
O. Redā'ī. *Pīšīne va naḥve-ye ṭabt-e asnād dar bandar-e Būšeehr (1308 h.q.-1350 h.q.)*

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O. Ređā'ī. « Pišīne va naḥve-ye ṭabt-e asnād dar bandar-e Būšehr (1308 h.q.-1350 h.q.) ». *Faṣl-nāme-ye asnād-e Bahārestān*, 1/1, 1390/2011, p. 79-94.

- ¹ The author presents an edition (p. 81-90) and facsimiles (p. 90-94) of five *šari'a* court documents from the port of Būšehr on the Persian Gulf coast of south-western Iran. The documents, all sale contracts, dated 1308/1891, 1330/1912, 1332/1914, 1345/1926 and 1350/1932 respectively, belong to the private collection of the Davvānī merchant family of Būšehr. They are significant because they each bear a registration remark. Ređā'ī speculates that the registration practice of the Būšehrī clerics ('olamā') might have been influenced by the *šari'a* courts of Šīrāz (p. 79-81), where the earliest evidence of registration discovered so far dates to the beginning of the 19th century. On the basis of the Būšehrī documents, we can conclude that no less than five clerics registered legal documents in Būšehr during the late 19th and early 20th-century.
- ² The five clerics are: (1) Seyyed (Sd.) Mahdī 'Alam-al-Hodā Būšehrī (d. 1316/1898) – son of Sd. 'Abdollah Mojtaheh-e Behbahānī; (2) Sd. Morteđā Mūsavī Najafī Behbahānī; (3) Hājj Šeyh Moḥammad 'Alī Emām-jom'e Āl-'Aṣfūr (d. 1351/1932); (4) Šeyh Moḥammad b. Moḥammad 'Alī Behbahānī; and (5) Sd. Hāšem b. 'Alavī al-Mūsavī Āl-'Aṣfūr. Each operated their own *šari'a* court, had separate recording procedures, and used a different formula to mark a registered document: (1) « ṭabt-e daftar-e maḥkame-ye moḥkame-ye 'adliyye-ye šar'iyye eslāmiyye gardīd »; (2) « mađmūn-e matn dar daftar-e qabālejāt-e šar'iyye ṭabt šod »; (3) « ṭabt-e daftar-e šar'-e motā' gardīd »; (4) « mađmūn-e varaqe dar daftar-e maḥkame ṭabt gardīd şafhe-ye 225 nomre-ye 1127 fi 15 j.

2 (Jomādā II) 1345 »; and (5) « ṭabt-e daftar-e maḥkame-ye šar'iyye šod nomre-ye 14, ḥafhe-ye 3 ».

- ³ It is difficult, however, to determine whether the Būšehrī clerics involved in registering these legal documents acted privately or on behalf of the Qājār/Pahlavī authorities, that is, in response to the centralizing registration policy of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Šāh (r. 1848-1896) contained in the decree (*farmān*) of Ordībehešt 1290 A.H./1873 (also known as *qānūn-e ṭabt-e asnād*) and in subsequent laws on registration (*qānūn-e ṭabt-e asnād va amlāk*) passed in Iran from 1302/1923-1924 onwards.
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