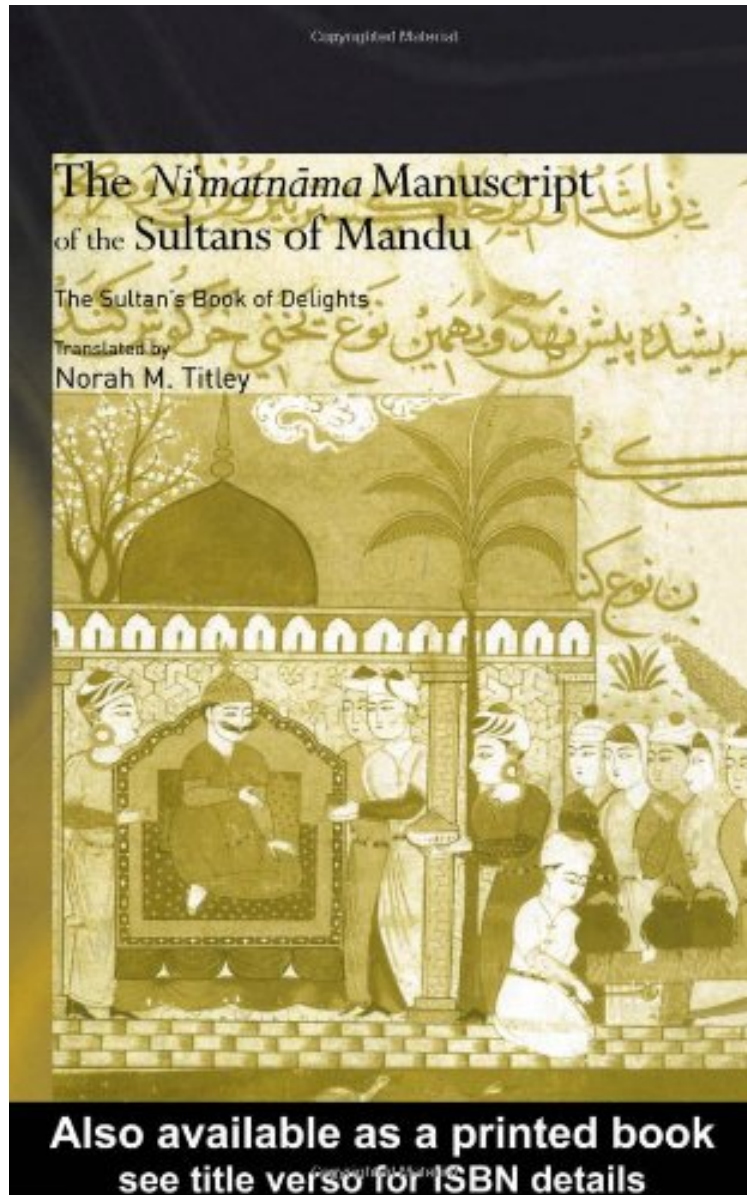


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The Ni'matnama Manuscript of the Sultans of Mandu: The Sultan's Book of Delights (Routledge Studies in South Asia)

Norah M. Titley

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A rare glimpse into courtly cuisine, the precursor Mughlai cuisine. By Dr. Solaiman Ali "The *Nimatnama Manuscript of the Sultans of Mandu: The Sultan's Book of Delights*" provides a rare but very clear and detailed picture of Indo-Islamic courtly cuisine that preceded what is known to us as MUGHLAI CUISINE today. Although Muslim courtly cuisine of the Sultan period is the precursor of Mughlai, the Manuscript deals with Central Asian food of the Turkic rulers. The great fusion/blend of Central Asian, Persian and northern Indian (Hindustani) food that we find in Mughlai today did not yet take place. The only other authoritative source in English translation is *Ain-i-Akbari* (Akbarnama) which is more refined as a document. I curiously read the recipes and enjoy viewing the 20 or so paintings incorporated into the text of the Manuscript. It is also interesting to read Urdu (an older written version of modern Hindi/Urdu) language in its early stages written in Arabic script. The hand-written Manuscript is a great treasure for humanity. Thanks to translator Norah Ridley, Internet and .com. I highly recommend the Manuscript to those who are interested in research on Indo-Islamic courtly cuisine. Dr. Solaiman Ali Technical Report Writing Instructor College of Engineering King Abdulaziz University Jeddah, Saudi Arabia E-mail: m.s.ali.2009@gmail.com

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The *Ni'matnama Manuscript of the Sultans of Mandu: The Sultan's Book of Delights* By Dr. Solaiman Ali The *Ni'matnama Manuscript of the Sultans of Mandu: The Sultan's Book of Delights* is an amazing historical document. It's like the much talked about Emperor Akbar's imperial gazette -- the *Ain-i-Akbari* in Akbarnama written by Abul Fazl Allami. Like no other book, it gives an insight into the pursuits of a Turkish Sultan ruling India. The paintings are wonderful. Besides, *Ni'matnama* illustrates how written Urdu language was way back in the 15th-16th centuries. It's a precious rare manuscript worthy of collection for any personal or public library. Dr. Solaiman Ali King Abdulaziz University

The *Ni'matnama* is a late fifteenth-century book of the recipes of the eccentric Sultan of Mandu (Madhya Pradesh), Ghiyath Shahi, collected and added to by his son and successor, Nasir Shah. It contains recipes for cooking a variety of delicacies and epicurean delights, as well as providing remedies and aphrodisiacs for the Sultan and his court. It also includes important sections on the preparation of betel leaves as well as advice on the logistics of hunting expeditions and warfare. The text provides a remarkable and tantalizing account of rarified courtly life in a fifteenth-century Indian Sultanate region.

About the Author Norah M. Titley is one of the scholars in Britain specialising in the study of Persian language manuscripts and miniature paintings. She began her career in the British Museum's Department of Oriental Manuscripts in 1950 and retired as the British Library's curator of illustrated Persian manuscripts in 1983. Since retiring, she has worked intensively on translating the *Ni'matnama*.