



**Archives of
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**Catalogue
of
The Papers of Kuntha Jain**



ASHOKA
UNIVERSITY

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P.O. Rai, Sonapat – 131029, Haryana (India)



Kuntha Jain
(1917-2010)

Kuntha Jain, a distinguished playwright, author and poet was born on 12th October 1917 at Bihari village, Muzaffarnagar District, Uttar Pradesh, India. Her educational journey took her through Delhi and Lahore, where she demonstrated exceptional academic prowess, culminating in a B.A. (Hons.) in English Literature from Hindu College, University of Delhi. She married Lakshmi Chandra Jain, a writer and journalist in 1934.

In 1938, she attained a Bachelor of Teaching degree from Punjab University and assumed the role of Headmistress at the Teachers' Training College, Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Lahore until 1943. Her significant contributions to the institution's development and recognition as a premier teachers' training centre were widely acknowledged. In addition to her academic pursuits, Kuntha actively participated in India's freedom struggle.

She became Secretary of the newly established High School in Dalmianagar, Bihar, and introduced science teaching and orchestrated cultural activities for the families of officers and workers, 1943-1954. In 1955, she relocated to Calcutta (now Kolkata) as Secretary of the esteemed cultural organization 'Anamika', which garnered national acclaim for its pioneering efforts in staging plays and dance dramas by contemporary Indian authors and poets in Hindi. Furthermore, she held the position of President at the organization 'Manisha', directing a program of songs written and composed by Rabindranath Tagore, translated from Bangla into Hindi. She founded the organization 'Rachna' and served as President of the All India Women's Writers' Conference ('Lekhika Sangh'), and founder member of 'Samvad'.

Kuntha, as a prolific writer, contributed scripts for dramas and ballets based on works by recipients of the Bharatiya Jnanpith Award, and maintained a consistent presence as a contributor to esteemed journals in Hindi and English.

Her published works include *Vardhman Rupayan* (1975), *Mahapran Bahubali* (second edition 2018), and poems *Ananya* (1998). She edited *Parinay Geetika*, *Shaishvankan*, and also translated a Pictorial Biography of the scientist C.V. Raman from English into Hindi.

She passed away on 10th November 2010.



CATALOGUE OF THE PAPERS OF KUNTHA JAIN

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CATALOGUE OF THE PAPERS OF KUNTHA JAIN

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Years/ Details</u>	<u>Comments</u>
I. ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS		
1	<u>1927-1938 & 1984</u>	
	University degrees, certificates, marksheets and list of awardees of university scholarship and medals. Also, includes certificate of Vernacular Lower Middle Examination for Girls, United Provinces, certificate of appreciation of Art for completing the four-month course from National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.	Degrees, certificates, attested and true copies/ English and Hindi
2	<u>1928-1943</u>	
	Academic letters of recommendation from the principals and professors of Hindu College, Delhi, Indraprastha Girls Intermediate College, Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram Training College and Girls High School, Lahore. Also, includes a note from Tony Greenwood (Oxford Debating Society), citation and felicitation by Sargodha Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, and farewell address given by the students of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Lahore.	Holographs, autographs, and copies/ English
II. LITERARY ACTIVITIES		
1	<u>1931-1983</u>	
	Papers relating to various activities of Kuntha Jain as sub editor (Hindi section) of Hindu College magazine, and <i>Milan</i> (magazine of Jain Mahila Milan, New Delhi) secretary of Anamika, member of Ghalib Centenary Celebration Committee, and Lekhika Sangh (Women Writers' Conference). Includes letters from J.B.S. Haldane, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar', and editor of the <i>Illustrated Weekly of India</i> regarding an interview on the principal tenets of the Jains, activities of 'Anamika' organization, and contributing translation of story 'Conflict of consciences', 'Gadal', etc. Also, includes draft of the syllabus prepared by Kuntha Jain for teaching of creative writing, press clippings and invitations for organizing and attending meetings and conferences.	Holographs, Autographs, Press clippings, cards, and printed material/ Hindi, and English

