

TWO IMPORTANT LETTERS

Gul Ahmad

ABSTRACT

This article contains two important letters, one from the well-known Iqbal-Scholar and researcher, Dr. Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen, which he wrote to Dr. Lawrence H. Barfield on 12th May 1984, and the other from Dr. L. H. Barfield's reply to that letter on 8th August, 1984. Dr. L. H. Barfield was professor in the Department of Ancient History and Archeology at the University of Birmingham. He was the son of Nancy May, daughter of Allama Iqbal's teacher sir Thomas Arnold. There is also a letter from Allama Iqbal to Nancy May Arnold which he wrote on 11th January 1911. In his letter, Dr. Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen had requested for information about the biographical sketches of Dr. Barfield's mother Nancy May Arnold, his grandmother Celia May Hickson and grandfather Sir Thomas Arnold.

This article consist of two letters, the first letter is from Dr. Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen which he wrote to Dr. Lawrence . H. Barfield on May 12, 1984 regarding research in Iqbal Studies, in which he requested to provide some information while the second letter was written by Dr. Barfield in response to the above letter.

Dr. Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen was a renowned researcher and scholar of Iqbal. He has done valuable research work in the field of Iqbal Studies. He started his service from Higher Education Department, Punjab as Lecturer in Urdu. He was interested in Iqbal Studies, so he started his research in the same field. Keeping in view his interests in the field of Iqbal Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University hired his services. He served on different posts in departments of Urdu and Iqbal Studies of Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. He also remained chairman of Iqbal Studies Department. He completed his Ph. D. on “مکاتیب اقبال کا تنقیدی جائزہ”. His books include اوراقِ کم گشتہ، نقوش قائد اعظم اقبال کے معاشی نظریات، ارمغان اقبال and “Mementoes of Iqbal”. Moreover, he wrote many research articles on Iqbal Studies that were included in different research journals.

Dr Lawrence Barfield, archaeologist and historian, was born on June 11, 1935 in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. He is son of Nancy May Arnold, the daughter of Thomas Arnold. He studied at the universities of Cambridge, Ljubljana and Pavia and worked at the University of Bonn and the Rheinischeslandes museum before taking up a post at the University of Birmingham in 1966, where he remained until retiring as Reader in 2000. He got into archaeology while at Merchant Taylors’ school, when he and Professor Martin Biddle, University of Oxford, were exempted games to excavate the Manor of the More, Cardinal Wolsey’s palace, which was at the edge of the school grounds. In 1955 he went up to Magdalene College, Cambridge, to read archaeology and anthropology, resolving to specialize in prehistoric archaeology. On graduating he began a Cambridge Ph. D on the Neolithic of northern Italy and the Balkans, spending a year at the University of Ljubljana as a British Council exchange student, and travelling all over Yugoslavia and northern Italy. He then focused on the north Italian Neolithic, and was an exchange student at the Collegio Borromeo, University of Pavia,

after which he was offered a post as assistant in the Department of Vor-und Frühgeschichte in Bonn. It was while he was in Bonn that he began digging at the Rocca di Rivoli, an important Neolithic site near Verona. He stayed in Bonn for three and a half years, moving from the university to the Landesmuseum where he conducted several excavations, dating from the Bronze Age to Roman. After returning to Cambridge to finish his Ph. D, he became a lecturer at the University of Birmingham in 1966.

Dr. Lawrence Barfield was the most influential specialist on north Italian prehistory. Although his particular period was the Neolithic and Copper Ages, his interests ranged widely, and included Paleo-Indian stone tools of the Atacama desert in Chile, a fortified imperial villa in the German Rhineland and the Roman salt industry at Droitwich, Worcestershire.

Alongside his busy programs of excavation and publication in Italy, he was also active in English prehistory, particularly that of the West Midlands, with an interest in the interpretation of mounds of burnt stones, which he intriguingly proposed might be evidence of prehistoric saunas. Even on National Service he kept his hand in, digging a trench at the 1st-millennium BC city of Ezion-geber on the Gulf of Aqaba and surveying in the Libyan desert near Trauma.

