

ASPS NEWSLETTER

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PERSIANATE SOCIETIES

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From the Outgoing President

I had been reluctant to agree to serve a second term in 2006, and did so with the evident sense that the work of consolidating our young Association was incomplete. In fact, my first message, "From the President" in the March 2007 *Newsletter*, began with a series of apologies, including those for the delay in the publication of the third and last issue of the *Studies on Persianate Societies* and the relocation of our 3rd Biennial Convention from Lahore to Tblisi. I have now completed the second term with the immense satisfaction of knowing ASPS has reached institutional maturity, with both issues of the first volume of the *Journal of Persianate Studies* published handsomely and on time, and after a very well attended 4th Biennial Convention in Lahore, Pakistan, February 26-March 1, 2009.

I am grateful for the continued support of the Soudavar Memorial Foundation for the publication of the *Journal of Persianate Studies*. With our previous conventions taking place in different regions of the Persianate world--Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2002), Yerevan, Armenia (2004) and Tblisi, Georgia (2007)--it was especially gratifying to hold the last convention in the historic city of Lahore, whose civilizational significance in the transmission of the Persianate polity to the Indian subcontinent in the early thirteenth century I celebrated in my presidential address. The convention appropriately ended with an excursion to the tomb of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, and those of his queen, Nur Jahan and her brother, Asef Khan, who had hailed to Jahangir's court from Isfahan.

As with the previous ones, the 4th Convention marked the opening of a new ASPS branch office--this time, the Regional Office for Pakistan at the Faculty of Oriental Learning, University of the Punjab on March 2, 2009.

I am grateful to our Organizing Committee, Shahzad Bashir, Habib Borjian, Rudi Matthee and Parvaneh Pourshariati, especially to Shahzad Bashir, who chaired it, and Habib Borjian, who edited and published the abstracts, and to our hosts, Dean Mohammad Saleem Mazhar of the Punjab University, Lahore, and Professor Rasul Bakhsh Rais of the Lahore University of Management Sciences. I am also most grateful to the American Institute of Iranian Studies for its generous support of the convention, and to its Executive Director, Erica Ehrenberg, for participating in it extensively.

My sense of security about the institutional maturity of ASPS also has other solid grounds. Our Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF) has been replenished by the energetic fund-raising of its Director, Jo-Ann-Gross. This year's CERF awards were made in

Lahore, and we made progress with the CERF-related initiatives in Afghanistan through conversation with our Afghan colleagues and collaboration with the American Institute of Afghan Studies and the American Institute of Pakistani Studies.

Mirjam Künkler completed the second year of the ASPS-sponsored Thematic Conversation at MESA by organizing the session on "Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law in Egypt and Iran" on Tuesday, November 24, 2008. As in the previous year, this was conjoined by a symposium at Stony Brook-Manhattan on Friday, November 21, 2008. The conversation will continue in a considerably extended form as a workshop on "Constitutionalism, the Rule of Law and the Politics of Administration in Egypt and Iran" at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Onati, Spain, May 28-29, 2009.

Parvaneh Pourshariati has organized the most ambitious set of ASPS-sponsored sessions at the forthcoming MESA convention in November 2009 that is pending approval. Dr. Pourshariati also conducted a highly successful membership drive and has largely solved the problem of collecting membership dues online through Paypal.

Further, the first title in our joint publication series with the Miras-e Maktub Center for Written Heritage, Tehran, of previously unpublished *Sources on Persianate Civilization, Tarikh-e Herāt* was published earlier this year with an Introduction by Iraj Afshar, and are available to ASPS members at a discounted price (contact Sunil Sharma at sharma@bu.edu). The number of titles in our *Sources on Persianate Civilization* should increase in the coming years. They will be published in Tehran by the Miras-e Maktub Center, and Sunil Sharma has agreed to distribute them for the ASPS as they become available.

Last but not least, our new website is up at www.persianatesocieties.org and our newsletter was endowed with a new design.

