

STUDY OF THE BOOK MARKET IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LITERATURE IN KABUL

The following list includes about 70 books on Afghan history, literature, language, art and culture - written in Dari or Pashtu - that can currently be found in Kabul bookstores. Most of them have been written by Afghan authors but some are translations of foreign books.

This list has been prepared after visiting the following bookstores between 15 and 22 April 2003:

- Behzad bookstore Shahr-e-now.
- A. Abdul Hai Habibi bookstore Chicken Street, Shahr-e-now.
- Sabah bookstore Sedarat square, Shahr-e-now
- Hamid bookstore Third Microrayon.
- Third Microrayon bookstore Third Microrayon
- Alama Saljuqi bookstore Shahr-e-now.
- Abdul Salaam Bashari bookstore Karte Parwan.
- Nomani bookstore Karte Parwan
- All booksellers (13) next to the Ministry of Information and Culture (Deh Afghanan)
- 4 mini bookstores Khaikhana.

The researcher browsed through available books at length and then spoke with booksellers and their clients about available and rare books, and about these that are most popular nowadays.

MAIN FINDINGS:

After speaking with booksellers I found out that most of the people in Kabul (of all ethnic groups) are interested in buying books, but their choices are different. Currently the most popular subject in the given domain of research is 20th century history, presumably because of a more liberal publishing atmosphere (throughout the 20th century different regimes have exercised different kinds of censorship).

Authors are mostly Afghans scholars, but Iranian authors' books are also very popular among Afghans. Some translations of foreign works by Iranian scholars are also available.

Most of the books that can be found are written in recent years and published in Kabul or Pakistan.

Prices usually range from 200-500 Afs; books published in Pakistan are cheaper than those published in Afghanistan. But books published in Iran are highly expensive. In addition, generally books published or republished in Pakistan are more available, while the artistic, cultural and historical books published in Kabul are less available.

The majority of books are written in Farsi (Dari), but some Pashtu books are also available.

After research and observation in different bookstores I found out that the most popular books are as following:

Bestsellers:

- 1: Afghanistan in the course of history (first volume)-Mir G. M. Ghubar
- 2: Afghanistan in the course of history (second volume) - Mir G. M. Ghubar
- 3: Afghanistan in the past five centuries - Mir. M. Sidiq Farhang
- 4: Army and politics- Gen. M. Nabi Azimi

Also Popular

- 5: Rise and fall of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan - Dastgir Panjshiri
- 6: From the Fall of Kingdom to rise of Taliban - A. Hamid Mubarez
- 7: History of Iranian Literature - G. Maladic
- 8: Herat's monuments - Hussein
- 9: The Hazaras of Afghanistan - S. Askar Musavi
- 10: Behzad Art School - Rahimi

List of History, Literature and Culture Books found in the Kabul Bookstores

Prepared by Mr. Omar Sharifi for the Foundation for Culture and Civil Society

Title	Author	Date	Publisher	Price	Freq.	Subject	Lang.	Remarks	
Art and Culture									
1	Epistle Regarding Mazar and Herat	F.SALJOQI	1999	Sabah, Kabul	?	Rare	Information about historical monuments in Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif	Dari	
2	The Monuments of Herat	A.HUSSEINI	?	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Archeological study of Herat's monuments (15th century)	Dari	Popular
3	Art and Culture in the Kushan Period	G.ROSENFELD	1978	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Art and culture of Afghanistan in the Kushan period (40-220 AD)	Dari and Pashtu	
4	Ancient art and culture of Afghanistan	B.RAWLINSON	1967	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Greco-Bactrian and later art and culture of Afghanistan	Dari	
5	Behzad Art School	A.K.RAHIMI	1991	Ariana printing press (Kabul)	300	Rare	Afghan miniaturists in the Timurid period (15th century AD)	Dari	Popular
6	History of art of portraiture and painting	A.N.WAZIRI	1957	Governmental printing press	?	Rare		Dari	?
7	Islamic art	Dr. DEMAND	1957	Iran	300	Rare	Islamic arts in Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan	Dari	?
8	Shah Bahar	A.A.KUHZAD	1965	?	?	Available	Information about the famous Zoroastrian temple of Shah Bahar in Balkh	Dari	?
9	Bactrian art	J.HACKIN	1939	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Art and culture of Bactria in the time of Greco-Bactrian empire (256-120 BC)	Dari	?
10	Important Buddhist Centers in Afghanistan	M.A.IBRAHIMI	1982	Governmental printing press	150	Available		Dari	?
11	List of Calligraphic Documents in the National Archives		1983	Governmental printing press	400	Available		Dari	Popular
12	Historical Monuments of Herat	HUMAYUN	?	Governmental printing press	200		Archeological study of Herat monuments (12th - 15th century)	Dari	Popular
13	Ancient Herat	F.SALJOQI	?	Governmental printing press	200	Available	Cultural and social history of Herat	Dari	
14	Ancient Kabul	N.M.POPALZAI	?		150	Available		Dari	

