



# S.I.S. NEWSLETTER

## A Publication of The Society for Iranian Studies

Vol. XIX, No. 1

Winter 1987

Address all communications to: Executive Secretary, Society for Iranian Studies,  
c/o CMES, Harvard University, 1737 Cambridge Street, Room 521, Cambridge MA 02138

### SIS NEWS

Richard Bulliet was elected as the new editor of IRANIAN STUDIES. The Council has expressed its deep gratitude to Ervand Abrahamian and Farhad Kazemi, who as editors of the Journal since 1982 have done a superb job of improving the Journal both editorially and technically.

IRANIAN STUDIES, Vol. 19, nos. 3-4 (a double issue) should be distributed early in April. The publication of Volume 20 may be delayed by the change of editors.

Annemarie Schimmel, Harvard University, has been nominated to receive the Eleventh Giorgio Levi Della Vida Award. Dr. Schimmel has selected Jalal al-Din Rumi as the central theme of the 1987 Giorgio Levi Della Vida Biennial Conference to be held at UCLA in May, 1987.

James Bill has accepted a position at the College of William and Mary, starting in September 1987.

Tagi Sagafi-Nejad, Associate Professor of International Business at the Sellinger School of Business and Management, Loyola College, has been appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the newly-created State Trade Policy Council, to assist the State of Maryland in enhancing international business.

Houchang E. Chehabi is now Assistant Professor of Government and Social Studies at Harvard University.

John Gulick is now Professor Emeritus of

Anthropology at the University of North Carolina.

James F. Goode has joined the Department of History at Grand Valley State College in Allendale, Michigan.

Mary Hegland is now with the Department of Anthropology at Western Michigan University. She won the Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences for her dissertation entitled "Imam Khomeini's Village: Recruitment to Revolution."

Hamid Naficy of UCLA gave a talk entitled "Mediawork's Representation of the Other: The Case of Iran" at the "Third Cinema" Conference in Edinburgh, August 1986.

John Bubon has retired from the US Army. He would have been Army attaché in post-revolutionary Iran if the hostage crisis had not happened.

Colin MacKinnon's well-reviewed novel, Finding Hoseyn, has appeared in a Japanese edition and will be published in paperback by Penguin this spring.

A seminar on Iranian politics and society is being held at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University this spring. There will be five meetings which will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, with special emphasis on the use of material from the Iranian Oral History Project which has recently become available. Most of the speakers and discussants are members of SIS: Ahmad Ashraf, Ali Ban-



uazizi, Houchang Chehabi, Shahla Haeri, Habib Ladjevardi, William Miller, Afsaneh Najmabadi, Henry Precht, Sepehr Zabih.

## 1986 Council Meeting

The Annual meeting of the SIS Council was held Thursday, November 20, 1986 at the Boston Sheraton Hotel. The Executive Secretary reported that 69 new members joined the Society in 1986 and 26 members left; the total membership has increased from 331 in 1984 to 363 in 1985 to 406 in 1986; and there are now 163 institutional subscriptions, an increase of 9% from 1985.

Muriel Atkin was asked to coordinate the SIS panels for the 1987 MESA/SIS Meetings, and Michael Morony and Mehdi Bozorgmehr were chosen to serve as the Election Committee for this year.

It was decided that a questionnaire should be sent to all members at least once a year to solicit news for the Newsletter and that a survey should be considered to assess member's expectations and evaluations of the Newsletter. The first questionnaire was sent out with the membership renewal forms and a few have been returned with news items.

Persian, not Farsi: The Council also enthusiastically supported the Executive Secretary's recommendation for an educational campaign to encourage the use of the word "Persian" rather than "Farsi" for the language spoken in Iran. The following statement will be sent out to schools, the media, etc., and we hope that all SIS members will also help to educate the English-speaking public:

"The Society for Iranian Studies would like to draw your attention to the correct English term for the language spoken by most Iranians, which is Persian. The word "Farsi" is being used by an increasing number of English speakers to refer to the Persian language. This is confusing and has no basis in the history of the English language. The English word is "Persian". "Farsi" is the Persian word for that language as "français" is

the French word for the language spoken in France. We are not sure where this usage of "Farsi" arose, but SIS urges English speakers to use the word "Persian" when referring to the language in question."

