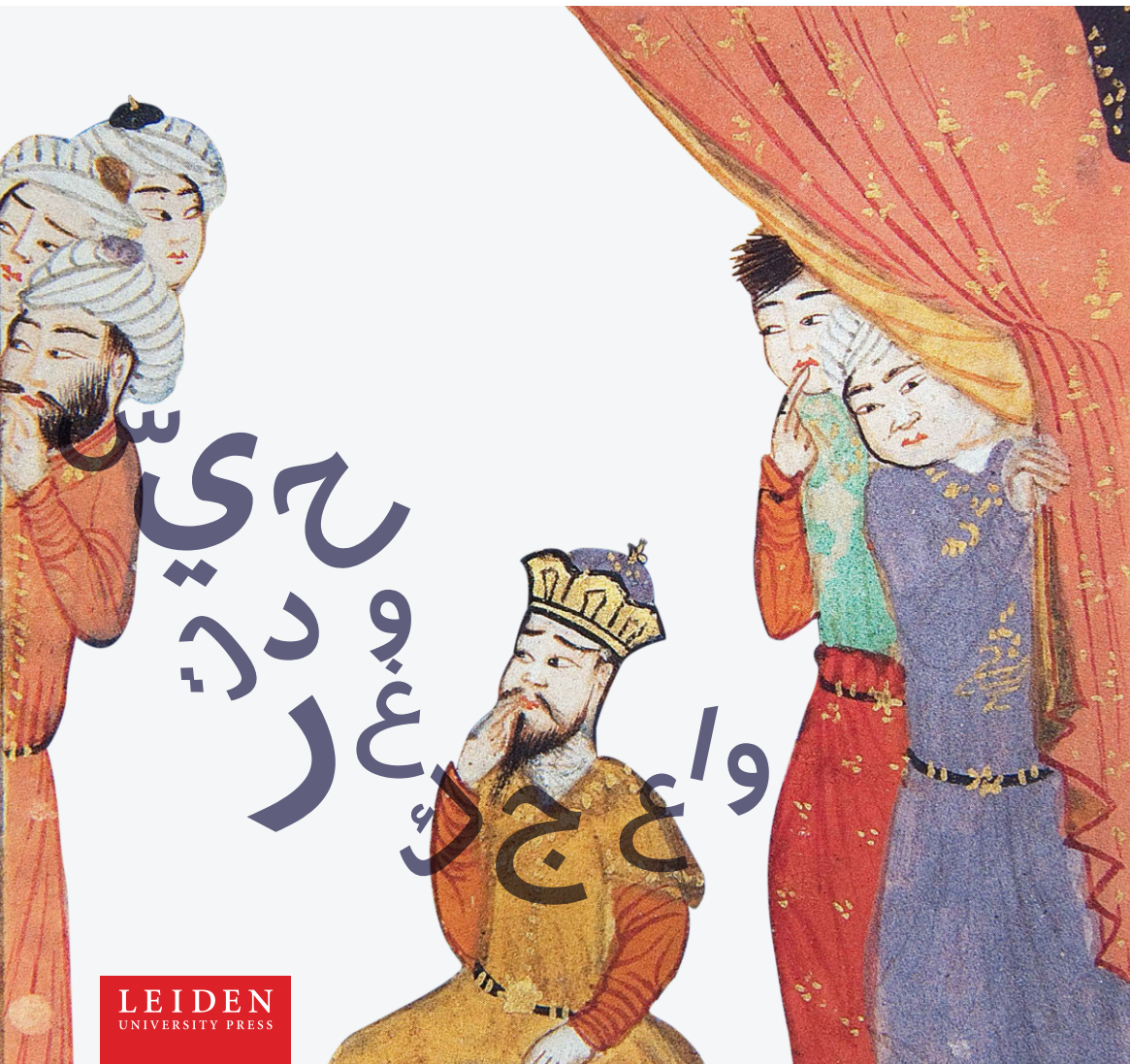


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IRREVERENT PERSIA

INVECTIVE, SATIRICAL AND BURLESQUE POETRY
FROM THE ORIGINS TO THE TIMURID PERIOD
(10TH TO 15TH CENTURIES)

RICCARDO ZIPOLI



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Notes on Transliteration System, Dates and Biographical Information

Except in cases for which there is a widely accepted spelling (such as Bukhara and Mu'awiya), the Persian and Arabic terms have been transliterated following the rules proposed by the Library of Congress for Persian, but with no diacritical marks: only the long vowel 'a' is indicated as â (corresponding to a 'back' a). For the vowels and the diphthongs, the transliteration is based on the standard contemporary Persian pronunciation. The accent in Persian nouns falls on the last syllable.

Only the Christian era system of dates has been used with no corresponding Islamic dates. This rule does not apply to the year of publication for books cited in the bibliography, in which both dates are included (the Christian date first). When there is a double date for the Christian era (for example, 1160/1), this indicates that the corresponding year in the Islamic era straddles two years in the Christian era and it is not known in which of the two the event in question took place.

The poets' names are written in summarised form (in the Islamic world the name of a person often involves a long series of components), but in such a way as to make them easily identifiable. In cases of homonymy, an extra element is added, usually the *nisba* (indication of genealogical, ethnical or geographical provenance).

In an appendix at the end of the book there are brief biographical notes on the poets translated in the anthology. In the introduction all the names of people are accompanied by a reference date the first time they are mentioned.

There are no notes for well-known places or people (such as the prophet Muhammad) or unknown names (as happens, for example, with some persons contemporary to our poets). If a term requiring comment or explanation recurs several times in the same poem, the note appears at the first mention of the term.

The English equivalents of technical terms are provided only the first time that they occur, but a glossary of the key literary terms is provided at the end of the book.

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