

Luís Filipe F. R. Thomaz. « Ḥ^wāje Pīr Qolī et sa *Brève relation de la Perse* », in : Michele Bernardini, Masashi Haneda and Maria Szuppe, eds., *Eurasian Studies [Liber Amicorum. Études sur l'Iran médiéval et moderne offertes à Jean Calmard]*. Vol. V/1-2, 2006, pp. 357-369.

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- 1 Long after a precursor such as Jean Aubin showed the way, the importance of the Portuguese sources for the study of Safavid Persia is finally (and deservedly) receiving growing attention from the international community of scholars. Here Prof. Thomaz enlarges our knowledge of these sources with the translation of a brief report penned around 1548. The first part of the article (pp. 357-365) is a helpful (although perhaps too concise, considering that we are “relativement bien renseigné” about him, p. 357) introduction on the life of the author of the report, Ḥ^wāje Pīr qolī, a Persian trader living at Goa and active in a number of other capacities (dragoman, secret agent, spy) in the service of the Portuguese colonial authorities. The second part (pp. 365-369) is a French translation of the original Portuguese text, which consists mainly of the distances between the most important Persian cities, the names of the regions of the hinterland, and very sketchy information on local history and religion. The nature of the information provided is certainly “élémentaire, quoique assez précis”, but Prof. Thomaz remarks that many Persian place names “font ici leur première apparition dans la littérature portugaise” (p. 364). Ḥ^wāje Pīr qolī’s brief account is therefore an

important and early contribution to the Portuguese (and perhaps European in general) knowledge of up-country Persia.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qājârs

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