## Editors' Report

Since the last SIS/MESA meeting, five issues of IRANIAN STUDIES have been published. These include Volume 18 (1985), issues 2-4 and Volume 19 (1986), issues 1 and 2. A double issue (3-4) of Volume 19 has been sent to the printer. It is clear that we are catching up with our backlog problem.

Our term as editors ended on January 1, 1987. We are indeed delighted that the Council has appointed Professor Richard Bulliet of Columbia University as the next editor of the Journal. We are confident that Professor Bulliet and his associates will improve the Journal in quality and production design. We offer the new editor our warmest congratulations and wishes for a successful term.

During our editorship, several steps were taken to improve the Journal. From a substantive point of view, we tried to cover the field as broadly as possible. The range of published materials included articles on literature, religion, history of religion, economic and social history, anthropology, contemporary political and social affairs, and translations of several major literary pieces from Persian. The Journal was also blessed with a strong bibliographic section and an excellent book review department. Although our coverage was reasonably broad, the editors would have preferred a larger number of quality submissions in the areas of social science and modern history. We believe that it is important that a proper balance, not a rigid quota system, be kept among the social sciences and the humanities in the pages of the Journal.

From an esthetic point of view, the Journal improved noticeably in the past few years. The purchase of the IBM computer has allowed us to produce a journal



with justified margins and different printings for the text and the footnotes, except for Italics, which we expect to be able to use in the near future.

The editors of the Journal have had the benefit of support and guidance of a large number of colleagues during the past five years. These include the editorial and production staff, the members of the Editorial Board, members of the Council and the Executive Committee, and many outside reviewers who willingly gave their time to make this journal a success. The total number of these colleagues and associates is too large to mention in this report. We would like to formally thank all of them for their generous contribution of their scholarship and time to IRANIAN STUDIES.

Ervand Abrahamian and Farhad Kazemi

## Treasurer's Report

The long-term financial health of the Society is improving slowly, but this year's bills were not met by our annual income and it was necessary to use membership and subscription funds for future years and to solicit unrestricted funds. In short, we have multiplied our endowment funds but our annual income does not meet our annual expenditure needs. We operated at a deficit in 1986. The increased production costs involved in catching up with Journal publication account for part of the deficit. The other part comes from the administrative costs necessary to run the large and efficient organization into which SIS is evolving. Many thanks are due to those whose generous donations of unrestricted funds helped the Society to meet its bills.

As one step toward financial health, at the annual meeting the members voted to increase life membership dues from \$500 (single) and \$600 (family) to \$750 and \$850 respectively. The new rate goes into effect on April 1, 1987. In the long term, life memberships deposited into the endowment fund will eventually provide the cushion in interest that we need to

meet annual bills.

## Life Members

Shahrough Akhavi  
Najmieh Batmanglij

Farhad Hakimzadeh  
John Perry  
Kazuo Takahashi

Ali Banuazizi  
Richard Frye &  
Eden Naby  
Nikki Keddie  
Abolala Soudavar

Eden Naby

## 1986 SIS Panels

The 1986 SIS/MESA meetings in Boston were very successful. Many SIS members gave talks, but we have room to list only those who took part in the panels sponsored by the Society:

- The Constitutional Revolution in Iran and the Kasravi Movement - Asghar Fathi, M.A. Jazayeri (Chair)
- Impact of the Iran-Iraq War on Iranian Society - Hooshang Amirahmadi (Chair), Peter Chelkowski, Mansour Farhang, Reinhold Loeffler, Manouchehr Parvin, Gregory Rose
- Foreign Scholarship on Iran Outside the United States - Muriel Atkin, Bernard Hourcade, Nikki Keddie (Chair), Hisae Nakanishi

## The Iranian Oral History Project

The material collected by Harvard University's Iranian Oral History Project over the last five years is now available to researchers.

