



## President's Message

First of all, I would like to wish our members a happy Persian New Year, in the hope that 1389 will bring health and good fortune to all of you and especially to our friends and colleagues in Iran whose life and work conditions continue to be very difficult.

I extend a warm welcome to our new board members, Elton Daniel from the University of Hawaii, Jo-Ann Gross of the College of New Jersey, who continues as board member, and Rami Kazemi, student member, of Columbia University.

We are looking back on a very successful ASPS participation in the MESA meeting in Boston in November of last year. We were represented with no less than four panels under the collective title "Recent Trends in Late Antique Iran," covering a diversity of topics related to Late Antique Iran. All of these were of very high quality, drew a sizeable audience, and led to spirited discussions. This was a landmark performance which put the sub-discipline of Late Antique Iran on the map of the Middle Eastern Studies community while giving this expanding field a solid place within ASPS. Many thanks to Parvaneh Pourshariati for organizing these panels and for all the time and work that went into making them a success.

During the business meeting in Boston it was decided that the next ASPS biennial conference will take place in Hyderabad, India. Hyderabad, with its Shi'ite core, its political ties with the Safavids, and its many monuments, such as the Chehar Minar and the impressive fortress of Golconda, will be a wonderful venue for our next meeting and should attract many participants. Please mark your calendars for late January or early February 2011; the exact date is still to be arranged.

The ASPS Board approved an amendment to our bylaws to the effect that

A. The following officers shall have ex-officio status on the board:

- 1. The newsletter editor
- 2. The editor of the *Journal of Persianate Studies*
- 3. The Major Program Directors

B. Ex-officio board members shall have the right to attend all board meetings

C. Ex-officio members shall have full voting rights

D. The number of nomination committee members be reduced to three from the current five

As per the rules governing the bylaws, the membership will have to approve these changes by a two-third majority during the next business meeting.

## Inside the Newsletter

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## News from the Regional Offices

### Report from the Regional Office in Dushanbe

The past year for Tajik members of ASPS was very rich in scientific events.

#### Conferences:

The greatest among them was the international symposium “The Heritage of Abu Hanifa and its Significance in Dialogue among Civilizations,” held in Dushanbe October, 5-6, 2009. More than 190 guests from 65 countries attended. ASPS members took very active part in organizing of this event and presented their papers in numerous publications.

In early March a special conference on “Imam al-Bukhari and ‘Ilm al-Hadith” was convened within the framework of the celebration of International Year of Dushanbe – City of Muslim Culture (ICESCO). Four ASPS members took part in the presentation their papers.

#### Publications:

During this period the first issue of the new ASPS Tajikistan branch journal, *Sipehr* has been prepared and at the present moment in the process of publication. The first issue contains materials from the ASPS roundtable “The State of Science in Tajikistan: Perspectives, Challenges and Possibilities”. Ten articles of the most prominent Tajik scholars in the fields of economy, sociology, history, librarian sciences, etc. are included in the volume.

The introductory remarks for the first issue of the new journal and the first article are written by the President of the of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan, the academician Mamadsho Ilolov.

At a meeting of ASPS members the decision was made to devote the second issue of *Sipehr* to the memory of the outstanding Tajik scholar, Professor Zahir Ahrori, a specialist in Tajik-Persian literature, the best connoisseur of the *Shahname* and the most active populizer of it in the country. He sadly lost his life in automobile accident some months ago. A special round table will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, the papers from which will be published in *Sipehr*.

#### Grants:

ASPS has supported the scholarly activity of five advanced Tajik scholars in the field of Oriental Studies through CERF grants..

Abdullaev Kamolkhon has published one of the most important publications to date on the Basmachi movement, entitled *From Sinkjang to Khorasan: The History of Central Asian Emigration in the Twentieth Century*. This volume is particularly valuable for its inclusion of previously unstudied and unique materials found in KGB archives.

Three additional books of high scientific interest are currently supported by CERF grants and are in process of publication:

## News from the Regional Offices (continued)

• *Religious Life of Muslims of Tajikistan during the Soviet Period 1941-91*, by Aloviddin Nazarov. This book is based on previously unstudied archival sources.

• *Nur-i Khirad*, a collection of articles by the famous Tajik scholar, Ali Muhammadi Khorasani. There are 12 articles devoted to the most outstanding intellectuals of the long spiritual and cultural history of Iran-zamin: Abu Abdullah Rudaki, Abul-Qasim Firdawsi, Shaikh Attar Nishapuri, Kamal Khujandi, Amir Khusraw Dehlavi, 'Abd al-Rahman Jami, among others.

