered on up to 1752 A.D., i.e., to the time of Ahmad Shah, the 13th Mughal Emperor, when ultimately Lahore ceased to be a part of Mughal Empire and went under Durrani Government of Kabul. All the existing monuments of Lahore belong to this period.

Baber's son Kamran (1530-1540 A.D.) was the first to add to its architectural beauty by constructing a summer house amidst a spacious garden, which is now known as Kamran's *Baradari*. Akbar (1556-1605 A.D.) held his court here for 14 years (1584-98 A.D.), built the present brick masonry Fort on its earlier foundations, enlarged it and also enclosed the city with a brick wall in about 1566 A.D. Jahangir (1605-1627 A.D.) and Shah Jahan (1628-1658 A.D.) built palaces, tombs and laid gardens. Aurangzeb (1658-1707 A.D.) gave Lahore the great grand mosque. From 1767 to 1798 A.D. it was ruled by a coalition of three Sikh Chiefs and from 1799 to 1846 A.D., when Lahore, for the first time, was occupied by the British, it was governed by Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh and his shortlived descendants. The period from 1767 to 1846 A.D., during which Sikhs were the masters of Lahore, is marked with sweeping and ruthless destruction and damage to the Muslim monuments of the city. During the British rule from 1846 to 14th August, 1947, the date of

establishment of Pakistan, buildings and roads were greatly multiplied and the city much improved. Since the inception of Pakistan much valuable work towards the improvement and extension of the city has been made under the able guidance of the Improvement Trust of Lahore. Well planned reconstruction of Shah'alami area and construction of the new colonies, namely, Gulburg and Saman-abâd with their most modern buildings are worth mentioning and have no doubt added to its extent and architectural accomplishment.



## LAHORE FORT (C. 1566 A.D.)

The Fort occupies the north-west corner of the city. Irregular in plan, it measures 1,400 feet east-west and 1,115 feet north-south. The origin of the Lahore Fort is uncertain, but a Fort is mentioned in connection with Shihabud Din Muhammad Ghuri's successive invasions of Lahore from 1180 to 1186 A.D. It was probably the same Fort which was ruined by the Mongols in 1241 A.D. and rebuilt by Ghiyasud Din Balban in 1267 A.D. Again it was destroyed by Amir Timur's army in A.D. 1398 and built in mud by Sultan Mubarak Shah Sayyid in the beginning of A.D. 1421. Nearly five months later the mud Fort was attacked and damaged by Shaikha Gakkhar. In A.D. 1432 it was taken and repaired by Shaikh 'Ali, the ruler of Kabul. Mention is made of its gates in connection with the arrival of Mirza Kamran from Kabul in the first year of Humayun's reign. Humayun's successor, the Emperor Akbar, demolished the old mud Fort and rebuilt it in brick and solid masonry in about 1566 A.D. Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb made additions to it in their respective times. The outer northern wall with the moat were added by Ranjit Singh (1799-1839 A.D.). In A.D. 1846 it was occupied by the British and remained in possession of the military till 1927, when it was finally handed over to the Archaeological Department after demolishing the fortification wall on the south.



The following are the main monuments in the Fort:—

1. SHAH BURJ GATE, built by Shah Jahan in A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.).
2. DIWAN E 'AAM (Hall of public audience). The back portion which consists of rows of double storey small apartments together with *j h a r o k a* (balcony), i.e., the royal seat, was founded by Akbar, probably about 1566 A.D. It is a portion of his Daulat Khana e Khas o 'Aam. The pillar hall on the south was added by Shah Jahan in 1631-32 A.D.
3. MASJIDI (Masti) GATE, on east built by Akbar along with the Fort, probably about 1566 A.D.
4. DAULAT KHANA E JAHANGIRI (Jahangir's Quadrangle) founded by Akbar and completed by Jahangir in A.H. 1027 (1617-18 A.D.) under the supervision of Ma'mur Khan.
5. MAKATIB (Maktab) KHANA bearing an inscription of the year A.H. 1027 (1617-18 A.D.) in which year Jahangir built it. It was, in fact, the entrance gateway of Daulat Khana e Jahangiri mentioned above.
6. MOTI MASJID (Pearl mosque), a marble work built by Shah Jahan (?)
7. DIWAN E KHAS (Hall of private audience), a chaste

marble work, built by Shah Jahan about A.H. 1055 (1645 A.D.)

8. SHAH BURJ (Shish Mahal) the *haram* portion of the Fort, built by Shah Jahan in A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.).
9. BUNGLA (Naulakha), a dainty little marble pavilion renowned for its *pietra dura* work built by Shah Jahan in A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.).
10. ALAMGIRI GATE, built by Aurangzeb, probably along with the Badshahi Masjid in A.H. 1084 (1673-74 A.D.).

### SHAH BURJ GATE—A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.)

Immediately behind the ordinary and improvised postern dating back to 1853 A.D. stands the magnificent Shah Burj Gate which during the Mughal rule, onward from Shah Jahan, was the private entrance used exclusively by the royalty and leads direct to Shah Burj, the *h a r a m* portion of the Fort. The inscription over this Gate records the completion of Shah Burj (Shish Mahal) in the 4th regnal year of Shah Jahan, A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.) under the supervision of 'Abdul Karim.

A feature of special merit of this Gate and its wall known as PICTURED WALL is the gorgeous, elaborate and vivid mosaic decorations in pleasing colours on PLASTER BASE all over the wall and its extension on north. This famous specimen of Indo-Iranian art is unequalled for its vastness, variety of designs and magnificence of its glowing colours, which though more than 300 years old, still retains its freshness and brilliancy. The total decorated surface both on the north and north-west frontage is about 8,000 square yards.

Though it mainly depicts the sports and other pastime of Mughal Emperors such as elephant, camel and bull fights, a game of *c h a u g a n* (polo), etc., but the subject also includes a variety of geometrical and flower patterns. The human figures on it afford

a clear idea of the various styles of dress in vogue at the period from royalty down to the servants and gladiators.

This pictured wall was commenced by Jahangir in his 19th regnal year (1624-25 A.D.) and completed by Shah Jahan in A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.)







