

***Dr. M. Abdullah Chaghatai — Painting during the Sultanate period (C.E. 712-1575).***

Published by Kitab Khana-i-Nauras, Kabir Street, Lahore, pp. 62 and 21 figures, Price Rs. 15,00 Pak. Abroad 30 Shillings.

This is the first coherent attempt to give an account of the pro-Mughal Muslim painting in this sub-continent on the basis of the literary evidence as well as on the available illustrations. The book is divided into two parts: the first part tries to trace the style of the imperial court at Delhi and the second part deals with the provincial schools. Though the actual evidence of illustrations is scanty and of doubtful character, Dr. Chaghatai has brought together in one place all the known examples for whatever worth they are. Dr. Chaghatai has rightly emphasized on the non-Indian features of these paintings and pointed out many trends that could be traced to Central Asian or Persian influence, but the main character of the "Sultanate" period painting remains ill defined. Among the provincial schools the Gujrati school takes precedence and shows a gradual evolution—a subject which has been well discussed by other authors.<sup>1</sup> It is to this school that the newly-discovered illustrations of *Chandain*,<sup>2</sup> preserved in the Central Museum, Lahore, belong, but their dating surely falls in the Mughal period. Dr. Tarafdar has correctly pointed out many late features in them. The subject of this book is very interesting and original, and a now critical work on it is a great need.

A. H. Dani

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1. N. C. Mehta — *Indian Painting*.
  2. See Dr. M.R. Tarafdar's article in *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Pakistan*. Vol. VIII. (1964)