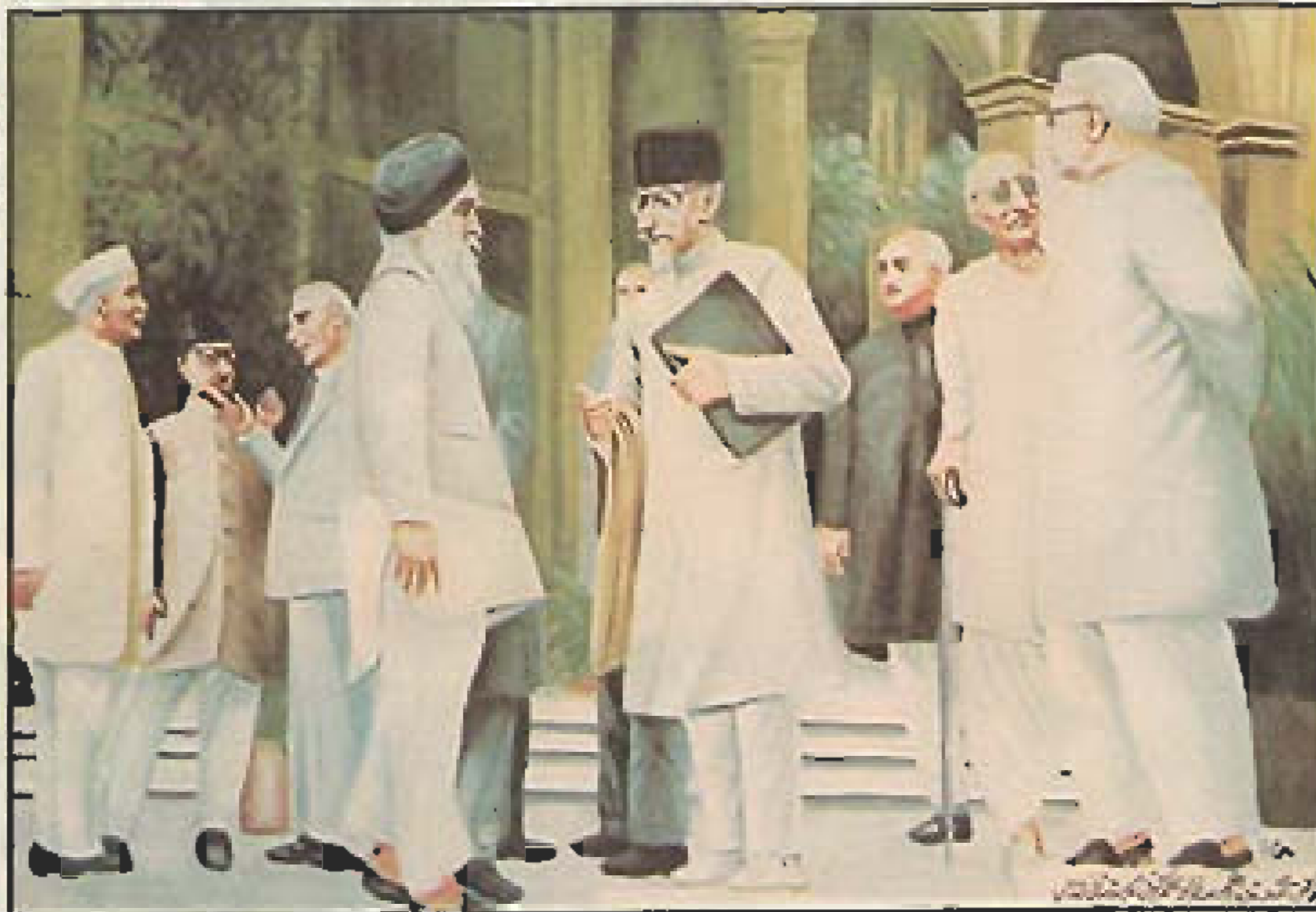


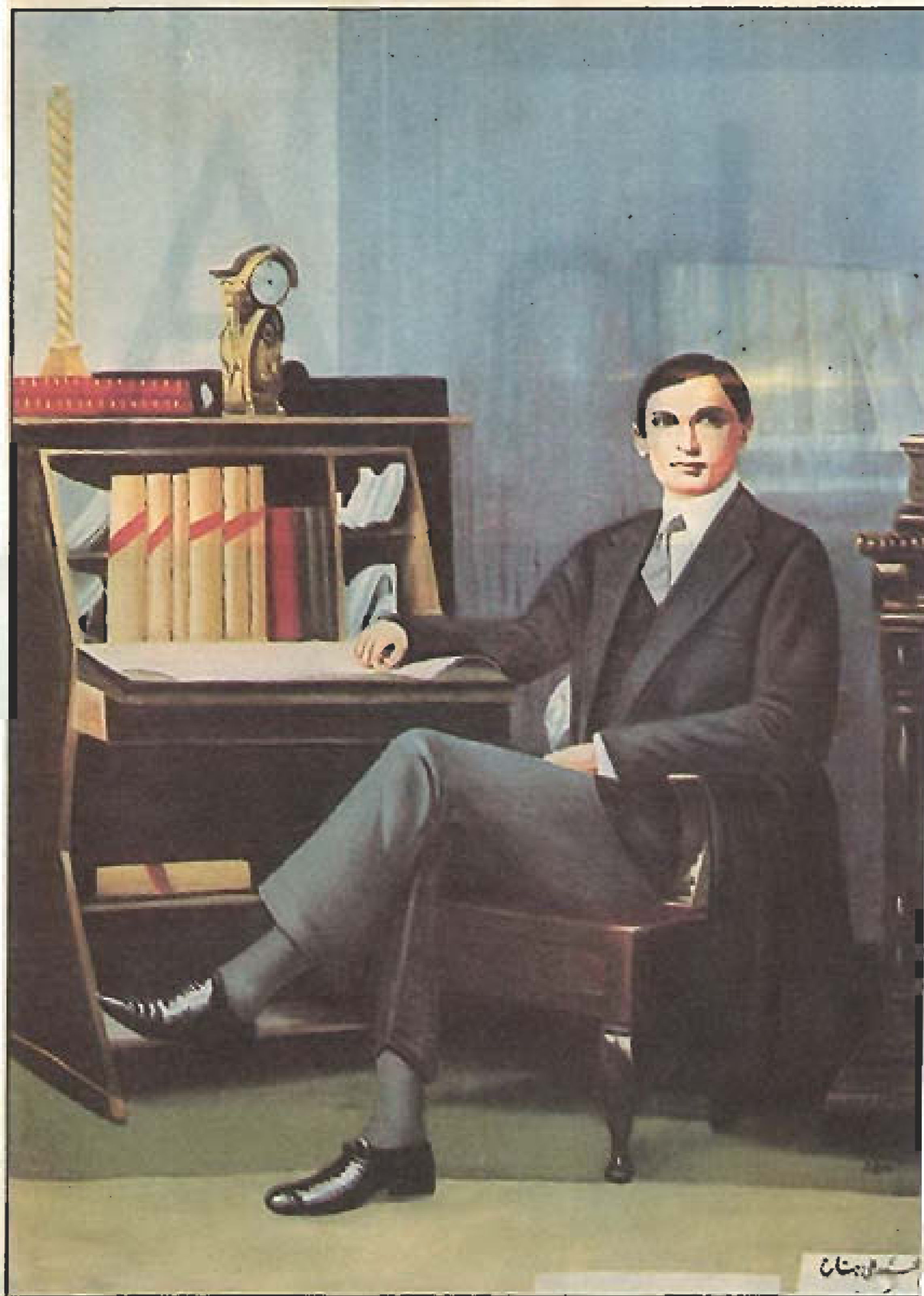
Siddiqui of the Lyceum who received The Jinnah Shield and a cash prize of Rs 15,000. The third prize comprised of the Jinnah cup and was won by Ambreen Shayaq of the Convent of Jesus and Mary, who received a cash prize of Rs 10, 000.

Each of the first, second and third prize winners also received a Seiko Alba wrist watch and a set of books sponsored by Oxford University Press.

Mr. David Pearey, British Deputy High Commissioner was the chief guest on the occasion. He commended the efforts of the participants and gave away the prizes. Mr. Pearey said, "I am honoured to be approached by the Oxford University Press and the Jinnah Society to act as chief guest and to give away the prizes at this declamation contest." He appreciated the efforts done by the organisers in arranging the contest.

Speaking about the personality of Quaid-e-Azam, Pearey opined, "As Pakistanis you will be fully familiar with his place in your history. As a visitor to your country I made it my business to learn about the Father of your nation and, like so many before me, was immediately struck by enormous contribution of a man who perhaps not yet been accorded his true place in history. As a man Jinnah had all the qualities. He had vision, intellect, the willingness to commit himself tirelessly to a cause in which he believed, a devotion to the truth. He was a man of principle, a strong believer in freedom and the individual rights of men and women. He was also, of course, a great orator. And it is perhaps worth reminding ourselves how his oratory struck some of his contemporaries."





David Pearey added, "Jinnah was a man of action who was determined not merely to convince his fellow men of the principles he held so dear, but also to use all his powers to bring about change and to give back to society from which he grew. In this age of 'spin' it is perhaps a lesson worth remembering. However fine the oratory, words in the end are not enough. It is the action following on from the words that really counts. And those who have been lucky enough to benefit from some of the best education Pakistan can provide, have a responsibility to ensure that it is put to good use in the best interests of humanity in general and Pakistan in particular."

Concluding his comments Mr. Pearey said, "My praise for all the participants is unstinting. But I do also ask them, as Jinnah did of himself, to remember their debt to society as what I am sure will be very remarkable careers unfold before them. It has been a most enjoyable and rewarding experience."

Faryal Husain, Education Director, Oxford University Press, gave the vote of thanks and also thanked Mr. Stanley Wolpert, author of OUP's **Jinnah of Pakistan** for gracing the occasion with his presence.

Samina Khan (Deputy Director, The British Council), S. Ali Raza (President National Bank of Pakistan), and Justice (Retd) G.H Malik constituted the panel of judges.

An exhibition of paintings on the great leader and sale of books by Oxford University Press followed the event.

It was a memorable event, thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and members of the audience. ●

Photography: **NASIR JAMAL**

