



‘ISĀ B. ŞAHĀRBOQT

‘ISĀ B. ŞAHĀRBOQT, medical author of the third/ninth century, from Gondēšāpur (q.v.). ‘Isā was, as is shown by his own name and that of his father, a descendant of an apparently Nestorian Christian Syro-Persian family of Gondēšāpur. His father was a medical author as well; he in fact dedicated a book in the field (a commentary of Jorjis’ *Konnāš*) to his son—a practice customary in families of physicians. Information about ‘Isā’s life is extremely scarce, but the period can be determined approximately on the basis of a remark by Ebn Abi ‘Oşaybe‘a about ‘Isā’s (lost) translation of part of Ḥonayn’s epitome of Galen’s commentary on Hippocrates’ *Aphorisms*. The middle third of the third/ninth century was a period of transition, when medical books were still being composed in Syriac; but the demand for Arabic translations, or original works, was rising. Thus ‘Isā translated into Arabic those parts of Ḥonayn’s work which Ḥonayn himself had not translated. ‘Isā’s only other known work, *Ketāb qowā’l-adwia al-mofrada ‘alā’l-ḥorūf*, was also composed in Arabic. Like his father’s work and so many other books of Islamic medicine from that period, it is preserved only in fragments by way of quotations in later authors. That most erudite scholar Bīrūnī included some fragments in his *Ketāb al-jamāher* (pp. 197, 222), and Badr-al-Dīn Moḥam-mad b. Bahrām Qalānesi mentioned him in his great *Aqrābādīn* (Ullmann, pp. 307 f.).

Sezgin has shown it likely that ‘Isā’s grandfather Mā-sarjis is identical with a medical author of the same name who is reported to have been a contemporary of Abu Nowās (died ca. 200/815), and with the father of another ‘Isā; the latter is a medical author mentioned by Ebn al-Nadīm, Qeḫṭī, and Ebn



Abi ‘Oşaybe‘a.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abu Rayḥān Biruni, *Ketab al-jjamāher fi ma‘refat al jawāher*, ed. F. Krenkow, Hyderabad, 1936.

Ebn al-Nadīm, ed. Flügel, p. 298.

Ebn Abi ‘Oşay-be‘a, ‘*Oyun al-anbā’ fi ṭabaqāt al-aṭebbā’*, 2 vols., ed. August Müller, Cairo and Königsberg, 1882-84, I, pp. 199, ll. 4-7; 203, ll. 12-13.

‘Ali b. Yūsuf Qeṭṭī confuses his lifetime with that of ‘Isā b. Šohlāfā: Julius Lippert, ed., *Ibn al-Qiṭṭī’s Ta’rīḥ al-ḥukamā’*, Leipzig, 1903; see Sezgin, *GAS* III, p. 243.

Manfred Ullmann, *Die Medizin im Islam* (Handbuch der Orientalistik I. Suppl.VI/1), Leiden and Köln, 1970, pp. 264, pp. 307 f.

Sezgin, *GAS* III, pp. 224, 242-43, 256. Sezgin tends to think that the author of the *Konnāš* which ‘Isā’s father, Şahārboṭt, commented on was not identical with Jorjis b. Jebrā’il b. Boḳtišu’, al-Manşur’s well-known physician (cf. *GAS* II, pp. 209 f.; Ullmann, p. 108).