



# The Society for Iranian Studies NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXII, No. 3

Fall 1990

## MESA CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 10-13, 1990

### SIS Activities

The Society for Iranian Studies will hold its annual meeting November, 10th, 1990 in conjunction with the MESA meeting at the Marriot Riverwalk Hotel and San Antonio Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The SIS Council Luncheon Meeting will take place from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 10th. The Annual Business Meeting will take place on November 10th from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in room 208 of the San Antonio Convention Center.

Following the Business Meeting, the newly formed Association of Persian Teachers will meet from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in room 208 of the San Antonio Convention Center.

### BOOK EXHIBIT

As usual, The Society for Iranian Studies will have a table at the book exhibit at which back issues will be sold, and membership applications and renewals will be handled. Stop by! We will be located at table C.

### PLENARY SPEAKER ON THE GULF CRISIS

This year's plenary speaker will be Richard Murphy, of the Council on Foreign Relations. On Sunday, November 11th, 1:00-2:30 p.m., he will speak on the current situation in the Gulf.

### SIS PANELS

The Society for Iranian Studies will sponsor the following three panels:

#### *Literary Critical Thinking in Contemporary Iran*

Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington, Chairperson

Jerome W. Clinton, Princeton

University, "The Ideology of Persian Literary Histories"

Michael Beard, University of North Dakota, "Hedayat on Omar Khayyam"

Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington, "Nima Yushij as a Theoretician of Poetry"

Hamid Dabashi, Columbia University, "Post-Nimaic Theories of Poetsian Poetics"

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#### *The Performing Arts in Iran since the Revolution of 1978-1979*

William O. Beeman, Brown University, Chairperson

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### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear SIS Members:

For three years I have served as Executive Secretary of the Society for Iranian Studies. It has been a very rewarding experience, and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve in this position. I have met many wonderful people during these past three years. In compiling the *Newsletter*, reorganizing membership data, producing the new Roster, recruiting new members, planning for MESA, and making contacts with other organizations dealing with Iranian Studies, I have also learned a great deal. However, the demands of my own research and teaching have led me to the decision that it is time to pass on my position to a new Executive Secretary. This is to be accomplished through the election proceedings which will take place at the November Council Meeting in San Antonio, the results of which will be announced at the Business Meeting.

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# ARTS AND MUSIC OF IRAN

**Contemporary Art from Uzbekistan.** An exhibition which reveals a dynamic and productive art community in one of the Soviet Union's Muslim republics. Zamana Gallery, London, October 25 through March 10, 1991.

**Chess and Art.** Nearly 100 exotic and historic chess sets and artifacts, including sets from India and Egypt and a black stone elephant from 6th or 7th century Iraq, believed to be the oldest known chess piece. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, through January 6, 1991.

**Glass Gatherers.** Fifty objects trace five techniques of glass decoration from pre-Islamic through Islamic cultures to Renaissance Europe and the new world. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, through January 6, 1991.

**Romance of the Taj Mahal.** International exhibition devoted to the monument in India, organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. More than 200 works of art trace the importance and interrelation of all the arts from the reign of Shahjahan. The Asia Society, New York, January 10 through March 17, 1991.

**Photographs of Iran by Antoin Sevruguin.** Revealing insight into Iranian society at the turn of the century. Sevruguin was a commercial photographer active in Tehran between the 1880's and the 1920's, and was one of the most prolific and successful photographers in Iran at that time. Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Washington, D.C., September 30, through March 26, 1991.

**Pahari Masters: Painting at the Courts of Northern India.** An important exhibition of paintings from the former royal establishments of Northern India. Museum Rietberg, Gablerstrasse 15, CH-8002 Zurich. August 1 through September 16, 1990.

**Oriental Carpets and Kilims.** Exhibition of eight pile classical carpets, silk polonaise, Caucasian dragon and sunburst carpets from the 17th and 18th centuries. Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston, Massachusetts. To January, 1991.

