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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOUTHERN KURDISH, 1920-36

By C. J. EDMONDS

URDISTAN in 'Iraq is divided into three parts, corresponding approximately to three earlier principalities: Badinan, between the national frontiers and the Great Zab, comprising the northern districts of Mosul liwa; Soran, between the two Zabs, corresponding to Arbil liwa; and Baban, from the Little Zab to the Sirwan (Diyala), including the liwa of Sulaimani and part of the liwa of Kirkuk. Between the Sirwan and the Iranian boundary the qadha of Khanaqin is part of the old pashaliq of Zohab and is also predominantly Kurdish. East of Baban, in Iran, is the province officially called Kurdistan, the old Ardelan with its capital at Senna; north of it and east of Soran, in the province of Azarbaijan, is the district of Mukriyan with headquarters at Sauj Bulaq.

Badinan speaks a distinct dialect of Kurdish, referred to by people as Kirmanji; it has been almost entirely illiterate and inarticulate; it

will not concern us further in this paper.

Soran, Baban, Ardelan and Mukriyan, on the other hand, form a single linguistic group in that the dialects there spoken, though varying in different degrees amongst themselves, yet share certain marked characteristics that distinguish them from other groups; the people refer to their language as Kurdi.

Dialects belonging to a third group, designated by the Kurds themselves macho-macho, and generally called Gorani, are spoken by certain tribes along the southern fringe of this block: the Kakai near Tauq, the Zangana near Kifri, the Bajilan near Khanaqin, and in Iran the Goran confederation along or north of the great high road to Kirmanshah. The Hewraman tribes inhabiting the main watershed of the Zagros form a macho-macho wedge, running south to north, between Baban and Ardelan.

It is a curious circumstance that, while Mukriyan produced a voluminous literature in Southern Kurdish, the Ardelani men of letters

 It has generally been maintained by European scholars that Gorani is not Kurdish; this opinion will probably have to be revised in the light of the researches of my learned Kurdish friend, Taufiq Wahbi Beg. at Senna invariably used Gorani for their compositions. Most of the popular poetry current in Baban also was in Gorani until the beginning of the nineteenth century (the Kurds say that the change came with the reign of Aw Rahman Pasha*), when the Sulaimani poets first began to use the local language; the word gorani; is to-day still the ordinary word for song (see the Bibliography III. 4 and 5). It is also relevant to note that in the Sulaimani liwa the name Goran is used to describe villagers with no tribal connection in contradistinction to Kurd, meaning either nomads or villagers of tribal origin, generally Jaf: the corresponding term in Kirkuk is Misken, suggesting "serf," and in Arbil, Kirmanj. † It would seem that most of this region was formerly inhabited by a comparatively advanced Gorani-speaking people, that it was overrun by waves of rough Kurdi-speaking nomads who imposed their speech upon this earlier population, and that the tradition of domination and submission is not entirely forgotten between the conquering and the conquered stocks.

Although Mukri, the Doric of Southern Kurdish, has retained a certain prestige as the purest of the dialects, it is the lively and elastic idiom of Sulaimani that has now established itself as the ordinary vehicle of literary expression. This pre-eminence is probably due in part to the patronage extended to letters by the autonomous Baban dynasty, which survived until the middle of the nineteenth century; and in part to the subsequent foundation at Sulaimani by the Turks of a military school, cadets from which went on to the academy and the staff college at Constantinople, and so reached a standard of education denied to other Kurds: since 1919, moreover, it has been the language of official correspondence in the region.

The following bibliography; is a list (I hope almost complete) of periodicals, pamphlets, and books written (with one exception) in the Southern Kurdish language and published (with two exceptions) in 'Iraq. The exception as to language is the romance of Khurshid of

[•] See my article, "A Kurdish Lampoonist," in the Journal, vol. xxii., 1935, Part I.

[†] On May 11, 1930, I had occasion to spend the night at the small village of Kelisa on the Little Zab, south-east of Koi Sanjaq. I was told that the villagers were extraordinary people, Kirmanj really, but nevertheless very brave and able to resist aggression and to look after themselves.

[‡] The Bibliography is based on my own collection. I have to thank Taufiq Wahbi Beg for drawing my attention to five publications which I had missed; to Saiyid Jelal Sa'ib for helping to fill up some of the lacunæ in my collection of periodicals; and to Major W. A. Lyon, Captain C. H. Gowan and Mr. A. J. Chapman for sundry items of information regarding the periodicals.

