

1. GOALS

1A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose, goals, and guiding principles of the Archives, Museum and Research Committee of the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust are:

- The Archives, Museum and Research Committee was officially established in 1993 by Mani Sheriar Irani and the other Meherazad Mandali, and later approved on 9th May 1999 by the Board of Trustees of the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust, Ahmednagar, MS, India for the purpose of safeguarding and preserving for posterity Beloved Avatar Meher Baba's precious articles and the archival records of His life and advent, and for sharing these irreplaceable links to His human form with contemporary and future humanity.
- During His lifetime, Avatar Meher Baba mentioned from time to time, the importance of His personal effects and the things closely associated with Him. On one occasion, He gestured, "You have no idea what just one scrap of My sadra will mean to the world in the future." The care and reverence the Mandali have had for everything and anything pertaining to Him, and their wish to carry out His wishes to the utmost of their ability in order to please Him at all times - as expressed in their letter dated 5th October 1993 - serve as the basic guiding principles for the Archives, Museum and Research Committee for all time.
- It is recognized that the process of sharing will inevitably hasten the deterioration of some types of items. However, the accessibility and availability of these items to contemporary and future humanity is most important, and great care will be taken to make this possible by giving the utmost attention to the delicate balance between sharing and preservation.
- In centuries to come, the things that Avatar Meher Baba touched or used or wore, the pictures and films of Him, the letters He wrote, and other objects and materials bearing the personal imprint of His Humanity will all serve as tangible links for savouring the fragrance of His physical Presence and for remembering His life as Man.

- It is therefore the purpose and primary goal of the Archives, Museum and Research Committee to care for this precious and priceless collection at Meherabad, Meherazad and Meher Nazar (as stated in the Scope of Collection) as lovingly, carefully and professionally as possible, and to ensure its ongoing accessibility and availability to the world for as long as possible.

This Statement of Purpose can never be changed or amended for any reason.

1B. MISSION STATEMENT

In order to pursue and achieve its stated purpose, the mission of the Archives, Museum and Research Committee of the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust is:

- To make every effort to maintain professionally accepted standards and methods for the storage, handling, treatment, care, conservation and preservation of the collection through ongoing research, acquiring help and recommendations from experts, and training assistants and volunteers.
- To provide for the responsible accessibility, sharing and use of the collection through duplication, display, exhibit, education and sharing programmes.
- To provide and maintain adequate storage facilities at Meherabad and Meherazad to safely house and preserve the collection.
- To create an inventory; to create detailed documentation for each item, including recording the Mandali's recollections when possible; and to create and maintain permanent collection records.
- To develop and implement responsible guidelines and procedures for acquisition, access, sharing, and all aspects of collections care.
- To promote communication and education through published circulars that will include updates of Archive, Museum and Research Committee activities, and guidance on the care and preservation of Baba treasures, collection items and archival materials.
- To establish and maintain close supportive links with other repositories of Baba collection items and archival materials in other countries and continents.
- To effectively manage all of the resources concerned with the collections.

- To establish procedures for the periodic evaluation and revision of policies, with the understanding that they should always serve the original stated Purpose and Mission of the Archives, Museum and Research Committee.

This Mission Statement may be amended according to the following guidelines:

- **nothing on this list as of this writing may be altered at any time in the future**

- **activities of the AMRC that become relevant in the future may be added to this list at the suggestion of the AMRC and the approval of the AMBPPCT by majority vote**

1C. SCOPE OF COLLECTION

The following list serves to define the scope of present and future collections of the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust that contribute directly to the Archive, Museum and Research Committee's stated purpose and mission :

- 1. Any collection items referred to as 'Meher Baba Treasures' which include any sacred relics from His physical form and any personal articles or unique items touched or used by Him, which are all priceless and irreplaceable:**
 - a) Avatar Meher Baba's hair, nails and other sacred relics of His physical form.
 - b) Avatar Meher Baba's personal articles, items used by or for Him (clothing, toiletries, medical, etc.).
 - c) Anything else touched or used by Avatar Meher Baba, or used directly for Him.

- 2. Any other collection items or museum objects associated with Meher Baba's Life and Advent, possessing an intrinsic value which cannot be reproduced, including:**
 - a) Furniture and household items that were used by or for Avatar Meher Baba or that existed during His lifetime at Meherabad, Meherazad and Meher Nazar (Khushru Quarters).
 - b) Gifts given to Avatar Meher Baba by masts (known as "mast gifts").
 - c) Selected articles and belongings of the five Perfect Masters (Sai Baba of Shirdi, Babajan, Upasni Maharaj, Tajuddin Baba and Narayan Maharaj) associated with Avatar Meher Baba's advent.

- d) Selected items and materials of the Mandali that are directly associated with their lives with Avatar Meher Baba.
- e) Any furniture and household items at locations other than Meherabad, Meherazad and Meher Nazar that were used by Avatar Meher Baba and are of special importance and significance.

3. Any buildings, structures, grounds and sites associated with Avatar Meher Baba's Life and Advent, as follows:

- a) Avatar Meher Baba's Samadhi, as well as the other historic buildings, structures, grounds and sites at Meherabad, Meherazad and Meher Nazar that were used by Avatar Meher Baba, or that existed during His lifetime (see attachments 5B to 5G).
- b) Any buildings, structures, grounds and sites, at locations other than Meherabad, Meherazad and Meher Nazar that were used by Avatar Meher Baba and are of special importance and significance.

4. Any archival materials documenting the life, activities, teachings and advent of Avatar Meher Baba, and any other associated archival materials which can all be copied, reproduced or reformatted:

- a) Originals or copies of anything Avatar Meher Baba wrote or bearing His signature, and any materials written under His direction, or written/sent to Him during His lifetime.
- b) Originals or copies of all written **source** materials which are by, from, or about those who met Avatar Meher Baba or who were His followers during His lifetime and which are mainly about or related to Avatar Meher Baba's life and teachings or His presence in their lives.
- c) Originals (manuscripts) and archival printed copies of all written **published** works which consist of Avatar Meher Baba's teachings, or His life and advent, or which are mainly about or related to His presence in the lives of those who met Him or who were His followers during His lifetime.

- d) Originals and copies of audio-visual **source** materials (still or moving images and audio recordings) in which Avatar Meher Baba appears or that were recorded in His presence, or are directly associated with His advent, having been photographed, filmed or recorded by those who met Him or in which those who met Him appear; and whose subjects consist of Avatar Meher Baba, His Mandali, or places, events, or topics mainly about or related to His life or His presence in their lives.
- e) Originals and copies of audio-visual **published** materials (compiled or edited still or moving images and audio recordings) which include Avatar Meher Baba's image or audio material recorded in His presence, or are directly associated with His advent, because they include materials photographed, filmed or recorded by those who met Him or in which those who met Him appear; and whose subjects consist of Avatar Meher Baba, His Mandali, or places, events, or topics mainly about or related to His life or His presence in their lives.
- f) **Other** written and audio-visual materials which were accumulated by His disciples and followers during His lifetime as part of His household and office belongings.

This Scope of Collection Statement includes collection items and archival materials currently in the care of the Archives, Museum and Research Committee, on behalf of the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust, as well as items and materials that may be acquired in the future through gifts or bequests made to the AMBPPCT, or requests made by the AMRC on behalf of the AMBPPCT.

This scope of collection statement may be amended according to the following guidelines:

- **nothing on this list as of this writing may be changed at any time in the future**
- **archival materials and collection items that become relevant in the future may be added to this list at the suggestion of the AMRC and the approval of the AMBPPCT by majority vote**