



BARĠAŠI, ABU'L MOẒAFFAR MOḤAMMAD B. EBRAHIM

BARĠAŠI, ABU'L MOẒAFFAR MOḤAMMAD b. EBRAHIM, vizier to two of the last Samanid Amirs of Transoxiana and Khorasan. Neither his birth nor death date is known, nor is the origin of his *nesba* clear, but it seems that he began what was presumably a secretarial career in the time of Amir Naṣr (II) b. Aḥmad (II) (r. 331-43/943-54). He comes into mention in the closing years of the emirate, being appointed vizier to Amir Nuḥ (II) b. Maṣṣur (I) (r. 365-87/976-97) in 386/996 when the Amir was under the influence of one the contenders for power in Khorasan, Sebüktegin, subsequently founder the Ghaznavids ('Otbi, p. 142). After Amir Nuḥ's death, Barġaši remained in power under his successor Maṣṣur (II) b. Nuḥ (II) (r. 387-89/997-99) ('Otbi, pp. 148, 151), but was in 398/998 dismissed from office under pressure from the commander Fā'eḳ Kāṣṣa and exiled to Guzgān ('Otbi, pp. 161-62; Gardizi, ed. Nazim, pp. 58-9; idem, ed. Ḥabibi, p. 172; Kermāni, p. 39; cf. Barthold, pp. 264-50). This does not accord with a story in Bayhaqi's *Tāriḳ-e Mas'udi* (ed. Fayyāz, pp. 456-59), according to which Barġaši, conscious of the impending demise of the emirate, sought demission from office by feigning a serious injury, retired to Guzgān and then to an estate of his at Nishapur. It was in this last place that the youthful Bayhaqi (p. 458) saw him in 400/1009, enjoying an honored status. According to Kermāni (p. 39), Maḥmud of Ghazna, by then ruler of Khorasan, held him in high esteem, would address him in official documents as *k'āja* and sought on several occasions, without success, to make him his vizier.



Bibliography:

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