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A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a

Holding Institution British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers

Reference Mss Eur F111/361

Date(s) 11 Aug 1895-23 Jan 1899 (CE, Gregorian)

Written in English and Persian in Latin and Arabic (Nastaliq variant) script

Extent and Format 1 file (5 folios and a two piece pouch envelope)

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About this record

The file contains two letters (f 1 and ff 2-4), a paper envelope (f 5), and a two piece pouch envelope (unfoliated). The first letter (f 1) is referred to as *khat* (standard letter). The letter is a personal one and it is sent by Abdur Rahman Khan, the Amir of Afghanistan (1880-1901) to Lord George Nathaniel Curzon. It is dated 19 Safar 1313 which is given as 11 August 1895. In the letter, the Amir thanks Lord Curzon for a set of family photos as well as a magic lantern the latter has sent him.

The second letter (ff 2-4) is referred to as *murasaleh* (a type of letter), together with the paper envelope (f 5), and the two piece pouch envelope are called *Kharita* . *Kharita* is an official letter from a paramount power, usually sent in an elaborate silk cover and received with great ceremony. The letter that is part of the *Kharita* is an official one and it is also sent by Abdur Rahman Khan, to Lord Curzon. It is dated Sunday 2 Ramadan 1316 which is given as 15 January 1899. The Amir of Afghanistan is recounting a previous letter that he received from Lord Curzon in which Lord Curzon emphasized the importance of building a strong relationship between the Empire in India and Afghanistan. Lord Curzon also clarified the reasons which caused the late arrival of his letter to the Amir. After recounting the content of Lord Curzon's letter, the Amir of Afghanistan concludes with his congratulations to Lord Curzon on his new position, and emphasized on the strong relations and friendship between the two. The letter has a date in English, 23 January 1899, written in red ink at the top of its first folio.

Both letters are written in Persian on illuminated large white papers. A circular black ink seal holding the

name of the Amir of Afghanistan has been provided at the end of each letter. The four-year gap in the dates given on the letters, as well as the difference in dimensions between the first letter (f 1), when folded, and the paper envelope indicate that this letter is not part of the *Kharita*. Rather, it has been misplaced and eventually ended up in this file.

The second letter was originally folded and kept inside a paper envelope (f 5). The paper envelope is open from the right side corner and has the names of the sender and the recipient. Marks of red sealing wax are still visible on the front side of the envelope. The envelope itself is dated Wednesday 28 Sha'ban 1316 which is given as 11 January 1899, that is four days earlier than the date on the letter (ff 2-4). The paper envelope with the letter inside was placed inside a two piece pouch envelope: a silk pouch and a bobbinet cotton pouch. The dimensions of these two pieces indicate that the bobbinet cotton pouch was used as an outer protective cover for the silk one. The date of the pouch envelope is unknown.



A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [front] (1/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [back] (2/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [spine] (3/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [edge] (4/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [head] (5/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [tail] (6/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [i-r] (7/20)

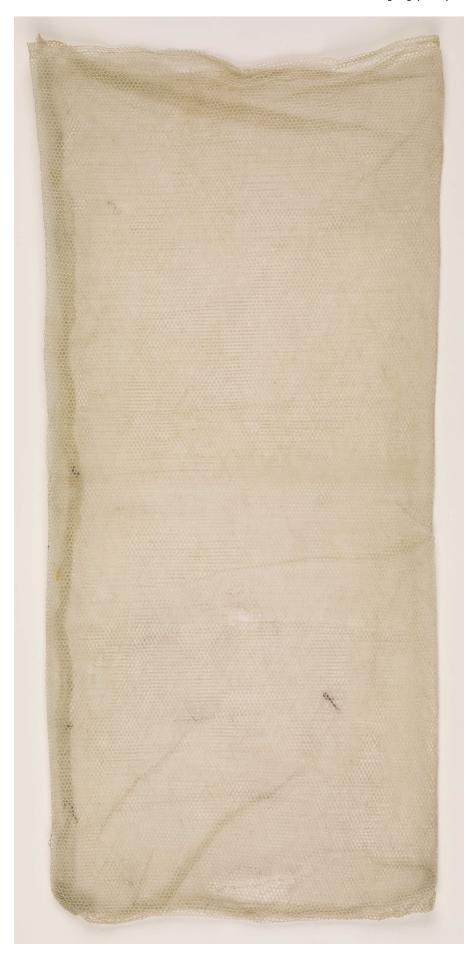






A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter in Persian and a Kharita [i-v] (8/20)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter [1r] (1/2)