It should be evident from this final report that the current ASPS Board of Directors, most of whose members have been named and thanked above, is the most active to date. I take this to be the clearest proof of its coming of age. To assure the present dynamism continues through greater institutional continuity, I proposed that the term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer be exceptionally increased for once from three to four years so that a new Secretary-Treasurer be elected in a different year from the new President. (The present coincidence of the terms of the two offices had arisen from an unforeseen tie in the vote for Secretary-Treasurer a few years ago.) My proposal was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting of November 22, 2009.

Saïd Amir Ariomand

The Fourth ASPS Biennial Convention in Lahore

The Fourth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies on "Persianate Societies and the Subcontinent" was held in Lahore from February 26 to March 1, 2009. It was co-sponsored by Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), the Faculty of Oriental Learning of University of the Punjab, Lahore, the American Institute of Iranian Studies, and the Written Heritage (*Miras-e Maktub*) Research Center, Tehran.

The inaugural session began at 4:00 PM in the Senate Hall, Allama Iqbal Campus, University of the Punjab. President Saïd Amir Arjomand presided over the session and Professor Mujahid Kamran, University of the Punjab Vice-Chancellor, was the chief guest. After welcoming addresses by Professor Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Learning, Dr. Habib Borjian, ASPS Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Erica Ehrenberg, Executive Director of the American Institute of Iranian Studies, Vice-Chancellor Mujahid Kamran, and Professor Rasul Bakhsh Rais of the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Saïd Amir Arjomand delivered the presidential address on the "Evolution of the Persianate Polity and its Transmission to India." The participants and invited guests were then treated to a wonderful Mahfil-e 'Arefana Kalam, consisting of a magnificent evening of music and poetry introduced by Dr Asif Ali Khan. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

The nineteen regular sessions of the convention were held at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. The convention art exhibition featured the art of Maryam Salour who came from Tehran. The book exhibit displayed titles from the Oxford University Press and the Written Heritage Research Center (*Miras-e Maktub*). The convention banquet was offered by LUMS on Saturday, February 28, followed by a truly unforgettable performance of *Qawwali*.

Despite the unforeseen political unrest in Lahore, the convention was a huge success. The attendance was unusually high, with the largest group of participants from Iran, followed by those from the United States, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Germany, Afghanistan, Russia, Great Britain, Georgia and Armenia. It is regrettable that the four colleagues from India could not attend.

ASPS wishes to thank our hosts, especially Professors Muhammad Saleem Mazhar and Rasul Bakhsh Rais.

It is with the greatest sadness that, very shortly after the convention, we heard of the sudden death from a heart attack of one of the convention participants, Mr. Navid Zafar of the Iqbal Institute of Dialogue and Research, International Islamic University, Islamabad. We offer his family our sincere condolences.

Lahore Convention Proceedings

Persianate Societies and the Subcontinent. Fourth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies. Program, presidential address, abstracts, ed. Habib

Borjian, New York and Tehran, 2009, 142 pp. An online edition will be available at www.persianatesocieties.org.

New ASPS Publication

Miras-e Maktub in Tehran has co-published an edition of *Tarikh-e Herāt* [anonymous], with an introduction by Iraj Afshar. See <http://www.english.mirasmaktoob.ir/>. Copies are available to ASPS members at a discounted price. Please contact Sunil Sharma (sharma@bu.edu) for details.

New ASPS President and Secretary-Treasurer Elected

Thank you to all candidates who put in their hat in the recent ASPS elections. We congratulate Rudi Matthee upon his election to ASPS President and Habib Borjian upon his election to Secretary-Treasurer!

Opening of the ASPS Office in Lahore

On Monday April 2, 2009, the new office of the ASPS was opened at the Department of Persian, University Oriental College, University of the Punjab, Lahore. The ASPS was represented by Dr. Saïd Amir Arjomand, President, Dr. Habib Borjian, Secretary-Treasurer, and Dr. Houchang Chehabi, member of the Board of Directors. The University of the Punjab was represented by Professor Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Dean of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, and Professor Ghulam Moeen-ud-Din Nizami, Chairman of the Department of Persian. Professor Muhammad Iqbal Saqib represented the Government College University, Lahore. The event began at 4:00 PM, and included the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the opening of the ASPS Pakistan Regional Office, a reception at the Department of Persian, University of the Punjab, and a visit to the Department of Persian at the Government College University at the invitation of Professor Iqbal Saqib.

