



SIS NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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WINTER 1999

NEW SIS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KAMBIZ ESLAMI

With 1999 coming to an end, my three-year term as director of the Society will also end. I am very pleased to announce that, effective January 1, 2000, Dr. Shiva Balaghi of New York University will become the Society's next Executive Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter. The Council and Executive Committee both had approved her appointment earlier this year.

Dr. Balaghi is Associate Director of the Hagop Kevorkian Center at NYU, where she also teaches courses on cultural history and women's studies. Her research interests focus on Qajar Iran. Prior to coming to NYU, she taught at the University of Vermont and the University of Michigan.

I would like to thank Dr. Kamran Talattof for his excellent work as our newsletter's editor this year. His enthusiasm and hard work in compiling the past three issues of the Newsletter are evident from the quality of the issues themselves, and I am happy to report that he has agreed to provide advisory assistance to our new team.

SIS ELECTIONS RESULTS (2000)

Ahmad Ashraf was chosen as the President-Elect in this year's elections. The Council members elected were **Mansoureh Ettehadi** and **M.R. Ghanoonparvar**, while **Heidi Walcher** was elected as the new student member of the Council. Thanks are due to the Election Committee members (Anne Betteridge, Mehdi Bozorgmehr, Alice Hunsberger, and Houra Yavari) for their excellent work in conducting the elections in a timely and competent fashion.

MEHRAN STEPPING DOWN AS FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR

VAHID NOSHIRVANI

This summer, Mr. Hassanali Mehran stepped down as chair of the Fund-Raising Committee. During his tenure, the Committee launched the most successful fund-raising campaign in the Society's history. Thanks to his leadership and dedication, more than thirty thousand dollars were raised. On behalf of the Council and the Executive Committee, I wish to express our deep appreciation for Mr. Mehran's untiring efforts, and extend our sincere thanks to him. The Society has been fortunate to have had the benefit of his wise counsel and generous support, which we hope to enjoy for many years to come.

THE THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON IRANIAN STUDIES PANELS, WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

AHMAD KARIMI-HAKKAK

Plans are proceeding apace for The Third Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, cosponsored by the American Institute of Iranian Studies (AIIS) and the Society for Iranian Studies (SIS), scheduled to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bethesda, Maryland, May 25-28, 2000. The gathering promises to be slightly larger and remarkably more inclusive in scope than the preceding Conference, held at the same site in May 1998. It will bring together more than 300 scholars from all over the world who are engaged in academic research in all aspects of Iranian studies involving all historical periods and diverse perspectives.

The Program Committee has reviewed over 400 paper abstracts along with 30 panel proposals containing an impressive array of methodological preferences applying numerous scholarly approaches and perspectives to the study of the subject-matter. As such, the research shared at



*THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN
STUDIES*

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*SAIDI-SIRJANI BOOK AWARD
COMMITTEE*

William Hanaway (Chair)
Ali Banuazizi
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Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak
Priscilla Soucek

the Conference will represent the latest and most advanced work in all areas of Iranian studies, most broadly conceived, including art and art history, politics and religion, languages and literatures, anthropology and folklore, economics and economic history, women's studies and a variety of other disciplines.

In addition to its strong scholarly focus, the Conference will feature a number of related events, including an art exhibit focusing on contemporary Iranian art, an event centered on contemporary Iranian cinema, and a musical performance at the Freer Gallery in Washington DC. There will also be a rich display of academic and artistic books and other publications related to Iran, Iranate cultures, and Iranian studies. This rich schedule is made possible with the support of many organizations, including the Foundation for Iranian Studies (FIS), Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), the International Association for the Study of Persian-Speaking Societies (IASPS), the Persian Heritage Foundation (PHF) and Mage Publishers. For more information on the scope and significance of the Conference, or on how to participate in the Conference, check the SIS web site at iranian-studies.org. Below is a partial list of the themes and topics to be covered in around fifty panels, workshops and other events featured at the Conference:

- Zoroaster and Zoroastrianism
- Aspects of Iranian Civilization in Sasanian Times
- Iranian Languages and Persian Linguistics
- Sociolinguistics of Persian in Historical Perspective
- The Bible and Biblical Prophets in Iranian Culture
- Medieval Persian Verse Narrative
- Pre-Modern Persian History and Historiography
- Iranian Mysticism in the Middle Ages
- The Shaping of Naqshbandi Identity
- Key Concepts in Classical Persian Thought
- Art, Art History, and Manuscript Studies
- Folklore and Folklore Studies in Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia
- The Conception and Evolution of Shi'i Practices and Rituals
- Shi'i Hermeneutics in Modern Times
- The City of Tehran: Past to Present
- Children of Deh Koh: Recent Trend in Anthropological Studies of Iran
- Oral History: The Concept and Its Applications to the Study of Contemporary Iran
- Textual Issues in Modern Iranian Scholarship
- Archives and Archival Work in Scholarship on Iranian History
- State, Society and Family in Qajar Iran
- Modernity and Modernization in Iran
- Appropriating European Thought: Philosophic Interactions and Influences
- The Iranian Constitutional Movement
- Education and Identity in Iran
- Iranian Intellectuals in the Context of Modern Iranian History
- Iranian Nationality and Azeri Identity in the Twentieth Century
- The Hermeneutics of Shahriar's Azeri and Persian Compositions
- Post-Revolution Fiction in Iran
- Ideology and State Formation in Iranian Revolution
- Environment and Environmentalist Movements in Contemporary Iran
- Journalism and the Press in present-day Iran

- Images of Women in Contemporary Iran
- Iranian Feminism in the Khatami Period
- Iranian Economy and Economic Issues in the 1990s
- The Hermeneutics of Iranian Film: Philosophy, Mythology, and Ethics
- Iranian-American Writers and their Audiences
- Exile, Alienation, and Acculturation: Iranians in Europe and North America
- Contemporary Art in Iran: Production and Representation
- Religion and Politics in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Peace-Building in the Persian Gulf
- Icons of Iranian Popular Culture
- Perspectives on Women's Issues in Iran
- Aspects of Iranian Architecture
- Covering Iran: Journalists Reflect on their Work

THE NEW ISSUE OF *IRANIAN STUDIES*

The next issue of *Iranian Studies* (vol. 31, nos. 3-4, summer/fall 1998) is devoted to a review of *Encyclopædia Iranica*, and is scheduled to be published in early December 1999. The issue, which has been in the making for over three years, is guest edited by Dr. William Hanaway and includes the following:

Interview with Dr. Yarshater

ULRICH MARZOLPH
Folklore and Anthropology

B. A. LITVINSKY
Archaeology and Pre-Islamic Art

CAROL BIER
Art: Crafts, Technology, and Material Culture

SHEILA CANBY
Art: Art of the Book

OLEG GRABAR
Architecture

ELTON L. DANIEL
The *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and the Encyclopedic Tradition

RICHARD TAPPER
What is this thing called "Ethnography"?
STEVEN C. ANDERSON
Fauna

ECKART EHLERS
Geography

(Continued on page 4)

SAIDI-SIRJANI BOOK AWARD (1997)

WILLIAM HANAWAY

The Saidi-Sirjani Memorial Book Award Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Ahmad Tafazzoli's *Tārikh-e Adabiyyat-e Irān-e pish as Eslām*, published posthumously in Tehran by Enteshārāt-e Sokhan, 1376/1997, is the winner of this year's prize. Dr. Zhāla Āmūzegār, his long-time associate, saw the work through the press.

One could do no better than begin this citation with Dr. Āmūzegār's own modest words from her introduction to the book: "In writing this work, Ahmad Tafazzoli has taken a long step toward making the rich and ancient culture and literature of Iran better known." While the literature of Islamic Iran has had its major chroniclers in Ethé, Browne, Rypka and finally Safā, the literature of the pre-Islamic period has not been surveyed and described in a comprehensive manner for a century. Since the publication of the first survey of Old- and Middle-Iranian literature in the *Grundriss der iranischen Philologie* (1896-1904) new texts and inscriptions have come to light, previously known texts have been read or reread, and much research on pre-Islamic Iranian languages and cultures has been published. Dr. Tafazzoli himself carried out a good proportion of this research. With the publication of this work, which is the result of a lifetime of study, Dr. Tafazzoli has made this huge mass of research accessible to readers and researchers, especially to those not directly familiar with the pre-Islamic languages. His mastery of the old languages is apparent throughout the book and it allows him to discuss texts, ideas, and literary styles vividly and with great insight. This landmark book, with its rich substance, clear organization and abundant documentation, will be a permanent contribution to scholarship and has put the study of pre-Islamic Iran on a new footing. We regret deeply that Prof. Tafazzoli departed from among us before he could receive this award in person.

