

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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EDITORS NOTE

Dear ISIS Members,

Et voilà the fall 2013 issue of the revived ISIS newsletter.

A new section I would like to draw your attention to, and which we hope to feature regularly from now on, is a list of publications on Iran that have appeared in the recent past both inside the country and outside. The list aims to be as comprehensive as possible.

Other sections you will recognize from our spring newsletter include news on recent library acquisitions and cataloguing developments, awards granted by ISIS and sister organizations, abstracts of recently defended dissertations, grant schemes of relevance to the field, member news, and references to upcoming conferences and meetings.

The newsletter will also be posted at http://iranianstudies.com/about/newsletters, where you will find the entire archive of ISIS newsletters published to date throughout the years.

The next newsletter shall appear in April 2014. Until then, we hope you will enjoy the following pages. Thanks as always are due to all contributors, and in particular to graphic designer Maha Younes, who has once again embedded the text in an aesthetic frame.

We look forward to your contributions to the next issue, and, on that note, invite you to get in touch should you have suggestions on new features to be introduced.

Mirjam Künkler, Princeton University

http://iranianstudies.com/about/newsletters



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COUNCIL 2012

TOURAJ ATABAKI KAMRAN TALATTOF RIVANNE SANDLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & TREASURER MEHRZAD BOROUJERDI, PRESIDENT-ELECT MARTA SIMIDCHIEVA MOHAMAD TAVAKOLI-TARGHI, PAST PRESIDENT LEILA PAZARGADI, STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER IDA MEFTAHI, STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER HOUCHANG CHEHABI, PRESIDENT HOMA KATOUZIAN FAR7IN VAHDAT **FARIBA ADFI KHAH** DOMINIC BROOKSHAW CYRUS SCHAYEGH **AMY MOTLAGH** ALI M. ANSARI

MEMBER NEWS

Christian Bromberger has published "Gilan. Entries on Gilan published by the Encyclopædia Iranica," (ed. Christian Bromberger), New York & Tehran: Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation & Institut Français de Recherche en Iran, 2013 (available at www.eisenbrauns.com)

Bianca Devos and Christoph Werner have edited Culture and Cultural Politics Under Reza Shah: The Pahlavi State, New Bourgeoisie and the Creation of a Modern Society in Iran, London: Routledge, 2014. http://routledge-ny.com/books/details/9780415824194/

The Encyclopaedia Iranica has published Fascicle 2 of Volume XVI in July 2013, available at www.iranicaonline.org

Richard Foltz has published *Religions of Iran*: From Prehistory to the Present, London: Oneworld Publications, 2013.

Mary Elaine Hegland has published Days of Revolution: Political Unrest in an Iranian Village, Stanford University Press, 2013.

The Persian Heritage Foundation has published Volume X of A History of Persian Literature entitled Persian Historiography, edited by Professor Charles Melville (I.B. Tauris, 2012, 725 pp.).

Mohammad T. Imanpour, Associate Professor of History at Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, has published *The Land Parsa: The first Persian homeland* (Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012).

Homa Katouzian is one of the 2013 recipients of the SINA Prize (Spirit of Iranian Noted Achievers – www.sinairan.org). The SINA Award for outstanding Iranian achievers is a way of formally recognizing and honoring Iranians of today who have earned worldwide acclaim for their significant contributions to the world of knowledge through their course of life.

M. Mehdi Khorrami and **Robert D. McChesney**, as principal investigator, have been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities two-year grant beginning October 1, 2013, in "Scholarly Editions"; for the translation of volume four of Fayz Muhammad Katib Hazarah, *Sirâj al-tawârîkh*.

Afsaneh Najmabadi, PI of Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran, received a grant from Roshan Cultural Institute for the development of a Research Platform linked with WWQI site. An article about this digital archive will appear in the November issue of *Perspectives*, the newsletter of the American Historical Association. Najmabadi published an article titled "Genus Of Sex Or The Sexing Of Jins" in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 45 (2013), 211–231. Her book *Professing Selves: Transsexuality and Same-Sex Desire in Contemporary Iran* will be published by Duke University Press in December 2013.

Alam Saleh, Lecturer in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Bradford, has published *Ethnic Identity and the State in Iran*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.



Iranian Studies, volume 46, number 5, October 2013 has been published: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cist20/current

This issue and the Iranian Studies Journal archives are available to ISIS members by logging into their account on the ISIS website www.iranianstudies.com



REPORT ON RESEARCH TRIP TO ISFAHAN (MAY 2013):

Tracing Nosrat Amin's Scholarly and Social Activities

Maryam Javanshir Rutner, PhD Candidate at New York University

With the generous financial support from the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft (DMG, German Oriental Society), I had the privilege of undertaking a research trip to Isfahan this past summer to investigate the life and works of Nosrat Amin (Banu Isfahani, d. 1983), Iran's most outstanding mojtaheda of the 20th century. Amin is the main figure in my dissertation project, which broadly deals with Shi'i female religious authority in 20th century Iran.1

Even though at least four popular biographies have been written in Persian about Amin, there still remain many uncertainties about her life, her scholarship, her role as an innovative pedagogue, and her normative commitments. The main goal of the trip to Isfahan was to address these uncertainties by identifying archival resources, collecting testimonies of Amin's former students, and interviewing contemporaries of Amin.

