

Lahore

The buildings of the



Photos & text
by Yasir Nisar

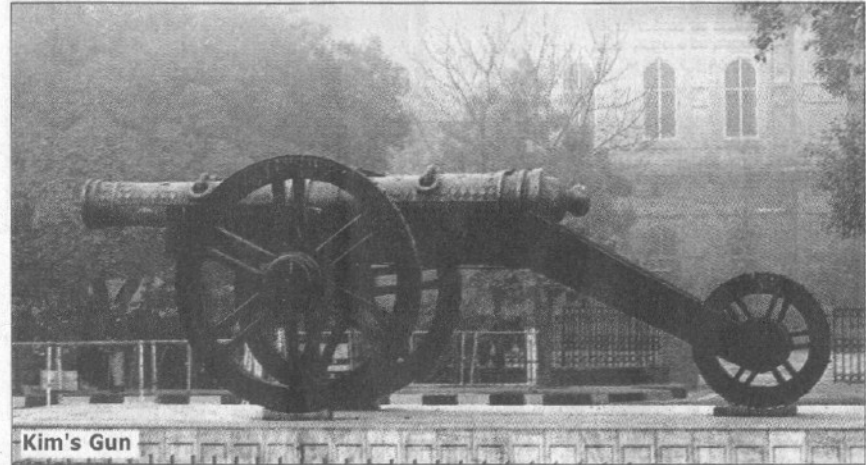
A cultural, intellectual, musical, literary and humanistic evolution has consequently led to the fermentation of this rich brew we call Lahore

LAHORE

is mysterious, it is romantic, and some describe it as a "melancholy picture of fallen splendour" but in the words of Empress Noor Jahan, it is paradise. She said, "I have purchased Lahore with my life. By giving my life for Lahore, I have actually purchased another paradise."

The city we know today has been through a cultural, intellectual, musical, literary and humanistic evolution, which has consequently led to the fermentation of this rich brew we call Lahore. Few cities of the world, if indeed any, can lay claim to such a wonderful past or present. Lahore is known not only for its cultural hub of activities, but also for its beautiful architecture, injected by colonial and Mughal empires of the past. In addition to all the glory, there lies the Mall Road, which is the eternal artery of Lahore. The Mall has a prominent place in the hearts of the British as they constructed many great buildings in Mughal-Gothic style. Today, The Mall presents a cultural mix of architectures, starting from the Government College University to the Town Hall, the National College of Arts to the Lahore Museum and the Punjab University Old Campus, the Tollinton Market to the newly established Food Street. On a stroll through the Mall, one can't help notice the difference in the architecture. It still is one of the most important and busiest roads in the city.

Monuments on The Mall include the General Post Office (GPO), Lahore High Court



Kim's Gun

The Mall has a prominent place in the hearts of the British as they constructed many great buildings in the Mughal-Gothic style. Today, it presents a cultural mix of architectures, starting from the Government College University to the Town Hall, the National College of Arts to the Lahore Museum and the Punjab University Old Campus, the Tollinton Market to the newly established Food Street. It is still one of the most important and busiest roads in the city

Museum, Tollinton Market, Shahdin Manzil and the YMCA building.

The Tollinton Market is one of the most important buildings, which has now been restored due to its importance in the Colonial period. It was so named because of the presence of the Punjab Public Library housed in Wazir Khan's Baradari. This building was built to house the first important exhibition of Punjab's arts and crafts. This building is of great significance in tracing the urban history of Lahore as it was in Tollinton Market, that the first major exhibition in 1864 was held. For decades, it served the city as a market, accommodating small stalls stocking a variety of daily provisions.

The Lahore Museum located just besides the National College of Arts is a distinct and impressive Anglo Mughal edifice. The building was constructed as a memorial of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria held in 1887, and financed through a special public fund raised on the occasion. The Lahore Museum is one of the most remarkable museums in Pakistan. Its grand entrance, framed by a white marble portico pro-

designed to set off the valuable displays.

A lot of historically important buildings from Regal Chowk to the Provincial Assembly were built by the native merchant princes in the late 19th and early 20th century. Among these buildings include the Dawar building, Dhoni Chand Building, Jan Muhammad Building, Sir Ganga Ram Building, Dayal Singh Mansion, Ahmad Mansion and Ghulam Rasool Building. Some of these buildings are now being taken up for restoration by the local administration and it is hoped that soon The Mall will be able to regain some of its old glory.

