Ehsan Yarshater
Named Honorary Member of SIS

The Council of the Society for Iranian Studies has named Professor Ehsan Yarshater as an Honorary Member of the Society. According to the Constitution of the Society, "honorary membership shall be limited to outstanding, internationally recognized scholars who have made major contributions to the field of Iranian Studies." SIS President Farhad Kazemi made the announcement at The Society's Business Meetings at the 1999 MESA meetings held in Washington, D.C., where Professor Yarshater graciously accepted the nomination.

Commenting on the contributions of Professor Yarshater to the field of Iranian Studies, Dr. Kazemi explained, "Ehsan Yarshater needs no introduction. It suffice to point out that his scholarly contributions to the field of Iranian Studies are not easily matched. He has been a beacon of scholarship and unofficially but deservedly the dean of Iranian Studies for several decades. He has also been a tireless supporter of our Society in every possible way. In addition to intellectual and financial contributions, Dr. Yarshater also served as our first elected president. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor. I extend my personal congratulations to this remarkable individual, scholar, and institution builder. He is an inspiration to all of us."

On many levels, Professor Yarshater's life has been entwined with the field of Iranian Studies. Born in 1920 in Hamadan, he went on to study at the University of Tehran under scholars such as Ebrahim Pour-Davud, Mohammad Taqi Bahar, and 'Ali Asghar Hokmat. He received a D. Lit. with distinction in Persian Literature from the University of Tehran in 1947. At the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, Yarshater undertook the study of Iranian linguistics under the supervision of W. B. Henning. Upon receiving his M.A. degree in 1953, Yarshater returned to Iran, joining the Faculty of Letters at Tehran University as a lecturer in ancient languages. He became the Vice-President of the Société de la dialectologie iranienne and helped to establish the Institute for the Translation and Publication of Books (Bongab-i Tarjeman va Nasb-i Kitab) and the Book Society (Anjoman-i Kitab). In 1960, he received a Ph.D. from the University of London with a thesis entitled, "The Tati Dialect Spoken to the South of Qazvin." In 1961, he married Latifeh Alvieh, who became a lifelong companion sharing his interest in and devotion to Iranian Studies.

In 1961, Yarshater was named the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies at Columbia University. He soon undertook work on the Persian Heritage Series. Yarshater continued his scholarly investigation into Iranian dialects, leading to the publication of *Median Dialect Studies I*. In 1966, he founded the Center for Iranian Studies at Columbia University. In the 1970s, Yarshater established the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. In a recent interview published in the journal *Iranian Studies* (volume 31, numbers 3 - 4, 1998), Yarshater explained the purpose of this project, "For
The year 2000 seems like a time for something new, certainly a new look for the Newsletter, the journal, and the website of the Society. When humans undergo such a makeover it is usually to mask the ravages of aging. With the society, we are presenting a new face to the world in order to project an up-to-date, integrated image of our most public features. Does the fact that we now look better raise expectations of an inner change as well? Is this the appropriate moment for the Society not only to transform its external appearance but also to reexamine its purposes and its role in the field of Iranian Studies as a whole? I would suggest that it is the right time.

No organization can afford to remain static when the environment that justifies its existence is evolving. The field of Iranian Studies is changing in many ways. If we take the past twenty-five years as our measure, we see that the demography of the field is different now; conditions in American and European universities have changed, and maybe most significantly, conditions in Iran are greatly altered. The Society exists to serve the interests of its members and of the field. To do this it publishes this Newsletter and the journal Iranian Studies, it maintains a website and sponsors a periodic conference. Maybe it is now time to discuss whether the Society is serving its membership and the field of Iranian Studies, in the best possible ways, given its basic purpose and constraints.

I would like to encourage the membership of the Society to participate in this discussion and make known its views on the present status and future directions of the Society. The Council, the governing body of the Society, can debate these issues but its deliberations will be fully productive only when the membership at large contributes its ideas and suggestions. If the year 2000 is the symbolic catalyst for cosmetic changes in our public face, it can also inspire us to think carefully about who we are and what we want to be.

WILLIAM L. HANAWAY, PRESIDENT
THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

SIS, HAGOP KEVORKIAN CENTER, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, 50 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10012
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SIS REPORTS

FARHAD KAZEMI, SIS PAST-PRESIDENT

The Society for Iranian Studies is in as fine a shape as it has ever been. This is the result of the hard work and dedication of a large number of colleagues who have given freely their time and expertise to make this organization better. I am especially thankful to members of the Executive Committee, Council, standing committees, and other colleagues who made my tenure as President a rewarding experience.

For the first time we have been able to consolidate the offices of the Executive Secretary and the Journal's editor in one institution. As of January 2000, the Society's headquarters have officially moved to the Kevorkian Center at New York University. Our new Executive Secretary, Shiva Balaghi, and our editor, Robert D. McChesney, are sharing staff and other resources provided by the Society and New York University. Since our treasurer, Vahid Noshirvani, is at Columbia University, we are now able to have routine communication and stability in the Executive Committee. I am particularly thankful to my own institution, New York University, for its hospitality and generosity.

This past year we have devoted a great deal of our time to the forthcoming Third Biennial AIIrS-SIS Conference on Iranian Studies to be held in May 25 – 28, 2000 in Bethesda, MD. The tireless efforts of the chair of our program committee, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, ensures yet another successful scholarly gathering of specialists who will join us from all corners of the world. Many other friends and colleagues have also contributed in various forms to this conference. They will be formally acknowledged in the conference's official program. I urge you to pre-register, make your hotel reservations in advance, and partake fully in this important meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you in May.

I am pleased to report that during my tenure as the SIS President, the Council named Professor Ehsan Yarshater as our newest Honorary Member. He joins two other distinguished colleagues, Professor Ann K. S. Lambton and Mr. Iraj Afshar, in receiving this very special honor. I extend my personal congratulations to this remarkable individual, scholar, and institution builder.