Khawar (III. 6*) in Gorani: Gorani literature forms an integral and important part of the cultural treasure of the Southern Kurds, and more books in this dialect are likely to issue from the 'Iraqi-Kurdish presses as the collection of the scattered works of the early favourites progresses. The exceptions as regards publication are the Anthology of Amin Faizi (II. 1), and the Blossom of Spring (IV. 1) by Saiyid Husain Huzni: the first, though published in Constantinople, is the work of a Sulaimani officer and, being composed entirely of selections from the classic poets of that region, forms the best possible introduction to the subject; the second, though published at Aleppo, is the earlier work of the most prolific of the authors represented in the list, and thus appeared to merit inclusion.

On the other hand, I have not given details of half a score or so of school-books (other than grammars, VII, 2, 3, and 12) published for the State educational authorities in 1928 and 1929, nor of some halfdozen laws printed in 1933, since these are for the most part close and unidiomatic translations from the Arabic and thus do not constitute spontaneous manifestations of the Kurdish genius; a notice of these school-books by Professor V. Minorsky will, however, be found in the Revue des Etudes Islamiques of 1931.

BIBLIOGRAPHY+

I.—PERIODICAL JOURNALISM

A.—SULAIMANI PRESS

(Called in turn Government, Municipal, Jiyan Press)

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- 2. Bang y Kurdistan (The Call of Kurdistan). "A free, national, scientific, social, and literary weekly." $13\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 4 or 6 pages. No. 1, August 2, 1922, to No. 13, November 3, 1922. Editor: Hajji Mustafa Pasha. (See also No. 11 below.)
 - 3. Rhoj y Kurdistan (Sun of Kurdistan).‡ "An official, political,
- Having been edited by persons insufficiently acquainted with the dialect the text as published is unfortunately very corrupt.

† For the system of transcription of Kurdish here used see "A Kurdish

Lampoonist," footnote at p. 112.

‡ See my article, "A Kurdish Newspaper," in the *Journal*, vol. xii., 1925, Part I. The descriptions "weekly," "monthly," etc., are not to be taken seriously. All Kurdish periodicals have appeared at the most erratic intervals.

literary, social weekly." $13\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 4 or 6 pages. No. 1, November 15, 1922, to No. 25, May 15, 1923. Editor: Muhammad Nuri.

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B.—Ruwandiz (Zar y Kirmanciy Press)

8. Zar y Kirmanciy (The Kirmanji Tongue). "A social, historical, technical, literary Kurdish monthly." About 11½ × 8 inches: 12 to 28 pages. No. 1, May 24, 1926; Nos. 1-6 in 1926; 7-11 in 1927; 12-15 in 1928; 16-20 in 1929; 21-23 (June 4) in 1930; none in 1931; No. 24 on July 23. 1922. Wood-cut title-page Nos. 1-3 and, with slight change of design, Nos. 4-15.

C.—Arbil (Rhuwnakiy Press)

9. Rhuwnakiy (Light). "A scientific, social, cultural Kurdish weekly." About 11\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}\$ inches; 16 pages. No. 1, October 24, 1935,

• Rhuwnakiy is in fact the successor of Zar y Kirmanciy, printed, published and largely written by Saiyid Husain Huzni; under the new Press Law the responsible editor must be named on the title-page and must have the diploma of a "High School," a distinction which the learned and cultured S. Husain does not possess.

to No. 10, April 25, 1936. Responsible editor: Muhammad Shit Mustafa.

D.—KIRKUK (Municipal Press)

10. Kerkuwk (Kirkuk). Varying sizes, letterpress $11 \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; from No. 302 of May 2, 1930, to No. 354 of May 29, 1931, 53 issues, a Kurdish edition was published simultaneously with the Turkish.

E.—BAGHDAD*

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• I have been reminded, since this list was completed, that a Kurdish propaganda paper called *Tegevishtin y Rhastiy* (*Understanding the Truth*), was edited by E. B. Soane and published by the military authorities in Baghdad towards the end of the war; I am not aware if any copies are still in existence.

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3. Sema w Zemiyn (Heaven and Earth). By Auni Effendi, Mudir of Balik Nahiya. Ruwandiz: Z.K. pub. No. 10; 1928. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; 9 pages.

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• See again "A Kurdish Lampoonist."

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[•] Book I. has not yet appeared.

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at

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