

In this dissertation, an attempt is made to (re)present Maulana Altaf Hussain Hali as a letter writer in the history of Urdu Literature since he has already been an established Urdu poet, critic, biographer and prose-writer. In this thesis, an analysis of Maulana's skills of biography and other literary writings is presented and, in this way, it has been emphasized that he is a very significant personality not only due to his literary works but also his letters. In this thesis, the perspective of Hali's literary era is given along with his contemporaries' commentaries and scholarly and literary achievements. Hali's prose style and poetic thoughts have also been discussed in this thesis and it has been explained as how Hali's prose is different from that of his contemporaries.

A significant feature of this dissertation is that it includes his eighteen unedited letters including two of them unpublished and four unedited writings. The search and quest for such rare works is one among my endeavors in my maiden voyage of research and knowledge. These letters of Maulana would not only add their quantitative strength but also serve as a new discovery and vital sources of research on Hali. This dissertation also reviews the importance of the meanings, criticism and research on Hali's letters. They point towards some very important aspects of Hali's personality besides illuminating Hali's biographical details.