2

1975-1981

Papers relating to the performance of ballets written by Kuntha Jain on the life of Bhagwan Mahavir as *Vardhmaan Roopaayan* and *Mahapran Bahubali* by the Ahimsa International at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi and the Shri Ram Kala Kendra at Shravanbelagola. Includes correspondence with Rajendra Kumar Jain, Charu Kirti Maharaj, Sitaram Seksaria, Bhisham Sahni, Nemi Chandra Jain, Kailash Vajpeyi, Narendra Sharma, V.V. Karanth, and others regarding selection of *Vardhmaan Roopayaan* for Rishabdev Sangeet Puraskar, and presentation of the ballet. Also, includes reviews, critics and opinions on the play and its performances by Nemi Chandra Jain, Prabhakar Machwe, Sitaram Seksaria, Yashpal Jain, Jainendra Kumar, Shanta Serbjeet Singh and others, certificate of award granted for best Hindi book by the Jodhpur University Book Fair, felicitation and citation presented by Jain Bhajan Pracharak Sangh.

Letters, booklets, brochures, typed and printed material/ Hindi and English/

3

July 1993-October 1998

Papers concerning financial assistance for translation and publication of C.V. Raman: A Pictorial Biography in Hindi (originally published in English by the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore). Includes correspondence exchanged by Kuntha Jain with the Director of South Asian Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Executive Secretary of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, Director of the Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi. Also, includes estimates, grant-in-aid, utilisation certificate, and agreements made between Central Hindi Directorate and Praveen Prakashan, New Delhi.

Autographs, Holographs, circulars, stamp papers, etc./ Hindi and English/

4

1997-1999

Papers relating to the publication of S.H. Vatsyayan Agyeya's poems, translated into English by Kuntha Jain. Contains correspondence with Vidya Niwas Mishra, as well as Roopa & Co. Publishers and Minerva Press Publishers, New Delhi concerning the publication of the book. Also, includes a notebook, some poems that 'Agyeya' translated himself, an article in memory of Agyeya written by Ila Dalmia Koirala (published in Jansatta on August 16, 1998), and a copy of Agyeya's poetry book *Angan Ke Par Dwar* published by Bharatiya Jnanpith Prakashan (Sixth Edition: June 1977, 85 pages).

Autograph, Handwritten, typed and printed/ Hindi, and English/ 46+85 pp.

5

1997-1999

Papers relating to *Ananya* – a book of poems by Kuntha Jain. Includes letters from Kanti, S.N. Choudhary, and Ila regarding the book. Also, includes preface of the book written by Kuntha Jain, and copy of a letter (handwritten draft) to Prabhakar Shrotriya of Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad for publishing a review by Pramila Sharma in *Vagartha* (copy of review is available).

Holographs, handwritten, and copies/ Hindi/ 16 pp.

III. GENERAL ARTICLES/ STORIES

1

1939

A short story on Nirala and Neera

Handwritten/ Published in *Vishwa Bandhu*, Lahore/ Hindi/ 5 pp.

2

13 April 1941

'Jeevan Aur Sahitya' – an article

Published in *Vishwa Bandhu* daily newspaper/ Clippings/ Hindi/ 2 pp.

3

25 October 1964

'Amamika Dwara Chhapte Chhapte Aur Maada Cactus' – an article on the presentation of 'Chhapte Chhapte' and 'Maada Cactus' play at Anamika Theatre.

Published in *Dharmyug*/ Hindi/ 2 pp.

4

June 1967

'Srjan-Prakriya: Stephen Spender Ki Drishti' – an article

Published in *Gyanodaya* monthly/ Publisher: Bharatiya Jnapith, Kashi/ Hindi/ (pp. 14-16 & 156-60) 7 pp.

