



Omariana

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Bulletin of the Dutch Omar Khayyám Society

THE OMAR YEAR 2009

The year 2009 marks the publication, 150 years ago, of Edward FitzGerald's translation of the *Rubáiyát*, and the 200th anniversary of FitzGerald's birth, in 1809. These dates give cause for a celebration in a number of events in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Netherlands

Exhibition - Museum Meermanno



Museum Meermanno, The Hague, will hold an exhibition from January 31 to April 5 2009, titled: "Omar Khayyám. Een boek in de woestijn. 150 jaar in Engelse vertaling" ("Omar Khayyám. A book in the desert. 150 years in English translation"). Two unique items, never shown before in the Netherlands, will serve as starting point for a thematic approach: a copy of the first edition of FitzGerald's translation of 1859, and the *Rubáiyát* manuscript by William Morris of 1872, illustrated by Edward Burne-Jones. Both items are on display in collaboration with the British Library, London.

The first theme explores developments in typography, as can be seen in a number of private press editions (Ashendene Press, Vale Press, Gregynog Press etc.). A second theme demonstrates illustrating techniques and styles, starting with William Morris and Elihu Vedder and including famous artists as Edmund Dulac, Willy Pogány and Frank Brangwyn. A third section will display a number of miniature editions of the *Rubáiyát*, from the early 1900's to the present day.

Together with the exhibition, a book will be published with more detailed information on the exhibited books: "A book in the Wilderness. FitzGerald's *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám. 150 years in print and image", by Jos Biegstraaten and Jos Coumans. Amsterdam, Rozenberg Publishers, 2009. [Read more in the chapter Publications]

The exhibition is organised in cooperation with the Dutch Omar Khayyám Society.
Museum Meermanno, Prinsessegracht 30, 2514 AP Den Haag, tel. 070 3462700.

Website: [www.http://www.meermanno.nl/omar_khayyam.htm](http://www.meermanno.nl/omar_khayyam.htm)

Conference - Leyden and Cambridge

In July 2009 a week-long conference will be held in Leyden (6 and 7 July) and Cambridge (9 and 10 July), organised by the Persian Department at the University of Leyden in collaboration with the Faculty of English and the Cambridge Victorian Study Group. The Leyden part of the conference will examine both life and work of the Medieval Persian author Khayyám, whereas the Cambridge part will examine the work and persona of the Victorian English author FitzGerald.

Press release:

http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/news_events/khayyam-fitzgerald-rubaiyat.pdf

Cambridge website:

http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/news_events/khayyam-fitzgerald-rubaiyat.htm

IN THIS ISSUE

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Publications

Shepherds Bookbinders

Shepherds Bookbinders Inc. are preparing a *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, using the original blocks and tools.



<http://shepherdsbookbinders.blogspot.com/2008/10/sneak-peak.html>

Guardian's Poem of the week

The Guardian's Books Blog features *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám* in 'Poem of the week', December 29, 2008.



Illustration by Gilbert James

Eleven favourite quatrains from FitzGerald's fifth edition are selected by Carol Rumens.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/booksblog/2008/dec/29/poem-week-edward-fitzgerald?commentpage=1>

Omariana

Issued once or twice a year.
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Concerts - Haarlem & Amsterdam

The Nederlands Kamerkoor schedules a concert in The Philharmonie, Haarlem, on July 2, 2009. The programme, part of the Koorbiënnale from June 26 to July 4, is still in preparation. The programme enlists works inspired by the *Rubáiyát* by Paul Hindemith, Friedrich Cerha, Rokus de Groot, Kambiz Roshanvaran and Ton de Leeuw.

Website:

<http://en.nederlandskamerkoor.nl/agenda/concert/2009/07/682/>

The Annual Conference of the International Association of Music Libraries Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML) will be the scene for a second, private performance of the same programme. The conference will take place in Amsterdam, 5-10 July 2009. As yet no details are available.



The Dutch Omar Khayyám Society is involved in fundraising for a third Omar Khayyám Concert, in which will be performed the *Rubáiyát*-composition of the renowned Dutch Composer Lex van Delden (1919-1981).

He won the Amsterdam Music Prize with this work in 1948. In 2009 it will be 60 years ago, since it was performed by the Netherlands Chamber Choir. There are plans for a new performance of the NKK at the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam on the 5th of July 2009.

United Kingdom

Exhibition - Cambridge

From February 18th to April 18th 2009 Cambridge University Library will host an exhibition to commemorate FitzGerald and his *Rubáiyát*. Details are not yet available but on display are the relevant Persian manuscripts and papers of FitzGerald and his mentor and correspondent, Edward Cowell.

Lecture - Cambridge

Bill Martin and Sandra Mason, authors of *The Art of Omar Khayyam*, hold a lecture on Saturday, 21 February 2009, 11:30 am. in Cambridge University Library: 'FitzGerald's *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam: 150 years of book publishing and illustration'. This illustrated talk will be followed by a guided tour of the display.

