

Darāmadī bar asnād-e šar‘ī-ye dowre-ye qājār
(Introduction to Šarī‘a Documents from Qājār Iran).
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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'yābi*). 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/taht-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 (

ḥesāb-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 *ʿulamā* involved in producing a document. After a brief historical overview of the main Shiʿi 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 *šarīʿa* documents (*šadāq-nāme*, *bayʿ-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, Rezaī has provided researchers with an exceptional reference tool; it is likely to become the definitive guide to the subject.

INDEX

Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qājārs

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