

# SIS News

The Newsletter of the Society for Iranian Studies

Spring 1991

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*The Society for Iranian Studies  
Newsletter Vol. XXII, No. 2  
Spring 1991*

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New York, NY 10027*

WE ARE SENDING you this issue of the *Newsletter* in the middle of a transition period as I take over the affairs of our Society from Jo-Ann Gross who has served the Society admirably for the past few years. We are all grateful to her. In the meantime, arrangements for the election of the the next Council members are underway, panels for the next MESA meeting are being organized, and the current issues of the *Journal* are being prepared. We are also proceeding with the selection of our next Editor for the *Journal*. We are grateful to Richard Bulliet who has served us so well during his tenure as the Editor of the *Journal*. We are taking advantage of his experience and knowledge in selecting his successor, whom we hope to name by the beginning of the Summer. The transfer of signatures and other authorization should soon be completed between Linda Steinman, to whom we are most grateful, and Alice Huntsberger who is succeeding her as our new Treasurer. Please have

patience as we re-organize to serve our Society better.

In the meantime, please read the draft proposal of a program of action outlined below, send me your ideas and suggestions, and help me begin a new and fruitful phase in the history of our Society.

Hamid Dabashi

Executive  
Secretary

## Current SIS Council members and their terms:

1991-92

**Anne Betteridge,**

University of Arizona

**Elton Daniel,** University

of Hawaii at Manoa

**Fatemeh Etemad**

**Moghadam,** Hofstra

University

**Gernot L. Windfuhr.** The

University of Michigan

1990-91

**Sheila Blair**

**Eric Hooglund**

**Brian Spooner**

1989-91

**William Beeman**

**Erika Friedl**

**Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak**

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## THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES:

### A Quarter of A Century

The Society for Iranian Studies was formed in 1967 by a group of young academicians who had the courage of their rising convictions that the achievement of scholastic excellence in the field of Iranian studies would be greatly enhanced by a dedicated professional organization that would articulate and promote the specifics of that excellence.

Founded almost simultaneously with the establishment of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, the Society for Iranian Studies, under the capable leadership of its successive councils, executive secretaries, editors, treasurers, and more importantly, inspired by exemplary leadership of its members, has come a long way in achieving its stated objectives. "To encourage the study of Iranian culture and society . . . , to provide unrestricted opportunities in its publications . . . , and to work for the safeguard of freedom of inquiry" have been the noble causes that the Society has pursued tirelessly. As it stands today, the Society for Iranian Studies is the living testimony to the noble ideals that first gave rise to it.

Our Society has been the exemplary model for a host of similar organizations in other area studies, but no other society comes even close to our diverse range of academic disciplines. From Anthropology to Numismatics, the Society for Iranian Studies represents more than thirty-seven academic disciplines.

Our past achievements constitute the enduring records of a group of professional academicians dedicated to scholarly excellence. The Society has established a collective identity for us. A vast and enduring culture and the hallmarks of its civilization are the fertile soil of our academic and intellectual endeavors. We have served the field of Iranian studies with dedication and clear-sightedness. The voluminous papers of our *Journal* comprise the historical records of our collective contributions to

making Iranian history more clearly and accurately accessible to an ever-larger community of interpreters. The panels we have sponsored regularly at the annual MESA conferences have sustained a steady growth of interest in the various fields of Iranian studies.

All these achievements should rightly make us proud to have done our share in making the areas of Iranian Studies bloom with intellectual excitement and professional achievements.

But the times have changed. We are in the midst of a new generation of academic opportunities. No professional organization can hope to meet the challenge of its future relevance, let alone its indispensability, without having a clear vision of what animates and moves its historical necessity. That vision must then be translated into a program of action, an agenda of enduring relevance, without which we lose our very reason for being.

The following is the proposal for a specific program of action that will align our Society with its historical responsibilities. We hereby invite any and all comments, suggestions, deletions, and emendations necessary to make this program the vivid expression of our collective resolve to meet the historical challenge now facing us. Once our agenda of collective action is thus drafted and adopted, we will consider it the responsibility of the elected officials of the Society and the Executive Council to pursue those objectives to the best of their abilities. The performance of both the elected and the selected officials of the Society will be judged subsequently by the general membership on the basis of their dedication to and achievement of these goals.

For these and a host of other serious responsibilities that will register collectively our historical recognition of what needs to be done, we solicit your help, your guidance, and, most of all, your dedication to the Society for Iranian Studies.

A younger generation of Iranists is coming to fruition. More than anything else, this generation needs guidance. If the remarkable traditions of the Arberrys, Foruzanfars, Browns, Qazvinis, Merquarts, and Minorskis are to continue, we need the generation of the Yarshaters, Fryes, Safas, and Boyces to continue to care for the moral and intellectual integrity of the future generation. If, as a Society, we can facilitate the various possibilities of that moral and intellectual integrity, we shall not be judged poorly by our own descendants.

### **A Program of Action**

1. *The Biennial Meeting.* The Society for Iranian Studies will organize a biennial meeting initially in the United States but gradually to be extended into Europe, Iran, and other parts of the world. The range of disciplines we represent and the size of our membership are such that the annual MESA conference does not provide the necessary opportunity for a more representative expression of our areas of interest. We need to have a regularly scheduled meeting where more rapid and systematic advancements can be made in the various areas of Iranian studies. In organizing these meetings, we would welcome opportunities to work closely with other organizations dedicated to non-partisan, academic objectives. The primary purpose of these meetings would be an opportunity for Iranists from all over the world to gather on a regular basis for the exchange of ideas and interests. The proceedings of these meetings would provide an excellent pool of potential papers that would be channeled towards publication in the *Journal of Iranian Studies*. The younger generation of scholars, who are in dire need of guidance as to what constitutes genuine scholarship, will have an excellent opportunity to attend these biennial meetings and begin to learn the manner and the matter of objective scholarship. Occasionally, these regular meetings can be devoted

to thematic conferences on specific topics of particular significance. At the discretion of the leading Iranists of a given area, weak points or darker corners in the field of Iranian Studies can be identified, and sustained scholarship in those areas encouraged and generated.