**Eyes to the East: Indian, Persian, and Turkish Art Given by Harvard Graduates.** An exhibition of miniature paintings, calligraphy, manuscripts, ceramics, and metal work from the Islamic world. September 22 through November 25, 1990. Arthur Sackler Museum, Washington, D.C.

**A Decade of Iranian Cinema: 1980-1990.** For the first time in the United States, a festival of eighteen features and a number of short subject films from Iran produced since the revolution of 1979 was presented at UCLA March 31-April 10, 1990. Curated by Hamid Naficy, the series was co-sponsored by the Center for Near Eastern Studies, the International Studies and Overseas Programs and the Iran Research and Education Group.

**Mohammad Reza Shajarian** performed a concert of traditional Persian music at the Harrison Auditorium, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania on September 7, 1990.

The Foundation for Iranian Studies sponsored an exhibition and auction of paintings by contemporary Iranian artists to aid the victims of the recent earthquake in Northern Iran on October 4, 1990 at the Strathmore Hall Arts Center. For further information, contact: The Foundation for Iranian Studies, 4343 Montgomery Ave., Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814. Telephone: 301-657-1990.

## News About Members

**Hooshang Amirahmadi,** Rutgers University, has recently published *Revolution and Economic Transition: The Iranian Experience*, State University of New York Press, 1990; and "Global Restructuring and Prospects for Third World Transformation," in Gill-Chin Lim and Wook Chung, eds., *Dynamic Transformation: Korea, NICs and Beyond*, Urbana, U.S. and Seoul, Korea: Consortium on Development Studies, 1990.

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**Hamid Naficy** curated a festival of Iranian postrevolutionary cinema for UCLA in April which featured many films previously unscene outside Iran. He also completed his Ph.D. dissertation at the UCLA Department of Film and Television, entitled "Exile Discourse and Television: A Study in Syncretic Cultures: Iranian Television in Los Angeles."

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**The Middle East Microform Project (MEMP)** is an association established several years ago by members of the Middle East Librarians Association for the cooperative filming or purchase of available films - of unique, scarce, rare, and/or unusually bulky or expensive research materials; to preserve by filming deteriorating printed and manuscript materials of scholarly value; and to make those films available for use by member institutions. Library membership costs \$500 per year. MEMP's scope includes the Arab countries, Israel, Turkey Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and other related areas. MEMP maintains a union list of Middle East-related microforms in U.S. libraries, the first edition of which was published last December, and has compiled and will publish a finding aid for commercially available microforms in Middle East studies.

MEMP was recently accepted as a MESA affiliate, and will have information available at the book exhibit in San Antonio and will organize a meeting for all members wishing to get involved. For further information, contact: Edward Jajko, Middle East Collection, Hoover Institution, Stanford, CA. 94305-6010. Telephone: 415-723-2050.

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**The Middle East Documentation Center, The University of Chicago** has recently published a new catalogue representing the offerings of both the Ottoman Microforms Project and the Chicago Persian Microforms. They have

added many new titles to both projects since the issuance of the last catalogue in October, 1989, and are offering titles in the Ottoman Divan Project for the first time. For a copy of the catalogue, or further information, contact Laurie Abbott, Middle East Documentation Center, 5828 South University Ave., 201 Pick Hall, Chicago IL 60637-1502. Telephone: 312-702-8425.

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**Academic Freedom in the Middle East**, the second special report on human rights in the Middle East published by MERIP, is now available. Specific academic freedom violations are detailed, along with a general discussion of academic freedom and state, society, and knowledge. This six-page publication is available for \$2 plus .50 postage for a single copy; \$1.60 per copy for orders of five or more; \$1. per copy for 25 or more. To order, write: MERIP, Suite 119, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Telephone: 202-223-3677.

