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- 1 This important article is based on an incomplete, Safavid copy of the *Sarih al-milk*, the deed of the *vaqf* domain that was part of the Blue Mosque of Tabriz, a.k.a. Muzaffariya Mosque, named after the Qara-Qoyunlu ruler Abu'l Muzaffar Jahanshah (d. 1467) who is buried in it. Jahanshah, his wife Khatun Khan Begum, and his daughter Saliha Khatun have variously been claimed as the founder of the complex. A close reading of the *Sarih al-milk* reveals a multifaceted and complicated enterprise that implicates all three members of the ruling house – Jahanshah and Khatun Khan Begum as joint founders, and Saliha Khatun as one of the beneficiaries. The mention of females in *vaqfnamehs* is not unusual, the author argues; what is unusual, even unique about this *vaqf* is that all of its intended beneficiaries are women. The objective of the endowment was clearly to restrict its usufruct to female members of the family. Rebellious behaviour of the males in the family might account for part of this, but the main reason has to be sought in the active presence of women in political life in the Turko-Mongol tradition to which the Qara-Qoyunlu were heirs. Khatun Khan Begum was a particularly strong woman but not the only one to claim power within the Qara-Qoyunlu confederacy. There is good

reason to assume that, with the endowment of this property for her daughters, Khatun Khan Begum meant to give her matrilinear clan a solid economic foundation.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

Mots-clés : Vaqf

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