2. *The Journal.* The *Journal for Iranian Studies* is the bloodline of our sustained growth. It has a proud, productive, and exemplary history of brilliant scholarship. Its previous and current editors have been devoted scholars who have dedicated a lifetime of learning to its advancements. We need to build on this solid history. As always, the *Journal* will continue to be a peer-reviewed academic forum for the best pieces of scholarship produced in the field of Iranian studies. It will be the task of the future editors of the *Journal* to continue to represent the wide range of disciplines and interests, from the pre-Islamic period to modern times, that exists in this field. The *Journal* must continue to be the standard bearer for the best and most exemplary in our areas of research and scholarship.

3. *Membership.* Our Society is the umbrella organization of close to forty disciplines, and our membership reflects that vast expansion of non partisan interest in Iranian studies. So far the majority of our members come from the United States and Western Europe. We need to expand our membership beyond these areas and actively invite Iranists from all over the world, especially Iran, to join our Society. We are a professional, academic organization, totally dedicated to the objective advancement of Iranian studies throughout the world. Regardless of our national, racial, or ideological differences—a healthy and fruitful diversity in any intellectual community—we are dedicated to pursuing verifiable knowledge. As such, we should welcome any like-minded professionals who share our ideals and aspirations.

4. *The Annual Distinguished Lecture.* We need

to organize a central event at our annual MESA meetings to bring us all together in the most significant focal point of our organizational affiliation: our scholarship. For this purpose, we plan to initiate an Annual Distinguished Lecture, to be delivered by a senior scholar in any field of Iranian studies. In appreciation of Prof. Ehsan Yarshater's life-long dedication to Iranian Studies, we propose to call this event the "Ehsan Yarshater Distinguished Lecture." Nominations for senior scholars will be received by the Council; selections will be made at the annual Council meetings; and the Executive Committee will be in charge of arranging for these lecturers. Any member of the Society may nominate a senior scholar in the field. In addition to serving as a celebratory occasion, marking the highest achievements in a field of Iranian studies, these lectures will provide exemplary models of scholarship, delivered at the height of an academic career. The younger generation of Iranists will benefit greatly from such exemplary scholarship, reaching, as they should, for the level of discourse established in these lectures. These annual lectures will also be published in our *Journal*. This event will make our Society and its activities more visible in the larger community of scholars that constitutes MESA and, consequently, will bring us closer together as a group.

**5. Honorary Members.** Equally important for our Society is to honor and celebrate the highest in academic and intellectual achievements in Iranian studies. The democratic nature of the Society for Iranian Studies notwithstanding, we can pay tribute to the most senior Iranists among us by making them Honorary Members of our Society. This select group of eminent scholars will bring honor and prestige to the Society, personify its ideals and aspirations, and provide its present and future generation of scholars with the highest and most noble in an academic career. The very small number

of scholars who will ultimately constitute this group will give weight and prestige to our Society, reflect positively on our image in the outside world, and visibly demonstrate that we honor and respect the ideals of non-partisan scholarship in the range and magnitude of our disciplines. Recognition of these senior scholars as Honorary Members is a collective expression of gratitude for their lifetime achievements in an area of Iranian studies.

**6. Fundraising.** Achieving these and similar objectives requires financial security. We must launch a major fundraising campaign. The limited budget now at our disposal is nowhere near what is needed to sustain a serious rate of growth for our Society. We must establish a campaign committee to discuss the various ways in which money can be raised for our restricted and unrestricted endowments. This should be done in a way that does not compromise our unconditional commitment—in any way, shape, or form—to the non-partisan pursuit of our professional objectives.

**7. The Newsletter.** Finally, the significance of this very Newsletter cannot be underestimated. It is the vital source of communication among us. Although it has performed an extremely helpful function in the past, more time, energy, and imagination should be employed in its future issues. Ideally, it should keep us more informed of each other's activities, an extension of our regular November meetings. To achieve this, we ask you to submit news of your various activities, publications, travels, conferences, awards, events, etc. News of Iranian studies throughout the world is, of course, central to the Newsletter. But announcements of meetings, authors' inquiries, short book reviews, and perhaps even interviews and other such features should be included in the Newsletter.

Please consider these suggestions carefully, and let us know your ideas at your earliest convenience.





## News of Iranian Studies

### News from Iran

A conference on "Logic" was organized at Shahid Beheshti University on 5-7 May 1990. Mo'aseh-ye Mutale'at va Tahqiqat-e Farhangi organized this meeting, in which some thirteen papers were delivered by participants from Iran, Europe, and South America.

The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance has granted permission for the publication of some eighty-five new periodicals, including seven newspapers and four weekly, thirty-five monthly, and twenty-five seasonal journals.

The By-Laws of the Farhangestan-e Zaban va Adab-e Farsi were ratified in March 1990. They include the following articles: (1) The preservation of the vigor and ingenuity of the Persian language as one of the principal pillars of national identity, the second language of the Islamic world, and the carrier of Islamic learning and culture; (2) the advancement of a pure and eloquent language, capable of expressing scientific and literary ideas . . .; (3) the propagation of Persian language and literature and the expansion of its dominion in and out of the country; and (4) creation of joy and growth in Persian language in accordance with historical exigencies.... The permanent members of the Farhangestan are Ahmad Aram, Nasrollah Pourjavadi, Hasan Habibi, Gholam Ali Haddad 'Adel, Baha' al-Din Khorramshahi, Mohammad Khonsari, Mohammad Taqi Danesh

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Pazhuh, Simin Daneshvar, Ali Ravaqi, Seyyed Ja'far Shahidi, Tahereh Saffarzadeh, Hamid Farzam, Fathollah Mojtaba'i, Mehdi Mohaqqueq, Mohammad Mohit Tabataba'i, Abual-Hasan Najafi, and the late Gholam Hossein Yousefi.

