

# ASPS NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF  
PERSIANATE SOCIETIES

[www.persianatesocieties.org](http://www.persianatesocieties.org)

No. 23, Fall 2009.



انجمن مطالعات  
جوامع فارسی‌زبان

## From the Incoming President

It is with trepidation as well as excitement that I begin my second term as President of ASPS. Trepidation because, as was true the first time I assumed the position, in 2003, I succeed Saïd Arjomand, founder and three-time President, whose continuing dedication to ASPS has helped sustain it as a flourishing organization and whose example will be hard to follow. Trepidation (and concern) also because current conditions in Iran, the core country of our mission and activities, have made travel to the Islamic Republic for many of us difficult and personal interaction with our Iranian colleagues increasingly problematic. On the other hand, my tenure builds on the solid foundations laid by Saïd (as well as others active on the board), and I am excited about the various initiatives that are currently underway and the opportunities offered by the future.

Let me therefore first thank Saïd as outgoing President for the energy and acumen he put into keeping the organization healthy and active, for the leading role he played securing ongoing funding, and for having steered our journal, the *Journal of Persianate Studies*, so expertly as its editor, enhancing its prestige and visibility by bringing it under the care of Brill Publishers.

My heartfelt thanks also go to the various board members. As Saïd observed in a previous newsletter, the current board has proven to be the most active ever. I wish to thank in particular Jo-Ann Gross for shouldering the responsibility for the Tajikistan branches of ASPS, for securing continuous sponsorship for the important Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF), and for managing the same fund. I thank Habib Borjian for his keeping our financial house in good order as well as for his crucial role in organizing the Lahore conference, and Sunil Sharma for his work on the joint publication series with the Miras-e Maktub Center for Written Heritage, Tehran, *Sources on Persianate Civilization*. Mirjam Künkler, the outgoing Newsletter and Website Editor, has done a wonderful job taking care of the Newsletter and Website for several years, increasing its comprehensiveness and improving its quality and design. I welcome Ghazzal Dabiri of Columbia University who has graciously agreed to be our next Newsletter Editor. And last but not least, Parvaneh Pourshariati deserves many thanks for her hard work arranging the improvement of our payment system on the website. To Shahab Razavi of Georgia Tech University goes the credit of making Paypal work for us. He has kindly agreed to update the website as well.

I acknowledge with gratitude the continuing support we have received from an anonymous donor whose generosity has

made CERF a thriving component of the ASPS for a number of years now, as well as the sponsorship for the journal from the Soudavar Foundation. My thanks also go to the American Institute of Iranian Studies for its generous support of our 4th biennial convention and to its director, Dr. Erica Ehrenberg, for joining us in Lahore.

We are looking forward to an exciting MESA program in Boston in November, with a quadruple panel on Iran in late antiquity, an unprecedented ASPS-sponsored event organized by Parvaneh Pourshariati. The participants will be honored at the ASPS reception. Our board meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday Nov. 21, 1:00-2:00, and our business meeting will follow immediately thereafter, 2:00-3:00. I hope all of you will attend to discuss current and future activities, including the next biennial meeting. ASPS will hold its customary reception in the hotel, most likely on Saturday evening, venue TBA.

By the time you read this newsletter, all paid-up ASPS members should have received vol. 2:1 of the *Journal of Persianate Societies*. Beyond that, we are looking forward to vol. 2:2, an exciting issue that includes a symposium titled "The Eighteenth-Century Fracturing of the Persianate World" edited by Sunil Sharma and Mana Kia, to be published shortly.

I call upon all of you to help make ASPS an even better organization than it already is, by publicizing its activities, working toward increased membership, suggesting opportunities for continued and expanded fund-raising—a vital though not an easy task in these lean times. We now have Paypal set up on our website, so that payment of dues can now be made easily within a matter of seconds. Just visit [www.persianatesocieties.org/main/membership.php](http://www.persianatesocieties.org/main/membership.php) and you will see. Finally, I invite all members to think with me about ways to maintain and expand the links that form the heart and the rationale of the organization, between scholars in the West and our colleagues in the various parts of the Persianate world.

Rudi Matthee

## Report from the Regional Offices

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), traveled to Tajikistan in July-August 2009, where she met with Lola Dodkhudoeva, Regional Director in Dushanbe, and with Umed Mamadherzodshoev, Regional Director in Khorog. She also met with the Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan to discuss ASPS activities,

during which she expressed her gratitude to him for continuing to house the ASPS Dushanbe office. She discussed ASPS activities planned for 2009-10, and Larisa Dodkhudoeva convened a meeting with the most recent CERF awardees, each of whom gave reports on their current research and publication plans. The Dushanbe office is preparing to publish the proceedings of last year's roundtable on the state of research and the academe in post-civil war Tajikistan, and the office in Khorog is preparing to publish their first majaleh on the history, culture and literature of Badakhshan.

