

CONTENTS

ONE: THE HISTORICAL SETTING 1

- The Achaemenian Dynasty, 4 The Sasanian Period, 7
The Muslim Arab Invasion, 12 The Abbasid Caliphs, 19
 The Rise of Persian Princes, 23

TWO: THE FORMS OF PERSIAN VERSE 27

- Qasida and Chanson, 27 Ghazal and Lyric Verse, 33
Ruba'i or Quatrain, 35 Mathnavi, 42

THREE: PERSIAN PROSE 44

- Early Works and Translations, 44 Bal'ami's Annals, 50
 Kai Ka'us: The *Andarz-nama*, 52
 Nizam al-Mulk: The *Siyasat-nama*, 53
 Juvaini: *History of the World-Conqueror*, 55
 Rashid al-Din: *Compendium of Histories*, 58
 Sa'di of Shiraz, 60

FOUR: FIRDAUSI AND NIZAMI 64

FIVE: PERSIAN MYSTICS 93

- Sana'i of Ghazna, 97 Farid al-Din 'Attar, 98
Jalal al-Din Rumi, 102

CONTENTS

SIX: SA'DI AND HAFIZ OF SHIRAZ 116

SEVEN: NASIR KHUSRAU 135

EIGHT: PERSIAN SATIRISTS 147

Anvari, 148 'Ubaid Zakani, 150
Zain al-Abidin of Maragha, 156

NINE: THE MODERN ERA 158

Jami of Herat, 158 The Safavi Dynasty, 160
Qa'ani, 162 Bahar, 163 Iraj Mirza, 165
Sadeq Hedayat, 166 Jamalzadeh, 167

Epilogue 172

Appendices:

A. Metrical Patterns, 175 B. Persian Writers, 177

Persian Works in Translation 181

Index 187