



*Memories of Quetta Before
Earth Quake 1935*

This Exhibition is dedicated to the departed souls
of Quetta Earth quake 1935

A. Hameed Baloch

QUETTA COMES ALIVE

Life goes on. People soon forget even historic moments and tragic events of human history. October 8, 2005 at about 8.45 a.m, a massive earthquake struck mountainous regions of Pakistan leaving behind such tragedies inexperienced by the human history and never ending tales of agonies. The entire world was shocked and rushed to these areas to help the suffering people. It reminded Pakistanis about a similar earthquake which destroyed Quetta on May 31, 1935 at 3 past 3 minutes in the morning. In 30 seconds life came to stand still. Glorious Quetta and thousands of people were buried alive in a matter of seconds. Living nations do not forget their tragedies but learn lessons to survive on the world map. Artist Abdul Hameed yet of 40 years dared to reconstruct in his oil paintings the glory of Quetta and what it looked like before 1935. A son of the soil committed to his land, has ventured to show people from all walks of life, the gone-by beauty of Quetta. It will be a rewarding experience for people to look at his works. With his command over techniques and use of colors, he has justified in handling his subjects and puts soul and heart into them. It is quite difficult to paint a subject which artist has not seen himself. Putting it together with help of visual references and stories which people tell or recorded in books, is an art itself. Here reflects his teacher's intensive training and his own hidden potentials to apprehend the subject, its environment etc. to convert it into a living monument. His painting "Quetta Fort and City 1885", draws viewer's attention strongly towards its general atmosphere and subtle use of colors. "The Residency Quetta 1900", majestic high red ceiling, spacious lawn and a row of standing horses adds to its beauty. Depictions of Quetta Bazaars 1900, 1930, Mutton, and Fruit Market 1930" are glaring examples how Quetta looked then. Though difficult to recreate such scenes of daily life but artist succeeds in making them live with moving brush strokes, harmonious but vibrating color combinations, typical architectural buildings representing Balochistan. "Sandaman Memorial Hall Quetta(1900), Railway institute Quetta (1930), Railway station (1930), Roman Catholic Church (1900)" deserves special mention. Artist has worked on these with extraordinary love for details and captured the spirit of typical architecture suiting to its cold

climate which developed under colonial rule in Balochistan.

Mr. Abdul Hameed has successfully projected the lost glory of Quetta on canvas for the generations to come. His artistic talent is praise worthy and reveals through his work, that only an

artist of caliber can accomplish such mission. Quetta of the 1900s takes birth in the hands of Abdul

Hameed who so devotedly and sincerely created works of art which should be properly preserved

and displayed for the generations to come.

Ghulam Rasul

Pride of Performance

May,2006 Director General (Retd.)

Pakistan National Council of the Arts

Islamabad

PRE-1935's QUETTA IN PAINTINGS

Abdul Hameed Baloch, an artist from Kalat, has executed 35 paintings in oils on Quetta landscape and architecture that existed before the earth-quake of 1935, which claimed 30,000

human lives within 30 seconds. Hameed with painstaking efforts somehow gathered all the crumbling

stuff from newspapers, old documents and other sources. Most of the images were too vague and

torn off to be reproduced detail by detail. So Hameed had to reconstruct them using his own

imagination. Consequently, with a hard work of 5 years he has painted the paintings of historical

significant both for the researchers and art lovers. For inauguration Hameed has selected the date

31 st May, that means 71 st anniversary of Quetta Earth Quake.

Abid Husain Qureshi.

May,2006 Asst. Professor: Fine Arts Department

~University of Balochistan



STAFF COLLEGE 1930

Oil on Canvas 26x34



SANDEMAN MEMORIAL HALL 1900

Oil on canvas 28x32

BIO-DATA

Name: ABDUL HAMEED BALOCH

Date of Birth: 10.3.1966. Kalat

Qualification:

- i) Bachelor of Fine Arts From University of Balochistan.
- ii) One year Certificate Course in Drawing & Painting from Idara-e-Saqafat Balochistan, Quetta.

Experience:

- i) Ten years teaching experience at Adara-e-Saqafat Balochistan
- ii) Two years experience as a cartoonist in Newspaper Daily "KOHISTAN" Quetta.

Exhibitions:

Participated in many National and Provincial group shows since 1987 to 2004 at Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore & Peshawar including two solo shows at Islamabad & Quetta

Projects:

- i) Assistant Designer of Balochistan Float in Horse and Cattle Show at Lahore in 1991.
- ii) Designed Balochistan Pavilion at Lok Virsa Islamabad in 2001.
- iii) Assistant Designer of Balochistan Float on Pakistan day 23rd March 2001, 2003, 2005

Honors & Awards:

- i) External Examiner of Fine Arts Department University of Balochistan, 1997, 1999, 2004 and 2005.
- ii) Introductory Book (Pakistan Colours) published by M.Athar Tahir.
- iii) Arranged and Displayed National and International Exhibitions at Idara-e-Saqafat Balochistan, Quetta since 1990.
- iv) Volunteer worked as a Art promoter and Art Curator at Balochistan Arts Council since 1997.

Collections of Paintings:

- i) Landscape at Indonesian Embassy Islamabad.
- ii) Landscape at various public places in Pakistan and abroad.

At Present:

In-charge Art Gallery Balochistan Arts Council, Jinnah Road, Quetta. Mobile No: 0345-8329976

35 Oil Paintings at show
By Abdul Hameed Baloch at
(Newly built Art Gallery)



IDARA-E-SAQAFAT BALOCHISTAN

M.A. Jinnah Road, Quetta
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