



EBN ABĪ ṬĀHER ṬAYFŪR, ABU'L-FAẒL AḤMAD

EBN ABĪ ṬĀHER ṬAYFŪR, ABU'L-FAẒL AḤMAD (204-80/819-93), littérateur (*adīb*) and historian of Baghdad, of a Khorasani family. His extensive *adab* works include treatises on poets and singing, praised by Abu'l-Faraj Eṣfahānī in his *Ketāb al-aḡānī*, and the partially extant literary anthology *Ketāb al-manṭūr wa'l-manzūm* (Cairo, 1326/1908), used by, among others, **Abū Ḥayyān Tawḥīdī** in his *al-Baṣā'er wa'l-dakā'er* (see the list of Ebn Abī Ṭāher's works in Ebn al-Nadīm, ed. Tajaddod, pp. 163-64; tr. Dodge, I, pp. 320-22).

His *Ketāb Baḡdād* treated the history of the city up to the caliphate of al-Mohtadī (255-56/869-70), but only the greater part of volume 6 is extant, that dealing with al-Ma'mūn's caliphate. Ṭabarī used this volume almost verbatim (though he mentioned Ebn Abī Ṭāher only once, III, p. 1516) for some three-fifths of the account of al-Ma'mūn's reign in his own *History*. Ebn Abī Ṭāher was a lively writer of history, careful to cite documents and contemporary sources, and with a special interest in cultural history and anecdote. His book is thus a pioneer work of local and urban history. On Persian history it gives information about the appointments of Ṭāher Du'l-Yamīnayn and his son Ṭalḥa to the governorship of the East, military operations in Azarbaijan against the Ḳorramī rebel **Bābak**, and various local revolts in Khorasan and at Qom during al-Ma'mūn's caliphate. Ebn Abī Ṭāher's son Abu'l-Ḥosayn 'Obayd-Allāh (d. 313/925-26), also a well-respected *adīb*, continued his father's history up to al-Moqtader's reign (Ebn al-Nadīm, p. 164; tr. Dodge, I, p. 322).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

(For cited works not given in detail, see “Short References.”)

C. E. Bosworth, in Ṭabarī, tr., XXXII, pp. 3, 7.

F. Rosenthal, *A History of Muslim Historiography*², Leiden, 1968, pp. 152-3 and index.

Idem, s.v. “Ibn Abī Ṭāhir,” *EI*². Sezgin, *GAS* I, pp. 348-49.

Sechster Band des Kitāb Bagdād, ed. and German tr. H. Keller, Leipzig, 1908 (with intro.), ed. Moḥammad Zāhed Kawṭar, Cairo, 1949.

See also *DMBE* II, pp. 672-76.