A Ceremonial Illuminated Letter [1v] (2/2)







Kharita [2r] (1/10)



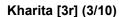




Kharita [2v] (2/10)











نبراي همي كواكب نامرده بدين صفهون كرنجنا كبحضور فرستادم رئيدونامبرده مينوت دكه مرات أمذكورتا الحال نزد نامبرده ميباث دمن ازترسا را ف شده ام که چرا نامبرده مراکنهٔ مرا مجفور شهر یاری نفر نیار و پاچرامرا ازین حرف اطراع نداد که مجضور نفر نیا ده اکت ویقین دارم که حض شهرباريانياضي مراكه من زيئالطرين دارم همراي من يقتب مخوا نهدفه مودييني از نا مبرده نارانني طأبهر خوا مندفر مود من براي نامبرده برهيج شيكامعا في رانني بينم كه چراكه مر اله دربارهٔ مقرري نو دبراي آن دُوسُت نو د نوشته بودم و درآن اطهار دو اه در دي ميكر دو در آن من بدون توقف براي آن دوئت فود نوځته بو دم كه اطهار دوځتي نو د را كمنم عرصهٔ پنياه ازين حوف گز شنه جرباري نرميده است وضرور خفرت ننهرياري ازين خاموش ما ندن من که مجضور شهريا ري اطلاء ندا ده ام حران بود ہروقت که از تمر^ا اللہ بن من مرا سلکھائوائی گرفتم پس من محضورت ہر ماری ارسال خوا ہم بنو دالحال صرف برای من لینقدر باقی ما نزوز ے کہ من در آن مرسک چیدنوشتہ بود م وقبل از روانہ ت دن و دمن محبضور ملائم مُعظَّمہ وقیصر وُ ہندچی گفتہ بود م برتمامي تفرائيجُ بت علامات آن جربان آگاہی تمام بروک تدارحاص گر دیدامیداز خدا و نددارم کرنسب استحکام دوئتی دولت بَهتیه برطانیه واُفغان نا جایمی حقام توقی و دان دونت گرام شو د که یا د کار زمانه نا با ند د باب منظرین می نوت که دونت عزیرمن مرب شرین را بای رتربت کردی چوکمه آنمرزاده بودبا و جود آن دایم اکنار بود که سال هزارشینه شراب می آث میرفضول بودپس هرچی کر ده آن نمر دکوفته بنابرآن من الط من لاانز بدمعاشيا وكه در كارخانه انجن كابل جمراي ابل كارالجن زد وكوب هررُوزه و نشت وابل كارةي الجنيء ض كردند كه اگرتما مرطر بين را از نوكري فج ما مردم را از نؤکری جواب کنید بنا برآن^{ی سیل} مین را از نوکری جواب دا ده بودم ا<mark>و پنها خلاف گفته بود که مرا امیر</mark>صاحب در کابل^{حقا} ىن نخواست بودم أوراهال خورسند مي شوم كه آن خطي را كهرم سط مين روان كمرد ه با زآن جهربان براي من روان كنب د تؤرست ندي بر نورند مى افزايدودرباب تُقَرَّري آن مهربان به فرمان فرمائے ہندوئیّان باوچو د آنگه خطائق مهربان بمن نزمٹ یدہ بود اَمامیدانٹیج کہ باین وقت مان مِثْل آن دُوسَّت براي مُررِث به كردن لازم بَهْ فِيقِين كامل داشتى كه آن دُوسِّ من مُقَرِّر نوا المدت ونیز آن مُثفق نوسشة اند که این وَف برای من از بشه صَرُوریات معلوم تُ د که من کم وعِزّتِ دولت برطانيُه أعطب و دولت أفغا لنّان باستُه دُونت عزيزمنُ ميدازخداوندارم كه اين چني شور وانشا دانسنوا برشد دگیرنوشته اند که این چنین ویرای مندوستان که دریک زمانه مهان حضرت شهریاری در کابل بود واز مهان و نَّالهال دوئت تُعابوره ائت ومن يقين دارم كه اين دوستي ذاتي جانيين و روستي دولتين ناايام حكومت من رُوز مَرَّه قاتم و مي نوك كران والدائميد بخد اوند دارم أماحيف كالع ي كذ شد آن منفق نوم مًا م ي نوّا هم كه اگر موقعه دلت بدېداين مهمان نوازي دمن فر نوازي تضرت شهرياري كه در يق من عنايت فرموده بودنددرا



