



FARHANG-E JAHĀNGĪRĪ

FARHANG-E JAHĀNGĪRĪ, one of the most complete and authoritative dictionaries of the Persian language, composed in India at the beginning of the 11th/17th century. Its author was Mīr Jamāl-al-Dīn Ḥosayn b. Fakr-al-Dīn Ḥasan Enjū Šīrāzī, who held the title ‘Azod-al-Dawla and was also known as Ḥosayn Enjū. Although born in Shiraz, he had lived in India since his early years and died in Agra in 1035/1626. He served at the Mughal court and rose to a high position under Akbar and Jahāngīr (Rieu, *Persian Manuscripts* II, pp. 496-98).

It took Ḥosayn Enjū twelve years to complete his dictionary (1005-17/1595-1608), which he named in honor of Jahāngīr. He produced a second edition in 1032/1622. The dictionary lists about 10,000 words taken from the works of Persian poets. (The exact number is 9,830 words: 8,960 Persian; 630 Arabic; 140 Indian; and about a hundred entries of Turkic and Greek origin as well as words from various dialects.) The entries are arranged in alphabetical order, but unlike all other Persian farhangs, which base the listing of entries on their first or last letter, Ḥosayn Enjū takes as a base the second letter of each word. Thus, the Farhang-e jahāngīrī consists of twenty-four chapters (*bāb*). Each chapter is further divided into sections (*faṣl*), which are arranged in an alphabetical order according to the first letter of the entries they contain. The dictionary indicates the pronunciation of the words in a descriptive manner, specifying the sequence of vowels. Entries are usually extensive, with definitions supported by examples in verse, citing the names of the poets. This makes *Farhang-e jahāngīrī* particularly useful, since it



preserves about a thousand verses by four hundred poets, including Rūdakī, Daqīqī, Ferdowsī, Šahīdī, Farrokī, Asadī, Anwarī, Kāqānī, Sanā'ī, Sūzanī, Amīr Kōsrow, and Neẓāmī Ganjavī (qq.v.).

Farhang-e jahāngīrī contains also the author's introduction (*moqaddema*), and a supplement (*kātema*). The introduction incorporates a detailed lexicogrammatical study divided into twelve sections (*āyīn*), with information on the geographical distribution of the Persian language, the alphabet, the pronunciation of certain phonemes, orthography, pronominal suffixes, adverbs, conjunctions, dialects, and the like. In the supplement Ḥosayn Enjū gives five special glossaries (*dar*), which explain metaphorical expressions and poetic terms; Arabic and Persian compound words; words containing one of the characteristic Arabic letters; Avestan words; and loanwords from Turkic, Greek, and Indian languages.

Ḥosayn Enjū mentions the sources for his dictionary in its introduction. He lists forty-four Persian dictionaries, including *Farhang-e Abū Ḥafṣ Soḡdī*, *Farhang-e Qaṭrān*, *Loḡat-e fors* of Asadī Ṭūsī (q.v.), *Lesān al-šoarā'*, *Farhang-e zafāngūyā*, *Šehāḥ al-fors*, *Majma' al-fors*, and *Madār al-afāzel*. Judging from the text of the entries, Ḥosayn Enjū also used nine other lexicographies, as well as works on geography, history, astronomy, and medicine. In addition, he gathered material from oral sources and from native speakers of different dialects. Ḥosayn Enjū's dictionary represents one of the earliest serious attempts to discuss the grammatical structure of the Persian language and to classify its lexicon. The number of surviving manuscripts attests to its popularity (Figures 1–2). One of the oldest of these manuscripts, dating from 1024/1615—that is, copied during the lifetime of the author—belongs to the collection of the Oriental Institute in St. Petersburg (Baevskii, no. 24); unfortunately this manuscript has never been used in published editions of the text.

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