

S.I.S. newsletter

The Society for Iranian Studies

Volume V Number 3 October 1973

Address all communications to the Secretary of the Society for Iranian Studies, P.O. Box 89, Village Station, New York, N. Y. 10014, U.S.A.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SIS

The Society's Seventh Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the yearly conference of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) on Thursday, November 8, 1973, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. All sessions will meet in the Marc Plaza Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. Professor Howard J. Rotblat is the program chairperson for the Society's panels. All papers presented at the panels are co-sponsored by MESA.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Panel 2--Culture and Personality Studies in Iran (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)

Chairperson: Roger Savory, University of Toronto

Discussant: Marvin Zonis, University of Chicago

Papers: Lois Grant Beck, Amherst College, "Honor, Shame, and Self-identity Among Pastoral Nomadic Qashqa'i."

William Beeman, Wesleyan University, "Is There an Iranian National Character?"

Michael M.J. Fischer, Harvard University, "Persian Paradigms."

Howard J. Rotblat, University of Massachusetts--Boston, "Occupation, Entrepreneurial Attitudes and the Role of Values in Bazaar Development."

Mohamad Shafii, University of Michigan, "A Study of Ideal Personality Characteristics as Found in Traditional Sufi Literature."

Meeting of the Council of the Society (noon - 1:00 p.m.)

Panel 12--Iranian Population and Mobility Studies (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Chairperson/discussant: Vahid Nowshirvani, Yale University

Papers: Golanreza Fazel, University of Massachusetts--Boston, "Social and Demographic Mobility Among Iranian Pastoral Nomads."

Robert Hill, Princeton University, "An Analysis of Population Composition and Change Based Upon Iranian Census Data."

Eric Hooglund, Johns Hopkins University/SAIS, "The Khwushnishin Population of Iran."

Joel Montague, The Population Council, "An Examination of the Iranian Family Planning Program."

Annual Business Meeting (4:00 - 5:00 p.m.)
(Room 504, 5th floor)

Agenda: ---reports of the officers of the Society
 ---report of the Committee on the Study of Persian Language
 (M.A. Jazayeri)
 ---election of "elections committee"
 ---consideration of resolutions (if any)

ACCOMMODATIONS

For reservations contact the Marc Plaza Hotel, 509 Wisconsin Avenue,
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203, (Telephone: (414) 271-7250).

ABSTRACTS OF AVAILABLE PAPERS

Lois Grant Beck, "Honor, Shame and Self-Identity among the Pastoral Nomadic
 Qashqa'i."

I will be discussing the concepts of honor and shame among the Qashqa'i of
 southwest Iran, how these concepts contribute to the formation of personality
 and how they serve as boundary-maintaining mechanisms. Particular emphasis
 will be placed on personality development in the female sector of the tribal
 population.

William Beeman, "Is there an Iranian National Character?: A Sociolinguistic
 Approach."

(Studies of national character have been held in low regard by anthropo-
 logists for over a decade largely because of an inability to generalize from
 studies of individual attitudes and behavior to generalized social patterns.)
 Starting with the assumption that all individuals must learn language use patterns
 as well as language structures to be accepted as members of society, and that
 such language use patterns require the adoption of formalized and regular atti-
 tudes toward other individuals, contexts of interaction and meaningful elements
 included cognitively in interaction, such language use patterns can be in-
 terpreted by an observer as something akin to national character insofar as
 their occurrence is predictable. From studies of Iranian sociolinguistic be-
 havior, an attempt is made to see the extent to which it makes sense to speak
 of Iranian "national character traits" as reflected in language use patterns.

Michael M.J. Fischer, "Persian Paradigms"

Instead of a content analysis (McClelland, 1961) this paper attempts a
 new-structural account of traditional legends and modern short stories and films
 in order to provide historical reconstruction (Boyce, 1967) and national character
 assessments (McClelland) with narrower limits of freedom in speculating about
 meaning creation.

Howard J. Rotblat, "Occupation, Entrepreneurial Attitudes and the Role of Values
 in Bazaar Development"

The entrepreneurial attitudes of merchants in an Iranian provincial bazaar
 are examined to determine the extent to which they are related to the structural

conditions confronting different occupations. The findings indicate that structural conditions are important factors in accounting for individual entrepreneurial orientations and are, therefore, closely tied to the future prospects for marketplace development.

Mohamad Shafii, "Developmental Stages of Man in Sufism and Psychoanalysis"

The magic of the past is the science of the present. The mysticism of today is the psychology of tomorrow.

In the West in recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the psychological study of Zen Buddhism, Yoga, Taoism, and Hinduism. Interest in Sufism (Islamic mysticism) which has flourished for the last eleven-hundred years in the Middle East, especially in Iran, has been limited mostly to the historical, literary, and comparative theological studies.

Time is ripe for an extensive exploration of Sufism in light of the present psychological knowledge of man.

As a student of Sufism and psychoanalysis, I have described the Sufi concept of man and have compared it with the present developmental concept of man in psychoanalysis and ego-psychology.

The concept of Nafs-i-Ammara or "Compelling-Commanding Nafs" and the driven aspects of Ghovai-e-Shehevani and Ghazabi is quite similar to the psychoanalytic concept of Id and the sexual and aggressive drives.