### New ASPS Publication

The ASPS has published a Colloquial Tajik Phrasebook and Grammar (including colloquial Tajiki-Persian comparison of grammar), co-authored by Bahridin Aliev and Aya Okawa. Copies are available to ASPS members at a discounted price of \$10 (otherwise \$15). For purchase, please contact Sunil Sharma at [sharma@bu.edu](mailto:sharma@bu.edu).

### News from the Journal of Persian Studies (JPS)

With JPS 2.1 having just been sent to press, we have completed the second volume and the second year of our thriving publication career. Last year, Habib Borjian replaced Manouchehr Kasheff as the Associate Editor and Kathryn Arjomand accepted the charge of editing the articles for style and English. The Soudavar Foundation has not only renewed its annual grant, but agreed to increase it to \$7,000, exceptionally for one year, to cover the additional costs which we hope Brill will cover in the following years.

Independent submissions are increasing, but their number and quality is still low. The members of the Editorial Board who attended the Lahore convention did solicit papers whose quality they considered outstanding, but few if any of those are ready yet. We therefore remain critically dependent on our Board members being pro-active. In this regard, I wish to thank Houchang Chehabi and Mirjam Künkler, who have each secured a considerable number of submissions.

JPS 2.1 was printed on time, and it should have been distributed two months ago, but the person in charge at Brill is currently on vacation and I have had no explanation of the delay. I hope, however, that JPS, 2.1 is in your hands by the time you read this. JPS, 2.2, currently in press, contains the following articles:

#### JPS 2.2, TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Saïd Amir Arjomand, Evolution of the Persianate Polity and its Transmission to India
- Inga Kaladze, The Georgian Translation of *Vis and Rāmin*: An Old Specimen of Hermeneutics
- *Symposium on the Eighteenth-Century Fracturing of the Persianate World*:
  - Paul Losensky, Introduction
  - Sunil Sharma, From 'Ā'eshā to Nur Jahān: The Shaping of a Classical Persian Poetic Canon of Women
  - Rajeev Kinra, Infantilizing Bābā Dārā: The Cultural Memory of Dārā Shekūh and the Mughal Public Sphere

- Matthew C. Smith, Literary Connections: Bahār's *Sabkshenāsi* and the *Bāzgasht-e Adabi*
- Mana Kia, Accounting for Difference: A Comparative Look at the Autobiographical Travel Narratives of Hazin Lāhijī and 'Abd-al-Karim Kashmiri

-Saïd Amir Arjomand

### ASPS Board Member Elections

With the current terms of Jo-Ann Gross and Mirjam Künkler on the board coming to an end, the ASPS will hold elections for two new board members this fall. Three candidacies were submitted. Please look out this fall for electronic ballots to be sent out by the ASPS treasurer Habib Borjian.

**Elton L. Daniel** has been a member of Department of History, University of Hawaii at Manoa since 1981 and is now Professor of History there (1992 to present); he has also been a Visiting Fellow, Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford (1994-95) and Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago (1980-81). He received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin (1978), completed the CASA program, American University in Cairo (1973), and received the A.B. degree with Highest Honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1970). He is author or co-author of five books and more than a hundred articles, chapters in collaborative volume, and book reviews. Representative publications include *The Political and Social History of Khurasan under 'Abbasid Rule* (Chicago and Minneapolis, 1979; tr. M. Rajabnia, Tehran, 1989); *A Shi'ite Pilgrimage to Mecca* (Texas, 1990); *The History of Iran* (Westport, Conn., 2000); *Qajar Society and Culture: Studies in Honor of Hafez F.Farmayan* (ed., Costa Mesa, Calif., 2002); "The Samanid Translations of al-Tabari," in Hugh Kennedy, *Al-Tabari: The Life and Works of a Medieval Muslim Historian* (Princeton, 2008); "Al-Ya'qubi and Shi'ism Reconsidered," in J. Montgomery, *Abbasid Studies* (Leuven, 2004); "The 'Ahl al-Taqaddum' and the Problem of the Constituency of the Abbasid Revolution in the Merv Oasis," *Journal of Islamic Studies* (1996); "Manuscripts and Editions of Bal'ami's Tarjamah-yi Tarikh-i Tabari," *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1990). In service to the profession, he has been Associate Editor of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* (1997-2001), a member of the Pourshariati Book Award Committee (MESA, 2007) and the Malcolm Kerr Dissertation Award Committee (MESA, 1989), and a proposal reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities (1993).

