

# THE LEGACY OF OMAR KHAYYAM

Mathematician  
Philosopher  
Astronomer  
Poet

From 6 to 10 July 2009

AWAKE! for Morning in the Bowl of Night  
Has flung the Stone that puts the Stars to Flight:  
And Lo! the Hunter of the East has caught  
The Sultan's Turret in a Noose of Light.

Dreaming when Dawn's Left Hand was in the Sky  
I heard a Voice within the Tavern cry,  
"Awake, my Little ones, and fill the Cup  
Before Life's Liquor in its Cup be dry."

And, as the Cock crew, those who stood before  
The Tavern shouted—"Open then the Door!  
You know how little while we have to stay,  
And, once departed, may return no more."



Celebrating the first edition of FitzGerald's translations of Omar Khayyam 150 years ago

Come, fill the Cup, and in the Fire of Spring  
The Winter Garment of Repentance fling:  
The Bird of Time has but a little way  
To fly--and Lo! the Bird is on the Wing.

Here with a Loaf of Bread beneath the Bough,  
A Flask of Wine, a Book of Verse--and Thou  
Beside me singing in the Wilderness--  
And Wilderness is Paradise enow.

And those who husbanded the Golden Grain,  
And those who flung it to the Winds like Rain,  
Alike to no such aureate Earth are turn'd  
As, buried once, Men want dug up again.



Tweehonderd jaar  
Koninklijke  
Nederlandse  
Akademie van  
Wetenschappen

*Magie van wetenschap*



Universiteit Leiden



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

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July 2009  
Leiden University

The Legacy of Omar Khayyam  
Mathematician, Philosopher, Astronomer  
and Poet

Lipsius Building, Room 011  
Cleveringaplaats 1  
2311 BD Leiden

**Programme**

Day One: Monday 6 July 2009

09.00 Registration, coffee/tea

09.30 Welcoming address: Asghar Seyed-Gohrab

**Key-note Address**

09.45 Dick Davis (Ohio State University, USA)  
"Too good a poem to be faithful?"

RECEPTION OF THE RUBAIYAT IN THE NETHERLANDS

Chair: Christine van Ruymbeke (University of Cambridge)

10.30 Hans de Bruijn (Leiden University)  
"Persian Quatrains in Holland"

11.00 Marco Goud (*Vrije Universiteit*, Amsterdam)  
"Khayyam's Impact on Modern Dutch Literature"

11.30 **Coffee and tea**

12.00 Jos Biegstraaten (Chairman Dutch Omar Khayyam Society)

“How Omar Inspired Dutch Visual Artists”

12.30 Dick van Halsema (*Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam*)

“Bitter Certainty: J.H. Leopold on Omar Khayyam”

### **13.00 Lunch**

#### **KHAYYAM’S RECEPTION IN PERSIA AND RUSSIA**

Chair: Charles Melville (University of Cambridge)

14.00 Mehdi Aminrazavi (University of Mary Washington)

“Reading the Ruba’iyyat as “Resistance Literature”

14.30 Ali Dehbashi (Bukhara Journal)

“Khayyam Studies in Iran: An Evaluative Survey”

15.00 Alexander H. Morton (SOAS, University of London)

“Some Omarian Quatrains from the Lifetime of Omar Khayyam”

### **15.30 Coffee and tea**

16.00 Natalia Chalisova (Russian State University of Moscow)

“Omar Khayyam as a Russian poet: Translation and Appropriation”

#### **KHAYYAM AND MUSIC**

Chair: Sunil Sharma (Boston University)

16.30 Rokus de Groot, (University of Amsterdam)

“Khayyam’s Musical Legacy in The Netherlands”

17.00 Gabrielle van den Berg, (Leiden University)

“Omar Khayyam and the Performance of Quatrains in Central Asia”

17.30 Amirhoseyn Pourjavady (University of Tehran)

“Umar Khayyam on the Science of Music”