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**The Institute for Advanced Study** has two-year memberships for 1991-93 in the School of Historical Study. The memberships are available to assistant professors whose research deals with the history of Europe and the Near East from antiquity to the present. At the time of their arrival, members must have served at least two and not more than four years in institutions of higher learning in the U.S. or Canada, and must submit a written assurance from their dean

or departmental chair that they may return to their positions after holding their membership at the Institute. Appointments will be for two successive academic years (September through April) and for the intervening summer. The stipend will match the combination of salary and benefits at the member's home institution. Applications are due by November 1. Further information and application materials may be obtained from the Administrative Officer, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

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**Royal Ontario Museum** announces the annual Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship in Textile and Costume History. The fellowship offers up to \$9000 Canadian, to be awarded to a scholar working on any aspect of textile or costume history whose research makes direct use of, or supports, any part of the ROM collections that cover a broad range of time and geography. Deadline for application is November 15, 1990. For information, contact: Chair, Veronika Gervers Memorial Fellowship, Textile Dept., Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6, Canada. Telephone: 416-586-5790.

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**University of Texas, Institute for the Study of Literature, Religion, and Society in the Contemporary Middle East** will offer two Resident Fellowships for the aca-

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# Conferences & Seminars

**Call for Papers— The 2nd European Conference of Iranian Studies**, sponsored by Societas Iranologica Europaea, will be held at Bamberg University, Institute of Oriental Studies, from September 30 to October 4, 1991. The conference will be organized into three sections. Aside from these sections, two workshops will be established on: 1) "Recurrent Patterns in Iranian Religion from Mazdaism to Sufism," to be organized by Professor Bo Utas, Uppsala; and 2) "Computers and Text Processing in Iranian Studies." Participation fees are as follows: ordinary members of the Societas Iranologica Europaea: DM 100; non-members: DM 200; and students: DM 25. Papers are expected to be not more than 20 minutes. Those interested in participating, please contact: 2nd European Conference of Iranian Studies, Universitat Bamberg, Iranistik (U 11), P.O. Box 1549, D-8600 Bamberg, Germany.

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**Call for Papers - The Ninth Annual Conference of the Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA)** will take place April 5-7, 1991 at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Co-sponsored by the Center for Near Eastern and North-African Studies and the Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, the conference will focus on "Iran and the World in the 1990's." However, papers on all aspects of contemporary Iran are welcome. Preorganized panels are particularly encouraged. Send inquiry and an abstract of 250-300 words,

by January 31, 1991, to: CIRA Conference 1991, Professor Gernot Windfuhr, Conference Chair, Department of Near Eastern Studies, 3074 Frieze Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

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**The Book in the Islamic World.** An international conference focusing on the history, art, production, and impact of the book on the Islamic world. The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. November 7 through 9, 1990.

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**The Middle East Institute's 44th Annual Conference**, entitled, 'Khamsin: Conflict and Change in the Middle East,' will take place October 12-13th at the Middle East Institute, 1761 N Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. This year's conference will look at the current situation in the Gulf and the continuing conflicts in the Middle East. Among the panelists are John Voll, University of New Hampshire; Nora Boustany, Washington Post; Paul Jabber, Bankers Trust; Houshang Amirahmadi, Rutgers University; and Fouad Moughrabi, University of Tennessee.

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**The International Islamic Relief Organization and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies** sponsored a conference at Keble College, Oxford, England, during April 1990 to consider the management of natural disaster in Muslim countries. A wide range

of non-governmental Muslim and Western aid organizations met at the conference.

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**The Department of Economics, School of Business Administration of Montclair State College** sponsored a conference on "Iran: A Decade after the Revolution," October 6, 1990. Among the participants were Shahla Haeri, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; Abbas Amanat, Department of History, Yale University; Patrick Clawson, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Philadelphia; Ervand Abrahamian, Department of History, Baruch College; and R. K. Ramazani, Harry Flood Burd, Jr., Professor of Government and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia.

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**The 15th Congress of the Union Europeenne des Arabisants et Islamisants** was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, September 15-19. For further information, contact Prof. Dr. F. de Jong, Congres de l'UEAI, Section des Langues Islamiques, Université d'Utrecht, Drift 15, 3512 BR, Utrecht, Netherlands.