• *Adab ul-Harb va- Shuja (Rules of Warfare and Courage)*, compiled in India by Sharif Muhammad Mansur Sa'id Abdulfaraj with the honorable title of Mubarak Shah, known by the name of Fahri Mudabbir. This work was devoted to the Delhi Sultan Abd al-Muzaffar Iltitish (r. 607-633/1210-1236). This famous military treatise is being prepared for publication by Javlonbonu Najmuddinova, who carried out her research based on the unique manuscripts and copies contain in the Institute of Oriental Studies in St. Petersburg.

• A CERF grant awarded to Victor Dubovitsky, Chief of Department of History of, Archaeology and Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan. Through this grant the department has begun to prepare an electronic catalogue of the very rich records of Russian ethnographers and archeologists who studied Tajikistan since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Taking into consideration that the first two of the above-mentioned books are based on unique archival documents, it is necessary to highlight the incredible ASPS efforts to support the presentation of absolutely new materials for world scholarship.

### News of Members:

I am sorry to report that one of the most prominent scholars in the field of codicology, literature, and the history of Iran-zamin, Amriyazdon Alimardonov, died one week ago. A full obituary will be published in the next ASPS Newsletter.

Lola Dodkhudoeva, ASPS  
Dushanbe Regional Director

## News from the Regional Offices (continued)

### Report from the Regional Office in Khorog, Tajikistan

The office in Khorog reports that with the financial assistance they received they:

1. In 2009 year published a collection of articles by Badakhshan scholars including the works of Professor Nazri Ofaridaev, Professor Muqbil Alamshoev, Dr. Warqa Okhonniyozov, Dr. Dorgha Fozilov, Dr. Lolo Dawlatbekov, Dr. Mamad Alimshoev and Director Umed Mamadsherozdshoev, which were devoted to historic, Badakhshan, Badakhshan Ismaili Sunnats, Pamiri languages, the ideology of the Persian – Tajik poet Abu Abdulloi Rudaki, Nasiri Khusraw as well as other topics.
2. In 2009 the Khorog branch of ASPS together with Badakhshan scholars organized a presentation of Umed Mamadsherozdshoev's book "The Charoghrawshan Sunnat Sources", which was published with ASPS's support
3. When this book was published, we received more than 15 letters from scholars from around the world. Due to the efforts of Dr. Azizulloh Najib of Pakistan, this book was also translated into Persian.
4. In December 2009 the ASPS director of the Khorog branch Umed Mamadsherozdshoev participated in an International symposium of Hazrati Ali,

which was held in Izmir University of Turkey and gave a talk entitled "Hazrati Ali Illustration in Badakhshan drawing and calligraphy".



## News from the Journal Editor

The next issue of JPS, 3.1, will shortly be sent to press. The Soudavar Foundation has continued its generous support with a grant of \$7,000 for 2010, for which we are most grateful. The subsidy of \$3,000 from the Stony Brook Institute for Global Studies also continued for the year despite the fiscal crisis of the State of New York and savage cuts in the budget of the State University. I have asked Joed Elich, Senior Editor of Brill to assume a small portion of the editorial costs in view of budgetary uncertainties.

Independent submissions are increasing slightly, but none of them has so far been acceptable, and we remain critically dependent on the members of the Editorial Board to solicit papers of high quality for the Journal. I am therefore especially grateful to Houchang Chehabi for securing a considerable number of such papers.

JPS, 3.1 should appear on time in June (or July). The subscription list of

## News from the Journal Editor (continued)

members is constantly revised. As each volume of JPS sent to a member costs ASPS the entire regular membership due, I have reluctantly omitted from the list those whose membership has not been renewed since 2008. Please notify me of any changes of address and failure deliveries so that they can be rectified ([said.arjomand@stonybrook.edu](mailto:said.arjomand@stonybrook.edu)).

