

Dayal Singh's statue shifted or stolen?

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18.2.05

LAHORE: Was the statue of Dayal Singh Majithia stolen from the Dayal Singh Library or is it still there, is a question, which has plagued many people after a daily newspaper claimed that the statue had been shifted to an unknown place.

However, library officials maintained that the statue was in the library. A marble statue of Sardar Dayal Singh Majithia was placed in the corridor of Dayal Singh Library. Dayal Singh, a wealthy philanthropist, had founded the Dayal Singh College and Library and was also the owner of the Dayal Singh Mansion on The Mall.

The paper claimed that Dayal

Singh's sculpture had been stolen and sold at a lucrative price, such as the sculptures of the Earl of Mayo, Mayo Hospital's founder and a famous philanthropist, and Sir Ganga Ram, the engineer of modern Lahore, were stolen.

A library official, who asked not to be named, told Daily Times that the statue had to be moved to make room for new books. He confirmed, "The statue is in the library."

Asked why it could not be kept in one place, the official said that the chief librarian should be asked this question. The chief librarian was not available for comment.

Three sculptures were prominent in reminding the people of their colonial past; the sculpture of

Alfred Woolner, the vice chancellor of the Punjab University (1928-1936), still stands at The Mall in front of the Punjab University building. Queen Victoria's statue, which was placed in the pavilion of the assembly chambers, was removed in September 1951 and displayed at the Lahore Museum. The marble pavilion of the assembly now displays a Quran. A statue of King Edward VII riding a horse was displayed near King Edward Medical College but at present its whereabouts are unknown. A statue of Lala Lajpat Rai, a famous politician, was displayed in front of Gol Bagh, now known as Nasir Bagh. The whereabouts of Rai's statue are also unknown.