[Please see the article regarding Professor Yarshater's nomination as Honorary Member of SIS on page 1 of this Newsletter.]

I end this brief report by thanking our past Executive Secretary, Kambiz Esfandi, who contributed enormously to our success. I am also most appreciative for the help of many other colleagues. I apologize if I cannot name all of them. Special thanks are due to Mahnaz Afkhami, Abbas Amanat, Said Arjomand, Ahmad Ashraf, Kathryn Babayan, Shiva Balaghi, Ali Banuazizi, Mohammad and Najmeh Batmanglij, Anne Betteridge, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, William L. Hanaway, Prudence Harper, Robert D. McChesney, Hasanali Mehran, Timothy Mitchell, Vahid Noshirvani, Catharine Stimpson, Abolali Sadavar, Linda Thomas, Ernest Tucker, Haleh Vaziri, and Ehsan Yarshater.

I am certain that the future of our Society will be even brighter. With Bill Hanaway as president, and Ahmad Ashraf succeeding him, we all look forward to even greater success.

ROBERT MCCHESENY, IRANIAN STUDIES EDITOR

The double issue of volume 31, the review of Encyclopaedia Iranica, should now be in our hands. The editor is grateful to the preliminary work done by the co-editors, Abbas Amanat, former editor of Iranian Studies and William Hanaway, in organizing and editing the contributions. There were two contributions out of 32 (one on Qajar history and the other on Islamic philosophy) that were not completed for this issue. If and when we receive them we will, of course, publish them.

There is hope for getting the journal up-to-date. Papers for the four issues of 1999 are in hand and editing is well advanced. Volume 32, no. 1 (Winter 1999) with articles by Stephanie Cronin, Hamid Farroq, John Perry, Asghar Seyed-Gohrab, and Matt Waters is about to go to press and should be in your mailboxes before the Biennial Conference. Volume 32, no. 2 (Spring 1999) a theme issue ("Wives of Women and Men") guest-edited by Afshaneh Najmabadi is mostly edited and nearly complete. The summer issue, no. 3, will be a varia issue with contributions by Cameron Michael Amin, Nobuki Kondo, Negan Mottahedeh, Negin Nabavi, and Giorgio Rota.

The fall issue will be the papers from the Qajar symposium, edited by Layla S. Diba. Beyond that we have an issue on "Local History" guest-edited by Jürgen Paul and almost enough papers for another varia issue. Other issues have been proposed for sports in Iran and Iran during the First World War. We are also planning an issue devoted to the late fifteenth century "renaissance man" Husayn b. 'Ali "Wāzīr-i Kashīfī". I would be grateful for any suggestions of likely contributors or if you yourself have a scholarly interest in Kashīfī, please get in touch with me (robert.mcchesney@nyu.edu).

Beyond this I also urge you all to think of the journal if you have an article that you believe would interest the readership. We use a peer review process, so there is no assurance of publication. However, even in cases where we reject a submission, if it shows promise we will suggest revisions to make it publishable.
SIS REPORTS cont.

VAHID NOSHIRVANI, SIS TREASURER

Despite the considerable volatility in individual items on both the revenue and expense side, the Society had another financially good year in 1999 and continued to enjoy a surplus, albeit a much smaller one than that of 1998. Some of the surplus in 1999, as in previous years, is illusory because there are future liabilities for the Sajadi-Sirjani Award announced and not paid and for the backlog in publishing the journal.

1999 being an off-year in the biennial cycle, both conference revenues and expenses fell substantially last year. Revenues from dues rose to a record level as renewals for individuals were resumed after the lapse in 1998. It is also gratifying to see the increase in institutional subscriptions. Gifts declined precipitously but were still large by our historical standards. They are still being used partly to finance the current expenditures. We hope to launch a Society-wide fund raising campaign this year to augment our endowment fund.

Journal expenses rose in tandem with the publication schedule but were still below their long term budgeted level. The Society has agreed to underwrite part of the salary of a full-time assistant who will serve as editorial assistant to the journal and offer administrative support to the Society’s office. The compensation of the assistant will be paid mainly by New York University. The Society has also invested in updating our website. We feel both these expenses will be more than justified by the benefits. Given the level of our commitments, there is an urgent need for more donations and a wider membership drive.

SHIVA BALAGHI, SIS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

It was with pleasure that I assumed the office of Executive Secretary of the SIS this past January. Having served on the Society’s Council for a year, I was well aware of the important work of the Society. Since beginning work in this capacity, I have set about establishing the framework for the coming three years when the Secretariat and the journal will share a single infrastructure at the Keckian Center of New York University. Together with Robert McChesney, we hired a new assistant, Ms. Katsuyo Motoyoshi who will begin working as assistant to the Secretariat and editorial assistant to the journal in April, 2000. Ms. Motoyoshi brings to the Society years of administrative experience, an impressive knowledge of Iran and Persian, and a dedication to the field of Iranian Studies which will serve SIS well.

Working with Robert McChesney and graphic designer, Frank Pouyermirou (Deputy Director, Grey Gallery of Art, NYU), we have helped create a new look for the Society. Beginning with the next issue, the journal will have a new cover design. This issue of the Newsletter, which I now edit, features our new layout. Our website has been completely overhauled in order to better convey important and timely information about the field of Iranian Studies. These changes will help to make the resources of the Society more readily available for our membership. Please visit it at for up to date information on the Society’s activities. If you would like to submit information on grants, employment, conferences, or exhibitions on Iran for our website or for future newsletters, please send me an email to shiva.balaghi@nyu.edu.

I am happy to announce that Professor Devin Stewart has assumed the seat on the Council that I relinquished when I became a member of the Executive Committee. A professor of Middle Eastern Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Dr. Stewart is a scholar Shi‘i Islam and of Safavid Iran. He holds degrees from Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania. Along with Dr. Mehrzad Boroujerdi, he serves as the Co-Chair of the Society’s Membership Committee.

