



## AḤMAD B. JA'FAR

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AḤMAD B. JA'FAR B. MŪSĀ B. YAḤYĀ B. KĀLED B. BARMAK, ABU'L-ḤASAN, poet, man of letters, musician, wit, and bon vivant at the court of several 'Abbasid caliphs, hence sometimes called al-Nadīm (“the boon-companion”); born in 224/839, he lived to a great age and died in Ša'bān 324 or 326/July, 936, or June, 938. The *laqab* or nickname Jaḥḥa by which he was usually known was given to him by Ebn al-Mo'tazz with reference to his bulging eyes (cf. al-Jāḥeẓ). His connection with the caliphs Mo'tamed (256-79/870-92) and Moqtader (295-320/908-32) is especially mentioned. To his unprepossessing appearance, perhaps also to the realization sometimes expressed in his poetry that the great days of the caliphate were over, may be due the astringent, even perverse character attributed to him by, among others, Abu'l-Faraġ Eṣfahānī, who knew him well (*Aġānī*<sup>1</sup> V, pp. 32, 161). But he was regarded by good judges as an exceptionally talented musician and poet, and he is frequently referred to or quoted by writers of his own time and later, notably Yāqūt, from whose notice and citations a considerable part of Jaḥḥa's *dīvān* could be recovered (*Odabā'* I, pp. 383-405; *Moġam al-boldān*, index).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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See also *Fehrest*, pp. 145-46; tr. Dodge, pp. 318-19.



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*Ta'riḳ Baġdād* IV, pp. 65-69.

Ebn al-Aṭīr, s.a. 324.

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Idem, *Laṭā'ef al-ma'āref*, tr. C. E. Bosworth as *The Book of Curious and Entertaining Information*, Edinburgh, 1968, pp. 64-65.

Rh. Guest, *Life and Works of Ibn er Rûmî*, London, 1944, pp. 18, 83.

C. Pellat, "Djaḥẓa," *EF*<sup>2</sup> II, p. 389.