Mohammad Sina Amani. *Typologie des kurdischen Volksmärchen*

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REFERENCES


1 Mohammad Sina Amani’s doctoral dissertation, prepared under the supervision of Ulrich Marzolph at the University of Göttingen, is a tale-type index of Kurdish folktales according to the system of the Finnish school of folk narrative research. The definition of the category of “folktale” as well as the classification and arrangement of the tales follow the system originally designed by Antti Aarne and revised by Stith Thompson. Applied in numerous regional surveys, the international system is presently available in a third revised and considerably expanded edition by Hans-Jörg Uther, *The Types on International Folktales* (3 vols., Helsinki 2004).

2 The book is introduced by a concise text (pp. 10–57) discussing the study of Kurdish folktales, surveying the mythical and historical past of the Kurds, and summarily expounding the characteristics of Kurdish folktales. The index proper (59–405) presents 425 tale types with a total of 2,366 analyzed tales that were collected in a period between 1857 and 2021. Mainly drawing on published collections in various regional languages, the author also includes a fair variety of folktales collected during his own extensive fieldwork in various regions of (Iranian) Kurdistan. The tale-type section is further made accessible by several registers listing narrative motifs (409–459), tale types in the explored collections (461–474), and the tales’ narrators (475–492). The book concludes with a bibliography (493–501).

3 The narrative tradition of the Muslim Middle East is of particular relevance for the study of the international transmission of tales East to West. Supplanting the existing regional surveys of Turkish (Eberhard and Boratav, 1953), Persian (Marzolph
Amani’s index of Kurdish folktales now closes the gap that had existed between the assessment of these regional traditions. His study deserves particular attention since Kurdish tradition, in addition to possessing its own peculiar characteristics, holds an intermediate position between the three large linguistic/ethnic entities just mentioned. The book is an important contribution to assessing the narrative tradition of the Kurds an ethnic entity that due to its lack of a national state has hitherto often been neglected.

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