5

22 March 1970

'Ajay Nadi Ke Tat Par' – an article

Published in *Dharmyug*/ Torn (damaged)/ Hindi

6

14 March 1976

'The Jains: The Unobtrusive Community' – an article

Published in the *Hindustan Times*/ Clippings/ English/ 2 pp.

- 7 February 1983
 'Apne Apne Dweep' – a short story
 Published in *Kadambini* monthly/ A publication of Hindustan Times/ Hindi/ pp. 75-79 & 81.
- 8 September 1983
 'Chitrakar Sarvjeet Singh Ka Himalaya Chitran' – an article
 Published in *Navneet* Hindi digest/ Handwritten and typed drafts are also available/ pp. 84-87.
- 9 1-15 December 1984
 'Dard Ka Naata' – a story
 Published in *Sarika* fortnightly, 24; 370/ Hindi/ pp. 56-58.
- 10 April 1988
 'Vikat Chunoutiyan: Prayog Ke Saathi' – an article on the poetic drama presentation of literary works awarded by Bharatiya Jnanpith
 Published in *Sarika* magazine/ Hindi/ pp. 70-74 (5 pp.).
- IV. PLAY/BALLET/DRAMA WRITINGS**
- 1 March 1960
 Notes on a play in Hindi along with an intriguing storyline that includes compelling characters and dialogues.
 PDF (Handwritten draft)/ Hindi/ 10 pp.
- 2 01 July 1975
 'Maan Stambha' – Radio play broadcasted over AIR
 Published in *Akashvani* fortnightly magazine of the AIR/ Hindi/ pp. 492-500.
- 3-7 Undated
 3) Script of a play in Hindi depicting the storyline during the Chola era (PDF/Typed/ Hindi/ 18 pp.).
 4) Script depicting a prologue and end sequences of a play in Hindi (Handwritten/ Hindi/ 6 pp.).
 5) Script for ballet (dance drama) on Radha. Includes

- manuscripts and notes (Handwritten/ Hindi/).
- 6) Script and notes for Ballet on Mahavir as Mahavir Roopayan Dance Drama (Typed/ Hindi/ 56+6 pp.).
 - 7) 'Apne – Apne Dweep' – Radio drama script (Typed/ Hindi/ 15 pp.).

8-12

Undated

Plays written for children entitled:

- 8) 'Kaleje Ka Kaanta'
- 9) 'Gantantra Divas'
- 10) 'Rang-Birangi Duniya'
- 11) 'Purani Chhavi, Nai Chhatayen'
- 12) Untitled (first page missing).

Handwritten and typed/
Hindi

V. WORKS AND TRANSLATION

1

1962

Parinaya-Geetika – poems compiled by Rama Jain and Kuntha Jain.

First Edition/ Jnapeeth Lokodaya Granthmala: Hindi Granthank-161/ Published by Bharatiya Jnapeeth, Kashi/ Hindi/ 140 pp.

2

19 May 1963

'Gadal' –a Hindi story by Rangeya Raghava. Translated by Kuntha Jain.

Published in the *Illustrated Weekly of India*/ Cuttings (along with 3 typed drafts)/ 5 pp.

3

29 September 1963

'Conflict of Conscience' – translation of Rangeya Raghava's Hindi story into English by Kuntha Jain.

Published in the *Illustrated Weekly of India* (along with typed draft)/ English/ pp. 53-55.

4

December 1963

'Van Gogh Ka Ek Avismarniya Patra' – translated by Kuntha Jain

Published in *Gyanodaya* monthly/ Publisher: Bharatiya Jnapith, Kashi/ pp. 33-37 & 184-87.

5

April 1966

'Srjansheel Prayojan' – text of a meeting with Ayn Rand.
Translated by Kuntha Jain

Published in *Gyanodaya*
monthly/ Publisher:
Bharatiya Jnapith, Kashi/
pp. 7-8 & 167-68.