**Jo-Ann Gross** (running for a second term) is Professor of Middle Eastern and Central Eurasian history at The College of New Jersey. The focus of her research is the social history of early modern Iran and Central Asia, with an emphasis on the religious, sociopolitical, and economic aspects of Sufism, popular religious figures, and shrines. She currently serves on the Editorial Board of *Studies of Persianate Societies* and *The Central Eurasian Reader* and is completing the second of two terms on the ASPS Board of Directors. She is the founder and director of the Central Eurasian Studies Fund (CERF), which provides grant support for publications concerning Persianate culture by individual scholars from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Northwest China. She is also an institutional representative on the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Afghan Studies. She has served as Secretary-Treasurer of ASPS (1999-2002), as a member of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (1996-2000), and as Executive Secretary for the Society for Iranian Studies (1987-90). Among her publications are three books; *Musul'manskaya*

*Tsentral'naya Aziya: Religioznost' i Obshchestvo - Izbrannye Stat'i (Islamic Central Asia: Religiosity and Society - Collected Works)*, Russian translation and critical introduction by Lola Dodkhoudoeva (Dushanbe, 2004), a collection of the author's published works on the history of Sufism in Central Asia; *The Letters of Khwaja 'Ubayd Allah Ahrar and His Associates* (co-authored with Asom Urunbaev (Brill Publishers, 2002), a collaborative project supported by a 2-year Collaborative Research Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; and her edited volume, *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change* (Duke University Press, 1992). She is currently working on a book entitled, *Mapping the Sacred Landscape: Muslim Shrines and Spiritual Networks in Tajikistan*.

**Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis** is Curator of Islamic and Iranian Coins at the British Museum, and since 2006, serves as the President of the British Institute of Persian Studies. Dr. Sarkhosh Curtis was born and brought up in Tehran, Iran, where she went to the German School. She left Iran immediately after finishing school in 1971 in order to pursue her undergraduate studies in Near Eastern Archaeology and Iranian Studies at the University of Göttingen, Germany. In 1976, she moved to London and began postgraduate studies at the Institute of Archaeology, where she wrote a PhD thesis on "The Parthian costume: origin and distribution". Dr. Sarkhosh Curtis is involved in two large coin projects: 1. The Sasanian Coin Project with the National Museum of Iran (Muzeh Melli), Tehran. A 2-volume sylloge of the Sasanian coins in the National Museum of Iran will go to press later this year. 2. The International Parthian Coin Project, which she co-directs with Dr Michael Alram of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Coin Cabinet in Vienna. Dr. Sarkhosh Curtis is mainly interested in religious and royal iconography of the Parthian and Sasanian periods, especially coins and reliefs. She has published extensively on Parthian and Sasanian coin iconography, as well Parthian art in general.

### Elections for ASPS Board Student Member

The ASPS will also hold its elections for the student board member. Two candidacies were submitted. Please look out for electronic ballots to be sent out by the ASPS treasurer Habib Borjian this fall.

**Khodadad Rezakhani** is a PhD Candidate of Late Antique Near Eastern History at the Dept. of History, UCLA, working on a dissertation titled "Empires and Micro-Systems: Economy of Sasanian Iran, 500-700". Apart from Sasanian history, he is interested in World History, Middle Iranian languages, and Indo-European Studies. He has previously earned an MSc in Economic History/Global History from the London School of Economic. He was born in Tehran, Iran and earned his high-school diploma there. Khodadad has done research in England, Iran and UAE. In 2009, he was a visiting scholar at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission for Numismatics where he worked on a collection of Sasanian coins (to be published by the Academy in 2010) and a collection of the coins of Persis. He has received several fellowships, including the UCLA International Center Research Fellowship 2009-2010, UCLA History Dept. Pre-Dissertation Fellowship 2008-2009, UC-MRG Late Antiquity's Summer Research Fellowship, and UCLA Graduate Division's Summer Research Fellowships for 2006 and 2007. He has taught World History and Ancient History at the Santa Monica College and has been a Teaching Fellow for the UCLA Dept. of History and Dept. of Germanic Languages. He is fluent

in Persian, English and German and has also studied Ancient Greek, Sanskrit, Middle Persian, Bactrian, and Old Norse. Khodadad has published several chapters in various edited books and four articles in Peer-reviewed Journals, as well as entries for the Supplement to Lexikon des Mittelalters and entries to be published in the Encyclopaedia Iranica. He is a member of the International Society of Iranian Studies and the American Historical Society, as well as a reviewer for the Iranian Journal of Archaeology and History and the Nameye Irane Bastan (International Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies). He also participates in the California Medieval Society and the Lares/Penates Late Antique Studies Group.

