

# *S.I.S. newsletter*

*The Society for Iranian Studies*

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Address all communications to the Secretary of the Society for Iranian Studies, Department of History, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H. 03755, United States of America.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

The Society's Thirteenth Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in conjunction with the Middle East Studies Association, 8-11 November. The Council will meet at noon on Wednesday, 8 November, and the Society's Business Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on that same day.

### SIS PANELS

Professor Edward W. Davis, Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures, Columbia University, and Program Director for SIS has organized two panels:

- I. "Child Rearing and Socialization in Iran," Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.  
(Room to be announced)

Chairperson: Michael Fischer, Harvard

Participants: Constance Cronin, University of Arizona  
"Socialization Among Historically Elite Families  
in Iran"

Patricia Higgins, SUNY, Plattsburgh  
"Occupational Socialization in the Schools of  
Tehran"

Sally Weiskofs, Harvard  
"Affects of Employment on Mother's Childrearing  
Ideas and Behavior"

Erica Friedel, Western Michigan University  
"Early Stages of Life in the Iranian World"

Discussant: Marvin Zonis, University of Chicago

II. "Traditional Economy in Iran in the 19th and 20th Centuries"  
(jointly sponsored by SIS and MESA) (Thursday, time and room to be  
announced in the MESA program)

Chairperson: Robert Dillon, IPN Institute, Princeton, N.J.

Participants: Stephen Grummon, Johns Hopkins  
"The Transformation of Bushehr from Port-of-Call to  
Port-of-Entry"

Thomas Ricks, Georgetown University  
"Kirmani Wool Trade in Southern Iran, 1700-1850"

Willem M. Floor, Netherlands Foreign Ministry  
"Is Rent-Capitalism a Useful Concept for Analyzing the  
Traditional Economy of Iran?"

Discussant: Nikki Keddie, UCLA

ABSTRACTS

Panel I, "Child Rearing and Socialization in Iran"  
(Abstracts will appear in the January Newsletter)

Panel II, "Traditional Economy in Iran in the 19th and 20th Centuries"

Grummon -- "Transformation of Bushehr . . ."

Expanding the "port-of-trade" theory of Polanyi, Leeds, et al., the paper will define two new concepts, the port-of-call and the port-of-entry, and suggest that Bushehr and other Persian Gulf Ports, e.g. Muscat, were transformed from the former to the latter during the 19th century. Reasons for this transformation include (1) changing security arrangements, (2) improved methods of financing trade with special reference to the bill of exchange, (3) the changing structure of trade and (4) the migration of Persian merchants to India and Shiraz. Finally, the paper will suggest that this transformation had an impact upon the political fortunes of the local, independent ruling family of Bushehr and helps to explain its demise in 1850.

Ricks -- "Kirmani Wool Trade . . ."

The 18th Century of Iran has been called a "time of troubles" and the economy portrayed as stagnant. However, the wool trade of Kirman Province flourished during that very era as did the supporting shawl industry, hinterland to Persian Gulf caravan traffic and the port and market activities of Bandar Abbas. Only after 1820, did the Kirmani wool trade decline, the shawl industry collapse, and transit trade generally cease. An examination of Persian historical sources, English East India Company records, and travel accounts reveal the role of the East India Company to be most critical in the rise and fall of the wool trade, not the "time of troubles". Both the decline of the wool trade and the collapse of the shawl industry and transit trade will be examined in the paper.

Floor -- "Is Rent-Capitalism . . ."

Bobek distinguishes "rent capitalism" from both feudalism and modern capitalism, the latter form being distinguished by its unique profit-seeking motivation. According to Bobek rent capitalism sought to maintain indebtedness as a permanent condition of peasants under its sway, and then failed to re-invest its gains productively. By examining it in the context of 19th and 20th century Iranian agricultural economy, this paper criticizes the concept of rent capitalism and seeks to replace it by a more general concept of feudal production.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER (Thomas W. Ricks)

Statement of Operations  
January-December, 1977

Receipts

Regular Membership . . . . . \$1149.52  
Student Membership . . . . . 318.00  
Donations. . . . . 1050.00  
Individual Subscriptions . . . . . 49.95  
Institutional Subscriptions. . . . . 2364.77  
Journal Sales. . . . . 741.94  
Interest on Time Deposits. . . . . 217.50  
Other (Home Savings Bank & Ads). . . . . 2511.95

Expenditures

Journal  
Printing . . . . . \$ 6823.88  
Typing . . . . . 965.50  
Mailing. . . . . 652.60  
Editing. . . . . 132.00  
Xerox. . . . . 182.21  
Newsletter . . . . . 171.02  
Office  
Secretary. . . . . 1041.20  
Supplies . . . . . 65.42  
Other  
Refunds. . . . . 49.00  
Audit. . . . . 210.00  
Bank Time Deposit. . . . . 2000.00  
Advertisement. . . . . 16.80  
Administration . . . . . 179.50

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TOTAL INCOME           \$ 8,403.63

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE       \$12,481.35

Previous Balance       7,673.48  
January 1, 1977       \$16,077.11

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Balance, December 31, 1977       \$3,595.76

Time Deposits in Riggs Bank       \$4,000.00