One of the uncertainties relates to two educational institutions that Amin founded in the 1960s in Isfahan. The biographies as well as my informants have made contradictory assertions as to what actually happened to these institutions after the 1979 revolution. One of the two institutions is Maktab-e Fatemeh, where female students were educated in the Islamic Sciences up to the end of the second (sutuh) cycle of the three cycles in traditional religious schooling. The other school is the Dabirestan-e Amin, a girls' high school. During my trip, I was able to locate both institutions, but I could only research the history of the maktab. I plan to visit the dabirestan again during a future search trip.

Amin's maktab is located in Kuche-ye Amin, behind Bid Abad Bazaar, and it is now in a devastated condition (as can be seen on the picture).² The current director confirmed that the maktab had been closed down and revived time and again after the revolution; this usually happened after the death of a director or when a director was too old to manage the affairs of the maktab. The maktab opened its doors again in 2012. A 'faithful member of the neighborhood', as the director introduced him, currently supports the maktab financially and the director runs its curriculum affairs; which mostly consists of deciding which parts and in which order the Qur'an is being read. She is also one of the very few teachers at the maktab. The

teachers are expected to have completed the second level (sath-e dow) of the contemporary degree program at the religious seminary (hawza 'elmiyyeh) for female students. At present, the maktab offers Qur'an lessons three days a week for two to three hours in the mornings that are mostly frequented by women from the neighborhood. These women are not students (talabeh) enrolled in a degree program of religious sciences, but instead women who wish to be able to read the Qur'an and who otherwise mostly work as housewives.

Apart from researching the post-1979 history of the maktab, I also wished to find out more about the post-revolutionary reception of Amin's 15-volume tafsir Makhzan al-'Irfan, and to this effect investigated whether the tafsir is being read or taught in the maktab today. Apparently, the women at the maktab do not read any tafsir work at all. While this is being done in the religious seminaries that offer degree programs, the director indicated that Amin's tafsir would not be read there either, neither by male nor female students. Instead, the religious seminaries for women teach either the Nemunah by Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi or al-Mizan by 'Allameh Tabataba'i. It is interesting to note that Makhzan al-'Irfan is believed to be too difficult to teach to female seminary students, but otherwise held to be an 'irfani (mystical) work for the literate masses ('amma) by contemporary 'ulama' and scholars of religious sciences, whom I have interviewed about Amin's works. At the same time, these scholars admitted not to have read the work. As of yet, a comprehensive and analytical engagement with Amin's tafsir does not exist that would shed light on the quality and objectives of Amin's tafsir. This is one of the lacuna I seek to fill with my dissertation.



- ¹ See also my article forthcoming in the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies (JMEWS), titled "Nusrat Amin: The Changing Authority of A Female Religious Scholar."
- ² See also the public letter to the Isfahan municipality posted here: http://meis.as.nyu.edu/object/aminmaktab. Please email me at Maryam Rutner mr2842@nyu.edu if you would consider signing it.



OBITUARY

Amin Banani, founder of the Iranian Studies Program at UCLA, died July 28 in Santa Monica at the age of 86. In 1989, he helped launch the western world's first bachelor of arts program in Iranian studies.

An emeritus professor of history and Persian literature, Banani once served as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and acting director of the Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA.

Banani graduated with a major in history from Stanford University in 1947. He obtained his M.A. from Columbia University in 1949 and returned to Stanford for his Ph.D., which he received in 1959.

His academic career began in 1956 when he taught history at the Overseas Program of the University of Maryland in Athens, Greece, until 1958. He became an instructor at Stanford University and then taught as an assistant professor of humanities at Reed College from 1959-61. From 1961-63, he worked as a research fellow and assistant professor at Harvard University.

In September 1963, he was invited to UCLA by Professor Gustave von Grunebaum to establish a program of Persian studies.

Banani served on the Board of Directors of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and on the Executive Council of the Society for Iranian Studies. He was vice president of the American Association of Iranian Studies.

He is the author of "The Modernization of Iran" (1961) and editor and contributing author of "The Epic of Kings" (1967), "Islam and Its Cultural Divergence" (1971), "Iran Faces the Seventies" (1971) and "Individualism and Conformity in Classical Islam," among numerous other publications.

He is survived by his wife Sheila Wolcott, daughters Susanne and Laila, and two grandchildren.

Dr. Nasser Sharify, Dean Emeritus of Pratt Institute and renowned Persian poet and scholar, passed away on August 23, 2013. Sharify, considered a father of International Librarianship, died peacefully, with his daughter and son-in-law at his side. At the time of his death, Sharify had just published *A Homeful Sound*, his second volume of poetry in English that was also translated into French. The title poem was written for and presented to the Shah of Iran in 1954 and then broadcast by Tehran radio.

While attending college in Iran, his poetry and literary articles appeared in magazines and his song lyrics were performed by famous artists on the radio and in films. At the age of 25, he wrote a screenplay in Farsi entitled "Morad". After his graduation from Tehran University in 1947, he joined the staff of All India Radio in New Delhi as an announcer and as poet in residence. When Gandhi was assassinated a year later, Sharify announced the tragic news on the air. Soon afterwards, Sharify emigrated to the United States where he received his Masters and Doctoral degrees from Columbia University in New York City.