**Ranin Kazemi** has earned his double-majored Bachelor of Arts degree in English and history at Middle Tennessee State University. He graduated in 2002 with a Cum Laude notation and with distinction in the University Honors College. His BA thesis concerned love imagery in the poetry of Jalal al-Din Rumi (a thirteenth-century Persian Sufi poet). Ranin continued his education at Ohio State University where he concentrated on medieval and early modern Islamic history and wrote a Master of Arts thesis on the eleventh-century Persian historian Abu'l-Fazl Bayhaqi's philosophical conception of history. He earned his first MA degree in history at Ohio State in 2005. That same year, he entered Yale University where he has since pursued his interests in early modern Persianate societies and the modern Middle East. In 2008 he earned his second MA degree in history, passed the candidacy exams with distinction, and defended a dissertation prospectus on Qajar Iran. Subsequently, he spent a year in the Middle East conducting archival research related to his dissertation topic. Currently, he is writing his dissertation which is about a late nineteenth-century social movement in Iran. In the course of his academic career, Ranin has received the following fellowships and awards: Graduate Enrichment Fellowship for Study in History at Ohio State Graduate School, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for Arabic and Turkish, Yale University Academic-Year-Long and Summer Fellowships, Yale University MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Grant, Yale University MacMillan Dissertation Research Grant, Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Multi-Country Research Fellowship, Iranian American Scholarship Fund, Yale University Dissertation Writing Fellowship, and Tennessee Historical Commission Certificate of Merit for Outstanding History Student at MTSU, 2001-2002. Ranin convened talks for the Iran Colloquium series at Yale for the academic year 2007-2008. He also organized a panel on the social and cultural history of Iran at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference in 2007. He has also given talks on agro-social history of Qajar Iran at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society and the 2007 Middle East Studies Association Conference. Ranin's forthcoming publications include book reviews in *Journal of the International Society for Iranian Studies* and *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. He is a guest editor for an upcoming theme issue of *Journal of the International Society for Iranian Studies* where his article on the Tobacco Regie Movement in Iran will also appear. Previously he has written two chapters on historiography and Middle Eastern History in Dennis A. Trinkle and Scott A. Merriman, eds., *The History Highway: A 21st Century Guide to Internet Resources* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2005). Besides English and Persian, Ranin has a reading knowledge of Arabic, modern and Ottoman Turkish, and French.

## New Newsletter and Website Editor

With Mirjam Künkler's service as newsletter and website editor coming to an end, Ghazzal Dabiri ([gd2287@columbia.edu](mailto:gd2287@columbia.edu)) has kindly agreed to serve as the new editor.

Ghazzal Dabiri is Lecturer and Coordinator of Persian at Columbia University. She holds a Ph.D. in Iranian Studies from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA. Her research focuses on classical Persian and Arabic literature with a particular interest in the development of epics and other literary genres. Besides her Dissertation, "The Origins and Development of Persian Epics," which won Honorable Mention for Best Dissertation from the *Foundation for Iranian Studies* in 2007, her publications include "Visions of Heaven and Hell from Late Antiquity in the Near East," *Quaderni di Studi Indo-Mediterranei*, Fall 2009 and "The Shahnama: Between the Samanids and Ghaznavids," *Iranian Studies*, the Shahnama Special Issue, 2010.

Dr. Dabiri has taught Persian language and literature courses at UCLA (where as a graduate student she was awarded several teaching and FLAS fellowships), Columbia University, Santa Monica College, and California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). At Fullerton, she was the Director of the Persian language program, where she set up the program and oversaw its primary growth. This included the creation of a summer intensive program where the students' course of instruction culminated in a four week intensive study abroad program. In lieu of a program in Iran, she created the study abroad segment of the program with the collaboration of Arya International University in Yerevan, Armenia, the design of which met CSUF's specific requirements.

## Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your membership in order to continue receiving the JPS journal and ASPS newsletter. Our new website allows for automatic payment on site via paypal. Try it out! See

<http://www.persianatesocieties.org/main/membership.php>

## ASPS Board and Business Meeting at MESA

The ASPS board meeting will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, 1:00-2:00 p.m. The ASPS business meeting will follow immediately thereafter, 2:00-3:00 p.m. The ASPS will hold its customary reception in the hotel, most likely on Saturday evening, venue TBA.

## ASPS-sponsored panels at MESA

The ASPS will sponsor a mini-conference titled "RECENT TRENDS IN LATE ANTIQUE IRANIAN STUDIES," at the upcoming MESA conference held in the Boston Marriott Copley Hotel in Boston on Nov. 21-24. The mini-conference, organized by Parvaneh Poushariati, will bring together internationally renowned scholars of the late antique and medieval history of Iran. The participants of the four panels and the ASPS hope to a) draw attention to the recent strides made in the study of late

antique Iran and; b) fill-in the void that they perceive to have existed in studying the history of the region in the half a millennium that roughly corresponds to the fifth to the 10th centuries C.E.. The panels will be held in celebration of the life of Zeev Rubin (1942-2009), the prominent and distinguished historian of the Mediterranean and Iranian worlds in late antiquity, whose untimely death has left his many friends in shock and grief over his absence.

