Shīrāzī (300 words)

Ernst, C.

Shīrāzī

, Raftʿ al-Dīn (ca. 947-1030/1540-1620), historian of the ʿĀdil Shāhī dynasty of Būjāpūr [q.v.]. A native of Shīrāz, he travelled to India as a merchant, and from the age of twenty served SultanʿAffā ʿĀdil Shāh, and later Sultan ʿIbrāhīm, in various capacities, including as ambassador to Aḥmadnagar [q.v.], the capital of the Nizām Shāhs [q.v.], governor of the Būjāpūr fort, and treasurer. While he wrote abridgements of Mr Kh “ʿand’s Rawḍat al-ṣafā”, Kh “ʿand ʿAmīr’s Ḥabīb al-siyar, and a Fārhangnāma , he is best known for his Tadhkīrat al-mulūk, history of the ʿĀdil Shāhī dynasty and contemporary Indian and Persian régimes, begun in 1017/1608-9 and completed three years later (for mss., see Storey, i, 743, to which add Sālār Djang, i, 406, no. 362 [Hist. 142] and Āṣafiyya, handlist 5280). The Tadhkīrat al-mulūk is divided into an introduction and ten fasils (expanded to twelve in some mss.), with a supplement on Indian temples, jewel mines, rivers, and wonders of the region. Raftʿ al-Dīn Shīrāzī has been neglected as an historian, partly due to the canonisation of Firīṣtā [q.v.] by the British, but the Tadhkīrat al-mulūk remains an important, independent source of Indo-Persian history.

(C. Ernst)

Bibliography


partial tr. J.S. King, The history of the Bahmanī Dynasty, founded on the Burhān-i Maʿāsir [and the Tadhkīrat al-mulūk], London 1900. See also V.R. Natu, A history of Bījapur by Rafīuddin Shirazi , in JBBRAS, xxii (1905-8), 17-29

N.B. Roy, Some interesting anecdotes of Sher Shah from the rare Persian Ms. of Tazkīrat-ul-Mulk, in JASB, Letters, xx/2 (1954), 219-26


Citation