At the time of his death, Sharify was the Distinguished Professor and Dean Emeritus at the Graduate School of Information and Library Science at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. From 1968-1987 he served as Dean at Pratt. A year later in 1988, Pratt Institute established the Nasser Sharify Lecture Series, which was created to honor Dean Sharify's 40 years of contributions to library and information science. In 1999, the American Library Association adopted a resolution to express its 'profound appreciation to Nasser Sharify for his extraordinary and exemplary service to librarianship.' Vartan Gregorian, former President of the New York Public Library, spoke highly of his friend and colleague: "Dr. Sharify's commitment to his friends and colleagues clearly reflects his remarkable energy and generosity. Dr. Sharify helped introduce the concept of modern librarianship to Iran, where he also planned the establishment of the National Library of Iran; founded and directed the International Library Information Center at the University of Pittsburgh; and headed the International Documentation Center for the State University of New York system, which played a major role in helping to internationalize teaching and research, one of Dr. Sharify's lifelong goals. He was also instrumental, through his work with UNESCO, in designing Morocco's first and only school of information science thus far, hence creating a major center for information studies in North Africa and the Middle East."

The Hoover Institution at Stanford University has established the Nasser Sharify Archives, which includes his body of work. His legacy will live on through the Nasser Sharify Foundation. Founded in 2004, the foundation promotes scholarship, education, and research in the fields of Information and Library Sciences, literary achievement in the Persian and English languages, and public awareness in multicultural issues.

Nasser Sharify is predeceased by his sister Saideh Taslimi and his brothers Mansour and Massoud Sharify. He is survived by his ex-wife Homayoun Gloria Sharify, his sister Firouzeh Ameri, his children Sharareh Cherie Goldsmith and Shahab John Sharify, his son-in-law Rick Goldsmith, and his daughter-in-law Denise Sharify, and his nephew Farid Sharifi. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Tanya Goldsmith, Michelle Goldsmith Spatz, Jade Sharify, and Perry Sharify.

A memorial for Dr. Sharify will be held on November 2, 6:00 p.m., at the Pratt Institute, Manhattan Campus, 2nd floor, 144 W. 14th Street (between 6th and 7th Ave.), New York, New York. In addition, the Iranian American Society of New York is honoring Dr. Sharify on November 3 (see http://www.iasnewyork.org/home.php).



NEW IRANIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS AND CENTERS

In February 2012 the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Concordia University in Montréal, Canada voted to establish a Centre for Iranian Studies, the first such formal academic unit at a Canadian university. This initiative built upon an existing Iranian Studies programme established in 2007 with an undergraduate minor in Iranian Studies. The Centre groups together faculty from different departments and disciplines, including the Director, Richard Foltz, who is a cultural historian, Lynda Clarke, who is a specialist in Shi'ism and formerly taught Persian Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, Mark Hale, a linguist specializing in ancient Iranian Languages who previously taught at Harvard, Homa Hoodfar, an anthropologist specializing in women's studies, and Manya Saadi-nejad, a specialist in Iranian mythology who also teaches Modern Persian. The Centre recently sponsored a public lecture by Dr. John Curtis of the British Museum on the Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia. Currently some 15 MA and PhD students are affiliated with the Centre, a number of whom have been awarded scholarships from the PARSA, Houtan, and Soudavar Foundations.

The Centre for Iranian Studies at Concordia is an institutional member of ISIS and is the main host institution for the 2014 ISIS meeting in Montréal.

VISIT THE NEW FACEBOOK PAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES AT:

HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/INTERNATIONALSOCIETYFORIRANIANSTUDIES



AWARDS

New ISIS Dissertation Award

In May 2013 ISIS signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Mehrdad Mashayekhi Foundation to establish the Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award. Dr. Mashayekhi (1953-2011) was a sociologist who dedicated his life to the cause of democracy and social justice in Iran. This new dissertation award is presented biannually to the author of an exceptional Ph.D. dissertation dealing with the broad themes of politics and the public sphere in Iran, written in any language. The first Mehrdad Mashayekhi Dissertation Award will be presented at the Opening Reception of the Tenth ISIS Biennial Conference in Montreal, Canada (August 2014). The award winner will be notified in time to make travel arrangements to attend the award ceremony. The members of the award committee are Farideh Farhi (Chair; University of Hawai'i at Manoa), Ali Akbar Mahdi (California State University, Northridge) and Charles Kurzman (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). ISIS is now calling for nominations for dissertations completed in Winter 2010-Fall 2013. SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2014. To nominate a dissertation for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/bestDissertation

The Rahim M. Irvani Dissertation Award is presented biennially to the author of an exceptional PhD dissertation on Persian literature and its cognate fields, written in any language. Established by Zinat Irvani in memory of her philanthropist husband, in addition to a cash prize, this award also includes the option of a contract for the publication of the revised and peer-reviewed manuscript by I.B. Tauris. ISIS is now calling for nominations for dissertations completed between Winter 2012-Fall 2013. The second Rahim Irvani Award will be presented at the Opening Reception of the Tenth ISIS Biennial Conference (August 2014) in Montreal, Canada. Nominators should be the thesis supervisor or member of the thesis committee. SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2014. To nominate a dissertation for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/bestDissertation

The Ehsan Yarshater Book Award is to advance the scholarship on Ancient Iranian Civilization and its cognate fields. Professor Ehsan Yarshater is an internationally recognized scholar who has made a major contribution to the field of Iranian Studies. The ISIS Council designated Professor Yarshater an honorary member in 1999. To nominate a book for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/ehsanYarshater

