

Omid Rezai. *Darāmadī bar asnād-e šar‘ī-ye dowre-ye qājār (Introduction to Šarī‘a Documents from Qājār Iran)*. Tokyo, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), 2008, 14-211-7 p. (Studia Culturae Islamica n°92, MEIS Series n°9)

Zahir Bhalloo

**Édition électronique**URL : <https://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/39405>

DOI : 10.4000/abstractairanica.39405

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2011

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Zahir Bhalloo, « Omid Rezai. *Darāmadī bar asnād-e šar‘ī-ye dowre-ye qājār (Introduction to Šarī‘a Documents from Qājār Iran)*. Tokyo, Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), 2008, 14-211-7 p. (Studia Culturae Islamica n°92, MEIS Series n°9) », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 31 | 2011, document 160, mis en ligne le 11 octobre 2012, consulté le 31 août 2023.

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/39405> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.39405>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 31 août 2023.

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- 1 The present study is the product of years of experience gained by the author working with Qajar šarī'a documents (*asnād-e šarī*) at the Sāzmān-e owqāf (Endowments Organization) in Tehran. It is divided into three parts, which are subdivided into smaller sections. In the first part, after defining what constitutes a šarī'a document, the author provides a review of šarī'a documents published in Iran before and after the Islamic revolution. This is followed by a codicological discussion of script, ink, paper and what one might expect to find on the recto (*rūye*) and verso (*zahriyye*) of a typical document from this period. The author pays particular attention to judicial endorsements (*sejellāt/tašdiqāt*) and the reading of seals (*saj'yābī*). The differences between an original document (*aşl*) and its copy (*savād/rūnevešt*), the production of copies (*savādī/savādgīrī*) and the registration of documents in archives (*daftarī kardan-e asnād/tabt-e asnād*) are also considered.
- 2 In the second part, the author briefly deals with the problem of *siyāq* (the old shorthand used to write numbers), weights and measures, currency, titles and ranks, names of tribes and geographical places appearing in the documents. He follows this with a

survey of dating systems and provides a detailed explanation of how chronograms (*hesāb-e jummal*) were created by assigning numerical values to Arabic characters (*abjad*).

- 3 The third part opens with a look at how the level of sophistication of language used is often an indicator of the religious learning of the ‘*olamā*’ involved in producing a document. After a brief historical overview of the main Shi‘i works of jurisprudence (*feqh*), the author presents a lexicon of twenty five frequently encountered technical legal terms and expressions. The last section of the book, which is also the longest, consists of thirty two fully transcribed *šarī’a* documents (*šadāq-nāme*, *bay’-nāme*, *ejāre-nāme*, *vaqf-nāme*, *šolḥ-nāme*, *estešhād-nāme*, *ḥokm* etc.). The presentation of each document begins with a summary of legal requirements for its validity. This is followed by a transcription of the document. The transcription is then reworked into a table which divides the document line by line into its constituent elements. After the table, the judicial endorsements of the document are transcribed. The presentation ends with a physical description of the document and a reference to its catalogued location. A photograph of the document is usually also included. With the publication of this book, Rezai has provided researchers with an exceptional reference tool; it is likely to become the definitive guide to the subject.

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Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qājārs

AUTEURS

ZAHIR BHALLOO

Oxford