

FAMOUS CITIES OF IRAN, BY LAURENCE LOCKHART

*Reviewed by* DONALD N. WILBER

REPRINTED FROM VOL. VI, PT. 2, OF ARS ISLAMICA: MCMXXXIX

D.B.W.: ab 406  
YER NO: ab 398



**ÇEKÜL KÜTÜPHANESİ**

DEMİRBAŞ NO. 016406

SINIFLAMA NO.

016398

BAĞIŞCI

GELİŞ TARİHİ

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Famous Cities of Iran.* By Laurence Lockhart.  
Brentford: Pearce, 1939. Pp. 115, Figs.  
1-65. 7s. 6d.

The nature of this volume is clearly stated in the Preface. The sixteen chapters, previously published as separate articles in *The Naft Magazine*, describe the cities—towns would be a more accurate label—of Teheran, Isfahan, Tabriz, Meshed, Shiraz, Kazvin, Nishapur, Hamadan, Kermanshah, Yezd, Kerman, Kashan, Kum, Shushtar, Ardabil, and Bandar Abbas in a manner intended to interest past, present, and future visitors to Iran.

The author, having compiled his accounts from the records of Arab and Persian geographers and of medieval and modern travelers, takes no credit for originality. His claims are too modest, for it is clear that he has read widely and judiciously and possesses an exceptional first-hand knowledge of sites scattered over the vast expanse of Iran.

Each town has its history outlined in chronological order from legendary accounts of its founding down to its aspect at the present day. None of the material is startling, nor is it presented in polished literary style, but the discursive text is consistently interesting. Probably of greatest value are the chapters on certain towns less well covered in the travel books of recent years—Shushtar, Bandar Abbas, Ardabil, and Kerman. Emphasis is placed upon events of the

eighteenth century, a reflection of the author's special interest in this period, which has found previous outlet in his *Nadir Shah; A Critical Study Based Mainly upon Contemporary Sources*.

The illustrations are good, and at the end of each chapter there is a comprehensive list of the buildings and places of interest in or near the town. A few dates assigned to Islamic buildings could be questioned by the specialist, but a high level of accuracy has been maintained throughout the book. One feature, the recent installation of museums in several of the towns—significant for travelers in the new Iran—has been slighted. The National Museum at Teheran is listed by name. Since its opening last spring the fact that material not elsewhere available is presented in a series of most modern and carefully designed exhibits has resulted in a growing crescendo of praise. Kum has its own museum housed within the shrine precincts, where emphasis is placed upon carpets and glazed and lustered tiles. Shiraz has restored a pavilion of Karim Khan and filled it with a general collection of which the focal point is a series of fine *Korans* of great size. At Meshed the walls of a large museum building are rising within the sacred precincts and soon important treasures will be on display. The formerly inaccessible courts of the shrine are already open to accredited visitors.

DONALD N. WILBER

istemesen kitapçıya ver.

İkminiz de gözleriden  
öperiz. Selâmlar sevgiler.

Amene niymetler eddin,  
Guvolun gözleriden öperi

Uelbi.

Bir-iki satır yazıp aldığım habes uerinsen  
Melum şurum. Daha 1-2 kitap var  
onlar de yollarım. U



burada, Tuntivanlar geçecek te komün  
asayacağız.

Niyetim 1968 yazında İstanbul ~~de~~ gelmek  
Bakalım.

Eğer olursa önümüzdeki Nisan ayında

Swiçye'ye keziye gitmek istiyorum.  
Burada birçok yerlerde olduğu gibi  
kadın akademiği düşünülüyor, oradan  
kadın götürmek isteniyor. "Birazlar  
uydurup (ama neles?!) gitmeli.  
Sen de uydurabilir misin? Sebti  
her yaz pidiyor — Canım şeyleri diye

Metin bu "Off print"leri Üniversitemin  
arkivlerinden kaldırdım. Sana  
... .. istersen, kitaplığa

21 Eylül 1966

Sevgili Metin,

Aklından çıkıyordum, Hristiyanların Tanrı'sı  
Tanrı desem inanmazsın, yazayım da inandır-  
ıyım dedim. Ben seni askere gitmişim  
bilirdim, kim dedi bilmem. Bugün İnciden  
okutuyordum, sendem haber vardı.

Güzel nasılsın?

Doktoran son haline geldi mi?

Kusura bakma Metin, tembellik ediyor  
okutuyordum, aklında sun her zaman.

Biz oturup duruyoruz. Aralık 1967'de  
Üniversite de Doktorant intiharını geçireceğiz  
niyetliyiz, biliyorsun tezi sonra yazacağız