**BUNGLA (Naulakha) in Lahore Fort, view across one of the archways of the SHISH MAHAL, built by SHAH JAHAN A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.)**

## SHAH BURJ (SHISH MAHAL)—A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.)

Shah Burj, at present popularly known as Shish Mahal on account of the elaborate mosaic of convex glass pieces set in stucco tracery and the gilt work with which the entire interior of the building is decorated, is the *haram* portion of the Fort and was constructed, as recorded in the inscription on the Shah Burj Gate by Shah Jahan under the supervision of 'Abdul Karim in A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.). Though not very spacious, yet it is a building with a very arresting plan built in marble with its lower storeys in fine cut brick work. The courtyard paved with marble intarsia has a beautiful circular tank in the centre with an island platform in the midst approached by a causeway. Apart from the gilt and mirror work referred to above, its eleven cusped, pointed arches of refined curve supported on beautifully designed double marble pillars the bases and capitals of which together with the spandrels of the arches are embellished with *pietra dura* work of excellent workmanship and designs, are the features which merit distinction.

BUNGLA (Naulakha) or the edifice which, it is said, cost nine *lakhs* is another architectural accomplishment, which lies within the Shish Mahal with its curvilinear roof (now missing). It is a dainty little marble summer Pavilion (PL. I) of chaste workmanship renowned for its extremely minute and delicate *pietra dura* work

wrought in semi-precious stones, such as agate, jade, gold stone, lapis-lazuli, etc.

In one of the miniature niches measuring not more than  $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 1\frac{3}{4}''$  of the bee-hive ornamentation of the capital of half pillars (*nim-sutun*) about 102 minute pieces of semi-precious stones have been inlaid to form one floral pattern. This, no doubt, is a unique specimen in its class of work.

It was built by Shah Jahan in A.H. 1041 (1631-32 A.D.).

As recorded by Munshi Muhammad Kazim in his *Alamgir-nama*, the Emperor Aurangzeb on his return from Kashmir held a great *darbar* on the 11th Rabi'ul Sani, A.H. 1074 (1663 A.D.) in the Shah Burj. It was beautifully decorated and there was great display of splendour and magnificence. This being the 46th anniversary of the Emperor His Majesty was weighed against gold, silver and other metals, which were given away in alms.

In its historical associations after the establishment of Pakistan Shah Burj (Shish Mahal) was visited by the following royal personages:

1. HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE SHAHINSHAH OF IRAN MUHAMMAD RAZA SHAH PAHLAVI, on the 10th March, 1950.
2. HIS MAJESTY KING FAISAL II WITH HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE 'ABDUL ILLAH OF IRAQ, on the 19th March, 1954.



## WAZIR KHAN'S MOSQUE—A.H. 1044 (1634 A.D.)

As recorded in the inscriptions this exquisite mosque was founded in 1044 A.H. (1634 A.D.) by Hakim 'Ilmud Din Ansari entitled Nawab Wazir Khan, native of Chiniot, District Jhang, and a viceroy of the Punjab under Shah Jahan.

Depicting to its fullest range with unrivalled skill, Wazir Khan's mosque presents us with another unique phase of art of decoration in Mughal architecture, namely the variegated glazed tile and mosaic work, apparently introduced in this part of the country from Tatta, Sind, in the 16th Century, but most popular at Lahore in the early 17th century A.D. Such is the variety of designs both in enamelled mosaic work and fresco paintings that the mosque in itself is a school of design.

Superb calligraphy in mosaic and the improved octagonal minarets, one of the earliest of this type in Mughal architecture, are the other distinctive features of this mosque, rightly called the ornament of the city.

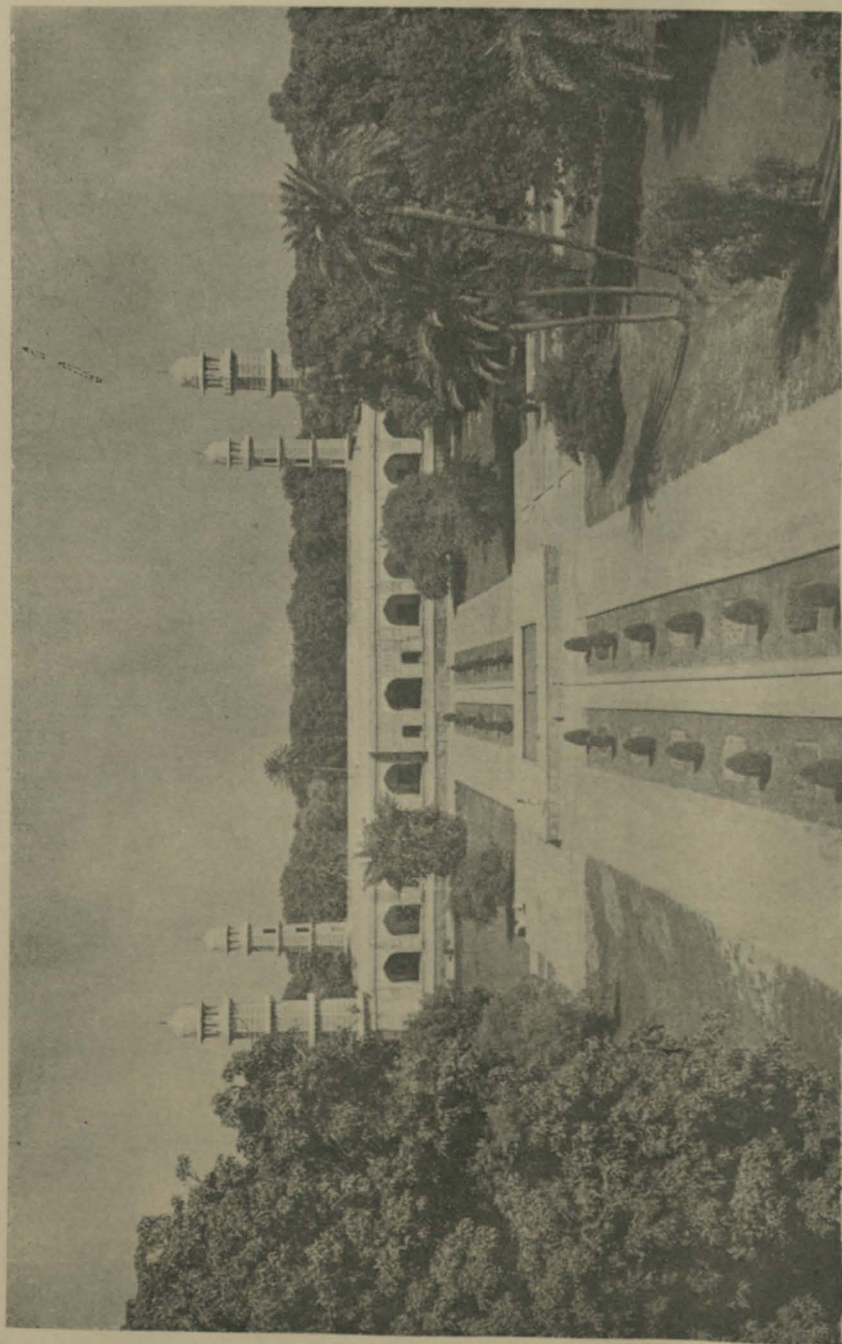
### DAI ANGA'S MOSQUE—A.H. 1045 (1635 A.D.)