**19.00 Dinner at De Grote Beer, Rembrandtstraat 27 for the conference participants**

## Day Two: Tuesday 7 July 2009

### KHAYYAM, PHILOSOPHER, POET, SCIENTIST

- Chair: Gabrielle van den Berg (Leiden University)
- 09.30 Jan Hogendijk, (University of Utrecht)  
"Khayyam and Isfahani Geometrical Art"?
- 10.00 Mohammad Bagheri (University of Tehran)  
"Between Tavern and Madrasa: Umar Khayyam the Scientist"
- 10.30 Francois de Blois (SOAS)  
"The mathematician Omar al-Khayyami and his rebirth as the  
(fictitious) poet Omar Khayyam"

### 11.00 Coffee and tea

### KHAYYAM, THE POET

- Chair: Asghar Seyed-Gohrab (Leiden University)
- 11.30 Nasrollah Pourjavady (University of Tehran)  
"The Message of the Pot"
- 12.00 Sunil Sharma (Boston University)  
"The Birth of a Poet: 'Umar Khayyam in Biographical Dictionaries  
and Anthologies"
- 12.30 Charles Melville (University of Cambridge) / Firuza  
Abdullaeva (Oxford University) to be announced

### 13.00 Lunch

### OMAR IN ARABIC, PERSIAN AND TURKISH LITERARY TRADITIONS

- Chair: Firuza Abdullaeva (University of Oxford)
- 14.00 Sytske Sötemann (Independent scholar)  
"Quatrains of Omar Khayyam in Turkish and Turkish quatrains"
- 14.30 Jan Just Witkam (Leiden University)  
"Ahmed Rami and his Arabic Translation of the Ruba'iyat of  
Khayyam"

### 15.00 Coffee and tea

- 15.30 Asad Jaber (Leiden University)  
"I came like Water, and like Wind I Go"
- 16.00 Asghar Seyed-Gohrab (Leiden University)  
"'Wash me in wine when I go': The Ethics of Khayyam's Quatrains  
and their Social Implications"
- 16.30 Concluding remarks: Christine van Ruymbeke & Asghar

Seyed-Gohrab



*Dr. Seyed-Gohrab and His Family at the Court of the Shah of Persia*

July 2009  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

OMAR KHAYYAM, FITZGERALD AND THE RUBAIYAT  
CONFERENCE

In Memoriam Peter Avery, OBE.

*Registration to the conference for non-participants:  
The fee (lunch and accommodation excluded) to attend the  
two days is £25;  
The fee (lunch and accommodation excluded) per day is £15.*

Thursday 9th July – Winstanley Theatre, Trinity College  
9.30-10.00 Registrations

10.00-11.00 HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT

(Chair: Dr Asghar Seyed-Gohrab, Leiden University, The Netherlands)

G. Garrard (Indep. Scholar): "Edward Heron-Allen's Analysis of FitzGerald's Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam and its legacy"

M. Kaiserlian (Indiana Univ., USA): "The Imagined Elites of the Omar Khayyam Club"

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-13.00 CLOSE-READING OF THE POEM, I

(Chair: Prof. Adrian Poole, Cambridge University)

R. Douglas-Fairhurst (Oxford Univ., UK): "FitzGerald's Timelines"

D. Karlin (Sheffield Univ., UK): "Much Ado About Nothing in the Rubaiyat"

E. Gray (Columbia Univ., USA): "A Blind Understanding: Making Sense of the Rubaiyat"

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 CLOSE READING OF THE POEM, II

(Chair: Anna Buckland, Cambridge University)

M. Simidchieva (York Univ., Toronto, Canada): "Recasting Persian Poetry: FitzGerald's Rubaiyat as a vehicle of modernity?"

C. Decker (Nevada Univ., USA): "FitzGerald's Incomplete Unrest"

T. Briggs (Retired scholar): "Poems of the Three Pessimists: the Similar Lives and Different destinies of Thomas Gray, Edward FitzGerald and A.E. Housman"

**17.30 Key-note address (Chair Professor Charles Melville, Cambridge University)**

**Professor Dick Davis (Austin Univ., USA): "Too good a Poem to be faithful?"**

Friday 10th July, Winstanley Theatre, Trinity College

9.30 – 11.00 THE RECEPTION OF THE POEM

(Chair: Dr Christine van Ruymbeke, Cambridge University)

F. Abdullaeva & C. Melville (Oxford Univ. & Cambridge Univ., UK):

"The Russian Khayyam"

T. Shurgaia (Tbilisi Univ., Georgia): "The Translation of Omar Khayyam's Poetry into Georgian – a touchstone for translators"

