

S.I.S. newsletter

The Society for Iranian Studies

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Address all communications to the Secretary of the Society for Iranian Studies, Post Office Box 89, Village Station, New York, New York 10014, United States of America.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

The Society's Ninth Annual Meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA). The meeting will be held at the Galt House from 20-22 November. Professor Thomas Ricks is our program director.

SIS PANELS

Thursday
20 November
9:30-11:30 a.m.

PANEL 4: THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF IRAN
Chairperson: Thomas R. Stauffer, Harvard University
Discussant: M. Abadian, World Bank
Papers: Anthony Stapleton, World Bank,
 "Progress in Iranian agriculture"
 Vahid Nowshirvani, Yale University,
 "Case study in industrialization
 for agriculture"
 Thomas Stauffer, Harvard University,
 "Energy-intensive industrialization
 in Iran"

Friday
21 November
9:30-11:30 a.m.

PANEL 25: ARTS AS CRAFT: ITS PRACTICES AND TRANSMISSION

Chairperson: William Hanaway, University of Pennsylvania
Discussant: Brian Spooner, University of Pennsylvania
Papers: Priscilla P. Soucek, University of Michigan,
"From divan to workshop: the evolution of book production in post-Mongol Iran"
Renata Holod, University of Pennsylvania,
"Architecture and building: investigations of architectural practices in pre-modern Iran"
Mary Ellen Page, University of Pennsylvania,
"Storytelling as a craft"
Dorothy G. Shepherd, Cleveland Museum of Art,
"Textiles: innovations in silk weaving and their transmission"

Saturday
22 November
1:00-3:00 p.m.

PANEL 43: THE POWER OF THE FAMILY IN IRAN

Chairperson: James A. Bill, University of Texas at Austin
Discussants: Halim Barakat, Lebanese National University
Joseph S. Szyliowicz, University of Denver
Papers: Richard W. Bulliet, Harvard University,
"The power of local families in 9th-11th century Nishapur and Isfahan"
Constance Cronin, University of Arizona,
"The power and mobility of leading Qajar families"
Gene R. Garthwaite, Dartmouth College,
"Family structure of the ruling 19th century Bakhtiyari Khans"

Members of SIS may be interested in the following MESA panels on Iran:

Panel 14: Village and Society in Iran, 18th to 20th centuries.

Panel 32: The Economy of Iran: Petroleum and Trade.

In addition, several individual papers dealing with aspects of Iranian society and culture will be presented in other MESA panels.

MEETING OF THE SIS COUNCIL

Thursday
20 November
12:00-1:00 p.m.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF SIS

Thursday
20 November
5:00-6:30 p.m.

ACCOMODATIONS

For reservations, contact the GALT HOUSE,
Fourth and River, Louisville, Kentucky 40202,
Telephone: (502) 589 5200

Special convention rates per night:

single: \$22.50
double: \$28.50
suite: \$75.00

ABSTRACTS OF AVAILABLE PAPERS

Renata Holod:

Architecture and building: investigations of
architectural practices in pre-modern Iran.

Using internal, structural evidence of monuments, epigraphical data as well as historical documents, training for architects will be discussed. Attention will be paid to the role of geometry, modules and dimensioning as well as the manner in which this type of information could be transmitted.

Mary Ellen Page:

Storytelling as a craft

The naqqāl, "professional storyteller", in Iran traditionally serves two primary functions in his work. First, of course, he is an entertainment figure. For an audience of whom many are regulars, he tells stories from the Shāhnāma and other legendary-historical works. He also functions, to varying degrees, as a teacher, using the material to demonstrate moral principles and adding to his stories moral discussions. This teacher role also takes on a religious meaning. The naqqāl often has training in rawda khāni and includes rawdās as part of his performance on religious holidays. The use of the title murshid for the naqqāl,

for example, carries the connotations of religious teacher. However, as naqqāls become fewer and making a living in the coffee house becomes more difficult, naqqāls are being forced into other non-traditional surroundings in which the second function disappears, and they become purely entertainment figures.

Dorothy Shepherd: Innovations in silk weaving and their transmission

A discussion of the two great technical developments in the field of silk weaving: the drawloom and the realization of its full potential in the development of the lampas weaves. Investigation of the transmission of these techniques both East and West. It is not really possible to discuss the "mechanics" of this transmission since nothing is really known. Trade and the emigration (sometimes, probably migration) of workers were certainly the principal factors - and this, of course, due to the tremendous importance attached to this luxury item. Although the actual "mechanics" are not documented, there is much fascinating material to make it possible to follow this transmission until it ends up at Lyons in the 18th century.

Priscilla Soucek: From divan to workshop: the evolution of book production in post-Mongol Iran

Using examples from the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries, the evolution of ateliers for manuscript production will be discussed. Information contained in historical texts and documents will be combined with evidence taken from the manuscripts themselves. Although fragmentary this information sheds light on such questions as the evolution of naskh-taliq script, the social status of craftsmen, the relation of patrons and artists and the inter-dependence of various crafts in this period.

Richard Bulliet: The power of local families in 9th-11th century Nishapur and Isfahan

The role of powerful local families bulks large in the history of medieval Iranian cities. This paper will discuss the social and economic roots of this political power and how it continued to be maintained over long periods despite the fact that the local families seldom held major government positions. The concentration of the paper will be upon Isfahan and Nishapur from the ninth through the eleventh centuries.

