



BAYĀŽ

BAYĀŽ, literally “white,” usually designating a small paper notepad with covers often made of leather which opens lengthwise and was carried around in inside pockets. Terms such as *moraqqaʿ*, *safīna*, *jong*, *jarīda*, *kaškūl*, *dastūr*, *gol-dasta*, *ganjīna*, *tedkār*, *majmūʿa*, and *taʿlīqāt* have occasionally been used in a similar sense. The interest of *bayāž* lies in the fact that several such books kept in various libraries contain notes by people of distinction. These notes sometimes contain lines of poetry, aphorisms, ethical and philosophical maxims, and amusing phrases. Some are listed in manuscript catalogues. Following are some important *bayāžes*: Tehran University Library possesses a *bayāž* dated 845/1441-42 (no. 2043), one by Moḥammad-Jaʿfar Ḥosaynī dated 1068/1657-58 and 1092/1681 (no. 2145), one containing *zīārat-nāmas* and *monājāt* written in 1253/1837-38 (no. 1396), and one containing the handwriting of about 100 different scholars (no. 2144). Leningrad Oriental Library ms. no. A 688 is a *bayāž* called *Safīna-ye Šāʿeb*. British Library Or. 4937 (Rieu, *Persian Manuscripts*, Suppl. no. 400) is a *bayāž* by Mīrzā ʿAbd-al-ʿAẓīm Qazvīnī Eṣfahānī, dated 1080/1669-70.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ketāb-kāna-ye Markazī-e Dānešgāh-e Tehrān, Majalla-ye ketāb-dārī 7, 1318/1900, pp. 66-111.

Farkonda-payām, ed. Ġ.-Ḥ. Yūsofī, Mašhad, 1359 Š./1980, pp. 148, 213.

See also *al-Darīʿa* III, p. 166, and M. Bayānī, *Ketāb-šenāsī-e ketābhā-ye kaṭṭī*, Tehran, 1353 Š./1974, p. 14.

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