### PANEL I: LEGAL STRUCTURES OF IRAN IN LATE ANTIQUITY

Chair: Parvaneh Pourshariati (OSU) (The Ohio State University)

- Maria Macuch (Free University/Berlin): "The Clause on Property in the Pahlavi Marriage Contract"
- Yaakov Elman (Harvard U): "The Chronology of the Sasanian Law book"
- Haleh Emrani (University of California, Los Angeles): "Family Law in Religious Communities of Late Sasanian and Early Islamic Iran: An Indicator of Social Change and Continuity"
- Richard Payne (Princeton University): "Elite Families in Crisis: Fatherless and Sonless Households in the Seventh Century Iranian World"

Discussant: Saïd Amir Arjomand (SUNY/Stony Brook)

### PANEL II: PROBLEMATICS IN CHRONOLOGICAL DEMARCATIONS OF LATE ANTIQUE IRAN

Chair: Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson (University of Minnesota/Duluth)

- Touraj Daryaee (University of California, Irvine): "Competing Rulers and Dynasts in Face of the Muslim Conquest: Periodizing the End of Sasanians"
- Parvaneh Pourshariati (The Ohio State University/Columbus): "A Revised Chronology of the Early Arab Conquests of Iraq and its Implications"
- Asef Kholdani (Independent Scholar/NY): "A Long Duree Perspective of Iranian History: A Chronological Schema"
- Ghazzal Dabiri (Columbia University): "Ninth Century Historians and the *Shu'ūbiyah* Movement"

Discussant: Elton Daniel (The University of Hawaii)

### PANEL III: AESTHETIC, SACRED, AND MARTIAL EXPRESSIONS OF IRAN IN THE LATE ANTIQUE PERIOD

Chair: Maria Macuch (Freie Universität Berlin)

- Joel Walker (University of Washington): "The Gentleman Wore Pearls: Pearled Vestments and Male Jewelry in the Sasanian and Early Islamic Middle East"
- Matthew P. Canepa (Merton College, Oxford): "Building a New Vision of the Past in the Late Sasanian Empire: The Creation and Experience of the Avestan Past"
- Abolala Soudavar, (Independent Scholar/Houston): "Mithraic Societies: A Lasting Structure for Iranian Brotherhoods"
- Hossein Kamaly (Columbia University): "Whence Came the Aswaran? Where Did They Disappear?"

Discussant: Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis (The British Museum)

### PANEL IV: URBAN, AGRICULTURAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES AND TRANSFORMATIONS IN LATE ANTIQUE IRAN

Chair: Ghazzal Dabiri (Columbia University)

- Hugh Kennedy (SOAS): In Celebration of Zeev Rubin's Life (1942-2009)

- Hugh Kennedy (SOAS): "Early Islamic Iraq and the Heritage of late Sasanian Administrative Practice"
- Khodadad Rezakhani (UCLA): "Late Antique Economy of Iran: Empires, Microsystems, and Economic Boundaries, 500-800 CE"
- Richard Bulliet (Columbia University): "Urbanization on the Iranian plateau in Sasanian and early Islamic times"

Discussant: Michael Morony (UCLA)

To see the date and times of the panels, please consult the MESA program, on view at <http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/annual/program.htm>.

Another ASPS-sponsored panel is:

BETWEEN POST-REVIVALISM AND POST-ISLAMISM: POLITICO-RELIGIOUS DISCOURSES IN IRAN, Saturday 5-7 p.m., Nov 21

Chair: Ali Banuazizi, Boston University

- Nader Hashemi (University of Denver): Rethinking Religion-State Relations in the Islamic Republic of Iran: Ayatollah Montazeri and the Quasi-secularization of Islamic Political Thought
- Yasuyuki Matsunaga (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies): Mohsen Kadivar, an Advocate of Postrevivalist Islam in Iran
- Mirjam Künkler (Princeton University): Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestari's "Prophetic Reading of the World"
- Seyed Sadegh Haghghat (Mofid University): The early and the later Bazargan
- Farzin Vahdat (Vassar College): Modernizing Islam: The Discourse of Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestari

Discussant: Mohsen Kadivar, Duke University

### The Central Eurasia Research Fund (CERF)

The CERF Committee has awarded the following scholars grants in August, 2009 to support publication costs and technical equipment necessary for specific research projects:

- Kamoluddin Abdullaev, Institute of Oriental Studies and Written Heritage, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. For publication of the monograph entitled, *From Xinjiang to Khorasan: The Twentieth-Century Central Asian Emigration*.
- Victor Dubovitsky, Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. For technical equipment to support the systematization and research of the archival materials of Mikhail Stepanovich Andreev.
- Aloviddin Nazarov, Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. For publication of a monograph entitled, *The Religious Life of Muslims in Tajikistan During the Soviet Period, 1941-1991*.
- Hidayat ur Rahman, Independent researcher, Chitral, Pakistan.. For technical equipment to support the book project, *Isma'ili Oral and Written Traditions in Lotkoh Valley*.

