



## EDEB

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**EDEB** (Pers. and Ar. Adab), pen name of the Kurdish poet ‘Abd-Allāh Beg b. Aḥmad Beg Bābāmīrī Mišbāḥ-al-Dīwān (b. Armanī Bolāgī, a village northeast of Būkān in western Azarbaijan, 1277/1860, d. ca. 1297 Š./1918). He was born into a family of landed nobility that traced its descent from the local Mukrī rulers and educated first at the local mosque and then in Tehran, though he returned home after only a year. Edeb led a life of leisure, traveling and engaging in music, painting, and poetry. He was an associate of the crown prince Moḥammad ‘Alī Mīrzā, who gave him the title Mišbāḥ-al-Dīwān. In his mid-30s Edeb began to suffer from an illness that led gradually to total paralysis and death (Afḡamī, 426).

Edeb’s poems, mostly lyrics, follow the canons of classical Persian and Kurdish poetry in prosody, symbolism, imagery, and diction. Love, the predominant theme, is often treated in erotic and even sexually explicit language (e.g., the poem *Döşew şewî şemme ...* “Last night, Saturday night ...”). His choice of the Kurdish language is indicative of national awareness, but his published poetry, unlike that of Ḥājī Qādirī Koyī (1240-1315/1824-97) or Abu’l-Ḥasan Sayf-al-Qożmuāt (1293-1364/1876-1944), does not reflect explicit commitment to Kurdish nationalist aspirations of the period.

Edeb’s work has been little studied. The proscription on publication in the Kurdish language in Persia under the Pahlavis was a serious impediment to the collection and publication of Kurdish literature in general. Nevertheless, a few editions of his works have been printed: *Dīwānī Edeb* (ed. Ḥ. Ḥuznī, Rawāndiz (Ravāndūz), 1936; *Dīwānī šā’irī benāwbāng Mišbāḥ-al-Dīwān* (ed. B.



Mušīr, Baghdad, 1939); *Dīwānī Edeb*, ed. G. Mukrīānī (Arbil, 1966; repr. Mahābād, n.d.).

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