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BY
ANN K. S. LAMBTON



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PREFACE

This volume was originally planned simply as a vocabulary to my Persian Grammar (published separately in 1953), and was to contain only such words as occurred in the Grammar. However, in view of the difficulty with which students were faced, at the time I wrote, in obtaining dictionaries at prices within their means (a difficulty since by no means entirely or satisfactorily removed), it seemed that a useful purpose might be served by including in the vocabulary a somewhat wider range of words.

The consequent additions have been based not on a scientific word-count, but rather on my own experiences in teaching with the Grammar as a text-book. It may well be that critics will now judge the volume to have fallen between two stools, and that they will find many words omitted which they themselves would regard as essential while, conversely, they condemn some of the words included as of rarer occurrence.

Nevertheless I venture to hope that the vocabulary in its present slightly enlarged form will be useful to the student, and that its shortcomings are merely those inseparable from any selective vocabulary as opposed to a complete dictionary. The student is again warned in general, as he was in the Introduction to Part I of the Grammar, that the vocabulary is not intended to obviate reference to complete dictionaries, which alone will give him a full list of the meanings of the words, and in particular that classical meanings, where they differ from the modern usage, are not included.

Lastly it remains for me to record my gratitude to Mr Hakim Ilahi for reading through the text and to Mr N. C. Sainsbury for his generous help in proof-reading.

A. K. S. L.

LONDON
4 June 1954

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NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION

1. The transcription used in this volume is that used in the Grammar and described in the Introduction to that volume. The system adopted is recapitulated below:

ا *alef* or *alef hamze*:

- (i) in a medial or final position it is transcribed by *a*;
- (ii) in an initial position it represents a glottal plosive and is not represented in the transcription; it may be vowelled *e*, *a*, or *o*; when followed by *ی* (*i*) or *و* (*u*) in an initial position it is not represented in the transcription.

آ *alef madda* is transcribed by *a*.

ب *b* (voiced bilabial plosive).

پ *p* (voiceless aspirated bilabial plosive).

ت *t* (voiceless aspirated dental plosive).

ث *s* (voiceless alveolar fricative).

ج *j* (voiced post-alveolar plosive).

چ *c* (voiceless post-alveolar fricative).

ح *h* (glottal fricative).

خ *x* (voiceless velar uvular with scrape; approximating to *ch* in the Scottish word 'loch').

د *d* (voiced dental plosive).

ذ *z* (voiced alveolar fricative).

ر *r* (voiced alveolar with weak roll or tap).

ز *z* (voiced alveolar fricative).

ژ *ʒ* (voiced post-alveolar fricative; corresponding to *j* in the French word 'jour').

س *s* (voiceless alveolar fricative).

ش *f* (voiceless post-alveolar fricative; corresponding to *sh* in the English word 'show').

ص *s* (voiceless alveolar fricative).

ض *z* (voiced alveolar fricative).

ط *t* (voiceless aspirated dental plosive).

x

NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION

ظ *ẓ* (voiced alveolar fricative).

ع *ain* (glottal plosive; corresponding to the check in the voice substituted for *t* in Cockney and other dialects in such words as 'bottle'); (i) in an initial position when followed immediately by a vowel it is omitted from the transcription; (ii) in a medial or final position it is transcribed by ' ; preceded by *a* and followed by *i* the combination tends to become *âi* rather than *a'i*.

غ *ḡ* (voiced or voiceless uvular plosive according to phonetic context)

ف *f* (voiceless labio-dental fricative).

ق *q* (voiced or voiceless uvular plosive according to phonetic context
 غ and ق are not differentiated by most speakers, and are pronounced as a voiceless uvular plosive, formed by the back of the tongue coming into contact with the rearmost part of the soft palate, unless between two back vowels, when they tend to be pronounced as a voiced uvular plosive).

ك *k* (voiceless aspirated palatal, made by the front of the tongue, excluding the tip, coming against the hard palate, if followed by *i*, *e*, *a*, *êi*, or a consonant, or in a final position; voiceless velar plosive if followed by *a*, *o*, *u*, *âi*, or *ôu*).

گ *g* (voiced palatal plosive, made by the front of the tongue, excluding the tip, coming against the hard palate, if followed by *i*, *e*, *a*, *êi*, or a consonant, or in a final position; voiced velar plosive if followed by *a*, *o*, *u*, *âi*, or *ôu*).

ل *l* (voiced alveolar lateral; corresponding to the *l* in the English word 'light').

م *m* (voiced nasal bilabial).

ن *n* (voiced nasal alveolar; followed by ب *b* in the same word it is pronounced *m* and so transcribed).

و (i) *v* (voiced labio-dental fricative);
 (ii) after an initial خ *x* in Persian words it is not pronounced and is therefore not represented in the transcription; exceptions to this are خوب *xub* 'good', خون *xun* 'blood', خوک *xuk* 'pig', خوشه *xuše* 'cluster of grapes', خوزستان *xužestan* 'Khuzistan');

(iii) *u* (approximating to the vowel in the English word 'bood'; in the words, دو 'two', تو 'thou', بوته 'bush', and in numerous words derived from Turkish و is transcribed by *o* and corresponds to a vowel rather more rounded than the vowel in the English word 'book').