The Third International Book Exhibition was held in Tehran on 8-18 May 1990. Some 341 publishers from Iran and 305 publishers from abroad exhibited close to 44,000 books.

The Free Islamic University has begun its publication of *Daneshnameh*, a seasonal journal dedicated to the humanities. The first issue of the journal includes articles such as "Modern Slavery," "Historical and Cultural Geography," and "The Rivalries of Russia and England in Iran."

Sazeman-e Madarek-e Farhangi-ye Enqelab-e Eslami, founded in 1361/1982, is in charge of documents and publications pertinent to the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Among the documents in its possession are some 22,000 files of books submitted for, but denied publication between 1316/1927 and 1357/1978. These files should prove invaluable in a study of censorship during the pre-revolutionary period.

*Tarikh-e Mo'aser-e Iran* is the general title for a series of publications devoted to the study of modern Iranian history and sponsored by Mo'aseh-ye Pazhuhesh va Motale'at-e Farhangi. Each of these

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publications consists of four parts: articles, memoirs, documents, and bibliography. Mo'aseh-ye Pazhuhesh va Motale'at-e Farhangi is perhaps the most important center for primary sources in Qajar and Pahlavi history.

The Center for Kerman-shenasi conducted a ten-day program, 16-25 October 1990, in Kerman to promote the study of this ancient Iranian city. A book exhibit as well as an exhibition on archeological, historical, and anthropological relics and documents were featured.

A seminar for the study of modern Persian literature was held in Shiraz in late September 1990. Shiraz University organized this event.

Sazeman-e Mirath-e Farhangi held its first conference in Tehran on 9-11 October 1990. This organization's interests are primarily anthropological. The topics discussed included water in Sistan, carpet in southern Khorasan, religious ceremonies in Lorestan, mourning in Kashan, and issues related to tribal studies.

An international conference on Ferdowsi was held in Tehran on 22-29 December 1990. Other related activities were organized concurrently in Tehran and other Iranian cities.



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**MESA 1990,  
San Antonio, Texas**

The Keyan Foundation and the *Iranshenasi* journal sponsored a lecture and discussion session in Persian on Saturday, 10 November. Dr. Jalal Matini chaired the lecture and delivered a paper on Ferdowsi; poet Nader Naderpour presented a paper on the West's influence on modern Persian poetry; and Prof. Heshmat Moayyad discussed the need for a concise anthological work on the history of Persian literature.

The Society for Iranian Studies sponsored a panel chaired by Prof. Hamid Dabashi on the subject of "Literary Critical Thinking in Contemporary Iran." Profs. Michael Beard, Jerome Clinton, Hamid Dabashi, and Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak presented papers.

Profs. Peter Chelkowski, Faridoun Farrokh, M. R. Ghanoonparvar, and Gisele Kapuchinski comprised a panel on "Modern Drama and Theater in Iran."

The Foundation for Iranian Studies sponsored a panel on Iranian history chaired by Prof. Ehsan Yarshater. Profs. Daryoush Ashouri, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, and Mohammad Ja'far Mahjoub presented papers.

*Par Monthly Magazine* sponsored a workshop on Iranian women poets. The panel featured Simin Behbahani, Jila Mosaed, Partow Nouri-Ala, Nasrin Rahimieh, Parvin

Shakiba, and Jaleh Soltani Esfahani.

Profs. Terry Carlman and Michael Hillman arranged an exhibition featuring 24 works from painter Nasser Ovissi and 25 tribal and village carpets from Iran.

Prof. Hamid Dabashi organized an evening of poetry reading in memory of the late Mehdi Akhavan-e Sales. The session was chaired by Prof. Ehsan Yarshater. Poets Nader Naderpour and Simin Behbahani and Dr. Jalal Matini delivered short speeches and read poems. Members of the audience participated in the event and read selections of Akhavan-e Sales's poems.

**Columbia University**

Seminar in Iranian Studies: In September 1990 Prof. Amin Banani, of the department of Near Eastern Languages, UCLA, presented a paper on "Rumi the Poet", marking the first of the seminars organized thus far in the Iranian Studies series. The second seminar in October 1990, was addressed by Prof. Ezatollah Negahban, of University of Pennsylvania, who lectured on his excavations at Haft Tepe, a considerable Elamite site in Khuzistan. A slide show accompanied his lecture. Dr. Oscar White Muscarella, Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, addressed the third seminar in November 1990, an illustrated lecture

on "The Problems of Forgeries of Ancient Iranian Art." Dr. Georgina Hermann, of the Institute of Archaeology, University of London was the fourth speaker in the seminar series in January 1991. She addressed the issue of "Parthian Warfare: The Development of the Horned Saddle in Central Asia." In February 1991 Prof. Abbas Amanat of Yale University, presented a paper on "Monarchy in Transition; Life and Time of Nasser al-din Shah". Prof. William Hanaway of The University of Pennsylvania addressed the sixth seminar in March 1991. His topic was "The Search for Self in Modern Tajik Poetry". In the April 1991 seminar, Dr. Robert Hillenbrand of the University of Edinburgh presented a paper on "The Persian Heritage in Umayyad Art". The last seminar held in May 1991 was addressed by Dr. Akbar Tursonzad, the Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. His topic was "National Historiology and Historiography in USSR- A case study of Tajikistan". The Seminar in Iranian Studies will resume its meetings in September 1991. For more information you may write to Pargol Saati, MELAC, 600 Kent Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

The Center for Iranian Studies:

In September 1990 a lecture was sponsored by Master Shajarian which was followed by a discussion chaired

