



'ALĪ B. ŠAMS-AL-DĪN

'ALĪ B. ŠAMS-AL-DĪN B. ḤĀJJĪ ḤOSAYN LĀHĪJĪ, author of the *Tārīk-eKānī*. Nothing is known about the author except from his book, which he wrote at the order of Sultan Aḥmad Khan, Kīā'ī ruler of Gīlān (911-43/1505-37), and his vizier Serāḵ-al-dīn Qāsem. The writing began in Moḥarram, 921/February, 1515 and was completed in Šafar, 922/March, 1516. Throughout this time the author accompanied the sultan everywhere. Aḥmad Khan supervised his work closely and formally approved each part of it. Pressed to finish quickly, the author composed each section concisely, within no more than three days. Style and outlook of the author indicate that he most likely belonged to the secretarial class. The work covers the political history of Gīlān from 880/1475 to 920/1514 and also contains information on the history of the other Caspian provinces from Šīrvān to Māzandarān. Until 894/1489, the account is parallel to, but largely independent of the account of Zāhīr-al-dīn Maḥ'asī's *Tārīk-eGīlān*. For its last twenty-six years, the *Tārīk-eKānī* offers the only original history of Gīlān.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tārīk-eKānī, ed. M. Sotūda, Tehran, 1352 Š./1973.



B. Dorn, *Aly Ben Schemseddîn's Chanisches Geschichtswerk*, St. Petersburg, 1857.