



AMAR NĀTH

AMAR NĀTH AKBARĪ, DEWĀN (1822-67), Persian writer and poet of the Punjab under the Sikhs. His father, Dīnā Nāth, was the revenue minister of Ranjīt Singh (1780-1839), while his grandfather, Pandit Baḳt Mal, was the author of *Singh-nāma* or *Ḳāleṣa-nāma*, probably the first history of the Sikhs. Amar Nāth studied Persian and Arabic under Ahm Baḳš Češtī. At the age of eleven he wrote *Rawżat al-azhār*, an account of the principal gardens of Lahore. The next year Ranjīt Singh commissioned him to write a *Fatḥ-nāma* on the Sikh victory over the Afghans and the occupation of Peshawar in 1834. He was appointed a *baḳšī* (paymaster) in the Sikh cavalry at the age of twenty. His main work, *Zafar-nāma-ye Ranjīt Singh* (ed. S. R. Kohli, Lahore, 1928), which describes events up to the close of 1252/1836-37, is a primary source for Sikh history. Though a Hindu he quotes often from the Qurʾān and Hadith; his ornate and verbose style shows all the defects of latter-day Indian Persian. As a poet (*Dīvān-e Akbarī*, published by his son Rām Nāth, 1873) he tried to follow Fayzī and Ṣāʿeb, though some of his constructions show the influence of Amīr Ḳosrow; his verses have music but no depth.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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