



## 'ALĀ'-AL-DĪN BĪRJANDĪ

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'ALĀ'-AL-DĪN ŠAMS-AL-DĪN MOḤAMMAD BĪRJANDĪ, a metalworker who lived between the late 15th and the early 16th century A.D. His *nesba* suggests that either he or his family hailed from Bīrjand, in the 8th/14th and 9th/15th centuries an important provincial town in Qūhestān. Two bronze objects with his signature are recorded: a jug, dated 1 Ramażān 908/28 February 1503 (sold at Christie's, October, 1972) and a jug now in the Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin (no. I 6052), dated Šawwāl, 910/February-March, 1505. Both have a globular body and a short, cylindrical neck and rest on a low ring foot. They are decorated with an overall design of cartouches, scrolls, and inscription bands inlaid with silver wire and follow in form and ornamentation later Timurid metal models. The inscription, engraving, and finishing of the jugs were all done by the same artist. A jug of similar form and decoration (Istanbul, TKS no. 2/2150) is signed by Ḥosayn b. ? al-Bīrjandī, who may have been a relative of 'Alā'-al-dīn.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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