



ABU'L-QĀSEM MOḤAMMAD ASLAM

ABU'L-QĀSEM MOḤAMMAD ASLAM (pen name MON'EMĪ), 18th century historian of Kashmir. He was apparently attached to the court of Awadh, since he mentions his accompanying the *nawwāb*'s army to Etawah in 1188/1774. Though a poet, he is not mentioned in familiar *tadkeras*. His father, K̲v̲āja Moḥammad A'zam Kōl (Kawl?) Mostaḡnī, wrote a history of Kashmir titled *Wāqe'āt-e Kašmir* (Rieu, *Pers. Man.* I, p. 300); it covers up to the year 1160/1747. Moṇ'emī reproduced this work, aiming to extend the narrative forty-odd years. He used an extensive range of written sources (Bodleian ms., fol. 9a; *Cat. Bodleian*, no. 320) and, for recent years, "relied on information obtained from trustworthy persons and on his own memory" (Rieu, *Pers. Man.* I, Supp., p. 57a). The new work, dedicated to the Mughal emperor Shah 'Ālam II, was titled *Gowhar-e 'Ālam* or *Gowhar-nāma-ye 'Ālam* (Rieu, *Pers. Man.* III, p. 956; Storey, I, pp. 684, 1325). The B.M. manuscript is arranged as follows. Introduction (following the preface and dedication): Peculiarities of Kashmir; climate; notable sites (fol. 9a). Part (*ṭabaqa*) I: Origin of Kashmir; conflicting Hindu and Muslim traditions; ancient kings (fol. 16b); Dāwūdī and Pāndū dynasties. Part 2: Hindu rajahs (fol. 54b). Part 3: Early Muslim kings (fol. 84a). Part 4: The Čak dynasty (fol. 132b). Part 5: The Mughals (fol. 168), ending abruptly with events of the year 1150/1737 (the Bodleian ms. breaks off at the same point). Part 6 contained, or "was to contain, the history of the rise of the Afghans, the conquest of Kashmir by Aḥmad Shah till the time when the author wrote" (*Cat. Bodleian*, no. 320).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.