

As we are beginning to organize our life in the coming year, I am pleased that the following colleagues have agreed to serve for 2006 on our various task committees:

Membership Committee: Habib Borjian, Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, Rudi Matthee

Publications Committee: Saïd Arjomand, Manouchehr Kasheff, Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, Habib Borjian

Programs Committee: Colin Mitchell, Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, Janet Afary

Travel Fellowship Committee: Colin Mitchell, Saïd Arjomand

CERF Committee: Jo-Ann Gross, Rudi Matthee, Alice Hunsberger

Biennial Convention Committee: Saïd Arjomand, Jo-Ann Gross, Manouchehr Kasheff, Alice Hunsberger, Rudi Matthee, Habib Borjian, Janet Afary

I do know how busy we all are, but will nevertheless end by reminding you of your citizenship duties in ASPS. Please let me or any colleague of any of the above committees have ideas, suggestions and offers of help on anything we are or should be doing in the coming year.

Saïd Amir Arjomand

News of the Association

Our Iranian affiliate, *Anjoman-e Farhangi-ye Mot l`at-e Jav me`-e Farsi-zab n*, held its first elections on February 23, 2006. The following were elected to its Board of Directors (*hey`at-e dabir n*):

Dr. Javad Fa`al Alavi
Dr. Taghi Azadarmaki
Dr. Reza Fazel
Dr. Jaleh Shaditalab
Dr. Vahid Shalchi
Dr. Gholamabbas Tavassoli
Dr. Seyed Ahmad Vakilian

The following were elected alternate member (*`ala'l-badal*)

Dr. Yousef Amir Arjomand
Dr. Behrooz Mahmoodi Bakhtiari
Dr. Mehrangiz Mazaheri

The new Board met on February 28 and elected Dr. Taghi Azadarmaki its Secretary (*dabir*). This would make him the Director of ASPS Regional Council for Iran.

Congratulations to all!

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ASPS is pleased to announce that Dr. Bert Fragner of the Institut für Iranistik in Vienna has tentatively agreed to become the Director of the ASPS Council for Europe. In their meeting this month, Dr. Fragner and the president of ASPS, Saïd Arjomand, will finalize the agreement and plans for the location of the regional office. Our thanks go to Dr. Anna Krasnowolska of the Institute of Oriental Philology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, who has completed her term as Director of the Regional Council for Europe. ASPS looks forward to Dr. Krasnowolska's continued involvement in planning ASPS activities.

Travel Fellowship Program

Our Travel Fellowship Program is supported by a generous grant from the Open Society Institute for three more years, 2006-2008. We are currently accepting applications for travel fellowships.

Qualifications: Applicants from Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan who are engaged in teaching or research in the humanities or social sciences, and have a formal invitation or acceptance of a paper from an academic institution or sponsors of a conference in the United States, may submit (1) a letter explaining the research, the title of the paper, and details of the conference; (2) a letter of acceptance from the conference, and; (3) a *curriculum vitae* to:

Dr. Colin Mitchell
Dept. of History
6135 University Ave.
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA
(902) 494-2788 c.mitchell@dal.ca

Please Note: The Travel Fellowship Program will only reimburse against **original receipts** for expenses including travel, lodging, meals, and conference registration. The limit is \$3,000. Those who receive travel fellowships agree to write a report of their travel and to submit a copy of the paper delivered.

Studies on Persianate Societies

Studies on Persianate Societies 3 (2006/1385) is in progress. ASPS invites papers for *Persianate Societies* 4 (2007/1386). We would like to see direct submissions of articles by members. Please consult the style sheet, which appears on page I of the journal.

The annual institutional subscription is set at the low level of \$75 to make the journal widely available at libraries and university centers. It goes without saying that we critically need your support at this stage. *Please make sure your library subscribes.* Subscription forms are available on the publisher's website (manoharbooks.com) and on the ASPS website as well.