The primary aim of the Iranian Oral History Project was to collect and preserve the personal accounts of individuals who played major roles in important political events and decisions in Iran.

When possible, interviews with major political figures were conducted in two phases. In phase I, the interviews were unstructured and impromptu, allowing the narrators the opportunity to present their own biographies and to stress those aspects of their political lives that they considered significant. In phase II, specific questions were posed which were



formulated in advance taking into account the data presented in phase I. These questions covered major events and decisions in which the narrators had participated, as well as possible omissions and ambiguities.

The interviews were conducted in Persian or English, depending on each narrator's preference. Twelve of the 126 narrators were recorded in English. In addition, approximately 20 hours of Persian interviews have been translated into English. The length of the interviews ranged from 1 to 43 hours; the average length of each memoir was, however, 6.4 hours.

A preliminary analysis of the 126 individuals interviewed to date indicates that the largest proportion, 25 percent, belonged to the executive branch, which included cabinet-level civilian officials. Members of the legislative branch and political parties (both legal and underground) comprised 24 percent, followed by military and security officers, 15 percent; political writers, university professors, and journalists, 13 percent; private sector, 6 percent; Imperial Court, 6 percent; judiciary, 5 percent; and foreign diplomats, 4 percent. Ten of the narrators, or 8 percent, were women.

Forty-six percent of the interviews were conducted in France, 13 percent in the Washington D.C. area; 12 percent in England, 10 percent in Cambridge, 7 percent in California, and the remaining 12 percent in Switzerland, New York, Haiti, and Austria. Although it was not possible to organize interviews in Iran, a small number of individuals who lived in Iran were recorded while visiting abroad.

Each tape is 60 minutes in length, producing approximately 22 pages of text in Persian or 40 pages in English. Not all of the tapes have been transcribed; approximately 25 hours have been left in audio form. The remaining recorded interviews have been transcribed, verified, retyped, and indexed in English. The transcripts are unedited except for those corrected by the narrators themselves.

Each one-hour tape was treated as a separate unit with its own transcript, and these are numbered consecutively for each narrator. The general index enables

researchers to locate the material they seek quickly and efficiently. Each tape or transcript also has its own individual index.

Approximately 60 percent of the narrators placed no restrictions on their memoirs. Another 3 percent of the memoirs will be available by the year 1990. Of the balance, 12 percent are closed during the lifetime of the narrator, while 10 percent require the permission of the narrator for direct quotations.

Because 40 percent of the participants have placed restrictions on the use of their memoirs, Harvard's Houghton Library, which held Trotsky's papers under seal for several decades, has been designated as the repository for the tapes and transcripts. In the near future copies will also be available at the Bodleian Library, the University of Oxford.

Tapes and transcripts of memoirs without restrictions and those no longer restricted are now available to researchers who visit Harvard. For more information, please contact the Iranian Oral History Project, Harvard University, 1737 Cambridge St. #521, Cambridge MA 02138, telephone 617/495-7596.

## Announcements

The Institute of Persian Performing Arts has been organized to promote the preservation of the arts and cultures of Iran and the surrounding areas. The Institute brings together and focuses the endeavors of outstanding scholars and artists, provides musical instruction, and maintains a library of written, audio, and visual materials. Institute of Persian Performing Arts, 3306 Gibson Place, Redondo Beach, CA 90278, telephone (213) 371-6649).

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The Third Annual Meeting of the Japan Association for Middle East Studies will be held April 4-5, 1987, at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo). A symposium on "Army in the Middle East -- Past and Present" will be the main feature.