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A two-day conference on the **Languages and Scripts of Central Asia** was convened by Dr. Shirin Akiner and R. Nicholas Sims-Williams, with financial support from the UNESCO Silk Roads Project. The conference

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**A SHI'ITE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA: THE JOURNEY OF AN IRANIAN NOTABLE FROM TEHRAN TO ARABIA THROUGH NORTHERN IRAN, RUSSIA, THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, AND EGYPT (1885-1886)**, ed., trans., and annotated by Hafez Farmayan and Elton L. Daniel. University of Texas Press, 1990.

**AL-HIND, THE MAKING OF THE INDO-ISLAMIC WORLD, VOL. 1: EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA AND THE EXPANSION OF ISLAM 7-11TH CENTURIES**, by Andre Wink. Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1990.

**ALPAMYSH: CENTRAL ASIAN IDENTITY UNDER RUSSIAN RULE**, by H.B. Paksoy. Hartford Ct., Association for the Advancement of Central Asian Research Monograph Series, History Dept., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, 1989.

**EARLY ISLAM**, by William Montgomery Watt. Edinburgh University Press, 1990.

**INTELLECTUAL STUDIES ON ISLAM**, ed. by Michel M. Mazzaoui and Vera Basch Moreen. University of Utah Press, 1990.

**IRANICA VARIA: PAPERS IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR EHSAN YARSHATER**. Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1990.

**MYSTICAL ISLAM: AN INTRODUCTION TO SUFISM**, by Julian Baldick. New York University Press, 1989.

**NEITHER EAST NOR WEST: IRAN, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE UNITED STATES**, by

Nikki R. Keddie and Mark Gasiorowski. Yale University Press, 1990.

**RADICAL ISLAM: MEDIEVAL THEOLOGY AND MODERN POLITICS**, by Emmanuel Sivan. Yale University Press, 1990.

**RELIGIOUS RADICALISM AND POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, ed. by Emmanuel Sivan and Menachem Friedman. State University of New York Press, 1989.

**REVOLUTION AND ECONOMIC TRANSITION: THE IRANIAN EXPERIENCE**, by Hooshang Amirahmadi. State University of New York Press, 1990.

**REVOLUTION IN IRAN: THE ROOTS OF TURMOIL**, by Mehran Kamrava. Routledge, Chapman, and Hall, Inc., NY, 1990.

**SOCIETY AND STATE IN THE ARAB GULF PENINSULA: A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE**, by Khaldoun Hasan al-Naqeeb. Routledge, Chapman, and Hall, Inc., NY, 1991.

**THE CAMEL AND THE WHEEL** (2nd edition), by Richard W. Bulliet. Columbia University Press, 1990.

**THE CRISIS OF MODERN ISLAM: A PREINDUSTRIAL CULTURE IN THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AGE**, by Bassam Tibi. Trans. by Judith von Sivers, forward by Peter von Sivers. University of Utah Press, 1988.

**THE GREAT MOSQUE OF ISFAHAN**, by Oleg Grabar. New York University Press, 1990.

**THE HISTORY AND LIFE OF CHINGGIS KHAN (THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE MONGOLS)**, trans. and annotated by Urgunge Onon. Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1990.

**THE NATIONAL SECURITY CONSTITUTION**, by Harold Hongju Koh. Yale University Press, 1990.

**THE RISE OF HUMANISM IN CLASSICAL ISLAM AND THE CHRISTIAN WEST: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SCHOLASTICISM**, by George Makdisi. Edinburgh University Press, 1990.

**THE SEA OF PRECIOUS VIRTUES: A MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC MIRROR FOR PRINCES**, trans., edited and annotated by Julie Scott Meisami. University of Utah Press, 1990.

### Society for Iranian Studies Newsletter

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Address all communications to:

Jo-Ann Gross, Executive Secretary, Society for Iranian Studies, c/o Middle East Institute, Columbia University, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th Street, New York, N.Y. 10027.