The Latifeh Yarshater Award was instituted by the Persian Heritage Foundation to honor the memory of Latifeh Yarshater and her lifelong dedication to the improvement of Iranian women's human rights. The purpose of the award is to encourage scholarship in Iranian Studies focused on the condition of women in Persian speaking societies and to promote women's rights in these societies. To nominate a scholar for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/latifehYarshater

The Life-Time Achievement Award in Iranian Studies was instituted in 2006 under the leadership of ISIS President Janet Afary. It is awarded biennially to a Scholar Residing and Working Inside Iran, as well as to a Scholar Residing and Working Outside Iran. To nominate a scholar for this award, visit http://iranianstudies.com/awards/lifetimeAchievement

The Saidi-Sirjani Book Award is granted biennially by the International Society for Iranian Studies on behalf of the Persian Heritage Foundation. The purpose of the Award is to recognize and promote scholarship in the field of Iranian studies, as well as to honor the memory of Ali-Akbar Saidi-Sirjani (1931-1994), the noted Iranian historian, literary critic, and author, in appreciation for his scholarship, his courage, and his indefatigable struggle for freedom of expression.

Works qualifying for the prize will consist of (a) original studies or syntheses in the field of Iranian Studies; (b) critical editions of significant texts in Iranian Studies; and (c) translations from an Iranian language, accompanied by scholarly annotations and extensive research. The Award is primarily intended to be given to books published in English.

Works on the pre-Islamic periods, works of fiction and poetry, and edited collections are excluded. To be considered for the Award, works should be of monograph length and published by a recognized publishing house. Books for the 2014 Award should have been published in 2012 or 2013. The deadline for submission or nomination is December 31, 2013.

Note to Publishers: Two copies of nominated books should be sent to Committee Chair Professor Ali Gheissari, Department of History, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492, E-mail: ali.gheissari@gmail.com. Nominations can also be submitted at http://www.iranianstudies.com/awards/saidiSirjani

NEW MAGAZINE

Cine-eye, a Persian-language cultural magazine was launched in Toronto earlier this year. It is edited by Iranian film critic Parviz Jahed and has published four issues so far. More information at:

https://www.facebook.com/CineEyeMagazine http://www.amazon.com/Cine-Eye-No-1-Cinema-Cheshm-Persian-Edition.dp/1780831684

PHD DISSERTATIONS (recently completed or about to complete)

Sara Saljoughi, PhD candidate in the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota is writing a dissertation titled "Burning Visions: The Iranian New Wave and the Politics of the Image, 1962-1979." For the 2013-2014 academic year, the research is being supported by a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship. The dissertation focuses particularly on the New Wave's expression of social antagonism in Iran. Through formal analyses of key New Wave films by figures such as Forough Farrokhzad, Fereydoun Rahnema, Parviz Kimiavi, and Kamran Shirdel, this project demonstrates that the New Wave draws on centuries of varied media practices in order to put forth its own intermedial history of art and antagonism. The dissertation argues that the formal experimentation evident during this period challenges the reigning discourses within which Iranian cinema has been understood, namely realism, narrative art cinema, and theories of national cinema. The project offers both a new theory of cinema and a social history of contemporary Iranian visual culture.

Shawhin Roudbari (Architecture, Berkeley), is filing his dissertation titled "The Transnational Transformation of Architecture Practice: Iranian Architects in the New Geography of Professional Authority, 1945-2012." Shawhin's dissertation explores ways migration, travel, and globally circulating media affect modern Iranian architecture through its professional associations, publications, awards, and competitions. After providing a history of transnationalism in the founding of Iran>s modern architecture profession, the dissertation investigates ways architects were persecuted during the revolution and how the subsequent political isolation of Iran inhibited the advance of design practice through the 1990s. The dissertation then examines how global networks of Iranian architects mobilized domestic institutions to usher a rapid, unbridled expansion of the field with its attending promises and pitfalls. It is argued that the sudden exposure to global networks of design practice have disrupted structures of authority in Iran's profession and that the case of Iran uniquely highlights a breakdown of hierarchy in the architecture profession globally. Shawhin hopes to expand his research on transnationalism, migration, and professional institutions when he joins the faculty at the University of Colorado at Boulder as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Environmental Design in spring 2014. See also shawhinroudbari.com.



SIXTH ASPS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Report on the Sixth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS), held September 2-6, 2013 in Sarajevo

Dubbed "an historic event the likes of which shall occur every 100 years in Sarajevo," Sarajevo hosted the past ASPS biennial conference in which a great number of highly acclaimed international scholars from over 20 countries, as well as some of the most prestigious academic institutions from Asia, Europe and North America participated. Especially noteworthy was the truly international presence of scholars from the Persianate world, which besides scholars from the US and Europe included colleagues from Armenia, Georgia, Tajikistan, India, Iran, and of course Bosnia-Herzegovina. ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013 hosted around 46 panels and close to 250 participants. The conference show-cased a rich array of scholarly papers, presented by some of the most renowned as well as younger scholars in the field of Persianate studies.

ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013 was the result of collaboration between ASPS and its hosts and co-sponsors in Sarajevo. Foremost amongst these latter were the Bosniak Institute, Adil Zulfikarpašić Foundation, Sarajevo, which, under the directorship of Ms. Amina Rizvanbegović-Džuvić, graciously provided the conference with the historic and exquisite site of the Bosniac Institute as a venue. Another important partner and one of the main sponsors of the Conference was the Oriental Institute, Sarajevo, under the directorship of Dr. Behija Zlatar, which provided logistic and administrative support.