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by Prof. Ehsan Yarshater. This event was made possible through the efforts of Manouchehr Kashef. A program in memory of the late Dr. Parviz Natel Khanlari, famous scholar, poet, editor of Sokhan journal and professor emeritus was held in October 1990. Prof. Ehsan Yarshater chaired the program, Prof. Hamid Dabashi read one of Dr. Khanlari's poems, and Pargol Saati and Haideh Sahim presented a selection of his prose. An evening of poetry reading by poet Simin Behbahani was sponsored in December 1990. Prof. Ehsan Yarshater delivered the opening speech, and Houra Yavari presented an explication of one of Mrs. Behbahani's poems. The event was made possible through the efforts of Manouchehr Kashef and Houra Yavari. In memory of the late Dr. Gholam Hossein Yousefi, the noted scholar and critic and professor emeritus of the University of Mashhad who taught at Columbia as a visiting professor from 1974 to 1976, Prof. Ehsan Yarshater chaired a memorial meeting in February 1991. Dr. Jalal Matini delivered the eulogy, and Prof. Hamid Dabashi and Mrs. Houra Yavari read selections from Dr. Yousefi's last collection of critical essays. The Center and the Persian Heritage Foundation organized a benefit dinner in support of Encyclopedia Iranica in March 1991 at the Rotunda in Low Library. In April 1991, the Center for Iranian

Studies and the Middle East Institute Outreach program, founded and coordinated by Mrs. Latifeh Alvieh co sponsored an exhibition that consisted of paintings by Mrs. Pari Azarm Motamedi entitled, "The Garden Blooms" and silhouettes (Persian Clay vessels) by Ms. Pooran Azarm Darvish. Due to the tremendous success, the exhibition was scheduled to be repeated in May 1991. Also in April 1991 a lecture by Hossein Alizadeh, master composer and Instrumentalist was arranged by Mr. Manouchehr Kashef.

**Iranian Association of Columbia University:** Along with lectures by distinguished thinkers and politicians, the association sponsored a gathering to honor artist Bijan Assadipour, an evening of lectures and discussions by a group of master musicians who had come from Iran to New York to participate in the Brooklyn Academy of Music Inter-

national Music Festival, and a presentation by the celebrated author of Kelidar, Mahmoud Dowlatbadi

**Middle East Languages and Cultures:** Among the speakers of the MELAC department Spring 1991 Lecture Series were Professor Abbas Amanat of Yale University whose topic was "Resurrection and Renewal: The making of the Babi Movement in Iran", and Prof. Akbar Tursonzad of the Oriental Institute of Tajikistan Academy of Sciences and Prof. Parvaneh Jamshid of the Tajik Pedagogical Institute who spoke on "The Impact of Recent events in the USSR on Life in Tajikistan". Also Prof. George Saliba has organized the forthcoming NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers on "Islam and the Scientific Tradition" which will be held at Columbia U. between June 17 and August 9, 1991, and will focus on the rise of science within Islamic Civilization and its importance to Western Civilization, Medieval Studies, and intellectual and scientific history.

### Harvard University

**Center for Middle Eastern Studies: Seminar Series:** On 14 November Prof. Bernard O'Kene, of the American University in Cairo, delivered a paper on the subject of "Rock Faces in Persian Painting." On 10 December the Russian Research Center sponsored a lecture by Prof. Muriel Atkin, of The George Wash-



A postcard by B. Assadipour



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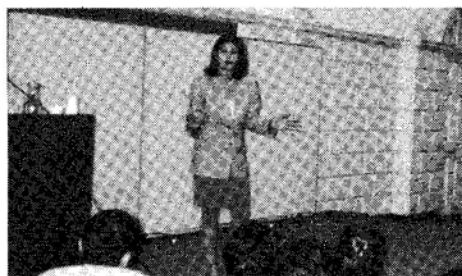
ington University, on "The Development of Tajik/Iranian Identity."

**Center for Middle Eastern Studies:** The Center also cosponsored the Iranian Women's Studies Foundation second annual conference. The foundation was established in the summer of 1989 through the collaboration of Shahla Haeri, Golnaz Amin Ladjevardi and Afsaneh Najmabadi. The principle objective of the foundation is to support and encourage the production and preservation of literary, cultural, artistic, religious, political, economic, and scientific research on the status of Iranian women. The second annual conference was held on May 25-26 1991 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The first day of the conferences was dedicated to 'Researches'. The morning session was moderated by Ms. Golnaz Amin Ladjevardi who introduced the foundation and gave an annual report. Ms. Guiti Neshat presented a paper on 'A Survey of Historical Researches on Iranian Women', and Ms. Houra Yavari spoke on the 'Researches of Women in Literature'. The afternoon session was moderated by Ms. Pooneh Saberi. Dr. Shahla Haeri spoke on 'A Sociological Study of Women' and Ms. Elaheh Khayrandish spoke on 'The Methodology of Women Studies and Mawlana's Ostrich Story'. Ms. Zohreh Aqeli Kasai moderated the presentation of works of art by the following artists: Mojdeh Baratlou,

Guisou Hariri, Mojgan Hariri, Safura Rafizadeh, Yasmin Ameri and Mahin Qanbari.

The second day was dedicated to the 'Arts'. The morning session was moderated by Ms. Homa Sarshar. Ms. Mahshid Amir-Shahi read sections of her novel 'Dar Safar' which is to be published later this year. Ms. Sepideh Kousha performed a short play entitled 'Role of Woman'. Ms. Shohreh Aghdashlou then recited her own piece 'Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow'. The afternoon session was moderated by Ms. Shokoufeh Haeri. Poets Ms. Azar Khajavi and Ms. Partow Nouri Ala read their poems, Ms. Shahla Nikfall played on the Qanun accompanied by the voice of



Shohreh Aghdashlou at the 2nd annual conference

Mr. Bahram Sadeqian, and Ms. Soheila Rafizadeh presented a short film which consisted of interviews with women on the subject of 'Love'. The seminar was closed with a discussion of the activities and suggestion for the future. The papers presented will be published in the Nimeye Digar journal. Interested individuals may contact the foundation

at:

Iranian Women's Studies  
Foundation  
P.O. Box 882  
Cambridge, MA 02238  
(617) 259- 0508

### University of Texas, Austin

#### Persian Literature Conference :

On 18-19 January 1991 the Texas Persian Program hosted a two-day conference at UT Austin on Sadegh Hedayat (1903-1951), marking the 40th anniversary of his death and the 50th anniversary of the Tehran publication of his master work, *The Blind Owl*. The conference brought together upwards of 30 Persian literature experts from Iran, Europe, and the United States.

