

SIS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Society for Iranian Studies

Volume 26, No. 3

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1996 SIS Ballot Mailed to "Paid-Up" Members.

The ballot for the 1996 SIS Council elections and an opportunity to vote on the latest changes to the SIS constitution was mailed in early July to SIS members who have paid their 1996 dues. *If you did not receive a ballot, our records indicate that you have not yet paid your dues.* This will be the final reminder sent to the membership. All those who remain in arrears will receive no further mailings from the Society after this newsletter.

For your convenience, you will find a membership renewal form inserted in the

current newsletter. Please take the time now to fill it out and return it with the proper payment enclosed. This will ensure that you receive mailings without interruption and will entitle you to vote in the 1996 elections. If you have questions regarding either your membership or your election ballot, please contact Charlotte Albright at 206-543-4227 or <calbrigh@u.washington.edu>.

Report on *Iranian Studies*

Abbas Amanat, Editor

Volume 28, Nos. 3-4 (1995) of *Iranian Studies* was mailed to the membership in April. The 280-page issue contained five articles and nineteen book reviews. Articles addressed subject matter pertaining to the Sasanid era, the Safavid dynasty, the late Qajar and early Pahlavi period, and the contemporary Islamic Republic.

Several brief items of interest with regard to *Iranian Studies* are: the journal is now current with its indexes, which will make it more accessible to scholars and it is now listed in "Current Contents of Periodicals on the Middle East." The Editorial Board decided at the last MESA meeting to increase the number of offprints given to authors from five to twenty.

We are currently working on Volume 29 and Volume 30, Nos. 1-2. Volume 29, Nos. 1-2 is being prepared with the help of Dr. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi and will be devoted primarily to historiography. It will contain eight articles and twenty reviews. I expect this issue to go to press in the fall.

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SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

c/o Middle East Center, 225 Thomson Hall, Box 353650

Phone: 206-543-4227

Membership Form for 1996

Yes, please renew/establish my membership in the Society for Iranian Studies in the following categories:

	1996	1996 & 1997
Individual	\$35	\$65
Student	\$18	\$32
Family	\$45	\$85
Life Member	\$1,000 (one-time payment)	
Subtotal	\$ _____	\$ _____

I would like to make an additional gift toward of the Society. I understand that this gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Amount of Gift to SIS \$ _____ \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ \$ _____

*** Please make checks in US DOLLARS ONLY payable to **The Society for Iranian Studies**. Please return (1) this form and (2) your check in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Please supply the information below so that we can keep our files current.

Name: (please print)

Title _____ First _____ Last _____

Address: _____

 city state ZIP

Telephone: (work) _____ (home) _____

FAX: _____ (email) _____

Business or University Affiliation _____

Areas of Interest _____

Volume 29, Nos. 3-4 will be a special issue reviewing the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Approximately thirty contributors have been enlisted to write reviews, which we hope will serve as an overall evaluation of the work at its mid-course of preparation. Our goal is to submit this issue to the printer by late 1996.

Volume 30, Nos. 1-2 will be another general issue containing five articles and twenty book reviews, which we hope to be able to have out a month or two after the special issue devoted to *Elr*.

Volume 30, nos. 3-4 will be a special issue on Persian literature in post-revolutionary Iran and will be guest-edited by Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak.

I would like to extend special thanks to Shahrugh Akhavi who has stepped down after many years as book review editor. Because of his very hard work, and the rapid succession in which the next three issues of the journal will appear, we will be able to review books within a year and a half of their publication. The new book review editor is Rudi Matthee.

SIS Annual Business Meeting at MESA 1996

The Annual Business Meeting of the Society for Iranian Studies will be held during the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). The venue for this year's MESA meeting is the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island. If you are interested in attending the MESA meeting, contact MESA headquarters at (520)621-5850 or mesa@ccit.arizona.edu.

