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## Hirotake Maeda. *The Household of Allahverdi Khan: an Example of Patronage Network in Safavid Iran*

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Hirotake Maeda. « The Household of Allahverdi Khan: an Example of Patronage Network in Safavid Iran », in : Florence Hellot-Bellier et Irène Natchkebia, eds., *La Géorgie entre Perse et Europe*. Paris, L'Harmattan, 2009, p. 49-66.

- 1 The author returns to a subject on which he has already made important contributions: Caucasian *golāms* in Safavid service. His investigation focuses on Allāhverdi Ḥān, one of the most prominent and well-known *golāms*, who is set in the new light provided by the recent rediscovery of the lost third volume of Faḍlī Ḥūzānī Eṣfahānī's *Afḍalo't-tavārīḥ*. Maeda starts by sketching a biography of the Khan, about whom the rediscovered volume provides many a detail. He then reviews the information from this same source about five members of the Khan's entourage: two Caucasians, a Turk, a Tajik and an officer of mixed Turk/Tajik ancestry (who was a cousin of Faḍlī Ḥūzānī Eṣfahānī). One of these, Mikā'il Beyg (a cousin of the Khan) has apparently never been mentioned in other sources from the period. Maeda describes the importance of patronage, personal connections and family heritage in these men's careers, which cut across the supposed barriers existing between Turks, Tajiks, and *golāms* – recent scholarship sees this supposition about Safavid society as being obsolete. It is not clear to the present reviewer, however, whether Maeda is claiming that the *Afḍalo't-tavārīḥ* alone suffices for moving beyond this old-fashioned portrayal of relations among the various ethnic components of Safavid society. He writes, "the newly found volume III [...] contributes much to the clarification of those connections which were not observed in other Persian sources" (p. 64). In this case, we cannot concur with him.

- 2 This is a very useful and interesting article, especially since a critical edition of the *Afḍalo't-tavārīḥ* is not yet available. Nonetheless, this contribution needs severe editing: the English text is sometimes obscure, and misprints are frequent. For example, we come upon several instances of *khajja* instead of *khaṣṣa*). Maeda oddly lists his own article “Parsadan Gorgijanidze’s Exile in Shushtar [...]” as forthcoming in a miscellaneous volume to come out in London (n. 20, p. 56 and p. 66), whereas it has already been published in *Journal of Persianate Studies*, 1/II (2008), p. 218-229.
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## AUTHORS

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