



'ABD-AL-ĠANĪ KHAN

'**ABD-AL-ĠANĪ KHAN** MEO, MAWLAVĪ MOḤAMMAD (poetical name, ĠANĪ), Indian literary scholar. He was born and raised in Farrukhabad, but the exact date of his birth is not known. He joined the education service in Hyderabad (Deccan) as a teacher of Arabic and Persian, eventually becoming chairman of the Arabic department in the Madrasa-ye Fawqānīya in Hyderabad. He died in retirement on 15 October 1916.

A poet in both Persian and Urdu, 'Abd-al-Ġanī was known primarily as a scholar and researcher in Arabic and Persian. His chief published work is *Armaġān-e āsafī*, a comprehensive Persian lexicon, including compounds, phrases, and idioms. It was completed, after twenty years' work, in 1292/1875 and given the title *Armaġān* as a chronogram. The only printed edition was published in Agra in eight volumes, comprising 1,713 pages, between 1904 and 1908. Though basing his work mainly on Ṭēk Čand Bahār's noted lexicon, *Baḥr-e 'aġam* (1152/1739), 'Abd-al-Ġanī made use of compositions by many poets not previously cited by Bahār and quoted more than 40 thousand verses to support his definitions. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order. A definition is followed by a table of infinitives, in alphabetical order, which combine with the entry word to produce idioms. Such a table consists of: (a) the infinitive; (b) the first hemistich of the verse, or the prose quotation, cited as the source; (c) other words, if any, entering into the idiom; (d) the second hemistich of the verse cited; and (e) the name of the poet or prose author quoted. Various phrases and metaphorical uses of words are explained, with examples, in footnotes. In selecting sources 'Abd-al-Ġanī preferred celebrated



literary figures and avoided little-known writers and poets.

After compiling *Armaġān*, ‘Abd-al-ĠanĪ began *Ĥawār al-‘arab*, a compilation of Arabic idioms translated into Persian and Urdu. The total work comprised nearly 50 thousand idioms. By the time of his death only one volume had been published (Aligarh, 1916); the rest remain in manuscript. His *Tadkerat al-šo‘arā’*, an alphabetical inventory of Persian poets (Storey, I, p. 923, no. 8), was compiled between 1882 and 1910. It is based on well-known biographical works such as *Lobāb al-albāb*, *Majma‘ al-foṣaḥā’*, *Kalemāt al-šo‘arā’*, *Laṭā‘ef al-ḳayāl*, *Natā‘ej al-afkār*, *Ātaškada*, and *Rīāz al-šo‘arā’*. Each poet is allotted only one line, divided into six columns giving his *takalloṣ*, full name, date of death, locality, country, and the name of the ruler in the poet’s lifetime. The work was published posthumously at Aligarh in 1916.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Šahryār Naqavī, *Farhangnevīsī dar Hend va Pākestān*, Tehran, 1341 Š./1962, pp. 231-32.