SIS-Sponsored MESA Panels

The Society will be sponsoring three panels on the MESA program this year. Again this year we must thank Janet Afary

who coordinated the submission of these panels to the MESA program committee. The panels are:

Education and Social Change in Modern Iran
Missionaries, Education, and Social Change in Iran, ca. 1840-1941 (Michael Zirinsky)
Education, and the Battle Over Iran, 1870-1905 (Monica Ringer)
Tent Schools, Qashqa'i, and Social Change, 1950-1979 (Mohammad Shahbazi, Chair)

Discussants: Erika Friedl, Lois Beck

The Autonomous Government of Azerbaijan: A Fifty Year Retrospective*

The Autonomous Government of Azerbaijan: An Historical Enigma (Cosroe Chaqueri)

Ethnic Minorities and the State in Modern Iran and the Autonomous Government of Azerbaijan: A Separatist Challenge or an Appeal for Autonomy? (Turaj Atabaki, Chair)

The Autonomous Government of Azerbaijan and Its Gender Dimension in Retrospect (Nayereh Tohidi)

**This panel is cosponsored with The International Society for Azerbaijani Studies*

On the 90th Anniversary: Re(Writing) the History of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution

The House of Justice or the Parliament of Paris?: Cultural Contradictions of the Constitutional Revolution in Iran (Nader Sohrabi)

The Significance of the Armenian Role (Hourii Berberian)

Clericalism or Constitutionalism?: (Re)Visiting the Constitutional Laws of 1906-7 (Janet Afary, Chair)

The Past through the Prism of the Future: The Iranian Constitutional Revolution in

the Historiography of the Iranian
Political Left (Mansour Bonakdarian)
Discussant: Nikkie Keddie

Other MESA Panels of Interest

Several other panels at MESA are devoted in whole or part to subjects relating to Iranian studies. They are as follows:

Patterns of Nomadic Tribal Settlement

Migration of the Qashqa'i Nomads to Urban Areas (Mehdi Gharakhlou)

Performing Arts and Cultural Identity

Is Dance an Art Form in the Iranian World? (Anthony Shay)

Iran in Safavid Period

Three Less Known Persian Sources of the 17th Century (Giorgio Rota)

Law Enforcement in the Safavid and Mughal Empires (Faith J. Childress)

Representing Persia: The British "Discovery" of the Persian, 1600-26 (Mohammad Nezam-Mafi)

Iran and Transoxania, 8th-12th Centuries

Women in Tarikh-i Bayhaqi (Soheila Amirsoleimani)

Tus and the Production of the Shahnamas (Parvaneh Pourshariati)

Iran: Qajar and Constitutional Eras

Problems of Identity and Azerbaijani Authors of Post-Constitutional Iran (Hadi Sultan-Qurraie)

The Royal Iconography of Qajar Iran (Douglas Brookes)

Shaykhu'r-Ra'is: Poetry and Rebellion in Qajar Iran (Juan R. I. Cole)

Iranians in Istanbul during "Istibdad-i Saghir" (Lesser Despotism) (1908-9) (Pardis Minuchehr)

Matters of the Spirit: Poetry, Folklore and Sainthood

The Crisis of Identity in Rumi's Tale of the Reed (Firoozeh Papan-Matin)

Islamic Thought on Revolutionary and Post-Revolutionary Iran

The Secularization of Islamic Thought in Iran (Afshin Matin-asgari)

The Revolutionary Iman Husayn: The Khomeinist Synthesis (Kamran Scot Aghaie)

Post-revolutionary Islamic Literature: Ideology, Social Themes, and Realist Forms (Kamran Talattof)

The Iranian "Ulama in the Works of Ali Shariati (Abollah Vakil)

Medicine, Health and State Planning

The Rise and Fall of Fertility in Iran (Djavad Salehi-Isfahani)

Literary Reflections of Gender and Identity

Dangerous Women and the Wise Guardians of Social Order (Fariba Taghavi)

State Formation in Theory and Practice

From Sarrafs to Bankers: State and Society in Iran and Turkey, 1850-1940 (Hootan Shambayati)

Legitimacy and Representation in Early Modern Iran

Timurid Legitimacy in Safavid Chronicles (Sholeh A. Quinn)

The Trappings of Legitimacy in Safavid Iran (Willem Floor)

Supplication and Magnanimity: Safavid Views of Western Visitors (Rudi Matthee)

1739: History, Self, and Other in Afsharid Iran and Mughal India (Ernest Tucker)

Constructing the Enemy: The Role of the Tabarra in 16th-Century Iran (Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson)