Notable for its minute and refined mosaic work, this mosque as recorded in the inscription was constructed in A.H. 1045 (1635 A.D.) by Anga, (wet-nurse) of Shah Jahan, whose name was Zebun Nisa.. It was completed under the supervision of one Maqbool and the inscription was written by one Ibrahim.

It is the only survival of a decent city quarter of ancient Lahore under the Mughals, called 'Mohalla Dai Anga', a locality generally populated by the richmen and nobles of the city.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799-1839 A.D.) used the mosque as a military magazine, later it was used as the private residence of Mr. Henry Cope, an editor of the 'Old Lahore Chronicle Newspaper and Press', who sold it for Rs. 12,000|- to the late Punjab and Delhi Railway Company. Lastly before its restoration in 1903 A.D. to the Muslims it was used as the office of Traffic Manager, Punjab Northern State Railway.





JAHANGIR'S TOMB at Lahore. Built by SHAH JAHAN.  
(C.1637 A.D.)



## THE TOMB OF JAHANGIR (C. 1637 A.D.)

The Emperor Jahangir was born in A.H. 977 (1569 A.D.), ascended the throne in 1605 A.D. and after a reign of 22 years died in 1627 A.D. at Rajauri on his way back from Kashmir to Lahore. According to his last wish he was buried at Lahore in the garden named *Dilkusha* owned by his favourite Queen Nur Jahan.

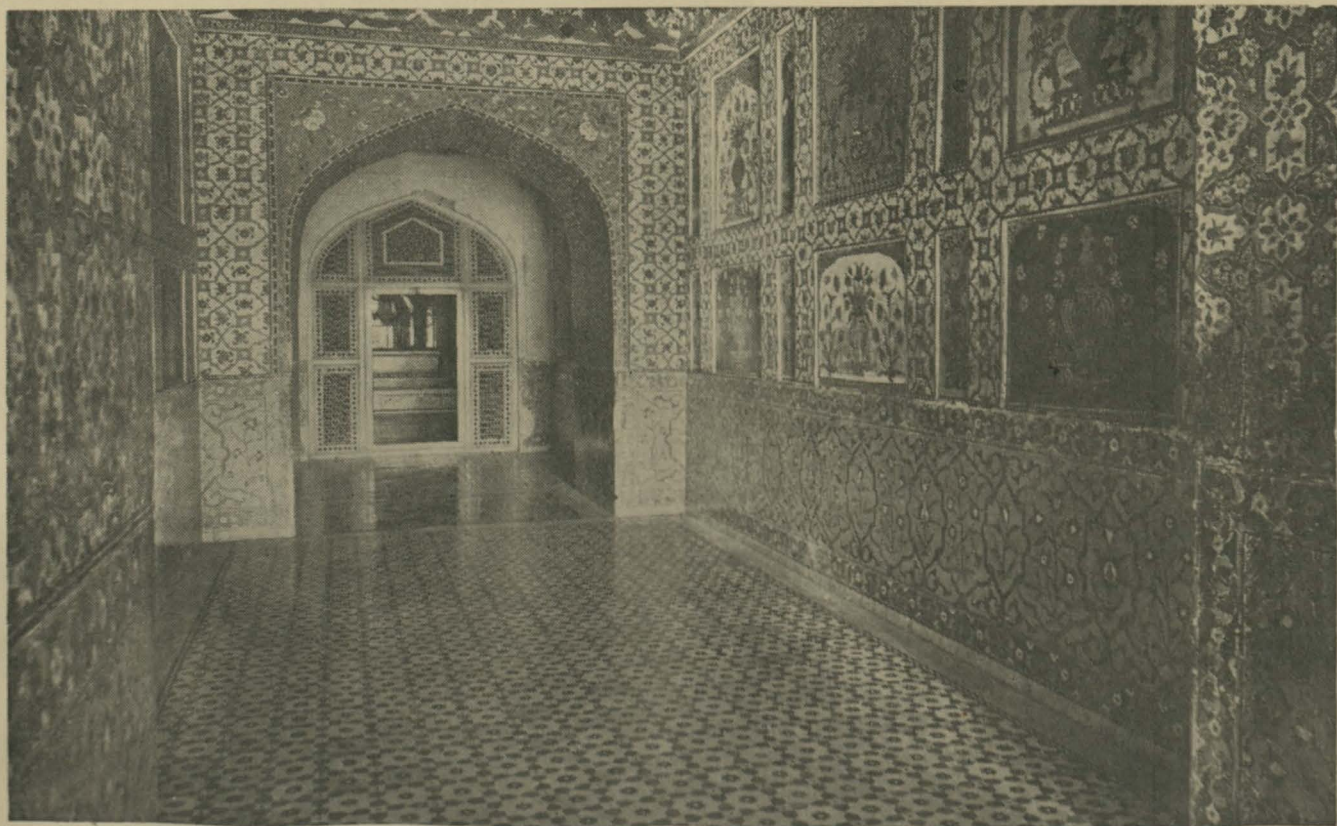
Shaik Muhammad Salih in his work *'Amale Salih* tells that the mausoleum over his grave was erected by Shah Jahan, his son and successor. It took ten years to build and was completed in C. 1637 A.D. at a cost of TEN LAKHS of rupees. The building suffered much at the cruel hands of Sikh rulers, specially Lehna Singh, one of the three Sikh Chiefs who ruled Lahore from 1767-1798 A.D. and Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799-1839 A.D.) who stripped it of most of its choicest ornaments, specially the perforated marble railing of the roof to decorate the Sikh Temple at Amritsar.