Dr. Barfield made several groundbreaking contributions to north Italian prehistory. As well as his excavations at Rocca di Ravioli, where he established a chronology for the later Neolithic, he also excavated at Fimon, Molino Casarotto, a Neolithic site; at Monte Covolo, which has a 3,000-year sequence from the late Neolithic to the middle Bronze Age; at the RiparoValtenesi, Manerba, a Copper Age cemetery in a rock shelter with collective burials in wooden chambers; at Ponte di Veia, a flint production site; and at the Rocca di Manerba.

In 1971 he published a seminal work, *Northern Italy before Rome*, in Thames & Hudson's *Ancient Peoples and Places* series, which provided the first proper synthesis of north Italian prehistory; this work remains unsurpassed and is still used by students and scholars today. Other major contributions included his recognition of the Monti Lessini near Verona as the principal source of high-grade flint in prehistoric north Italy, and his work on the Iceman, which he dealt with in scientific publications — pointing out its significance for dating the beginning of the Italian Copper Age to the fourth millennium BC — and in the popular book he co-authored with E. Koller and A. Lippert, *Der Zeuge aus dem*

Gletscher: Das Rtsel der frhenAlpen-Europer (1992). His important project, Excavations in the RiparoValtenesi, Manerba, 1976-1994 was published in 2007 by the Italian Institute of Prehistory and Protohistory at Florence, of which he had been elected a foreign member.

Lawrence was shy and self-effacing, and consequently his eminence and enormous contribution in Italy were overlooked by many in the UK, but his loss was deeply felt in the Italian archaeological community. He was an engaging teacher who brought prehistory to life for generations of students, and inspired and unofficially taught many Italian archaeologists. Unlike many professionals, he paid great attention to amateurs: in return he was dearly loved.

- He has 71 works in 182 publications in 3 languages. Most widely held works are as under:
- Northern Italy before Rome; 20 editions published between 1971 and 1990 in English.
- Beakers in Britain and Europe; 6 editions published in 1977 in English.
- Roman Droitwich: Dodderhill; 5 editions published between 2005 and 2006 in English.
- Excavations at Whitemoor Haye Quarry; 2 editions published in 2006 in English.
- Der Zeugeausdem Gletscher; 7 editions published in 1992 in German.
- Beitragezur Archäologie des römischenRheinlands; 15 editions published in 1968 in German.
- The excavations on the Rocca di Rivoli; 10 editions published in 1976 in English and Italian.
- Burnt mounds and hot stone technology; 5 editions published in 1991 in English.
- Excavations in the Riparo Valtenesi; 5 editions published in 2007 in English and Italian.
- Excavations on the Rocca di Rivoli (Verona); 7 editions published in 1966 in English and Italian.

He died of mesothelioma on July 2, 2009, aged 74.¹

The text of one letter each from Dr. Lawrence H. Barfield and Dr. Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen is given below. For better comprehension and explanation, necessary notes are given as well.

[1]

Allama Iqbal Open University,
Islamabad.
12th May, 1984.²

My dear Dr. Barfield,

I feel very happy to write to you. I have received a letter from Prof. Dr. Waheed Ahmad³ of Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad who had an opportunity to see you while he was doing his researches in England. The letter was written by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, the poet philosopher of Pakistan to Mrs. Barfield [at that time Miss. Nancy].⁴ A copy of the letter is enclosed.⁵ I intend to edit this letter with sufficient notes for getting it published in a Research journal of my country. I shall be very grateful to you if you kindly furnish me necessary information about your mother,⁶ grandmother⁷ and grandfather.⁸ I shall use this information in my article with your compliments.

Yours sincerely,

Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen.

To,
Dr. L. Barfield
Department of Archaeology,
University of Birmingham,
England.⁹

[2]

Department of Ancient History and Archaeology,
The University of Birmingham,
P. O. Box. 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.
Dated: 8th August, 1984.

Dear Shaheen,

Thank you letter of 12th May. I apologize for not replying sooner. I am pleased to hear of your interest in my family's relationship with Iqbal and I was interested to know that you have one of the letters that I loaned Dr. Waheed Ahmad some years ago.

I would like to know more precisely what information you require about my mother and her family. I really know little more about my grandfather himself than is published in his obituary [Proceedings of British Academy c. 1931].¹⁰ He died before I was born. My colleague here at Birmingham University, Dr Said Durrani¹¹ [Physics Dept.], has written an article on Sir Thomas's relationship with Iqbal which I understand will be published shortly¹². I will let you know when this happens.

