



ALAK-DOLAK

ALAK-DOLAK, the game of tipcat, played for centuries in Iran, Afghanistan, and surrounding countries. Many variations are known; basically, a bat (*dolak*) is used to strike a wooden peg (*alak*), which fielders recover and then throw at the *dolak* placed on the ground. ‘A. A. Ḥekmat suggests that the great variety of local names is one indication of the game’s antiquity; these include *čalok-mosta* (Shiraz), *pel-čoftak*, *pel o čofta* (Isfahan), *čafta-bāzī* (Kermān), *aṛča-koḷūf* (Māzandarān), *ala-čū* (Borūjerd and Hamadān), *lū-čonba* (Mašhad), *gāl-čūb* (Nīšābūr), *pātīmār-bāzī* (Gīlān), *alak-bāzī* (Bīrjand), *alū-kān* (Sanandaĵ), *pīl-dasta* (Tabrīz), *amī-bī* (Behbahān), *halākūta* (Semnān), *alā-čonbeš* (Qazvīn), *alkān-čūčakān* (Kabul), *gāl-čonba* (Herat), *čīlī*, *čālak*, and *čīla-bāzī* (Tashkent, Bokhara, Samarkand). Rūmī refers to it in his *dīvān* as *čālīk* (Dehḵodā, s.v.). Other synonyms found in the classical dictionaries include *lāv*, *lāva*, *gūk-čūb*, and, in Arabic, *qalū* and *qola*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

‘A. A. Ḥekmat, “Bāzī-e alak dolak,” *Yād ġar* 4/9-10, 1327 Š./1948, pp. 71-80.

Cf. *ibid.*, 5/1-2, 1328 Š./1949, pp. 121-33.



N. Jamšād, *Bāzihā-ye bāstānī-e bačahā-ye Ešfahān*, Isfahan, 1351 Š./1972, pp. 75-77 (*pel o čofta*), 147-48 (*sūrī-bāzī*), 183-84 (*kīlām mīlām*).