I am especially grateful to Kambiz Eslami who has patiently answered my countless questions as I have tried to learn the ins and outs of managing the affairs of the Society. Special thanks are due to Robert McChesney, Farhad Kazemi, and Timothy Mitchell for facilitating the transition of the Society to NYU and for helping us to procure needed resources to support the Society’s important work.

EHSAN YARSHARTER Continue from page 1

years before I undertook the project I was acutely aware that a real need existed for a reliable scholarly reference work that would respond to practically all the questions and queries about the Iranian peoples: their environment, their history, their institutions, their intellectual and artistic creations, their beliefs, their folklore, their material culture, and their relations with other societies. I felt that a gap needed to be filled. As the editor of the third volume of the *Cambridge History of Iran*, he has left behind another invaluable reference tool – one that focuses on the Seleucid, Parthian and Sasanian periods. An avid art collector, Yarshater has helped bring attention to the work of contemporary Iranian artists. A sampling from the art collection *Encyclopedia Iranica* will be exhibited at the upcoming AIPR-S-SIS Conference. Throughout his career, Yarshater has combined the creativity of a visionary with the practicality of an administrator to create organizations that have advanced the field of Iranian Studies at an international level. Forging into new scholarly areas, he has advanced our knowledge of Iranian linguistics, history, and literature. Most of all, his abiding passion for things Iranian combined with a deep sense of integrity have inspired countless other scholars in the field. He remains a shining example for us all.
SAIDI-SIRJANI MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD

In the past issue of the SIS Newsletter, it was announced that the Saidi-Sirjani Memorial Book Award Committee had awarded the prize for best publication in Iranian Studies in 1997 to Dr. Ahmad Tafazoli. The Committee also noted two books as runner-ups for the award, without ranking them.

Mariana Shreve Simpson, with contributions by Massumeh Farhad, *Sultan Ibrahim Mirza’s Haft Awrang, A Princeley Manuscript from Sixteenth Century Iran* (New Haven and London: Smithsonian Institution and Yale University Press, 1997). This handsomely produced volume is focused on one of the most impressive of Persian luxury manuscripts, the seven-part compilation of Abd al-Rahman Jami’s masnavis prepared for a member of the Safavid family, Ibrahim Mirza b. Bahram b. Ismail, between 1556 and 1565, that now belongs to the Freer Gallery of Art. This book provides a comprehensive and sensitive analysis of the manuscript’s artistic, cultural, and literary significance that is grounded in a close analysis of its constituent elements—poetry, calligraphy, decoration, and illustrations and links their features both to its patrons and to the broader context of his time.

Asghar Schirazi, *The Constitution of Iran: Politics and the State in the Islamic Republic*. Translated by John O’Kane (London: I. B. Taurus, 1997). Dr. Schirazi’s book is an exhaustive study of Iran’s political society under the Islamic Republic. Taking as its starting point the constitution of 1979, it shows how the institutions set up under this fundamental law have channeled political conflict, but it also documents the many ways in which the state elites have circumvented the constitution and acted against its spirit. This is especially the case in the legislative realm, where Dr. Schirazi is the only scholar to have analyzed the wide variety of rule-making bodies and institutions that impinge on the role of the Majlis. The author also shows ways in which these bodies have bent the rules of *fajr* in order to come to grips with the problems Iran faces, and he provides a synopsis of the theological and political debates to which these adaptations have given rise.

SPOTLIGHT ON IRANIAN ART

A number of museums and galleries are displaying Iranian art this spring. Ranging from historic photographs, textiles, and calligraphy to contemporary abstract painting, the exhibitions reflect the rich diversity of Iranian art.

*Pickle and Pomegranates: Jewish Homes Near and Far* is an exhibition for children and families at the Jewish Museum through October 10, 2000. This interactive experience evokes life in two late nineteenth century households: a Lower East Side tenement in 1897 and a house of the same period in Isfahan, Iran. The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 10128, (212)423-3200.

*Turkoman Art* is a special installation on view at the Brooklyn Museum of Art through November 30, 2000. Marking a promised gift to the museum from Monir S. Farmanfarmaian, the exhibition includes jewelry, horse trappings, costumes, and textiles made for and by the Turkoman tribes of Eastern Iran and Central Asia. The collection draws attention to the tribal arts that coexisted with Qajar paintings and decorative arts in nineteenth century Iran. The Brooklyn Museum of Art, 20 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY, 11238, (718)638-5000.

*Projects 70: Banners* includes a banner designed by artist Shirin Neshat who incorporates photography with quotations of Persian poetry. The banners are on display at MOMA’s 53rd Street façade until May 1, 2000. The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019, (212)708-9400.

*Drawing the Lines: Four Iranian Artists in New York* is an exhibition organized by the Center for Iranian Modern Arts. Featuring works by Ardeesh Mohassess, Nicky Nodjoumi, Nahid Hagigat, and Hengameh Fouladvand, the exhibit will take place from March 24 – April 28, 2000 at the Maison Française, East Gallery, Buell Hall, Columbia University (116th Street and Broadway), New York, NY. For more information, consult the CIMA website at www.cimarts.org.

*Imaging the Word: Selections of Calligraphy from the Islamic World* continues through May 7, 2000; the exhibition includes pieces by Iranian artists within the context of calligraphic arts spanning from Spain to Muslim India. *Sevenpenny and the Persian Image* remains on exhibition through May 28, 2000, featuring thirty-five historical photographs of Persia from the late 1870s through the 1930s taken by Antoin Sevruguin. Both exhibitions are on display at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, 1050 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20560, (202)357-3200.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF IRANIAN STUDIES
FELLOWSHIPS:

Summer Language Study in Tehran—offers ten two-month fellowships for advanced language study in Tehran for Summer 2000. Awards made to students who are enrolled in a Ph.D. 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 cover international air travel, tuition, and room and board in Tehran. To apply send a letter which includes citizenship, research plans, degree of Persian proficiency, academic affiliation and status, reasons for applying for fellowship, two references (including the applicant’s primary academic advisor), and c.v.