*This newsletter is designed and typeset using an Apple Macintosh computer. The typeface used throughout is Adobe's Stone Serif family.*

## MESA CONFERENCE 1990

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Hamid Naficy, UCLA, "Iranian Cinema under the Islamic Republic"

Mohammad Reza Lotfi, Shayda Cultural and Artistic Center, "Iranian Music after the Revolution of 1978-79"

Ali Mohammadi, New School for Social Research, "Islam and the Modern Media: The First Decade of the Islamic Republic"

Mahmood Karimi Hakak, Towson State University, "Development of the Theatre Arts in Iran since the Islamic Uprising of 1979"

Farrokh Gafary, Foundation for Iranian Studies, Discussant

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### Children in Iran

Erika Loeffler Friedl, Western Michigan University, Chairperson

Patricia J. Higgins, SUNY Plattsburgh, "Iranian Youth in American Society"

Erika Loeffler Friedl, Western Michigan University, "Interviewing Village Children in Iran"

Janet Kestenberg Amighi, West Chester University, "Maternal Affect during Times of High Infant Mortality: Childhood Recollections of Iranian Zoroastrians"

Nazid Nosrat Mozaffari, Harvard University, "Gender and Self Perception: Iranian Girls in Recent Fiction"

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## OTHER MESA PANELS ON IRANIAN SUBJECTS

### Persian Art, Language and Literature

Daryush Shayegay, Foundation for Iranian Studies, Chairperson

Bernard O'Kane, American University in Cairo, "Rock Faces in Persian Painting"

John R. Perry, University of Chicago, "Arabic *mufa'ala* Forms as Loanwords in Persian: Semantic and Sociolinguistic Indices"

Nasrin Rahimieh, University of Alberta, "The Real and the Fictional in the Character of Hajji Baba"

Lloyd Miller, Eastern Arts, "Poetry of the Song Texts in Traditional Iranian Music"

Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Harvard University, "Intellectuals, Literature and Publishing Houses in Iran: 1960-1990"

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### Aspects of Popular Devotion in Shi'a Islam

David Pinault, Colgate University, Chairperson

David Pinault, Colgate University, "Shi'a Muslim Men's Associations and Muharram Observances in Hyderabad, India"

Juan Cole, University of Michigan, "Warrior-Queens and Courtesans: Devotion and Practice among Shi'ite Women in Awadh, 1722-1859"

Gus Thaiss, York University, "The Drama of Husain: From Ritual to Theatre in Trinidad"

Peter Chelkowski, New York University, "Far from Karbala: The Impact of Non-Muslim Festivals on some Muharram Observances in India"

Wayne R. Husted, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "The Enumerated Martyrs in Popular Shi'ite Piety, with Special Reference to Shahid-i Qazi Numrullah Shustari"

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### Iranian Historiography: 1500-1850

Paul Losensky, University of Chicago, Chairperson

Sholeh Quinn, University of Chicago, "Persian Historical Writing during the Era of Shah Abbas Safavi"

Ernest Tucker, United States Naval Academy, "An Historical Analysis of Two Afsharid Chronicles"

Cyrus Amir-Mokri, University of Chicago, "Qajar Historiography and the Career of Aqa Muhammad Khan"

John Perry, University of Chicago, Discussant

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## Other MESA Panels

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### Exploring the Meanings of Tariqa Membership: Medieval India, Iran and Central Asia

Jo-Ann Gross, Trenton State College, Chairperson

David Damrel, Duke University, "The Naqshbandi Order in Transition: A Central Asian Shaykh in Mughal India"

Stephen F. Dale, Ohio State University, "Ashraf Sufis: Ahrari Naqshbandis in Early Mughal India"

Jo-Ann Gross, Trenton State College, "The Herat Naqshbandis Order in the Timurid Period: The Right People in the Right Place at the Right Time?"

