

### Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan

Kinnaird College, the premier women's college in Pakistan, was founded in 1913 by the Zenana and Bible Medical Mission, now called Interserve. Pupils of Kinnaird High School (founded 1864) pleaded to continue their education. so the first Intermediate class (FA) started with Miss Joan McDonald as Principal. BA classes commenced in 1917. The American Presbyterian Mission and the Church Missionary Society joined in 1919 to make Kinnaird a union institution. Others followed. From 1913-22 Kinnaird College was the only women's liberal arts college in the Punjab. The science department was not founded until 1950 - two world wars, lack of finance and partition of the subcontinent were the main hindrances. The student body grew from 6 to 170 by 1951. (By 2003 it was over 2,000). The early students were mainly Christians joined by more and more Hindus. Kinnaird College moved from its first site in and around Kinnaird High School in 1926 to Lake Road, and in 1938 to its present site. In 1932 the Principal, Miss McNair, agonized about moving to Agra where the College had been offered the campus of St. John's College. In the mercy of God this generous offer was declined, and Kinnaird with its beautiful campus was preserved for what was to become Pakistan. The partition of 1947 and the creation of Pakistan brought a dramatic exodus of Hindus and an increasing influx of Muslims. Many harrowing accounts are recorded by students and staff of this terrible time.

Three remarkable principals have left their stamp on Kinnaird College. Miss Isabella McNair, principal 1928 – 50, was a devout Christian from Scotland, and an independent educationalist attached to no society or agency. Her greatest contribution was the way she guided the College in the unsettled months before Independence and into the newly-born country of Pakistan.

Miss Priobala Mangat Rai, principal 1950 – 69, was born in Abbottabad, now in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. Her parents were Christians of Hindu extraction. Priobala began her long association with Kinnaird as a student of History. Obtaining her MA from the University of the Punjab she started teaching History at Kinnaird. In 1942 after further studies in history in the USA at Harvard and Radcliff, she became Vice-Principal of Kinnaird, and in 1945 was designated Principal from the time of Miss McNair's retirement. One of the most gracious of women, she deeply influenced many of her students of whatever background.

Dr. Mira Phailbus, principal 1972 – 2003, presided over the extremely difficult era of nationalization 1972 – 96. Since then she has been engaged in the stages of establishing the Autonomy of the College as a University. Dr. Phailbus taught Geography at the College. Her forebears were Christians from South India. She married Theodore Phailbus, a very well-known Lahore citizen. A remarkable and versatile person, Mira Phailbus has won wide recognition within Pakistan and internationally for her work.

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