



## NAKJAVĀNI, ḤĀJJ MOḤAMMAD

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**NAKJAVĀNI, Ḥājj Moḥammad** (نکجهانی حاج محمد) (b. Tabriz, 1880; d. Tabriz, 15 Mordād 1341 Š./6 August 1962), businessman, scholar, and collector of manuscripts. His father, Ḥājj ‘Ali ‘Abbās was a leading merchant in Tabriz and attended to his son’s education from early years. The young Moḥammad began his elementary education under Āqā Ḥosayn Amin-al-Odabā and at Ṭalebiya school, where he studied Persian and Arabic grammar and literature under an erudite teacher called Mollā ‘Ali. Nakjavāni began his life-long career as a merchant in the bazaar of Tabriz under his father. At the same time, he developed a passion for collecting rare manuscripts that stayed with him throughout his life. He was a successful merchant and his wealth enabled him to travel to Europe and Asia in search of rare Persian manuscripts, many of which he purchased and brought back to Persia.

Nakjavāni was quite generous with his books, including his valuable manuscripts, allowing researchers to borrow them for long periods of time. In 1956, he donated his entire library of over 3,700 books, including his large collection of manuscripts, to the Public Library of Tabriz (*Ketāb-kāna-ye melli-e Tabriz*). Sayyed Ḥasan Taqizādeh, a childhood friend and schoolmate of Nakjavāni, has described his collection as an incomparable library (*ketāb-kāna-ye bi-mānand*; Taqizādeh, p. 185). They included unique manuscripts such as those of Neẓām al-Molk’s *Siyar al-moluk* or *Siāsat-nāma*, *Riāz al-janna* of Mirzā Ḥasan Zonuzi known as Fāni, *Mojmal-e faṣiḥi* of Faṣiḥ Aḥmad of K̄vāf,



the *Dayl* of Ġiāt-al-Din K̄vāndamir's *Ḥabib al-siar* by the author's son, *Koliyāt* of Amir 'Ali-šir-e Navā'i, the *Divān* and the collected works of *Šādeqi Afšār*, the librarian of Shah 'Abbās, and many other.

Naḵjavāni was active in the literary circles of Tabriz. He was also the deputy chairman of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce. He edited and published the *Divān* of Qaṭrān of Tabriz (Tabriz, 1954), compiled a detailed catalogue of the manuscripts held at the Tarbiat Library in Tabriz (*Fehrest-e nosaq-e kaṭṭi-e Ketāb-kāna o qerā'at-kāna-ye Tarbiat*, Tabriz, 1950), and also published a number of short articles on literary subjects. He died after a long period of illness and was buried in his hometown.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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(Hushang Ettehad and EIr)

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