ASPS mails *Studies on Persianate Societies* through its publisher directly to all ASPS members in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Saïd Amir Arjomand, Editor-in-Chief
Said.Arjomand@sunysb.edu

ASPS Biennial Conference

Call for Papers: Deadline June 30, 2006

Plans for the Third Biennial Convention of ASPS are underway. ASPS and Punjab University, through an affiliation with the Department of Sociology, are currently laying the groundwork for the convention to take place in Lahore January 4-7, 2007. Lahore is the cultural center of Pakistan and Jahangir's (d. 1627) capital. The city boasts some of the wonders of Islamic architecture, including Shahi Qa'leh (the Lahore Fort), Padshahi Masjid, and the buildings of the Andarun-e Shahr (the Interior or Old, or Walled City).

ASPS encourages pre-organized panels, but abstracts for individual papers are also welcome. Preference will be given to panels and individual abstracts with a clearly stated thesis. Submissions for pre-organized panels must include a panel abstract of no more than 300 words *plus* individual abstracts of no more than 300 words for each of five panelists. A minimum of three panelists and a maximum of five will be permitted. Please send abstracts in a Word document by email to:

Dr. Habib Borjian, Chair, Organizing Committee
hb146@columbia.edu

We look forward to an exciting third convention. Our first biennial convention took place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in September, 2002, with the cooperation of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Rudaki Institute of Language and Literature, and the National Commission of UNESCO, Tajikistan. This very successful and well-publicized four-day scholarly meeting brought together over 80 scholars from thirteen countries to present papers and to discuss a variety of themes on pre-Islamic and Islamic Persianate culture. Our second biennial convention on Iranian Studies, "Society, History and Culture in the Persianate World," was held in Yerevan, Armenia in 2004, and brought together 90 scholars from eighteen countries. The conferences have provided a rare and valued opportunity for scholars from West, Central and South Asia, Europe and North America to participate in an interdisciplinary dialogue. The interchange of ideas has filtered into our annual journal, *Persianate Societies*, in which selected articles have been published, as well as into plans for individual publications, which are now being discussed.

Member News and Announcements

Sussan Babaie, Assistant Professor in art history at the University of Michigan, **Kathryn Babayan**, Associate Professor in Middle East Civilizations and Languages, at the University of

Michigan, **Ina Baghdiantz McCabe**, Associate Professor in History and Darakjian Jafarian Chair in Armenian History at Tufts University, and **Massumeh Farhad**, Curator of Islamic Art at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, announce publication of *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites of Safavid Iran* (Library of Middle East History), Publisher: I. B. Tauris, 2004.

Synopsis: A relatively unknown factor in the success of the Safavid dynasty is the extent to which the Safavids depended on an elite class originating from outside Iran: the slaves of Caucasian descent and the Armenian merchants of New Julfa in the city of Isfahan. It was these groups, bolstered by Shah Abbas the Great (1589-1629) and his successors, who became the pillars of Safavid political, economic and cultural life. *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites of Safavid Iran* describes how these elites helped to form a new language of Safavid absolutism. It documents their contributions to the transformation of Isfahan's urban, artistic and social landscape. The authors' analysis of the multi-faceted roles of the Safavid royal household moreover provides an original and comprehensive analysis of slave elites in imperial systems common to the political economies of the Malmuk, Ottoman and Safavid courts and contributes as well to an understanding of related institutions in the earlier Abbasid, Ghaznavid and Saljuq eras. The four authors of this book each bring their own specialization to describe the Safavid slave system for the first time.

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Habib Borjian, newly elected Secretary-Treasurer of ASPS, has been appointed assistant professor of Persian at the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages, Hofstra University, New York.

His most recent publications include:

"The geographical distribution of Median dialects in the district of Isfahan," *Iran shen si* 17/3, 2005, pp. 466-486;

(with Garnik Asatrian) "Talish: People and Language: The State of Research," *Iran and the Caucasus* 9/1, 2005, 43-72; and

"Transcribing dialect manuscripts: The divan of Darvish Abbas Gazi," *Iranshenasi* 17/2, 2005, pp. 320-337.