The monument was used as a residence by General Amise, a French officer in Maharaja Ranjit Singh's army and after the death of Amise it was given over to Sultan Muhammad, brother of Amir Dost Muhammad Khan, a ruler of Afghanistan, whose Afghan followers also did a lot of minor damages to the building.

The tomb, a one storey structure square in plan with 266'-6" side and built in red sand-stone richly inlaid with white marble

decorative motifs, stands in an immense garden divided into sixteen sub-quarters by means of pathways and water channels (PL. II). The principal effect in the embellishment of the tomb is obtained through the applied colour decorations, a departure from previous methods of decorating the Mughal buildings, in the form of rich and gay floral fresco paintings, tasteful mosaic tiles in addition to the delicate *pietra dura* and brilliant marble intarsia of various colours. (Pl. III). While comparatively less height of the building appears to be an architectural shortcoming, the four handsome corner minarets crowned with white marble cupolas and rising up in five stages to a height of nearly 100 feet above the ground, not only make good this drawback. but also greatly and grandly add to its magnificence and grace. These minarets beautifully decorated with variegated marble in zigzag pattern. are the forerunners of the refined designs of octagonal minarets of the Imperial Mughal style. The marble *ta'weez* (cenotaph) with its delicate and colourful *pietra dura* work and engraved with the ninety-nine attributes of God, Emperor's name and the date of his death, all in superb calligraphy, is also a fine example of marble workmanship.

As recorded by Shah Jahan's historian, Muhammad Salih, Kamboh in his work '*Amale Salih*, there was an other cenotaph (*ta'weez*) open to the sky and occupying the centre of the raised platform on the spacious roof of the tomb. Structural evidence shows that this platform was originally decorated with marble railing which together with the cenotaph are no more there.



**JAHANGIR'S TOMB, at Lahore, interior, showing wall decorations and polished marble intarsia of floor etc. Built by SHAH JAHAN (C.1637 A.D.)**







## THE SHALAMAR GARDEN AT LAHORE—A.H. 1052 (1642 A.D.)

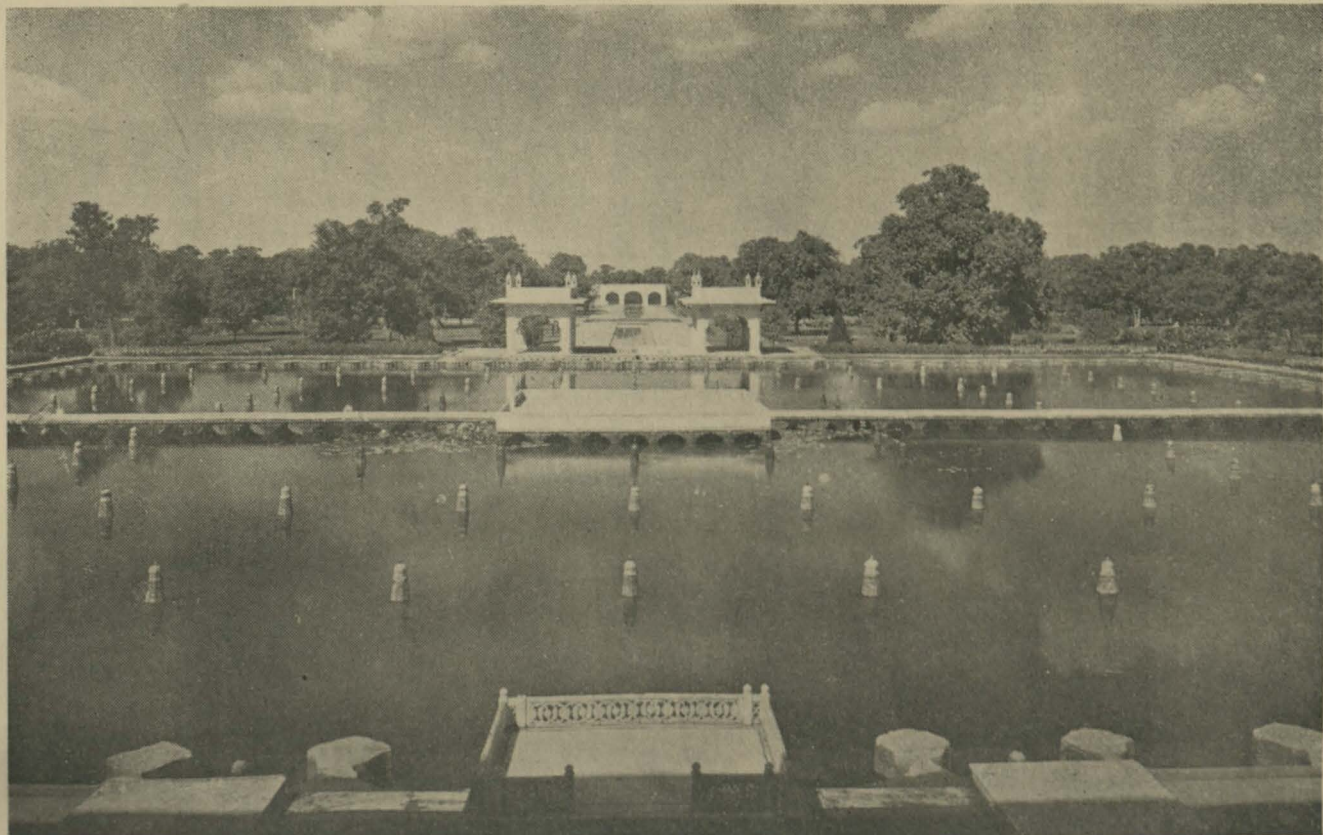
Terraced and walled gardens with pavilions and canals running in the centre were another innovation introduced for the very first time in the architectural history of Indian Peninsula by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (1628-1658 A.D.). These gardens are well known to the world by their popular name of "Shalamar", a Sankrit word the meaning of which *may be taken* as "abode of love". Perhaps there are no other gardens all over Asia, which nature and man have combined to make it so lovely and round, which history and legend have woven so much romance. There are three gardens known under the name "Shalamar".

