



TOḤFAT AL-SA'ĀDA

TOḤFAT al-SA'ĀDA (Gift of happiness), an early 16th-century Persian dictionary of 14,000 entries by Maḥmud b. Shaikh Žiā'-al-Din Moḥammad, a poet of northern India. It was compiled in 1510 in honor of Sultan Sekandar (Eskandar) II Neẓām Khan (r. 1489-1517; see Burton-Page), hence its collateral title *Farhang-e Sekandari* or *Eskandari*. It contains mainly terms used in Persian poetry but discusses also a few Arabic and Turkic expressions.

The book is organized in twenty-nine chapters (*bāb*) arranged in alphabetical order according to initial letters of the entries, and each chapter is divided into two sections (*faṣl*) that are devoted to simple and compounds words respectively. Entries in each section are arranged according to their final letters. The author based his work on both earlier Persian dictionaries (*Farhang-e Ġawwās*, *Farhang-e zafānguyā*, *Adāt al-foẓalā*, *Farhang-e ebrāhīmī*, *Dastur al-afāẓel*, *Žamir*, *Farhang-e Qāẓi Ẓahir*, *Farhang-e 'ajāyeb*, *Farhang-e ḥosayni*) and Arabic lexicons (*Šorāḥ*, *Šehāḥ*, *Tājayn*, *Naṣīb al-weldān*). *Toḥfat al-sa'āda*, in turn, was a source for subsequent lexicographic works, notably *Madār al-afāẓel*, *Farhang-e jahāngiri*, and *Farhang-e soruri*, also known as *Majma' al-fors*. As shown by Bayevsky for the first time, and thus contrary to the information provided in the pertinent catalogues, the St. Petersburg manuscript of *Toḥfat al-sa'āda* (Institute of Oriental Studies, C313; see Bayevsky, 1962a, pp. 17-19) does contain word definitions that are illustrated by quotations from a variety of early Persian poets, such as Ferdowsi, Anwari, 'Onşori, Ẓahir Fāryābi, Kāqānī, Neẓāmī Ganjavi, Sa'dī, Salmān Sāvaji, Ḥāfeẓ, and also by the philosopher/scientist Avicenna (Ebn Sinā). The dictionary



indicates the pronunciation of the discussed words by giving the sequence of their vowels. Manuscripts of the *Toḥfat al-sa'āda* are rare.

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