Research Fellowship in Iranian Studies—offers six-month research fellowships tenable in Tehran. Next fellowship will be available in July 2000. The stipend is at the level of an assistant professor, with an allowance for international transportation. Applicants should be US citizens, have completed the Ph.D. and be proficient in Persian. To apply send a letter with a detailed description of research plans, names, addresses, and email addresses of two referees, and c.v.

Short-term senior fellowships in Iranian Studies—offers a limited number of short-term senior fellowships for two-to-four week visits to Iran for Summer 2000. The purpose of these fellowships is to enable established scholars in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in Iran. Applicants must be US citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty with some knowledge of Persian and a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran. To apply send a letter with a detailed description of research plans, names, addresses, and email addresses of two referees, and c.v.

Materials for all previous should be sent to: Brian Spooner, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6398, fax 215 898-7462

Editors for the Encyclopaedia Iranica—Ph.D. or equivalent in a field of Iranian Studies. A solid background in Persian history and culture, a thorough knowledge of Persian language or Middle or Old Iranian languages. Flawless English and a reading knowledge of at least two research languages from among German, French, and Russian. Familiarity with Arabic is a plus. Editorial skills (in English) and computer competency. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please contact: Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University, 650 Riverside Dr., #4, New York, NY 10027, (212) 851-5723, (212) 749-9524 (fax), aa398@columbia.edu

CONFERENCES

Historical, Cultural, and Intellectual Perspectives on the Left in Iran
June 30, 2000
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theater
SOAS, Russell Square, London, UK

This conference is intended to provide an opportunity for an examination and reappraisal of leftist activism in Iran, interpreted in the broadest possible sense, during the entire period of the twentieth century. The conference will deal with themes such as early developments in social-democracy in the constitutional period; the impact of the Russian Revolution and the beginnings of communism in the 1920s, the Jangali movement, the Tudeh, Islamic activism and the left, the history of trade unionism, peasant activism, the national minorities and the left, and the women’s movement. The conference is organized by The Iran History Project and The Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, SOAS; and The British Institute for Persian Studies. For more information, contact: Stephanie Cronin, Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Thornehaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H OXG UK; fax: 0171-323-6046; sc45@soas.ac.uk

Religion and Society in Qajar Iran
September 4 – 6, 2000
Clifton Hill House, University of Bristol
Bristol, UK

This conference is convened by the British Institute of Persian Studies, in conjunction with the Iran Heritage Foundation. During the Qajar period, Iran was transformed from a traditional monarchy into a constitutional state. These changes in politics, society and culture could not but impact religious life. This conference, which forms the culmination of the Religion and Society in Qajar Iran Project that has been operating since 1996. For further information, contact: Robert Gleave, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TB UK; fax: 44 (0)117-929-7850.
IRANIAN STUDIES
THE THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND, MAY 25–28, 2000

General Information

The Third Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, sponsored by the American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIIrsS) and the Society of Iranian Studies (SIS) will be held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda. The conference will begin on the evening of May 25, with on-site registration, the opening of the Book Exhibit, and the inauguration of an art exhibit featuring works from the collection of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. The program of panels, featuring scholarly presentations by leading experts on Iran from across the world, will begin on the morning of May 26 and will continue through May 28. On the evenings of May 26 and May 27, there will be a musical performance at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and a night of poetry reading by Simin Behbahani.

Book Exhibition

SIS will be sponsoring a book exhibit in the Georgetown Room at the Hyatt. Along with the publisher's tables we thought it would be a service to members to provide a "pre-owned books" table. If you would like to take part: send a list of the books (a maximum of 10 titles-this is an experiment, we can't handle entire libraries) with prices to Society for Iranian Studies (Attn. Book Exhibit), 50 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012.

Once we receive your list we will provide more detailed instructions about when and where to ship the books, unless you plan to bring them to the conference yourself. After the conference, SIS will send you a check for the sale price of your books less 20%.

Hotel Information

The Hyatt Regency Bethesda is the conference hotel where all activities will take place. The hotel is located at the Bethesda Metro Center (on the Red Line of the D.C. Metro), Wisconsin Avenue at Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814. A limited number of rooms are available at a group discount. To make your reservations, contact the hotel at (301) 657-1234 or at (800) 233-1234. For updated information on other nearby hotels, please consult the SIS website at www.iranian-studies.org.
OPENING SESSION – FRIDAY 8:00-8:45 AM

Welcoming Remarks:
Prudence Harper, President,
The American Institute of Iranian Studies
William L. Hanaway, President, The Society for Iranian Studies
Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Chair, Program Committee

SESSION 1 – FRIDAY 9:00-10:30 AM

A. Aspects of Safavid Civilization
Chair: Rudi Matthes, University of Delaware
Rudi Matthes, University of Delaware
Merchants in Safavid Iran: Participants and Perceptions
Giorgio Rota: The Oriental Institute, Naples
Safavid Cannibalism and Delegation Practices: A Tentative Explanation
Elena Andreeva, New York University
The Velynskii Mission to Iran, 1715-1718
Discussant: Robert D. McChesney, New York University

B. Philosophic Interactions and Influences: Europe and Iran
Chair and Discussant: M. A. Homayoun Karouzian, University of Exeter
Ali Gheisari, University of San Diego
Persian Translation of Continental Philosophy
Hussain Moulaei Pour, McGill University
Heidegger’s Dasein Meets Subnáwarí’s Oriental: The Hermeneutic Approach of Henry Corbin
Farzín Vahdat, Brandeis University
Discourses of Reconciliation: Post-revolutionary Discasions on Modernity in the Thoughts of Mohammad Mojahed Shahrezaí and Mohsen Kadivar