PHILIP HUYSE
Iranian History in Ancient Times

TOURAJ DARYAEE
Sasanian Persia (C.E. 224-651)

JÜRGEN PAUL
Early Islamic History of Iran: From the Arab
Conquest to the Mongol Invasion

CHARLES MELVILLE
History: From the Saljuqs to the Aq Qoyunlu (ca.
1000-1500 C.E.)

RUDI MATTHEE
The Safavid, Afshar, and Zand Periods

H.E. CHEHABI
The Pahlavi Period

WILLIAM W. MALANDRA
The Pre-Islamic Languages

JOHN R. PERRY
Languages and Dialects: Islamic Period

AHMAD KARIMI-HAKKAK
Iranica Heirloom: Persian Literature

WILLIAM L. HANAWAY
Classical Persian Literature

HORMOZ FARHAT
Music

KEITH HITCHINS
Neighboring Cultures: Central Asia, Afghanistan,
China

JUAN R. I. COLE
The Indian Subcontinent

JAMAL J. ELIAS
Sufism

ELIZ SANASARIAN
Babi-Bahais, Christians, and Jews in Iran

EERIK DICKINSON
Iran and Islam

AHMAD KAZEMI MOUSSAVI
Shi'ite Culture

JAMSHEED K. CHOKSY
Ancient Religions

GEORGE SALIBA
Science and Medicine

SHAHROUGH AKHAVI
Social Institutions

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS OF IRAN

SACKLER GALLERY

Fifty photographs of rulers, courtiers, commoners and daily life in Iran from the late 1870s to the 1930s juxtapose the extraordinary and the familiar in "Antoin Sevruguin and the Persian Image." The exhibition opens at the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery (1050 Independence Ave. S.W.) on Nov. 21 and continues through May 28, 2000.

The exhibition includes 14 original silver prints, 35 modern prints made from photographer Sevruguin's glass-plate negatives, and an albumen print shown beside its glass negative. The presentation is divided into thematic groupings showing images of everyday life, ethnographic photographs, the royal court, Iranian antiquities, Western fantasy, religious architecture and women.

The original prints and negatives were selected from the largest collection of Sevruguin's work—nearly 900 images housed in the archives of the Sackler Gallery and the neighboring Freer Gallery of Art (Jefferson Drive at 12th Street S.W.). Katherine Dennis Smith, widow of Myron Bement Smith, a scholar of Persian art and architecture, gave more than 650 of the silver prints and glass negatives to the archives. Eighteen albumen prints were gifts of Jay Bisno, formerly associated with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The modern prints of Sevruguin's work were made recently in the galleries' photographic studio.

"Sevruguin is one of the great 19th century photographers," Massumeh Farhad, the galleries' associate curator of Islamic art and coordinator of the exhibition, says. "His sensitive and evocative images capture a world in which the extraordinary and the mundane, the tragic and the comic, the public and the private intersect and overlap."

Nasir al-din Shah of the Qajar dynasty (1779-1924) was central to the development of photography in Iran, says Frederick N. Bohrer, associate professor of art at Hood College, Frederick, Md., the guest curator. The shah traveled frequently to Europe during his 50-year reign and became an enthusiastic practitioner.

He encouraged European photographers to work and spread their craft in Iran.

Sevruguin (d. 1933) was born in Tehran in the late 1830s of Russian parents. The family was posted in Iran during the diplomatic career of Antoin's father. Upon his father's premature death, Antoin and his family moved to his mother's native Georgia. Later, Sevruguin returned to Tehran to embark upon his career, but he always referred to himself as a "Russian photographer."

From his successful commercial studio in Tehran, Sevruguin produced photographs documenting nearly every aspect of Iranian life. He captured the shah having his mustache dyed, a rabbi, dervishes and wrestlers; palace banquets and religious architecture; a Zoroastrian bride preparing for her wedding and women weaving carpets.

