



## ABU'L-WAZIR MARVAZĪ

**ABU'L-WAZĪR** 'OMAR B. MOṬARREF B. MOḤAMMAD 'ABDĪ AL-MARVAZĪ, secretary and author, d. 186/802. The biographers confirm that his family was from Marv, and the *nesba* 'Abdī relates him to the tribe of 'Abd-al-Qays (*Fehrest*, p. 127; Yāqūt, *Odabā'* XVI, Cairo, 1936-38, pp. 71-73; *Aḡānī*<sup>3</sup>, p. 46). According to Yāqūt (loc. cit.), Abu'l-Wazīr's father Moṭarref served Maḥdī as a secretary while he was still heir-apparent to the caliphate. Abu'l-Wazīr is said (*Fehrest*, p. 127) to have served as chief of the bureau for the eastern provinces (*dīwān al-mašreq*) under Maḥdī (according to Yāqūt [loc. cit.], while he was heir apparent), Hādī, and Rašīd, and as secretary for Maṣṣūr and Maḥdī. Yāqūt relates that when Rašīd abolished the bureaus of control (*dawāwīn al-azemma*; see A. A. Duri, *EI*<sup>2</sup>, s.v. "Dīwān") in 170/787, he relented after two months and restored this institution, putting it under the authority of Abu'l-Wazīr. Ebn al-Nadīm (loc. cit.) characterizes Abu'l-Wazīr as "trustworthy, preeminent in his profession, eloquent, and a relator of Traditions." Yāqūt speaks of his chasteness and integrity. The only blot alleged on his character was a certain stinginess satirized in an anecdote found in both Yāqūt and *Aḡānī* (III, p. 46). He died in 186/802 or possibly in 188 (Yāqūt, loc. cit.), during one of the two pilgrimage expeditions led by Rašīd.

Abu'l-Wazīr is said to have written: 1. *Ketāb mofākarat al-'arab wa monāfarat al-qabā'el fi'l-nasab* ("The Glorious Deeds of the Arabs and the Competitions of Their Tribes Concerning Genealogy"). 2. *Ketāb manāzel al-'arab wa ḥodūdehem* (or *ḥodūdehā*) *wa ayna kānat maḥallat koll qawm wa ela ayna entaqala menhā* ("The Habitations of the Arabs, their Frontiers, the Places where Each Tribe



Was Located, and the Places to which it Migrated”). 3. *Ketāb rasā'el Abi'l-Wazīr* (“The Epistles of Abu'l-Wazīr”).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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