C. Exile, Alienation, and Acculturation: Iranians in North America
Chair: Mabud Ansari, William Paterson University
Vida Naschi, Independent Scholar
The Iranian Diaspora: Change and Continuity
Bahareh Amid-Hozur Sharghi,
The Catholic University of America
The Self-Image and Acculturation of Iranian-American Adolescents

Malboobeh Khambaghi, University of British Columbia
An Unidentified Minority Group: Iranians in Canada
Discussant: Haleh Vaziri, Intermedia Survey Institute

D. Zoroaster, Zoroastrianism, and Zoroastrian Motifs in Iran’s History
Chair: Fathang Mehr, Boston University
David A. Yeagley, Oklahoma State University
Zoroaster and the Jesus: A New Theory of Theological Origins
Aptin Khanbaghi, University of Cambridge
Zarathushtrianism, A Reform for Religion and Society
Abolala Soudavar, Independent Scholar
Projecting Divine Authority under the Aghá of the Xwarrah
Discussant: Shapur Shahbazi, Eastern Oregon University

E. Iranian Ethnicities and Interethnic Relations
Chair: TBA
Jaleh Pirnazar, UC, Berkeley
A Diaspora within a Diaspora: the Case of Mashhad’s “Jadid al-Islam”
James Clark, University of Texas at Austin
The Kurdish Revolt of 1880
Khalil Dokhanchi, University of Wisconsin – Superior
Interethnic Relations and the State in Iran from 1925 to the Present
Discussant: TBA

SESSION 2 – FRIDAY 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

A. Art, Art History, and Manuscript Studies
Chair and Discussant: Priscilla Soucek, New York University
Christine Van Ruymbeke, Brussels Free University
A Botanical Analysis of the Tree Representations in the Táhirísh Khamis
Raisa I. Amirkhanian, Institute of Ancient Manuscripts – Yerevan
The Illustrations of the Gulshán-i Afgan by Ali-Akbar Orakzai: An 18th Century Afghan Manuscript from Armenia’s Matenadaran Collection
Lale Uluc, New York University
The Majalis al-‘Ushbaq: Written in Herat, Copied in Shiraz, and Read in Istanbul
B. Persian and Iranian Linguistics
Chair and Discussant: Ehsan Yarshater, Columbia University
Abolqasem Sohelli, Tehran Teachers Training University
Relative Clauses and Component Clauses in Persian
John Perry, University of Chicago
The Historical Role of Turkish in Relation to the Persian of Iran
Garnik S. Asatryan, Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies
"Xogoghot t'wom zarm": Tracking back an Old Animal-breeding Custom in Ancient Armenia

C. The Bible and Biblical Prophets in Persian Literature and Culture
Chair and Discussant: Amnon Netzer,
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Nahid Pirzadeh, UCLA
The Book of Genesis in the Poetry of Sarmad of Kashan
Vera B. Moreen, Swarthmore College
Beyond Tales: Biblical Prophets in Persian Sufi Epics
Caroline G. Sawyer, SUNY, Old Westbury
Khids and Mystic Initiation in the Persian Literary Tradition

D. Mohammad-Hosayn Shahriyar and Modern Azeri Literature
Chair: Hadi Sultan-Qurraie, University of Washington
Tadeusz Swietochowski, Monmouth University
Mirza Fathali Akhundzadeh, Father of Modern Azeri Letters
Hadi Sultan-Qurraie, University of Washington
Variants of Turk/Fars Dichotomy in Shahriyar's Azeri Poems
Mohammad Hariri-Akbari, University of Tabriz
The Hermeneutics of Shahriyar's Subandish
Discussant: Sholeh Vatanabadi, New York University

E. Rethinking Persianate Modernity
Chair: Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University
Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University
Modernity, Schizophrenia, and Homeless Texts
Negar Motahedeh, University of Minnesota
Iranian Cliches: Locating National Modernity in Photography
Nima Naghibi, University of Alberta
Abandoning Modernist Impulses: Re-Presenting Iranian Feminisms in the Khavami Period
Discussant: Jamshid Behnam, Independent Scholar

SESSION 3 – FRIDAY 2:00 – 4:00 PM

A. The Hermeneutics of the New Iranian Cinema: Philosophy, Mythology, Ethics
Chair and Discussant: Hamid Dubashi, Columbia University
Hamid Naficy, Rice University, A Humanist Film Genre
Lucian W. Stone, Southern Illinois University
Deciphering the Skin of Light: The Ontological Implications of Color Depictions in Mohsen Makhmalbaf's "Gabelle"
Touraj Noroozi, University of Utah
Bahram Beyzai's Intertextual Cinema: Dreams, Passion Play, Mysticism and Feminine Archetypes in "Travelers"
Nasrin Rahimieh and Liz Oscroft, University of Alberta
Masks of Childhood in Contemporary Iranian Cinema

B. State, Society, and Family in Qajar Iran
Chair and Discussant: Abbas Amanat, Yale University
Irene Schneider, University of Halle, Germany
King and Subject in Late 19th Century Iran
Michael Rubin, Yale University
The Armenians in Iran's Telegraph Service
Shirin Mahdavi, University of Utah
Childhood, Parenting, and Family in Qajar Iran
R. Jackson Armstrong-Ingram, City Archives, Henderson, Nevada
Public Spectacles and the Private Lens: Candid(?!) Photographs of Public Events in Qajar Iran