The conference correspondences were the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Texas Union Fine Arts Committee, the Program in Comparative Literature at UT Austin, and the Foundation for Iranian Studies.

Profs. Farzaneh Milani, Mahnaz Afkhami, and William Hanaway were panel moderators. Papers were delivered by Simin Karimi, Mehdi Nourian, Mahmoud Omidasallar, Hamid Nafisi, Mashalla Ajoudani, Nasrin Rahimieh, Azar Nafisi, Abbas Milani, Hamid Dabashi, Michael Beard, Homayoun Catoosian, Leonardo Alishan, and Jalal Matini.



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Mostafa Farzaneh, Nader Naderpour, and Ali Dehbashi sent papers. Prof. Ehsan Yarshater made the closing remarks

The conference papers will comprise the Fall issue of *Iran Nameh*.

Also in April 1991, The Persian Television Organization of Austin, UT Austin's Iranian Student Academic and Cultural Organization, and the Asheqaneh Publications of Houston co-sponsored Ahmad Shamlu's visit to UT Austin.

### University of California, Los Angeles

An evening of lectures and poetry-reading was held at UCLA on 15 September in memory of the late poet Mehdi Akhavan-e Sales. Poet Nader Naderpour delivered a speech and read poems.

On 15 December poet Simin Behbahani held an evening of poetry-reading at UCLA's Haines Hall. Opening remarks were made by poet Nader Naderpour.

On 13 January writer Mahshid Amir-Shahi read a selection of her short stories at UCLA's Bunch Hall. Prof. Amin Banani delivered the opening remarks. Prof. Michael Beard, who has translated a number of Mrs. Amir-Shahi's short stories, presented a brief introduction. The session was chaired by Homa Sarshar.

Giorgio Levi Della Vida Conference: The Thirteenth Biennial Giorgio Levi Della Vida Conference in Islamics was held on the UCLA campus May 10-12, 1991. Speakers included Prof. Ehsan Yarshater (Columbia U.), Prof. Amin Banani (UCLA), Prof. George Saliba (Columbia U.), Prof. Annemarie Schimmel (Harvard U.), Prof. Hossein Ziai (UCLA), Prof. Gerhard Bowering (Yale U.), Prof. Oleg Grabar (Princeton U.), Prof. Nikki Keddie (UCLA), Prof. Edmund Bosworth (U. of Manchester), and Prof. Gerhard Doerfer (U. of Gottingen). The G.E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies awarded Prof. Ehsan Yarshater the Thirteenth Giorgio Levi Della Vida Award for Excellence in Islamic Studies. The Center described Prof. Ehsan Yarshater as "a prodigious scholar of great intellectual standing" and "a major creative force in the field of Iranian studies for more than a quarter century." Prof. Yarshater chose "The Persian Presence in the Islamic World" as the theme for the conference.

The Western Consortium of Middle East Centers has an eight-week program (24 June-16 August 1991) to study Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, and Uzbek. In addition, a comparative study of six major Persian poets (Ferdowsi, Attar, Rumi, Sa'di, Hafez, and Nezami) will be taught by poet Nader

Naderpour. For more information, write to

UCLA Summer Sessions

405 Hilgard Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90024-1418

or call Mr. Thomas Penchoen at (213) 206-1385.

### University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

The ninth annual conference of the Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA) was held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on 5-7 April 1991. The conference focused on Iran and the world in the 1990s. For information, contact

Prof. Gernot Windfuhr,

Conference Chair

Department of Near Eastern Studies

3074 Frieze Building

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

The Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies announces two Rockefeller Residency Fellowships for the 1991-92 academic year for the study of Middle Eastern literature. For information, contact

Ernest N. McCarus, Director

Center for Near Eastern and

North African Studies

The University of Michigan

144 Lane Hall

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Tel.: (313) 764-0350

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### The University of Arizona

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona has organized a series of lectures for the Spring of 1991 on the subject of "Women's Image in the Literature of the Middle East." Micheal Hillman, Simin Karimi, Senzil Nawid, and Malekeh Taleqani will present papers.

### The Foundation for Iranian Studies

The Foundation for Iranian Studies announces its annual prize of \$1,000 for the best Ph.D. dissertation in the field of Iranian Studies. Students completing their dissertations before 1 July 1991, are eligible to apply for the prize.

A dissertation must be nominated by the author's advisor and must be accompanied by the Dissertation Committee's letter of acceptance. Applicants for the 1991 award should submit two copies of their dissertations to

Secretary  
Foundation for Iranian  
Studies  
4343 Montgomery Avenue  
Suite 200  
Bethesda, MD 20814

The deadline for submissions is 1 August, 1991.

The Foundation for Iranian Studies sponsored a series of lectures in the United States by two Tajik academic colleagues, Prof. Akbar

Tursonzad the Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of Tajik SSR Academy of Sciences and Prof. Pravona Jamshid of Tajik Pedagogical Institute. The two scholars toured the United States between January 1991 and March 1991, visiting universities and community cultural associations in a number of cities.

### The Middle East Economics Association

The Middle East Economics Association (MEEA) will hold its twelfth annual meeting in conjunction with the Allied Social Science Associations in New Orleans, LA, on 2-5 January 1992. All aspects of the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa are appropriate topics. Please send a one-page abstract by 30 April 1991 to

Sohrab Behdad  
Department of Economics  
Denison University  
Granville, OH 43023

### Queen University, Canada

On April 8-10 1991, a conference was held in Kingston, Ontario on the Economic and Social Growth in Iran before and after the revolution. The conference was organized and chaired by Prof. Said Rahnama. The speakers at the conference were: Dariush Ashouri (Foundation for Iranian Studies), Ahmad Ashraf (Columbia U.), Haleh Afshar (York

U., Canada), Rose Intisar (Spring Hill College), Nasser Pakdaman (U. of Paris), Manuchehr Parvin (U. of Ohio), Nayereh Tawhidi (U.C.L.A.), Manuchehr Daraj (Christian U., Texas), Nasrin Rahimieh (U. of Alberta, Canada), Asghar Rastegar (Yale U.), Said Rahnama (Queen U.), Hamid Zangeneh (U. of Pennsylvania), Rayvaneh Sandler (U. of Toronto, Canada), Sussan Siyavushi (Trinity University, Texas), Robert Bowny (Naval Academy, Monterey), Haideh Moqithi (Queen U., Canada), Fatemeh Moghadam (Hofstra U.), Valentine Moghadam (U. of United Nations, Helsinki), Charles MacDonald (International U., Florida), Reza Nakhai (Queen U., Canada), Farhad Na'mani (American U. of Paris), Cyrus Vakilzadeh (York U., Canada). The guest speaker was Mahmoud Dowlatabadi.