Report from the ASPS Dushanbe Office

The past year was marked by various events and publications in the Dushanbe office of the ASPS; it was a period of significant achievements of Tajik scholars working in the field of Persianate studies.

Members of ASPS-Dushanbe participated in several conferences, exhibitions, and other activities devoted to the jubilees of the most outstanding scholars of Iranzamin: Jalal ad-din Rumi, al-Ghazali, Rudaki, and Babajan Gafurov. Tajik scholars contributed to several publications that emerged from the programs of these jubilees.

With the help of an ASPS-CERF grant, Tajik archaeologist and specialist in the history of medieval economy and agriculture U.

Eshonkulov published *The History of Husbandry in the Mountainous Soghd Region from Ancient Times to the Beginning of the 20th century*. U. The work highlights major trends in the evolution of the most important field of economic development in one district of Maverannahr. However, the rich material collected by the author sheds light on the history of agriculture in a much wider area. The book has already become a standard not only for scholars, but also for university teachers and students throughout Tajikistan.

Recent winners of the ASPS-CERF award are medievalists Jawlon Najmiddinova and Ali Muhammadi Khorasani. Jawlon Najmuddinova is working to publish an edition of *Adab al-Harb va Shuja*, a medieval text on soldiery compiled by Sharif Muhammad Mansur Sa'id Abdulfaraj (also known by his title Mubarak Shah), one of the most interesting sources on the evolution of military art in the Muslim East. Ali Muhammadi Khorasani's project is the publication of a book on the evolution of Tajik literature, especially poetry, titled *From Rudaki to the Present*.

Tajik scholars have also contributed to several international volumes. Three scholars of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan have contributed chapters to the volume *Ecrit et culture en Asie centrale et dans le monde turco-iranien, Xe-XIXe siècles / Writing and Culture in Central Asia and in the Turko-Iranian World, 10th-19th centuries*, edited by French scholars Francis Richard and Maria Szuppe, Paris: AAEI, 2009 [Series: Cahiers de Studia Iranica, no. 41]. The three contributions are "The written heritage of Badakhshan" by Amriyazdon Alimardonov, "Translating and copying in pre-Timurid Herat: a Persian translation of the Ihyā 'ulūm al-dīn, 725-726/1325" by Lola Dodkhudoeva, and "Princely archive of court decrees: a rare insight into the history of Afghanistan (end 19th – beg. 20th c.)" by Saidanvar Shokhumorov.

Lola Dodkhudoeva and art historian Larisa Dodkhudoeva have also contributed to the encyclopaedia, *Essays on the history of Islamic Civilization* (two volumes of about 900 pages each). The encyclopaedia contains five chapters on the history of Maverannahr and Khorasan from the Mongol to the Shibanid periods prepared by Lola Dodkhudoeva and a survey on "The History of Culture, Arts and Architecture in Central Asia of the IX- XV century," prepared by Larisa Dodkhudoeva.

At the end of December 2008, the Dushanbe office of ASPS convened a roundtable to decide on publication material for the first volume of a special ASPS journal in Tajikistan. The roundtable brought to light one of the most painful issues in the current state of research and the academe in Tajikistan: the tremendous loss of intellectuals twice in the same century: during the period of Sovietization at the beginning of the twentieth century and in the course of the civil war at the end of the twentieth century. This loss of intellectual resources has become a main focus for discussion among the most prominent scholars still working in Tajikistan. Participants in the roundtable highlighted issues from economic, social, historical, and gender perspectives. Tajik scholars were joined by Russian and American researchers who analyzed current scientific links between Tajikistan and these countries, and discussed how to approach and further develop such links. At present an ASPS organizing committee is working to publish the proceedings of

the round table in the forthcoming first issue of the ASPS journal in Tajikistan.

Report from ASPS Khorog Office

The newly organized ASPS Khorog, directed by Umed Mamadsheerzodzhoev and Sabohat Dunayorova, has begun its activities.