I am of course anxious to have the letter returned to me as soon as it is possible as the loan is somewhat overdue.¹³

Yours sincerely,
L. H. Barfield

To,
Rahim Bakhsh Shaheen,
Department of Iqbaliyat,
Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad

Notes and References

¹ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lawrence-barfield-archaeologist-and-historian-xsf2w7q5w3b>

² Dr. Saeed Akhter Durrani also mention about this letter in his book named:

”اقبال یورپ میں“

انھوں (ڈاکٹر بارفیلڈ) نے مجھے اطلاع دی کہ اسلام آباد سے ایک صاحب کا (یعنی ڈاکٹر رحیم بخش شاہین، جو معروف محقق اقبال ہیں) خط انھیں موصول ہوا ہے۔ (ڈاکٹر سعید اختر درانی، اقبال یورپ میں، نئی دہلی: انجمن ترقی اردو (ہند)، ۲۰۰۴ء، ص: ۲۷)

³ Dr. Waheed Ahmed received his higher education from the United Kingdom On his return, he continued to work as a Professor of History at Quaid-e-Azam University. After that, he served as the Director General of Quaid-e-Azam Academy, Karachi. The main focus of his study was Quaid-e-Azam and Tehreek-e-Pakistan. Here are the detail of some of his important books; Sind Story 2011, Toad To Indian Freedom, Jinnah-Irwin Correspondence, Diary and Notes of Mian Fazal. I. Hussain, Jinnah-Linlithgow Correspondence etc.

⁴ Nancy May Arnold was born on 28th Nov, 1896 in Subcontinent. She completes her studies from Cambridge University. She married with engineer Robert Harry Barfield (1895 To 1977). She have four children. Dr Lawrence H . Barfield is one of them.

⁵ The said letter is as under:

Lahore,
11th Jan, 1911.
My dear Nancy,

Last Monday early in the morning when I was meditating over the vanities of life my servant brought me your Xmas card. You can imagine how glad I was to receive it, especially because it put me in mind of the happy days that I had spent with my Guru in England. I am indeed thankful to you for this nice present.

I suppose you getting on well with your lessons in Botany. When I come next time to England to kiss the feet of my Guru, I hope you will educate me in the names of all the flowers that grow in the beautiful valleys of England. I still remember the sweet=Williams, the blue bells, the tulips; tulips, so that you see that your pupil has not got a bad memory.

You know that my Guru is at present very busy-looking after the welfare of younger humanity- so do act a good prophet between his Divinity and the poor mortal Iqbal, who is anxious to know all about him. I am sure he will not stint his revelations to you which you will communicate to me in due course.

I am afraid I must close this letter now . The little black daughter of my Sice is crying downstairs, and has been disturbing my quite since mourning. She is a perfect nuisance, but I have to tolerate her, because her father is a very dutiful servant.

Please do remember me to father, mother, auntie and Marcus if you ever write to him.

Yours affectionately,
M. D Iqbal

Miss. Nancy Arnold,
22 Launceston Place, Kensington Gate,
London, W(England)

⁶ About Nancy May Arnold.

⁷ Celia May Hickson was born on 1st May, 1852 in London. Her father name was George Hickson and mother name was Ellen Celia Hickson. She is a niece of Theodore Beck. In 1892 Thomas Arnold married with her. She died in 1931 aged 79.

⁸ Sir Thomas Walker Arnold (19th April 1864- 9th June 1930) was born in Devonport. He received his early education at the City of London School where he mastered the Sanskrit language. In 1883, he got himself enrolled at Cambridge College where Mr. Robertson Smith and Mr. Cowell were his teachers. He learned Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese in the College. In 1886, He passed the Tripos exam and in 1917, He was elected an honorary fellow of the same college. He then moved to India and took up the profession of teaching at MAO College Aligarh where he remained associated till 1898. During this period, he published his first book "Preaching of Islam". The same year, he joined the Indian Education Service and became Professor of Philosophy at Government College, Lahore, where a philosopher gushed from Iqbal. Besides, he was also the Dean of Oriental Faculty. His tenure in this college is from February 1, 1898 to February 29, 1904. His second book Al-Mu'tazilah was published here. In 1904 he moved to Britain where he started working as a Deputy Librarian in the India Office Library, London. In 1909, Professor Laurel Morley formed an organization to help Indian students studying in Britain. Arnold was appointed the organization's education adviser who held this position for eleven years. He also worked as an English editor of Encyclopaedia Britannica of Islam in the UK. This encyclopaedia was printed from Holland. He was also the editor of the Islamic section of the same encyclopaedia. At the same time he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

