



## EQBĀL ĀŠTĪĀNĪ, ‘ABBĀS

**EQBĀL ĀŠTĪĀNĪ, ‘ABBĀS** (عقبالآشتیانی، عباس، b. 1314/1896-97 in Āštīān, d. 21 Bahman 1334 Š./10 February 1956 in Rome), scholar and man of letters (Figure 1). He was born into a family of poor bathkeepers in Āštīān, a township near Arāk. In order to contribute to the family’s income he started working as a carpenter’s apprentice at a very young age, but his own desire for learning and his mother’s encouragement finally made him start his primary education at the age of fourteen. The family moved to Tehran in 1327/1909, where they made friends with the Najmābādī family who helped Eqbāl attend Šerkat-e Golestān school. He continued his education at Dār al-fonūn where he was employed as the assistant librarian upon graduation around 1919 and later entrusted with teaching Persian.

During his years at Dār al-fonūn, Eqbāl came to know such litterati as Moḥammad-‘Alī Forūḡī, Abu’l-Ḥasan Forūḡī, Mortazā Najmābādī, ‘Abd-al-‘Azīm Qarīb, Ġolām-Ḥosayn Rahnemā, and ‘Abd-al-Razzāq Bōḡāyerī, under whose influence he embarked on a career of scholarship that continued until his death. He wrote several high-school textbooks that remained standard for many years to come. The scholarship he demonstrated in these books and in the articles he published in the leading literary periodicals of the time (namely, *Dāneškada*, *Now-Bahār*, *Forūḡ-e tarbiāt*, *Oṣūl-e ta’līm*, *Kāva*, and *Īrān-šahr*) led to his appointment as an instructor in the Teachers College (Dār al-mo’allemīn), where some future scholars (e.g., Mojtabā Mīnovī, Ḥabīb Yāḡmā’ī, Faḵr-al-Dīn Šādmān) were among his students. At the same time he taught history, geography, and Persian literature at the military lycée. In 1303 Š./1924



he was sent to Paris by the Military Council (Šūrā-ye nezām) as the secretary to the Persian military delegation in France, which supervised the progress of Persian students at the military academy there. Eqbāl used this opportunity to pursue his education at the Sorbonne, where he got a bachelor's degree in literature. In Paris he met the distinguished scholar Moḥammad Qazvīnī, who had a profound influence on him and whose meticulous methodology in research Eqbāl adopted like a disciple.

Eqbāl returned to Persia in 1308 Š./1929. The next five years were very productive. He published a number of books and articles, including the books he had worked on during his residence in Paris. He was a member of the delegation representing Persia in the millenium of Ferdowsī in 1313 Š./1934. In 1314 he received a government scholarship for a year of study in Europe. He returned to Persia the next year and became professor of history in the newly founded University of Tehran and a permanent member of the Persian Academy (Farhangestān-e Īrān).

In 1323 Š./1944 Eqbāl founded the monthly periodical *Yādgār*. Early issues mostly dealt with social and educational topics, but later issues were devoted to scholarly articles and notices on literature and history. *Yādgār* continued publication for five years, and it is still considered one of the most informative periodicals ever published in Persia.

In 1328 Š./1949 he was appointed the Persian cultural attaché in Turkey and later in Italy, the position he held until his death in Bahman 1334 Š./1956. Eqbāl remained unmarried to the end of his life. He is buried in the shrine of Shah 'Abd-al-'Azīm south of Tehran.

