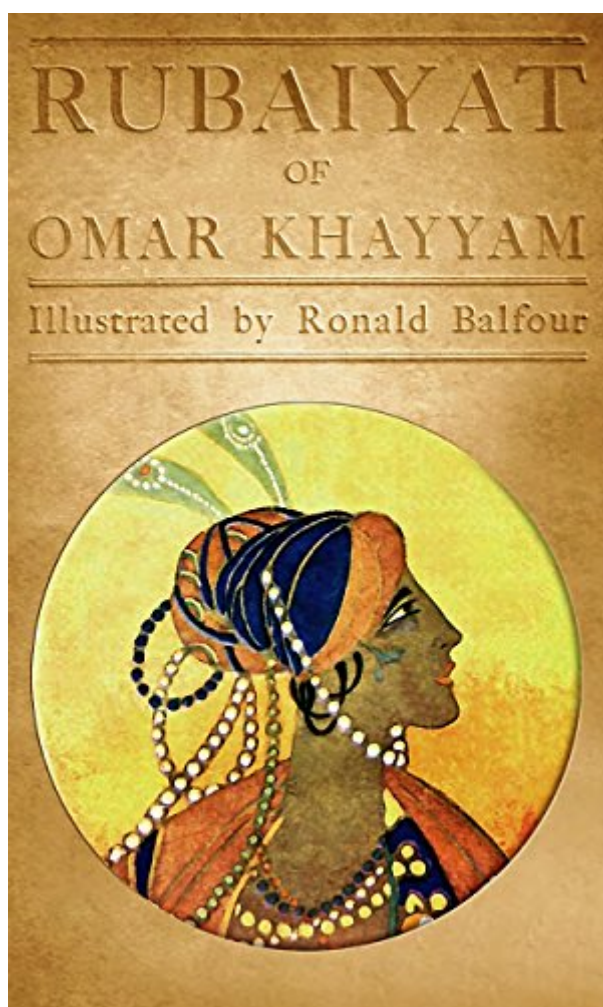


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The Rubāiyāt Of Omar Khayyām - Balfour Edition: Illustrated In The Art Deco Style By Ronald E Balfour During 1920



Synopsis

It would be difficult to overstate the popularity of Omar Khayyám's *Rubáiyát*. Since it was first published in 1859, it has been translated into 70 languages; appeared in at least 1300 different editions, illustrated by 150 plus artists and set to music by 100 composers. A reviewer in the *Bookman* considered Constable's 1920 Art Deco edition of the *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám to be one of the most beautiful of the many editions of 'Omar' to have ever been published. The early 20th century was a Golden Age for lavish editions of the poem illustrated by the most accomplished artists of the day. Ronald Balfour's stunning Art Deco style, gloriously decadent and risqué as it is, carries a strong echo of Beardsley. His remarkable suite of 38 illustrations epitomizes an the era of opulence, extravagance and a new found freedom of expression following the radical social changes caused by the First World War. Books such as these, and particularly the Balfour edition of the *Rubáiyát*, are extremely rare these days. Balfour's illustrations have scarcely been seen at all since the book was first published. This eBook aims to redress the balance somewhat since it contains the full suite of Balfour's original illustrations facing quatrains from FitzGerald's first version of his translation, exactly as they appeared in the 1920 print edition. There is also a supporting text of biographical notes concerning Omar Khayyám, FitzGerald and Ronald Balfour plus the texts for all editions of FitzGerald's translations.

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Customer Reviews

As a life long fan of all things Art Deco, it was something of a revelation to see for the first time Balfour's visceral interpretations of Omar's classic verses. The complete set of illustrations leave one with an overwhelming sense that Balfour has created a work of art in its own right. The illustrations are sometimes mystifying, clearly very personal to Balfour himself and yet truly manage capture the zeitgeist of the 20's. For myself, I find it difficult to connect the imagery with my particular interpretation of the poem but, nevertheless, I'm completely enchanted!

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