The ASPS is happy to announce that it continues to accept CERF grant applications. The deadlines for receipt of electronic submissions are January 15, and June 15, 2010. The dates of the announcement of awards are March 1 and August 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](mailto: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

**Maryam Borjian** graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University. She majored in the international and comparative education with a specialization in TESOL and bilingual education. Her dissertation was "English education in post-revolutionary Iran, 1979-2008: The politics of educational borrowing and lending," for which she won the policy fellowship from Teachers College. Dr. Borjian is now teaching at the City University of New York. She has recently contributed a book chapter on Persian (co-authored by Habib Borjian) to Joshua A. Fishman and Ofelia García, eds., *Handbook of Language and Ethnic Identity II. Success and Failure Continuum*, to be published by the Oxford University Press.

\* \* \*

**Rudi Matthee** published "Jani Beg Khan Begdeli Shamlu" *Encyclopaedia Iranica* 14 (2008): 544-555; "Jesuits in Safavid Persia" *Encyclopaedia Iranica* 14 (2008): 634-638; and "Russian-Iranian Relations in the Mid-Seventeenth Century," in *The Tsar and the East: Gifts from Turkey and Iran in the Moscow Kremlin* (Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 2009), pp. 15-17, 136.

### Asom Urunbaev (1929-2009)

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Professor Asom Urunbaev, Uzbek scholar, historian, and member of the *Editorial Board of the Journal of Persianate Studies*. Asom Urunbaev died on April 13 2009 after a long illness. He was born in Tashkent on May 15, 1929 and graduated from Tashkent State University in 1950 with a major in Iranian Philology. From 1953 until his death, Professor Urunbaev worked as a researcher in the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan.

Professor Urunbaev served as Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies from 1987 to 1993, and was the author of numerous books and hundreds of scholarly articles. His publications focused mainly on Persian manuscripts related to the intellectual, political, and cultural history of Central Asia. Until recently, he was the Director of the Manuscript Cataloguing Department of the Institute and was one of the main contributors to the *Sobranie Vostochnykh Rukopisei*, which includes descriptions of more than 7,000 Arabic, Persian, and Turkic manuscripts from the Institute of Oriental Studies' collection. He also served as the chief editor of volumes 7-11. In addition, Professor Urunbaev published a number of subject catalogs, among which is a catalog of the works of 'Abd al-Rahman Jami (d. 1492) containing descriptions of 531 manuscript copies of 46 titles.

The second and main focus of his research was the critical edition, translation, and publication of medieval texts and manuscripts. Especially notable is his critical edition of Sharaf al-Din Yazdi's *Zafar-Nama*, the history of Timur, and his work on the *Al'bom Navoi*, or *Majmu'a-yi murasalat*, which was compiled at the Timurid court in Herat by the Uzbek poet, 'Ali Shir Nava'i. The album contains the letters of 'Abd al-Rahman Jami as well as those of the Naqshbandi shaykh, Khwajah 'Ubayd Allah Ahrar. In 1982 Professor Urunbaev published a

Russian translation of the letters of Jami along with Persian facsimiles. In 2002 he co-authored with Professor Jo-Ann Gross the book, *The Letters of Khwaja 'Ubayd Allah Ahrar and his Associates* (Brill Publishers), which includes three introductory chapters together with an English translation of the letters, Persian transcription, and facsimiles of the original manuscript.

My first meeting with Asom Urunbaev in 1979 coincided with the beginning of my academic career, as I was a doctoral candidate conducting archival research in the manuscript collection of the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies in Tashkent. Our relationship, which grew to become one of friendship and collaboration, spanned the late Brezhnev years through the dissolution of the USSR, to the formation of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) and the post-Soviet period in Uzbekistan. Throughout the years, I knew him to be a meticulous scholar of unflinching principles who was held in great respect by his colleagues. I, along with so many others, will miss him greatly. Asom Urunbaev's death, along with historian Roziia Galieva *Mukminova* and archaeologist Galina Anatolievna Pugachenkova in 2007, regrettably marks the passing of a momentous era in Central Asian scholarship.

Jo-Ann Gross

### Zeev Rubin (1942-2009)

Shortly after a series of communications where with his usual, delightful, charm, Zeev Rubin had finalized his participation in the ASPS sponsored "mini-conference" at MESA on late antique Iran, on May 29<sup>th</sup> his colleagues received a shocking message from Dr. Effie Habas (Rubin): Zeev Rubin, one of the most prolific scholars of antiquity, a humanist, a great colleague, and a dear, loving friend, had passed away. Words do not do justice either to his remarkable career, or to the tremendous void he has left behind amongst his army of admirers, colleagues and friends!