The concept of Maqamat or seven stages of the sufi's journey toward the final goal of becoming Insani'Kamal, an integrated and complete man, is compared with the oral, anal and genital stages of psychosexual development in psychoanalysis and with Erikson's formulation of the eight ages of man from infancy to maturity and adulthood.

The psychological study of the sufi's concept of man might help us in the future exploration of uncharted areas of the mind. Perhaps then we might realize man's fullest potential for growth and integration beyond our present understanding.

Golamreza Fazel, "Demographic Processes among some Iranian Nomads: An ecological Perspective"

This paper examines two aspects of the pastoral nomadic populations in south and southwest Iran: (1) Adaptive organizational responses to the various environmental circumstances, including sedentary populations. (2) The resultant demographic patterns. The paper also includes a comparison of these processes (1 & 2) among several groups to show the inaccuracies of a generally accepted current model.

Robert Hill, "An Analysis of Migration, Population Composition and Change Based Upon Iranian Census Data"

This paper is concerned with population growth and distribution in Iran, and how the latter confounds the problem of the former in the realm of development policies for Iran. For the intercensal period of 1956 to 1966; Iran had a natural rate of increase for its population of 2.9%. This means that whereas

in 1956 the population was probably growing at 2.6%, by 1966 the rate was 3.1%. Considering that over 50% of the population is under the age of 17, a further increase in the rate of population growth to 3.3% for today (1973) is not an unreasonable assumption. These are extremely high rates by any standard for any developing country to absorb. But in terms of the rate of urbanization for a city like Tehran, where the growth rate is 7% with a resultant doubling of the population every 9.9 years, the problem of distribution of the population is even more severe.

This paper will discuss the basic population parameters of Iran, with special notice being paid to the patterns of redistribution by age and sex that are occurring via interprovincial and rural - urban migration. The conclusions will relate directly to Iranian governmental policies for development.

Eric Hooglund, "The Khwushnishīn Population of Iran"

Peasants identify all village residents who neither own, nor possess usufruct rights to, agriculturally productive land as khwushnishīnhā. In a social and economic sense, however, khwushnishīnhā do not form a homogeneous class. Three separate groups can be distinguished: (1) khwushnishīnhā who engage in buying, selling, and lending activities; (2) various service and production workers; (3) and a majority of khwushnishīnhā who are seasonal agricultural laborers. Each group has a distinct status and role in the villages. This paper proposes to describe the three groups of khwushnishīnhā, discuss their relations with the peasants, and explore the implications for Iran posed by the existence of a sizeable, landless rural population.

Joel Montague, "An Examination of the Iranian Family Planning Program"

Struck by a rapid increase in population, the Iranian government decided in 1960 to institute a family planning program, and the importance of this has increased during the years. Presently the goal is to reduce the birth rate from 3.2% per annum to 1% per annum over the next few decades, although this has never been done elsewhere. The government has established family planning clinics as part of the nation's public health service. The Iranian family planning effort has five unusual characteristics: (1) high level government support, (2) substantial local resources are devoted to a solution of the problem, (3) the program is occurring in a context of social and economic change, (4) there has as yet been no overt political or religious opposition to the program, and (5) the government has been willing to experiment with a variety of new and innovative approaches to the delivery of clinical services. However, further efforts on the nonclinical side may have to be made if the goals are to be achieved. To this end an analysis of some of the existing problems and the potential for improvement in the area of program planning and development, the delivery of services, the commercial sector, research and evaluation, will be made.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

The terms of office of three of the Society's officers (Ali Banuazizi, Jacqueline Mintz, Majid Tehranian) will end as of January, 1974. The 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 Society's meeting, may send their nominations by mail to the Council via the Secretary's office. The Council will

subsequently hand over these nominations to the "elections committee" to be elected at the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. This committee will then conduct the election of the officers by mail.

IRANIAN STUDIES

Vol V, No. 4, of Iranian Studies, has already been distributed to all members and subscribers. This issue includes articles by H.J. Rotblat, S.S. Lieberman, book reviews by M.B. Loraine, J.R. Perry, R. Taylor, and a directory of teachers of Persian in the U.S. and Canada compiled by M.A. Jazayery.

AFGHANISTAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

In the Third Annual Meeting of Afghanistan Studies Association (Chicago, March 30, 1973) a motion presented by Professor William Archer for the creation of an ad hoc committee to study the possibilities of closer association with the Society for Iranian Studies was approved. We are looking forward to the report of this committee.

NEW MEMBERS

Manuchehr Agah (Ministry of Finance, Tehran); Jere Bacharach (University of Washington); Abbas Bagheri (Tehran); Timothy Childs (Washington, D.C.); Anoushiravan Daneshvar (Tehran); Richard M. Eaton (University of Arizona); Fuad Faiz (Columbia University); Massud Farzan (Pahlavi University); Oleg Grabar (Harvard University); Dariush Homayoun (Tehran); Robert J. Kadjihn (University of Texas-Austin); John Limbert (Harvard University); Hamid Mahamedi (Tehran); Fariborz Maissami (San Diego, California); Ali Majidi (Tehran); Masoud Rad (Central Bank, Tehran); Hushang Sa'edlu (University of Tehran); Mahmood Taba Tabi (Pebble Beach, California); Kazuo Takahashi (Osaka University of Foreign Studies).

Farhad Kazemi
Executive Secretary

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(signature)

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