ASPS/Sarajevo 2013 was also most fortunate in obtaining the co-sponsorship of the Gazi Husrev Beg Library, which under the directorship of Mr. Mustafa Jahić, and Mr. Osman Lavić, its librarian, show-cased an exhibition, held throughout the conference, of some of the most unique, early modern, Persian manuscripts, from amongst thousands, currently held at the Gazi Husrev Beg library. The participants were especially impressed by the great wealth and number of early modern manuscripts held at the Gazi Husrev Beg library, and the knowledge that the participants garnered of the very existence of this rich treasure of Persian Mss. in Sarajevo, has already paved the way for research possibilities for the participants in the Gazi Husrev Beg library. The library also graciously opened the doors of its small and exquisite museum to the participants of the Conference for duration of the conference. Throughout the Conference, the Bosniac Institute also show-cased a small collection of its rare Persian Mss., numbered close to a thousand in total, for the benefit of participants, which was held at the beautiful Ottoman hamam of the Bosniac Institute. Among other highlights of the Conference was also an exhibition of exquisite Sarajevan calligraphy, which was opened on Sept. 3rd in the Gazi Husrev Beg Khanegah, and a book exhibit, held at the Bosniac Institute.

ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013, was honored to have the co-sponsorship of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo; St. Anthony Franciscan Monastery, Sarajevo; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Ministry of Culture, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Honorable Professor Doctor Ivo Komšić, Mayor of Sarajevo; the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the honorable Salmir Kaplan, Minister, and finally the Academy of Fine Arts, Sarajevo, and professor Ćazim Hadžimejlić.

Professor Said Amir Arjomand, who functioned as the Master of Ceremonies, began the Inaugural Night of the Conference with highlighting the achievements of ASPS in launching one of the largest ASPS conferences in the history of the Association. Ms. Amina Rizvanbegović-Džuvić, the Director of the Bosniac Institute, delivered a speech wherein she detailed the fascinating history of the Bosniac Institute and its founder, Adil Zulfikarpaša and the Adil Zulfikarpašic Foundation. Dr. Ahmed Zildžić, recently appointed Regional Director of the ASPS in the Balkans (Oriental Institute, Sarajevo) and Professor Snježana Buzov, both also members of the Board of Directors of ASPS and the Chairs of the Host Committee of the Organization of the Conference, followed suit, with Dr. Zildžić providing the audience with the history of the destructions wrought on the Oriental Institute and its extensive Persian manuscript collections during the war years, and its revival in its aftermath.

Professor Salma Farooqui then delivered a Memorandum by Vice Chancellor, Professor Mohammad Miyan, in which the details of a new and unprecedented, Visiting Scholar Fellowship (to be announced in upcoming months), and the collaboration between MANUU and ASPS were outlined.

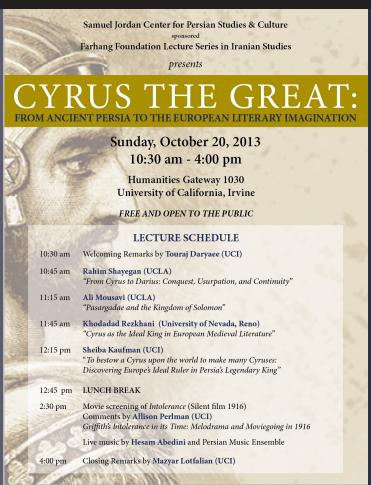
By far one of the greatest highlights of ASPS/SARAJEVO 2013 was the Association's unique and unprecedented ceremonies for honoring and paying tribute to the leading fiction-writer of 20th and 21st centuries Iran, Mr. Mahmoud Dowlatabadi. The event was organized through the Artistic Directorship of Ms. Ariana Barkeshli, the Iranian "Keyboard Scheherazade," and the Artistic Director of the Conference. Following the introduction by the Master of Ceremonies of the Tribute Night, Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Mr. Dowlatabadi delivered a key-note speech, Words Etched in Rock, The Artist's View of His Life and Art, where the audience was captivated by a poignant and touching piece, composed and read by the writer, of his life and work. Maestro Ariana Barkeshli's brilliant performance of pieces by modern Iranian composers, Aminollah Hossein and Alireza Mashayeki, then alternated with readings of excerpts of the work of Mr. Dowlatabadi by the writer himself.

The renowned Persian classical vocalist and musician, Ms. Sepideh Raissadat, and her ensemble, Mr. Pasha Karami and Mr. Iman Vaziri joined the eastern musical tradition with that of the Balkans, with the performance of the celebrated Amira Medunjanin, on Sept. 5th, for a memorable night of music. On Sept. 6th, a substantial number of the participants joined on the trip that ASPS/SARAJEVO had organized to the beautiful Persianate city, of Mostar, where, on the way, they also paid a visit to a beautiful khaneqah near the city and had lunch (trout!) by the river.

Parvaneh Pourhariati, ASPS President

12





AWARDS AND HONORS

Patricia Crone of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton has won the Houshang Poushariati Book Award in Iranian Studies for her recent publication *Nativist Prophets of Early Islamic Iran: Rural Revolt and Local Zoroastrianism* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Congratulations!

