



BŌRĀN

BŌRĀN (Pers. Pōrān, Pūrān), Sasanian queen, daughter of Kōsrow II (r. 590, 591-628). There are extant coins of Bōrān dated from the first, second, and third years of her reign (de Morgan, p. 329, fig. 418; Göbl, pls. XII, XV). She ascended the throne in the year that ran from 17 June 629 to 16 June 630, according to Sebēos (p. 28, tr. p. 89) in the spring of 630 following the murder of the usurper Šahrvarāz, though she was not the wife of the latter; rather, she must have been the widow of Kavād II Šērōē/Šīrūya (r. 628; *Anonymous Syriac Chronicle*, ed. Guidi, p. 30, tr. p. 26). Some authors place her reign at one year and four months, others at one year and six months; Sebēos (p. 28, tr. p. 90) puts it at two years. In fact, Bōrān probably died in the autumn of 631 (cf. Nöldeke, *Geschichte der Perser*, p. 433), in the third calendar year of a reign that cannot have exceeded a year and a half. According to the *Anonymous Syriac Chronicle* (loc. cit.) and the *Chronicle of Seert* (II/2, p. 259), she was strangled. The *Chronicle of Seert* gives the name of her murderer as Pērōz, general of the Persian army.

According to Ṭabarī (I, p. 1064; Nöldeke, pp. 390ff.), she elevated Fosfarrūk, the author of the plot against Šahrvarāz, to the post of vizier (i.e. *wuzurg-framadār*). According to a different tradition, she is supposed to have put Farroḡ-Hormozd, Prince of Ādurbādagān, in charge of the government (Sebēos, loc. cit.). The major event of her reign was the dispatch of an embassy to Emperor Heraclius, led by the catholicos Išo'yab III and other dignitaries of the Persian church (*Anonymous Syriac Chronicle*, loc. cit.; *Chronicle of Seert* II/2, p. 237). This mission had as its purpose to resolve several matters at issue



between the two powers: In particular, it is supposed to have resulted in the restoration of the True Cross to Heraclius; in fact, the cross had already been restored by Kavād II in 629 (cf. Nöldeke, p. 392 n. 1).

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