Uses of the passive forms of verbs in “Bābūr-nāma”:
Their stylistic function

by Mutsumi Sugahara

In the language of Bābūr-nāma, memoirs of Žahir al-dīn Muhammad Bābūr (1483–1530), impersonal passive forms of verbs have often been claimed to express ‘literary modesty’ of the first person.

Contextual analysis of the text shows, however, that there are two distinct uses of passive verb forms. They are as follows:
A (related to tense/aspect) passive is used in the context which expresses duration or resultant state of an action.
B (related to mood) passive is used in the context which expresses irrealsis, such as (im) possibility, necessity, condition.

Of these the latter (B) is also observed in other Chagatay Turkic prose works and it is possible to compare this use of passive to the ‘impersonal passive’ found in some modern Turkic languages.

The former (A), on the other hand, seems peculiar to Bābūr-nāma and it is certain that it plays an important role in creating the ‘memoir-style’ of Bābūr-nāma owing to its ‘backgrounding’ function.

Social and Economic Background of Khans of Yazd: Analysis of their Public Building and Vaqf endowments

by Nobuaki Kondo

It has been pointed out that local elites who de facto ruled provinces played the important role in Iranian society during 18th and 19th centuries. The purpose of this paper is, as a case study of these elites, to analyze public buildings and Vaqf endowments of Moḥammad Taqī Khān and his family in Yazd province and to examine their contribution to the local society and their social and economic background.

Public buildings of Moḥammad Taqī Khān who ruled Yazd from 1748 to 1798 fall into three categories: (a) buildings in the suburb of Yazd city, like qanāts and bāghs (gardens), (b) buildings in the bāzār area of