Art competition - Machynlleth

The 2009 Tabernacle Art Competition and exhibition, will be held to celebrate the bicentenary of Edward FitzGerald's birth and the 150th anniversary of his first publication of

the *Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam.

Museum of Modern Art, Wales. Machynlleth.

Website:

<http://www.momawales.org.uk/english/competition.htm>

Lecture - Woodbridge

"George and Edward". Dramatic readings from George Evans & Edward FitzGerald. Lecture at Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge School. March 16th, 2009.

Contact: michael.weaver@virgin.ne

United States

Exhibition - Austin (Texas)

"The Persian Sensation: 'The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám' in the West" is an exhibition by the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas, Austin. It explores how the translation of a Persian poem went from obscurity to celebrity in British and American culture.



The image shows H.J. Ford's watercolor painting of one of the stanzas from the *Rubáiyát*. Undated.

The exhibition runs from Feb. 3 to Aug. 2 at the Harry Ransom Center.

Image courtesy of the Harry Ransom Center

Images of selected items are available on:

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/pressphotos/2009/rubaiyat/>

Press release:

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/press/releases/2008/rubaiyat.html>

Interview with Mrs. Schwartzburg, co-curator:

<http://www.mehrnews.com/en/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=816861>

Exhibition - Phoenix (Arizona)

Phoenix Art Museum, hosts an exhibition in the Harnett Gallery, called "Elihu Vedder's Drawings for the *Rubáiyát*", organized by the The Smithsonian American Art Museum. From November 15 2008 - February 8, 2009.

Website:

<http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/exhibitioneliu.aspx>



Exhibition - New York

The Grolier Club of New York. From January 22nd to March 13th, 2009: "Edward FitzGerald (1809-1883) & the *Rubaiyat* (1859): A Double Anniversary". From the collection of Nicholas B. Scheetz. (Second Floor Gallery).

No further information available yet.

Website:

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Exhibitions.htm#upcoming>

Exhibition - Cleveland (Ohio)

The Special Collections Department of Cleveland Public Library: An exhibition to commemorate Edward FitzGerald and his *Rubáiyát*. From February, 15th to May, 15th. 2009. No further details available yet.

General

Music

To celebrate the Year of the Rubáiyát, composer Jim Gadzik has set FitzGerald's first version of the *Rubáiyát* to music for SATB chorus and piano accompaniment. Anyone who is interested in performing the work, contact the composer at quatrains75@yahoo.com.

Forgotten FitzGerald

In a letter to the editor, professor A.D.P. Briggs states that FitzGerald never had his due and deserves full recognition for being a very good English poet. He also hopes that the people of Woodbridge will tidy his grave and put some kind of memorial in the town.

Times Online, December 31, 2008.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article5420246.ece>

Victorian Poetry

Edward FitzGerald and the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám: An Anniversary Issue. Victorian Poetry, Vol. 46 (2008) Nr. 1, Spring.



Contents:

- * FitzGerald and the *Rubáiyát*, In and Out of Time. E. Gray, p. 1-14
- * Selected Bibliography of FitzGerald Criticism, 1959-2008, p. 15-17
- * Letters, Scraps of Manuscript, and Printed Poems: The Correspondence of Edward FitzGerald and Alfred Tennyson. A.J. Barton, p. 19-35
- * Accident, Orientalism, and Edward FitzGerald as Translator. A. Drury, p. 37-53
- * The Benefits of Reading the *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám* as Pastoral. G. Albano, p. 55-67
- * Metaphor, Translation, and Autoekphrasis in FitzGerald's *Rubáiyát*. H.F. Tucker, p. 69-85
- * Editing the *Rubáiyát*: Two Case Studies and a Prospectus. D. Karlin, p. 87-103
- * Appendix: Two Early Reviews of the *Rubáiyát*, p. 105-122.

For a more detailed list of events, see the Martin & Mason website: The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. Website:

http://www.omarkhayyamrubaiyat.com/2009_events.htm

Publications

Jos Biegstraaten and Jos Coumans

A Book in the Wilderness. FitzGerald's Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám. 150 years in print and image. Amsterdam, Rozenberg, 2009.

ISBN: 978036101141.

This book accompanies the exhibition "Omar Khayyám. A book in the desert. 150 years in



English translation", held in Museum Meermanno.

The book explores developments in typography and book illustrating. Examples of typographic developments will be highlighted that can be observed in a number of private press editions (Ashendene Press, Vale Press, Gregynog Press

etc.) The second theme demonstrates illustrating techniques and styles, starting with William Morris and Elihu Vedder and including famous artists as Edmund Dulac, Willy Pogány and Frank Brangwyn. A third section will display a number of miniature editions of the *Rubáiyát*, from the early 1900's to the present day.

To order the book:

<http://www.rozenbergps.com/boek.php?item=1003>

Charles Grolleau.

Omar Khayyam. Les quatrains.

Traduit de l'anglais par Charles Grolleau. Paris, Éditions Allia, 2008.

ISBN: 9782844852816.

