

PREFACE

Few Anatolian Turkish works have survived from the early period of Anatolian Turkish literature, and consequently the poem *Varqa ve Gülşâh* by Yūsuf-i Meddāh achieves an importance perhaps out of proportion to its literary quality. For the linguist, it preserves much archaic vocabulary, orthography and syntax; for the literary historian, it exemplifies the interests and tastes of the early Turks in Anatolia. I have therefore attempted to make it accessible to the scholarly world.

This study was suggested to me by Talât Tekin and Tibor Halasi-Kun. In working out the transliteration and translation I have profited from the advice of Talât Tekin, and especially Andreas Tietze, who read the work with the greatest care and dispatch and to whom I owe particular thanks for his generous devotion of time and attention. I also wish to thank A. Bodrogligeti for his many valuable suggestions and corrections, William C. Hickman and James E. Bosson for their helpful advice, George Saliba for assistance with the Arabic passages, and Gunther Barth for his most kind and thoughtful aid and encouragement. Finally, the work could not have been completed without the skilled and prompt attentions of Frances Hailman, in producing a clear, final manuscript of this difficult material.