

S.I.S. newsletter

The Society for Iranian Studies

Volume VI Number 1 January 1974

Address all communications to the Secretary of the Society for Iranian Studies, P.O. Box 89, Village Station, New York, N.Y. 10014, U.S.A.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SIS

The Society's Seventh Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, November 8, 1973 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Our panels on "Culture and Personality Studies in Iran" and "Iranian Population and Mobility Studies" were well attended and extremely successful. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank our program director, Professor Howard J. Rotblat, who had the overall responsibility for organizing these panels. I am also thankful to our panel participants. Some of the papers presented at these panels will be published in the future issues of Iranian Studies.

The Society's business meeting was held in the afternoon and the following reports were submitted by the Society's officers. (All these reports have been updated to include the period since the November meeting.)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (Farhad Kazemi)

Membership. The Society has continued to increase its members in the past year. The Society now has 211 members. This is an increase of 43 members or 25.7 percent in one year. In addition to our 211 members, there are approximately 40 individuals and 90 institutional and library subscriptions to the Journal.

Our international membership has also increased. 47 of our members (slightly over 21 percent) live outside of the United States. Of these 29 reside in Iran, 4 in Canada, 3 in Japan, 2 each in England and Israel, and 1 each in Afghanistan, Australia, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji Islands, Sweden, and Switzerland. The increase in our membership in Iran from 16 to 29 is particularly encouraging. We are clearly making some inroads among scholars in Iran.

As the following table indicates, most of the Society's members (142 individuals, or 67 percent) are identified with four disciplines of History, Near Eastern Languages and Literatures and Linguistics, Political Science, and Economics. Members whose fields of specialization are economics or anthropology have increased from 9 each in 1973 to 21 and 13 in 1974 respectively. Those disciplines not identified in the table are mostly in the physical sciences or medicine.

<u>DISCIPLINE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
History	50
NELL and Linguistics	45
Political Science	26
Economics	21
Anthropology	13
Art, Art History, Archaeology	8
Sociology	7
Psychology	4
Education	4
Philosophy	3
Other or Not Known	30
<u>Total</u>	<u>211</u>

Incorporation. The Society for Iranian Studies has been incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of New York. The Society is now awaiting the decision of the Internal Revenue Service regarding its request for tax-exempt status. According to our lawyer, Ms. Barbara E. Boettcher, a favorable tax-exempt ruling should be granted shortly.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER (Ann Schulz)

As the financial report indicates, there is \$1057.18 in the Society's treasury. The balance, however, will have disappeared by the time you read this Newsletter because of the publication of the next issue of the Journal. The rate of dues payments has increased this year. Contributions have also been more generous than ever before. To meet future expenses, we are hoping that (1) dues will continue to come in, (2) our members will be able to obtain more institutional subscriptions, and (3) the Journal will be able to carry more advertisements. As always, your suggestions regarding the Society's financial status are welcome.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES
(January 1, 1972 - December 31, 1972)

REVENUES

Membership dues:	
Regular	\$ 996.00
Student	226.00
Contributions	907.00
Individual Subscriptions	54.00
Institutional Subscriptions	1279.20
Journal Sales	877.05
Advertising	30.00
	<u>Total</u> \$4369.25

EXPENSES

Journal Printing	\$1936.51
Journal Binding	446.25
Journal Typing	342.00
Newsletter and Expenses of the	
Executive Secretary	325.37
Editor's Expenses and Journal Mailing	150.15
Treasurer's Expenses	35.29
Incorporation Fees	76.50
	<u>Total</u> \$3312.07

BALANCE: \$4369.25 - 3312.07 = \$1057.18

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY

The following individuals have been most generous in their financial support of the Society in the past year. We are grateful for their generosity. Yahya Armajani, Mostafa Ansari, Ahmad Ashraf, Amin Banani, Ali Banuazizi, Lois Grant Beck, William Beeman, James A. Bill, Richard Bulliet, Timothy Childs, Jerome W. Clinton, John Emerson, Hafez F. Farmayan, Ferydoon Firoozi, Michael M.J. Fischer, Gene R. Garthwaite, A.H. Hairi, William L. Hanaway, Jr., Leonard Helfgott, Michael C. Hillman, Mohamad A. Jazayery, Farhad Kazemi, M.B. Loraine, John Lorentz, Kenneth A. Luther, Robert A. McDaniel, Mehdi Marashi, Michel Mazzaoui, Heshmat Moayyad, Guity Nashat, Vahid Nowshirvani, Manoucher Parvin, Mangol Philipp, Howard Rotblat, Roger Savory, Mohamad Shafii, A. Reza Sheikholeslami, Giri Tikku, Tourgeman, Joseph M. Upton, John Workman, T. Cuyler Young, Hossein Ziai, Marvin Zonis.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF IRANIAN STUDIES (Ali Banuazizi)