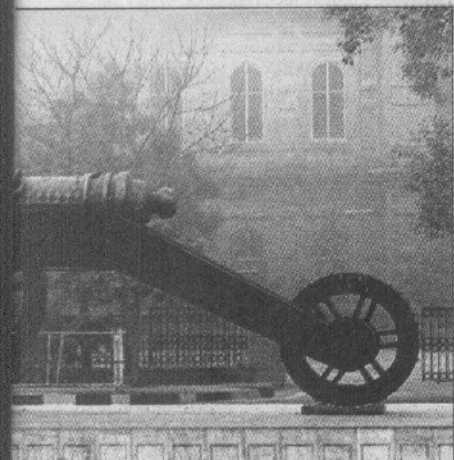
The Shahdin Manzil is located at the corner of the Chairing Cross and is known for its classical proportioning system of the Golden Mean, where each element from the overall height of the building to the smallest window-pane has to be a specific size. It stands testimony to the memory of its owner, the first Muslim judge of the Lahore High Court - Justice Shahdin Humayun and substantiates Lahore's claim as a centre of academic and cultural excellence. Unfortunately many his-

ALFRED
WOOLNER
1878-1936

A GREAT ANDY

of the

British Raj

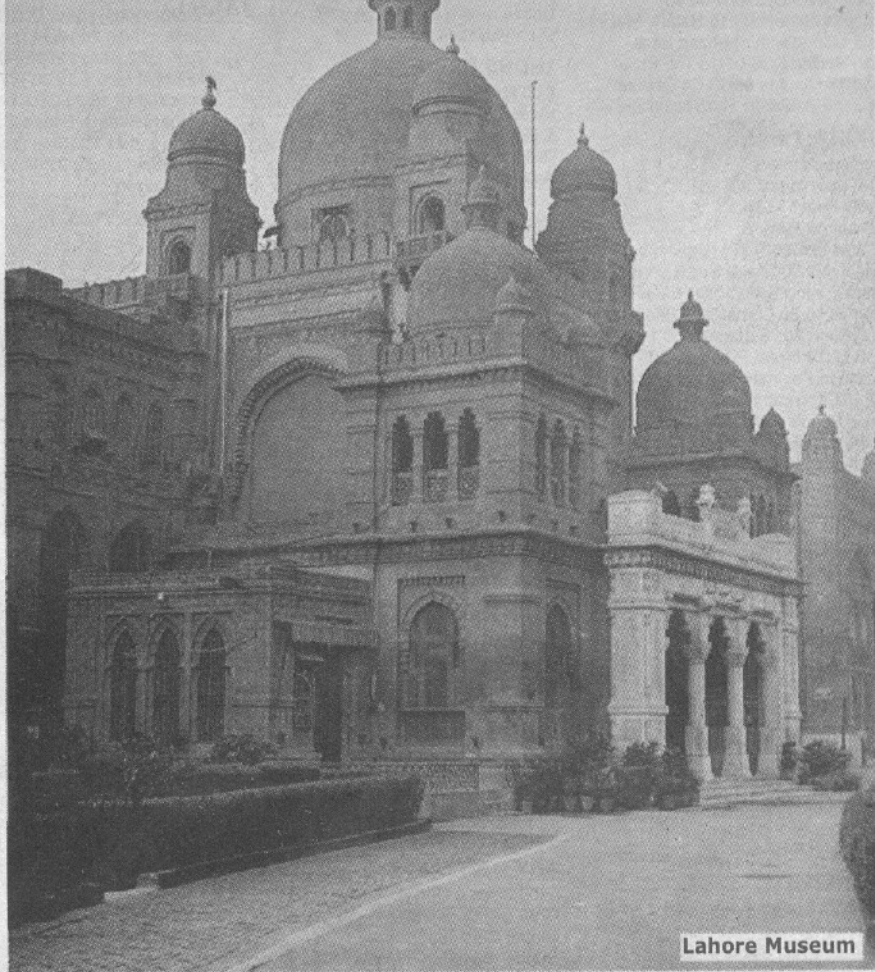


ce in the hearts of the British as
buildings in the Mughal-Gothic
cultural mix of architectures,
College University to the Town
Arts to the Lahore Museum and
ampus, the Tollinton Market to
Street. It is still one of the most
siest roads in the city

designed to set off the valuable displays.

A lot of historically important buildings from Regal Chowk to the Provincial Assembly were built by the native merchant princes in the late 19th and early 20th century. Among these buildings include the Dawar building, Dhoni Chand Building, Jan Muhammad Building, Sir Ganga Ram Building, Dayal Singh Mansion, Ahmad Mansion and Ghulam Rasool Building. Some of these buildings are now being taken up for restoration by the local administration and it is hoped that soon The Mall will be able to regain some of its old glory.

The Shahdin Manzil is located at the corner of the Charing Cross and is known for its classical proportioning system of the Golden Mean, where each element from the overall height of the building to the smallest window-pane has to be a specific size. It stands testimony to the memory of its owner, the first Muslim judge of the Lahore High Court - Justice Shahdin Humayun and substantiates Lahore's claim as a centre of academic and cultural excellence. Unfortunately many historical buildings have either been destroyed or are waiting to be destroyed, only to be replaced by a multi storey plaza. ■



Lahore Museum



Tollinton Market