



## ABARQOBĀD

**ABARQOBĀD**, an ancient town of lower Iraq between Baṣra and Vāseṭ, to the east of the Tigris, in the region adjacent to Ahvāz, known in pre-Islamic and early Islamic times as Mēšūn (Mid. Pers. form) or Maysān/Mayšān (Syriac and Arabic forms). The correct form of the town name is given by Dīnavarī (*al-Akbār al-ṭewāl*, pp. 68, 124). Other geographers (such as Yaʿqūbī, *Boldān*, p. 322; idem, tr. Wiet, p. 166; and Yāqūt, I, p.90; idem [Beirut], I, pp. 72-73) mistakenly write Abazqobād or even Izqobād and Izadqobād. The first component must in fact be *abar*, found as a prefix in some Persian toponyms (e.g., Abar-šahr, i.e., Nīšāpūr); the second is the name of the Sasanian king Kavād/Qobād (488/531), who allegedly founded the place. A further error in the geographers is that certain of them place Abarqobād to the east of its real location in the district of Arrajān (see Schwarz, *Iran*, p.112, n. 13). In the historical accounts of the Arab conquest, Abarqobād is mentioned with the town of al-Maḍār, the main town of Maysān. In 14/634, ʿOtba b. Ġazvān Māzenī sent troops against it after the seizure of Obolla, and Moḡīra b. Šoʿba defeated there a Persian noble named al-F.y.l.kān (?). In 83/702 Abarqobād was the scene of a clash between the rebel Ebn al-Ašʿas and the forces of Ḥajjāj (see Balāḍorī, *Fotūḥ al-boldān*, Cairo, 1959, p. 338; Ṭabarī, I, p. 2386; idem, II, p.1123; Yāqūt, loc. cit.). The Arab geographers subsequently named Abarqobād as one of the *tassūj*, or subdistricts, of al-Maḍār, following the pattern of Sasanian administration in Iraq. Abarqobād also appears occasionally as a mint center; we possess dirhams from 83/702 and ?96/714-15 (see G. D. Miles, "Abarqubādh, a New Umayyad Mint," *ANS Museum Notes* 4, 1950, pp. 115-20; and J. Walker *Catalogue of Muhammadan Coins in the British Museum: II, Arabo-Byzantine*



and *Post-Reform Umayyad Coins*, London, 1956, pp. lxx, 106).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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See also Streck, *Babylonien nach dem arabischen Geographen*, Leiden, 1900-01, I, pp. 15, 19. Markwart, *Ērānšahr*, pp. 41-42.