1. At Srinagar in Kashmir, laid by Shah Jahan under the command of his father Jahangir in the 15th regnal year (1618-19 A.D.) of the latter.
2. At Lahore.
3. At Delhi laid down in the year 1653 A.D. This garden has now almost disappeared.

It is the three terraced Shalamar Garden at Lahore, 2nd of the above three, with which we are concerned in this note. This garden measuring 2006' x 874' in its interior, occupies some 40 acres of land and was laid at the command of Emperor Shah Jahan after

the plan of the Royal Gardens in Kashmir on the 3rd Rabi'ul-Awwal 1051 A.H. (1641 A.D.) and was completed in 17 MONTHS 4 DAYS at a cost of rupees SIX LAKHS on 7th Sha'ban 1052 A.H. (1642 A.D.) under the superintendence of Khalilullah Khan. On the 24th Jamada'ul-ula A.H. 1051 (1641 A.D.) was commenced the plantation of the fruit trees of the cold and hot climate such as mango, cherry, apricot, peach, plum, Kokcha Sultani (?) apple, almond, quince, seedless mulberry, sour orange, sweet orange, other fruits, saplings of cypress, poplar and varieties of odoriferous and non-odoriferous plants. The canal (SHAH NAHAR, later known as Hansli canal), to irrigate the garden was brought from Rajpur (present Madhupur), a distance of more than hundred miles, at a cost of TWO LAKHS of rupees and was the combined work of 'Ali Mardan Khan, the well-known canal engineer of Shah Jahan, and Mullah 'Alaulmulk Tuni.

In the "*Badshah-Namah*" of Mulla 'Abdul Hamid, Lahori, written under the orders of Shah Jahan, the uppermost terrace of the garden is called "FARAH BAKHSH" and the middle and lower most terraces combined are named as "FAIZ BAKHSH", (Pl. IV). The first mention of the name Shalamar, the present popular name, appears in the book *Bahare Sakhun* compiled in the year A.H. 1065 (1654 A.D.) by Shah Jahan's historian, Muhammad Salih, Kamboh of Lahore. This means that besides the original and royal names of Farah Bakhsh and Faiz Bakhsh, the popular name from almost the very beginning was Shalamar.



**SHALAMAR GARDENS** at Lahore, 2nd and 3rd terraces. A view of  
 central tank, throne and pavilions. Built by **SHAH JAHAN**  
 A.H. 1052 (1642 A.D.)





**DIFFERENT BUILDINGS:** The garden was laid out as a royal recreation place as well as for providing accommodation whenever the Emperor was on a visit to Lahore. For this purpose a number of pavilions, summer houses, etc., were constructed in it. In the top most terrace the building in the centre on south was the *aram gah* (rest room) of Shah Jahan. It was converted into the present main entrance in the beginning of British period by Major Macgregor, Deputy Commissioner, Lahore.

The building on the east in the same terrace, now known as *Naqqar Khana* was *jharoka ekhas o 'aam* (balcony of the hall of audience for nobles and commons) and that on the west was the residence of the Empress. In the middle terrace on the east there is a *hammam* (Turkish-bath) which was originally decorated with *pietra dura* work.

**UPKEEP:-** According to Mr. John Joshua Ketelaar, the ambassador to Dutch East India Company to Shah 'Alam Bahadar Shah, who visited Shalamar on 28th January, 1711 A.D., 128 gardeners looked after the garden and works connected with it.

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:-** Since its construction the garden has been visited by many distinguished visitors including emperors, kings and tourists:

AURANGZEB pursuing Dara Shukuh halted in the garden in A.H. 1069 (1659 A.D.).

NADIR SHAH on his way to Delhi encamped here in 1738 A.D. AHMAD SHAH ABDALI during his 3rd invasion of Lahore halted here in 1752 A.D.

WILLIAM MOOR CRAFT a famous traveller stayed here in May, 1820 as a guest of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the small Sikh period pavilion in the first terrace.

PRINCE OF WALES (later Edward VII) paid a visit in January, 1876 A.D.

AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN, the king of Afghanistan, was taken round the garden by Sir Henry MacMahon on March 4, 1907.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY MUHAMMAD RAZA SHAH PAHLAVI, Shahinshah of Iran was given a grand reception by the citizens of Lahore on Thursday the 9th March, 1950 in the garden. The Shahinshah was seated on the island in the central tank of the middle terrace.

HIS MAJESTY KING FAISAL II, King of Iraq and HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE 'ABDUL ILLAH, the Crown Prince of Iraq visited the garden on Friday the 19th March, 1954. The Royal Guests were given a grand reception by the citizens of Lahore and were seated on the island in the central tank of the middle terrace.

HIS MAJESTY SA'UD IBN 'ABUL 'AZIZ of SA'UDI 'Arabia was given similar grand reception on Wednesday the 21st

April, 1954. His Majesty was seated in the central *baradari* overlooking the middle terrace.

VANDALISM:— The garden suffered much during troublous times of Ahmad Shah Abdali (1747-1772 A.D.) and the Sikhs who robbed it of almost all of its decorative works in marble, red sandstone and *pietra dura* for reusing the same in their own buildings. Latif in his history of Lahore says that Lehna Singh, one of the three chiefs who ruled Lahore from 1767 to 1798 A.D., removed a pavilion of agate from the garden and sold it for Rs. 24,000 to the stone polishers in the city. In the middle terrace the two pavilions on either side of the big tank measuring 218' x 191' and furnished with 152 fountains, were of red sandstone and the other two on either side of SAVAN-BHADUN were of marble all of which have been stripped of.

