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- 1 The ambiguous character of the function and office of the *Ḥalifat al-Ḥulafā'* as the leader of the Safavid mystic order has been the subject of a systematic investigation for the last time in 1965 by Roger Savory. Since then numerous new sources have come to light and it was overdue to attempt a fresh look. Of special interest is Floor's re-interpretation of the *Ḥalīfe*-system and the conflict between Ḥoseyn-Qulī Ḥān Rūmlū and Esmā'il II in 1576. The article includes a table of known and possible holders of the office from its beginnings during the reign of Esmā'il I down to the early 18th century. Very welcome is also the appendix with the translation of a text on the function of the *Ḥalifat al-Ḥulafā'* by Mīrzā 'Alī Naqī Naṣīrī from the reign of Ṭahmāsp II with details on his income and the rituals he was supervising. For a wider outlook the article should be read in conjunction with the work by Kathryn Babayan; the author was probably not able to include references to her collection of studies under the title of *Mystics, Monarchs and Messiahs* that appeared in 2002 (voir c.r. n° 218).

INDEX

Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

nompropre Mîrzâ ‘Alî Naqî Naşîrî

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