



Edward FitzGerald's *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám

A Famous Poem and Its Influence

Edited by William H. Martin and Sandra Mason

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Description

A fascinating examination of the text of Edward FitzGerald's three main versions of the *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám, with commentary on the origins, role and influence of the poem.

The book presents the text of Edward FitzGerald's three main versions of the *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám* in an easily accessible form, together with a non-technical commentary on the origins, role and influence of the poem. The reader is given a chance to evaluate each of FitzGerald's alternative texts as a whole and to examine how the poet presented his texts to the public and annotated the verses. The commentary discusses the lives and work of Khayyám and FitzGerald, and recounts the fascinating story the publication of the *Rubáiyát* and its rise to great fame and popularity, including a look at the wide-ranging spin-offs the poem has generated in art, music and other fields. The editors use the latest research to analyze the poem's worldwide influence during the 150 years since its first appearance and the continuing relevance of the poem in the world of the 21st century.

Readership: The book will be useful to students learning about the *Rubáiyát* and to general readers curious about the *Rubáiyát* and its position in the literary and social history of the past 150 years. It will also be an excellent gift for lovers of the *Rubáiyát*.

Contents

Introduction; Acknowledgements; List of Illustrations; Part 1. Edward FitzGerald's *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*; A Note on the Texts; First Edition (1859); Second Edition (1868); Fourth Edition (1879); Edward FitzGerald's Notes; Edward FitzGerald's Prefaces; Part 2. The *Rubáiyát*, Its Story and Its Influence; Omar Khayyám and his *Rubáiyát*; Edward FitzGerald and his *Rubáiyát*; The Poem Itself; How the *Rubáiyát* Became Popular; Worldwide Spread and Influence; Exploitation in Many Forms; Relevance to the Modern Day; Notes to Part 2; Part 3. Further Notes and References; The Texts Presented – Editors' Notes; Quatrain Numbers in the *Rubáiyát*; Note References in the *Rubáiyát*; Glossary of Names and Terms; Further Reading and Online Resources; Index

About the Editors

Bill Martin and Sandra Mason are independent researchers with a long-standing interest in the *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*, particularly the interpretation of these quatrains by Edward FitzGerald. They have a substantial collection of different editions of the *Rubáiyát* and associated material, and they recently published a book on the numerous illustrated versions of FitzGerald's *Rubáiyát* entitled *The Art of Omar Khayyám: Illustrating FitzGerald's Rubáiyát* (IB Tauris, 2007). They were actively involved in creating exhibitions and other projects to celebrate the FitzGerald anniversaries in 2009 as a Year of the *Rubáiyát*.

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