

Micropedia of Persian Literature

by Dr. Ahmad Tamimdari

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تمام حقوق برای ناشر محفوظ است.

Introduction

The Dictionary of Oriental Literature is a general title for three volumes holding about 2000 articles and incorporating practically all local literatures of Asia and North Africa. The first volume includes entries on Chinese, Tibetan, Japanese, Korean and Mongolian literatures. The second volume covers literatures of South and South East Asia, including, in addition to the entries on India and Pakistan, those on Nepal, Bangladesh, Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippine. The third volume is dedicated to numerous literatures of Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa, including literatures of ancient Near East and Egypt, Central Asian republics of the former U. S. S. R., Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Arab countries, among them Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. Most of entries give information on the life and work of individual writers and poets of the classical, mediæval and modern periods, and also attempt at evaluating their legacy from the historical and aesthetic points of view. Other articles deal with literary terms, genres, forms, schools, movements, etc.

This Dictionary was prepared by the Oriental Institute in Prague under the supervision of the Advisory Editorial Board of European and American Scholars, comprising academics of international reputation. It is unique in that it is the fruit of collaboration of more than 150 Oriental scholars from all over the world.

The present compilation is entitled *Micropedia of Persian Literature*, and is a selection from the third volume of the aforementioned Dictionary, with the entries rearranged alphabetically. This selection covers both the pre-Islamic and Islamic periods. It is more than a concise source of information on Persian poets and writers; it is rather a true compendium of all information related to Persian literature. Hopefully, it will be beneficial for both Persian students of English and

for English-speaking students of Iranian culture. For the former, it may become a practical aid for learning English, which, whether one likes it or not, is an international language in which many researches, essays and articles on Persian literature have been written, while for the latter, it will provide basic information on the Persian language and literature.

I am here indebted to the late Professor J. Bečka, who edited the third volume of the Dictionary and also compiled *The History of Persian Literature in Tajikistan from Rudaki to Present Time*, may he rest in peace.

Ahmad Tamimdari

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