Bohrer points out, however, that "For Sevruguin, as for the shah, photography was tied to modernity." Just as he supplied tourists with the images they expected--an image of a robed Western woman holding a hookah or pictures of unkempt mendicants, for example--he also recorded such monuments of Iranian modernization as wireless towers, telegraph offices, railroads and even the first airplane to land in Iran.

Included in the exhibition is an album holding 15 laminated modern prints. Visitors will be able to browse through the album and experience the sense of discovery that a researcher in the galleries' archives experiences.

The new edition of *Asian Art & Culture*, an annual publication of the Sackler Gallery, is devoted to this exhibition. It features an annotated portfolio and four essays. The essays analyze Sevruguin as an artist; consider him as a visual interpreter between the West and Iran; look at his work in the context of early Iranian photography; and trace the collection's path from Tehran to its present home in Washington. Bohrer wrote one of the essays and served as guest editor of the publication, which is available in the Sackler Gallery Shop for \$17.

The Freer and Sackler galleries together form the national museum of Asian art for the United States. They are located on the National Mall and are convenient to the Smithsonian station of the Washington Metrorail system. Gallery hours

are from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. daily except Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and admission is free. Free walk-in tours are offered daily. For further information, call (202) 357-2700 (voice) or (202) 357-1729 (TTY).



Antoin Sevruguin
From Y. Zoka's *History of photography and pioneer photographers in Iran*, p. 137.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION CONFERENCE IN IRAN

The Institute for Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies sponsored an international conference on the Iranian Constitutional Revolution in Tehran on 4-5 August 1999. The following were presenters participating from abroad.

Saleh Aliev (Russia) *Caucasian Society and Constitutional Movement in Iran*

Victor El-Kik (Lebanon) *The Arabian Press Reactions to the Iranian Constitutional Revolution*

Mahboob Alzaviri (Jordan) *The Rising of the Constitutional Thought in Iran and the Ottoman Empire: an Epistemological Outlook to its History*

Leonard Binder (USA) *Iranian Constitution of 1906:*

(Continued on page 10)

FORTHCOMING TITLES ON IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

A history of inner Asia
Svat Soucek

This accessible introduction to Inner Asia traces its history from the arrival of Islam through the various dynasties to the Russian conquest. The contemporary focus rests on the seven countries that make up present-day Eurasia: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Sinkiang and Mongolia. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, renewed interest in these countries has prompted considerable debate. While a divergent literature has evolved, no comprehensive survey of the region exists. This book will fill the gap and become indispensable for anyone studying or visiting the area.

The politics of trade in Safavid Iran : silk for silver, 1600-1730
Rudolph P. Matthee

This book considers the economic, social and political importance of the silk trade in Safavid Iran. It focuses on four aspects of this trade: the role of silk in Iranian commercial policy, the interaction between agents of the state and foreign merchants, the routes along which silk was transported and, critically, the economic and social difficulties that contributed to the collapse of the regime in the 1720s. This represents a major contribution to the current debates on the social and economic history of the premodern world.

Religious Minorities in Iran
Eliz Sanasarian

Eliz Sanasarian's book explores the political and ideological relationship between religious minorities in Iran and the state during the formative years of the Islamic Republic to the present day. Her analysis is based on a detailed examination of the history and experiences of the non-Muslim communities, describing how these communities have responded to state policies regarding minorities. While the book is essentially an empirical study, it also highlights more general questions associated with exclusion and marginalization and the role of the state in defining those boundaries.

Jerome W. Clinton's Translation of the Story of Rostam and Esfandiyar - *In the Dragon's Claws* - was published by Mage Books in August of this year. The work contains an introduction and notes by the translator as well. It may be ordered through the publisher's website

at: <http://www.mage.com>

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE LEFT IN IRAN

Historical and Comparative
Perspectives

Conference Organized By:

The Iran History Project, Dept. Of
History, SOAS

The Centre For Near And Middle
Eastern Studies, Soas

The British Institute Of Persian Studies
Friday 30 June 2000

Venue:

Lecture Theatre
SOAS, Russell Square
London WC1H 2OXG

CALL FOR PAPERS

This is the second in a series of annual conferences organized by the Iran History Project at SOAS. It is intended to provide an opportunity for an examination and reappraisal of leftist activism in Iran, interpreted in the broadest possible sense, during the entire period of the twentieth century. Among the themes with which the conference will deal are: early developments in social-democracy in the constitutional period; the impact of the Russian revolution and the beginnings of communism in the 1920s; the Jangali movement; the Tudah; Islamic activism and the left; the history of trade unionism; peasant activism; the national minorities and the left; the women's movement.