In the words of a colleague, Zeev Rubin's was a remarkable life in late antiquity, a remarkable story of a life spent in studying this fascinating period of our collective history. And throughout his life Zeev Rubin was busy lighting lamps, not only on those around him, but also on the history of classical Rome, on Byzantium, on Christianity in Palestine, on mass movements in late antiquity, on the conversion of the Visigoths to Christianity, on Judaism and Rahmanite Monotheism in the Himyarite kingdom, and furthermore, on Sasanian monarchy, on Greek and Middle Iranian in documents of Sasanian anti-Roman propaganda, on the reforms of Khusrow Anushirwan, on Ibn Muqaffa ... The list is unending.

Zeev Rubin was born in Natanya, Israel in 1942. In 1966, he received his BA in English literature and in history from Tel Aviv University, *summa cum laude*. "Immediately upon completion" of his studies, as he himself wrote in his *curriculum vitae*, the Tel Aviv University sent him to Oxford for further studies. By 1971, when he obtained his doctorate from the Brasenose College of Oxford, Zeev Rubin had gone through his first academic metamorphosis. He had taken up history, a discipline that would become one of his main passions in his future career. Writing his dissertation under the supervision, first of P.R. L. Brown and finally, of Fergus Miller, on the "Supernatural and Religious Sanction of the Emperor's Rule under the Severi AD 193-217," he had become steeped in Roman history.

When he returned home to Tel Aviv, he also returned to his home institution, Tel Aviv University, where in 1995 he became full Professor of history and where he eventually spent four decades. In the meantime, however, he had basically ran through the gamut of Oxford institutions as a member, and through the years a range of specialties: as senior *Litterae Humaniores*, he became Common Room member in Brasenose and, Wolfson and Corpus Christi Colleges of the university. These were for many years a home away from home for him. Wolfson became one of his permanent homes overseas. He also established ongoing associations with SOAS in London, and was for many years a professorial research associate at the University. Latest on this itinerary, to my knowledge, was SOAS; last I saw him, was in St. Andrews, in a conference on Sasanian historiography and Iranian nationalism. He was, as usual, the charm of our intimate gathering. You get the sense.

Iranists know what a skewed picture this is of the remarkable academic career of Zeev Rubin. For besides a scholar of English literature and ancient Roman history, there was so much more to the incredible repertoire of Rubin's knowledge and the range of his various expertises, not least of which was late antique Iranian studies. After the initial stage of his career, through which he navigated with his knowledge of Greek, Latin and native Hebrew, Zeev Rubin began to delve into the early Byzantine history and the history of Christianity in Palestine up to the Arab conquests. At this stage and, as he himself put it, "in order to gain direct access to some of the most important sources for this subject," he studied Syriac. But Rubin had an insatiable aptitude for pursuing what were for him uncharted territories and so, when studying Byzantine history involved him in Sasanian/Byzantine relationship, Zeev Rubin changed focus, only to become, besides a Classicist and a scholar of Byzantine history, and Christianity and Judaism ... also a remarkable Iranist. As he later, cheerily, remarked about his Classicist colleagues, with his customary companion sense of humor: "some of these people repent along the way!"

"To that purpose," i.e. in order to become an Iranist, Zeev remarks in his short and characteristically humble, autobiography, mid-way through his career, he began what would be considered dreadful for many of his colleagues: "I devoted much time," he continues in his *vitae*, "to the study of Arabic, New Persian and Middle Persian." It was thus that Zeev Rubin became an Iranist, in order to study the Sasanian social and economic history, and delve into a meticulous examination of the sources of the Iranian national tradition, among other things. One would think that Rubin had by now created enough authorial voices in his academic career to rest at ease. In 2006, however, Zeev Rubin would admit that "in recent years" he had also become interested in the history of the Himyarite realm in Southern Arabia as it engaged the interests of the Byzantines and the Sasanians. From the Romans to the Byzantines and the Sasanians, and their linguistics fields, Zeev Rubin now turned into yet another field, the history of Judaism in the Himyarite kingdom and its role in the rivalry of the two great powers of late antiquity, the Sasanians and Byzantines. In order to facilitate his research on this fascinating subject, Zeev Rubin began studying yet another language, namely Old Ethiopian (Ge'ez) and Inscriptional South Arabian. In modesty he would write about the hundreds of publications that he has to his name: "The list of my publications now includes items that belong to all the above mentioned fields ...." . For the

Iranists, Zeev Rubin's long lasting and superb contributions pertain to the field of Sasanian history – a field that had become his passion during his mature years. The many Iranist friends and colleagues that he has left behind are testimonial to his passion for the field, and to all that he had yet to contribute to this and his many other fields of expertise. The colleagues who gather together at MESA to discuss Iranian history in late antiquity, do so in the shadow of Zeev Rubin.