## ASAF KHAN'S TOMB (1645 A.D.)

Mirza Abul Hasan entitled Asaf Khan (he was the fourth to hold this title) was the brother of Empress Nur Jahan and father of Arjumand Banu Begam, the lady of the Taj at Agra. In the 8th year of Shah Jahan's reign he was made *Khan e Khanan* and Commander-in-Chief and in the 9th. governor of Lahore. He was a man of fabulous wealth and constructed his palaces at Lahore at a cost of TWENTY LAKHS.

Asaf Khan died in 1641 A.D., and his tomb was erected by Shah Jahan, his son-in-law. It took FOUR YEARS to build it and was completed at a cost of THREE LAKHS of rupees.

The tomb, an octagonal structure (side=35') with a high bulbous dome, stands on a eight sided podium (side=65'-9") originally of red sandstone, in the midst of a spacious garden 783' x 774' which was once set with reservoirs, fountains and beautiful walks the remnants of which are still to be seen. The whole is enclosed by a brick wall finished with lime plaster and is approached through an imposing gate on the south.

The building is now a mere wreck since during the reign of Ranjit Singh (1799-1839 A.D.), it was heartlessly stripped of all its marble facing of the dome and interior leaving only the damaged



marble *ta'weez* (cenotaph) which is inlaid with *pietra dura* in floral patterns with ninety-nine attributes of God in *tughra* calligraphy like that of Jahangir's tomb. Originally the floor of the tomb was in mosaic of various stones, the inner dado of white marble, outer in *sangeabri* (Variegated marble) and the facade mostly of marble with sprinkling of *sangeabri* and other variegated stones. Beautiful enamelled mosaic and tile work, the traces of which are still extant, also played an effective part in the decoration of the interior of the building.

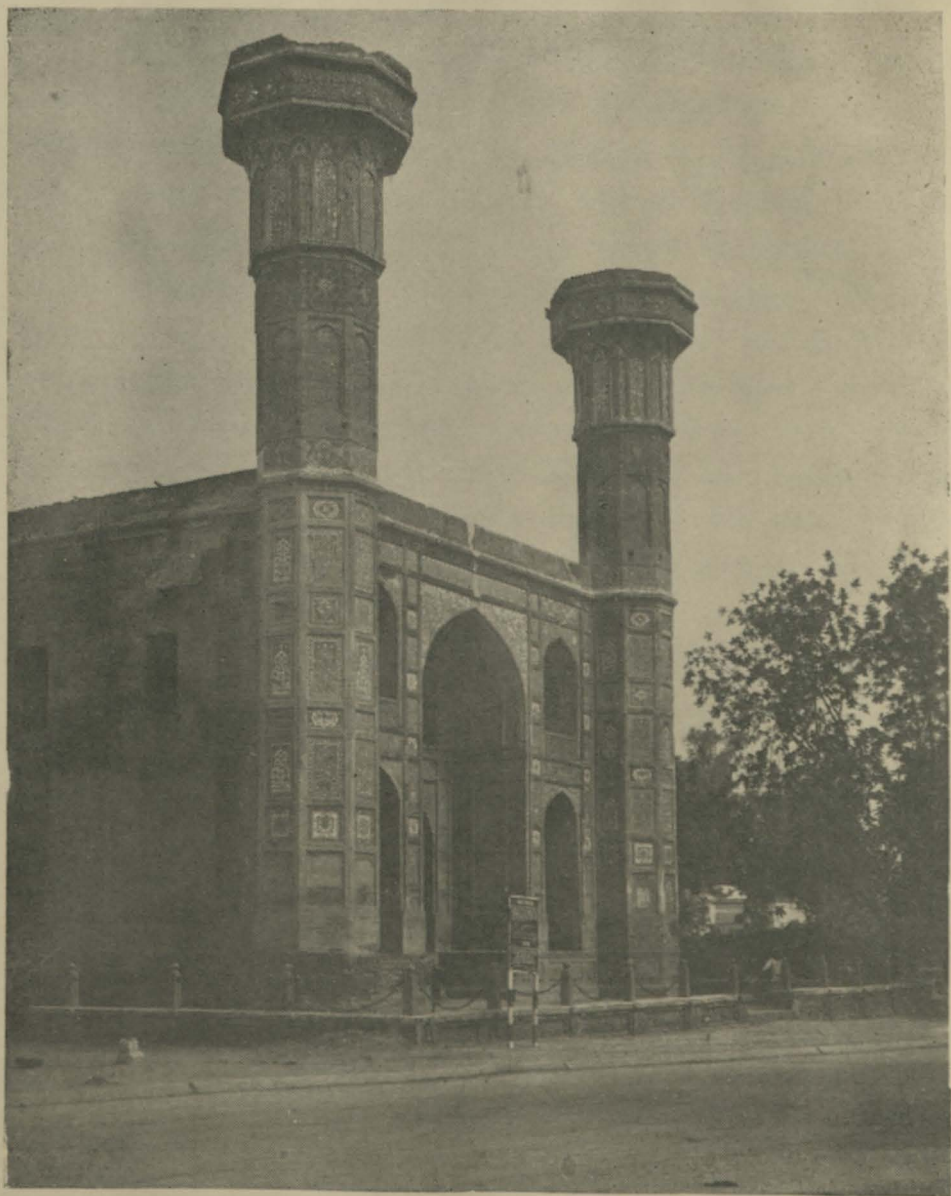
## TOMB OF NUR JAHAN (C. 1645 A.D.)

Nur Jahan, whose real name was Mehrun Nisa Begum, was the daughter of Mirza Ghiyas Baig entitled I'tmadud Daulah, the Prime Minister of Jahangir. She was first married to 'Ali Quli Baig surnamed Sher Afghan Khan, a *jagirdar* at Burdwan in Bengal and later in 1611 A.D. to Jahangir and became his Empress sharing all responsibilities in the administration of the Empire. She was given the title of Nur Jahan (light of the world) and to show her share in the sovereignty a gold coin was struck conjointly in her name and that of the Emperor. Having survived Jahangir by 18 years she died in A.H. 1055 (1645 A.D.) and was buried in this mausoleum which she herself built during her life time. She is also mentioned under the title of "NOOR MAHAL" (Light of palace).