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Alice Hunsberger has received a Staff Travel Grant from her employer, the Asia Society, for a two-part project to explore her family's American Christian missionary roots in India and to visit Mughal sites. Hunsberger's grandmother Hume and great-grandfather Hume were born and raised in Bombay to missionary families going back to the 1840s. Her grandmother and grandfather ran the school and church from 1903-1911, and Alice is the first member of the family to return. She has learned that not only do the buildings still exist, they have been named Hume Church and Hume High School in honor of her great-grandfather. She will also visit the church in Ahmed-

nagar in whose cemetery her grandmother's first son is buried. In researching for this trip, Alice has learned that her great-uncle, R.A. Hume, was a delegate to the first Indian National Congress and in 1901 was awarded a Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal by Queen Victoria for public service to India. His son Robert E. Hume was a professor of Hinduism at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and translator (1921) of the Upanishads, which is still in print.

His book, *The World's Living Religions*, was the only book besides the Bible placed in the time capsule 50-foot underground at the 1939 NY World's Fair—to be opened in 6939. The Mughal sites on the trip include Udaipur, the Chishti shrine in Ajmer, Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra and Delhi.

In Mumbai, Dr. Hunsberger will also visit Parsees and Ismailis, and in Delhi she will meet with ASPS-member Dr. Mansura Haidar who is arranging for Hunsberger to give lectures in Jamia Millia Islamia University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her trip is scheduled for April, 2006.

(Editor's note: Asia Society travel grants are for employees only and are not part of ASPS.)

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The **Afghanistan Digital Library** (ADL) at New York University has been funded with two recent NEH Access and Preservation grants, the second of which, among other things, will allow for the establishment of a conservation lab at the National Archives in Kabul.

The ADL is a project to locate, catalog, digitize, and distribute on electronic media and the internet all works published in Afghanistan between 1871 (the date of the first known publication) and 1930. This group of some 600+ known titles is extremely rare yet enormously important to the history of state and society in Afghanistan. The current state of the project may be seen on the internet at <http://afghanistandl.nyu.edu>. The project director, **Robert D. McChesney**, has located about 60% of the known works and obtained permission from the owners of these works to digitize them. Anyone interested in the project may obtain a copy of the bibliography that Prof. McChesney has compiled and a list of works that have yet to be found by writing him at: R. D. McChesney, The Afghanistan Digital Library, Dept. of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University, 50 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012 or by email: rdm1@nyu.edu.

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Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson of University of Minnesota Duluth has received a Grant-in-Aid from the University of Minnesota for her project entitled "Ritual Cursing and Political Culture in Early Modern Iran (1501-1590)". This grant coincides with a single-semester leave and will permit a visit to Iran later this year. Dr. Stanfield-Johnson has made two prior research trips to Iran in summer 2003 and summer 2004 on grants from the University of Minnesota.

The Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF)

CERF provides grants of up to \$1500 to support the research and publications of individual Central Eurasian scholars in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Northwest China.

We are pleased to announce a call for applications for the 2006-07 CERF award. Our deadlines have changed to enable us to better publicize the grant program in different regions, thereby making grant opportunities available to as many worthy applicants as possible.

The **new deadlines** for the receipt of proposals are **September 15, 2006** and **June 15, 2007**. Thereafter, the deadlines for receipt of all proposals will remain September 15 and June 15.

Awards will be announced on November 15 and August 15 of each year.

General Grant Provisions

Eligibility: CERF grants are available to individual applicants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Northwest China who demonstrate how their research will make a substantive contribution to the knowledge of historical, political, economic, or cultural developments in the region of Central Eurasia. Applicants must hold a minimum degree equivalent to a BA. Grantees are not eligible to reapply for a CERF Grant for five years from the receipt of a previous CERF award.

Financial Provisions: Grants do not exceed US \$1500 and provide funding for the following:

- Publication costs for books or monographs (including translations from English)
- Technical equipment necessary for specific research projects, such as computers, printers, scanners, voice recorders, or digital cameras
- Travel expenses for archival research that will result in a scholarly publication

Selection Process: CERF grants are awarded twice a year. Proposals must be received on each deadline of September 15th and June 15th. Applications will be reviewed by an ASPS evaluation committee consisting of the grant director, Dr. Jo-Ann Gross, and two persons currently serving on the Board of Directors of ASPS. The CERF Committee will make an effort whenever possible to provide regional balance in the distribution of grants based on:

- Importance of the topic
- Academic merit of the proposed project
- Demonstrated career commitment to the field
- Feasibility of the project
- Potential impact of the research

- Adequacy of candidate's academic and professional experience

Application for a CERF award: CERF candidates must submit an electronic application in MS Word format to the **Director of the CERF program**, Dr. Jo-Ann Gross, at gross@tcnj.edu with the following required information:

1. Name and address, email address, fax number
2. Place and date of birth
3. Citizenship
4. Institutional name and address
5. Research field or discipline
6. Highest degree obtained
7. Title and description of research proposal (1-2 pages) that includes objectives and potential impact of research and/or publication
8. Budget (included detailed account of specific expenses)

Award and Final Report: The grant period is for one year. Of the award, \$200 will be held until the receipt of a one-page final report (sent electronically) within two months of the completion of the award, and the receipt of two copies of any publication resulting from the award. The report must include the following:

- Name of project and objectives
- Extent to which the objectives were met
- Impact of project
- Receipts of all expenses

2005 CERF Recipients: In 2005, six of seven grant applications were awarded. The recipients are as follows:

1. **Larisa Dodkhudoeva**, Donish Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (\$1500) to support the publication of *Tajik Graphic Art and Sculpture of the 20th Century*. The book focuses on the development of Tajik visual culture and considers the influence of traditional European painting, the Jadid reformist movement in Central Eurasia, social realism of the Stalin period, and Tajik national and cultural identity formation in the post-Soviet period.
2. **Kudratbek Elchibekov**, Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (\$1200) for a computer, to be used for research on several projects in Islamic history and Sufism, for compiling and publishing catalogues of the Arabic and Persian manuscript collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage collection, and for writing university lectures and developing pedagogical resources.
3. **Tajiddin Mardonov**, Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (\$1000), for the publication of *Arab-Tajik Literature in Dialogue: Past and Present*, a collection of papers on Central Eurasian Persophone poets writing in Arabic, the influence of Arabic language and literature on Tajik national literature and problems in the translation of Arabic literature to Tajik.

4. **Amriyazdon Alimardonov**, Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (\$1200), for the publication of a Russian translation with Persian facsimile of the autograph manuscript *Tarikh-i Humayun-i Gulshani*, written by Muhammad Sadiq Khoja Gulshani 'Abdu'l Ahad (1885-1910). This work is a little known and important source for the local history of Bukhara.

5. **Lola N. Dodkhudoeva**, Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (\$1500), for the publication of *Political Power and Socio-Economic Processes in Central Asia, 11-16th Century*, a book on political, economic, and social development in Mawarannahr and Khorasan, with a special focus on principles of legitimacy and political power.

6. **Usmonjohn Eshonkulov**, Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (\$1500), for the publication of *The History of Agriculture in Soghd from Ancient Times to the early Twentieth Century*, a book on the origins, development, and decline of Soghdian agriculture in the mountainous region of Zarafshan. The study includes a discussion of tools, methods of cultivation, irrigation technology, and agricultural rites.

Congratulations to all!

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Conferences and Exhibitions

Mondes iranien et indien Colloque International: Discourses of Memory in Iranian Cultures was held from February 23-24, 2006 in Paris at Les salons de l'INALCO. The conference was sponsored by The Soudavar Foundation, The Iran Heritage Foundation, and Mondes Iranien et Indien Université Paris III.

Coming up:

6ème Conférence annuelle de l'Association Internationale d'études Qajar: Entertainment in the Qajar Era. The conference has been jointly organized by The International Qajar Studies Association (IQSA) and Mondes iranien et indien. It will be held at:

Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art, 2 rue Vivienne-75002 Paris from **2-3 June 2006**.