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The Foundation for Iranian Studies has



provided an annual grant of \$8000 toward the establishment of an undergraduate major in Iranian Studies at UCLA. FIS has also provided a grant in support of a lecture series on the economics, politics, literature, and history of Iran at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The series will include six lectures scheduled for the spring and fall semesters this year.

The Soudavar family has donated 700,000 Pounds to Oxford University for the establishment of a chair in Iranian Studies.

The Selection Committee of the Foundation for Iranian Studies selected Ms. Yegane Shaygan's Ph.D. dissertation, "Avicenna on Time", submitted to the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard, as the recipient of the \$1000 award for the best Ph.D. dissertation in the field of Iranian Studies for the period July 1985 to July 1986.

The Awards Committee of the Persian Heritage Foundation awarded publication aid grants to:

Dimitri Gutas for "Avicenna and the Aristotelian Tradition"

Abbas Amanat for "Resurrection and the Renewal of the Age: The Emergence of the Babi Movement in Qajar Iran (1844-1852)"

Wheeler Thackston and Sekandar Amanollahi for "Tales from Luristan"

Reinhold Loeffler for "Islam in Practice: Religious Beliefs in an Iranian Village"

Brigitte Hoffmann for her annotated translation into German of Rostam al-Tawarikh

Gisele Kapuscinsky for "Modern Persian Drama: An Anthology"

The Tahereh Foundation Awards Committee made no award this year. It has been decided that the form of the award will be changed.

An anonymous foundation will award grants of up to \$5000 as an aid towards the publication of scholarly books dealing with Safavid textiles. The granting of

the awards will be administered by the Society for Iranian Studies and the foundation.

The American Institute of Iranian Studies announces the availability of a small number of grants for amounts up to \$1000 each to assist dissertation research on any topic in Iranian Studies. Candidates must be in good standing at a dues-paying institution and have a research project that requires work away from their home institution. With the letter of application, candidates should submit a curriculum vitae, a brief (2-page) description of the project, a transcript of graduate work, and two letters of recommendation including one from the principal advisor. Applications should be submitted by March 15, 1987, to: Fellowship Committee, AIIS, Near Eastern Studies Department, Jones Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08540.

The Foundation for Iranian Studies announces a prize of \$1000 for the best Ph.D. dissertation in the field of Iranian Studies. All students completing their dissertations between July 1, 1986 and July 1, 1987 are eligible to apply for the 1987 prize. Dissertations must be nominated by the author's advisor and accompanied by a letter of acceptance for the degree. Applicants for the 1987 award should submit two copies of the dissertation to: Secretary, Foundation for Iranian Studies, 4343 Montgomery Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814, by August 1, 1987.

The Persian Heritage Foundation grants annual awards of up to \$5000, in three categories, as an aid towards publishing.

1. Scholarly works dealing with Iranian humanities when they qualify as original research or synthesis of a high standard.
2. Translations of works of merit from Persian or other Iranian languages which conform to the required standards of accuracy and readability.
3. Booksize manuscripts of poetry or creative prose in English by Persian writers.

The minimum lengths are: 60,000 words for



scholarly prose, 50,000 words for creative prose, 100 typescript pages for poetry.

Publishers or authors may apply. Dissertations should be made "publishable" in book form and be accompanied by two letters from scholars in the field expressing clearly that the work is suitable for publication in its present form. The award extends to French and German works after they have been screened by the chairman of the French and German committee.

The granting of the awards is administered by SIS and Columbia University's Center for Iranian Studies. The deadline for 1987 is March 1. The letter of application for the award, as well as any other correspondence except the manuscripts, should be sent to: The Executive Secretary, The Society for Iranian Studies, c/o Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, 1737 Cambridge St. Rm. 521, Cambridge, MA 02138. Two copies of the final, edited manuscript, ready for printing in every respect (including introduction and notes if pertinent), should be sent to: The Executive Secretary, Society for Iranian Studies, c/o 450 Riverside Drive #22, New York, NY 10027.