The office is now equipped with a new computer, printer and scanner, and in December a group of scholars met for the first seminar to discuss future projects. Prof. Umed Mamadsheerzodzhoev has published "The Sources of the Tradition of Charaghvashan" in Tajiki, and Professor Nazri Ofaridaev has prepared a volume entitled, "Economy of Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast". The book includes a list of villages and regions, maps, and historical analysis of the region and its inhabitants. The book is intended to provide information for specialists as well as for the developing tourism industry in the Pamir region.

"Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law in Egypt and Iran" Thematic Conversation at MESA 2008

The 2008 thematic conversation on constitutionalism and rule of law in Egypt and Iran built on an earlier MESA conversation in 2007 on civil society and the rule of Law in Iran. The discussion featured Mehrzad Boroujerdi (Syracuse University), Mehrangiz Kar (Harvard University), Atef Shahat Said (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), and Samer Shehata (Georgetown University) and was led by Farideh Farhi (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa). Acknowledging commonalities between the processes of state-building, and the impact of political Islam on laws and the judicial system, the panelists discussed significant obstacles to due process in both countries.

Mehrzad Boroujerdi focused on the structure of the Iranian judicial system, its many overlapping courts, heavy case load, and the difficulties associated with drawing from many sources of law and being accountable to contending institutions. He also examined the severe shortage of trained judges as well as their different types of training. He concluded by saying that lack of resources, heavy case load, conflicting laws are as much of a burden on the independence of the Iranian judiciary as the subordination of the Iranian judicial system to Islamic laws and religious hierarchy.

Mehrangiz Kar compared the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran with that of Egypt with the aim of determining the degree to which they allow democratic law making to happen. Regarding Iran, she discussed the role played by moderate religious views, the Guardian Council and the Parliament. Using concrete examples, she also discussed the degree to which the Supreme Leader can influence law making. Unlike Egypt, she argued, the only legal source of law making in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran is Islamic law which limits the lawmaker to a very large extent. She argued that, on paper at least, this sole reliance makes the Iranian legal system less amenable to democratic law making than Egypt which incorporates other sources of law as well.

Atef Shahat Said argued that Egypt's politics in Mubarak's era can be characterized as a non-totalitarian dictatorship that is confronted with important dilemmas. The most important dilemma is how to uphold the thin balance between the total domination of the state apparatus and the political sphere while at the same time maintaining a margin of political freedoms and responding to claims about political reform. With respect to the urge for total domination, he discussed the implications of centrality of the police apparatus in Mubarak's Egypt. He gave examples from his fieldwork as a lawyer about the practices of police torture. With respect to the state's acceptance of the coexistence of opposing political parties and Mubarak's ruling party, he emphasized the incompleteness of this tolerance. He found the central dilemma of the Egyptian state to be its constant challenging effort to keep the practices of a police state and the discourse on the rule of law coexisting. The implications of this constant challenge, according to Said, are the many contradictory and complex faces of "rule of law" in Egypt. These include partial implementation of laws, legal despotism, and unwritten laws which sometimes violate the country's laws and Constitution.

Samer Shehata, serving as discussant, pointed out that despite the significant differences in the constitutional arrangement of Egypt and Iran, rule of law or more properly the discourse of law, Islamic or otherwise, is effectively used by the state to define the limits of oppositional and dissident activities in both Egypt and Iran. He also pointed to another significant similarity which entails case overload and lack of resources, both significant challenges to judicial independence.

Farideh Farhi wrapped up the discussion by pointing out the political as well as cultural difficulties faced by reform-oriented judicial activists in bringing about change in both the laws and judicial structures of the two countries.

Farideh Farhi

New Manuscript of Shahnameh discovered in Beirut

A new and fine manuscript of the Shahnameh was discovered by Professor Moosavi (Tehran University) while conducting research in a library in Beirut. Professors Khaleghi, Afshar, Shafii-Kadkani, and Omidasalar have examined the digital pictures of several pages of the manuscript, and unanimously agree that it is a very important discovery. Although it is not illustrated and also lacks a colophon, its codicological features indicate that it dates from no later than the mid-thirteenth century AD.