C. Aspects of Iranian Civilization in Sasanian Times
Chair: Richard N. Frye, Harvard University
Jason Moralee, UCLA
Religious Architecture and the Development of Sasanian Identity
Scott McDonough, UCLA
State-Building and Institutional Reform in an Age of Crisis: The Sasanian Empire during the Fifth Century AD
Touraj Daryaee, California State University, Fullerton
Early Sasanian Titulature
Joel Thomas Walker, University of Washington
The Shrine of Mar Qardagh of Arbela: On the Transformation of Sacred Space in Late Antique Iraq
Discussant: Shaul Shaked, Tel-Aviv University
D. Folklore and Folklore Studies in Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia

Chair: Margaret A. Mills, Ohio State University
Revshan Rahmoni, Tajik State University
The History and present State of Folklore Studies and Archiving in Tajikistan
Jalil Ahmad Osmani, Ohio State University
Talavis as a Folk Text
Margaret A. Mills, Ohio State University
The Gender of Deceit: Typology of Male and Female Tricksters in Oral Tales from Afghanistan
Victoria Arakleva, Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies
The Healing Practices of Yazidi Sheikhs
Discussant: Dick Davis, Ohio State University

E. Politics and Culture in Iran (In Persian)

Chair and Discussant: Said Amir Arjomand
Mohammad-Ali Esfami-Nadushan, Tehran University
Interconnections between Politics and Culture in Iran
Majid Mohammadi, Khorshad Daily
State and Religious Institutions in Contemporary Iran
Ali M. Goodarzi, IRI Academy of Sciences
Tolerance and Aggression in Iranian Journalism: A Psycho-social Perspective
Ali Dehbash, Bokhara Literary Journal
Politics and the Literary Journals in Iran

SESSION 4 – FRIDAY 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Keynote Address

Introduction: Farhad Kazemi, New York University
Featured Speaker: Robert Hillenbrand, University of Edinburgh
A Masterpiece of Iranian Architecture: The Friday Mosque of Isfahan

SESSION 5 – SATURDAY 8:30 – 10:00 AM

A. Orality, Textuality, and Intertextuality in Persian Literature

Chair: Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington
Parvaneh Pourshariati
Cultural Constructs of the Epic-Romantic Genres in Medieval Iran
Marek Smurzynski, Independent Scholar
Text as the Veil of Sense: The Semantic Duality of Persian Literary Texts
Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington
Scholarship and Ideology: Toward a Typology of "The Critical Edition"
Discussant: Michael Beard, University of North Dakota

B. Iran's Student Movements: Historical Roots and Current Issues

Chair and Discussant: Hormoz Hekmat,
Foundation for Iranian Studies
Ashin Matin-asgari, California State University, Los Angeles
Iran's New Student Opposition in Historical Perspective
M. A. Homayoun Katouzian, University of Exeter
Reflections on the Politics of Iranian Students in Europe
Mehrdad Mashayekhi, George Mason University
Iranian Student Movement in the 1990s: Causes and Consequences

C. Politics and the Press in Modern Iranian History

Chair and Discussant: Shaul Bakhshi, George Mason University
Camron Michael Amin, University of Michigan – Dearborn
Nationalizing Feminine Vulnerability and Feminizing National Vulnerability: Gender, the Iranian Press and the Allied Occupation of Iran during WWII
Firooez Kashani-Sabet, University of Pennsylvania
Today's Woman (Zan-i Ruz): Everyday Households, Public Appearances, and the Iranian Women's Movement
Pardis Minuchehr, Columbia University
The Persian Diasporic Press: Intellectuals, Politics, and Papers

D. The City of Tehran: Past, Present, Future

Chair: Bernard Hourcade, CNRS
Kaveh Ehsani, Tehran University
Urban Politics and the Transformation of Tehran
Mina Marfat, Building a Modern "Islamic City": Politics and the Changing Face of Tehran
Discussant: Massoud Kheirabadi, Portland State University

E. The Conception and Evolution of Shi'ism: Past to Present

Chair and Discussant: Said A. Arjomand,
State University of New York, Stony Brook
Colin Paul Mitchell, University of Toronto
The Shi'i Propaganda Machine under Shah Tahmasp Safavi
Ahmad Kazemi-Moussavi,
The Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, Malaysia
Shi'ite Rituals and Clerical Authority in Post-Safavid Iran
Ashkan Dahlann, Upsala University
Post-Revolutionary Shi'i Hermeneutics: Islamizing Postmodernity or Postmodernizing Islam?

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SESSION 6 – SATURDAY 10:30 AM -12:30 PM

A. The Sociolinguistics of Persian in Historical and Transnational Perspectives
Chair and Discussant: John R. Perry, University of Chicago
Behrooz Mahmoodi-Bakhhtiari, Allameh Tabatabai University, Tehran
Planning the Persian Language in the Samanid Period
William O. Beeman, Brown University
Standard Persian as a Register of Tajik
Leila Dodykhudoyeva, Russian Academy of Sciences
The Sociolinguistic Situation in Gorno Badakhshan
Mojdeh Mahdavi, University of Melbourne, Australia
Language Reform and Purification in Late-Twentieth-Century Iran

Elizabeth R. Alexandrin, McGill University
The Concept of Hurriyyat according to 'Aziz-i Din Nasafi
Roxanne Marcotte, McGill University
Resurrection (Ma'ad) in the Hayat al-Nufus of Isma'il Ibn Muhammad Rizi
Jawid Mojaddedi, University of Exeter
Succession and Accommodation in the Structure of Jami's Nafahat al-Ums

E. Art in Contemporary Iran: Production and Presentation
Chair and Discussant: Layla S. Diba, Brooklyn Museum of Art
Hamid Nouri-Seresht, Azad Islamic University
A Survey of Recent Iranian Painting, 1970-2000
Sharon L. Parker, University of Arizona
Representations of the Iranian Woman: The Construction of the New Orientalism in the Art of Haleh Niazmand and Shirin Neshat
Third Participant: TBA