Devin DeWeese, Indiana University, "A Tariqah without a Silsilah? The Career of an Uvaysi Sufi in Timurid Central Asia"

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### Workshop on Iranian Women Poets: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow (in Persian)

Parvin Shakib (Champaign, Illinois), Chairperson

Parvin Dowlatbadi (Tehran)

Simin Behbahani (Tehran)

Jaleh Soltani (London)

Partow Nouri-Ala (Los Angeles)

Jila Mossaed (Sweden)

Nasrin Rahimieh (University of Alberta), Discussant

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### Modern Drama and Theatre in Iran

Peter Chelkowski, New York University, Chairperson

Faridoun Farrokh, Laredo State University, "From Ripples to Waves: Gholamhossein Sa'edi and the Drama of Social Consciousness in Iran"

Gisele Kapppuscinski, Monterey Institute of International Studies, "The Absurd Motif in the Plays of Gholam-Hoseyn Sa'edi"

Farrokh Gaffary, Iran Visual Archives, Paris, "'Abbas Ma'lbandian, Iranian Contemporary Playwright"

M. R. Ghanoonparvar, University of Texas at Austin, "Iranian Drama since the Iranian Revolution"

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### Variations in Gender, Style and Discourse in Persian

Donald L. Stilo, University of Washington, Chairperson

Donald L. Stilo, "Sociolinguistic Variation in Standard Tehran Persian"

Peggy Hashemipour, California State University, San Diego, "-An to -Un Raising: A Case of Stylistic Variation in Modern Persian"

William O. Beeman, Brown University, "Sincerity and Insincerity in Persian Discourse"

Vida Samiiian, California State University, Fresno, "Language and Sex: Gender-Based Variations in Persian"

Ali-Asghar Aghbar, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, "An Exploratory Study of Fixed Expressions in Saedi's Discourse"

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### Gender Issues in Modern Iran

Hamideh Sedgi, Millersville University, "Women and State: A Comparative Appraisal of Secular and Religious Politics in Modern Iran"

Behnaz N. Smalley, George Washington University, "The Status of Professional Women in Iran's Government Agencies"

Akbar Aghajanian, Fayetteville State University, "Gender Inequality and Food Distribution Among Children in Shiraz, Iran"

Khosrow Shakeri, Harvard University, "The Role of Women in Iranian Children's Tales and Dynastic History: A Comparative Study in Historical Anthropology"

## Advertising Rates

### *Iranian Studies*

Publishers and booksellers wishing to place an advertisement in the *Journal, Iranian Studies*, may do so by submitting camera ready copy to:

Richard Bulliet, Editor,  
***Iranian Studies***,  
Middle East Institute,  
Columbia University,  
New York, N.Y. 10027.

A full page ad is \$150 and a half page \$75.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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demical year 1991-92. The Institute's topic will be the relations between literature and the religious revival in the contemporary Middle East. All the literatures and religions of the region are open for consideration. Qualified scholars (Ph.D. or equivalent required) who expect to be able to complete major research and writing within the area of the Institute's topic are encouraged to apply. Application deadline is January 15, 1991. For further information and application, write: Dr. Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Director, Institute for the Study of Literature, Religion, and Society; CMES, SSB 3-122; University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712.

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The Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations at Washington University announces a continuation of its program of post-doctoral research fellowships in Islamic studies. The project is intended to foster cross-disciplinary innovations in the historical study of Islamic societies and their broader contents. During each of the academic years, 1991 through 1993, the Center will offer at least two fellowships for research on the following themes: 1) 1991-92: the history of Islamic law in praxis, with emphasis on the early modern and modern periods (16th-20th centuries); 2) 1992-93: the reevaluation of Iberian history from a pluralistic Mediterranean perspective, with particular focus on the social and cultural history of Iberia between the eighth and sixteenth centuries. The project seeks to foster productive dialogue between specialists in Islamic, Hispanic and Jewish history and culture. Proposals are sought from junior or

senior scholars engaged in major research projects that fall within the topics outlined. Applicants should submit curricula vitae and letters describing their proposals by January 15 preceding the proposed tenure to: The Center for the Study of Islamic Societies and Civilizations, Washington University, Campus Box 1230, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899. Telephone: 314-889-5166.