*Works.* Eqbāl was a prolific, multi-sided scholar, whose main interest was in Persian history and literature. His output, excluding articles, includes:

(1) Studies: *Qābūs-e Vošmgīr-e Zīārī*, Berlin, 1342/1923; *Šarḥ-e ḥāl-e 'Abd-Allāh b. Moqaffa'*, Berlin, 1306 Š./1927; *Kānadān-e Nowbaktī*, Tehran, 1311 Š./1932; *Tārīk-e mofašsal-e Īrān az estilā-ye Mōḡol tā e'lān-e Mašrūṭiyat I: Az ḥamla-ye Čengīz tā taškīl-e dawlat-e tīmūrī*, Tehran, 1312 Š./1933, repr. Tehran, 1341 Š./1962; *Tārīk-e ektešāfāt-e jōgrāfiā'ī wa tārīk-e 'elm-e jōgrāfiā*, Tehran, 1314 Š./1935; *Moṭāla'āt-ī dar bāra-ye Baḥrayn wa jazāyer wa sawāḥel-e Kalīj-e Fārs*, Tehran, 1328 Š./1949; *Wezārat dar 'ahd-e salāṭīn-e bozorg-e saljūqī*, ed. M.-T. Danešpažūh and Y. Doka', Tehran, 1338 Š./1959; *Mīrzā Taqī Kān Amīr-e Kabīr*, ed. Ī. Afšār, Tehran, 1340 Š./1961; *Tārīk-e jawāher dar Īrān*, in *FIZ* 9, 1340



Š./1961, pp. 5-45.

(2) Texts edited: Ebn Mo'tazz, *Ṭabaqāt al-šo'arā' al- moḥaddetīn* (Arabic), facs. ed. with notes and variants, GMS 13, London, 1929; Rašīd Vaṭvāṭ, *Ḥadā'eq al-seḥr fī daqā'eq al-še'r*, Tehran, 1309 Š./1930; Abu'l-Ma'ālī Moḥammad al-Ḥosaynī, *Bayān al-adyān*, Tehran, 1312 Š./1933; Ebn Šahrāšūb, *Ma'ālem al-'olamā'*, Tehran, 1313 Š./1934; Mortazā b. Dā'ī Rāzī, *Tabṣerat al-'awāmm fī ma'refa maqālāt al-anām*, Tehran, 1313 Š./1934; Hendūšāh b. Sanjar Naḵjavānī, *Tajāreb al-salaf*, Tehran, 1313 Š./1934; Abū Manšūr Ṭa'ālebī, *Tatemma al-yatīma*, Tehran, 1313 Š./1934 (Arabic). *Šāh-nāma* (Borūḵīm ed.), vols. 2-6, Tehran, 1314 Š./1935; Amīr Mo'ezzī, *Dīvān*, Tehran, 1319 Š./1940; *Lōḡat-e fors*, Tehran, 1320 Š./1941; (selection of) Neẓām-al-Molk, *Sīāsāt-nāma*, Tehran, 1320 Š./1941; Ebn Esfandiār, *Tārīḵ-e Ṭabarestān*, Tehran, 1320 Š./1941; Obayd Zākānī, *Kolīyāt*, Tehran, 1321 Š./1942; Mīrzā Moḥammad Kalantar, *Rūz-nāma-ye Mīrzā Moḥammad Kalāntar-e Fārs*, Tehran, 1325 Š./1946; Šaraf-al-Dīn Rāmī, *Anīs al-'oššāq*, Tehran, 1325 Š./1946; Jahāngīr Mīrzā, *Tārīḵ-e now*, Tehran, 1327 Š./1948; Mo'īn-al-Dīn Šīrāzī, *Šadd al-ezār fī ḥaṭṭ al-awzār 'an zowwār al-mazār* (Arabic), Tehran, 1328 Š./1949 (with M. Qazvīnī); Nāṣer-al-Dīn Kermānī, *Semṭ al-'olā le'l-ḥazra al-'olyā*, Tehran, 1328 Š./1949; Mīrzā Moḥammad-Ḳalīl Mar'ašī Šafawī, *Majma' al-tawārikò*, Tehran, 1328 Š./1949; Ḥosayn b. Abi'l-Rezā Āvī, *Tarjama-ye Maḥāsen Esfahān-e Māfarrūḳī*, Tehran, 1328 Š./1949; Montajab-al-Dīn Jovaynī, *Ātabat al-kataba*, Tehran, 1329 Š./1950 (with M. Qazvīnī); Ḥamīd-al-Dīn Aḥmad b. Ḥāmed Kermānī, *al-Mozāf elā badāye' al-azmān fī waqāye' Kermān*, Tehran, 1331 Š./1952; Moḥammad Ġazālī, *Fazā'el al-anām men rasā'el Ḥojjat-al-Eslām*, Tehran, 1333 Š./1954; Šarḥ-e qašīda-ye 'aynīya-e Ebn Sīnā, in *MDAT* 1/4, 1333 Š./1954; Ḥakīm Awḥad-al-Dīn Ṭabīb Rāzī, *Dayl-e Sayr al-'ebād-e Sanā'ī*, Tehran, 1334 Š./1955; Abū Manšūr Ṭa'ālebī, *Tatemma al-yatīma*, Tehran, 1313 Š./1934 (Arabic).

