

SIS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Society for Iranian Studies

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REPORTS FROM MESA, 1995:

Executive Secretary's Report, by Charlotte Albright

Nineteen ninety-five was a year of productivity and growth for SIS. Our membership now stands at 350 for individual members and 180 for institutional members, and membership continues to grow, particularly among students.

In 1995, a *Roster* of members and a membership brochure were produced, and three issues of *SIS News* were published at the Secretariat. All the Society's back issues are now in Seattle and sales have been good.

A number of individuals have worked very hard on behalf of SIS during the past year. Janet Afary took charge of checking on SIS panels for MESA. She has volunteered to do this again in 1996. Beatrice Manz contacted people who had

been nominated to run for election to the SIS Council, made sure they wanted to try for election, and obtained biodata sheets from them.

A special committee, consisting of Juan Cole, Ali Banuazizi, and Bill Hanaway, has spent many hours working to revise the SIS Constitution; this work will continue this year. Among the changes in the Constitution will be an enlarged Council including a President Elect, President, and Past President.

The Society has also established the Saidi-Sirjani Book Award fund. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Bill Hanaway, and Ali Banuazizi have created the parameters for the prize, which will be awarded for the first time in 1996. Finally, Layla Diba has diligently canvassed members and non-members for donations to SIS.

Editor's Report, by Abbas Amanat

The past year was a particularly successful one for the journal *Iranian Studies*. Over the past few years the journal saw steady improvement, but last year was a turning point since for the first time in nearly a decade the journal became almost current. We published three issues in the course of the year: a double special issue, Vol. 26, 3-4, 1993, on the Riza Shah era; a quadruple special issue on religion in pre-modern Iran, Vol. 27, 1-4, 1994; and a regular double issue, Vol. 28, 1-2, 1995. In total, over the course of 1995 we published 588 pages, a remarkable number by any standard. The three issues contained 19 scholarly articles,

one symposium, two review essays, and 49 book reviews. The next issue of the journal, Vol. 28, 3-4, will appear in early 1996.

The production values and quality of printing of the journal have also been improved during the last year. From Vol. 27 on, the journal has been published from computer disk, which gives a higher resolution, is easier on the eye, and looks more professional overall. The laminated cover ensures a greater durability as well.

The range of articles published by the journal last year covered a wide spectrum of historical and political topics. The special issue on the Riza Shah era offered six articles and two review essays on social, cultural, and economic issues, perhaps the first scholarly study to be produced on this period. For the special issue on religion and state in pre-modern Iran, which offers eight articles from early Islamic to the Afsharid periods, I am particularly indebted to Said Arjomand, who organized the initial panel for the Iranian Studies conference in 1993, and later served as the guest editor for this issue, which is probably one of the best the journal has produced in recent years. Here my thanks are also due to Farhad Kazemi for soliciting and editing the papers for the symposium on "Iranian Domestic Politics in the Post-Revolutionary Period," which appeared in Vol. 26, 3-4, and covered aspects of the politics of post-revolutionary Iran.

The two double issues for 1995 are devoted to a variety of articles on current issues on art, history, and literature. The next issue will contain five articles: Bucharlet on the history of French archaeology in Iran, Daryai on Sassanian Iran, Golesorkhi on women in the Safavid court, Marzolph on popular literature, and Moghadam on women in post-revolutionary Iran.

Book Reviews: The Book Review Committee, consisting of Shahrough Akhavi (chair and responsible for religion, politics, and art), and Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (literature) and Rudi Mathee (history) were as productive and dedicated as ever. My thanks go to all three for their hard work, vigilance, and sound judgement.

Future Plans: During 1996, the journal is planning to publish two double issues: a special issue (Vol. 29, 1-2) devoted to the review of the seven published volumes of *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and a variety issue. The special issue on *EIr* will consist of about thirty review essays by leading scholars. These essays will provide the first collective and detailed review of the *Encyclopaedia* and a mid-course evaluation of this important reference work. Thanks to Ahmad Ashraf, this issue will also include a full subject index of the seven volumes with more than 3500 entries and a statistical analysis of the coverage of *EIr*. An interview with Professor Ehsan Yarshater about *EIr* will also be included in this issue.