Other Participants: Kathryn Babayan and John Emerson

The Nation, the State, and Subaltern

Identities: Contestation and Negotiation

The Formation of the Bahai'i Identity in Post-Revolutionary Iran (Sam Masoud Rassekh)

Representation of Middle Eastern Alterity in Cinema

Diyar-i A' Ashiqan: Iranian Wartime Cinema (Naghmeh Sohrabi)

Interior Alterities: Representations of Difference in Contemporary Iranian Cinema (Casey R. Williamson)

The Contemporary Armenian Diaspora in the Middle East

The Legal and Social Status of the Iranian-Armenian Community (Aida B. Avanessian)

Translating Persian Literature

English Toads in Persian Gardens (Richard Davis)

Rumi in America (Jerome W. Clinton)

Two Hundred Years of Hafez in English: Reflections on Translation of Persian Lyric Poetry (Franklin Lewis)

The Transference of Irony in the Translation of Contemporary Iranian Fiction (Faridoun Farrokh)

Nasir-i Khusraw in Poetry and Prose

Nasir-i Khursaw on the Interpretation (*ta'wil*) of the Qur'an (Latimah S. Peerwani)

Symbolic Interpretation (*ta'wil*) in Nasir-i Khusraw (Zayn Kassam-Hann)

The Ethical Philosophy of Nasir-i Khursaw (Faquir Muhammad Hunzai)

Nasir-i Khursaw's Isma'ili Poetics (Julie Scott Meisami)

Nasir-i Khusraw: Practicing What He Preached (Alice C. Hunsberger)

Making the New Edition of the Divan (Mehdi Mohaqeq)

Other Participants: Paul E. Walker, Ismail Ponawala

Political Authority and the Natural Environment in Modern Iran

The Qajar's Other Capital: The Significance of Tabriz in 19th Century Iran (James Clark)

Delicate Delineations: Geography and Perceptions of the Land in Iranian Nationalism (Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet)

Nationalizing the Landscape: Visions of Kurdistan in Early Kurdish Nationalist Discourse (Janet Klein)

The Origins of the Khuzistan Development Program (Roger Kenna)

Other Participants: Willem Floor, Abbas Amanat

Memory and the Construction of Local and National Identities

Social Memory and Spectacular Spirituality: Remembering Shaykh Abu Said ibn Abi-I Khayr in the Persian Hagiographies of Asrar at-Tawhid and Halat o Sokhanaan (Adnan A. Husain)

Comparative Poetics in Middle Eastern Poetries: Qasidah and Ghazal

"What's the Word?": Sukhan and Its Imagery in the Metapoetic Ghazals of Sa'ib (Paul E. Losensky)

Middle East Studies and Human Rights Discourses

Countering Charges of Violations: Iran's Responses to the International Human Rights Community (Reza Afshari)

Azerbaijan and the World

Iran and Azerbaijan: Dilemmas of
Geographical Proximity, Socio-Historical
Ties, and National Interest (Seyed
Kazem Sajjadpour)

Culture, Society, and the State in
Contemporary Middle East

Revolution, War, and Culture Change in Iran
(Nader Nazemi)
Human Rights in the Middle East (Khalil
Dokhanchi)

Public Spectacle and Political Power
Public Confessions in Iran (Ervand
Abrahamian)Apocalypse as History: The Early Islamic
Centuries

Apocalypse Now: Zoroastrian Reflection on
the Arab Muslim Conquest of Iran and
the Abbasid Revolution (Touraj Daryaee)

Islamic Philosophy

Introducing Kamijani's Inner Light (Hossein
Ziai)

Writing the Nation in Modern Middle
Eastern Literature

Manufacturing National Identity: The
Formation of the Iranian Literary Canon
(Kourouss Esmaeli)

Populism and Popular Nationalism in the
Middle East: New Paradigms for Old
Problems

Populism and the Iranian Revolution:
Theoretical Considerations and a Review
of the Scholarship (Valentine M.
Moghadam)

New Members

The following people have joined SIS since

publication of the last newsletter in Winter
1996.

