Dear All,

As my first year in action draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people whom I have worked with closely this year. First and foremost, it has been a sincere pleasure to work with the Executive Council. In particular, President Ahmad Ashraf, Journal Editor Robert McChesney, Treasurer Vahid Noshirvani, and Past-President Bill Hanaway are a wonderful and highly effective group and have made my work both easier and infinitely more enjoyable that it would have otherwise have been. I am grateful for the advice and support of Ali Banuazizi and Fazhad Kazemi who also helped teach me the SIS ropes. I would also like to thank Farzaneh Milani who served as the Chair of the Election Committee. She and all the other members of that committee graciously took on a lot of work and are to be heartily congratulated at the wonderful slate of candidates for SIS positions that they gathered together. I certainly look forward to working with the new Executive Committee under the presidency of Richard N. Frey this coming year. My assistant Sophia Kitabbash also deserves my thanks, especially as she is subject to much of the nitty gritty. I am deeply appreciative of all the other SIS members who have offered help and advice and thank those who have sent in their news and other items of interest for this newsletter.

Over the past couple of weeks I have been working on establishing an email service for SIS members in order to transmit news in a more timely fashion – particularly regarding conference deadlines, meetings, job openings, and the like. Thus far, I have received very positive feedback from many members. I hope to have this service more fully operational shortly.

Anyone wishing to send an announcement to the SIS Membership can email me at ringer@iranian-studies.org. Of course you may request to be taken off this listserve at any time. Also, there are still many members whose current emails we do not have, despite all our efforts (!!) to gather everyone’s complete and accurate information. If you have not received an email from SIS in October, drop us an email line and we’ll verify that we have your correct coordinates.

One of my goals for this coming year is to work on the SIS website, and to make it both more up-to-date, and more comprehensive. This, together with the email listserver, should greatly enhance the ability for SIS to serve both as a clearing-house for news and events of interest, as well as a useful source for research and networking tools.

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The Society for Iranian Studies
c/o Department of Middle Eastern Studies, New York University
50 Washington Sq. South, Room 306, New York, NY 10012
www iranian-studies.org
A word about the journal: *Iranian Studies*. We recently began working with a new mailing service. Long story short, it has come to our attention that many of the journals (vol. 33, nos. 1-2, Winter/Spring 2000) were sent to the university where people received their doctoral degrees, rather than their mailing addresses. Furthermore, many arrived in a state of disarray. Please do bring this to our attention, and we will mail you out another issue, with our sincere apologies.

Arrangements for the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies to be held in Bethesda, MD in May 24-26, 2002 are proceeding as planned and we encourage everyone to attend! Information about the conference, hotel, and forms for pre-registration are available on our website at: [www iranian-studies.org](http://www iranian-studies.org). The Form is also found in the next-to-last page of this newsletter. I would be happy to email the forms as an email attachment on request. Again, my email is: ringer@iranian-studies.org.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that The Society for Iranian Studies enjoys very strong membership — as strong as it has ever been. Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership, and to those members who have made donations! Names of donors this year are listed below.

With very best regards,

Monica Ringer

**Donations to SIS since January 2001**

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**Honorary and Life Members of the Society for Iranian Studies**

**Honorary Members**

- Iradj Afshar
- Richard N. Frye
- Ann K. Lambton
- Ehsan Yarshater

**Life Members**

- Nader Ahami
- Shahrough Akhavi
- Mehrdad Amanat
- Hossein Amir Saleh
- Said Ansari
- Jere Bacharach
- Ali Banuaizzi
- Najmeh Batmanglij
- Houchang Chehabi
- Olga Davidson
- Layla Diba

