



‘EŠQ, SHAIKH ĠOLĀM MOḤYĪ-AL-DĪN MOBTALĀ

‘EŠQ, *shaikh ġolām moḥyī-al-dīn MOBTALĀ*, 18th-19th century author writing in Persian and Urdu. He was born in Meerut, in present day Uttar Pradesh, and later moved to Delhi where he was employed by Nawwāb Najaf Khan (d. 1169/1782; Rieu, *Pers. Man.* II, p. 723), Amīr-al-Omarā’ to Shah ‘Ālam II (d. 1221/1806). His father, Ne‘mat-Allāh, whose pen name was Ne‘amī, is said to have composed a *dīvān* of poetry in Persian. ‘Ešq pursued his education under the direction of his father, who also helped him develop his poetical talent. He died in Ramažān 1241/April 1826 and was buried in Meerut.

Major works of ‘Ešq’s that have survived include: a *dīvān* of Persian poems comprising *ġazals*, *qaṣīdas*, *maṭnawīs*, and *robā’īs* (MS London, British Library, Or. 308); a Persian *maṭnawī* called *Fosūn-e ‘ešq*; an Urdu translation of Hātefī Herātī’s (d. 927/1522) poem *Layī o Majnūn*, which ‘Ešq completed in 1231/1815-16 (Aḥmad); *Čahār čaman* (comp. 1187/1773) and *Ṭabaqāt-e soḡan* (comp. 1222/1807-8), two *taḍkera* of poets in Persian. ‘Ešq is remembered chiefly for his *Ṭabaqāt-e soḡan*, which reportedly consists of two sections, the first one dealing with Urdu poets and the second one with Persian poets (Sprenger, pp. 187-88 n. 53). However, the published edition of the work contains only the accounts of Urdu poets from the time of Moḡammad Shah (r. 1719-48) up to the beginning of Akbar II’s reign (1806-37). Whether or not the second section, containing the notices of Persian poets, actually exists remains debatable.



Bibliography (for cited works not given in detail see “Short References”):

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