Beyond special issues the journal should try to achieve two goals: first, maintaining its interdisciplinary mission by expanding its coverage of subjects such as current politics, economies and societies of Iran and neighboring countries, foreign relations, and history of pre-Islamic Iran. The second goal is to increase the number of issues to three issues annually: two single and one double issue.

Finally, I would like to recognize the dedication and professional standards that the journal's assistant editors, Amin Neshati and Michael Rubin, have demonstrated. Amin Neshati's work as the copyeditor and production manager is of the highest quality. Michael Rubin's contribution as assistant to the editor, dealing with correspondence and other affairs, has also been remarkable.

Treasurer's Report by Jere Bacharach

The following balance sheet and statement of revenues and expenses gives a picture of the Society's financial condition as of December 31, 1995.

BALANCE SHEET			
Assets			
Operating Checking account			\$14,511.92
Annuity			29,418.16
Time Deposit -- 2 yr. CD			2,099.17
Sai'di-Sirjani Account			
Checking	\$508.23		
Checking	7,512.24		
Savings	<u>1,014.39</u>		<u>9,034.86</u>
		TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$55,064.11</u>
Liabilities			
Owed to Columbia University			<u>6,093.36</u>
		TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>6,093.36</u>
Fund Balance			
Beginning Fund Balance @1-1-95			\$ 38,011.74
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses For Twelve Months Ending 12-31-95			<u>10,959.01</u>
		TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 48,970.75
Restricted Fund Balance	45,552.19		
Unrestricted Fund Balance	<u>3,418.56</u>		<u>\$48,970.75</u>
		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$55,064.11</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
for the twelve months ending 12-31-95

Operating Revenues

Membership dues	\$ 8,354.26
Institutional dues	9,510.75
Gifts and Contributions	9,952.00
Sales	1,627.00
Interest	<u>147.54</u>

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 29,591.55

Operating Expenses

Journal Printing & Mailing	7,174.57
Journal Editing	5,707.05
Roster--1995	1,547.66
Newsletter	933.22
MESA 95	715.90
Office & General Expense	2,140.94
Fees & Accounting Expense	<u>413.20</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES (18,632.54)

EXCESS OF REVENUES
OVER EXPENSES \$ 10,959.01

New Members

The following people have joined SIS since the publication of our last newsletter in Fall, 1996.

Air A. Afkhami
Reza Afshari
Kamran S. Aghaie
Thea Amr
Arkun Aram
Nassim Assefi
Kathryn Babayan
Ali Barzegar
Shahzad Bashir
Michael Bonine
Kambiz Borhan

James Clark
Michael Connell
Jamal Elias
Anna Enayat
Latifeh E. Hagigi
Anett K. Jessop
Rachel Milstein
Negar Mottahedeh
Farrokh Najmabadi
Haleh Nazeri
Farhad Partovi
Judith Pfeiffer
Monica M. Ringer
Abbas W. Samii
Kathleen Sanjabi
Kavous Seyed-Emami

Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson
Majid Tafreshi
Mark A. Zaineddin
Andre'a Zavareei

Donations

Several people have made generous donations to the Society for Iranian Studies since Fall, 1995. They are:

Anonymous (2)
Shahrugh Akhavi
Jere L. Bacharach
Frederick DeJong
Farhad Kazemi
Bradford Hanson
Habib Ladjevardi

Volume 28, 3-4 (1995)/ 1996 Dues Notices

The last issue of *Iranian Studies* for 1995, Volume 28, 3-4, has gone to press. Members should receive this issue in April, 1996. The computer files which we send to the printer now require electronic marking; a process called "postscripting." A new computer which could do this job was in the works, so it was decided to wait until it was in place to do the postscripting work.

With the last issue of Volume 28 underway, dues notices for 1996 will go out in the near future. The journal editors are already working on Volume 29, 1-2. This issue should be ready to go to press in June, 1996.

The Rules for the Saidi-Sirjani Award

The Society for Iranian Studies established the Saidi-Sirjani Award in 1995. It will be awarded for the first time this year for a monograph-length book (see definition of appropriate work below) published in 1994. Books published in 1995 may be submitted before December 31, 1996 to the SIS Secretariat (see newsletter return address). For further information about this book award, you may contact Bill Hanaway, 19 Farm Road, Wayne, PA 19087,

telephone 610-687-4714, email <whanaway@mec.sas.upenn.edu>. Here are the rules and regulations governing the prize: *Preamble--*

The purpose of the prize is to promote and encourage scholarship in the field of Iranian studies, as well as to preserve the memory of Ali-Akbar Saidi-Sirjani in appreciation of his work, his courage, and his indefatigable struggle for freedom of expression.