- Kambiz Eslami
- Parhad Hakimizadeh
- William Hanaway
- Brad Hanson
- Robert Hutchinson
- Parhad Kazemi
- Nikkie Keddie
- Hassan Khorosrowshahi
- Habib Ladjevardi
- Leon Lewisohn
- Masahi Mizuta
- Feraydoun Moqtaderi
- Roy Mottahedeh
- Eden Naby
- Guity Nashat
- Vahid Noshirvani
- John Perry
- R. K. Ramazani
- David Rockafeller
- Aboalala Soudavar
- Kamaran Tahmooressi
- R. Tehran
- Kenji Tomita
- Takeshi Yoshii
- Marvin Zonis
SIS At MESA 2001

SIS is sponsoring the following panels:
"Reappraising Ahmad Kasravi's Intellectual Legacy"
Chair: Negar Mortazadeh, Ohio Wesleyan University
Mohammad Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University
Critiquing Euroism (Uruguay) and Orientalism
Azar Nafisi, Johns Hopkins University
Kasravi's Gendered Perspective on the Novel
M.R. Ghanoonparvar, University of Texas at Austin
Kasravi's Concept of "Pakdim" and His Rationalist Approach to Religion
Faridoun Farrokhi, Texas A&M International University
Ahmad Kasravi: The Street-Comer Perspective
Discussant: Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington

"Social Scientists and Challenges of Modernization and Revolution: Iran in the Latter Part of the 20th Century" (held in Persian)
Chair/Discussant: Ahmad Ashraf, Columbia University
Ehsan Naraghi, Institute for Social Research

SIS 2001-2002 Elections
Candidates for the Office of President:
Shahrough Akhavi is currently Professor in the Department of Government and International Studies at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of Religion and Politics in Contemporary Iran (1980) as well as numerous articles, including four invited Op-ed articles on Iran for the New York Times.

Peter Chełkowski is a professor at NYU. Some of his best-known books include: Mirror of the Invisible World (1975), Ta'ijād: Ritual and Drama in Iran (1979), and (with Hamid Dabashi) Staging a Revolution: The Art of Persuasion in the Islamic Republic of Iran (1999).

Candidates for the Executive Council:
Ali Banuazizi is Professor of Cultural Psychology at Boston College. He is the coeditor (with Myron Weiner) of three books on politics and society in Southwest and Central Asia, including The State, Religion, and Ethnic Politics in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan (1986), The Politics of Social Transformation in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan (1994), and The New Geopolitics of Central Asia and Its Borderlands (1994).

Michael Beard is a professor of English at the University of North Dakota. His publications include Hedegayl's Blind Owl as a Western Novel (1990), Naghib Mahfouz: From Regional Fame to Global Recognition (with Adnan Haydar) (1993); and Outlandia: songs of Exile (selected and translated in conjunction with Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak) (1999); and Walking with the Wind (poems by Abbas Karostani, translated with Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak) (forthcoming).


Nasrin Rahimich is Professor of Comparative Literature and Associate Dean of Humanities at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta, Canada. Her publications include Missing Persons: Discovering Voices in Iranian Cultural History (2001), and Oriental Responses to the West (1990).


Candidates for Student Council Member:
Rebecca Joubin is in the Department of Middle East and Asian Cultures and Literature at Columbia University under the direction of Magda al-Nawaihi and Hamid Dabashi. She is working on a translation of an Iraqi novel by Alla Mammadou entitled al-Wala'.

Naghmeh Sohrabi's dissertation focuses on the concept of ajab and hayrat in 19th century Persian travelogues as a method for examining Iranian modernity. She is supervised in this project by Profes. Afsaneh Najmabadi, Roy Mortazadeh and Cemal Kafadar.
IACC Reception

The Iranian American Chamber of Commerce of the San Francisco Bay Area (IACC) will hold a reception in honor of the Executive Committee and the Council of the Society for Iranian Studies (SIS), and the Editors of its journal *Iranian Studies* on Sunday November 18, 2001, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lavash Restaurant, at Justin Herman Plaza, adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco. Dinner will be served. Reservation is required. Please call (415) 646-0567.