Professors Khaleghi and Moosavi have so far published two essays in *Nameh-ye Baharestan* 8/9 (1386-1387) 13/14 that more closely describe the manuscript: "A Newly Discovered Manuscript of the Shahnameh," by D. J. Khaleghi-Motlagh; and "An Old Manuscript of the Shahnameh," by Moastafa Moosavi. Further, Professors Afshar and Omidasalar will publish a facsimile edition of the manuscript in Iran as a part of the 'Persian Texts in Facsimile'-series, of which five volumes have been published so far.

Those who would like to make a tax-deductible contribution towards the publication of the manuscript may do so by visiting the website of the Foundation For the Preservation of Rare Manuscripts (FRM) at www.frmpub.com, click on Enter, and then click on Donors. Alternatively, donations can be made directly to FRM c/o Dr. Homayoon Shidnia, 8515 Green Braes South Drive, Indianapolis, INDIANA, 46234-2929, or via www.paypal.com.

Professor Omidasalar cannot adequately stress how important this manuscript is, and how urgent is it to produce a photographic reproduction of it. For more information, contact Professor Omidasalar at momidsa@exchange.calstatela.edu.

The Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF)

The ASPS is happy to announce that it is once again accepting CERF grant applications. The deadlines for receipt of electronic submissions are June 15, 2009 and January 15, 2010. The dates of the announcement of awards are August 1, 2009 and March 1, 2010. The award period is for one year.

CERF grants support research and publications concerning Persianate culture by individual scholars from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Northwest China.

Eligibility: a minimum degree equivalent to a B.A. Grantees may only reapply for a CERF Grant after five years from the receipt of a previous CERF award.

Grants do not exceed US \$1500 and provide funding for the following: book or monograph publication costs (includes 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: Awards made twice a year. An ASPS evaluation committee reviews applications. Every effort is made 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
- Adequate academic and professional experience of the candidate

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)

Please keep a copy of the application requirements for your records and check off each category prior to application submission. Incomplete applications will be invalidated.

Award and Final Report: Grant recipients must submit a written report and two copies of any publication resulting from the award within two months of the award completion period. 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.

Final reports, including receipts of all expenses, must be remitted at the end of the project period in order for the Research Fund to meet its own internal accounting requirements that ensure the Research Fund's continued operation.

Member News and Announcements

Habib Borjian has recently published *Motun-e Tabari / Tabari Texts* (suppl. to the Persian journal *Āyena-ye Mirās*), Tehran: Written Heritage Publishers, 2008. It consists of 12 articles on old and new Tabari texts, including some newly-found medieval quatrains and a manuscript of the Koran with dialect translation. His latest articles are: "Two Mazandarani Texts from the Nineteenth Century," *Studia Iranica* 37/1, 2008: 7-50, "The Komisenian Dialect of Aftar," *Archiv Orientalní* 76/3, 2008: 379-416, "Tabarica II: Some Mazandarani Verbs," *Iran and the Caucasus* 12/1, 2008: 73-82. "Nesâb-e Tabari Revisited," in *Essays in Honor of Sidiq Kiyani*, ed. Askar Bahrami, Tehran, 2008: 49-80, "Development of irregular verbs in Persian" (in Persian), *Iranshenasi* 19/1, 2007: 13-24, "Earthquake in Persian Beliefs and Legends" (in Persian), *Nâma-ye Farhangestân* 8/4, 2007: 6-25.

H. Borjian's latest contributions to *Encyclopaedia Iranica* are "Jarquya, district and dialect" (central Iran), vol. XIV, 582-588; "Jazi, Darvish Abbâs" (19-century poet of the Gazi dialect), vol. XIV; "Jowshaqân, district and dialect" (central Iran), vol. XV.

His latest joint articles with Maryam Borjian are: "The Last Galesh Herdsman," *Iranian Studies* 41/3, 2008: 365-402, "Marriage Rites in South Caspian Villages," *Archiv Orientalní* 75/2, 2007: 191-214, and "Ethno-Linguistic Materials from Rural Mazandaran," *Iran and the Caucasus* 11/2, 2007: 226-254.