6

May 1967

'Naazli Noor: Hum Akele' – Yuva Lekhan-4 (four poems
and one new story of Naazli Noor). Translated by Kuntha
Jain

Published in *Gyanodaya*
monthly/ Publisher:
Bharatiya Jnapith, Kashi/
pp. 114-115 & 1117-124.

7

1969

Fifty Poems from Chidambara: Sumitranandan Pant –
translated by Debabrata Mukhopadhyaya, Kuntha Jain,
Shubha Dasgupta, and Alokeranjan Dasgupta

First Edition/ General
Editor: Lakshmichandra
Jain/ Published by
Bharatiya Jnapith,
Calcutta/ English/ 140 pp.

8

1969

'Gazal by Ghalib' – translation by Kuntha Jain

Published in a souvenir on
the occasion of Ghalib
Centenary Celebration by
West Bengal State
Anjuman Tarqqi-e-Urdu
Hind, Calcutta/ English/ 1
p.

9

1975

Vardhamaan Roopaayan (Poetic Play) by Kuntha Jain

First Edition/ Lokodaya
Series: Title No 392/
Published by Bharatiya
Jnapith, New Delhi/
Hindi/ 161 pp.

10

16 November 1986

'Give Me Your Tears' – short story by Rajinder Singh Bedi.
Translated from the Urdu by Kuntha Jain.

Published in the
Illustrated Weekly of India
(along with typed draft)/
English/ 4 pp.

- 11 1993
Mahapran Bahubali (Poetic Drama) by Kuntha Jain. Second Edition/ Published by Bharatiya Jnanpith, Delhi/ Hindi/ 70 pp.
- 12 1997
Ananya – some poems of Kuntha Jain First Edition/ Published by Sheena Prakashan, New Delhi/ Hindi/ 75 pp.
- 13 1998
C.V. Raman Ek Chitrit Jeevane – Hindi translation of *C.V. Raman: A Pictorial Biography* by Kuntha Jain Published by Praveen Prakashan, New Delhi/ Hindi/ 192 pp.
- 14-17 Undated
 14) Draft manuscript of English translation of S.H. Vatsyayan Agyeya's poems by Kuntha Jain. Handwritten and typed/ English and Hindi
 15) Translation of Pablo Neruda's poems (Handwritten/ Hindi).
 16) 'Away from Home ['Pravasi'] – a Hindi story by Rangeya Raghav. English translation by Kuntha Jain (Typed drafts (2 copies)/ English/ 42 pp.).
 17) 'His Tiffin' – a story translated into English by Kuntha Jain (Typed drafts (2 copies)/ English/ 13 pp.).

VI. BOOK REVIEWS

- 1 20 September 1964
 'Teen Mahatvapurn Sansmaranatmak Kritiyan' – books review of Jagdish Chandra Mathur *Dus Tasveeren*, N.V. Gadgil's *Mere Sansmaran* and Govind Das's novel *Uthal-Puthal*. Published in *Dharmyug*/ Hindi/ pp. 35 (1 p.).
- 2 September-December 1998
 'Har Istithi Avasar Kaise Banati Hai' – review of Kiran Bedi's book. Published in *Sanchetana*, 146: 29, No. 3-4/ Hindi/ pp. 64-66 (3 pp.).