	Title	Author	Date	Publisher	Price	Freq.	Subject	Lang.	Remarks
15	Timurid Art	A.HAI.HABIBI	1974	Iran	?	Rare	Art and culture in time of Timurids(15th century AD)	Dari	Popular
16	Kushan Art and Civilization	Z.SAFI	1982	Governmental printing press	150	Available		Pashtu	
17	The Inscription of Surkh Kotal	ZEYAR	1990	Education publishing house (Kabul)	350	Rare	Analysis of King Kanishka's famous inscription in Surkh Kotal (Baghlan), second century AD	Pashtu	
Literature and Language									
1	History of Iranian literature	G.MALADIC	2001	Iran	400	Available	Information about Farsi literature in Iran and Afghanistan	Dari	
2	“Diwan Senaii”	SINAII GHAZNAWI	1981	Iran	300	Available	Poems of Sana’i Ghaznavi the famous Afghan poet	Dari	
3	“Diwan Jami”	N.AHMAD	2000	Iran	250	Available	Poems of Jami, famous Afghan poet	Dari	
4	Folkloric Dictionary of Dari literature	A.AFGHAN NAVIS	1990	Governmental printing press	250	Available	Folkloric dictionary of Dari language	Dari	
5	Nooristani Language Alphabet	?	1995	Peshawar, Pakistan	100	Available		Dari	
6	Pashtunkhwa Poetry	J.DARMISTTER	1977	Governmental printing press	100	Available	Poems of famous Afghan and Pakistani Pashtuns	Pashtu	
7	Hazara Dari Dictionary	SHARISTANY	1981	Governmental printing press	?	Available		Dari	
8	History of Dari to the 10th Century AD	A.Q.QAYUM	1986	Governmental printing press	300	Rare		Dari	
9	Folkloric Dari Literature	?	1993	Peshawar, Pakistan	100	Available		Dari	
10	Pashtu Proverbs	BINAWA	1977	Governmental printing press	200	Rare		Pashtu	
History									
1	Afghanistan in the last five centuries	M.SIDIQ. FARHANG	2000	Peshawar, Pakistan	400	Available	Afghanistan's social and political history from 1500 to 1989	Dari	Popular
2	Brief history of Afghanistan	A.HAI.HABIBI	1978	Governmental printing press	150	Available	A brief social and political history of Afghanistan from 550 BC to 1901AD	Pashtu	

	Title	Author	Date	Publisher	Price	Freq.	Subject	Lang.	Remarks
3	History of Afghanistan after the Kushans	A.HAI.HABIBI	1978	Governmental printing press	500	Rare	Early Afghan Islamic political and administrative systems, socio-economic affairs and intellectual life	Dari	Popular
4	Afghanistan in the course of history	M.G.M.GHUBAR	2000	Peshawar, Pakistan	400	Available	Complete social, political economic and administrative history of Afghanistan from the early ages to 1950s	Dari	Best seller
5	Army and politics	M.N.AZIMI	1999	Peshawar, Pakistan		Available	Information about the political and military events from 1978 to 1992	Dari	Best seller
6	Appearance of the first constitution	S.MANSOOR	1997	Peshawar, Pakistan	200	Rare	Information about the first democratic movements in Afghanistan	Dari	Popular
7	A look at world history	J.L.NEHRU	1970	Iran	300	Available	Social and political analysis of the world history	Dari	Popular
8	Afghanistan in the light of history	A.A.KUHZAD	1963	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Afghanistan's social and political history from early times to the end of the 19th century	Dari	Popular
9	The Ghorids	M.G.M.GHUBAR	1959	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Social, political and economic affairs of Afghanistan in the 12th century (Ghorid dynasty)	Dari	
10	Ahmad Shah Abdali	M.G.M.GHUBAR	1969	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Events of Ahmad shah Abdali's reign, the founder of (modern) Afghanistan	Dari	
11	History of Civilization	V.DORANT	?	Iran	6500	Rare		Dari	
12	The Khwarezm Shahs	Pr. BARTOLD	1987	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Social, political and economic history of Central Asia and Afghanistan during the Khwarezm Shah dynasty (12 th to 13th century)	Dari	
13	History of Bukhara	M.J.NARSHAKHI	1982	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	History of the Samanid dynasty in central Asia and Afghanistan (10th century AD)	Dari	Popular
14	Historical geography of Ghor	KABUL UNIVERSITY	1981	Governmental printing press	250	Rare	Information about historical places and monuments in the province of Ghor (especially 12th century)	Dari	