Patricia Crone's latest book is about the Iranian response to the Muslim penetration of the Iranian countryside, the revolts subsequently triggered there, and the religious communities that these revolts revealed. The book also describes a complex of religious ideas that, however varied in space and unstable over time, has demonstrated a remarkable persistence in Iran across a period of two millennia. The central thesis is that this complex of ideas has been endemic to the mountain population of Iran and occasionally become epidemic with major consequences for the country, most strikingly in the revolts examined here, and in the rise of the Safavids who imposed Shi'ism on Iran. This learned and engaging book by one of the most influential scholars of early Islamic history casts entirely new light on the nature of religion in pre-Islamic Iran, and on the persistence of Iranian religious beliefs both outside and inside Islam after the Arab conquest.

The Foundation for Iranian Studies has conferred its 2012 award for the best Ph.D. Dissertation on a Topic of Iranian Studies to D. Gershon Lewental's dissertation "Qâdisiyyah, then and now: A case study of history and memory, religion, and nationalism in Middle Eastern discourse," submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at Brandeis University.

In making its decision, the Committee noted that D. Gershon Lewental has made an "exceptional contribution to the field of Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies" by, among other achievements, "stating clearly the study's problematic... constructing an adequate and efficient theoretical framework... developing and using successfully a rigorous methodology to bring together a significant array of primary and secondary sources, including several hitherto unknown or unpublished sources, to support an innovative approach to the study of history and historiography in general and of the Middle East in particular, using the Battle of Qâdisiyyah as a case... meticulously comparing sources on Qâdesiyyah selected judiciously from different ethnic, linguistic, social, and cultural milieus at successive historical periods to elucidate the impact of ideology, religion, and politics overtime on shaping facts, structuring literature, and creating and imprinting history, signifying that good scholarship ought to view, treat, assess, and produce history critically... identifying openings to further study of the evolution of Islam, ethnicity and nationalism in Iran, the Middle East, and beyond... excellent organization of the work."

The Committee also cited Alireza Mohammadi Doostdar's dissertation "Fantasies of Reason: Science, Superstition, and the Supernatural in Iran" submitted to the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, and Matthew Melvin-Koushki's dissertation "The Quest for a Universal Science: The Occult Philosophy of Sa'in al-Din Turka Isfahani (1369-1432) and Intellectual Millenarianism in Early Timurid Iran" submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School, Yale University, with honorable mention for superior scholarship, originality, clarity, and significant contribution to Iranian Studies

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE AWARD, SELECTION CRITERIA, AND PREVIOUS WINNERS

CONSULT THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE AT WWW.FIS-IRAN.ORG, PROGRAMS, DISSERTATION AWARDS. INQUIRIES SHOULD BE EMAILED TO FIS@FIS-IRAN.ORG.



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES (ISIS)

TENTH BIENNIAL IRANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

Montréal, Québec, Canada, Hilton Bonaventure Hotel Wednesday August 6, 2014- Sunday August 10, 2014

PROGRAM CHAIR'S UPDATE:

The ISIS Call for Papers for its 10th Biennial Conference, to be held in Montreal in 2014, had a robust response: By June 30, 2013--the deadline for the submission of proposals—we had received over 400 proposals from individual participants, roughly half of which were for presentations in pre-organized panels.

In preparation for the adjudication process, the proposals were divided into the following broad categories: 01--Religion; 02-- Political science, economics, social studies; 03--History and historiography; 04--Literature; 05--Linguistics; 06--Art, architecture, urban planning; 07--Cinema, media, communications; 08--Culture, science, education; 09--Gender; 10--Diaspora; 11--Pre-Islamic legacies. These proposals were assigned for assessment to the members of the Program Committee –twenty-nine highly regarded scholars from across the globe, whose research covers the disciplines listed above.

The reviews were conducted "blindly", through the newly-refurbished adjudication system on the ISIS website, created and managed by our Web designer Pendar Yousefi. It allows reviewers long-distance access to the abstracts, but keeps confidential the personal information of the applicants (name, status, academic affiliation, country of residence), to ensure the impartiality of the assessments.

The deadline for submitting the reviews was September 30, 2013. All assessments are now in our system, and we are embarking on the next stage of the adjudication process: namely, the processing of the assessment results and drawing up a list of selected candidates. This selection is done on the bases of the adjudication ratings of the applicants' proposals, and taking into account the limitations of space and time, which the Conference schedule imposes on us. We hope to be able to announce the results of the selection process towards the end of October or early November.

All applicants will receive in their ISIS My Accounts a notification regarding the outcome of the adjudication, and the status of their proposal. A list of candidates, selected for participation in the conference, will also be posted on the ISIS website. The names and academic affiliations of the Program Committee members will be made public at the same time. The publication of the results will also be announced by e-mail, through the ISIS group list.

