



ANBARIĀN FAMILY

‘ANBARIĀN, a distinguished family of officials, littérateurs, ‘*olamā*’, and traditionists from Bayhaq (modern Sabzavār). Their activities in public and scholarly life from the 4th/10th to the 6th/12th centuries are known above all through Ebn Fondoq’s *Tārīk-e Bayhaq* (ed. A. Bahmanyār, Tehran, 1317 Š./1938, pp. 119-22, 182-83).

The family was probably Iranian in origin, but, according to Sam‘ānī, had attached itself to the Arab clan of ‘Anbar of Tamīm by a bond of *welāya* (Hyderabad, p. 388). Toward the end of the 4th/10th century, the ‘Anbarīs were already in the service of the rulers of Khorasan and Transoxania. [Abu’l-‘Abbās Esmā’īl b. ‘Alī ‘Anbarī](#) was vizier to the Qarakhanid Ilig Naṣr for several years; on returning to Khorasan, he refused a similar position under the Ghaznavid Maḥmūd b. Sebūktigin and was imprisoned and poisoned by the offended sultan (see Bosworth, *Ghaznavids*, p. 58). His descendants, however, began a tradition of faithful service to the Ghaznavids. Abu’l-Ḥasan Aḥmad b. Moḥammad, known as [Amīrak](#) (d. 448/1056), defended the fortress of Termeḍ on the Oxus against the incoming Saljuqs for Sultan Mawdūd b. Mas‘ūd and then retired to Ġazna for a secretarial career under subsequent rulers. The branch of the ‘Anbarīs that he established continued into the next century (see Bosworth, *Later Ghaznavids*, pp. 10, 11). His brother Abū Naṣr was secretary to the Ghaznavid governor of Ray and then in Sultan Mas‘ūd’s service in Ġazna, and a further brother, Abu’l-Qāsem, was deputy to the head of the *Dīvān-e Rasā’el*, Abū Naṣr Moškān. Later members of the family such as Abū Sa‘īd Moḥammad b. Šāhak (d. 543/1148-49), *mostawfī* or tax collector of Bayhaq,



remained in Khorasan and served the Saljuq sultan there.

The 'Anbarīs had literary interests, as witnessed by their poetry and epistles quoted by Ebn Fondoq; their contribution to the intellectual life of the Iranian East also included building *madrasas*, such as the ones founded by Amīrak in his home town of Bayhaq and at Ġazna.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.