WITH REGrets

It is with deep regret that we note that Dr David Neil MacKenzie (born 1926) died of pneumonia on October 13th in North Wales. MacKenzie was Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies at Göttingen; he retired in 1994. Primarily a philologist and linguist, he made many important contributions to the study of Old, Middle, and modern Iranian languages and their literatures, especially Kurdish and Pashto.

MEMBER NEWS

Ervand Abrahamian published an article on “The 1953 Coup in Iran” in *Science and Society* (Summer 2001).

Hamid Dabashi’s book *Truth and Narrative* won The Lionel Trilling Award given to the best book written by a Columbia University faculty.

Willems Floor recently published the following books:


*A Fiscal History of Iran in the Safavid and Qajar Periods 1500-1925. Persian Studies Series Nr. 17* (New York 1999; Bibliotheca Persica); 506 p. text; 28 p. glossary; bibliography, index. Distributed by Eisenbrauns Inc. isbn: 0-933273-29-0. This book was awarded the price of the best book of the year on Iran in a foreign language in 2000 by the government of Iran.


*The Economy of Safavid Persia Turn-Iran Series vol. 1* (Wiesbaden 2000; Reichert); 344 p. text; bibliography, isbn: 3-89500-166-X.

*Safavid Government Institutions* (Costa Mesa 2001; Mazda), vii + 340 p. text; bibliography; index. isbn: 1-56859-135-7 (softcover) $29.95.

Valentine Moghadam has been appointed for the academic year 2001-02 as a scholar with the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She will be working on her book project "Globalization, Transnational Feminist Networks, and Public Policy." This study examines the origins, structure, objectives, and activities of a sample of six transnational feminist networks.

Negar Mottahedeh was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Institute for Research on women at Rutgers University.

Mohamad Tabakoli-Targhi recently published *Refashioning Iran, Orientalism, Occidentalism and Historiography* (Palgrave, 2001). In this book, he offers a corrective to recent works on Orientalism that focus solely on European scholarly productions without exploring the significance of native scholars and vernacular scholarship to the making of Oriental studies. He brings to light a wealth of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Indo-Persian texts, made 'homeless' by subsequent nationalist histories and shows how they relate to Indo-Iranian modernity. In doing so, he argues for a radical rewriting of Iranian history with profound implications for Islamic debates on gender. Contents of the book include: Modernity, Heterotopia, and Homeless Texts; Orientalism’s Genesis Amnesia Persianate Eurology Imagining European Women Contested Memories Crafting National Identity Patriotic and Matricidal Nationalism

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi was also selected as Outstanding University Teacher for 2000-2001 at Illinois State University.

Nayereh Towhidi will spend the academic year 2001-02 at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. She will be working on her book project concerning gender and democratization in post-Soviet Azerbaijan.
New Internet Resources

Archives on Islam: Primary Documents, 1873-1926.
http://www.archivesonislam.com
archivesonislam.com offers a collection a fascinating archival record of diplomatic communications between the British Foreign Office and their consuls offices in the Middle East and North Africa during one of the most important periods in the political development of those regions. During the 19th and early 20th centuries Britain played a pivotal role in this turbulent region. Her control over India, Egypt and Sudan— as well as her political influence in Afghanistan, Persia, Arabia and the Persian Gulf coast— put around 100 million Muslims under her sway. For this reason there was particular concern in Britain about emerging Islamic political movements, and British consuls were instructed to report any such developments to the Foreign Office. www.archivesonislam.com contains key examples of these reports, as well as related historical materials and official correspondence by many of the key figures of the time including Winston Churchill, Lord Curzon, Chaim Weizmann, Viscount Kitchener, Ibn Saud, Sherif Hussein, Henry McMahon and Edmund Allenby. Many of the documents that are offered at archivesonislam.com were originally classified as secret. All documents are published in full for the first time, and each document has its date and PRO reference. The archives will be welcomed as a valuable research tool for historians and all those interested in studying the foundations of political Islam.