Registration:

Up-to-date information on the 6th IQSA conference and registration forms are available at:

www.qajarstudies.org and www.ivry.cnrs.fr/iran-inde

Chairmen and Co-ordinators of the Conference:

Dr. Oliver Bast (Mondes iranien et indien) and Prof. Man-outchehr Eskandari-Qajar (IQSA)

The International Qajar Studies Association (IQSA)

POB 31 107, Santa Barbara - CA 93130 - USA

Web: www.qajarstudies.org

E-mail: president@qajarstudies.org

Mondes iranien et indien-Unité mixte de recherche 7528

(CNRS, Université Paris III, INaLCO, EPHE)

27, rue Paul Bert, 94200 Ivry-sur-Seine France -

Tél: +33 1 49 60 40 05 - Fax: + 33 1 45 21 94 19

Web: www.ivry.cnrs.fr/iran-inde

E-mail: iran-inde@ivry.cnrs.fr

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Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies

Organized by the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS), the Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF), and the London Middle East Institute (LMEI)

3-5 August 2006, at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

The conference will take place immediately after the Centenary Conference on the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, which will be organized by the Iran Heritage Foundation and the University of Oxford and held 30 July–2 August 2006 at Oxford [see ASPS Newsletter No. 13, and <<http://www.iranheritage.org/>>].

The conference will be held at SOAS, and participants should contact the Iran Heritage Foundation (info@iranheritage.org) if they require an invitation in order to obtain a visa for entry into the UK or if they wish to make arrangements for accommodation at student halls of the University of London.

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The Art and Material Culture of Iranian Shiism: July 7-8, 2006, Oxford, UK

Despite the numerous studies of Iranian art and material culture, covering architecture, object studies, flat art and photography, very little work has been published on the subject of Shiite art per se. This interdisciplinary conference aims to address this problem by bringing together historians, art historians, numismatists, anthropologists and folklorists in order to try and identify what is specifically Shiite in the art and material culture of Iran.

The conference will cover Iran from earliest Islamic times until the 21st century, but expects to focus on four main periods: Safavid, Qajar, Pahlavi and post-Revolutionary Iran. It will also include Iranian Shiism as it has spread to other areas of the Islamic world, in particular India and East Africa.

Call for papers: titles of papers and abstracts should be sent to Professor James Allan at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford OX1 2PH, UK, or to Pedram Khosronejad pedram.khosronejad@orinst.ox.ac.uk

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PERSIAN SUMMER COURSES

**2006 Eastern Consortium
in Persian, Turkish, and Pashto**

Summer Program at The Ohio State University

June 19 to August 11, 2006

The **application deadline** is **April 3, 2006**, but applications from those not seeking financial aid will be accepted beyond the deadline.

Visit <http://oia.osu.edu/mesc/procedures.htm> for further information. On-campus housing will be available at nominal rates.

For further information, contact:

Stafford Noble, Consortium Coordinator
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
The Ohio State University
300 Hagerty Hall
1775 College Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1340

E-mail: noble.3@osu.edu

The Eastern Consortium in Persian, Turkish, and Pashto is a cooperative arrangement of the Title VI National Resource Centers of Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, New York, Ohio State, Princeton, and Yale Universities and the Universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania, with special support from the College of Humanities at The Ohio State University.

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**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Summer Residential Immersion Programs in Arabic and
Persian**

June 17 - August 12, 2006

UW-Madison's Summer Arabic & Persian Immersion Programs is a joint project of the Department of African Languages and Literature and the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, coordinated by Global Studies with support from the College of Letters and Science and Middle East Studies.

The site of the 2006 program will be the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a sister campus to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The program is open to both UW and non-UW students, as well as professionals. This summer has five course offerings: Elementary, Intermediate & Advanced Arabic, Elementary Persian, and Intermediate Persian. Each course is equivalent to one year of language study in a normal university setting and will offer eight semester credits.

Admission to the program will be selective. Applicants will be accepted on a rolling basis until the program is filled. Apply early for the best chance of admission. See the program website for further details and to download an application: <http://www.wisc.edu/globalstudies/apip/>

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Other universities advertising summer programs in Persian are:

Georgetown University

<http://summerschool.georgetown.edu/>

University of California, Berkeley

<http://neareastern.berkeley.edu>

Arabic & Persian Immersion Program
Global Studies
301 Ingraham Hall
1155 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Email: global@intl-institute.wisc.edu

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If undelivered, return to

Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson, Ph.D.
Editor, *ASPS Newsletter*
University of Minnesota Duluth
1121 University Drive
Duluth, Minnesota 55812
USA