There will be annually one prize winner and two honorable mentions.

Statutes--

A. Eligibility for Consideration

1. Works qualifying for the prize will consist of (a) original studies or syntheses in Persian, English, and European languages of a topic in the Iranian field; (b) critical editions of significant texts in an Iranian language; (c) translations from an Iranian language only if accompanied by scholarly annotations requiring extensive research. Works of fiction and poetry are excluded. To be considered for the prize, works should be of monograph length and published by a recognized publishing house.
2. The criteria for selection are: scholarly worth, adequacy of research, lucidity of expression, and significance to the field of Iranian studies.

B. Organization and Procedures of Committee

3. Initially, the Executive Committee of SIS will appoint a standing committee of five members to select the winners. The term of the initial committee shall be for two years, after which time terms shall be staggered so that in the third year two members chosen by lot will be replaced and the following year the remaining three. Thus, initially, three members will have a term of three years and two members will have a term of two years. thereafter, in alternate years two members or three members will rotate off the Committee

so that no member will stay on the Committee for more than two consecutive years.

4. The members of the Standing Committee, with the participation of members of the SIS Executive Committee ex officio, shall choose their own successors. Members of the Standing committee may be re-elected after the lapse of one year.

5. For the initial two years the Chairperson and Secretary of the Committee will be appointed for two-year terms. Thereafter, the Committee will elect a Chairperson and Secretary every year.

6. By the end of January of each year the Executive Secretary of SIS will forward the works submitted for the prize to the Standing Committee for evaluating and ranking. The works must have been published from the first of January to the end of December of two years earlier.

7. The Standing Committee will review the books and determine, by majority vote, the winner and two runners-up for the year's prize. It will report these names to the Executive Secretary by November 1.

8. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee will announce the winner and two runners-up at the SIS annual business meeting and the Executive Secretary will publicize this news in the appropriate media.

9. The amount of the first prize to be awarded shall be set by the Standing Committee at the beginning of each year. The annual prize for the first three years will be \$3,000. No monetary awards shall be given to the two runners-up.

10. Funding for the prize will be provided by an initial endowment and future contributions to be made by interested individuals and institutions. The Standing Committee, assisted by the SIS Council and members will make every effort to secure the necessary funds for the annual prize. SIS will act as trustee and custodian of all such

funds, which will be kept in a designated account, will all principal and accrued interest to be used exclusively for the purpose of the Book Prize and its associated expenses.

11. Meetings of the Standing Committee will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order on all relevant points not covered in these statutes.

12. The Standing committee in conjunction with the Executive Committee may revise or refine these statutes with a majority vote.

News of the Foundation for Iranian Studies

Dissertation prize--

The Foundation for Iranian Studies (FIS) announces its annual prize of \$1000 for the best Ph.D. dissertation in the field of Iranian Studies. Students completing their dissertations between July 1, 1995 and June 30, 1996 are eligible to apply for the 1996 prize.

Dissertations must be nominated by the author's advisor and be accompanied by the Dissertations Committee's letter of acceptance. Applicants for the 1996 award should submit two copies of the dissertations to: Secretary, Foundation for Iranian Studies, 4343 Montgomery Ave., Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Award recipient in 1995--

The FIS Committee on the Selection of the Best Dissertation of the Year on a topic of Iranian Studies has chosen Dr. Franklin D. Lewis's Ph.D. dissertation entitled *Reading, Writing, and Recitation: Sana'i and the Origins of the Persian Ghazal*, for the 1995 award. Dr. Lewis graduated from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.

The Committee also cited for Honorable Mention Dr. Parvaneh Pourshariati's Ph.D. dissertation entitled *Iranian Tradition in Tus*.

and the Arab Presence in Khurasan , submitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, and Dr. Abbas William Samii's Ph.D. dissertation entitled *The Role of SAVAK in the 1978-79 Iranian Revolution*, submitted to the University of Cambridge.

Congratulations to these scholars!

The Iranian Women's Studies Foundation to Meet in Seattle in June

The Iranian Women's Studies Foundation (IWSF) is a not-for-profit organization. It brings together academic and professional women, researchers, and community activists from all over the world engaged in the teaching and research about issues pertaining to Iranian women.

