SIS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Society for Iranian Studies
Volume XXV Number 1 Fall 1993

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The Newsletter of the Society for Iranian Studies is published quarterly to inform members of news in the field. News of matters of interest to Iranists is welcome. All correspondence should be addressed to The Society for Iranian Studies/ The Middle East Institute/ 1113 International Affairs Bldg./ Columbia University/ New York, N.Y. 10027/ (212) 854-5284.
Greetings from Texas

The sparsity of news items in this issue of SIS News should not be interpreted as a lack of activity in the field. On the contrary, we are certain that the field of Iranian Studies is more active and dynamic than ever before. Nevertheless, in order to reflect the ongoing work in various disciplines of Iranian Studies, SIS News relies almost solely on the material, news and other information that SIS members send us. We hope you will help enhance future issues of the newsletter with your contributions.

For this issue of SIS News, I would like to thank Zjaleh Hajibashi for many hours of hard work in preparing the camera-ready copy, printing and mailing. As in the past, Abazar Sepehri has contributed the bibliography of Persian books. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Center of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas and particularly its director, Professor Robert Holz for supporting the last three issues of SIS News.

M.R. Ghanoonparvar
NEWS and Upcoming Events

*News from the Center for Critical Studies of Iran and the Middle East:

The fall issue of Critique, the Journal of Critical Studies of Iran and the Middle East, will be available in late October. This issue will include:

“Iran, Iraq and Interimperialist Rivalry for Control of Oil in the Middle East”
(Berch Berberoglu)
“Performatve Elements of Shi’ite Ritual and Mass Mobilization: The Case of Iran”
(Heidar G. Azodanloo)
“West Bank and Gaza Palestinians and the Peace Process”
(Erika C. Alin)

The third annual conference of the Center on the topic of “Life and Politics in the Middle East” will be held on April 22 and 23, 1994. The list of contributors to the conference includes: Erg Hoogland (The Middle East Institute), Charles Issawi (Princeton University), Zjaleh Hajibashi (University of Texas at Austin), Renate Wise (Indiana University), Lahcen E. Ezzaheh (University of Arizona), Donne Raffat (San Diego State University), Manucher Parvin (Akron University), and M.R. Ghanoonparvar (University of Texas at Austin)

for more information, contact:

Hossein A. Khavi-pour (612) 641-2223
Box 1613, Hamline University
St. Paul, MN 55104

*CIRA — Call for Papers:

The 12th annual conference of the Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA) will be held at Villanova University, April 29-May 1, 1994. Villanova is a suburb of the historical city of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. The theme of the conference is “Ideology, Politics, and Social Change in Contemporary Iran.” Papers on Iranian culture, politics, economy, and society are welcome. An abstract of 300-400 words should be sent to the following address by November 15, 1993:
*Conference on 19th Century Persian Travel Literature*

The conference on 19th Century Persian Travel Literature to be held April 8-10, 1994 at the University of Texas in Austin will bring together some of the foremost specialists on 19th century Iran. Papers on a variety of subjects related to this genre of Persian historical literature will be presented. The participants will discuss and interpret lives of persons, historical events, and the writings which had significant impact on the development of modern Iranian society and its revolutionary upheavals. Speakers will include: Iraj Afshar, Abbas Amanat, William Hanaway, Juan Cole, Elton Daniel, Shirien Mahdavi, Roger Savory, Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Hafez Farmayan, M.R. Ghanoonparvar, Elizabeth Fernca, Roger Louis and Gail Minault. For more information contact:

Professor Hafez Farmayan, Department of History,
The University of Texas, Austin, Tx. 78712
Telephone: (512) 471-5236

*Iranian Studies at the University of Bamberg, Germany:*

The “Second European Conference of Iranian Studies” was held in Bamberg from September 30 - October 4, 1991. This conference, based on convocation by the Societas Iranologica Europaea was entirely organized by the staff of our department. Iranian(from inside the I.R.I. and abroad), Japanese, Tajik, Georgian, and Russian participants met with participants from the US and Canada; and of course, a great number of Europeans were also in attendance. At the General Assembly of S.I.E. (October 3, 1991), Bert Fragner was elected President of the Societas, for a period of four years.