Saeed Barzin
Penny Ben Hamo
Sheila Canby
Forough Jahanbakhsh
Mohammad Mury
Nader Nazemi
Gregory McNab
R.K. Ramazani
Faegheh Shirazi-Mahajan
Benjamin Smith
M.H. Amir Zanjani
Fatemeh Zarghami

Donations

Several people have made generous
donations to the Society since Winter, 1996.
They are:

Anonymous
Jerome Clinton
Hassan Khosrowshahi
Katsuyo Motoyoshi
Robert Stockman

SIS Members in the News

Nayerreh Tohidi, Center for Near
Eastern Studies, UCLA, has been awarded a
research grant by the National Council for
Soviet and East European Research, for
1996-97 to study national identity and Islam
in the post-Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan.
This is a follow-up on Dr. Tohidi's book
project on "Gender, Islam and Nationalism in
the Muslim Republics of the former Soviet
Union: The Case of Azerbaijan," which she
pursued during her post-doctoral fellowship
at the Hoover Institution in 1995. Her latest
publication in this area appeared in *Women's
Studies International Forum, Special
Edition on Gender, Ethnicity, and
Nationalism*, Vol. 19, Nos. 1-2, 1996.

Negar Mottahedeh, Ph. D. candidate at the University of Minnesota, has won a 1996 Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Grant in Women's Studies for her proposed dissertation titled "Trouble in Paradise: The Disarticulation of Islamic Space in the Discourses of the Babi Poetess Qurrat Al-'Ayn." She has also been awarded a Howard Leonard Film Fellowship, 1995-96.

Ervand Abrahamian has written the chapter on Iran for a college text titled *Comparative Politics at the Crossroads* and its companion volume *Third World Politics at the Crossroads*, edited by M. Kesselman (Lexington, MA: Heath and Co.).

Houchang Chehabi has recently published the following two articles: "Sport and Politics in Iran: The Legend of Gholamreza Takhti," *International Journal of the History of Sport* 12 (December 1995): 48-60; and "The Impossible Republic: Contradictions of the Islamic State in Iran," *Contention* 5 (Spring 1996): 135-54.

Janet Afary has published *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution: Grassroots Democracy, Social Democracy, and the Origins of Feminism* (New York: Columbia, 1996).

SIS Student Members Survey in Progress

Mohammad Shahbazi, a Ph.D. candidate in sociocultural anthropology at Washington University, St. Louis and Houri Berberian (UCLA), both SIS graduate student representatives to the SIS Council, are organizing a survey of student members of the Society. Shahbazi has recently corresponded with all student members soliciting their suggestions on how the Society can best serve their needs, their reasons for joining the organization, and their expectations for the Society. In future, he hopes to supply *SIS News* with a column focusing on the student membership. He is

also preparing a list of student members' email and mailing addresses. Any student members who have not heard from Mr. Shahbazi are requested to contact him by email <mshahba@artsci.wustl.edu>, by FAX (314)935-8535, or tel. (314)935-5252.

Persian Heritage Foundation Offers Support for Authors and Translators

The Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University, with support from the Persian Heritage Foundation, is prepared to underwrite the publication of works in the following categories:

1. Scholarly works in English dealing with Iranian humanities when they qualify as original research or synthesis of a high standard;
2. Translations into English of works of merit from Persian or other Iranian languages that conform to the required standards of accuracy and readability;
3. Critical editions of texts in Iranian languages.

Works in French and German meeting the above criteria will also be considered for support. Completed doctoral dissertations will be considered if they are in publishable form and accompanied by two letters from scholars in the field expressing clearly why the work merits publication in the form submitted.

The deadlines for submission of manuscripts are January 15, May 15, and September 15 of each year. Manuscripts approved by the Screening Committee will be published under a special arrangement with the Persian Heritage Foundation's publisher.

A copy of the final manuscript (in camera-ready form, complete with introduction, notes, etc.) should be sent to the Committee on Awards, Center for Iranian Studies, 450 Riverside Drive, No. 4,

New York, NY 10027. A diskette of the typescript should also be available if required by the Committee or the publishers. If accepted, guidelines will be provided for transcription, citation, and so forth. These guidelines may be obtained from the Center at any time. For further information, the Center can be reached at: tel. (212)280-4366 or FAX (212)749-9524.