Papers are invited from historians and from scholars working in other relevant disciplines.

Abstracts of proposed papers of approximately 300 words should reach the organizers no later than 1 March 2000

For further information, please contact:

Dr Stephanie Cronin
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Thornhaugh Street Russell Square
London WC1H 2OXG
Tel 0171-323-6146 Fax 0171-323-6046
email sc45@soas.ac.uk

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Sheila S. Blair has received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship to complete her book on Islamic calligraphy.

Professor Dick Davis, Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, The Ohio State University, has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship for his work on "Translation and literary hybridity."

Touraj Daryaee has been appointed assistant professor of ancient history at California State University, Fullerton. With a grant from the CSUF History Department, he spent nine weeks in Iran (June 2-August 9), where he studied the recently discovered Parthian inscriptions at Lakh Mazar, in the vicinity of Birjand near Afghanistan. Due to the kindness and hospitality of the Cultural Heritage (Miras-e Farhangi) in Iran, he stayed in Birjand for several days to conduct his work. While in Tehran, he presented two papers in Nashr-e Tarikh and Museum of Dafina, one on "trends in Ancient History in the US and Europe," and one on Sassanian Coinage.

POSITION

The University of Arizona
Department of Near Eastern Studies

Assistant Professor for Persian
Language and Literature

The Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona has an opening for a tenure track position at the level of Assistant Professor, to start in the academic year 2000/2001. Applicants must have a primary specialization in Persian language and literature. Persian language proficiency is essential, and a strong background in contemporary Iranian cultural studies is highly desirable. The successful candidate will demonstrate significant scholarly accomplishment and potential, as well as evidence of excellence in teaching. S/he is expected to teach introductory and advanced courses in Persian language, literature, and cultural studies. A Ph.D. is required at the time of application. Salary range is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

To apply: Please submit a letter of application, a curriculum vita and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent directly to:

Dr. Simin Karimi, Chair
Persian Search Committee
Department of Near Eastern Studies
The University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210080, Franklin 403
Tucson, Arizona, 85721-0080

Deadline: Applications must be received by November 15, 1999.

The University of Arizona is an EOE/AA employer - M/W/D/V.

VISITING IRANIAN FELLOWSHIP 2000/01 THE MIDDLE EAST CENTRE ST. ANTONY'S COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Middle East Centre of St. Antony's College invites applications for the Visiting Iranian Fellowship for 2000-2001. Applicants should have a record of research primarily in modern Iranian studies. The successful applicant will be appointed for the academic year from October through June. The Fellow will be expected to play an active role in the Middle East Centre to promote Iranian studies through individual research, organizing seminars and workshops, and some limited teaching or supervision of student research. Benefits include salary, accommodation, meals in College, and round-trip travel to Oxford from their home country. Further particulars may be obtained from the address below.

Applicants should send a copy of their c.v., names and contact details of three referees, a research proposal of 1,500 - 2,000 words, and two writing samples (articles or chapters) by 31 January 2000 to the address below. No previous Visiting Iranian Fellow will be considered within five years of her/his original award.

The Director
The Middle East Centre
St. Antony's College
Oxford OX2 6JF
United Kingdom

ENCYCLOPAEDIA IRANICA

VOLUME IX PUBLISHED

With the publication of fascicles 4, 5, and 6, volume IX of the *Encyclopædia Iranica* was completed in October 1999 and fascicle 1 of volume X will be published in December. The above published fascicles feature 147 articles on various aspects of Persian culture and history, including several series of articles on specific subjects:

