

SYED HASAN ASKARI

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SYED HASAN ASKARI

- Professor Syed Hasan Askari was a distinguished historian and eminent scholar of medieval Indian history, active in his field between 1926 to the year of his death in 1990. He is known for his renowned work in medieval history of Bihar. He was an exceptional researcher and has more than 1500 research papers under his name. Along with being a researcher, Prof. Askari was a scholar, explorer and teacher.
- He was born in Khujwa, Siwan/Saran District, State of Bihar, India, (April 10th, 1901). He spent his early days in Khujwa and then moved to Muzaffarpur for his graduation. He graduated in 1922 from G.B.B. college, now known as L.S. college. In 1924, he got his M.A. (History) and in 1925 got his B.L. from Patna University. In 1967, Magadh University conferred upon him the degree of D. LITT (HONORIS CAUSA). 17 years later, in 1984 Patna University conferred

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the same to him in recognition of his valuable contribution to Medieval Indian History and Culture Prof. Askari had an exceptional knowledge of original Persian sources and was responsible for many Persian translations and collections. His research encompassed a wide range of subjects including medieval Sufism, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughals, Bihar's regional history, and other aspects of cultural and social history between the 12th and 18th centuries.

- Professor Askari gained international recognition as one of the foremost authorities on the mystic literature of Indian Sufis. His knowledge of Bihar & Bengal's medieval and early modern history is almost encyclopedic. Prof. Askari was

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unrivaled in his knowledge of original Persian sources and most learned scholar of Persian manuscripts.

- He authored more than 250 scholarly articles & research papers, edited historical volumes, and translated Persian manuscripts, which have been published in 20 books and hundreds of journals and proceedings. Professor Askari was awarded Padma Shri in literature by Indian Government & recipient of multiple coveted presidential, national, state, provincial and local awards. He was one of the kindest and most informed scholars & always regarded him as one of the foremost scholars ever to have studied pre colonial Bihar and Bengal.

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- There are few people who remain steeped in their place of birth yet project an influence across time and space far beyond their domicile. Syed Hasan Askari is one such rare, and laudable, individual. Professor Askari, was a legendary historian and recipient of numerous presidential awards and honors. His literary work encompassed multifaceted subjects ranging from medieval Sufism, regional history of Bihar and other aspects of cultural history of medieval India. The real pioneering work in the medieval epigraphy of Bihar has been done by Dr. S.H. Askari. On the basis of epigraphic sources, he first surveyed in a paper the history of Bihar in the Turko-Afghān period. Unlike Blochmann, to whom many of the inscriptions were sent by the workers in the field and local officers, Dr. Askari combines in himself the roles of the explorer and the scholar. During the course of his extensive

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tours in the interior of the State he has discovered and brought to light numerous inscriptions and published their texts, though mostly without plates. Professor Syed Hasan Askari authored more than two hundred fifty articles and edited & translated several historical manuscripts. He focused on a time and region that is often neglected in historical research, that is Bihar and Bengal during the 15th and 16th centuries. Because of Syed Hasan Askari, historians started to consider the letters and malfuzat of Sufis as important historical sources as they contain a lot of relevant information on religious, social as well as political aspects.

HIS WORKS

- Shahnama Munawwar Kalam By Shiv Das Lakhnawi translation [from Persian]by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Collected works of Prof. S.H. Askari – Collection of five articles, Volume 1 by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Collected Works of Prof. S.H. Askari – Amir Khusrau as a Historian, Collection of eight articles,Volume 2 by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Collected works of Prof. S.H. Askari – Islam and Muslims in Medieval Bihar, Collection of two articles, Volume 3 by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Collected Works of Prof. S.H. Askari – Medieval Bihar: Sultanate & MughalPeriod, Collection of ten articles, Volume 4 by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.

HIS WORKS

- Collected works of Prof. S.H. Askari – On Awfi's Jawami-ul Hikayat, Volume 5 by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Maktub & Malfuz Literature As a Source of Socio-Political History by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Zain Khan's Tabaqat-i Baburi, translation [from Persian] by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.
- Aspects of the Cultural History of Medieval Bihar by Prof. Syed Hasan Askari.

AWARDS

- His Excellency Gyani Zail Singh, the then President of India has conferred upon Prof. Askari "**PADMASHREE AWARD**" in 1985.
- His Excellency Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, the then President of India had given Prof. Askari President **Certificate of honour** in 1978.
- Prof. Askari was presented the **GHALIB Award** in 1975 by his Excellency Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, the then President of India.
- **Bihar Ratna** is the highest state civilian honor, awarded for exceptional service towards advancement of Literature in recognition of Public Service of the highest order to Prof Askari in 1987.

AWARDS

- Prof. Askari was awarded by the Britishers with the title of **“Khan Saheb”**
- Prof Askari was honored by Bihar Urdu Academy in 1987.
- **Tamra Patra** awarded by Bihar Purvaid Parishad to Prof Askari in 1990.
- The Bihar Research Society published a special volume in Prof. Askari’s honor in 1960 and 2001.