



ANDARĀB

ANDARĀB or ANDARĀBA (Lit.: "between the rivers"), the name of a river and a town situated upon it in northern Afghanistan, in what was in mediaeval Islamic times the province of *Ṭokārestān*. The valley lies in 35° 47' north latitude and 68° 49' east longitude, and falls within the modern Afghan province (post-1964 administrative reorganization) of *Baġlān*. The town lies in a wooded region of what the 4th/10th century geographers called the *Nahr Andarāba*; this is in fact the southeasternmost headwater of the *Doṣī* river, which eventually joins the *Qondo*z river and flows into the *Oxus*. The antiquity of the town is evident, since the Chinese Buddhist pilgrim *Hūan-ts'ang* (ca. 630) mentions *An-ta-lo-po* as one of the twelve constituent states of the old province of *Tu-ho-lo* (i.e., *Ṭokārestān*, *An-ta-lo-po* being 400 *li* southeast of *Kost* (*K'uo-si-to*; see E. Bretschneider, *Mediaeval Researches from Eastern Asiatic Sources*, London, 1888, II, p. 99; Markwart, *Ērānšahr*, pp. 241, 277-78); but we know nothing of its pre-Islamic history. After the Arab conquest, *Andarāb* came within the province of *Ṭokārestān* and was administered from *Balk*; *Ebn Ḥawqal* describes it as lying nine stages from this city (p. 454, tr. p. 439, cf. pp. 447-48, tr. pp. 432-34; Le Strange, *Lands*, p. 427). The *Ḥodūd al-'ālam* (372/982), which is well-informed on conditions in northern Afghanistan, states that the local ruler of *Andarāb* had the title of *Šahr-salīr* (tr. Minorsky, p. 109, commentary, p. 341). *Andarāb's* importance lay in the fact that one of the two main routes across the *Hindu Kush* to *Kabul* and *India* led from it across the *Kāvak* pass into the *Panjhīr* valley; there in the mountains were located the two great centers of silver-mining in Afghanistan, *Jārīāba* at three stages from *Andarāb* and *Panjhīr* one stage further on. The silver mined there was brought



to Andarāb for distribution over the eastern Islamic lands; it was an important mint-center from the 3rd/9th to the 5th/11th centuries. We possess dirhams minted at Andarāb by the ‘Abbasids (in 258/871-72), the Samanids, and the Ghaznavids (Sebūktigin and Maḥmūd). We have extant coins of the Abū Da‘udids or Banijurids of Balk and Kottal, vassals of the Samanids, minted at Andarāb from the years 264-78/877-92, 288/900, 290-94/902-06 and 310-13/922-25. From 366/976-77 till 389/999 the Andarāb mint issued the especially large, multiple dirhams characteristic of the upper Oxus minting practice at this time (see W. Barthold, *Turkestan*³, p. 67; R. Vasmer, “Beiträge zur muhammedanischen Münzkunde. 1. Die Münzen der Abū Dā‘ūdiden,” *Numismatische Zeitschrift*, N.S. 18, 1925, pp. 49-62; E. von Zambaur, *Die Münzprägungen des Islams, zeitlich und örtlich geordnet* I, Wiesbaden, 1968, p. 54; M. Mitchiner, *The Multiple Dirhems of medieval Afghanistan*, Sanderstead, Surrey, 1973, pp. 3-4 and passim).

After the Ghaznavid period, Andarāb seems to have declined in relative importance, possibly as the nearby town of Kost rose to prominence. However, Sam‘ānī mentions the names of several scholars and traditionists stemming from Andarāb (Hyderabad, I, pp. 361-62; cf. Yāqūt, Beirut, 1374-76/1955-57, I, p. 260). According to Mirkᵛand, Jengiz Khan marched southwards through Toḳārestān to Kabul and Ġazna, and besieged Andarāb for a month (Barthold, op. cit., p. 444); the *Bābur-nāma* (tr. Beveridge, pp. 391-92) mentions that Bābor stopped there in 925/1519 and received the submission of local chiefs before going on to India.

It is not surprising that a name which means “between the waters” is to be found in various parts of the Iranian world. An Andarāba near Marv in Khorasan is mentioned which belonged to the Saljuq sultan Sanjar (r. 490-552/1097-1157) and where he built for himself a palace (see Le Strange, *Lands*, p. 401); the name also occurs in Arrān in northwestern Iran for a river rising on the slopes of Mount Sabalān above Ardabīl and flowing down to the Qara Sū and Aras river (see *Nozhat al-qolūb*, p. 222, tr. p. 215).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.