



BĪSOTŪN, ABŪ MANŞŪR

BĪSOTŪN, ṢAHĪR-AL-DAWLA ABŪ MANŞŪR b. Vošmgīr, the Ziyarid amir in Ṭabarestān and Gorgān (r. 357-67/967-78, not 356-66 as in Zambaur, pp. 210-11). The date of his father Vošmgīr's (q.v.) death in a hunting accident is given by Ebn Meskawayh, *Tajāreb* II, p. 233, tr., V, p. 247, as 1 Moḥarram 357/7 December 967, and his own death at Astarābād by Gardīzī, ed. Nazim, p. 46, as falling in Rajab, 367/February-March, 978 (but according to Ebn al-Aṭīr in 366/976-77). Bīsotūn was active as a military commander during his father Vošmgīr's lifetime, but the chronicles record only two defeats of his, one in 348/959-60 during fighting with 'Alī b. Kāma, nephew of the Buyid amir in northern Persia Rokn-al-Dawla (q.v.), and a second one in 355/966 when he was worsted in Deylam by the Zaydī ascetic and missionary Abū 'Abd-Allāh, called Ebn al-Dā'ī. When Vošmgīr died on 11 Moḥarram 357/7 December 967 Bīsotūn, as elder brother, claimed the succession against his younger brother Qābūs, the latter backed by the Samanids; when Bīsotūn heard that the Samanid governor in Nišāpūr, Abu'l-Ḥasan Moḥammad b. Ebrāhīm Sīmjurī, intended to mulct him in order to pay the Samanid army of Khorasan he sought the help of Rokn-al-Dawla and established himself in Āmol with Buyid support (cf. Gardīzī, p. 45, and Barthold, *Turkestan*³, p. 251). He received legitimation for his rule over Gorgān, Ṭabarestān, Čālūs, and Rūyān, together with the honorific Ṣahīr-al-Dawla, from the 'Abbasid caliph al-Moṭī' and further strengthened his position by marrying a daughter of the Buyid 'Azod-al-Dawla Fanā-Ḳosrow.

Much of his subsequent reign was spent in fending off Samanid claims to



sovereignty over the Caspian provinces. When he died he left an infant son, but this time Qābūs b. Vošmgīr (q.v.) was able, after a brief succession struggle, to assume the rule and begin a reign of some thirty-five years.

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