



BANĀKATĪ, ABŪ SOLAYMĀN

BANĀKATĪ, Abū Solaymān Dāwūd b. Abī'l-Faẓl Moḥammad (d. 730/1329-30), poet and historian. Nothing is known of his early career, except that he was presumably a native of *Banākaṭ*, the later Šāhroḳīya in Transoxania. His general history from Adam to the beginning of the reign of the il-khan Abū Sa'īd (q.v.), the *Rawzat ūli'l-albāb fī ma'refat al-tawārīk* (or *fī tawārīk al-akāber wa'l-ansāb*, was completed on 25 Šawwāl 717/31 December 1317 (*Rawzat*, p. 2; cf. p. 479, with the month alone); although toward the end of the work he refers to Abū Sa'īd's enthronement at Solṭānīya in Rabī' II, 718/June, 1318 (p. 478), this event is known to have taken place in the previous year. The work is for the most part an abridgment of the *Jāme' al-tawārīk*, the vast historical encyclopedia of Rašīd-al-Dīn, whom Banākatī admits he was attempting to emulate (*Rawzat*, p. 1), and is divided into nine *qesms*: (1) the prophets and patriarchs; (2) the ancient kings of Persia; (3) Moḥammad and the caliphs; (4) Persian dynasties contemporary with the 'Abbasids; (5) the Jews; (6) the Christians and the Franks; (7) the Indians; (8) the Chinese; and (9) the Mongols. Only the final section of the ninth *qesm*, covering the years 703-17/1304-17, has any original value, and constitutes in fact our earliest source for the reign of the il-khan Ūljāytū (Öljeitü). At Ūjān, toward the end of Du'l-qa'da, 701/July-August, 1302, Banākatī had been awarded the title of *malek-al-šo'arā'* by Ūljāytū's predecessor Gāzān (*Rawzat*, p. 465). Some specimens of his poetry are preserved in the *Rawzat*, and one by Dawlatšāh (p. 227), who describes him as "learned and accomplished" (*mard-e dānešmand o fāzel*) and gives him the *laqab* of Faḳr-al-Dīn; otherwise he supplies scant detail.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rawzat, ed. Ja'far Še'ār, Tehran, 1348 Š./1969.

Dawlatšāh, ed. Browne, p. 227.

Storey, I, pp. 79-80 (q.v. for further references).

Browne, *Lit. Hist Persia* III, pp. 100-03.

*EI*² I, p. 1011.