The College of Arts and Sciences of The American University seeks nominations and applications for a one-year rotating Distinguished Visiting Professorship Chair in Islamic Studies, beginning September 1987. The visitor should be from a university in the Islamic world and will serve in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, and in another academic unit within the college, depending on the applicant's experience and research interests. Requirements for the position include teaching three courses and presenting a public lecture series during the academic year. The successful applicant will have an outstanding record as a scholar and teacher with specialization in Islamic philosophy and related areas. The college particularly welcomes applicants with interest in fields related to the study of anthropology. Nominations

or applications should be sent, with a curriculum vitae and the names of three references to: Betty T. Bennett, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, The American University, Washington, DC 20016.

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The Department of History at Washington State University announces the following position in Middle Eastern/Islamic History: a tenure-track beginning assistant professorship starting August 16, 1987; salary competitive; will teach lower and upper division courses in Middle Eastern History, Western Civilization or World Civilization, and will have a teaching competency preferably in African, other Asian (excluding the Far East), Quantitative or Mediterranean Basin History. Application letter, vitae and three current recommendations should be addressed to: John E. Kicza, Search Committee Chair, Department of History, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4030.

Anyone interested in organizing or participating in an SIS panel at the 1987 MESA/SIS Meetings should contact Prof. Muriel Atkin at 202/676-6426 immediately.

### Recent Books on Iran

ADVENTURES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS. By Donald N. Wilber. Princeton, NJ: The Darwin Press, 1987. 256pp. \$17.95.

ARDA WIRAZ NAMAG: THE IRANIAN 'DIVINA COMEDIA'. By Fereydun Vahman. London: Curzon Press, 1986. 326pp. Sterling 10.50 (paper).

THE COMBINED NEW PERSIAN-ENGLISH AND ENGLISH-PERSIAN DICTIONARY. By Abbas Aryanpur Kashani and Manoochehr Aryanpur Kashani. Lexington, KY: Mazda Publishers, 1986. 580pp. \$36.00.

\*THE ELEMENTARY STRUCTURES OF POLITICAL LIFE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAHLEVI IRAN. By Grace Goodell. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. 352pp. \$45.00.



THE ETHICS OF THE ARISTOCRATS AND OTHER SATIRICAL WORKS. By 'Obeyd-e Zakani. Translated by Hasan Javadi. Piedmont, CA: Jahan Books, 1985. Middle Eastern Series, no. 11. 132pp. \$10.00 (paper).

FEMINISM AND NATIONALISM IN THE THIRD WORLD. By Kumari Jayawardena. London: Zed Press, 1986. 269pp. \$35.00 (cloth), \$12.50 (paper). Includes Iran.

\*FOOD OF LIFE. By Najmieh Batmanglij. Washington, DC: Mage Publishers, 1986. 280pp. 26 color photographs. A very beautiful Persian cookbook.

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1952-1954. Vol. IX, THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1986. Includes the Iranian nationalization of the AIOC.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT: GOD, MAN AND THE UNIVERSE. By Ayatullah Murtaza Mutahhari. Translated by R. Campbell. Berkeley, CA: Mizan Press, 1985. 235pp. \$19.95 (cloth), \$8.95 (paper).

THE GREAT MIRAGE. By Beatrice Mar Elia. Port Washington, NY: Ashley Books, 1986. A historical novel about Iran from 1896-1920.

GUSHIHA'I AS FARHANG VA ADAB-I MARDUM-I KUHMAHRIH, NUVDAN, JURUQ, SURKHI-YI FARS (Some Cultural Aspects of the People of Kuhmahrih, Nuvdan, Juruq, and Surkhi of Fars). By Sayyid Hasan Musavi. Shiraz: Navid, 1362/1983. 191pp.

INSPIRATIONS FROM THE WORLD OF PURE SPIRITS. By Ahmad Sawanih Ghazzali. Translated by Nasrollah Pourjavady. London: KPI, 1986. 127pp. \$29.95.

