



ABŪ 'ALĪ AḤMAD B. ŠĀDĀN

ABŪ 'ALĪ AḤMAD B. ŠĀDĀN, governor (*'amīd*) of Balk and northern Afghanistan under the Saljuq ruler of Khorasan, Čāgrī Beg Dā'ūd, and then under his son, Alp Arslan. One of the main events of his tenure of power was the final capture from the Ghaznavids of the important bridgepoint over the Oxus of Termed; after this event, the Ghaznavid castellan there, Amīrak Bayhaqī, made over his estates and house at Bayhaq to Abū 'Alī and then retired to Ġazna. This must have taken place in the mid-430s/mid-1040s. Termed and the upper Oxus valley region as far as Qobādīān and Vaḵš were now entrusted to Abū 'Alī. One of his great claims to fame was the fact that the young Neẓām-al-molk was a secretary under him; and before he died, Abū 'Alī commended his protégé to Alp Arslan. Abū 'Alī seems to have been a scholar as well as administrator. Ebn al-Aṭīr records that he learned from Abu'l-'Abbās Moḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Naqqāš (d. 379/989) and himself taught Abu'l-Ma'ālī Ṭābet b. Bondār al-Baqqāl (d. 498/1104-05) and Abū 'Alī Moḥammad b. Sa'd al-Kāteb (d. 511/1117-18). The exact dated of his death is uncertain, but it must have occurred early in the 450s/1060s.



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