



AḤMAD B. BAHBAL

AḤMAD B. BAHBAL KANBŌ, Mughal historian and author of a Persian work, *Ma'dan-e akbār-e Aḥmadi*, also known as *Ma'dan-e akbār-e Jahāngīrī*. Nothing is known of his life. Ne'matallāh Heravī, a contemporary historian, describes Aḥmad's work as invaluable because of its sources. According to Ne'matallāh (*Tārīk-eKānĵahānī va makzan-e afġānī*, ed. S. M. Emām-al-dīn, Dacca, 1960, p. 7), it was compiled in 1020/1611; two later dates found in its text (1022/1613 and 1023/1614) might indicate that in 1611 Ne'matallāh consulted only that part of the text dealing with the Afghans, while the work was actually completed three years later. Another Afghan, Aḥmad Yādġār, also used Aḥmad's history as a source (*Tārīk-ešāhī*, ed. M. Hidayat Hosain, Calcutta, 1939, p. 130).

The work comprises two volumes, each divided into a number of sections. The first volume includes an account of the early kings of Persia, the Omayyads, the 'Abbasids and other contemporary dynasties, kings of China and Europe, Čingiz Khan and his successors up to 754/1353, Byzantine rulers, the Safavids, the Uzbeks, the Ghaznavids and Ghurids, and the sultans of Delhi down to Ebrāhīm Lodī with a separate account of the independent Muslim rulers of Bengal. The second volume is devoted to the Timurids. Beginning with Tīmūr and his descendants, it deals at length with the Mughal sovereigns of India from Bābor to Jahāngīr, including the Sūrs. It appears that Aḥmad's account of the Afghan rulers of the Lodī and Sūr dynasties and their supersession by the Mughals was of particular interest to other writers of his time. The only extant copy of volume II (India Office Library, ms. no. 171) breaks off in 999/1590-91, leaving even Akbar's reign incomplete. Likewise, the two known copies of the



first volume are fragmentary (British Museum mss. Or 1766, 188).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Rieu, *Pers. Man.*, p. 888-1034. Ethé, *Cat. Ind. Off.*, p. 46.