Constance Cronin: The power and mobility of leading Qajar families

This paper will challenge the generally-held view that systems of social stratification in the Middle East in general and in Iran in particular have been closed, static, and ascriptive. This conventional view assumes that a small group of tightly-knit and interrelated families have had the adaptive capacities to weather such vicissitudes as changing monarchs, modernization, and threats from socially-mobile individuals outside this closed boundary. In the present paper, I will attempt to show, by examining the histories of three families, that for Qajar Iran at least, the stratification system was open, achievement-oriented, and fast changing in terms of individuals and families at the top.

Gene Garthwaite: Family structure of the ruling 19th century Bakhtiyārī Khans

This paper is based largely on materials found in Bakhtiyārī family libraries, and the geneologies presented in the paper are drawn from these sources and elaborated on by informants. The basic purpose of this paper is descriptive in order to provide social historians with data that have been relatively inaccessible. In addition to the description of these geneologies, identification and analysis of them will be made. Tentative conclusions would indicate that marriages were arranged for the purpose of strengthening family ties and mitigating uncle-nephew rivalry, broadening the base of power outside the family but within the Bakhtiyārī, and providing contacts and support with other tribes and especially with the ruling Qājārs. In addition factors of power and status will be discussed, especially inheritance and the status of wives/mothers. The problems posed for those wielding power and the very nature of the sources used for analysis would suggest that Bakhtiyārī family structure and marriage patterns would approximate more those of other elite Iranian families rather than non-chiefly Bakhtiyārī families.

Thomas Stauffer: Energy-intensive industrialization in Iran

Energy-intensive industrialization offers modest hopes for Iran and other Gulf states. Flared gas and capital surpluses notwithstanding, such projects - from refineries to steel complexes - promise only long pay-out periods. Gas exports or gas-based industrial goods compete with crude oil exports and reduce revenues over 10-20 year periods. In Iran gas for export competes with needs for pressure maintenance to sustain oil exports, further impairing prospects for extensive industrial exploitation.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Three members of the Council (Amin Banani, James A. Bill, Gene R. Garthwaite) will end their terms in January 1976. Members of the Society are to fill these vacancies (for three-year terms) from among the membership at large. Nominations will be made at the Annual Business Meeting. Those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting may send their nominations by mail to the Council via the office of the Secretary. The Council will subsequently hand over these nominations to the "election committee" to be selected at the Annual Meeting. This committee will then conduct the election of the three officers by mail.

FARHANG VA ZINDIGI

Mr. Ahmad Mirala'i, editor of Farhang va Zindigi and co-editor of the literary section of Ayandigan-i Adabi invites articles in either English or Persian (the translation to Persian will be made in Tehran) on literary theory, contemporary literature, etc. Potential contributors may contact Mr. Mirala'i at: 300 Iranshahr Avenue, Tehran, Iran.

EDEBIYAT

Edebiyat, a Journal of Middle Eastern Literatures, will soon be published. For more information write to: Professor William C. Hanaway, Jr., Editor, at the Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania, 838 Williams Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19174.

IRAN CENTER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

The Iran Center of Columbia University has scheduled a series of lectures on Iranian culture for the 1975-1976 academic year. These include programs on Persian lyric poetry, music, art, and dance. For more information write to Professor Dale Bishop, Iran Center, Columbia University, 604 Kent Hall, New York, New York 10027.

POPULATION COUNCIL

The Population Council has recently issued Iran: Country Prospects prepared by Mr. Joel Montague and others. For more information write to Mr. Montague at the Population Council, 245 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017.

ASIA SOCIETY

The Asia Society has added Iran to its Councils. The Iran Council will undertake a number of projects concerning various aspects of Iranian society. For more information write to Ms. Mary Ann Siegfried, The Asia Society, 112 East 64th Street, New York, New York 10021.

AFGHANISTAN JOURNAL

The Center for Afghanistan Studies of the University of Nebraska at Omaha has been requested to serve as the American subscription agent for the Afghanistan Journal, which is edited by Dr. Karl Gratzl in Graz, Austria. For more information write to Professor Thomas Gouttierre, Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Box 688, Omaha, Nebraska 68101.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

- Ludwig W. Adamec has received a grant from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACCS) for research in Afghanistan on its foreign policy toward the United States.
- Shahrokh Akhavi is in Iran conducting research on Islam and social change.
- Iraj Bashiri has published Hedayat's Ivory Tower: Structural Analysis of the Blind Owl, Minneapolis: Manor House, 1974.
- Richard W. Bulliet has received a grant from SSRC-ACLS for research on the rate of conversion to Islam of the people of the Middle East after the initial Arabic conquests.
- Paul W. English has received a grant from SSRC-ACLS for research on Isfahan as a city within a system of cities.
- Massud Farzan will be a visiting professor of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard University for the academic year 1975-1976.
- Michael Fischer is in Iran conducting research on Islam and social change.
- Michael C. Hillman has received a grant from SSRC-ACLS for a critical review and appraisal of the work of Jalal Al-e Ahmad.
- John Lorentz has received a Fulbright-Hays grant for research in the impact of the West on Iran through educational channels.
- Peter Poullada will be in Mashhad for the next two years teaching English.
- Kazem Tehrani is teaching Persian in the Department of Foreign Languages at Fairleigh Dickinson University.
- Roger Savory has been nominated for the position of president-elect of the Middle East Studies Association.
- A. Reza Sheikholeslami has received a grant from SSRC-ACLS for research on the role of local semi-autonomous notables in the taxation system of Qajar Iran, 1871-1896.

Farhad Kazemi
Executive Secretary