



E'ṬEṢĀMĪ, MĪRZĀ YŪSOF KHAN ĀŠTĪĀNĪ, E'ṬEṢĀM-AL- MOLK

E'ṬEṢĀMĪ, MĪRZĀ YŪSOF KHAN ĀŠTĪĀNĪ, E'ṬEṢĀM-AL-MOLK (b. Tabrīz, 1291/1874; d. Tehran, 12 Dey 1316 Š./2 January 1938), Persian writer and journalist. His father, Mīrzā Ebrāhīm Khan Mostawfī E'ṭeṣām-al-Molk, like many secretaries and accountants in the Qajar administration, came from Āštīān; he was appointed financial controller (*mostawfī*) of Azarbaijan and remained in Tabrīz until his death.

E'ṭeṣāmī studied Arabic and Persian literature with his father and private tutors. He learned French and excelled in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish. It was through Ottoman sources in particular that he became acquainted with Western literatures. In the late 1890s he established the first typographical printing in Tabrīz. Only once was E'ṭeṣāmī persuaded to accept, for a brief period, a political position, as member of the second Majles (1327-30/1909-12). In about 1912 he settled permanently in Tehran, where he devoted his energies almost entirely to intellectual pursuits, writing, and translating. During his later years he was appointed director of the Majles library and was also a member of the Education Commission (*Komīsīūn-e ma'āref*).

E'ṭeṣāmī's scholarly and literary output includes a three-volume catalogue of manuscripts in the Majles library (*Fehrest-e Ketāb-kāna-ye Majles-e šūrā-ye*



mellī, Tehran, 1305-11 Š./1926-32) and about forty volumes of translations from Western poets and novelists, including Molière, Victor Hugo (*Les misérables*, tr. as *Tirabaktān I*, Tehran, 1303 Š./1924), Jules Verne (*Vingt mille lieues sous les mers*, tr. as *Safīna-ye gāwwāša*, Tehran, n.d.), and Friedrich Schiller (*Kabale und Liebe*, tr. as *Kod'a wa 'ešq*, Tehran 1325/1907). Early in his career he had translated into Arabic a book on the Indian Mutiny of 1857 (*Tawrat al-Hend*, Cairo, 1900; J. Zaydān in *al-Helāl* 9/6, 1900, p. 191). He is also the author of *Qal'ed al-adab fi šarḥ aṭwāq al-dahab* (Cairo, 1903), a commentary in Arabic on Abu'l-Qāsem Maḥmūd Zamaḳšarī's *Aṭwāq al-dahab* (Tabrīz, 1902). His translations from Arabic include a book on women's education by Qāsem Amīn (*Tahrīr al-mar'a*, tr. as *Tarbiyat-e neswān*, Tabrīz, 1318/1900; *al-Helāl*, op. cit.). His last book, a translation (from French?), was *Sīḥat-nāma-ye Fiṭāgūres* (Tehran, 1314 Š./1935; original author unknown). He is best known, however, as the founder of the monthly *Bahār* (q.v.) and author of most of its articles, which were aimed at shaping a more secular and social view of life at an early stage in the modernization of Persia. His liberal and humanistic approach served as a model for a generation of younger journalists and writers.

E'tešāmī was married and had four sons and a daughter, the famous poet Parvīn E'tešāmī (q.v.). His wife died in 1973 and was buried next to him in Qom.

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