Marta Simidchieva • 2014 ISIS Conference, Program Chair

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF IRANIAN STUDIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Persian Language Study in Tehran

AllrS offers two-month fellowships for advanced language study in Tehran at the Dehkhoda Institute. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are enrolled in a Doctoral or Masters 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. Applications must include a curriculum vitae and be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information: citizenship; research plans, level of Persian attained and what degree of proficiency is required; academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate); names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the primary academic advisor). Referees should e-mail their letters of recommendation directly to AllrS and include mention of relevance of Persian to the dissertation; evaluation of the project and how study in Iran will enhance dissertation work; student's level of maturity and adaptability to conditions in Iran. The deadline for receiving applications is January 10. The deadline for receiving letters of recommendation is January 15. Please check with AllrS for program information before applying for this grant. aiis@nyc.rr.com

Pre-doctoral Dissertation Research in Iranian Studies

AllrS offers fellowships for one- to two-month research travel to countries with resources essential to the dissertation. These fellowships enable students in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in relevant foreign countries. It is the responsibility of the applicant to receive permission to conduct the intended research from the pertinent authorities prior to making the application. Applicants must be U.S. citizens who are enrolled in a Doctoral program in the humanities or social sciences and have an approved research topic. Applications must include a curriculum vitae and be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information: citizenship; research plans; academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate); names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the primary academic advisor). Referees should e-mail their letters of recommendation directly to AlIrS and include an evaluation of the project and how study at the particular foreign resource(s) will enhance dissertation work. The deadline for receiving applications is January 10. The deadline for receiving letters of recommendation is January 15. Applications should be e-mailed to: aiis@nyc.rr.com



18

Short-term Senior Fellowships in Iranian Studies

AllrS offers short-term senior fellowships for research travel to Iran of up to four weeks' duration but will also consider short-term visits to other countries with resources essential to the research. These fellowships 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 or relevant other countries. It is the responsibility of the applicant to receive permission to conduct the intended research from the pertinent Iranian or other-country authorities prior to making the application. Applicants 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 the 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 addresses of the relevant contacts in Iran who have provided permission to research; the names and e-mail addresses of two referees and a curriculum vitae. Please specify preferred dates of travel. Applications should be e-mailed to: aiis@nyc.rr.com

Senior Fellowships for Iranian Scholars

AllrS offers senior fellowships for a period of up to three months for established scholars in Iran with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in the U.S. and work collaboratively with U.S. scholars. Applicants must be Iranian citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with English fluency, a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran, and publications in scholarly journals. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a curriculum vitae and a letter explaining the applicant's project and how the opportunity of pursuing research in the United States (citing names of specific libraries, archival collections and/or conferences that will have a direct bearing on the research) would enhance the results. The applicant should also include three letters of reference from colleagues well-acquainted with the applicant's work, including at least one reference from the applicant's home institution. Preference will be given to applicants providing the names of relevant contacts in the U.S. who have extended an invitation and permission to conduct research, and copies of such letters of invitation/permission should be submitted along with the application. Please specify preferred dates of travel. Applications should be submitted at least eight months prior to desired travel dates and should be e-mailed to: aiis@nyc.rr.com

Conference Attendance Fellowships for Iranian Scholars

AllrS offers fellowships for short visits for Iranian scholars with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to deliver papers at conferences in the U.S. Applicants must be Iranian citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with English fluency, a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran, and publications in scholarly journals. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a curriculum vitae and a letter explaining the applicant's paper topic and how the opportunity of attending the conference would benefit the research and the conference. The applicant must include a letter of invitation from the conference mentioning the topic of the paper to be delivered. Applications should be submitted at least eight months prior to desired travel dates and should be e-mailed to: aiis@nyc.rr.com · Website: www.simorgh-aiis.org

BRISMES Annual Conference 2014, 14-16 June, University of Sussex

The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies calls for submissions for its 2014 annual conference, which will be held at the University of Sussex on 14-16 June 2014. The deadline for submitting paper and panel proposals is 5 December 2013. Proposals must be no longer than 250 words and submitted electronically via the conference website www.brismes2014.co.uk

Proposals for complete panel sessions are particularly welcome. There will be a number of dedicated, professional development and policy-relevant sessions. Please feel free to communicate ideas for, these sessions via the conference website. For further information and the Meeting Theme, "The Middle East in Global Perspective: Interactions Across Time and Space", please visit the conference website www. brismes2014.co.uk.

Northeastern Illinois University to Name Hall After Late Prime Minister Mossadegh

Chicago— Northeastern Illinois University will make history when it names a student area in its College of Business and Management Building in honor of the late Iranian Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh on Oct. 5. This is the first time a university has honored the prime minister. The hall, which will be named Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh Servant Leaders Hall, is a gathering place for Northeastern students, faculty and staff and is used for many events and receptions throughout the year. Along with naming the hall, Northeastern Illinois University has established an endowed student scholarship and lecture fund under the name of the former prime minister. For more information, see http://www.neiu.edu/About%20NEIU/NEIU%20Foundation/MMLF/About/About_Dr._Mossadegh_Campaign.html



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Assistant Professor of Contemporary Iran. Indiana University, Bloomington, Central Eurasian Studies Department, seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor of contemporary Iran with disciplinary specialization in anthropology or sociology.

Applicants should have a strong record in the study of issues within Iranian societies during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Native or near-native fluency in Persian/Farsi is expected as is fieldwork in Iran and/or among Iranian diasporas. Proficiency in other Iranian, Central Asian, and European languages will be valuable.

Candidates should have the Ph.D. at time of appointment and demonstrate commitment to research, teaching, and working on program development with Indiana University's world-class faculty of Iranian and Central Asian studies.

The appointment will begin fall 2014. Application materials, including a cover letter, CV, three reference letters, samples of published or in-press work, and teaching evaluations should be submitted online at http://indiana.peopleadmin.com/postings/.

Inquiries and any hard copy submissions can be directed to:

Ms. Jackie Breeding CEUS, Goodbody Hall 157, 1011 East Third St., Bloomington,
IN 47405-7005 or jmbreedi@indiana.edu.