Also in the name of S.I.E., another four-day conference was organized by our department last summer (July 17-20). The conference was devoted to the subject, “Bilingualism in Iranian Cultures.” Publication of the papers of both conferences is planned. The Third European Conference will be held in 1995; the place has not yet been decided.
*Barnard College, Department of Women’s Studies:

Barnard College is supporting a project called “Scripting and Visaging Women” which is being directed by Afshaneh Najmabadi and Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi. The project will involve the publication of a series of historical documents related to the changing notions of woman and femininity in modern Iran. The first volume of this series, *Ma’ayib al-rijal* [Vices of Men] was published in October 1992. The project is still in need of additional funding, for more information write Dr. Najmabadi at:

Barnard College
Columbia University
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-6598

*Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies Department*

A new journal from Darwin Press, *Princeton Papers: in Near Eastern Studies* released its first issue in December of 1992. Princeton Papers is dedicated to publishing articles dealing with the Near East from the pre-Islamic period to contemporary times. The journal will publish articles from a wide variety of disciplines including articles that are either too specialized or too long for publication in other journals. Articles exploring new approaches or new fields of inquiry are especially welcome.

*The Textile Museum*

*What is an Oriental Carpet?* opens October 15, 1993 at The Textile Museum in Washington DC. The aesthetic, structural and cultural components of this remarkable art form are examined in layman’s terms. Sixteen Oriental carpets dating from the 17th to the 20th century have been selected from the Museum’s world renowned collection for the exhibition by Carol Bier, Curator, Eastern Hemisphere Collections. Conceived in response to the many requests the Museum receives from the public for basic information about textiles, the exhibition also includes a rug loom at which visitors may tie a few “knots,” displays of implements used in weaving, and photographs of rug weaving in a cultural context. The exhibition will close May 1, 1994.
*Falcons and Flowers: Safavid Persian Textile Arts* opens on October 15, 1993 at the Textile Museum as well. The exhibit presents twenty-two Safavid Persian carpets, woven silks and velvets drawn from the collections of The Textile Museum and Rosenborg Palace, Copenhagen. The exquisitely drawn images of falconry and abundant flowers, the lavish use of gold, and the once brilliant color palette of these textiles reflects a distinctly 17th-century Persian aesthetic. Four large velvet panels from Rosenborg Palace in Copenhagen will be on view for the first time in the US.

*Report from the Conference of the Society for Iranian Studies*

The first biennial conference of the Society for Iranian Studies was held this year in Arlington, Virginia. Distinguished scholars from many states in the US as well as from foreign countries gathered to share their most recent research and ideas with colleagues from other universities and colleges. Participants discussed a wide range of topics on various fields such as: anthropology, art history, politics, modern and classical literature, modern and pre-modern history, linguistics, economics, philosophy, feminism and folklore.

The conference opened with Hamid Dabashi’s welcome. He thanked all those who had helped to make the event possible and gave a brief overview of the goals of the society.

Most of the panel discussions took place at the Arlington Hyatt Hotel. The conference participants had a chance to browse through the latest publications on Iranian studies during the short breaks between the panels. There were also two fascinating panels held in the Freer Art Gallery at the Sackler Museum (Smithsonian Institute). These two panels, “Throne Symbolism: Its Transition and Transformation in Persian Art,” and “After the Mongols: Imagery, Identity and Change in Iranian Art,” were beautifully presented with various slides accompanying the lectures.

The first day of the conference ended with a reception at the Sackler Gallery. Participants then proceeded to enjoy the rest of the evening at the Hyatt’s lounge, Georgetown bars, cafes and private parties.

On Saturday the conference continued. The first part of the day was spent at the hotel. After the panel presentations, participants moved to George Washington University for the keynote address and the evening’s concert. Distinguished scholar, A.S. Melikian-Shirvani, gave an eloquent talk called “Persian Literature as the Living Memory of the Distant Past.”
Saturday's events concluded with a concert by Dariush Dolat-shahi. Mr. Dolat-shahi used computer music to bring together traditional Persian music and the more popular western-style music performed and composed by Iranians. The first part of his concert consisted of improvisations on sehtar. The second half of the concert was a mix of computer music with and without solo voice.

Sunday began with a plenary session on "Iranian Cultural Identity in Historical Perspective." Some of the major authorities in the field initiated very interesting discussion on the topic and the session went over its allotted time. Peter Chelkowski's concluding remarks left everyone in good spirits and closed the conference on a very positive note.