The Iran NGO Initiative, a collaborative project bringing together non-governmental organizations in Iran is now accessible on the web at: http://www irangos.org/

IRANFILE, An Independent Monthly Analysis of Current Affairs With Special Emphasis on Economics and Politics. Published every two months. For Subscriptions (US$ 100 for individuals) email: iranfile@btinternet.com.

Websites on Afghanistan:
www.institute-for-afghan-studies.org
www.giu.edu/govdocs/afghanistan
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afghaniyat

Iranian Studies and Literature: www.e-golestan.com

EURAMES Info Service – a new information service on Middle Eastern Studies provided by the European Association for Middle Eastern Studies (EURAMES) to its members and all interested in research on the MENA region. To subscribe to the service, contact the Secretariat at: curamesgeo.uni-mainz.de and the website: http://www.curames.de.

British Middle Eastern Studies: conferences, membership and activities: visit the web at: http://www.arts. ed.ac.uk/ceimee/brimes.

The Library of Congress announces a new photographic feature courtesy of Prints and Photographs Division: The Abd al-Hamid albums. Presently 285 have been placed on the web, primarily those devoted to schools and education.

New Publications


Students' Report prepared by the Community of Iranian Students. This new NGO is devoted to the promotion of education about human rights in Iran and internationally, cooperation with NGO’s and other university organizations to promote human rights in Iran and internationally, to defend the rule of law. Available for subscription. Email: cis@neda.net.


Cabiers d'études sur la Mediterranee orientale et le monde turco-iranien (CEMOTT). Two-year subscriptions: $70 for individuals, $90 for institutions. Contact: Cyrille Coutansais, CEMOTT, 56, rue Jacob, 75006 Paris, France.

Change of coordinates??
Please let us know
email: rtinger@iranian-studies.org
Conferences and Symposiums

Sept. 14-16, 2001
For more information, email: Kamran Rastegar at kdr7@columbia.edu; also check the Columbia University Middle East Studies Center at: www.columbia.edu/cu/mecalac.
Oct. 2-3, 2001
The Middle East Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars presented a meeting entitled Middle Eastern Women on the Move: Opening up for and Constraints on Women's Political Participation in the Middle East. In addition to speakers from universities and research centers in the United States, scholars and journalists also participated from Iran. For more information on the proceedings, contact: Janine Rowe at rowejm@wwic.stedu or consult the Wilson Center website.
Oct. 8-9, 2001
The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies regrets the cancellation of the conference to have been held in Shiraz: Society, Language and Culture in the Persianate World. ASPS is working to convene the conference next year. For more information contact: Dr. Said Amir Arjomand at: sarjoman@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.
Nov. 1-2, 2001
The George Washington University is pleased to announce a conference in honor of Dr. Seyyid Hossein Nasr to be held Nov. 1-2, 2001.
Information can be found at www.beaconofknowledge@hotmail.com.
Nov. 9-11, 2001
The Noor Microfilm Center of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi, is organizing an international seminar on "Qajar Sargozar Nourallah Shahrabi: His Life and Works" in collaboration with the Dept. of History, St. John's College, University of Agra, Agra, India. Contact: noornico@yahoo.com; web: www.noornicoindia.com.
Dec. 22-23, 2001
The Center for Central Asia and the Caucasus Studies at the Institute for Political and International Studies will organize the 9th International Seminar on Central Asia and the Caucasus in order to contribute to the study of developments in the Caspian region. Deadline for submissions: Nov. 22, 2001. For information, contact: Center for Central Asia and the Caucasus Studies Institute for Political and International Studies, Shahid Aghaie St. Shahid Bahonar Avenue, P.O. Box 19395/1793, Tehran, Iran; Email: ipis@dre-mfa.gov.ir or see the website at www.dre-mfa.gov.ir.
April 22-25, 2002
The Iranology Foundation is holding the First National Congress on Iranian Studies in Tehran, Iran. Deadline for submission of abstracts: August 30, 2001. Information: Congress Secretariat - Iranology Foundation: info@iranologyfo.or.ir; tel: (0998) 21 2417124-6.
May 24-26, 2002
The Society for Iranian Studies (SIS) will convene the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies in Bethesda, MD. The conference is co-sponsored by The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS). SIS is accepting conference pre-registration. Information and forms are available on line: www.iranian-studies.org.
June 11-15, 2002
Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences sponsored by: University of Hawaii - West Oahu, and College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawaii. Submission Deadline: January 16, 2002. For information, see http://www.tapacoma.net/hcssocial/cfps.html or email: social@tapacoma.com.
March 19-23, 2003
The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute announce the Fourth Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting to be held in Florence, Italy. Workshop topics should focus on the interactions between the Middle East and North Africa region and Europe. Deadline: November 30, 2002. For application and other information, contact: Inco Brouwer at medmec@iue.it, or the web: http://www.iue.it.

