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AIPS 2013 Summer Fellowship Report

I am happy to report that I was able to use my time in Pakistan as I had intended. My proposal to locate the *Pakhtun*, the Pashto journal begun by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan as the voice of the Khudai Khidmatgar movement, was much more successful than I had anticipated. I was hoping to unearth a few copies through private collections, as the journal had been officially banned by the Pakistan government in the 1950's, but it was fortunate timing that a trove of the journals were donated to quite recently to the Pashto Academy at Peshawar University. This is the first publicly accessible collection to be available since the journal was banned. I was therefore able to make quite extensive copies of the materials I hope to eventually work on.

I also found a recent graduate who had just completed his dissertation on the history of the *Pakhtun* journal. Although he does not have many original copies he did have a large collection of copies which he had painstakingly collected from different private sources over the years. I met with him and saw some of the material he had, but as it was towards the end of my stay in Pakistan I was not able to avail myself of all that he possessed. I hope to do so at a future date though, and have made a valuable contact with whom I can discuss many questions about the journal in the future.

Finally, I was able to get a hold of only one recording of Abdul Ghaffar Khan's original speeches—and that too in Urdu rather than in Pashto. That was a bit disappointing, as I was hoping that the Baacha Khan Center in Peshawar would be able to give me more of his recordings. However, according to them, the speeches were not organized in a way or in a format that could be shared. Which, I think, was more a politically oriented statement rather than a scholarly one, unfortunately. I can probably pursue this further in my next trip to Pakistan as well, if I go about it via personal contacts rather than directly going to the center. A valuable lesson learned on this first trip for my larger research project which I will pursue over the next few years.

I wish to once again thank AIPS for giving me this opportunity to begin research upon what I hope to eventually use towards my dissertation project.