Although some minor problems popped up here and there, overall the conference was very successful. This was due in large part to the effort of all the people who put so much thought and effort into conference planning. Many thanks to Alice Hunsberger, the treasurer of SIS, Hamid Dabashi, the executive secretary, and all of those who helped to make the first biennial conference of the Society of Iranian Studies possible.

*AATP

The 1993 Summer Persian Language Workshop was held at the University of Texas at Austin June 5-6. Persian language faculty representatives from the Western Consortium of University Centers for Middle Eastern Studies participated in the workshop. A proposal for the standardization of exit criteria for the first two years of Persian instruction at the university level was drafted. This proposal is scheduled to be discussed at the American Association of Teachers of Persian meeting at MESA in North Carolina in November.

*Festschrift in honour of Annemarie Schimmel

A Festschrift was presented to this distinguished scholar by students, friends and colleagues on April 7, 1992. The Festschrift contains articles from many different fields and can be ordered from:

Peter Lang AG
Jupistarabe 15 CH-3000 Bern 15
Telephone 031 941 11 22    FAX 031 941 11 31
*MESA 1993*

**Thursday, Nov 11**

**Society for Iranian Studies (SIS)**  
Board Meeting  
11:00 am-3:00 pm  
Durham A  
Business Meeting  
6:00 pm-8:00 pm  
Empire C  

**American Association of Teachers of Persian (AATP)**  
Board Meeting  
1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
Park Boardroom  
Business Meeting  
3:00 pm-6:00 pm  
Crown A  

**Persia Religiosa Society (PRS)**  
Board Meeting  
3:30 pm-5:30 pm  
Durham A  

**Friday, Nov 12**

8:00am-10:00am

**Sufi Variance in the Post-Mongol Eastern Islamic World**  
Institutionalizing a Sufi Order: the Ruzbihaniyya of Shiraz  
(Carl W. Ernst)  
The Karts and the Sufis (Lawrence Potter)  
Sufi Ideology and the Timurid Naqshbandi Experience (Jo-Ann Gross)  
Ascetic Renunciation and Institutional Sufism (Ahmet T. Karamustafa)

**Armenia in the Period of the Ottoman-Safavid Wars**  
Ottoman-Safavid Wars and Their Influence on Armenia, Kurdistan and Azerbaijan (James J. Reid)  
The Rise of the Julfa Merchants in the Late 16th and Early 17th Centuries (Edmund Herzig)

**Azerbaijani Intellectuals and the Politics of Literature**  
Ershad and the Iranian Constitutionalist Revolution: A View from Baku (Evan Siegel)  
Political Mentalities in Iranian Azerbaijan Since the Islamic Revolution (Raoul Motika)
Arts and Images in Middle East Cultural Life

A Century of Revolution: Why Has Iran Been So Revolutionary?
The Contentious Historiography of the Gilan Republic (Janet Afary)
The Ideological Context of Political Conflict and Revolutionary Change in Contemporary Iran (Mansoor Moaddel)
Oppositional Political Culture as Cause of Revolution: The Iranian Case (Afshin Matin-Asgari)
Comparing Iran’s 20th Century Revolutions (Nikki Keddie)
(SIS Sponsored)

State and Society in the Gulf Arab Countries
State and Society in the GCC: The Iran Factor (John Duke Anthony)

10:30am-12:30pm

Patterns of Persuasion: The Relationship to the Audience in Medieval Islamic Literature

Some Uses of Historical Example in Arabic and Persian Advice Literature
(Louise Marlow)

Tensions Between Genre and Historical Occasion in Classical Persian Court Poetry
(Olga M. Davidson)

The Theological Context of ‘Abd al-Qahir al-Jurjani’s Stylistic Formulations
(Margaret Larkin)

Conflict Development, Conflict Resolution, and the Future of the Afghan State

Political Power and the Question of Reconstituting Legitimacy in Afghanistan (Rasul Rais)

Afghan Women: Periphery Members, Central Conflict (Sharifa Sharif)
The Role of Regional Powers in Conflict Development and Resolution in Afghanistan (Anwar ul-Haq Ahady)

Scenarios for the Future of the Afghan State (Larry Goodson)
Defining Identity Through Appropriation of Religious Terms
The Confusion of *Kalam* (Words) with 'Alm al-Kalam in the Writings of Jalal Al-i Ahmad (Hussain Moulavi-Pour)

