O. Reḡā'ī. *Pīšīne va naḡve-ye ṭabt-e asnād dar bandar-e Būšehr (1308 h.q.-1350 h.q.)*

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- 1 The author presents an edition (p. 81-90) and facsimiles (p. 90-94) of five *šarī'a* court documents from the port of Būšehr on the Persian Gulf coast of south-western Iran. The documents, all sale contracts, dated 1308/1891, 1330/1912, 1332/1914, 1345/1926 and 1350/1932 respectively, belong to the private collection of the Davvānī merchant family of Būšehr. They are significant because they each bear a registration remark. Reḡā'ī speculates that the registration practice of the Būšehrī clerics ('*olamā'*') might have been influenced by the *šarī'a* courts of Šīrāz (p. 79-81), where the earliest evidence of registration discovered so far dates to the beginning of the 19th century. On the basis of the Būšehrī documents, we can conclude that no less than five clerics registered legal documents in Būšehr during the late 19th and early 20th-century.
- 2 The five clerics are: (1) Seyyed (Sd.) Maḥdī 'Alam-al-Hodā Būšehrī (d. 1316/1898) – son of Sd. 'Abdollāh Mojtahed-e Behbahānī; (2) Sd. Morteḡā Mūsavī Najafī Behbahānī; (3) Ḥājj Šeyḡ Moḡammad 'Alī Emām-jom'e Āl-'Ašfūr (d. 1351/1932); (4) Šeyḡ Moḡammad b. Moḡammad 'Alī Behbahānī; and (5) Sd. Hāšem b. 'Alavī al-Mūsavī Āl-'Ašfūr. Each operated their own *šarī'a* court, had separate recording procedures, and used a different formula to mark a registered document: (1) « ṭabt-e daftar-e maḡkame-ye moḡkame-ye 'adliyye-ye šar'iyye-ye eslāmiyye gardīd »; (2) « maḡmūn-e matn dar daftar-e qabālejāt-e šar'iyye ṭabt šod »; (3) « ṭabt-e daftar-e šar'-e moṡā' gardīd »; (4) « maḡmūn-e varaqe dar daftar-e maḡkame ṭabt gardīd šafḡe-ye 225 nomre-ye 1127 fi 15 j.

2 (Jomādā II) 1345 »; and (5) « ṭabt-e daftar-e maḥkame-ye šarʿiyye šod nomre-ye 14, šafḥe-ye 3 ».

- 3 It is difficult, however, to determine whether the Būšehrī clerics involved in registering these legal documents acted privately or on behalf of the Qājār/Pahlavī authorities, that is, in response to the centralizing registration policy of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Šāh (r. 1848-1896) contained in the decree (*farmān*) of Ordībehešt 1290 A.H./1873 (also known as *qānūn-e ṭabt-e asnād*) and in subsequent laws on registration (*qānūn-e ṭabt-e asnād va amlāk*) passed in Iran from 1302/1923-1924 onwards.

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