### The Asia Society, New York City

The celebration of Now Rooz set the occasion for a comprehensive four-part slide/lecture series on the art and culture of Iran. Stuart Cary Welsh, curator of Islamic and late Indian art at Harvard University Art Museum presented "Paintings from Persia: A Personal Selection of Masterpieces". Jonathan M. Bloom, a National Endowment for the Arts independent researcher and faculty associate at Harvard University Center for Middle Eastern Studies

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discussed "The Imperial Tradition in Iranian Architecture." Layla Soudavar Diba, associate curator of Islamic Art at the Brooklyn Museum and former director of the Negarestan Museum in Tehran presented "Wrought with Silk and Gold: The Decorative Arts of Iran." Prof. David B. Stronach, curator of Near Eastern Archeology at the University of California, Berkeley, and former British Academy archeological attache in Iran discussed "Visions of Paradise: The Story of the Garden in the Ancient Near East". This program was made possible by a grant from Mrs. Parvin Samrad.

### Keyan Foundation and *Iranshenasi* Journal

On the occasion of the 850th anniversary of the poet Nezami of Ganjeh, Keyan Foundation in conjunction with *Iranshenasi* journal cosponsored the Nezami Congresses.

In Washington D.C. the Nezami Congress was held on May 17-18, 1991 in American University. Prof. Jalal Matini (*Iranshenasi*) who opened the congress in Washington, presented a Festschrift to Prof. Zabihollah Safa in celebration of his 80th anniversary. Also on the first day Prof. Abdolhosein Zarinkoub (University of Tehran) spoke on the 'Eskandarnameh and Greek Philosophical Symposia at the Boon Assemblies of Alexander' and discussed the issues of Plato's philosopher-king



Speakers at the Nezami Congress in Washington DC.

in Nezami's works. Prof. Peter Chelkowski's (New York University) speech 'Nezami's Red Fort and Puccini's Opera' addressed the question of links between Puccini's 'Turandot' opera and Nezami's Turandokht and the red fort. Mrs. Houra Yavari's (Board of Education, New York) innovative approach 'A Look at the Psychology of Haft Paykar' was a speculative assessment of Nezami's work through the Jungian analytical psychology. Prof. Hamid Dabashi (Columbia University) who spoke on 'Nezami's Concept of Sokhan' made the point that in Nezami's works the meaning of Sokhan is not confined to speech, but is more akin to the Logos in Greek philosophy and the 'Word of God' in Christianity.

On the second day Prof. Emeritus Zabihollah Safa's (University of Tehran) 'Remarks on the Tale of Alexander and the Eskandarnamehs of Ferdowsi and Nezami' addressed the relationships

among the Alexander Romances, the Macedonian Alexander, Zulqarnayn, and the legendary Yemenite king. Dr. Ahmad Mahdavi Damghani (Harvard University) whose topic was 'Nezami's Thoughts on Tawhid (Unitarianism) and the Divine Attributes' discussed the religiosity of Nezami and the religious and ethical aspects of his works. In his paper 'The King, the Poet, the Past' Prof. William Hanaway (University of Pennsylvania) discussed the black fort of Nezami's Haft Paykar and the novella by Manouchehr Irani 'King of the Benighted'. Prof. Jalal Matini spoke on the 'Politics of Haft Paykar' underlying the romance. Prof. Heshmat Moayyad (University of Chicago) in 'Maryam and Shirin in Nezami and Ferdowsi' pointed out the contrast between the two and discussed the historiocity of Shirin and Maryam. Dr. Paul Sprachman (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey) whose topic was 'Nezami's Nomenclature' addressed



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the problems associated with transliteration of Persian. Dr. Djalal Khaleghi Motlagh in 'From Poetic Mortar to Poetic Matter' drew attention to Nezami's awareness of poetics. Prof. Sa'idi Sirjani who was also scheduled to speak on this day was delayed on his way from Iran. Prof. Ehsan Yarshater (Columbia University) made the final presentation: 'A Glance at the Nezami Congress in Washington D.C.'.

In Los Angeles, the Congress was held on May 24-25, 1991 in U.C.L.A. Prof. Jalal Matini (Iranshenasi) opened the congress in Los Angeles. Speakers on the first day were Prof. Abdolhosein Zarinkoub (University of Tehran) who spoke on the 'Eskandarnamah and Greek Philosophical Symposia at the Boon Assemblies of Alexander'; poet Nader Naderpour who spoke on 'Nezami: Temperate Inebriate'; Prof. Mehdi Nourian (University of Esfahan) who spoke on 'Nezami's Place in Mystical Literature of Iran'; and Prof. Mohammad Djafar Mahdjoub (University of Tehran) who spoke on the 'The Folklore of the Haft Paykar Bahram Gur'.

On the second day Prof. Emeritus Zabihollah Safa (University of Tehran) spoke on the 'Remarks on the Tale of Alexander and the Eskandarnamahs of Ferdowsi and Nezami'; Prof. Amin Banani (U.C.L.A.) on 'From Vis and Ramin to Chosroes and Shirin'; Mr.