Women's Issues in Middle Eastern Societies
An Afghan Statesman's View of Women: Writings of Mahmud Tarzi (Senzil Nawid)

Citizenship and Democratization in the Middle East
Democracy and Citizenship: Whence Iranian Women? (Haleh Afshar)

1:30pm-3:30pm

War and Society in 18th Century Ottoman Empire
Religious Dissent and Rebellion in the Ottoman Empire and Safavid Iran (Fariba Zarinebaf-Shahr)

4:00pm-6:00pm

Using Missionary Sources to Explore Iranian History: The Ambiguous Legacy of American Missionaries in Twentieth Century Iran
The Social and Political Impact of American Mission Schools on Iran (John H. Lorentz)
Good Works and Death: American Missionaries and World War I in Iran (Michael P. Zirinsky)
Missionaries and Allied Missions in Wartime Iran: 1942-1947 (Thomas M. Ricks)

Studies in Medieval and Modern Sufism
Law and Sufism in Medieval Nishapur (Margaret Malamud)

Re-Reading Authenticity: Voices of Dissent from the Muslim World
Ahmad Kasravi on the Relation Between Religion and Science (Mohammad Doustdar)
Meetings:
American Institute for Iranian Studies (AIIS)
Board Meeting 6:30 pm-9:30 pm Capital City
Dinner 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Capital City

Saturday, Nov 13
8:00am-10:00am

Transcendence in Classical Persian Literature
The Dichotomy of Apparent Daily Life (Zahir) and Hidden Inner Being (Batin) in Persian Classical Literature with an Emphasis on Suhravardi’s Mystical Treatises (Kazem Tehrani)
The Philosophy of Light in Yahya Shihab al-Din al-Sohravardi (d. 587 A.H. / A.D. 1191) and Robert Grosseteste (A.D. 1170-1253) (Anthony Tuft)
Sufism and Antinomianism: Breaking the Form for God (Mehdi Aminrazavi)
Climactic Theophanies in Attar and the Pseudo-Attar’s Quest Epics (David L. Martin)

Nomads
The Reconstruction of ‘Nomadism’ in Iran (Richard L. Tapper)

1:30pm-3:30pm

Medieval and Modern Historiography
The Historiography of Safavid Introductions (Sholch A. Quinn)
Short Descriptions: The Thafe-ye Sami by Sam Mirza Safavi (Setrag Manoukian)

Kurdish Nationalism and Interethic Conflict
From Tribalism to Nationalism: The Development of Nationalism in Iranian Kurdistan (Farideh Koohi-Kamali)

Nationalist Movements
Small But Significant: Armenian Participation in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution (Houri Berberian)
Iran and the Emergence of the New Republics in Central Asia and Caucasus
Iran’s Response to the Rise of Nationalism in Caucasus (Maziar Behrooz)
Azerbaijan Between Iran and Turkey (Tadeusz Swietochowski)
Persian Culture Revisited in Tajikistan (Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh)
The Changing Relations of the Azerbaijan People’s Front to Iran (David Nissman)
Iran’s New Northern Neighbor: Developing Relations with Azerbaijan (Farzin Sarabi)

(SIS sponsored)

The Poetics of Conflict: The Iran-Iraq War and Persian Literature, Film, and Popular Culture
Dialectics and Aesthetics: War in the Fiction of Mohsen Makhmalbaf and Esmail Fassih (Faridoun Farrokh)
Soldiers in the School of Love: Persian Poetry During the Iran-Iraq War (Mark R. Glover)
The War Front Culture (Peter Chelkowski)
Iranian War Films: Entertainment and Propaganda (M.R. Ghanoonparvar)

4:00pm-6:00pm

City and Society in Qajar Iran
Iranians, Orientalists and the Cultural Construction of “Cities” in Qajar Iran (Joanna de Groot)
The Morphology of the Population of Tehran, 1269 H.Q. /1852 (Mansoureh Ettehadieh)
Dangerous Populations?: Concepts for the Comparative Study of Urban Social Movements in Qajar Iran (John Foran)
The Role of Provincial Urban Notables in the Baha’i Religion, 1863-1892 (Juan R. Cole)
Shifting Patterns of Consumption: From Coffee to Tea in Qajar Iran (Rudi Mathiee)
International Relations Paradigms and Middle Eastern Studies: The Neglected Second Level of Analysis
The Islamic Republic and Its Neighbors: Ideology and Interest in Iran’s Foreign Policy During the Khomeini Decade (Haleh Vaziri)