Cancellation of the ASPS Conference
After many months of work on organizing a very impressive convention on "Society, Language and Culture in the Persianate World," which was to meet in Shiraz in October, 2001, the Board of Directors of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies was forced to cancel it in July, when the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ruled that United States regulations prohibit the convening of the conference in Iran. This is extremely disappointing as the conference promised to be a momentous gathering and would have included, in addition to participants from the United States, 6 participants from Uzbekistan, 5 participants from Tajikistan, 8 participants from India, 4 participants from Russia, and 12 participants from Iran who had been chosen from a much larger pool of applicants. We are working on plans to convene the conference next year, and will make an announcement as soon as they are finalized.
Said Amir Arjomand, President Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Conference on Medieval Iranian Coins Crosses Boundaries
"The Heritage of Sasanian Iran: Dinars, Drachms and Coppers of the Late Sasanian and Early Muslim Periods" held at the American Numismatic Society on June 8th and 9th attracted scholars and participants from around the world. The conference presented a wide range of papers on Late Sasanian and early Muslim coinage. It also featured a workshop on the reading of the Pahlavi legends on these coins. The conference was held in memory of William B. Warden (1947-2000), a numismatist devoted to these coinages. The Society of Iranian Studies and Sanford J. Duest co-sponsored it with the American Numismatic Society. More than thirty people attended from across the United States, Europe and the Middle East.
Participants have been invited to submit their papers for publication to the Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies, the American Journal of Numismatics and Al-Sikka. The conference will meet again next year on June 7th and 8th. Abstracts for proposed talks and inquiries should be sent to Stuart D. Sears (sears@aucegypt.edu) or Michael L. Bates (bates@amnumsoc.org).
American Institute of Iranian Studies

Fellowships

(Updated September 2001)

Persian Language Study in Tehran

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers approximately ten two-month fellowships for advanced language study in Tehran available for one of three sessions of language training at the Dehkhoda Institute: Summer 2002 (session begins July 11, 2002), Fall 2002 (session begins September 30, 2002) or Winter 2003 (session begins February 4, 2003). The next deadline for receiving applications is February 1, 2002. Decisions will be made by the end of February 2002. The fellowships will be awarded to U.S. citizens who are enrolled in a doctoral program in the humanities or social sciences, have an approved research topic that requires use of Persian, and have completed at least one full academic year of Persian language study. The fellowships will cover international air travel, tuition, and board and lodging in Tehran. Applications should be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information and mailed to the address below:

- Citizenship
- Research plans and what degree of Persian proficiency they require
- Academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate)
- Specify which of the three sessions you would like to attend
- Names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the applicant’s primary academic advisor)
- A curriculum vitae should also be attached.