Since the last report in January, 1973, a total of six issues of the Journal (Vol. V, Nos. 2-3, 4; Vol. VI, Nos. 1, 2-3) have been published, reducing the gap in our publishing schedule and making us hopeful that we may be able to go on a regular schedule by the middle of next year. As the recent two issues show, there has been a fairly substantial increase in the number of pages per issue, in spite of the fact that the production costs of the Journal have almost doubled over the past two years. We have also been able to achieve a better balance among the various disciplines that contribute to Iranian Studies and to carry a relatively larger number of articles by Iranian scholars.

It has always been the policy of the Journal to be maximally responsive to the views and suggestions of the readers. I wish to take this opportunity to ask our readers for any suggestions that they may have regarding its format and contents. Comments would be particularly welcome on the following issues:

- Should the Journal adopt a different system of transliteration from the current, Library of Congress system? Should we change to a phonetic system approximately Persian pronunciation of words rather than their spelling?
- Would it be useful to publish a list of all doctoral dissertations in the field of Iranian Studies since 1960 or 1965? Any volunteers for preparing such a list?
- Should the Society start a monograph series with the purpose of publishing articles that are too long to be included in the Journal, e.g., dissertations, state-of-the-art reviews, etc.?

Library subscriptions continue to be of great importance to the Journal, both for financial reasons and in order to make it more accessible to scholars and students. To facilitate making recommendations to librarians, we are enclosing a form together with a list of libraries in the United States and abroad that currently subscribe to the Journal. Even a cursory perusal of this list reveals many obvious gaps--i.e., many institutions that would almost certainly subscribe to the Journal if it were recommended by a faculty member or graduate student. It is my sincere hope that our members at or close to such institutions would take this vital step in promoting the Journal.

In addition to the Associate Editors, Jerome W. Clinton and A. Reza Skeikholeslami, a number of individuals have advised and assisted the Editor in the various tasks relating to the work of the Journal. Among these

I should especially like to thank the following members of the Society: Marina Banuazizi, Gene Garthwaite, John Gulick, M.A. Jazayery, Farhad Kazemi, Vahid F. Nowshirvani, Majid Tehranian, and Hossein Ziai.

ELECTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

John Emerson, Ferydoom Firoozi, and Guity Nashat were elected at the annual business meeting as the new members of the "Election Committee." The following nominations were submitted to the Society: Ervand Abrahamian, Ali Banuazizi, Paul W. English, Heshmat Moayyad, and Majid Tehranian. The election was conducted by mail and according to the letter of Professor Firoozi (chairman of the committee) the following three were elected to the Council of the Society for 1974-76: ERVAND ABRAHAMIAN, ALI BANUAZIZI, PAUL W. ENGLISH. I would like to express the appreciation of the Council to the members of the "Election Committee," especially Professor Firoozi, for their work.

SIS COMMITTEE ON TEACHING OF PERSIAN LANGUAGE

Professor Mohamad A. Jazayery gave a report at the Annual Meeting on the activities of this committee. The committee is reviewing the available text books on Persian and other related problems. This committee has been made a standing committee of SIS. The members of committee in addition to Professor Jazayery (chairman) include: William Hanaway, John Lorentz, Roger Savory, Brian Spooner, and Donald Stilo.

SIS FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

The Council of the Society has appointed a committee to raise funds and increase financial contributions to the Society. Professor Gene R. Garthwaite (Dartmouth College) will be in charge of fund-raising in the United States; Professor Vahid Nowshirvani (Yale University) will do the same for Iran. Professors Nowshirvani and Garthwaite are vigorously involved in raising funds for the Society. All help or suggestions will be appreciated by the committee members.

1974 ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON

Professor William Beeman has been appointed the program director for the Society's annual conference to be held on November 6, 1974 in Boston, Massachusetts. Our panels which are co-sponsored by MESA will be devoted to two timely topics: (a) The Role of Women in Iran and (b) Literature and Society in Iran. Those interested in presenting papers in these panels should contact Professor Beeman as soon as possible at the following address: Professor William Beeman, Department of Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912 (phone: 401-863-3251).