Mazda Publishers Acquiring Manuscripts

Mazda Publishers has been producing books on subjects relating to Iranian studies since 1980. They currently issue about twelve new titles a year and plan to increase production significantly. Mazda is now actively acquiring manuscript relating to all aspects of scholarly studies on the Middle East and North Africa, in general, and Iran, in particular. Studies dealing with former Soviet Republics are especially welcomed. The editors at Mazda are inviting authors to submit manuscripts and proposals. For more details on how to make submissions, contact Acquisitions Editor, Mazda Publishers, P.O. Box 2603, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, tel. (714)751-5252, FAX (714)751-4805, or email <Mazdapub@aol.com>. To browse Mazda's catalogue, view their homepage: <http://www.Mazdapub.com>.

International Association for the Study of Persian-Speaking Societies Founded

The International Association for the Study of Persian-Speaking Societies (IASPS) has been incorporated recently as a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit professional organization for researchers, scholars, academics, and all other persons interested in the culture and civilization of the Persian-speaking societies and related areas. The objectives of the Association include the promotion of research and

academic and cultural exchange, both at the international levels and within the Persian-speaking societies, especially Afghanistan, Iran, and Tajikistan, the sponsorship of international cooperative research, and the publication of a journal in Persian and English.

For more information about the IASPS, contact S.A. Arjomand/IASPS, Department of Sociology, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11794-4356.

UP-COMING CONFERENCES

The **Danesh Institute's** 1996 Annual Conference is scheduled for October 26-27, 1996 at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis. The theme of the conference is "Iranian Dual Identity: Implications for the First and Second Generations." For more information, contact Cyrus S. Behrooz, Executive Secretary, Danesh Institute, c/o Indiana University School of Social Work, 902 West New York Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5156; tel: (317)283-8757/274-6706.

The **Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA)** will hold its 15th Annual Conference in association with the Georgia Institute of Technology on April 19-21, 1997 at Georgia Tech in Atlanta, Georgia. The general theme of the conference is "Toward a Civil Society in Iran: Prospects and Obstacles." Other panels might examine topics such as oil and development, religion, class and gender stratification, ethnicity, literature, arts, environmental issues, politics and economy, conflict resolution, foreign policy, and security issues. The Program Committee welcomes proposals for preorganized panels and workshops, as well as for individual papers. Abstracts of 300-400 words should be submitted by December 2, 1996 to Hosein Abghari, CIRA Conference Program Co-Chair, Department

of Economics and Business, Morehouse College, 830 Westview Dr., SW, Atlanta, GA 30314, tel. (404)215-2618; FAX (404)215-2719. For general information about the conference and CIRA, contact: Nader Entessar, CIRA Executive Director, Department of Political Science and Law, Spring Hill College, Mobile, AL 36608; tel. (334)380-3051; FAX (334)460-2184; email <entessar@azalea.shc.edu>.

Recent Conferences

Persian Language in the World, a conference sponsored by the Institut d'Études Iraniennes and CNRS Monde Iranien was held at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Sorbonne Nouvelle (Université Paris III) on April 18-19, 1996. The program included panels on the following subjects:

- Persian Language in Non-Persian-Speaking Areas
- Persian Language in Central Asia and Caucasus
- Persian Language in Its New International Environment
- The New Expansion of Persian Language
- Persian as an International Language

For more information on the conference, contact: CNRS Monde Iranien, 27, rue Paul Bert, 94204 IVRY, Paris; email <iran@

drl.cnrs.fr>.

The Fifth Annual Jusur Graduate Student Conference on the Middle East at UCLA was held April 26-27, 1996. Panels concerning Iran were:

- Sasanian Religion, Ideology and Political Conceptions
- Aspects of Iranian Political and Cultural History: Students, Women and Activists
- Postmodernist Discourse and the Middle East: Literary Interpretation and Political Consequence

The Iranian Women's Studies

Foundation (IWSF) met at the University of Washington in Seattle June 14-16, 1996. The theme of this year's conference was Iranian Women and Human Rights. Major presentations included Shirin Ebadi, speaking on discrimination against women in Iranian law, and Houra Yavari who asserted that many Iranian women writers display a deep-seated acceptance of inferiority in their writing. For the first time this year, one panel was in English (the remainder were in Persian). The speakers for this session were Ann Mayer from the University of Pennsylvania and Mr. Maurice Copithorne, UN Special Representative on Human Rights in Iran. Over 400 women (and men) attended this conference.