In 1912 he was awarded the title of Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (C. L. E). Some of his important books are mentioned below;
Court Painting of the Grand Mughuls; 1921
The Caliphate; 1924
Survivals of Sasanian and Manichean Art in Persian Painting; 1924
Painting in Islam; 1928
The Islamic Faith (Co Author); 1928
The Islamic Book (Co Author); 1929
Bihzad and His Paintings in the Zafarnameh Manuscript (Co Author); 1930.

⁹ Dr Saeed Akhter Durrani mention about this letter in his book.

ڈاکٹر سعید اختر درانی، اقبال یورپ میں، نئی دہلی: انجمن ترقی اردو (ہند)، ۲۰۰۲ء، ص: ۲۷

¹⁰ The Proceedings of the British Academy is a series of academic volumes on subjects in the humanities and social sciences. The first volume was published in 1905. Up to 1991, the volumes (appearing annually from 1927) mostly consisted of the texts of lectures and other papers read at the academy, plus obituary notices or “memoirs” of Fellows of the British Academy. From 1992 the Proceedings became an irregular series through the addition of thematic volumes of papers, typically derived from academic conferences held at the academy. After 2011-2012, the publication of the texts of lectures was transferred to the new online open access Journal of the British Academy, and the publication of obituary notices was transferred to a separate Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the British Academy series. The Proceedings of the British Academy series therefore now focuses on the publication of themed volumes of essays, and is open to proposals from prospective volume editors. The series has always been published on behalf of the British Academy by Oxford University Press.

¹¹ Renowned Scientist, Archeologist and Iqbal Scholar Dr. Saeed Akhtar Durrani was born on 8th Dec, 1929 in Faisalabad. Dr. Durrani was Chairman of the Iqbal Academy (UK) from 1987 to 2015. He organized a number of International Conferences on Iqbal - highlighting in particular his cultural and metaphysical contributions. He had also established himself as a leading authority on the life of Allama Iqbal - especially in Europe. Dr. Durrani was the author of two books on Allama Iqbal's life *اقبال یورپ میں* and *نوادار اقبال یورپ میں*. In these two books he had brought out many aspects of Allama Iqbal's life that were totally unknown before. It was under Dr. Durrani's stewardship that a new portrait of Allama Iqbal was commissioned (in November 1990) by the Iqbal Academy UK from the renowned Pakistani portraitist, Gulgee, and in a historic and glittering ceremony (November, 1993), installed in the Great Hall of Trinity College, Cambridge - Iqbal's alma mater in England - among the portraits of other great sons of that institution, such as Newton, Byron, Tennyson and Rutherford. Earlier, Dr Durrani had also played a leading role in the discovery of Allama Iqbal's first place of residence in Cambridge (1905-06), viz. 17 Portugal Place, where the Government of Pakistan put up a commemorative plaque in 1978. In 1987, Dr. Durrani found in the Cambridge University Library a unique copy of the first edition 1920 of Nicholson's famous translation of Iqbal's Persian masnavi, *Asrar-i-Khudi* which first introduced Iqbal to the western World. This copy bore very extensive corrections and amendments, in Iqbal's own hand, together with what amounted to a reasoned critique of the

translation. Dr. Durrani was also instrumental in organizing 'Iqbal in Europe – Centenary Celebration at Trinity College, Cambridge (June 19-20, 2008) and installation of memorial plate of Allama Iqbal's poem 'Shakespeare' at Shakespeare birthplace in April, 2010. He died on 16th July, 2018 in Birmingham U.

(https://www.allamaiqbal.com/new/obituary_dr_saeed_akhter_durrani.html)

¹² That article was published in journal 'فنون اقبال' نمبر، دسمبر ۱۹۷۷ء

¹³ According to Dr Saeed Akhtar Durrani, Dr. Waheed Ahmad returned all the documents and letter in 1998.

(ڈاکٹر سعید اختر درانی، اقبال یورپ میں، نئی دہلی؛ انجمن ترقی اردو (ہند)، ۲۰۰۳ء، ص: ۲۷)