RECENT CONFERENCES

Two recent conferences dealing with Iran were held in January 1974. Harvard University held a special conference on Isfahan in Cambridge, Mass. New York University held its sixth annual Near Eastern Round Table in commemoration of the 1000th anniversary of the birth of Abu Rayhan al-Biruni and the 700th anniversary of the death of Jalal al-Din Rumi. Some SIS members presented papers and participated in both conferences.

NEW MEMBERS

Mostafa Ansari (Univ. of Chicago); William Kay Archer (Univ. of Illinois);

Guity Badakshan (Ministry of Economy, Tehran); Lois Grant Beck (Amherst College); George Bournoutian (UCLA); Gholamali Darabi (Columbia Univ.); John Emerson (Framingham State College); Michael M.J. Fischer (Harvard Univ.); Leonard Helfgott (Western Washington State College); Michael C. Hillman (Univ. of Chicago); Hamid Ladjevardi (Tehran); Forough al-Zaman Minou-Archer (Univ. of Illinois); Fatemeh E. Moghadam (Tehran); Heshmat Moayyad (Univ. of Chicago); Ali Mohamadi (Columbia Univ.); Guity Nashat (Univ. of Chicago); Bahram Niamir (Cambridge, Mass.); Farhad Nomani (Univ. of Tehran); Donald E. Sexton (Columbia Univ.); Mohamad Shafii (Univ. of Michigan); Irene Winter (Queens College, CUNY); Mohamad Yamin (Univ. of Durham).

Farhad Kazemi
Executive Secretary

LOCATING IRANIAN RESEARCH MATERIAL¹

by John F. Harvey

(Dean of Library Services, University of New Mexico)

Although numerous outstanding research collections as well as professional librarians exist in Iran, many people find Iranian libraries difficult to use. Often researchers need specialized data which is hard for them to locate in the limited time available. This paper's purpose is to provide practical suggestions for scholars about overcoming the difficulties of using Iranian libraries. It is intended to assist researchers in all fields, including those working on dissertations, and is written to help them change a frustrating and disappointing year into one more rewarding. The paper will not contain lists of the many "good" or "useful" libraries, since the author has already provided such lists in three publications.^{2,3,4}

Of course, clarifying the goals of certain projects may prove impossible until the researcher has searched through the data to see what is there, so to speak, or until he has gained considerable familiarity with it. So, "a fishing expedition," as some researchers call it, may be a necessary preliminary to a clearcut problem statement. Such a survey may be made to help the researcher decide whether or not the data collection will support a dissertation. If it will, then he must choose the subject section easiest or most fruitful to research and concentrate on it.

Before leaving the home country, the researcher must exhaust its library facilities on his topic. There is no reason to travel to Iran for information which can be located at home. His own may be the last well organized, service-minded and comfortable library seen for several years, so its resources must be used to the fullest extent. It is important to search the relevant literature thoroughly before starting to work on the projects raw data. The topic's background can be researched, the context in which the events occurred and perhaps even their more recent history. The researcher must engage the extended attention of a competent American or European reference librarian to show him little known special collections and indexes. Published and unpublished American, European, and local university dissertation and government document lists can be checked, as well as literature surveys assessing research progress. It is very difficult to locate absolutely all the material on any topic, and a search on several campuses is recommended.

Certainly the best place to do Iranian research is in the United States or perhaps Europe where a surprising amount of useful Iranian material now rests. Much of the best research on Iran has been carried out by foreigners, published abroad, and is not easily available in Iran. In other cases, Iranian research material is available in London or Washington which is not available here because foreign librarians are more aggressive collectors than Iranians are. For instance, the Library of Congress has a good collection

1. A modified version of this paper was delivered at the American Studies Research Centre Library Seminar, Hyderabad, India.

2. "Recent Iranian Information Science Progress," Mountain Plains Library Quarterly XVI (Fall 1972), pp. 15-24.

3. "Special Libraries and Information Centers in Southwest Asia" Miles Jackson (ed.), Comparative and International Librarianship: Essays on Themes and Problems, New York, Greenwood Press, 1970, pp. 275-89.

4. Iranian Academic Libraries, unpublished manuscript, 35 pp.

of recent Iranian serials, and the London University School of Oriental and African Studies a good collection on Iranian archaeology. Several universities have departmental libraries for this geographic area, such as the Near East Library of Durham University and the South Asian Library of the University of Pennsylvania. Many of them are strong in recent monographs, less thorough in covering recent serials, and probably weak in government documents, theses, and local research reports.