One of Zeev's passions was the care, dedication and concern that he showed for cultivating and encouraging a younger generation of scholars, including the author of these inadequate lines. These, along with Rubin's many colleagues, and his loving partner in life, Dr. Effie Habbas Rubin, have already begun the daunting task of collecting his multifarious publications which they hope to publish in a multi-volume compendium in the near future. Humanists of Zeev Rubin's stature and nature might have stepped outside of our corporeal existence, but their deep-rooted contributions have made of us better men and women with far better knowledge of history. Words cannot do justice. It is this army of admirers and colleagues that stand along Zeev Rubin's four loving children and his remarkable wife, Dr. Effie Habas Rubin, to become Zeev's torchbearers for posterity.

Parvaneh Pourshariati

## Conferences

### 4th International Congress of the Islamic World Geographers, April 14-16, 2010 (Zahedan)

**Abstract deadline:** October 22, 2009

**Date:** April 14-16, 2010

**Venue:** Zahedan, Iran

**Inquiries:** Please email [icwgen@usb.ac.ir](mailto:icwgen@usb.ac.ir)

**Website:** <http://icwgen.webs.com>

Global issues in recent years like population growth, economic crisis, environmental problems, and global warming have brought about numerous difficulties in the world, and more specifically in the Islamic world. This congress is a chance for scholars across Iran and the world to exchange ideas and offer solutions in order to take advantage of the available opportunities to achieve sustainable development.

\* \* \*

### 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](mailto:2010program@iranianstudies.com).

\* \* \*

**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](http://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](http://www.iranheritage.org/fgc)

## Employment and Opportunities

### British Institute of Persian Studies

The British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, Tel: 020 7969 5203; Fax: 020 7969 5401; email: [BIPS@britac.ac.uk](mailto:BIPS@britac.ac.uk)

### Residential Postdoctoral Scholarships in Tehran

#### Background

The British Institute of Persian Studies (BIPS) is embarking on a new academic initiative in Tehran with the appointment of TWO residential postdoctoral scholarships. Each of these scholarships will focus on one of BIPS' three research programmes with duties to co-ordinate one workshop and to develop research links with Iranian academics and to develop a framework for an independent research project. Providing a unique six-month experience to recently qualified postdoctoral students before holding their first academic post, these scholarships offer an opportunity to gain practical administrative, project and research experience. Scholars will benefit from advice and guidance from the visiting members of Council and the relevant Research Programme Directors, and investigate the development of an independent research project in Iran. In support of our commitment to encourage the participation of junior scholars in Iranian studies, we anticipate that scholars will return to the UK with a competitive academic and administrative profile and a commitment to one of the three research programmes.

The principal duties of the successful candidate will be to:

- develop a framework for an independent research project in Iran
- develop research links with Iranian academics.

The successful candidate will have the following essential specifications:

- a recent PhD (or submitted PhD) at a British HEI by the time of travel;
- demonstrate a commitment to Persian Studies in the UK;

- demonstrate a commitment to BIPS' research programmes and priorities;
- not hold, or have held, a permanent position or similar fellowship;
- excellent oral and written skills;
- willingness to travel;
- a knowledge of Persian is advantageous but not essential.

The main terms and conditions of employment are as follows (the person appointed will receive a full written statement of the terms and conditions):

- the scholar will be entitled to one return flight from the UK to Tehran;
- the scholar will be entitled to up to six months free accommodation at the BIPS institute in Tehran;
- the scholar will be entitled to £500 per month up to six months for travel and subsistence;
- the scholar must hold a visa for Iran before taking up the scholarship;
- the scholar will present a paper on activities conducted at BIPS' annual workshop and publish a paper in the journal Iran;
- the post is for a maximum of six months;
- the successful applicant will be responsible to the relevant Programme Director and Dr Paul Luft.

#### Applications

Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae and the names and contact details of two referees to Ms Mariam Emamy, Secretary, British Institute of Persian Studies, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH.

*Closing date:* 15 February, 2010

## Editorial Notes

Membership inquiries, including change of address, should be addressed to:

Dr. Parvaneh Pourshariati  
300 Hagerty Hall  
Columbus, OH 43210-1340  
Email: [pourshariati.1@osu.edu](mailto:pourshariati.1@osu.edu)

Suggestions for future panels or programs to be sponsored by the ASPS may be sent to the following:

- Dr. Parvaneh Pourshariati  
[pourshariati.1@osu.edu](mailto:pourshariati.1@osu.edu)
- Dr. Shahzad Bashir  
[sbashir@stanford.edu](mailto:sbashir@stanford.edu)

The deadline for the next issue is **March 5, 2010**. Calls for papers and other time-sensitive news of professional meetings, if submitted promptly, will be posted on the website. Please send your news and all items of professional interest to Ghazzal Dabiri at [gd2287@columbia.edu](mailto:gd2287@columbia.edu).

Visit the ASPS website and pay your membership dues online at <http://www.persianatesocieties.org>