MOSQUE OF AL-BORDAYNI
Details of Mural Mosaics (17th century)
MOSQUE OF AL-BORDAYNI
Development of the Mosaic on the Mihrab (17th century)
MOSQUE OF QA'UAM AL-DIN
Details of the Tomb (18th century)
MOSQUE OF QA'UAM AL-DIN
White Marble Floor (18th century)
MOSQUE OF QA’UAM AL-DIN
Friezes and Rosette in Marble (18th century)
Plate LXVII

ENTRANCE TO A TOMB NEAR MOSQUE OF SISARIEH
(18th century)
Most interlacings seen on ceilings are composed of intersecting or continuous regular polygons. Regular dodecagons are the most frequently used since they provide the richest combinations and the widest variety. We leave it to the reader to appreciate the drawings in Plate LXXIV, representing dodecagonal, decagonal, and even octagonal stars (Pl. LXXV). Finally, other ceilings of various shapes have been given for comparison. We have tried to give special emphasis, in Plate LXXIII, to a splendid specimen of a Moresque ceiling, and then to the following detailed description of the four plates of the al-Bordayni Mosque.

Mosque of al-Bordayni. Arabesques (Pl. LXVIII to LXXI).—The small ceilings of the al-Bordayni Mosque decorate the soffits of doors and windows. We have lined them in such a way as to enable the eye to grasp easily this ornamentation in its entirety and to set off its beauty.

The first is seen on a window to the right of the mihrab. The rosette, 0.8 metres in diameter, gives the proportions of the rest.

The second is at the top of the window to the left of the mihrab. It resembles a long frieze of a very original style.

The third, cut out in an irregular trapezium, forms the ceiling of the large door.

Black lines are outlined in white and red; the gold, first in vermillion, then in black—it is by error that this last line was not outlined as well.

As in the two preceding plates, flat gold has been replaced by yellow in order to restore some part of the original effect to the drawing.

The al-Bordayni Mosque is built quite painstakingly, with regular courses 0.31 metres to 0.32 metres in height including the mortar, or an average height of 0.315 metres. This, along with the photographed view, gives an indication of the height of the edifice. The ornamentation differs in its colouring and in some details at the far end of the ceiling, near the door of the courtyard. This part has neither knobs at the centre of the sun, nor a white star around it, and all grounds are in pure gold, on which ornaments are drawn in red and in blue. The other part is much more beautiful: knobs are found only in the centres of the stars, and in consequence, only around the octagon.

The centre of the knobs forms another octagon, surrounding the first octagon and intersecting it at its corners; it intersects the large star, which shares a common line with the other, in the same way.

The gold is so thick that it forms a relief of 2 millimetres.

The ornaments painted on both this and the large ceiling are not Arabic in character; their Persian style leads us to believe that these decorative paintings are the work of foreign artists, similar to ornaments of the same type painted in the palace of Kourchyd-Pasha and elsewhere.