Normally, the skilled and specialized reference librarian has a more comprehensive knowledge of subject area literature than does the researcher. The librarian has handled much more material in the subject field as a whole than has the researcher. For instance, the librarian may know several economic abstract journals while the researcher knows only the one he is accustomed to use. The professor who has specialized in nineteenth century Iranian economic history can hardly be expected to know the current literature of Iranian textile industry finance as well as the skilled reference librarian who has seen and handled literature from the entire Iranian economic field for several years. However, most skilled reference librarians will not know the subject field itself as well as the researcher does. The smaller the topic within the general subject area, the greater the chance that the researcher knows more than the librarian about its literature, also.

The researcher must try to identify the local libraries likely to be most useful. Sometimes this is quite clear, as for the graduate student of 19th century Iranian parliamentary affairs, for whom the Majlis Library was a daytime home. Depending on the nature of the project, sometimes the researcher should be urged to begin in a well organized general library, such as a central university, USIS or British Council Library. Such a library will present the disadvantage of possessing very few materials of primary or even of secondary value, but, on the other hand, for placing the study in its theoretical or historical context, for keeping current with a few pertinent serials or for getting initial advice about local institutions, such a well organized library has its uses. It is likely to have the best known reference books in the field, relatively good reference service, and materials easy to locate on open shelves. The services of the American Cultural Officer or the British Council Representative can be useful also. He can provide introductions to local professors in the researcher's field and help with residence permits and advice. These American and British libraries are located in Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad and Tabriz.

Referral service should be supplemented by several other modern services. Interpreter and transportation service are two of them. The library should be able to send the researcher to visit a government office, for instance, equipped with an interpreter and a car. He needs the interpreter if he does not speak the local language and the car if he does not know how to locate the government office. Several Tehran libraries can provide their services.

Two types of service exist which can be useful to the researcher seeking specific book or serial titles. The Tehran Book Processing Centre has started the Iranian National Union Catalog which lists the books held by Iranian research libraries. The Union Catalog contains a card for each book and covers twelve Iranian research libraries. After a book is located, it can be obtained on inter-library loan. The data on the cards is being key punched and stored on magnetic tape in the Plan Organization Computer Centre. From the computer printout Tebroc will publish a quarterly periodical Union Catalog which will be available for subscription to any library in the world. The second of these two services is similar, the

Union List of Serials. The Iranian Documentation Centre, Irandoc, is compiling a union list of the exact serial holdings the fifty leading Iranian libraries. A second edition of this list is now in preparation.

A few centers provide selective dissemination of information service. This, too, is a continuing service but one providing assistance custom-tailored to each researcher's needs. A profile is made of the researcher's project interests and a list of subject descriptor headings compiled to represent them. Then, the newly arriving library material is checked each day for papers, pamphlets and books to which can be assigned these same descriptors. If any material fits his interest profile, it is listed and abstracted. The resulting bibliography is sent to him weekly for the duration of this project. He can request photocopies of those papers which seem most promising and thereby keep up with the subject literature. The Iranian Documentation Centre and the Standards Documentation Centre in Tehran are preparing to provide this service.

Of course, hundreds of European and American alerting and scanning services exist as well as bibliographies covering journals published abroad. To mention just a small sampling, the reader should be familiar with the German Orient Institute in Hamburg and its Mitteilungen bibliographies on contemporary Asian affairs. The Farmington Plan News-Letter published by the Association of Research Libraries in Washington, the Unesco Bulletin of Documentation, Terminology, and Bibliography, and the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin. A final bibliographic example is the Iran-Afghanistan literature project planned at the University of Michigan Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies. It seeks to publish regularly a comprehensive index to current Iranian and Afghan humanities and social science publications. Many other bibliographic projects cover specific subjects. A very few libraries make extensive and useful card indexes to newspaper clippings, serial articles, and pamphlets.

In using the typical Iranian library, though considerable variation exists, certain approaches will prove more rewarding than others. At home, the researcher may expect to create no problems by walking in "cold" and searching the card catalog for material under subject headings suggested by his own experience. While the card catalog search, assuming the Iranian library has a card catalog, must be conducted eventually, certainly it is not the best way to approach the library initially. Instead, from as high-ranking an official as possible, preferably at least a university dean, professor or else an American studies center director, the researcher should obtain a Persian language letter of introduction to the chief librarian by name. Further, if possible, that person himself should take the researcher to the library and introduce him to the chief librarian. Certain arrangements will be agreed on for the researcher, and his success in winning staff regard may have considerable bearing on the staff members' helpfulness.