Kharita [3v] (4/10)

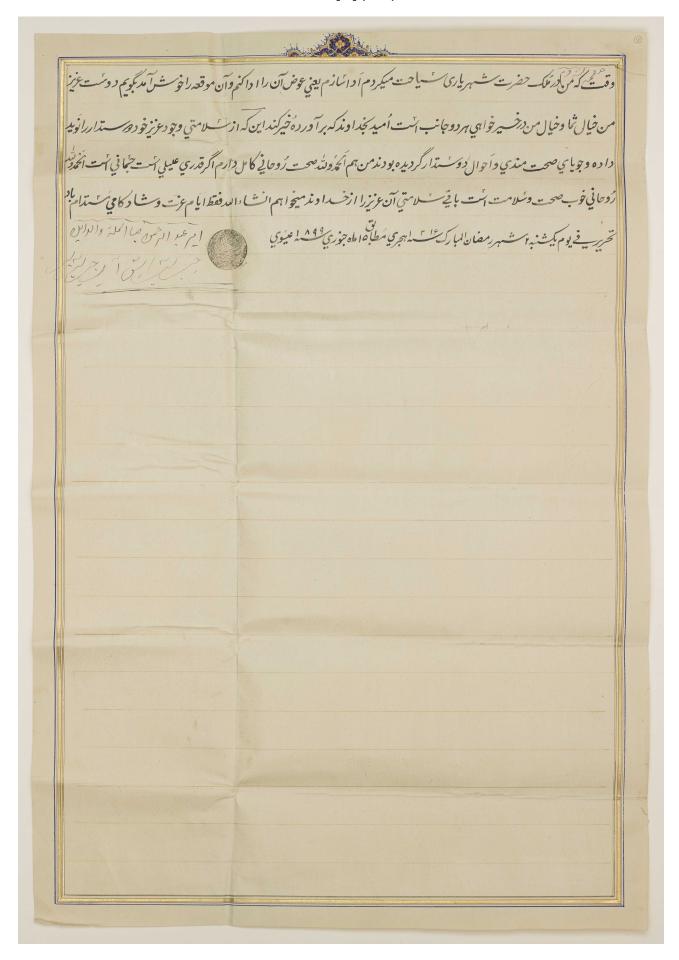






Kharita [4r] (5/10)







Kharita [4v] (6/10)

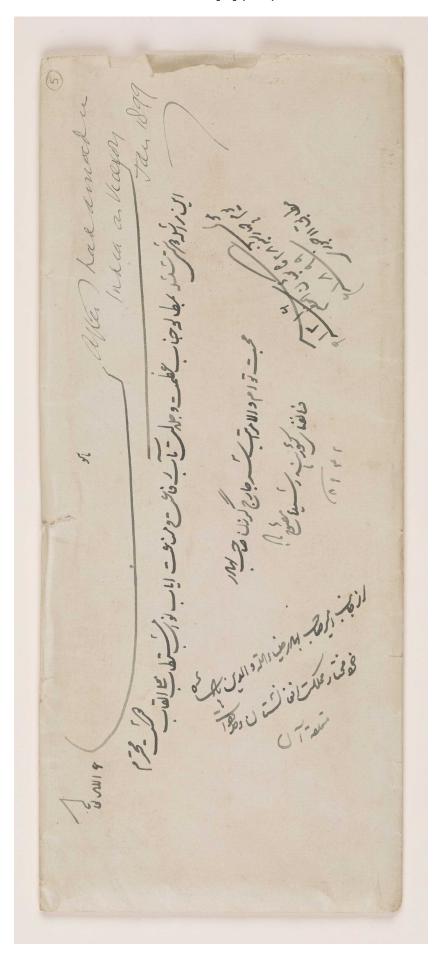






Kharita [5r] (7/10)







Kharita [5v] (8/10)







Kharita [5ar] (9/10)







Kharita [5av] (10/10)