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The Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan announces two Rockefeller Residency Fellowships for the 1991-92 academic year for the study of Middle Eastern literatures. The Rockefeller Residency Program is designed to enable writers and scholars of Middle Eastern literature to produce English translations and commentaries of value to policymakers, scholars of the contemporary Middle East, and those in related disciplines denied access to these ideas because of the language barriers. Resident Fellows will devote their time to their writing, translation, and research related to Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish literature; a willingness to participate in Center programs or seminars appropriate to their interests will also be expected.

Residents will be selected on the quality and significance of their research proposal, relationship to the theme of the program, "Literature: A Window to the Issues and Values of Contemporary Middle Eastern Societies," and prior and potential publications. Applicants must submit an application form, a description of the proposed research of about 2,000 words, samples of publications, a

curriculum vitae, and letters of support from three persons familiar with the applicant's work by January 15, 1991. For further information and applications, contact: Ernest N. McCarus, Director, Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies, The University of Michigan, 144 Lane Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1290. Telephone: 313-764-0350.

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The British Library Board has decided to sell the Store Street Building and relocate the Oriental Collections of the British Library to Orbit House, near Waterloo by the end of this year. There the Oriental Collection will join the India Office Library and Records (IOLR) in a major consolidation of the British Library's Asian collections and expertise.

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Since 1984 *The Middle East and South Asia Folklore Newsletter* has been informing scholars about developments, conferences, publications and ongoing fieldwork relating to folklore of the Middle East and South Asia. The Spring 1990 issue (vol. 7, no. 2) has recently been published. The Newsletter is published at the Center for Comparative Studies in the Humanities at The Ohio State University and appears tri-annually. Subscriptions are \$6.00 for U.S. residents; \$10. for institutions and foreign subscribers. Address inquiries, subscriptions and submissions to: The Middle East and South Asia Folklore Newsletter, Center for Comparative Studies in the Humanities, 306 Dulles Hall, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210.

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## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

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was held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, April 2-3, 1990. Iranian languages were covered by D. M. MacKenzie (BRD), and I. M. Steblin-Kamenskij (U.S.S.R).

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The American Academy of Religion includes a section on the study of Islam. At each year's annual meeting, five panels on Islamic topics are presented. This year's meeting will be held in New Orleans from November 16-20, and will include panels on "Holy Personages in Popular Islam," "Qur'an and Qur'anic Exegesis," "Heterodoxy and Orthodoxy in Islam," "Theorizing the Relationship between 'Elite' and 'Popular' Islam;" and "Islam and the Comparative Study of

Religion." For further information, write: Marilyn R. Waldman, Section Chair, 1961 Andover Road, Columbus, OH 43212-1004. Telephone: 614-487-0003.

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6th International Conference on Oriental Carpets will take place November 17-19 in San Francisco, CA. Send inquiries to: Dr. Murray Eiland and Dr. David Stonach, Co-chairs; Academic Committee, 6th ICOC; 199 Hillcrest Rd.; Berkeley, CA 94705.

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Middle East Economic Association will hold its 11th annual meeting in Washington, D.C. from December 28-30. For information, write: Sohrab Behdad,

Dept. of Economics, Denison University, Granville, OH 43023.

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The Legacy of Mediaeval Persian Sufism, an international conference on classical Persian Sufism, will take place from December 5-7 at SOAS, University of London. It is sponsored by the Centre of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, SOAS and the Nimatullahi Research Centre. For further information, contact: Chairman, Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies; SOAS; Thornhaugh St., Russell Square; London WC1H 0XG; United Kingdom. Telephone: 01-221-1129, ext. 2439.

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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It is an exciting time for the field of Iranian Studies. Exciting, because the world community of scholars and professionals continues to devote increasing attention to the field of Iranian scholarship while expanding its communication network. Exciting also because of renewed opportunities for research in Iran, and thus for developing closer ties with Iranian scholars. It is my hope that the Society for Iranian Studies will continue to foster the further development of such ties both in the United States and abroad in its role as a major organization providing a scholarly forum for those involved in the study of Iran.

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*Jo-Ann Gross*