



FARHANG-E WAFĀ'Ī

FARHANG-E WAFĀ'Ī (or *Resāla-ye Wafā'ī*), a Persian lexicon of some 2,425 mainly literary terms, compiled by Ḥosayn Wafā'ī in 933/1527 and dedicated to the Safavid Shah Ṭahmāsb I (r. 1524-76). Entrees are arranged according to their final letters in twenty-six chapters (*bāb*) that are subdivided into sections (*faṣl*) in alphabetical order. It also contains an introduction that briefly deals with some aspects of phonetics and Arabic letters in the Persian alphabet.

Farhang-e Wafā'ī is based mainly on *Şehāḥ al-fors* of Moḥammad Naḵjavāni, with some additional materials, mostly from *Farhang-nāma-ye kešmiri* of Šams-al-Din Moḥammad Kešmiri and *Me'yār-e jamāli* of Šams-e Faḵri Eşfahāni. It served as the source and model for a number of subsequent dictionaries, including *Majma' al-fors (Farhang-e soruri)* of Moḥammad-Qāsem Soruri Kāšāni and *Farhang-e jahāngiri* of Mir Jamāl-al-Din Ḥosayn Enju Širāzi.

The dictionary has a number of characteristic features: A) [verbal] specification of vowel points (*fatha*, *zamma*, *kasra*); B) special attention paid to obscure poetic terms, a fact that explains its having been used as a main reference by Abu'l-Ḥasan Farāhāni in his *Şarḥ-e moşkelāt-e divān-e Anwari*, a 17th-century commentary elucidating obscure verses in Anwari's *divān*; C) diversity of content, which includes compound words, grammatical forms, words of various Persian dialects, mostly of Shiraz (a possible indication of the author's place of origin), terms of Arabic and Turkish origin, synonyms for utensils, words referring to food items, diseases, types of medicine, animals,



birds, plants, musical instruments, agricultural tools, geographical names (countries, towns, villages), words for such natural phenomena as the sun, lightening, thunder, and hurricanes, as well as the names of historical and legendary personalities; and D) relatively extensive citation of Persian poetry as illustration; altogether, 100 poets have been quoted, including the author himself.

The dictionary is extant in a number of manuscripts (Storey III/1, pp. 17-18; Dabirsiāqi, 1989, pp. 77-78). Carl Salemann, in an article on *Me'yar-e jamāli*, discussed at length (pp. 453-93) the manuscript of Wafā'i's dictionary in *Bibliothèque National*, enumerating its chapters, sections, and the entries in each section; he also quoted fragments of the book and listed the names of the poets in Soruri's quotations from it.

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