The main activity sponsored by IWSF centers around an annual conference lasting three days. In its past conferences, IWSF has addressed such themes as "Iranian Women and Family Transformations," "Iranian Women in Exile," and "Women, Sexuality and Islam."

The seventh conference will take place in Seattle at the University of Washington, June 14-16, 1996. The conference theme will be "Iranian Women and Human Rights." Conference proceedings will be in Persian (with English abstracts of the talks) except for a lecture by Prof. Ann Mayer of the University of Pennsylvania. For this talk there will be a synopsis in Persian. Pre-registration for the conference is \$80 or \$100 at the door. The registration fee includes two days of conference and two evenings of entertainment, including a concert by Sima Bina, the famous Iranian folk singer.

To register, or for additional information about this conference, contact Homa Sarshar, 15470 Duomo Via, Los Angeles, CA 90077 or telephone 310-472-2313. Or

you may contact Nasrin Mirsaidi in Bellevue, WA at 206-644-4488.

Middle East Economic Association Plans Meeting

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations in New Orleans, LA, January 3-5, 1997. To participate, send a one-page abstract with a \$25 program submission fee by April 10, 1996 to: E. Mine Cinar, Executive Secretary, MEEA, Dept. of Economics, Loyola University Chicago, 820 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. For inquiries, you may also use email <#w40mec@luccpua.it.luc.edu>.

The Danesh Institute

The Danesh Institute is an independent, non-political, not-for-profit educational organization. The Institute's main purpose is to stimulate and promote scholarly studies related to contemporary Iranian society and Iranian communities abroad, particularly Iranian immigrants in the United States. The Institute sponsors conferences and other meetings, supports the initiation and undertaking of research, and publishes a bulletin. Membership in the Institute is open to all persons committed to its purpose.

To become a member, please send your name, affiliation and position, address and telephone number, along with your membership dues (check payable to Danesh Institute) to: Dr. Cyrus Behrooz, Exec. Sec't., Danesh Institute, c/o Indiana University School of Social Work, 902 West New York Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5156.

Categories for annual dues are as follows: Regular/individual--\$20, Regular/couple--\$30, Sustaining/individual--\$50, Sustaining/couple--\$50, and full time

student--\$10. For more information, contact Cyrus Behrooz at the above address or by telephone, 317-274-6706.

University of Cologne Offers Summer Language Course in Isfahan

The Oriental Seminar of the University of Cologne offers both academic year and summer courses in Isfahan. For this summer the six week course will take place August 15 to September 25. For further information, contact the Oriental Seminar, University of Cologne, ATT: Prof. Monika Gronke, RE: Language Course in Isfahan, Albertus-Magnus-Platz, 50923 Cologne, Germany. FAX is 011-49-221-470-5043.

Notice from Institute of Cultural Research and Studies in Tehran

The Institute of Cultural Research and Studies was established in 1987 in Tehran. The objective of the Institute initially was collecting the private archives of the modern history of Iran. Over time the Institute has expanded. Now, it contains both private and public documents and historical pictures of the Qajar and Pahlavi periods. The Institute has an academic publication, a set of collected essays called *Tarikh-e Mua'aser* (Contemporary History of Iran) of which eight issues have been published. The Institute holds conferences, lectures, and seminars about the modern history of Iran. Also, the Institute has a large library of old manuscripts and many valuable books in Persian, Arabic, French, English, German, and Russian.

The library has a new project to enhance its relationships and establish communications with Middle East Centers and Iranian Studies departments, libraries, and historians of modern Iran around the world. It will, thus, be able to provide more materials and information on the modern history of Iran in European languages

(books, articles, reports, historical documents, information through computer network, and etc.). We will certainly appreciate any help these centers and historians can provide us in this matter. The library is also ready to return the favor when possible and try to locate articles and books which are hard to find outside Iran. The FAX number of the Institute is 011-98-21-262096.

European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS)

ESCAS was founded in 1985 by a group of scholars from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Denmark all of whom worked in Central Asian Studies. The purpose of the organization is to promote joint research and interdisciplinary studies among European scholars of Central Asia. For information, or to join this organization, contact The Secretary, ESCAS, Department of Oriental Studies, Utrecht University, Drift 15, 3512 BR Utrecht, The Netherlands.