- (i) *h* (glottal fricative);
 (ii) in a final position in certain words when preceded by the vowel *e*, *o* is not pronounced and is therefore not represented in the transcription. This *o*, which has been termed the 'silent' *h* in the Grammar, is found as a verbal, adjectival and nominal suffix, and in lieu of *ö* in certain Arabic words.
- س (i) *y* (semi-vowel, as *y* in the English word 'yes');
 (ii) *i* (approximating to the vowel in the English word 'beat');
 (iii) in cases where س represents the *ezāfe* it is transcribed *ye*.
2. Diphthongs are shown in the transcription by a ligature mark, thus: *ēi*, *āi*, *ūi*, *ōu*, and *āi*.
3. *̄* (*fathe*) is transcribed by *a*, *̄* (*kasre*) by *e*, and *̄* (*damme*) by *o*.
4. The sign *ء* is known as *hamze*:
 (i) written over a bearer in Persian words or preceding the Abstract, Adjectival, or Relative س -*i* added to words ending in *ā* or *u*, it merely indicates a junction of vowels, and is not represented in the transcription;
 (ii) *hamze* placed over the 'silent' *h* and representing the Indefinite, Adjectival, or Relative س -*i*, or the personal ending of the 2nd person singular, is transcribed by *i*;
 (iii) *hamze* placed over the 'silent' *h* and representing the *ezāfe* is transcribed *ye*;
 (iv) in Arabic words the *hamze* is of two kinds: the *hamzat ol-qat'* and the *hamzat ol-vasl*. The former is pronounced as a glottal plosive. In a medial position it is represented in the transcription by *'*. In an initial position it is omitted from the transcription. In a final position the *hamze* is seldom articulated vigorously and is therefore in most cases omitted from the transcription. If the *hamzat ol-vasl* follows a word ending in *ā*, *u*, or س *i*, these vowels are shortened and are represented in the transcription by *a*, *o*, and *e* respectively.
5. *Tanvin*. The vowel sign *ـَ* of the accusative case in Arabic, when the noun or adjective is indefinite, is written double and takes an *alef*, thus *لـَـَ*, unless the word ends in *ö* or *hamze*, in which case it is written *ـَـَ* and *ـَـَ* respectively. It is transcribed by *an*.
6. Sun Letters. When the Arabic definite article *ال* is prefixed to a word beginning with one of the sun letters (i.e. *ت*, *ث*, *د*, *ذ*, *ر*, *ز*, *س*, *ش*, *ص*, *ط*, *ظ*, *ل*, or *ن*), the *l* is assimilated to the sun letter. This is represented in the transcription by a doubling of the sun letter, e.g. *الساعة* *as-sa'a* 'immediately'.

7. The purpose of the transcription is that it should be a guide to the standard pronunciation of words; no attempt has been made to cover the variations found in different parts of the country. There is, for example, a marked tendency to substitute *e* for *a* in certain words. This has been indicated in the transcription in some cases, but no consistent policy has been followed. کشمکش is thus transcribed *kesmakef*, whereas شنکش has been transcribed *senkaf*, although its pronunciation by many speakers is rather *senkef*. Since, however, there is, on the whole, no consistency by speakers in the substitution of *e* for *a* it seemed preferable, where both variants are found, in general to maintain *a* in the transcription.

8. Certain inconsistencies will also be found in words derived from Arabic roots of which the second and third radicals are the same. In general, where the second and third radicals are in a final position and not separated by a vowel, both have been shown in the transcription, as for example عوام *avam*; but it should be pointed out that when the Persian *ezafe* or some suffix is added to such words the doubled consonant is not always (or even usually) pronounced as a doubled letter, thus عوامانه *avamane* for *avammane*. There are a few cases of a doubled consonant in other than a final position not being reflected in the pronunciation, notably عمو *amu* 'paternal uncle' for *ammu* (but in عمه *amme* 'paternal aunt' the double *m* is given its full value).

9. Some explanation is perhaps required concerning the transcription of compound words. In general in the case of nouns and adjectives these have been transcribed as one word, e.g. باصفا *basafa* 'pleasant', برآورد *baravard* 'estimate', but in the case of compound verbs, the verbal and the non-verbal elements have been kept separate, e.g. برگشتن *bar gaftan* 'to return'.

10. I am conscious that the system chosen will not seem wholly satisfactory either to those who favour a strict transliteration or to those who prefer a purely phonetic transcription, the more especially since, as indicated above, I have allowed myself some small freedom in its application. In extenuation I would emphasize that my transcription is intended not as a substitute for the Persian but merely as a guide to the pronunciation.

A. K. S. L.

4 June 1954