Sunday, Nov 14

8:00am-10:00am

Classical Middle Eastern Belles-Lettres
Women in Nizami’s Writings and the Question of Interpretation (R. Kamran Talattof)

Population Dynamics in the Middle East
A Study of Trends and Ethnic-Regional Differences in Fertility Decline in Iran (Akbar Aghajanian)

The Politics of Gender in Middle Eastern Literature
Gender and Politics of Difference in Danishvar’s Savushun (Firoozeh Papan-Matin)

Modernity and Identity: The Cultural Politics of the Nation-State
To Be Or Not To Be: Dilemmas of State-Building in the Islamic Republic

10:30am-12:30pm

Kurdistan in Regional Perspective
The Kurdish Factor in Turkish-Iranian Relations (Nader Entessar)

Newly Discovered Sources for Islamic History
The Mission of Florio Beneveni to Persia and Central Asia, 1718-1725 (Maurizio Pistoso)
A Little Known Collection of Qajar Paintings in a Tbilisi Museum (Anna Vanzan)
Studies in Ismaili Thought and Doctrine
Body and Soul: Nasir-i Khusraw on the Necessity of the Body for Soul's Salvation (Alice Hunsberger)

State of the Art On Social Sciences in Post-Revolutionary Iran
Ideological Barriers to the Development of Social Sciences in Iran (Ali Akbar Mahdi)
Islamization of Economics in Iran: A Methodological and Pedagogical Critique (Sohrab Behdad)
Historians and Historiography in Post-Revolutionary Iran (Mansoureh Ettehadieh Nezam-Mafi)
Political Science in a Politicized Polity: The Case of Iran (Mehrzad Boroujerdi)
Scholars, Images and the Iranian Revolution (Ali Mirsepassi)
Life Cycle Conflicts Within the Family
Sibling Relations in an Iranian Village (Erika Friedl)
Adolescence in Iranian Immigrant Families (Patricia J. Higgins)

Islamism and Modernization
Islam, Iran and the West in the Writings of Malkum Khan, Kasravi and Shariati (Asghar Fathi)

Post-Revolutionary Iran
Political Culture of the Bazaar (Tahmoores Sarraf)
How Does History Justify the Present? (Poopak Ta’ati)
Gender and Employment in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Fatemeh E. Moghadam)
Analysis of Khumayni’s Proofs for al-Wilaya al-Mutlaqa (Comprehensive Authority of the Jurist) (Hamid Mavani)
Redefining the Truth: Ahl-i Haqq and the Islamic Republic (Zir Mir-Hosseini)
Books in Brief

*Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East*
Valentine Moghadam
Lynn Reinner Publishers

Exploring the impact of social change in the Middle East on women’s status and roles, as well as women’s varied responses, this book focuses on the gender dynamics of some of the major social processes in the region: economic development and women’s employment, reforms and revolutions, the changing family, and Islamist movements. The author shows that middle class women are at the center of change and discourses about change in the Middle East.

Moghadam crafts a conceptual framework based on the role of the state, development strategies, class, and culture in the shaping of women’s lives. Writing from a Marxist-feminist perspective, she looks at the salience of the “woman question” and constructions of gender in the midst of social and political change. Data from a number of countries are presented, including in-depth case studies of Afghanistan and Iran.

Recent Publications


Asghari, محمد. Qiyas va sayr i takvin-i an dar huqiq-i Islam. [تهران]: سازمان-ی انتشاراتی کیوان، 1370 [1992]

Asil, هججت الله. Armanshahr dar andishah-‘i Iran. تهران: نشر-ی نامه، 1371 [1992 or 1993]


Bashiri, سیواش. Davartha...ra chih khvahi guft. علما: سازمان-ی آریا.


Bigdili, محمد رضا. Turkumanha-yi Iran. تهران، 1371 [1992 or 1993]


Musta’an, Husaynquli. *‘Ishq-i muqaddas*. [Tehran]: Rivayat, 1371 [1992]