B. Education and Identity in Iran
Chair: Houri Berberian, California State University, Long Beach
Fariba Taghavi, UCLA
Educating the Savages: Transforming the Warrior to Benevolent King
Monica Ringer, Oberlin College
The "New Schools," Modernization, and the Re-Formation of Identity in Late 19th Century Iran
Houri Berberian, California State University, Long Beach
Women, Education, and Iranian-Armenian Identity
Jasamin Rostam-Kolayi, UCLA
Female Education and the Formation of Civic Identity in Modern Iran
Discussant: David Menashri, Tel-Aviv University

SESSION 7 – SATURDAY 2:00 – 4:00 PM

A. Iran's Economy and Economic Issues in the 1990s
Chair: Djamal Salehi-Isfahani, Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Sohrab Behdad, Denison University
From Populism to Economic Liberalism: The Islamic Republic's Predicament
Amir-Hossein Salehi, Institute for Research in Planning and Development, Iran
Market Structure and Performance of the Industrial Sector in Iran
Hadi Salehi-Esfahani, University of Illinois/ Farzad Taberipour, Institute for Research in Planning and Development, Iran
Off-Budget Spending and Fiscal Policy in Iran
Djamal Salehi-Isfahani, Virginia Polytechnic Institute/ Davoud Souri, Institute for Research in Planning and Development, Iran
Female Labor Force Participation in Iran
Discussants: Vahid Noshirvani, Columbia University and Habib Fetsini, The World Bank

B. Pre-Modern Persian History and Historiography (I)
Chair: Charles Melville, University of Cambridge
Elton Daniel, University of Hawaii
Bal'ami's Accounts of Early Islamic History
Julie S. Meisami, University of Oxford
Textual Problems in Persian Historiography
Sandy Morton, The University of London
Traces of Some Lost Sources for the History of the Saljuqs
C. Iranian Intellectuals and Social Change
Chair and Discussant: Susan Sivovshi, Trinity University
Mehrzad Boroujerdi, Syracuse University
Triumphs and Trials of Authoritarian Modernization in Iran
Negin Nabavi, Princeton University
Iranian Intellectuals and the White Revolution
Manochehr Dorraj, Texas Christian University
Iran's Religious Intellectuals and the Idea of Martyrdom in the 1960s
Kamran Arajmand, Martin-Luther University, Halle, Germany
Religious Modernism and Natural Evolution: The Controversy Surrounding the Dogma of Creation

D. Cultural Production and Literary Transmission
Chair and Discussant: William L. Hanaway, University of Pennsylvania
Majid Tafreshi, University of London
Books and the Book Industry in Iran Today
Michael Craig Hillmann, University of Texas at Austin
Hafez's Special Appeal for Iranian-Born Speakers of Persian
Hassan Tehranchian, Independent Scholar
Mokhtari's Evaluation of New Values in Iran's Contemporary Literature
Jeannine M. Donna, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
The Forgotten Art: Grammar and Translation in Persian Poetry

E. Iranian-American Writers and their Audiences (Workshop)
Chair and Moderator: Michael C. Beard, University of North Dakota
Participants:
Pervis Karim, San Jose State University
Co-Editor of A World Between: Poems, Short Stories, and Essays by Iranian-Americans
Farnoosh Moshiri, University of Houston
Author of At the Wall of the Almighty
Tara Bahrampour, Columbia University
Author of To See and See Again
Laleh Khalili, Columbia University
Poet and Contributor to iranian.com
Jahanshah Javid, Writer
Editor and Founder of iranian.com

SESSION 8 – SATURDAY 4:30-6:00 PM
A. Children of Deb Koh: Recent Trends in Anthropological Study of Iran (Workshop)
Chair and Moderator: Janet Afary, Purdue University
Participants:
Gail Harrison, UCLA
Andrea B. Rugh, Independent Scholar
Manouchehr Shiva, University of Washington
Mary Hegland, Santa Clara University
Erika Friedl, West Michigan University

B. Pre-Modern Persian History and Historiography (II)
Chair: Charles Melville, University of Cambridge
Sholeh Quinn, Ohio University
The "ilsalat al-naah" as a Source for Safavid History
Ernest Tucker, U. S. Naval Academy
Master and Disciple: Mahdi Khan, Mahmud Saru'i and the Tarikh-i Mabnudi
Shiva Balaghi, New York University
Official History in the Nasiri Period: The Work of 'Imad al-Saltana
Discussant: TBA

C. Female Icons of Iran's Popular Culture
Chair: Houchang Chehabi, Boston University
Houchang Chehabi, Boston University
Qamar, Mahnash, Omahas: Idols of a Secular Culture
Erik Nakjavan, Pittsburgh University
Delkash, the Voice of the Last Mother of Infancy
Leyla Rouhi, Williams College
The New Feminism of Iranian Actresses
Discussant: Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington

D. Iran and Azerbaijan in the Twentieth Century
Chair: Touraj Aratbaki, Utrecht University
Touraj Aratbaki, Utrecht University
From "Comrade Rouge" to "Enemy of the People": The Life and Times of Ihsanullah Khan Dustdar in Baku
Eric J. Lepisto, Columbia University
Post-Soviet Azerbaijan: Becoming Conscious?
Brenda Shahker, Tel-Aviv University
"We Made It, Now What": Azerbaijani Participation in Iranian Society Since the Revolution
Discussant: Nayereh Tohidi, California State University, Northridge
SESSION 9 – SUNDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

A. Public Health, Hygiene and the Environment in Twentieth-Century Iran
Chair and Discussant: Hormoz Ebrahimnejad, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine
Amir Aslan Afshami, Yale University
Compromised Constitutions: The Iranian Experience with the 1918-19 Influenza Pandemic
Cyrus Schayegh, Columbia University
Constructing an Iranian Homo Faber: Health, Social Pathology and Industrial Progress, 1920-1940
Richard Foltz, Columbia University
Environmentalism in Contemporary Iran