The researcher should explore every library room for material. The entire book collection must be given a careful survey. While his subject will be located primarily in one room or one library, exploration may lead to discovery of another collection of relevant material elsewhere in the same library or on the same campus. Subject classification ideas are not necessarily identical in Asia and in America, and all Iranian librarians do not necessarily value subject concentration of material anyhow.

Even when a card catalog exists, it may not correlate closely with the

material on the shelves. In a fifty year old Iranian library, for instance, the card catalog may never have been edited, and a third of the material may be lost or else not yet cataloged. In such a situation, and assuming the shelf list to be unreliable, also, the researcher should try the library's accession record listing material in the order received, though the description given there will be very brief. Of course, some collections lack even an accession record, so he must go through them systematically and directly, book by book. Incidentally, and for good reasons, sometimes the public catalog is not located in the reading room, but in the processing room, or behind the charging desk, or in the librarian office.

By American and European standards, most Iranian libraries have quite small collections. These collections are likely to be more useful to the historian than to the scientist, because they are never weeded, their historical material is much more interesting to local scholars than current and practical materials, and only a little new material can be added each year. Sometimes these collections are strong in duplicate copies of older editions of college textbooks and weak in other types of material. In many Asian countries, few people can understand the advanced publications in any field, so they are not purchased. In Iran the situation is better, but not ideal. The library may have a fair collection of local material but probably a poorer sampling of foreign titles even though the latter may outnumber the former and be of higher quality. Few libraries have anything approaching complete collections of local material because learning about newly published material and obtaining copies of it are difficult. Furthermore, use is small, so pressure to obtain material is slight. And besides, there is little money and even less foreign currency with which to purchase. Even allowing for the cost of living difference, the per student budgets of most academic libraries are well below those in the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Certain Iranian libraries have subject focus problems. For example, the Isfahan University Medical Library has a fiction collection, also. This situation has developed when the library has attempted to become completely self-sufficient and when nothing has been weeded out. To find an expensive and little used title in three campus libraries while many other useful titles cannot be afforded should not be surprising. Pahlavi University in Shiraz provides an example of the latter with Chemical Abstracts, \$2000 per copy per year.

University central libraries are not necessarily larger or stronger than individual faculty libraries, or even central to anything in particular. At Mashhad University, for instance, the Central Library is one of the smaller campus collections. Some libraries do not circulate books. Others will require the researcher to become a member before he can become a user. To do this, he may need to make a deposit equal to the value of the one or two books which can be checked out at one time.

Iranian government agencies can supply three types of information to social researchers: printed government documents on the subject of concern, unprinted data recently collected, and unprinted opinions, plans, and facts known by a specific staff member. Much social data can be obtained from a government agency's statistical section or the Iranian Census Bureau, both in published and unpublished form. Certain studies can be carried out almost entirely in such offices. Printed documents may be obtained from the office compiling the data, from the ministry information or publication office. In other cases, copies may be available only from the independent consulting company which wrote it. In any case, probably the document will be obtainable free but not without a government official's letter

requesting a copy. It may even be available in English, so locating the supply of copies may be more difficult than reading it. Once obtained, however, another problem is its reliability. Cross checking the data of several reports should permit comparisons leading to accurate estimates of the true figures.

Usually, several Iranian government offices must be visited in each of several ministries, so careful attention to their working hours and locations is desirable. One young American student of Iranian cotton industry economics visited the Ministry of Economy Statistics Department, its Cotton Section, its library, the Faculty of Agriculture Library and several professors there, the Ministry of Agriculture's Cotton Center, its Library, its Cotton Crop Office, and its Cotton Sales Office, an agricultural cooperative called Omran, the Census Bureau, and three processing factories, in addition to the Iranian Documentation Centre.

Private libraries should not be ignored. Certain local scholars have collected books because university and ministry libraries were not always satisfactory. These collections may consist of locally published books, or of diaries, photographs, and manuscripts relating to a particular person, tribe, city, historical era, or social movement, or of material published abroad, or in still other cases, of a mixture. Sometimes, the researcher can locate the publications of an author by asking him directly or those of a deceased individual by asking his family for copies.

THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES
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 Supplement to S.I.S. Newsletter
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