Standing on a platform 158' square and 3'-2" high the tomb, 134 feet square and 19'-6" high, is now a shattered brick work core deprived of all its decorative veneer which was of red sandstone inlaid with motifs of white marble, at the cruel hands of the Sikhs under the orders of Ranjit Singh (1799-1839 A.D.).

The original *ta'weez* (cenotaph) over the graves of Nur Jahan and her daughter Ladli Begum, the occupant of the only other grave in the tomb, which are said to have been of marble, have also disappeared; the existing ones being laid later. The present marble platform was built by the late lamented Hafiz Hakim Ajmal Khan of Delhi in 1912 A.D. (A.H. 1330).





The gateway of CHAUBURJI at Lahore. Built by JAHAN ARA BEGAM (?)  
A.H. 1056 (1646 A.D.)



### THE CHAUBURJI—A.H. 1056 (1646 A.D.)

The building was really a gateway (Pl. V) to a garden that has now disappeared. It is called *Chauburji* (four minarets), because of its four corner minarets out of which one in the north-west corner is lost since then. The fragmentary inscription on its eastern archway records that the garden was founded in 1056 A.H. (1646 A.D.) by a lady mentioned metaphorically as "*sahib e zebinda, begam e dauran*" (one endowed with elegance, the lady of the age) and was bestowed upon MIAN BAI.

The reference is most probably towards JAHAN ARA BEGAM, the eldest daughter of Emperor Shah Jahan, who was entitled as "BEGAM SAHIB" and for all official purposes was the 'lady of the age' after the death of her mother in July 1631. That there was a garden of JAHAN ARA BEGAM at Lahore is confirmed by two letters of Emperor Aurangzeb addressed to her. These letters numbering 13|145 and 15|147 appear on pages 240-242 of *Ruqq'at e Alamgiri*, edited by Sayyid Najib Ashraf, Azamgarh.

The local tradition goes that ZEBINDA refers to ZEBUN NISA BEGAM the accomplished daughter of Aurangzeb and that MIAN BAI was her maid-servant. This tradition however is incorrect. Since ZEBUN NISA born in 1639, was still a child of eight when the garden was founded. The story runs that while the garden was being constructed ZEBINDA incidently learnt that

it was being attributed by the people to MIAN BAI and thereupon gave it to her and recorded the gift in the inscription.

MIAN BAI is unknown to history, but that she was a maid-servant is not supported by the fragmentary inscription on the south-west corner of the gateway, which records that the garden was constructed by MIAN BAI, the pride of women (*fakhrun nisa*). The word "*fakhrun nisa*" on the contrary implies that she was a lady of status.

## TOMB OF 'ALI MARDAN KHAN, AND GATEWAY

(Middle of the 17th Cent. A.D.)

'Ali Mardan Khan was the Governor of Qandhar under Shah Safi (1629-1642 A.D.) of Iran. Disgusted with the tyranny of the Shah he surrendered Qandhar to Shah Jahan and took refuge in his court in 1637 A.D. He was appointed governor of Kashmir and in 1639 A.D. the Punjab was also given under his charge. In the year A.H. 1052 (1642 A.D.) he received the high title of *Amirul Umara* and was so much favourite of Shah Jahan, that the Emperor called him "*yar wafadar*" (the faithful friend). He showed great skill and judgement in the execution of public works, specially canals. Among other works to his credit, he brought a canal (Shah Nahar) from Rajpur (present Madhupur) at the Ravi, a distance of over one hundred miles, to irrigate the Shalamar Garden. He died at Machhiwara on his way to Kashmir in A.H. 1067 (1656-57 A.D.) and was buried by the side of his mother in her tomb which once stood in the midst of a garden that has now totally disappeared with the exception of the gateway (66' x 51') which alone can give an idea of the excellence of enamelled tile mosaic work and its refined patterns with which the entire monument was once decorated.

The tomb, a massive brick construction, octagonal in plan (side = 34'-4") with a high dome and kiosks on angular points, stands

on an eight-sided podium 4'-9" high with each side measuring 57'-6". It was originally built with all the architectural grace typical of that time, but was heartlessly vandalised by the Sikhs who deprived the building of all its stone facing and other decorations the traces of which still exist during their shortlived rule.



### GULABI BAGH GATEWAY—A.H. 1066 (1655 A.D.)

Notable for its excellence of rich and vivid mosaic tile work and super calligraphy on plaster base, this monument 47' x 39' in plan was the entrance gate to a pleasure garden which like so many other at Lahore, has now disappeared. It was constructed by a Persian noble, Mirza Sultan Baig who was *mirul bahr* (admiral of fleet). It is related that in the year A.H. 1068 (1657 A.D.) while on a hunting excursion to the royal hunting reserve at Hiran Minar near Sheikhpura (Old Jahangirabad) he died from the bursting of an English gun given to him by Shah Jahan. The title Gulabi Bagh (Rose Garden) which occurs in the last line of the inscription over the archway not only describes the kind of the garden, but also, as a chronogram, gives the date of its construction, 1066 A.H. (1655 A.D.).

rupee of the land revenue. In addition, the then Indian Government contributed *rupees four* lakhs and H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad about one lakh. The mosque was repaired once before in 1876 A.D. at a cost of Rs. 31,000|- out of which a sum of Rs. 20,000|- was raised by public subscriptions.

The death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839 A.D. was followed by a civil war among his descendants and high minarets overlooking the Fort were mounted with light guns and posted with matchlock men to fire upon the army besieged in the Fort. During the Sikh rule at Lahore the mosque was put to a profane use as military magazine and store-house but was restored by British Government to the Muslims in 1856 A.D. after dismantling the eastern dalans to avoid the possibility of its being used as a stronghold.

The mosque, presenting an imposing appearance and notable for its bold design, solidity of structure and spaciousness, is one of the largest in the East (Pl. VI). Its courtyard measures 528'-8" x 528'-4" and the four corner minarets with an outer circumference of 67 feet rise 176'-4" high above their plinth. The building is mainly built in red sandstone inlaid with white marble geometric and floral patterns, specially on the prayer chamber (275'-8" x 83'-7") which by producing a contrast of light and shade make the vast but well proportionate facade more attractive.