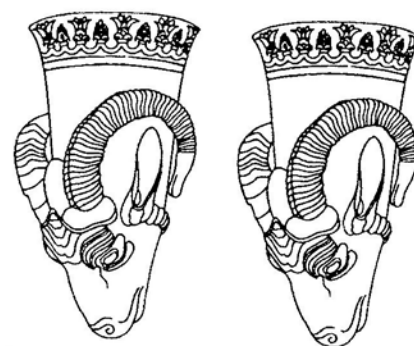
Mahmoud Omidshar (U.C.L.A.) on 'The Ancestry of the Haft Paykar Tale of Khayr and Sharr in Exogenous Literature'; Dr. Djalal Khaleghi Motlagh on 'From Poetic Mortar to Poetic Matter'; Mr. Sa'idi Sirjani: 'A 16th Century Critique of Nezami's Chosroes and Shirin'; Prof. M.A. Ghanounparvar (University of Texas at Austin) on 'The Narrative Structure of the Gonbad-e Siyah Tale'; and Dr. Jalal Matini on 'The Politics of Haft Paykar'. Prof. Ehsan Yarshater (Columbia University) made the final presentation: 'A Glance at the Nezami Congress in Los Angeles'.

The conference papers will comprise the next issues of *Iranshenasi*.

### **Iranian Cultural and Islamic Center**

The Foundation for Iranian Cultural and Islamic Center held its first meeting on April 21, 1991 in William Paterson College in New Jersey. The speakers were Dr. Ahmad Mahdavi Damghani (Harvard U.) who spoke about 'Islamic Values in Education and Training' and Dr. Abdolma'bud Ansari (William Paterson College) who spoke about 'The Problem of Transmission of Iranian National and Cultural Identity in the United States'. Following the speeches, Iranian students held a conference entitled: 'Our Rich Heritage is to be Preserved and Not Denied'. Interested individuals may

contact the center at (201) 471-9191, (201) 345-1695, and (914) 725-5111.



### **News from Europe**

#### **London University,**

#### **Fall 1990-Spring 1991 Lecture**

**Series:** The Japan Research Center and the Center of Near and Middle Eastern Studies held a two-day conference on 4-5 October on "The Japanese Approach to the Contemporary Middle East." The last of the eight lectures, "A Japanese Diplomat's View on the Iran-Iraq War," was delivered by Japan's Ambassador, H. E. Chiba.

Harry Norris, Leonard Lewisohn, and the staff of the Center of Near and Middle Eastern Studies convened a two-day meeting on "The Legacy of the Medieval Persian Sufism."

In the Spring of 1991 the Center held a series of lectures on the "Agricultural Development of Iran in the Twentieth Century." Keith McLachlan, of the Society for Con-



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temporary Iranian Studies, convened the meetings. For further information, contact

The Convenors at SOAS  
Thornhough Street, Russell  
Square  
London, WC1HOZG  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: (071) 637-2388.

### The British Comparative Literature Association

The British Comparative Literature Association announces its biannual Translation Competition for literary translations from any of the languages of the European Community countries, Swedish, and Persian into English. Literary translation includes poetry, fiction, or literary prose from any period. First prize: 350 Pounds Sterling; second prize: 150 Pounds Sterling. Other entries may receive commendations.

The BCLA is grateful to the Foundation for Iranian Studies for establishing the prize for literary translations from Persian.

The prize-winning entries in EC and non-EC languages will be published in the annual journal *Comparative Criticism* (Cambridge University Press, 1979-). Bursaries may also be available for entrants at the British Center for Translation at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, for those wishing to take up residence for a specific period of up to one year.

The deadline for all entries in all

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competitions is 1 October 1991. There is a 3.00 Pounds entry fee. Prize winners will be announced at the BCLA Triennial Conference at Warwick University (13-16 July, 1992) and will be published in *Comparative Criticism*, vol. 15.

For rules and entry forms, please write to the BCLA competition organizer:

Dr. Julie Scott Meisami  
The Oriental Institute  
Pusey Lane,  
Oxford OX1 2LE  
United Kingdom

### Center for Iranian Documentation and Research, Paris

The Center for Iranian Documentation and Research (CIDR), founded on 8 March, 1986, is an independent, non-profit, cultural center for collecting documents and organizing research on contemporary Iranian history. CIDR's primary focus is the period from 1960 to the present. CIDR has recently published a four-volume bibliography of some of its collections, ranging from publications from abroad to political pamphlets and announcements. For more information, contact

C. I. D. R.  
Assoc. regie par la loi 1901  
CIDR, B. P. 352  
75327 Paris Cedex 07.  
France

## News from U.S.S.R

### Dushanbeh, Tajikistan

Three new periodicals in Persian script are now being published in Tajikistan: weekly 'Payvand', monthly 'Mozhda', and the quarterly 'Farhang'. For information on subscriptions, readers may contact:

734001 Dushanbeh  
Putovskii, 8  
Tajikistan, USSR

News of Iranian Studies from North America and Europe was made possible through the contributions of Houman Sarshar and News from USSR through Habib Borjian.



