



ḲAZINADĀR

ḲAZINADĀR (or *kezānadār*; also *kāzen*, pl. *kozzān*), title of the royal treasurer since the early Islamic period. The title Mo'nes-al-Ḳāzen, mentioned in the early 10th century as that of an associate of the 'Abbasid vizier Ebn al-Forāt, may actually refer to the royal treasurer (Sourdel, II, pp. 387-88, 742). As in pre-Islamic period (see [GANZABARA](#)), the term could also refer to lower menial court personnel such as *kozzān al-faraš* "keepers of bedding storage" and *kāzen al-šam'* "keeper of the candle supply" (Helāl b. Šābe', p. 23).

Under the [Buyids](#) the royal treasurer was known as the *šāḥeb divān al-ḳazā'en* (Burgel, p. 11). The terms *ḳazinadār*, *kezānadār* or *kāzen* were used in Persia throughout its Islamic history from the Ghaznavid period to the Qajars (Bayhaqi, p. 267; Horst, p. 23; Naḳjavāni, I, pp. 296-99, 368, I/2, pp. 140, 238, 409-10, II, pp. 34, 75, 77, 83, 88, 97, 128-29, 458; Nabipour, pp. 35a, 43b, 68a, 68b, 70a; Woods, p. 11). Towards the end of the Safavid dynasty, the head of the treasury was referred to as *kezānadār-bāši* (Āṣaf, p. 100; Tavernier, p. 220). Under the Il-khanid and Timurid officials known as *kezānači* are mentioned, of whom there were more than one, who were in charge of keeping gold, silver, and other precious objects, but it is not known what their function was and what treasure they were in charge of (Waṣṣāf, pp. 47, 207, 578; Rašid-al-Din Faḏl-Allāh, III, pp. 392, 538-39; Manz, pp. 170-71).

The function of the royal treasurer remained rather unchanged throughout the Islamic period. He was in charge of the *kezāna*, that is the storehouse where the ruler's precious possessions were kept. Under the Saljuqs the term also was synonymous with *māl-e kezāna* or treasury taxes (Horst, p. 79). The



state treasury was known as *kezāna-ye āmera* under the Il-khanids, which term continued to be used to the end of the Qajar period (Nabipour, pp. 35a, 43b, 68a, 68b, 70a; Mirḳvānd, VII, p. 107; Mirzā Rafi'ā, pp. 44-46; Mervi, index, s.v.; Qā'em-maqām, 1978, II, pp. 132, 302; idem, 1979, pp. 139, 205, 210).

Gold and silver (coined, wrought or bullion) were kept in the treasury, as well as all kinds of other precious and valuable pieces, such as precious stones, jewelry, furs, carpets, robes, weapons, horse tack, royal banners, and kettle drums (Bayhaqi, p. 267; Horst, p. 23; Afšuta'i, p. 128; Wāleh, 1938, p. 212; Idem, 2001, p. 209; Fraser, p. 77; Momtaḥen-al-Dawla, pp. 169-70). Costly manuscripts also were usually part of the royal treasury (Neẓām-al-Molk, p. 4; Horst, pp. 11, 164; Mostawfi, I, pp. 391-92; E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Sāl-nāma*, in idem, 1942, V, Appendix, p. 25).

The treasurer kept records of what entered and left the treasury (Bayhaqi, p. 267; Horst, p. 23; Raḥimlu, p. 69; Mirzā Sami'ā, p. 65; Wāleh, 1938, pp. 207, 283). Under the Safavids, the treasurer were always one of the eunuchs in the royal service (Jawhar, tr., p. 74; Mirzā Rafi'ā, pp. 44-46; Wāleh, 1938, p. 283; Olearius, p. 672; Du Mans II, pp. 14, 266; Floor, 1998a, p. 36; Floor and Faghfoory, pp. 184-85; Gemelli Carreri, II, p. 221). The treasurer was assisted by a staff of *kazinadārs*, supervisors (*mošref*), scribes (*dabir*) and porters (*ḥammāl*) as well as, in Safavid times, of *azabs*, key-keepers (*keliddār*), and *šarrāfs* (Bayhaqi, pp. 220, 259; Horst, p. 23; Naḳjavāni, I, pp. 296-99, 368; Wāleh, 2001, p. 446; Astarābādi, p. 129; Mirzā Rafi'ā, pp. 44-46; Mirzā Sami'ā, pp. 56, 93, 95; Du Mans, II, p. 267). Magnates as well as large pious endowments (*waqf*) also had treasurers (Bayhaqi, p. 147; Qalqašandi, III, p. 475; *Mojmal al-tawāriḳ* 408; Puturidze, doc. 49, Fraser, p. 77; cf. *kāzen-e kānaqāh*, in Minovi and Afšār, eds., pp. 137, 139, 147, 149, 158, 221-22, 225).

There seems to have been two types of royal treasuries since the 10th century, if not earlier. The *kezāna-ye kāšš* of the Saljuqs probably is an early example of one (Horst, p. 23). Neẓām-al-Molk reports: "Kings have always had two treasuries, the capital treasury [*kezāna-ye ašl*] and the expenses treasury [*kezāna-ye karj*]" (Neẓām-al-Molk, p. 323; tr. p. 246). This two-fold division also became a physical one under the Safavids when the Shah's treasury (gold, silver, and crown jewels) was kept in the harem (Mirzā Rafi'ā, pp. 44-46; Wāleh, 1938, p. 283; Olearius, p. 672; Du Mans, pp. 14, 266; Floor, 1998a, p. 36; Gemelli Carreri, II, p. 221). Under the Qajars, there the royal treasury (*kezāna-ye andarun*) was kept at the royal harem and directly managed by the shah himself and one of his trusted wives; by the end of the 19th century it became



the Wezārat-e *kezāna*-ye 'āmera. The other treasury (*kezāna*-ye *mālia*) comprised the department of revenues (*āyedāt*) and back (*baqāyā*) taxes and other government sources of income. The mint was also part of the treasury as was the trunk office (*šandoq-kāna*) under an official called *kāzen-al-molk*, *kāzen-al-mamālek*, or *ganjvar*. Starting in 1880, the treasury, which collected taxes, became known as the Wezārat-e *kezāna* or Wezārat-e *mālia* and the treasurer as vizier (Mostawfi, I, pp. 391-93).

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