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# PRIMARY SOURCES, ARCHIVAL NOTES

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## An Early Decree of Nādir Shāh Concerning the *vaqf* of Ardabil

*The article examines a hitherto unstudied document containing the earliest decree of Nādir Shāh (1736–47) and the petition of Muḥammad Ṣafī Ṣafavī, mutavallī of the pious endowments of Ardabil. The first part of the paper provides the transliteration and translation of this document, and the second part offers a short historical outline of the respective period and commentaries on the content and diplomatics. Through the lens of the document, the article aims to address the set of circumstances and prevalent issues in the administration of the vaqf during these historically turbulent years. Furthermore, from the viewpoint of diplomatics, unique insight can be gained into the distinctive features of Nādir's early documents.*

**Keywords:** Nādir Shāh; Diplomatics; Ardabil; Decree; Petition; *Vaqf*; Ṭahmāsp II; Eighteenth Century; Iran

The document presented below with translation and commentary contains the earliest surviving decree of Nādir Shāh, regent of the Safavid 'Abbās III (1732–36) at the time, in response to the petition of Muḥammad Ṣafī Ṣafavī, the head (*mutavallī*) of the new department (*sarkār-i jadīdī*) of the endowments of Ardabil. The earliest published decree of Nādir was up until now the one preserved in Yerevan at the *Matenadaran*, promulgated in *Zī al-qa' da* 1146/5 April–4 May 1734.<sup>1</sup> This decree, however, was issued more than a year before, on 2 Sha'bān 1145/18 January 1733.

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<sup>1</sup>Kostikyan, *Persian Documents of the Matenadaran*, 203–4. Nādir Mīrzā Qājār had included an even earlier decree from *Zī al-qa' da* 1144/26 April–25 May 1732 in his work, the *Tārīkh va juḡhrāfi-yi dār al-*