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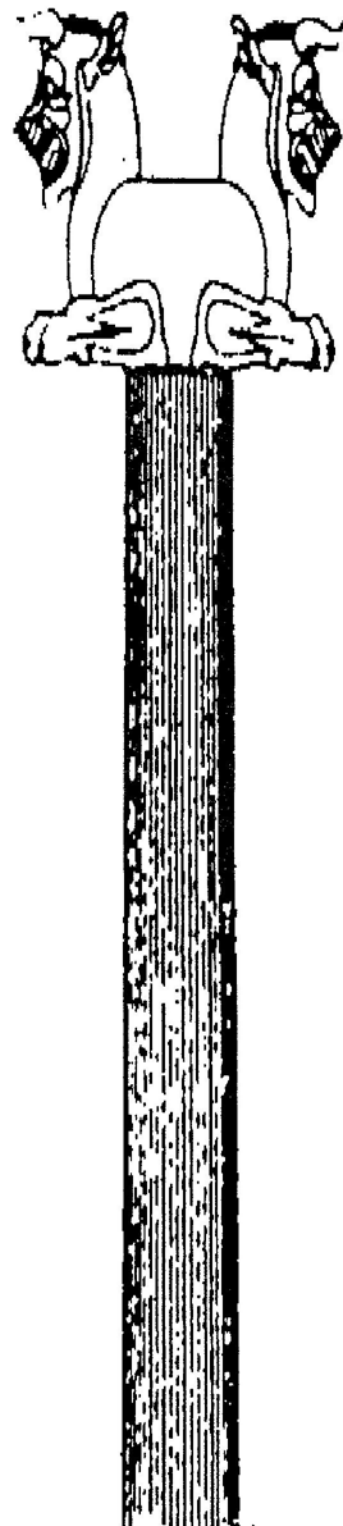
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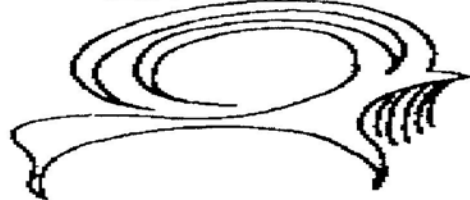
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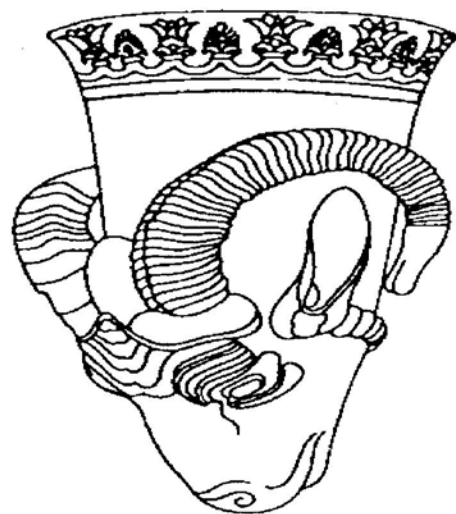
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## Obituaries

Ali Akbar Siyasi (born 1273/1894, Tehran; died 6 Khordad 1369/27 May 1990, Tehran), distinguished scholar who introduced psychology to Iran. He was instrumental in the establishment and independent organization of Tehran University.

Ayatollah al-'Ozma Seyyed Shahab al-Din Mar'ashi Najafi (born 1315 h.q./1897, Najaf; died 8 Shahrivar 1369/30 August 1990, Tehran), prominent Iranian jurist who founded a public-library in Qom where a priceless collection of books and manuscripts is housed.

Parviz Natel Khanlari (born 1292/1913, Tehran; died 1 Shahrivar 1369/23 August 1990, Tehran), distinguished Iranian scholar and poet who founded the journal *Sokhan*. Among his many scholarly achievements is the definitive edition of the *Divan* of Hafez.

Mehdi Akhavan Sales—M. Omid (born 1307/1928, Mashhad; died 4 Shahrivar 1369/26 August 1990, Tehran), distinguished Iranian poet, one of the founding fathers of modern Persian poetry. His "Winter" is now established as one of the canonical texts in the annals of Persian poetry.

Mohammad Ali Zavieyeh (born 1291/1912, Tehran; died 11 Tir 1369/2 July 1990), distinguished Iranian miniaturist who had studied under Hadi Tajvidi and produced works that are now scattered in museums in Iran

and abroad.

Morteza Neydavoud (died early Mordad 1369/July 1990, Los Angeles), prominent Iranian musician who had studied with Gholam Hossein Darvish. Qamar al-Moluk Vaziri was his student. Among the famous *taranehs* he composed is the famous "Morq-e Sahar" on the lyrics of Malek al-Sho'ara Bahar.

Ali Akbar Kaveh (born 1271/1892, Shiraz; died early Shahrivar 1369/August 1990, Tehran?), celebrated Iranian calligrapher who taught at Anjoman-e Khoshnevisan-e Iran.

Asad Allah Mobashsheri (born 1298/1919, Tehran; died 21 Mehr 1369/13 October 1990, Tehran), famous Iranian translator and legal scholar. Among his translations is Goethe's *Faust*.

Sayyid Shams al-Din Jazayeri (born 1283/1904, Tehran; died late Mehr 1369/October 1990, Tehran?), distinguished Iranian professor of law. He taught law and political economy at Tehran University for more than forty years.

Mohammad Heydarian (born 1275/1896, Isfahan; died late Shahrivar 1369/September 1990, Isfahan?), famous Iranian painter who taught at Tehran University. He continued to paint well into his nineties.

Gholam Hossein Yousufi (born 1306/1927, Mashhad; died 14 Azar 1369/5 December 1990, Tehran), distinguished Iranian scholar who taught at Mashhad University. He was a prolific writer who continued to work until moments before his death. Among his many publications are his critical editions of Sa'di's *Bustan* and *Golestan*, and *Chesmeh-ye Roshan*.

Mohammad Hossein Mashayekh Faridani (born 1333 h.q./1914, Tehran; died 13 Azar 1369/4 December 1990, aboard "The Silk Road," a research laboratory ship, near the coast of Bombay), prominent Iranian scholar who was instrumental in informing Indo-Pakistanis of their common Persian heritage.

Manouchehr Jahanbaglu (died 15 Azar 1369/6 December 1990, Tehran?), distinguished Iranian musician who had studied with Abu al-Hasan Saba.

Seyyed Hossein Mirkhani (died 5 Azar 1369/26 November 1990, Tehran), prominent Iranian calligrapher who produced some twenty-three volumes of his art of the written poetry of Sa'di, Rumi, Nezami, and Hafez.

Mehdi Khaledi (born 1298/1919, Tehran; died late Azar 1369/December 1990, Tehran), famous Iranian musician who had studied with Abu al-Hasan Saba and performed solo music on Iranian radio.

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Beginning with Fascicle 1 of Volume V, Mazda Publishers has been publishing and distributing The Encyclopaedia Iranica. Also all previous fascicles and bound volumes may be obtained from this company. Prices have been reduced by as much as 25%. Copies of the fascicles are now offered at \$28.00 each. The prices of bound volumes have been reduced by the same proportion.