	Title	Author	Date	Publisher	Price	Freq.	Subject	Lang.	Remarks
15	History of Mazar-e-Sharif	J.N.MOHAMAD	1992	Balkh publishing house (Mazar)	?	Rare	Short history of Northern Afghanistan	Dari	
16	History of the Ancient East	A.WALI and ZARGHONA	1987	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Economic and political history of Egypt, Western Asia, Iran and Afghanistan	Dari	
17	Afghanistan in Prehistoric Times	N.TALOQANI	1981	Governmental printing press	100	Available	Research about prehistoric civilization in Afghanistan	Dari	
18	“Seraj-ul Tawarikh”	F.M KATEB	1952	Governmental printing press	300	Available	History of Afghanistan from King Ahmad Shah to King Abdul Rahman	Dari	Popular
19	“Kabul Shahian”	M.O.SIDQI	1978	Governmental printing press	300	Rare	History of the Hindu kings of Kabulistan from the 5th to the 9th century AD	Dari	Popular
20	Kushan Empire	A.A.KUHZAD	1939	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Political and social history of the Kushans (40-220 AD)	Dari	
21	“Tarikh-e Baihaqi”	A.M.BAIHAQI	1941-1991	Governmental printing press	300	Available	History of Ghaznavi dynasty of Afghanistan (962-1186 AD)	Dari	Popular
22	Later Ghaznavids	K.A.BOSWORTH, translated by A.W FANAYI	1988	Governmental printing press	120	Available	Splendor and decay of the later Ghaznavids in Afghanistan and northern India (1040-1186)	Dari	Popular
23	Babur Shah's period	ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF AFGHANISTAN	1984	Governmental printing press	300	Rare	The Life of King Babur shah, the founder of the Mongol dynasty of India	Dari	
24	Afghanistan in the Middle Ages	M.Z. DROW GAR	1990	Governmental printing press	400	Rare	Political, administrative and social history of Afghanistan in the Middle Ages	Dari	
25	“Khulasat-ul Akhbar”	KHUND MIR	1965	Governmental printing press	400	Rare		Dari	
26	Mongol history	A.I.AHSTIANY	1967	Iran	400	Available	Available	Dari	
27	Social and Political History of Central Asia	Pr. BARTOLD	1964	University publishing house	150	Rare	Rare	Dari	Popular
28	The Tajiks	GHAFUROV	1983	University publishing house (Kabul)	?	Rare	Political, social and economic history of Tajik people in Central Asia and Afghanistan	Dari	Author from Tajikistan
29	“Tarikh-e Gardizi”	A.H. GARDIZI	1983	Iran	?	Rare	History of Khurasan from the early ages to 10th century AD	Dari	
30	The Hazaras of Afghanistan	S.A MUSAVI	1999	Iran	50	Available	Political, social and economic life of the Hazaras	Dari	

	Title	Author	Date	Publisher	Price	Freq.	Subject	Lang.	Remarks
31	Religious Ideas in the Kushan Period	ABDUL GHAFOOR	1989	Governmental printing press	?	Rare		Dari	
32	Ariana and Afghanistan	N.TORWAYANA	1944	Governmental printing press	?	Rare		Dari and Pashtu	
33	Mundigak civilization and its relation with the Sindh and Mesopotamia	ZEMARAI	1989	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Research about the Mundigak culture and its relations with other major Asiatic civilizations like Moenjo Daro and Sumer	Pashtu	
34	“Hudud al Alam”	?	1963	Governmental printing press	?	Rare	Geography of Khurasan (former Afghanistan)	Dari	
35	Cities of Ariana	M.O.SIDQI	1974	Governmental printing press	150	Available	Geography of Ariana (ancient Afghanistan)	Dari	
36	Historical geography of Ghazni	M.W. ZALMAI	?	Governmental printing press	150	?	Description of the historical monuments in Ghazni	Pashtu	
37	History of Seistan	?	1978?	Iran	100	Available	History of Seistan from the Arab invasion to the fall of the Khwarezm Shahs	Dari	
38	Human history	M.R.ROHIN	1986	Governmental printing press	200	Available		Pashtu	
39	The rise and fall of Democratic People’s Party of Afghanistan	D.PANJSHIRI	1999	Peshawar, Pakistan	200	Available	History of the communist party of Afghanistan	Dari	Popular
40	Ghaznavids and Ghazni	G.J.JALALI	1972	Governmental printing press	300	Rare	History of the Ghaznavid dynasty of Afghanistan (962-1186 AD)	Dari	Popular
41	From fall of kingdom to the rise of the Taliban	A.H.MUBAREZ	1996-1998	Peshawar, Pakistan	150	Available	History of Afghanistan from 1973 to 1996	Dari	Popular
42	The Coup d’Etat of Thaur (April 1978)	M.A.SISTANI	1997	Peshawar	150	Available	Analysis of the communist era	Dari	