the East India Company and the relevant correspondence on the subject which hitherto had not been used by any other author except cursorily.

Besides the text (in 186 pages), the author has given eleven appendices (in 68 pages) comprising very useful information on the subject. Particularly the last appendix K: "A Note on the Sources" is a critical appraisal of the history of the Mughal period. The vast bibliography (in 14 pages) reveals the richness of the sources he has used in writing this book. A detailed study of the relevant sources is expected to appear in his Calendar of Documents on Indo-Persian Relations during the Mughal Period which is eagerly awaited by all scholars interested in the subject. In one of these appendices he has given for the first time an outline of the diplomatic usage of the time culled from the contemporary chronicles, collections of correspondence and European travellers' accounts. The latter particularly provide full and vivid descriptions of the reception of envoys and other diplomatic matters. The author has also provided in the book six very beautiful plates in colour based on some paintings and inscriptions of the Mughal and Safavid Emperors.

In short, this book is 'a monument of industry and a mine of information' on the subject of history of diplomatic and political interaction between the Mughals of the Indo-Pak sub-continent and the Safavids of Iran. There is hardly a source, contemporary late or modern, he has not drawn upon.

The substance of the present book has already appeared in Persian in a series of articles written on Indo-Pak Iranian relations by Dr. Shahryar in one of the Iranian periodicals. We are, however, of the opinion that translation of the entire book into Persian and Urdu by some competent scholars is overdue.

—'Ali Razā Naqāvī

THE SHĀMLŪ LETTERS (Texts Series No. 1) ed. by Riazul Islam. Karachi: the Institute of Central & West Asian Studies, 1971, (published on the occasion of 2500th Anniversary of the Iranian Empire), pp. 92 (Persian)+40 (English), price Rs. 15. or $2.00

This is a work of mixed authorship. It contains the correspondence of Ḥasan Khān Shāmlū and 'Abbās Quli Khān Shāmlū, consecutively viceroys of Khurāsān during the reign of Shāh-Ṣafī and Shāh 'Abbās II of the Safavid dynasty, with Mughal officials, Khāns of Turān and others. The editor, Dr. Riazul Islam has added an historical introduction with explanatory notes (in 35 pages) including summaries of two of Ḥasan Khān's letters in English which have been given in order to illustrate the value and importance of the material contained in the work.

Of the thirty letters included in the collection, seven are addressed to Mughal officials. They are, from the point of view of foreign relations, the most substantial letters in the entire work. They occur in a MS. of mixed content in the British Museum bearing the call No. Add. 7802.
The munsfi (scribe) who drafted the letters and composed the pieces in the work wrote in a heavy and inflated style; he loved to elaborate a minute point in ponderous sentences and abstract arguments. His is a deliberately difficult style, and his imageries are not sustained. Besides the letters written on behalf of his patrons, the unknown author has in the work several letters written in his own name.

An important new source of Iranian diplomatic correspondence, the Shāmlū Letters have so far remained unnoticed. In view of their contents, they carry considerable importance as a hitherto untapped source of diplomatic relations between the Mughal India and Safavid Iran. The Institute of Central and West Asian Studies deserves a special appreciation for this important contribution in the field of Indo-Iranian diplomatic relations.

—'Ali Raza Naqavi.

DĪWĀN OF BAYRAM KHĀN (Text Series No. 2), ed. by S. Husamuddin Rashdi and Muhammad Sābir. Karachi: the Institute of Central & West Asian Studies, 1971. (Published on the occasion of the 2500th Anniversary of the Iranian Empire), pp. 85 (Persian & Turkish) +19 (English), price Rs. 15 or $2.00

Born of noble parentage, Bayram Khān has been one of the most important and illustrious generals and capable statesmen of the Mughal history. Carrying blue blood in his veins through his father, Sayf ‘Ali Beg, of princely Turkish origin once even appointed Governor of Ghazni by Bābur, Bayram had his descent from Naqshbandi Khwājas from maternal side which brought forth hallowed distinction to his house.

He was born at Badakhshān, and soon distinguished himself at Bābur’s court by his accomplishments and ‘well-groomed court manners’. At the tender age of sixteen he was entrusted by Bābur to the care and company of Humayūn. For nearly forty years he dominated the historical scene, and truly speaking, steered the destiny of the house of Bābur, and on more than one occasion, saved the Mughal rule in the Subcontinent from dissolution.

Throughout his eventful career and even during the darkest days of the Mughal Empire he remained a constant and loyal supporter of his Mughal patrons. Having been Humayūn’s commander-in-chief and Akbar’s tutor, regent and chief minister, he succeeded in saving the Mughal rule from the most formidable dangers. For his distinguished services he was befittingly awarded most exclusive honorifics. His last days were, however, shrouded with gloom and despair; and his inglorious end, and as a result of court intrigues is a sad commentary on his glorious career as a faithful servant of the Mughal Empire.

A great general in the battle-field and a sincere counsellor in the royal council-chamber, Bayram was also a master of pen and is generally acclaimed as an accomplished scholar and a versatile poet. Equally at home in Persian, Turkish and Hindi he is repor-