A series of major articles on the province of Fars continuing from fascicle 3, the remaining part of the history of Fars in the pre-Islamic period by **J. Wiesehofer**, history of Fars in the Islamic period by **A. K. S. Lambton**, history of Fars in the 19th and 20th centuries by **A. Ashraf**, monuments of Fars by **D. Huff**, demography of Fars by **H. Zanjani**, ethnography of the province by **P. Oberling**, and Iranian dialects of Fars by **G. Windfuhr**. Two articles regarding Fasting in Persia, one among Zoroastrians, Manicheans, and Bahais by **J. K. Choksy**, and second in Sunni and Shi'ite Islam by **D. Soufi**. Two articles on Fatema, daughter of the Prophet Mohammad, in history and shi'ite hagiography by **M. Amir-Moezzi**, and in myth, folklore and popular devotion by **J. Calmard**, two major articles on Fauna, of Persia by **S. Anderson**, and of Central Asia by **O. L. Kryzhanovskii**. A series of three articles on *Fars-nama-ye Naseri*, the author and the book, both by **H. Busse**, and the notables of Shiraz in *Fars-nama* by **A. Ashraf & A. Banuazizi**.

A series of three articles on *al-Fehrest*, a celebrated catalogue of books by Ebn-al-Nadim, i. the author and his work by **R. Sellheim & M. Zakeri**, ii. Middle Persian and Arabic translations by **F. de Blois**, iii. representation of Manicheism by **W. Sundermann**. A series of major articles on Feminist Movement in Persia, in the late Qajar period by **J. Afary**, in the Pahlavi period by **H. Sedghi**, and in the Islamic Republic by **Z. Mir-Hosseini**. Five major articles on Ferdowsi, i. his life and ii. *Hajw-nama*, both by **D. Khaleghi-Motlagh**, iii. Mausoleum and iv. millenary celebration both by **A. S. Shahbazi**, v. homages to Ferdowsi by *Elr.* A series of major articles on Festivals, i. Zoroastrian by **M. Boyce**, ii. Manichean by **W. Sundermann**, iii. Shi'ite by **A. H. Betteridge & Elr.**, iv. Yazidi and Ahl-e Haqq by **P. G.**

Kreyenbroek, v. Kurdish by **K. Hitchins**, vi. Bahai by **M. Momen**, vii. Jewish by **A. Netzer**, viii. Armenian by **A. Arkun**, ix. Assyrian by **W. Piroyan** and **E. Naby**, x. in Afghanistan by **N. H. Dupree**.

Articles on the Persian fiction, include an entry on traditional form by **J. T. P. de Bruijn**, and eight entries on historical background of modern Persian fiction by **S. Behbahani & Elr.**, the novel by **H. Yavari**, the short story by **J. Mirsadeqi**, the post-revolutionary short story by **H. Yavari**, post-revolutionary fiction abroad by **H. Yavari**, fiction by Persians in non-Persian languages by **H. Yavari**, fiction in Afghanistan by **S. Ahmadi**, and fiction in Tajikistan by **K. Hitchins**. Fiscal System in various periods of Persian history, including the Achaemenid period by **M. A. Dandamayev**, Sasanian period by **R. Gyselen**, Islamic period by **J. Paul**, Safavid and Qajar periods by **W. Floor**, and Pahlavi period by **M. Karshenas**. Three articles on Firuzkuh, including the Ghurid capital in Afghanistan and history of the area in the Alborz region, both by **C. E. Bosworth**, and the modern town by **B. Hourcade**. A series of four major articles on Fish including fresh water fishes by **B. W. Coad**, salt water fishes by **H. Alam**, fish in pre-Islamic Persian lore by **H. Alam**, and fish as food by **N. Batmanglij**. Two articles on Firearms, i. History by **R. Matthee**, and ii. Production of Cannon and Muskets by **P. Mohebbi**.

Some of the other major articles include an article on the material Felt by **D. Balland & J. P. Digard**, an entry on Fertility and Mortality in Persia by **M. Amani**, a long and illustrated article on Fire Altars in Persia by **M. Garrison**, an entry on Firuzabad and its historical monuments by **D. Huff**, an article on **Fazl b. Sahl**, vizier to the caliph al-Ma'mun, by **C. E. Bosworth**, an entry on Fayz-e Kashani, prolific and versatile scholar of the Safavid period, by **H. Algar**, a major article on Fath Ali Shah Qajar by **A. Amanat**, an article on Fatimids relations with Persia and an entry on Feda'i, devotee in the Ismaili faith, both by **F. Daftary**, an article on Feda'ian-e Eslam by **F. Kazemi**, an entry on Feqh (Islamic jurisprudence) by **N. Calder**, a major article on Fatwa by **H. Algar**, and an article on Fatalism by the late **A. Zarrinkoub**.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN IRANIAN STUDIES