B. The State of Fiction in Post-Revolution Iran
Chair and Discussant: M. R. Ghanooparvar, University of Texas at Austin
Houra Yavari, NY State Board of Education
A New World and Its Modern Subjectivity: Iranian Fiction in the Late 20th Century
Zjalch Hajibashi, University of Texas at Austin
Intersection and Insurgency: Ghazaleh Alizadeh’s Post-Revolution Fiction
Faridoun Farrokh, Texas A&M International University
Fiction as Site of Sociological Debate: The Morning After and Its Aftermath

C. Oral History: The Concept and Its Applications to Iranian History (Workshop)
Chair and Moderator: Habib Ladjevardi, Independent Scholar
Participants:
Habib Ladjevardi, Harvard University
Lessons from the Harvard Iranian Oral History Memoirs: Decision-making and Decision-makers in Iran
Homa Sarshar, Center of Iranian Jewish Oral History (CJIOH)
CJOH: What It Is, and What It Does
Gholamreza Afkhami, Foundation for Iranian Studies
The Oral History of Iran Program: Theoretical and Methodological Framework
Ahmad Ghoreishi, Naval Post-Graduate School
Interviews and Interviewing: Method and Technique in Oral History Projects

D. Iran’s Constitutional Revolution: Perceptions and Responses
Chair and Discussant: Michael Zirinsky, Boise State University
Charles Kurzman, University of North Carolina
The Iranian Constitutional Revolution in Comparative Perspective
Hasan Javadi, Independent Scholar
Mulla Nasreddin and the Constitutional Revolution
Evan Siegel, LaGuardia Community College
Georgian Historiography of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution

E. Children of Iran’s Revolution: Private Spaces and Public Expressions (Workshop)
Chair and Moderator: Azar Nafisi, Johns Hopkins University
Participants:
Goli Emami, Translator, Publisher, Book-Seller
Iran’s Martians: Iranian Youth Twenty Years after the Revolution
Naghmeh Zarbofian, Poet
The Domain of Dead Dialogues: Youth and Art in Post-Revolution Iran
Reza Haeri, Filmmaker
Dangerous Liaisons: Being Young and a Filmmaker in Iran
Faezeh Mozaffar, Winner of Iran’s Persian Literature Olympiad
Being a High School Student in Today’s Iran

SESSION 10 – SUNDAY 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

A. Medieval Persian Verse Narrative
Chair and Discussant: Richard Davis, Ohio State University
Jerome W. Clinton, Princeton University
Plebian Voices in the Shahname
Farooq Hamid, University of Pennsylvania
Nisann’s Threading of the Half-Pierced Pearl: Variant Notions of History and Ideal Kingship in the Shahname and Hafsi Paykhar
Asghar Seyyed-Ghorab, University of Leiden
The Presentation of Time and Setting in Nisann’s Romances
Mohsen Ashtiany, The Encyclopaedia Iranica
Focal Scenes and Narrative Poetry

B. Ideology, State Formation, and Civil Society: Iran since 1979
Chair and Discussant: Bahman Baktiari, The American University in Cairo
Haggray Ram, Ben-Gurion University
Historicizing the Un-Historical: The Post-Revolutionary Iranian State in Comparative Perspective
Suzanne Maloney, Tufts University
Civil Society and the Political Economy of Post-Revolutionary Iran
Abbas Samii, Radio Free Europe  
*The Guardian Council and Iranian Elections since 1997*

Mehdi Moslem, University of Oxford  
*The Khatami-Era Iran: Civil Society and Factional Politics*

\**C. Archives and Archival Research in Iran**  
Chair and Discussant: Ahmad Ashraf, The Encyclopaedia Iranica  
Hossein Kamaly, Columbia University  
*Letters from Hormuz: Portuguese National Archives as a Source for 16th-Century Iranian History*

Yann Richard, University of Paris III  
*Modern Persian Prosopography*

Majid Mirmontahali,  
Institute for Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies  
*Historical Documentation in Iran since the Revolution, the Case of ICHS*

Kourosh Kamali-Sarvestani, Foundation for Studies on Fars  
*The Study of Fars Province in the 20th century: A Typological Survey*

\**D. Images and Their Meaning: New Research in Safavid Art**  
Chair: Massumeh Farhad, Freer Gallery of Art  
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery  
Ray Shani, Independent Scholar  
*The Apotheosis of Ali: The Lion of God*

Amy Landau, Oxford University  
*Muhammad Zaman’s “European” Style and the Reception of a Queen’s Image*

Aimee Froom, New York University  
*A Murqqa’ for the Ottoman Sultan Murad III*

Mukaddima Ashrafi, Tajikistan Academy of Sciences  
*The Discovery of an Unknown School of Painting in Seventeenth-Century Central Asia*

Discussant: Sussan Babaie, Independent Scholar

\**E. The Shaping of Naqshbandi Identity**  
Chair and Discussant: Jo-Ann Gross, The College of New Jersey  
Bakhtiyar M. Babadjanov, Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent  
*Makhadum-i A’zam’s View on the “Chahbar Khalifat” Tradition*

David Damrel, Arizona State University  
*Mughal Perceptions of Central Asian Sufism*

Devin Dewees, Indiana University  
*Silsila Construction and Communal Divisions in the Early Khwajagani Tradition*

Dina LeGall, Rutgers University  
*Silsila, Devotional Practices, Commitment to Shari’a and the Self-Identity of the Early Ottoman Naqshbandiya*

\**SESSION 11 – SUNDAY 2:00-4:00 PM**  
(PLENARY) Covering Iran  
Chair and Moderator: Ali Banuazizi, Boston College  
Participants:  
Baqer Moin, BBC  
Elaine Sciolino, The New York Times  
Robin Wright, The Los Angeles Times  
Jacki Leiden, National Public Radio  
Iranian Journalists, TBA  
Discussant: Shaul Bakhsh, George Mason University