The first version of Grolleau's translation (Paris, Carrington, 1902), bears the title "Les quatrains d'Omar Kháyyám. Traduits du persan sur le manuscrit conservé à la Bodleian Library d'Oxford." However, Grolleau made extensive use of Heron-Allen's translation of the Bodleian manuscript. In the "Introduction" to his first edition, Grolleau writes: "Il nous reste à citer la traduction littéraire, faite par M. Edward Heron Allen, de ce même manuscrit de la Bodléienne dont nous donnons ici l'interprétation française." For this reason the subtitle in this reissue has been changed into '... traduit de l'anglais ...', as is further explained in the "Notice".



Franz Toussaint

La corde de la sagesse. Traduc-

tion Française: Franz Toussaint.

Traduction Arabe: Ahmed Sâfi an-Najafi. Introduction: Abou Hafs Abdeljalil. Paris, Bachari, 2008.

ISBN: 9782913678491.

Toussaint's french prose translation has been reissued many times, but this edition has also a translation in arabic. The booklet is nicely illuminated by Persian miniatures and ornaments.



Lassaâd Métoui

L'amour, le désir et le vin. Omar Khayyâm.

Calligraphies Lassaâd Métoui. Introduction



Henri Philibert. Paris, Alternatives, 2008.
ISBN: 978286227558X
Re-issue of the 1998 edition, with new calligraphies, without Arabic text and opening quatrain.

Hassan Rezvanian

Les quatrains du sage Omar Khayyâm de Nichâpour et de ses épigones. Présentation, traduction et notes Hassan Rezvanian. Paris, Actes Sud, 2008. (Collection Babel)
ISBN: 978-2742778287.
First published by Imprimerie Nationale, 1992.

Rosen, Friedrich

Die Sinnsprüche Omar des Zeltmachers. Aus dem Persischen übertragen von Friedrich Rosen. Wiesbaden: Marix, 2008.
ISBN: 9783865391919.

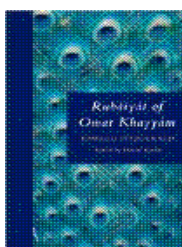


Revised edition of Rosen's translation published in 1919. It includes an abridged version of the preface from the first edition of 1909 and that of the third and fourth editions of 1921. Also included is the extended epilogue 'Zeitalter, Leben und Weltanschauung Omar Khajjams' that has been omitted in the many reprints of the popular Insel-Bücherei edition Nr. 407.

Steven Schroeder

The Rubáiyât. Omar Khayyâm. Translated by Edward FitzGerald. Introduction by Steven Schroeder. New York, Barnes and Noble, 2008.
ISBN: 9781435108806.

Daniel Karlin



Rubáiyât of Omar Khayyâm. Edward FitzGerald. Edited by Daniel Karlin. New York, Oxford University Press, 2009. (Oxford World's Classics)

ISBN 9780199542970

According to Karlin,

"FitzGerald's version of Omar is neither a translation nor an independent poem; sceptical of divine providence and insistent on the pleasure of the passing moment, its 'Orientalism' offers FitzGerald a powerful and distinctive voice, in whose accents a whole Victorian generation comes to life. Although the poem's vision is bleak, it is conveyed in some of the most beautiful and haunting images in English poetry - and some of the sharpest-edged."

Daniel Karlin

The angry Omar. Edward FitzGerald and the Rubáiyât revived for a new readership.

Karlin explains, in the Commentary section, why FitzGerald's *Rubáiyât* is in the first instance, 'a philosophical poem'.

The Times Literary Supplement, January 9 2009, No. 5519, p. 14-15.

Tony Briggs

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam.

Translated by Edward FitzGerald. Edited by Tony Briggs.

London, Phoenix, 2009.

ISBN 9780753826782

Briggs offers a new introduction to this edition, with notes and chronology.

To be published March 2009.



Joseph Renihan

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. A humanist edition. Joseph A. Renihan. New York, Vantage Press, 2008.

ISBN: 978-0-533-15945-1

Renihan, member of the "Freedom from Religion", selected 34 quatrains from FitzGerald's translation and eliminated 'all direct reference to a supernatural universe'.

S.H. Nasr

From Zoroaster to Omar Khayyam. Edited by S.H. Nasr and M. Aminrazavi. London, Tauris, 2008.

ISBN: 9781845115418.

Volume 1 of "An Anthology of Philosophy in Persia".

Jean-Yves Lacroix

Le cure-dent. Paris, Allia, 2008.

ISBN: 9782844852830.

A biographic novel on the life of Omar Khayyâm.



Michelle Kaiserlian

Omar sells: American advertisements based on The Rubáiyât of Omar Khayyâm, c. 1910-1920.

During the first decades of the twentieth century, American stores displayed all sorts of products linked to the name of Omar Khayyâm. Kaiserlian presents two case studies to investigate how these products appealed to consumers through visual and literary connections with the *Rubáiyât*: Maxfield Parrish's design for Crane's chocolate boxes and the marketing of American Tobacco's Omar cigarettes.

In: Early Popular Visual Culture, vol. 6, No. 3, November 2008, p. 257-269.