Research Fellowship in Iranian Studies

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers a six-month research fellowship in Tehran. It is expected that the next fellowship period will begin in July 2001. The stipend is at the level of an assistant professor, with an allowance for international transportation. Applicants should be U.S. citizens, have completed the Ph.D. and be proficient in Persian. Applications will be considered immediately and should include a letter with a detailed description of research plans the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees, and a curriculum vitae should be sent to:

Short-term senior fellowships in Iranian Studies

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers a limited number of short-term senior fellowships for two-to-four week visits to Iran during 2001. The purpose of these fellowships is to enable established scholars with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in Iran today. Applications must be U.S. citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with some knowledge of Persian and a record of research in the humanities or social sciences relating to Iran. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a letter explaining how the opportunity afforded by the fellowship would benefit the applicant’s work. Also included must be the names and e-mail addresses of two referees and a curriculum vitae. Please specify preferred dates of travel.

All documents and applications for all the above fellowships should be sent to the following address:

Dr. Maryam Ektitar
84-51 Beverly Road, #5N
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
mekhitian@worldnet.att.net
Fax: (718) 850-0003

New Books Published in Iran-prepared by Saeed Damadi


Eslam Khan, Mohammad, Adab-e-Farsi dar Miyan-e Hend va on Bonyad (ed) Mahmoud Afsar, 1380.
Bazhari, Mehdi, Ag Zaban-e Sadeh (Pajang, 1378), 320 pp.
Rastegar Farsi, Mansour, Ejdafe dar Asaf-e-Iran (Tab, 1379), 378 pp.
Sakhtabi az Eshgh-e Nafq-e Shomal 1300-1303 Hijri Shami (Sazeman-e-chap va Febesharat-e Vezarat-e Farhang va Amare-i-e Af, 1379.
Afsar, Mahmoud, Khosrow, 4 vols (Mashhad, 1379).
Dahbandi, Hosayn, Afghanistan...Rashe-e-Saqout...Naqsh-e-Jahan-e Honar (1379), 150 pp.
Piroushehzadegar-e-Mo’as-e-Iran, vol. 1 (Farhang-e Mo’as-e, 1379).
Piroushehzadegar-e-Iran, vol. 2 (Mo’as-e-Doktor Mahmud Afsar, 1379).

Social Science Research Council

International Collaboration Research Grants:
Reconceptualizing Public Spheres in the Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Program of the SSRC is launching a research grants program to encourage international collaborative research focusing on the MENA region, which is defined as stretching from Iran to Morocco. We invite proposals that bring together researchers in different locations to address issues related to the changing nature of public spheres in the region. The notion of “public spheres” is used in its broadest sense, encompassing the transformation of socio-economic conditions, state and non-state structures, individual and collective identities and cultural production. The research grants awarded will be for a maximum amount of $35,000 and for a maximum period of 18 months. The competition is open to PhD holders of any nationality or discipline. The deadline for preliminary proposals is October 15, 2001.

For further information and guidelines contact:
MENA Program, Phone: (212) 377-2700, ext. 441
Fax: (212) 377-2727, E-Mail: mena@ssrc.org
URL: http://www.ssrc.org/programs/programpage.cgi?90182AB04
**Call For Dissertation and Academic Research Works**

In honouring the academic efforts of the students, researchers and university professors who have done research and academic work on Iran the Committee for Selection of Outstanding Academic Works on Iran plans to select the outstanding works and introduce them at a ceremony which will be held by Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance sometime in the middle of December 2001 in Tehran, Iran.

This competition is being organized for the fourth year and the following points are helpful for those interested in sending their works for the review committee.

1) Iranian and non-Iranian academics are encouraged to participate provided their work is related to Iran and falls in one of the following categories: Socio-cultural Issues, Mass Media, History, Geography, Literature, Religion, Art, Sociology, Folklore, Ethnology, and Anthropology.

2) A committee will review all the works and will select at least five of them for the award ceremony.

3) Only those works that have been produced between January 1995 and August 2001 are qualified for this year's competition.

4) Those participants whose works are selected will receive a return ticket and will be provided with all costs during their stay in Iran.

5) The committee will accept those works that have been produced in one of the following languages: English, French, German and Arabic.