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Ali Anooshahr at UC Davis has published the book "The Ghazi Sultans and the Frontiers of Islam: A comparative study of the late medieval and early modern periods" with Routledge. The book relates to the Persianate world at large, in particular India, Anatolia, and Central Asia.

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Jo-Ann Gross member of the ASPS Board of Directors and Professor of Middle Eastern and Central Eurasian History at the College of New Jersey (TCNJ) is co-directing a 2-year Title VI-A Department of Education Grant to expand Iranian and Central

Asian Studies at her institution. Twelve faculty from across different disciplines are developing new courses and participating in a faculty development workshop to which leading scholars are invited to give talks. The following four scholars presented papers for the faculty development workshop: Parvaneh Pourshariati of Ohio State University gave a talk on "The Idea of Iran," Hossein Kamaly of Columbia University gave a talk on "Shi'ism and Iran," Jawid Mojaddedi of Rutgers University gave a talk on "Sufi Poetry and Rumi," and Nasrin Rahimieh gave a talk on "Forugh Farrukhzad: Twentieth-Century Poetry and Literature." In addition, Prof. Nasrin Rahimieh gave a public lecture on "Forugh Farrukhzad: Gender, Poetry and Film" which included the film screening of "The House is Black." The grant has also supported the expansion of the Arabic program to include advanced Arabic courses and the development of a Persian language program. This year TCNJ students are participating in a special collaborative program in Persian at Rutgers University, and in fall, 2009 Persian will be offered for the first time at TCNJ. Several cultural events were also organized, including an "Evening of Persian Music and Poetry" on February 4, a Persian Language Workshop on March 17, a Nowruz Celebration on March 19, and a public lecture on March 24 by Dr. Yassin El-Ayouty, Esq. on "Perceptions of the US in the Arab and Muslim World Post 9/11". This year's grant focuses on Iran, while next year's programs will focus on Central Eurasia.

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Rudi Matthee published "Boom and Bust: Basra in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," in Lawrence Potter, ed., *The Persian Gulf in History* (New York: Palgrave, 2008), 105-127; as well as "Eqtesad va siyasat-e khareji-ye Iran dar 'asr-e Safavi," trans. Hasan Zandieh (Tehran: Pazhuhesgah-e Hawzeh va Daneshgah, 1387/2008), which is a translation of four articles on economic and political issues in the Safavid period.

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A new edition of the Indo-Persian travel diary 'Vaqa'i-i musafirat' written in 1887 Persian by the statesman from Hyderabad, Mir La'iq Ali Khan Imad al-Saltanah Salar Jang II, has been published by Nashr-i Tarikh (Tehran) in December 2008. The Persian text is edited by **Omar Khalidi** and **Sunil Sharma** who have also written an introduction to the text.

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Nazri Ofaridaev, professor at Khorog State University, has published "Oykonimiyo of Gorno Badakhshan Oblast." The book consist of six chapters, including an historical analysis of region, its inhabitants, their origin and their linguistics features. More information at ofarida_n@mail.ru.

It is known that Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast is one of the most attractive regions in Central Asia. For this reason, the tourism industry offers excellent opportunities for future development. This volume will provide the necessary teaching materials to produce such development, including a systematic list of village and regional names and maps.

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Hassan Rezai Baghbidi has published the book *Tarikh-e Zabanha-ye Irani* (History of Iranian Languages) with the Research Institute for World Languages, Osaka University, Japan.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy, should kindly send her/his postal address to Hassan Rezai Baghbidi at harezai2001@yahoo.co.uk.

Language programs in Iran

With new visa regulations that allow citizens of a number of countries to receive visa on arrival at Imam Khomeini Airport in Tehran, traveling to Iran has become much easier.