VII. ARTICLES ON INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITIES

- 1 04 July 1965
'Shi-Do: Kagaz Sadhana Aur Vriksh Ki Aatma Ka Sutra' – an article
Published in *Dharmyug/* Cuttings/ Hindi/ 2 pp.
- 2 23 February 1970
'Kavi Jayadev Ki Janmabhoomi – Kendu Bilva Aur Poush Sankranti Ka Mela' – an article on great poet Jayadev
Typed copy for publishing in *Dharmyug/* Hindi/ 6 pp.
- 3 02 January 1972
'Drashya-Kala Mein Uday Shankar Ka Naya Prayog: Shankarscope' – an article by Kuntha Jain
Published in *Dharmyug/* Hindi/ 2 pp.
- 4 16-22 February 1986
'Chintamani Nagesh Ramachandra Rao: Vigyan Jinke Liye Kavita Hai' – an article
Published in *Dinman/* Clippings/ Hindi/ 2 pp.
- 5 1993
'Atma Bal Ke Dhani Bahubali' – an article
Published in a souvenir for the celebrations of Bahubali Mahotsav by Akhil Bharatiya Mahila Samiti, Jaipur/ Hindi/ pp. 19-20.
- 6-11 Undated
6) 'Anjo' – an article on cousin sister (Handwritten/ English/ 5 pp.).
7) Article on Lakshmi Chandra Jain (Typed/ Hindi/ 2 pp.).
8) An article on Rama Behn (Handwritten and carbon copy/ Hindi/).
9) 'Jagat Ke Mahan Vyaktitva: Ved Vyas' – an article (Typed/ Hindi/ 3 pp.).
10) 'Vigyan Ke Soundarya-Sadhak Padmabhushan Prof. Shivaram Ramseshan' – an article (Handwritten (along with 3 typed copies/ 5 pp.)/ Hindi/ 6 pp.).
11) Draft of an article on Kazi Nazrul Islam (Handwritten/ Hindi/ 13 pp.)

VIII. POEMS

1 Undated

'Tab Aur Ab' – a poem on Jains

Handwritten/ Hindi/ 2 pp.

2 Undated

Poems in English by Kuntha Jain. Includes poems entitled 'God in small thing: Far from big thing', 'Chasm', 'Dhruv: The Polestar', 'Destiny', 'Love' (published in *Femina*), 'Even now books are held in hands – The crutches', 'The locked soul', 'Bleak loneliness', and 'A plunge'.

Typed and handwritten/
English

3-5 Undated

- 3) Mahavir Janmdin Aaya...
- 4) Hum Kaam Ke Gaane Gaate Hain...
- 5) Mein Haari...

Handwritten/ Hindi/ 4 pp.

IX. OTHER DOCUMENTS

1-5 1974-1987/Undated

- 1) Passports of Kuntha Jain (2 passports).
- 2) Brief bio of Kuntha Jain for *Biography India-1981* (1 p.).
- 3) Handmade map of Kuntha Jain's grandparents' house (Haveli) in the village (2 pp.).
- 4) Handmade diagram of family tree (1 p.).
- 5) Some notes on Mirza Ghalib and a few famous stanzas of his poetry (4 pp.).

Hindi, and English

X. OBITUARIES

1 12 November 2000-22 March 2001

Obituaries on the passing away of Kuntha Jain on 10 November 2000. Includes letters of grief and condolences from Saraswati Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi, Dasharath Jain, Lokesh Chandra, Vishnu Prabhakar, Surendra Rampuria, Saroj Goenka, Shyamanand Jalan, Sharan Rani, Karan Singh, S. Ramaseshan, Mahip Singh, Vishnu Kant Shastri, Pratibha Agrawal, R.C. Malhotra, and others. Also, includes emails from Teresa, Jennifer Jarman, J.B. Thompson, and Lizbeth Goodman.

Holographs, autographs,
and emails/ English, and
Hindi/ 36 pp.