6) We need to have a copy of the applicant's original work to be received no later than September 30, 2001.

7) The ceremony will be held sometime in the middle of December 2001.

8) Please send your inquiries to the following Fax No. in Tehran 098-21-890-1298, Ms. Salehi will receive your inquiry.

9) For further information do not hesitate to call at the following number: 98-21-8905574. Or send your email messages to Dr. Abdollahyan at Email: Abdollahyan@chamran.ut.ac.ir, or pershad@aha.net

Please send your other inquiries to Miss Salehi at the following address:

The Research Institute on Culture, Art and Communication, No. 11, Damesgh St, Near Vali Asr Square, P.O. Box 14167, Tehran, Iran.

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**Books published in Iran - cont’d**

Mokhtiri, Mohammad Ali, Polshya Qashani-ye Iran (Sazeman-e Miras-e Farhangi, 1379), 421 pp.


Jamalzadeh, Sayyed Mohammad Ali, Tariikh-e Rasafeh-e Iran va Ras (Bonyad-e Moqafat-e Doktor Mahmut Afshar, 1379).

Makmalbod, Samira, Tahafzeh-e Siyeh (Bina, 1379).

Abadi, Kamyar, Tarikh-e Afshar-e Zarqaz (Jodar-e Farhang-e Jodar, 1379).

Hamzeh, Sadeq, Taranemeh-yi Makhluk-e Farsh (Bonyad-e Farshenas, 1379).

Ashouri, Daryush, Tarikh-e Milad-e Farhang (Agah, 1379).

Esfan, Haydar, Tara'ifeh dar Ostun-e Bashehr (Novid, Shiraz, 1379).

Naraqi, Hasen, Jamali-e Shamsiyeh-e Khosrovi (Aghia, 1380), 160 pp.

Zaghi, Kourosh, Jalalshah-e Melki-ye Iran as Pishkasho to Khane-ye 38 Mordad (Mehr, 1379), 368 pp.

Zeka, Yahya, Josteh-1 darbande Medem-e Azer Abadeghan (Bonyad-e Moqafat-e Doktor Mahmut Afshar, 1380).

Qasemi, Saryed Farad, Chekhteh-yi Menahel-e Iran-e Abse-ye Zanani: Melkshah-yi Motelha-e Tarikh-e Melker-e Iran (1379).

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The American Institute of Iranian Studies is delighted to announce that the 2001 Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize has been awarded to Afkham Durbandi and Dick Davis for their translation of Farid ud-Din Attar’s *Conference of the Birds*.

The publication in 1987 of the translation of Attar’s *Conference of the Birds* by Afkham Durbandi and Dick Davis was a watershed moment in the long history of Persian/English literary relations. English speaking scholars and poets have labored since the 18th century to bring the richness, variety and lyric beauty of Persian poetry into their own language. While there have been a few qualified successes, such as Gertrude Bell’s rendering of Hafiz, the one unquestioned triumph until now has been FitzGerald’s remarkable recasting of randomly composed quatrains into the Rub‘iyyat of Omar Khayyam – a work that gained so eminent a place in English letters that it forced a reevaluation of the poet in his native land.

Attar was a greater poet than Khayyam, and his *Conference* is an unquestioned masterpiece of the Sufi poetic tradition. The fluency, elegance and precision of Durbandi and Davis’s translation belies its foreign origins and makes it appear rather as a remarkable native innovation—a vivid and moving anthology of Sufi stories that has miraculously blossomed from the pen of an English poet. In short, it merits comparison with the best translations from languages more familiar and better studied than Persian such as Heaney’s Beowulf or Fagles’ *Odyssey* and *Iliad*.

Despite a minimum of publicity, their *Conference* was quickly recognized by students of Persian literature as a masterwork and promises to serve for many years as the new standard by which translations from Persian will be judged.
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Sayed Damadi is the President of the Bistoon Publishing House in Iran. He is also
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