A. Drury (Princeton Univ., USA): "Some of the Glories of the Sole": The Rubaiyat and FitzGerald's Skeptical American Parodists"

11.00- 11.30 Coffee

11.30- 13.00 THE INFLUENCE ON ENGLISH LITERATURE, I

(Chair: Dr Adelene Vaninskaya, Cambridge University)

A. Talib (Oxford Univ., UK): "Getting away with poetry: Le Galienne's Paraphrase and the Limits of Translation"

C. Wilmer (Cambridge Univ., UK): "The Rubaiyat as a Victorian Poem"

P. Loloi (Indep. Scholar): "The Vogue of the English Rubaiyat and Dedicatory poems in Honour of Khayyam and FitzGerald"

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 THE INFLUENCE ON ENGLISH LITERATURE, II and THE EDITIONS OF THE POEM

(Chair: Dr Gabrielle van den Berg, Leiden University)

E. Behtash (Chahabar Univ., Iran): "The Reception of FitzGerald's Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam by the Victorians"

W. Martin & S. Mason (Indep. Scholars): "The Illustration of FitzGerald's Rubaiyat, and its contribution to enduring popularity"

J. Drew (Indep. Scholar): "The Dog and the Mongoose: The story of the 1862 Madras edition of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam"



*The woman and the leopard in the  
Parisian fashion of the 1920s.*



– persbericht –

## Omar Khayyam

*Muziek op teksten van de Perzische wiskundige/schrijver/filosoof/dichter*

Nederlands Kamerkoor

o.l.v. Klaas Stok

*Aan het begin van het concert en na de pauze zal de schrijver **Kader Abdolah** een inleiding houden over zijn liefde voor Omar Khayyám.*

Programma rondom Ghiyath al-Din Abu'l-Fath Umar ibn Ibrahim Al-Nisaburi al-Khayyami, beter bekend als Omar Khayyám (±1048–±1123), de beroemde en mystieke Perzische wiskundige, astronoom, filosoof, schrijver en dichter.

Van Omar Khayyam wordt ondermeer beweerd dat hij duizend vierregelige verzen schreef. Zijn werk werd al in de 19e eeuw vertaald, waardoor het ook in het westen bekendheid kreeg. In het westen is hij vooral bekend door het werk “The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám” dat door Edward FitzGerald naar het Engels vertaald werd. Khayyams teksten worden door velen tot het soefisme gerekend, een mystieke stroming binnen de islam. Drie werken van dit programma werden voor het Nederlands Kamerkoor geschreven. Lex van Delden schreef zijn Rubáiyát 61 jaar geleden op uitnodiging van dirigent Felix de Nobel. Rokus de Groot en de Iraanse componist Kambiz Roshanravan schreven speciaal voor dit programma nieuwe werken, welke nu in juli in wereldpremière gebracht zullen worden.

### programma

Ton de Leeuw (1926-1996)	Car nos vignes sont en fleur (1981)
Friedrich Cerha (*1926)	Zehn Rubaijat des Omar Khajjam (1949/1988)
Rokus de Groot (*1947)	Bee bade mast!–Drunk without wine! (2008/2009) <i>wereldpremière</i> for 12-part mixed vocal ensemble or choir gecomponeerd voor het Nederlands Kamerkoor in opdracht van het Nederlands Fonds voor de Podiumkunsten+
Kambiz Roshanravan (1949)	ASRAR-E-AZAL (2009) <i>wereldpremière</i>
Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)	Canon ‘Oh threats of Hell and hopes of Paradise’ (1945)
Lex van Delden (1919 - 1988)	Rubáiyát opus 19 (1948) for soprano, tenor, mixed choir, 2 piano’s and percussion Helena van Heel, sopraan solo – Albert van Ommen, tenor solo Hans Eijsackers, Sepp Grotenhuis, piano Wim Vos, slagwerk

### Concert

zondag 5 juli - 20.30 uur

**Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan ‘t IJ**

€23 / €19 CJP/Stadspas / €18,50 MIJ-Kaart

reserveren: 020-7882000

**Voor meer informatie:** Nederlands Kamerkoor, tel: 020.5787978 [info@nederlandskamerkoor.nl](mailto:info@nederlandskamerkoor.nl)