\*IRAN: AT WAR WITH HISTORY. By John W. Limbert. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, February 1987. 176pp. \$28.00.

\*IRANIAN JEWRY'S HOUR OF PERIL AND HEROISM: A STUDY OF BABAI IBN LUTF'S CHRONICLE (1617-1662). By Vera B. Moreen. New York/Jerusalem: American Academy for Jewish Research, 1986.

KHATIRAT SAYYID 'ALI MUHAMMAD DAWLATABADI (Memoirs of Sayyid 'Ali Muhammad Dawlatabadi). By Sayyid 'Ali Muhammad Dawlatabadi. Tehran: Intisharat-i Ferdousi, 1362/1983. 199pp.

KITAB-I SABZ (The Green Book). Tehran: Nashr-i Tarikh-i Iran, 1363/1984. 186pp.

\*MINIATURE PAINTINGS IN JUDAEO-PERSIAN MANUSCRIPTS. By Vera B. Moreen. Cincinnati, OH: Hebrew Union College Press, 1985.

\*MOHAMMAD MOSSADEGH: A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY. By Farhard Diba. London: Croom Helm, 1986. 240pp. \$43.00.

PERSISCHE GESCHICHTE 1694-1835: ERLEBT, ERINNERT UND ERFUNDEN. By Birgitt Hoffman. Bamberg: AKU, 1985. 428pp.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF IRAN UNDER THE SHAH. By M.M.H. Malek. London: Croom Helm, 1987. 288pp. \$34.50.

\*THE QASHQA'I OF IRAN. By Lois Beck. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986. 384pp. \$30.00.

REVOLUTIONARY IRAN: CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. By R.K. Ramazani. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987. \$27.50.

SAVANIH-I 'UMR (Incidents of Life). By Shams ad-Din Rushdiih. Tehran: Nashr-i Tarikh-i Iran, 1362/1983. 150pp.

SAYYID JAMAL AD-DIN ASADABADI VA TAF-AKUR-I JADID (Sayyid Jamal ad-Din and Modern Thought). By Karim Mujtahidi. Tehran: Nashr-i Tarikh-i Iran, 1363/1984. 98pp.

THE SENSE OF UNITY: THE SUFI TRADITION IN PERSIAN ARCHITECTURE. By Nadar Ardalan and Laleh Bakhtiar. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987. 172pp. \$29.95. Reprint.

SHI'ISM, RESISTANCE AND REVOLUTION. Edited by Martin Kramer. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1987. 350pp. \$39.85.

A SHI'ITE ANTHOLOGY. Edited and translated by William C. Chittick. London:



Muhammadi Trust, 1986. 152pp. \$25.00 (cloth), \$12.95 (paper).

THE SOVIET UNION AND IRANIAN AZERBAIJAN: THE USE OF NATIONALISM FOR POLITICAL PENETRATION. By David B. Nissman. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1986. 156pp. \$18.95.

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE MIDDLE EAST: A DOCUMENTARY RECORD OF AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND TURKEY, 1917-1985. Compiled by Basil Dmytryshyn and Frederick Cox. Princeton, NJ: The Kingston Press, Spring 1987. 700pp. \$49.00.

THE STRANGLING OF PERSIA: A PERSONAL NARRATIVE. By W. Morgan Schuster. Washington, DC: Mage Publishers, March 1987. 423pp. \$20.00. A reprint of the original edition of 1912.

TRAITE DE GOUVERNEMENT. By Nizam al-Mulk. Translated and annotated by Charles Schefer. Paris: Editions Sindbad, 1985. La bibliotheque persane. 382pp. FF150 (paper). Reprint of a work published in the 1890s.

(\*SIS member)

An IBM Persian typewriter is for sale: \$500 or best offer. Please call 617/495-7596.

The list of Ph.D. dissertations on Iranian subjects, 1980-1985, will be continued in the Spring 1987 issue of the Newsletter.