

PRESENTING THE MANUSCRIPT

M. Dehqan

TĀRĪKH-I KURD: AN UNKNOWN PERSIAN MANUSCRIPT OF THE CHRONICLE OF SANANDAJ IN THE IRANIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY*

In Sôranî-speaking communities [1], from sometime in the eighteenth century until virtually the present day, several chronicles have circulated according to which Sanandaj, the most important Sôranî city in the late medieval history of Iranian Kurdistan [2], received the various reports of its events from the Kurdish historians. The chronicles are couched within the framework of a local narrative which build sometimes on earlier historical

materials in Persian composed in the early years of Erdelan local dynasty. Almost all the previous texts have been published since the years 1947—2000, but *Tārīkh-i Kurd* (“The History of Kurds”), that is the subject of my account, has not attracted the attention of any scholar. It is the purpose of this brief note to present the newly-found manuscript of this important chronicle.

1. The Manuscript

The Manuscript Section of Iranian National Library contains manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages, which can be divided into smaller collections according to the date of their accession, though most are from modern times. The manuscripts of refined calligraphy are highly decorated with miniatures, executed in polychrome and gold [3]. These Library collections are not united in a single whole, but are categorized in several sections — Arabic Section, Persian Section, Record Section, and Rare Books Section. Some important miniatures and historical photos are also part of Iranian National Library Collections [4].

The provenance of the manuscript of *Tārīkh-i Kurd* or Sanandaj under Erdelans is not obvious. In the *daftar-i thabt* of Iranian National Library the manuscript (call No. 2213F) is referred to the so-called Arabic and Persian Manuscript Section, but is mentioned neither in the catalogues of the Library nor in any other available catalogue [5].

The manuscript is in Persian. The *farangī* paper and text have been excellently preserved. The binding is late with brown leather. The Persian manuscript of *Tārīkh-i*

Kurd is written in a type of *nasta‘līq*, and does not have a title page with the name of the work. In some unpublished internal notes by Persian librarians, the manuscript is called *Tārīkh-i Kurd* [6]. It is written with black ink and there is no *shanjarf* title. The complete text of each folio consists of 15 lines. There are a total of 70 folios (text: fol. 5v—fol. 66v) in the manuscript and the size of the folio is 21×17 cm:

Incipit (fol. 5v, fig. 1)	“اصل اکراد بعضی از مورخان و ناقلان آنها را از نسل”
Excipit (fol. 66v, fig. 2)	“تتق جاه و جلال اعنی شاهزاده بیهمال روانه عتبه بوسی”

There are 8 blank folios (fol. 1r—fol. 4v and fol. 67r—fol. 70r). It is difficult to attribute the manuscript to any particular scribe. The date is given as *Shā‘bān* 1273 / March—April 1857. The author is Mesture Kurdistanî (1799?—1843) — the girl of Abu al-Hasan Beg, the second wife of *Khusraw Khān*, and the most well-known poetess of Sanandaj [7].

* Sponsored by Iran National Science Foundation.