Several institutes and universities in Iran offer Persian language and literature courses:

- *Isfahan*: University of Isfahan, International Scientific Cooperation Office, University of Isfahan, Hezarjarib Ave., Isfahan, Iran. 81746-73441. Phone:++983117932039-41. Email : int-office@ui.ac.ir. Website: http://intoffice.ui.ac.ir/main/E_Content_Show.asp?ContentID=68
- *Yazd*: Silk Road Language Academy, Yazd: info@iransilkroad.nl
- *Tehran*: Dehkoda Institute, International Centre for Persian Studies, Shemiran, Vali Asr Ave., Istgah-e Pasian, Iran – Tehran. Tel. 0098-21-278073, 0098-21-277120, 0098-21-276833. Website: <http://icps.ut.ac.ir/en/>

Conferences

The International Qajar Studies Association (IQSA) in conjunction with the Institute for Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Historians of Islamic Art Association (HIAA) are sponsoring a two-day conference on the theme of "**Architecture in the Qajar Era**" in Vienna, Austria, June 4-5, 2009.

For further detail see:

Conference Page: <http://www.qajarstudies.org/IQSAEvents.html>

List of Speakers and Abstracts:

<http://www.qajarstudies.org/abstractsvienna2009.html>

Conference Registration Page:

<http://www.qajarstudies.org/registrationvienna2009.html>

For further information and questions regarding the conference, please contact Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar, President, IQSA at: president@qajarstudies.org

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Eighth Iranian Studies Biennial Conference, University of California in Los Angeles, 28-30 May 2010

The ISIS 2010 Conference organizers look forward to your proposals. As the 01 May 2009 deadline approaches, our new and improved ISIS website will facilitate the submission of your panel proposals and paper abstracts.

To access the forms, you must have an active Membership Account for 2009. If you are a new or returning member, please go to the sign-up page at <http://iranianstudies.com> to become a member and receive your username/password.

Questions about the Conference submission process should be addressed to Marta Simidchieva at 2010program@iranianstudies.com.

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Symposium "The World of Shah Abbas", The British Museum, London, 15-16 May, 2009

A symposium that will cover the political, social, economic, and religious policies of Shah Abbas, and his impact on Iran's art and architecture.

For further information see <http://www.iranheritage.org/world-of-shah-abbas/schedule.htm>

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Future Generation Committee (FGC) Partnership Scheme supports projects related to Iranian culture. The FGC Partnership Scheme was established by **the Iran Heritage Foundation** to provide support to projects that:

- a) promote Iran's heritage to future generations,
- b) raise awareness of young Iranians' contributions to international arts and culture.

If you are organising an educational, cultural or social project or event, visit www.iranheritage.org/fgc and submit an online application form.

Successful applicants will receive support from the IHF's Future Generation Committee in a number of ways, including:

- 1) Grants
- 2) Promotion of Event
- 3) Access to IHF's network
- 4) Back Office Administration

For more information on the criteria for eligible projects, the support provided to successful applicants as well as the application process, visit www.iranheritage.org/fgc

Employment and Opportunities

I.B. Tauris Student Award for the Anthropology of Iran

The Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews, in association with the I.B. Tauris Publishers (U.K) invites applications for a Student Article Award for the academic year 2009.

The prize will be awarded to the best student paper in the field of Anthropology of Iran. In determining the award, the following criteria will be applied:

1. Originality of scholarship, creativity of insight, and quality of writing.
2. Clear potential for contribution to the fields of anthropology of Iran.
Special consideration will be given to work that incorporates emerging perspectives or interdisciplinary methodologies, which promote the further understanding of Anthropology of Iran.

3. Clear potential for continued innovative research, leading toward a dissertation or major publication on the part of the author.

4. The award consists of a £ 200 prize. Awardee will be recognized and receive his/her prize by the end of June 2009.

The I.B.Tauris award honors a recent and original article of one official registered graduate or undergraduate student. To request further information and to discuss proposed topics please contact: Dr. P. Khosronejad: pedram.khosronejad@st-andrews.ac.uk. The deadline for submissions for the I.B.Tauris Award of the Anthropology of Iran is **April 15, 2009**. Articles must be submitted electronically in MS Word (97-2003) or Adobe PDF formats. (File sizes must be less than 2MB)

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Persianate Societies and the Subcontinent. Fourth Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies. Program, presidential address, abstracts, ed. Habib Borjian, New York and Tehran, 2009, 142 pp. An online edition will be available at www.persianatesocieties.org.

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