For God, Mammon, and Country : A Nineteenth Century Persian Merchant, Haj Muhammad Hassan Amin al-Zarb (1834-1898)

Shireen Mahdavi

Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999

This book is the first major account of the life and times of a merchant in nineteenth century Iran or in the Middle East. Haj Muhammad Hassan Amin al-Zarb (1834-1898) rose from humble beginnings to become one of Iran's wealthiest and most prominent merchants. He built up his wealth as a money changer, a trader in textiles, precious stones, opium, carpets, agricultural products and staple foodstuffs amongst other goods, and judicious transactions in land. Adept at cultivating powerful connections, he became the principal supplier of luxury goods to the Shah, his court, and members of the ruling elite, served as private banker to the Shah, his Prime Minister, influential bureaucrats, and became Master of the Mint. He had agents in all the main towns of Persia and Europe with correspondents in Asia and America.

He was also an entrepreneur, industrialist and innovator. Determined to bring to Iran the advances he had witnessed in Europe, he invested in mining, established factories with imported machinery for such things as glass, china and silk reeling, built a railway line and urged the Shah to establish a national bank. He also became an advocate of reform and curbs on arbitrary rule. He befriended the famous Islamic reformer, Jamal al-Din Afghani. An innovator in business, Amin al-Zarb led a very traditional life at home. Gifted in making money, he was also a pious man who contributed generously to religious and charitable causes. Shireen Mahdavi draws on hitherto unpublished family archives to write not only a biography of a fascinating nineteenth century merchant but also a social history of the period. Her portrait of Amin al-Zarb also provides important insights into the economic, social and political role played by merchants in Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East in the nineteenth century.

Downhearted : Collection of Eighteen Short Stories

Farzin Yazdanfar

Bethesda, MD : Ibex Publishers, 1999

The Downhearted is a collection of eighteen thematically-connected short stories by nine Iranian writers and nine writers from selected countries on three different continents. The central

theme of the stories is despair resulting from man's helpless condition. Although these authors are from various cultures and nationalities, they appear to speak in the same language when they describe the predicament of life. Almost every story in this collection scratches beneath the surface of everyday existence to reveal the absurdity of life in an aimless and futile world, in which man is tormented by an unexplained anxiety.

Of the nine Iranian writers who have contributed to this collection, three (Amir Hasan Chehelan, Manouchehr Karimzadeh and Houshang Ashurzadeh) still live in Iran. Three of them (Nasim Khaksar, Reza `Allamehzadeh and Ghazi Rabiavi) live in Europe. One (Mehri Yalfani) lives in Canada, and two (Soudabeh Ashrafi and Murteza Miraftabi) live in the United States. Some of these writers are well known in Iranian literary circles and others are just establishing their careers. Of the nine non-Iranian writers whose works have been selected and translated for the collection, William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway are from the United States. The remaining works presented are by Luigi Pirandello (Italy), Heinrich Boll (Germany), Maria Luisa Bombal (Chile), Mirjam Tuominen (Finland/Sweden), Slawomir Mrozek (Poland), Nirmal Verma (India) and Tayeb Salih (Sudan).

Persian Historiography to the End of the Twelfth Century

Julie Scott Meisami,

Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999.

(Islamic Surveys)

Persian historical writing has received little attention as compared with Arabic, especially as seen in the early (pre-Mongol) period. Within the larger context of the development of Islamic that historiography from the tenth through the twelfth centuries, the case of Persian historical writing demands special attention. Discussions tend to concentrate on its sources in pre-Islamic Persian and in Arabic works, while the reasons for its emergence, its connections with Iranian and Arabic models, its political and cultural functions, and its reception, have been virtually ignored. This study answers these questions and addresses issues relating to the motivation for writing these works; its purpose; the role of the author; patrons and audiences; the choice of language and the reason for choice; the place of historical writing in the debate over the suitability of Persian for scholarly writing.

NIKKI KEDDIE FESTSCHRIFT

**IRAN AND BEYOND: Essays in Middle Eastern History
in Honor of Nikki R. Keddie**

Edited by
Rudi Matthee and Beth Baron

Costa Mesa, CA : MAZDA Publishers, 2000

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