



ES'AD EFENDĪ, MEHMED

ES'AD EFENDĪ, MEHMED (Moḥammad As'ad Efendi; b. Istanbul, 10 Moḥarram 978/14 June 1570, d. Istanbul, 14 Ša'bān 1034/21 June 1625), Ottoman religious figure and author of both Persian and Turkish poetry. He was the second son of the famous historian Sa'd-al-Dīn Efendi (d. 1008/1599), who came from a Persian family. After completing his elementary education with his father, Es'ad Efendi studied with the well-known scholar Mollā Tawfiq Gīlānī and then taught in various *madrāsas* in Istanbul before embarking on a judicial career. In 1024/1615, after the death of his older brother, who was Šayḡ al-Eslām (head of the Ottoman religious hierarchy), he was appointed to succeed him. His first tenure in this position lasted seven years. His daughter was married to the Ottoman sultan Genç Osman ('Otmān II; 1027-31/1618-22); after Osman's assassination Esad Efendi resigned as Šayḡ al-Eslām, but he was reappointed by Murad IV (Morād IV; 1032-49/1623-40).

Esad Efendi was fluent in both Persian and Arabic. He left a Persian *Dīvān*, which survives in four manuscripts (MSS. Istanbul, Marmara University Library, Arabic no. 554; Ethics no. 1138; Oktür no. 799; Üsküdarlı no. 145). In addition, he translated most of Sa'dī's *Golestān* into Turkish verse (*Gol-e ḡandān*, ed. S. Şevketbeyzade, Istanbul, 1292/1875) and wrote enough Turkish poetry to constitute a second *Dīvān*. He also wrote *Fezā'el al-jom'a*, on the virtues of Friday prayer, and translated Abū 'Īsā Moḥammad Termedī's (d. 279/892) *Ketāb al-šamā'el* into Turkish. In Arabic he left a *maṭnawī*, and a *taḡmīs* (adding four hemistichs to each hemistich in the original) of *Qašīdat al-borda*.



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