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Vestiges of the Razavi Shrine

Āthār al-Razavīya: a Catalogue of Endowments and Deeds
to the Shrine of Imam Riza in Mashhad

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CONTENTS

Editors

Preface

Chapter I The Shrine of Imām Rizā, its *Vaqf* Endowments and *Āthār al-Raḏavīya*

1. Mashhad and the Shrine of Imām Rizā
2. The Role of *Vaqf* in the Development of the Town and the *Āstān-i Quds*
3. Administration of the Shrine and its Endowments
4. The Catalogue of Endowment Deeds: *Āthār al-Raḏavīya*
 - 4.1 The Author and his Intentions
 - 4.2 Structure and Internal Organization
 - 4.3 Statistical Analysis of Documents included in *Āthār al-Raḏavīya*
5. Conclusion: Beyond the Turning Point of *Āthār al-Raḏavīya*

Chapter II Technical Notes and Tables

Technical Notes on the Edition

The Catalogue of *Āthār al-Raḏavīya*

1. Documents in their Original Order
2. Documents in Chronological Order

Bibliography

Chapter III Critical Edition of *Āthār al-Raḏavīya* (Persian Text)

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PREFACE

The present book contains a critical edition of one of the most important catalogues of endowments in Iran, compiled and published as a lithograph print more than hundred years ago. This catalogue was a major effort to register, and thus lay claim to, the numerous properties belonging to the shrine of Imām Rizā in Mashhad. Known also as the Holy Threshold, *Āstān-i Quds-i Rażavī*, the burial place of the eighth Shi'i Imam remains the most prominent site of pilgrimage in Iran. Looking back, this book represents in many ways a turning point in the history of the shrine and its administration. It signals the rise of the *Āstān-i Quds* to become one of the most important independent organizations of modern Iran, culturally, economically, as well as politically.

We began working on *Āthār al-Rażavīya* a long way back in 2001. At that time we were both placed at the West Asian History Department of Kyoto University, MORIKAWA Tomoko as a graduate student and Christoph WERNER as a post-doc research fellow supported by the Kyoto University Foundation. At the beginning, this was a limited research and reading project, but the idea of preparing a critical edition of this fascinating source became more concrete during a research stay by MORIKAWA Tomoko at the University of Bamberg in 2002, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The text and its contents proved to be more difficult than expected and the preparation of a definite text extremely time consuming. Entering the documents of *Āthār al-Rażavīya* into a modest database proved useful, and independently we worked on various aspects of the history of the *Āstān-i Quds* in Mashhad.¹ Without the constant help, support and gentle pressure exercised by Professor MIURA Toru, Director of the West Asian Studies Group of the Toyo Bunko, himself a leading specialist of *vaqf* studies, this edition would never have seen the light. We are very grateful for his offer to publish *Āthār al-Rażavīya* in the series of the Toyo Bunko Research Library. For continuous advice and encouragement we express our heartfelt thanks to Emad al-Din Sheykh al-Hokamaee in Tehran. We equally owe debts to younger colleagues in the field who invested valuable time and energy in this project, notably Dr. SUGIYAMA Masaki and Dr. ABE Naofumi.

In the end, the present edition is a compromise, even after all these years. We do not claim to have resolved all remaining editorial problems and challenges, and we are well aware that this edition is only the first step towards a more profound analysis and historical interpretation of *Āthār al-Rażavīya*. Nevertheless, it is a beginning and hopefully will prove useful for anybody working on the history of

¹ See the bibliography for details, in particular Morikawa (1997), Werner (2009) and (2015).

Khurāsān, Mashhad and the development of the *Āstān-i Quds* and its holdings, in addition to providing remarkable insights into aspects of *vaqf*, religious practice in Shi'ism, landholding and administrative affairs.

MORIKAWA Tomoko and Christoph WERNER
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