(3) Translations: "Une notice sur le Ghilan et le Mazandaran par M. le Colonel Trézel" (publ. with P. Jaubert, *Voyage en Arménie et en Perse*, Paris 1821) as *Yāddāsthā-ye ženerāl Terezel ferestāda-ye Nāpel'on be samt-e Hend*, Tehran, 1308 Š./1929; Alfred de Gardane, *Mission du Général Gardane en Perse sous le Premiér Empire: Documents historiques publiés par son fils* as *Ma'mūrīyat-e Ženerāl Gārdān dar Īrān*, Tehran, 1310 Š./1931; R. S. Poole, *The Coins of the Shahs of Persia*, London, 1887 as *Ṭabaqāt-e salāṭīn-e Eslām*, Tehran, 1312 Š./1933; Moḥammad b. Zakarīyā' Rāzī, *al-Sīrat al-falsafīya* as *Sīrat-e falsafī-e Rāzī*, Tehran, 1315 Š./1936; Jean Baptiste Feuvrier, *Trois ans à la cour de Perse*, as *Se sāl dar darbār-e Īrān*, Tehran, 1326 Š./1947.



For Eqbāl’s articles see Īraj Afšār’s *Fehrest-e Maqālat-e fārsī* (4 vols., Tehran, 1348-69 Š./1969-90). A selection of them (101 articles) was published by Moḥammad Dabīrsīāqī (Tehran, 1350 Š./1971), who is now preparing the publication of all of Eqbāl’s articles in six volumes.

Eqbāl’s literary estate is kept in the Central Library of the University of Tehran. It includes, inter alia, a Persian translation of the section on the Koranic sciences in Storey’s *Persian Literature* and editions of ‘Ayyūqī’s *Varqa wa Golšāh*, Abu’l-Ḥasan Deylamī’s *Sīrat-e Ebn Kaḫfīf*, and Abū Dolaf Yanbū’ī’s *al-Resāla al-tānīya*.

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Idem, “Marg-e Eqbāl,” *Soḵan* 7, 1335 Š./1956, pp. 94-96.

Idem, “Wafāt-e Āqā-ye ‘Abbās Eqbāl Āštīānī,” *MDAT* 3/3, 1334 Š./1955, pp. 67-71.

Idem, “Ātār-e čāpnašoda az ‘Abbās Eqbāl,” *Našrīya-ye Ketāb-kāna-ye markazī-e Dānešgāh-e Tehrān* 1, 1337 Š./1958, pp. 61-66.

Idem, “Šarḥ-e aḥwāl o fehrest-e ātār-e ‘Abbās Eqbāl,” in Q. Šāfi, ed., *Majmū‘a-ye goftārḥā-ī dar bāra-ye čand tan az rejāl-e adab o tārik-ye Īrān*, Tehran, 1357 Š./1978, pp. 151-61.

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Idem, ‘Abbās Eqbāl,” *Yāgmā* 31, 1357 Š./1978, pp. 607-9.

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151-81.

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M. Najmābādī, “Ostād-am ‘Abbās Eqbāl,” *Rāhnemā-ye ketāb* 19, 1355 Š./1976, pp. 602-8.