



EḲTESĀN, TĀJ-AL-MOLK MOḤAMMAD

EḲTESĀN, TĀJ-AL-MOLK MOḤAMMAD b. Aḥmad b. Ḥasan ‘Abdūsī Dehlavī (700-52/1300-51), author in Persian and secretary (*dabīr*) at the courts of the Tughluqid sultans Ġiāt-al-Dīn Tōgloq (720-25/1320-25) and his son Ġiāt-al-Dīn Mo-ḥammad (725-52/1325-51). He joined the royal chancery at an early age and eventually became Ġiāt-al-Dīn Moḥammad’s private secretary (*dabīr-e kāšš*), who sent him in 1328 to the court of the Il-khanid Abū Sa’īd (q.v.) in Persia to negotiate military alliance against Tarmašīrīn, the Chaghatay prince of Transoxiana and Ġazna. He visited Persia a second time as the royal envoy to the court of Abū Eshāq Īnjū (q.v.). He died in 752/1351 during his return trip near Thatta in Sind.

EḲtesān’s claim to fame rests on his *Basātīn al-ons* (comp. 726/1325-26; extant in manuscript), a collection of love stories in ornate Persian prose adapted from the original Sanskrit. Author’s introduction to the book contains useful information about EḲtesān himself and the events during the reign of Moḥammad b. Tōgloq. EḲtesān also wrote poetry. Of his poetry a complete *qaṣīda* in praise of Moḥammad b. Tōgloq is preserved in the introduction to the *Basātīn al-ons* and Behāmad Ḳānī’s *Tārīḳ-e moḥammadī*. The latter also contains a few other verses by him.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Z. Baranī, *Tārīk-e fīrūzšāhī*, Calcutta, 1862, p. 424.

Moĥammad Behāmad Kānī, *Tārīk-e moĥammadī*, British Library, London, Ms. Or. 137, fol. 395a, 405b.

Moĥammad Ektesān, *Basātīn al-ons*, British Library, London, Ms. Add. 7717, fol. 8b, 9b, 13b, 23a-b.

Fašīḥ Aḥmad Kṽāfī, *Mojmal-e fašīḥī*, ed. M. Farroḳ, 3 vols., Mašhad, 1339-41 Š./1960-62, III, pp. 78-79.

Mīr Ḳord, *Sīar al-awliā'*, Delhi, 1302/1884-85, pp. 272-73.

Monzawī, *Nosḳahā V*, pp. 3660-61. Rieu, *Catalogue II*, pp. 752-26.

I. H. Siddiqi, *Perso-Arabī Sources on the Life and Conditions in the Sultanate of Delhi*, New Delhi, 1992, pp. 90-101.