The interior is a long hall divided into seven compartments by means of eight thick arches supported on massive jambs. The



**BADSHAHI MASJID, LAHORE,** with HAZURI BAGH and marble BARADARI in its foreground.  
 Mosque built by AURANGZEB in A.H. 1084 (1673-74 A.D.).  
 Baradari built by Ranjit Singh in 1818 A.D.





plinth of the whole is of well polished *abri* stone and the rest of the interior with the exception of the *Mehrab* and the spandrels of the central chamber which have a veneer of marble is finished with floral network of good workmanship in plaster relief (*munabbat kari*) tastefully touched with paintwork. The original floor of the prayer chamber is of fine cut brickwork bordered with strips of *abri* stone and black marble and the whole divided up into *musallas*. Under the main vault and the flanking arches on its either side, however, the *musallas* are entirely of *abri* stone lined with black marble. In the southern compartment the brick *musallas* are lined with a combination of black and white marble and *abri* stone; this probably is a later repair work.

The graceful smaller minarets of equal height at the four angular points of the prayer chamber, a new feature as far as the mosques of Mughal Imperial style are concerned, added with the refined curvature of great triple domes constricted at the neck, very greatly add to the architectural accomplishment of this celebrated work.

As recorded by Munshi Muhammad Kazim in his '*Alamgirnama*, Emperor Aurangzeb, who was camping in the garden of Faiz Bakhsh for a week, visited the city on the 10th of Rajab 1073 A.H. (Feb. 1662 A.D.) His Majesty, sitting on the same elephant with Prince Muhammad Mu'azzam (later Shah

'Alam Bahadur Shah I) entered the city, two watches after sunrise; he then entered the palace. On the following day, it being Friday, the emperor offered his prayers in the mosque of Firuz Khan, in the outskirts of the citadel, close to the Hathiapol gate and it was ordered that on all Fridays the congregation should continue to assemble there in this way to perform their prayers. The site of the mosque of Firuz Khan is not now known, but Muhammad Kazim locates it in the outskirts of the citadel and close to the Hathiapol gate, therefore its most probable site was either at the piece of land now occupied by the *Samadh* of Ranjit Singh or the site on which the Badshahi Masjid now stands, preferably the latter because the former was outside the city wall.

Nothing definite can be said as to who Firuz Khan was, but one Firuz Khan *Khwaja Sara* held the rank of 300 in the time of Shah Jahan and he might be the man who built Firuz Khan's mosque.

It appears that consequent on the orders of the emperor to hold congregation prayers in Firuz Khan's Mosque, the same was later on replaced by a more spacious mosque, *i.e.*, the present Badshahi Mosque under orders of the emperor in order to accommodate the mammoth congregations which were then held there.

### SARVWALA MAQBARA (Middle of the 18th Cent. A.D.)

Lying a few paces north to Dai Anga's mausoleum, there is a solid, tower like, tapering brick built structure measuring at the base 19' x 19' x 39½' high with *chhajja* (pent) near the top and surmounted by a four-sided pyramidal low dome carried over a double but low neck.

The building is the tomb of SHARFUN NISA BEGAM, the sister of Nawab Zakariya Khan, surnamed Khan Bahadur Khan (died 1745 A.D.), viceroy of Lahore during the reign of Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah (1719-48 A.D.) The tomb is locally known as SARVWALA MAQBARA (the cypress tomb) from its ornamentation of cypress (*sarv*) trees. These cypresses, four on each side are 7'-3" high and are intercepted by smaller blooming flower plants all in plaster tile-cum-mosaic work of best workmanship. According to Sayyid Muhammad Latif, the tower was formerly surrounded by a beautiful garden and tank, the traces of which existed during his time, but now have totally disappeared. The burial chamber 13'-2" square is on the top at a height of 15'-8" approachable only by a removable ladder. The idea appears to keep out of the sight even the actual grave of the pious lady, a reverence in the highest possible degree and sense of the observance of *purda* and as well as to avoid any possible desecration.

## HAZURI BAGH AND MARBLE BARADARI (1818 A.D.)

The quadrangle now occupied by the garden called Hazuri Bagh with a marble *baradari* (pavilion) in its centre was originally a *sarai* built by Aurangzeb (1658-1707 A.D.) This is the place which during the Mughal rule was thronged by the Imperial cavalcade and armed retainers.

The two-storeyed building adjoining the southern gateway (Hazuri Bagh Gate) was also originally built in the time of Aurangzeb as a boarding house for the scholars who prosecuted their studies in the adjoining Badshahi Masjid. Later it was used as *abdar khana* or place for keeping refreshing drinks. During the reign of Ranjit Singh (1799-1831 A.D) it came to be called *gulab chana* or "Rose water house", still later it was again used as a boarding house for students of Normal School.

The marble *baradari* (Pl. VI) was constructed in 1818 A.D. by Maharaja Ranjit Singh from materials obtained by despoiling the Mughal buildings in Lahore specially the tomb at Nawankot and Shah Sharaf's tomb which once stood near Bhati Gate. It also appears that the marble floor of the Royal Bath in the Lahore Fort was also removed for this purpose. It may still be seen reused on the eastern side of the platform of the *baradari*, right of the steps.



Here it was that the Maharaja used to sit in state and transact the business of his kingdom and it was in this *baradari* again that Sher Singh received the British Embassy sent by Lord Ellenborough in 1843 A.D.

The building which measures 45'-6" square is two-storeyed with underground chambers and is built entirely in white marble. The original ceiling, some patches of which are still extant, was decorated with *gachh* (stucco) tracery inlaid with convex mirrors. Though built of despoiled materials the outcome is a building looking handsome. The upper storey struck by lightning collapsed on 19th July, 1932.

To the north of the Hazuri Bagh is the ROSHNAI DARWAZA or the gate of light, counted as one of the gateways of the town. It was the portal through which the nobles passed on their way to the palace. After dark it was brightly illuminated, hence its name. It was near this entrance that prince Nau Nihal Singh, son of Kharak Singh and Mian Udham Singh, eldest son of Gulab Singh, were killed by the fall of a portion of an archway (since destroyed), as they emerged together from the passage, on return from the funeral pile of Kharak Singh, to the place where the prince was to be crowned as Maharaja of the Punjab.



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