



## DASTŪR-E DABĪRĪ

**DASTŪR-E DABĪRĪ**, comprehensive manual of letter writing by Moḥammad Meyhanī, consisting of an introduction (*dībāčā*) and two chapters (*qešm*; comp. Ḍu'l-qa'da 585/December 1189-January 1190). It is known from a single manuscript in the library of the Fatih mosque, Istanbul (ms. no. 4074; Dānešpažūh, p. 27; cf. Monzawī, p. 625).

As stated in the introduction (p. 1), one chapter deals with the prerequisites, style, and manner of *dabīrī*, the secretarial art, and the other with the aims and techniques of [correspondence](#). The latter chapter actually comprises samples of a variety of types of correspondence: private letters (*eḵwānīyāt*), social letters (*reqā*), decrees (*solṭānīyāt*), reports (*maḥāžer*), a collective letter (*jamā'at-nāma*), and a proclamation (*ettefāq-nāma*). In the introduction the author also mentioned samples of securities and legal documents (*sokūk*), but they are missing from the printed text.

The book provides a good example of the plain style of Persian prose of the 10th-12th centuries. The author prescribed eleven rules (*nokta*) for such writing in the opening chapter. The book also contains valuable information on social, administrative, and political conditions in 12th-century Persia.

*Dastūr-e dabīrī* apparently served as a model for subsequent authors, including Moḥammad Naḵjavānī, author of the 14th-century administrative manual *Dastūr al-kāteb fī ta'yīn al-marāteb*.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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