Applications received by November 30, 2013 are assured full consideration. Indiana University is an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer and is committed to employing quality faculty who will enhance the rich diversity of our academic community.

ISIS-SPONSORED PANEL AT MESA

ISIS is interested in sponsoring one or two pre-organized panels at next year's Middle East Studies Association Conference which will be held in Washington, DC November 22-25, 2014.

If you are interested in putting together such a panel, please contact ISIS President Mehrzad Boroujedi at mborouje@syr.edu

WORKSHOP

'Of Ālimahs, Muhaddithahs, and Mujtahidahs':
"The Past and Present of Female Religious Authority in Shi'i Islam"
Princeton University, 6-8 March 2014

Conveners: Mirjam Künkler (Princeton University, USA) and Keiko Sakurai (Waseda University, Japan)

We invite paper proposals that focus on Shi'ite female religious authority across any time period. The workshop has the aim of taking stock of the research developments in this field and establishing a research network of those scholars working on the issue in diverse geographic environments and across various time frames. The network can then identify possibilities and occasions for further research collaborations and the development of larger, comparative and inter-disciplinary research projects incorporating the findings developed here.

Deadline for proposals 1 November 2013
The call for papers is posted at:
http://www.kikou.waseda.ac.jp/ias/data/files/CfPFemRelAuth.pdf

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LIBRARY NEWS

ONLINE CATALOGING FOR THE NEW SERIES OF ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS AT PRINCETON

Cataloging is now available online for the entire collection of the nearly 2200 manuscripts comprising the New Series of Islamic Manuscripts in the Manuscripts Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library. The New Series constitutes the premier collection of predominantly Shi`ite manuscripts in the Western Hemisphere and among the finest in the world. The online records have been created as part of the Islamic Manuscripts Cataloging and Digitization Project, to improve access to these rich collections and share them worldwide through digital technology. Generous support from the David A. Gardner '69 Magic Project has funded this ongoing effort. Researchers can now locate Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Turkish manuscripts by searching the Library's online catalog: http://catalog.princeton.edu.

Over the past two years, the Princeton University Library has created online bibliographic records covering over 800 Persian and Ottoman Turkish manuscripts in the New Series. Most of these had previously been described only in abbreviated format in the Preliminary Checklist of Uncataloged Islamic Manuscripts in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library, while approximately 200 of them were completely undocumented. Each manuscript was given a full catalog record that includes an authorized name, title and title variations where appropriate, dating in both Hijri and Gregorian formats, incipit, physical description of the entire manuscript, description of the text, references, and appropriate subject headings.

The newly cataloged manuscripts largely reflect the core topical focus of the New Series, namely the rich intellectual and spiritual tradition of Shi`ite Islam. In Persian this tradition is represented mainly by works on doctrine, prayer, and the lives of the Imams, composed after the rise of the Safavids down to the early 20th century. Noteworthy are three manuscripts purporting to be in the handwriting of the prolific Muhammad Baqir al-Majlisi: 'Ayn al-hayat (no. 775), Zad al-ma`ad (no. 1495), and Ziyarat-i 'Ashura (no. 1450). Of the more unusual manuscripts are two volumes of a four-volume work on doctrine, likely Shaykhi, the Bahjat al-arwah by Nasir al-Islam, an autograph manuscript written in the 1920s (no. 190 and no. 470); as well as the second volume of Bahr al-masa'ib by Muhammad Riza Parvin, an autograph manuscript dated 1862 which recounts the martyrdoms of the Prophet's family (no. 471).

The New Series also contains numerous collections of poetry by both famous and lesser known poets in Persian. The entire works of Tughra-yi Mashhadi are collected in a two-volume manuscript dated 1696 (no. 372-373), and there is an autograph collection of the poems of Musahibi Na'ini, written in 1893-1902 (no. 132). While there is ample representation of poets hailing from Persia, there are also manuscripts of Persian poetry by Indian poets, such as Ghanimat (no. 2065) and Ghaws (no. 2068). Also worth mentioning is the small collection of Ottoman Turkish poetry, which includes the *Tale of Seyfülmülûk* by an unknown author (no. 1558).

While the bulk of the series is comprised of Shi`ite works and Persian poetry, there are substantial holdings in medicine, history, grammar, lexicology, astronomy, astrology, occultism, Sufism, and Sunni law. For example, Bektashi Sufi doctrine and practice is addressed by a collection of Ottoman Turkish texts which includes the *Fakrname* attributed to Ja`far al-Sadiq (no. 2043), and in Persian of Indian origin are several commentaries by Parvanah Shah on the *Siraj-i anjan*, a Sufi treatise written by Muḥammad Siraj Allah and `Abd Siraj al-Raḥman (no. 1794, no. 1812, and no. 1853). The tradition of illumination is well-attested in the series, a striking example being a richly illuminated copy of the *Mi'at kalimah* with interlinear Persian translation (no. 710). Additionally, a few manuscripts contain miniatures, such as *Layla va Majnun* by Hatifi (no. 1585) and a Persian translation of the Ramayana (no. 1751).

For more information about the cataloging, contact Denise L. Soufi, Islamic Manuscripts Cataloger, at delsoufi@princeton.edu; for information about the overall project, contact Don C. Skemer, Curator of Manuscripts, at dcskemer@princeton.edu

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