XI. PHOTOGRAPHS

(a) Old Photographs

- 1 1932-1933
- Group photograph of the Editorial Board of the *Indraprastha* magazine of the Hindu College, Delhi. From right first row Kanwar (Joint Editor), B.N. Mitra (Sub-Editor, Bengali Section), S.D.S. Gomanpuri (Sub-Editor, Punjabi Section), V.S. Verma (General Editor), S.R. Gupta (Manager). From right second row Amir Mumin-ud-din (Sub-Editor, Urdu Section), S.K. Sen (Principal), A. Bhattacharyya (Professor-in-charge), and Kuntha Jain (Sub-Editor, Hindi Section).
- Black & White/ 15x20 cm
pasted on cardboard 25x30
cm/ 1 p.
- 2 16 November 1933
- Group photo of the British Oxford Debating Team and Delhi University Debating Team. Sitting from left to right: Kuntha Jain, Ram Kishore Ex-Vice Chancellor), A.W.J. Greenwood, K.B. Abdur Rahman (Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University), Jack Jones, R.B.N.K. Sen (Registrar, Delhi University), Chironji Lal Paliwal (President, Reception Committee). Standing fifth from left: Kanwar Lal Sharma.
- Black & White/ 20x28 cm/
1p.
- 3 May 1936
- Kuntha Jain (third from left) with friends (classmates) in Hindu College, University of Delhi.
- Black & White/ 19x15 cm
pasted on cardboard 24x30
cm/ 1 p.
- 4 1938
- Kuntha Jain sitting fifth from left (as Principal, Mahila Mahavidyalay/Teachers Training College, Lahore).
- Black & White/ 22x29 cm/
2+2 pp.

(b) Anamika Natya Mahotsav, Kolkata

1-6

[1958 & 1970]

- 1) Kuntha Jain at Natya Mahotsava organized by Anamika in Kolkata. Sitting with Prithvi Raj Kapoor and others. (1 p.).
- 2) Audience view of Anamika function held in Kolkata (2 pp.).
- 3) Kuntha Jain with famous personalities at Natya Mahotsav, Anamika, Kolkata. From left to right Om Shivpuri (actor), Prithvi Raj Kapoor, Ebrahim Alkazi, Amala Shankar, Kuntha Jain, Uday Shankar, Mamata Shankar (child), Pratibha Agarwal and others. (1 p.).
- 4) Kuntha Jain with Prithvi Raj Kapoor (1 p.).
- 5) Kuntha Jain (Secretary, Anamika) and theatre group with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru at Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi. (21x30 cm/ 1 p.).
- 6) Farewell to Kuntha Jain by Anamika on her leaving Kolkata (1 p.).

Black & White/ Post Card sized

(c) Manisha (women's organization) Program of Tagore's Songs

1-4

[1959]

- 1) Photograph of a function of translation of Tagore's songs translated into Hindi by Kuntha Jain and performed by Manisha – women's organization in Kolkata. On the mike from left Dharam Vira (Governor of West Bengal), and Soumendra Nath Tagore (nephew and critic of Tagore's legacy) (1 p.).
- 2) Soumendra Nath Tagore (nephew and critic of Tagore's legacy), and Sitaram Seksaria speaking on the mic to address the audience at the Manisha function of Tagore's songs (2 pp.).
- 3) Audience view of Manisha function of Tagore's songs translated into Hindi by Kuntha Jain and performed by Manisha – women's organization in Kolkata (1 p.).
- 4) From left to right: Dharam Vira (Governor of West Bengal), Sumendra Nath Tagore (nephew and critic of Tagore's legacy), Sitaram Seksaria at the program of Hindi translation of Tagore's songs organized by Manisha – women's organization in Kolkata (2 pp.)

Black & White/ Post Card sized

(d) Shri Rishabhdev Sangeet Puraskar Samaroh

1

1976

Pics of Shri Rishabhdev Sangeet Puraskar Samaroh in which an award was presented to Kuntha Jain for her book Mahvir Roopayaan.

Black & White/ Contract proof on A4 photo print sheet/ 60 images/ 4 pp.

(e) Portrait of Kuntha Jain/ Misc.

1-3

1986/Undated

- 1) Photograph of Lekhika Sangh Bal Sahitya Seminar held at Triveni Kala Sangam Sabhagar, New Delhi, 14-15 March 1986 (1 p.).
- 2) Kuntha Jain at Book Fair, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (1 p.).
- 3) Portrait photographs of Kuntha Jain (3 pp.).

Sepia and Colour/ Post Card, and Greeting Card sized

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