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Mohammad-‘Ali Foroughi “The History of Modernization of Law”  
(translated by Manouchehr Kasheff)

Afshin Marashi, “Imagining Hafez: Rabindranath Tagore in Iran, 1932”

Ludwig Paul, “The Language Reform of the First Farhangestān (1935-41) and the Question of its Success”

Maryam Rutner, “A Survey of the Content and Purpose of the Discipline of Political Science in Iran and Its Significance for the Iranian Society”

Review Essay on *General Introduction to Persian Literature: A History of Persian Literature* by Michael Hillmann

*Saïd Amir Arjomand, Editor*



## Upcoming Conferences

### **The Shahnameh and Persianate Identity Conference, April 9-12 2010**

Venue: New Arts Building, University of St Andrews, St Andrews

**Organized by:** Institute of Iranian Studies, University of St Andrews and the Iran Heritage Foundation.

This conference will focus on the political, social and historical legacy of the Shahnameh in the development of identities in the Persianate world.

For conference program visit: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/iranian/shanemehprog.html>

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

Venue: Zahedan, Iran. Inquiries: Please email [iciwg@usb.ac.ir](mailto:iciwg@usb.ac.ir) Website: <http://iciwgen.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.

## Upcoming Conferences (continued)

### International Society for Iranian Studies

#### **Eighth Biennial Iranian Studies Conference**

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the International Society for Iranian Studies will be held on 27-30 May 2010 at the Doubletree Guest Suites Santa Monica hotel. The Biennial Conference brings to Greater Los Angeles approximately 250 scholars from various parts of the world for the presentation of their current research on diverse topics about Iran, Iranian Diaspora, and Persian literature and culture. This is the largest international biennial gathering of scholars who study, teach and write on Iran and Persian language, literature, and culture.

Doubletree Guest Suites Santa Monica  
1707 Fourth Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90401-3310  
United States  
Contact Phone: 310-899-1370  
Email: [isis2010program@iranianstudies.com](mailto:isis2010program@iranianstudies.com)

For conference program and registration please visit: <http://iranianstudies.com/conferences/2010>

#### **Wine Culture in Iran and Neighbouring Countries Conference September, 16-17 2010**

**Venue:** Institut für Iranistik/Institute of Iranian Studies

Österreichische Akademie der  
Wissenschaften / Austrian Academy of  
Sciences

For the preliminary program visit:  
[http://www.oeaw.ac.at/iran/german/konferenz\\_viticulture.html](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/iran/german/konferenz_viticulture.html)

The National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research in collaboration with Research Centre for Islamic History Art and Culture

#### **Islamic architecture**

Islamabad, November 2010

The congress will identify the various links and influences of Islam in the arts and architecture of the various parts of the world inhabited by Muslims.

A selection of the papers to be presented in the congress will be published as a book.

For more information please contact:  
National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (Centre of Excellence), Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad Pakistan.

Email: [nihcr.ibd@gmail.com](mailto:nihcr.ibd@gmail.com)

OR

Yildiz Sarayi, Seyir Kosku, Bulvari,  
34349 Besiktas / P.O. Box 24, Besiktas,  
34354 Istanbul – Turkey

Email: [ircica@superonline.com](mailto:ircica@superonline.com)

## Announcements

**Marek Smurzyński**, a leading scholar in Iranian Studies in Poland, died last December. His death is a great loss and sorrow to the community of Persianate scholars especially those of us who remember his vigor and brilliance at our 2007 biennial convention in Tblisi.

### Past Conferences:

ASPS sponsored four panels on **Recent Trends in Late Antique Iranian Studies** which was organized by Parvaneh Pourshariati at MESA's 2010 annual conference. Each session was attended by nearly sixty attendees which indicates that there is renewed interest in Late Antique Iranian Studies at MESA. The proceedings will be published with a targeted date of 2012.

The panels addressed pioneering studies of Sasanian legal administration(s) during the past two decades which has already led to exhilarating results. This research promises to pave the way for future studies on the much-neglected issue of the potential influence, practical and theoretical, of Sasanian juridical institutions and ideas on the development of the shari'a. Bringing together the results of this research in the context of 1) Sasanian family law and the position of women therein, and juxtaposing this in relation to 2) the mechanism at the disposal of the "minority" religio-juridical establishments, the first panel of Recent Trends in Late Antique Iranian Studies, Panel I: "Legal Structures of Iran in Late Antiquity," will shed new light on important dimensions of Iranian legal system in the late antique period.

A major bone of contention in the studies of Iran in the early medieval period revolves around issues of continuity or lack thereof in its history. Presenting new perspectives on chronological problems surrounding watershed events in the history of Iran,

Panel II: "Problematics in Chronological Demarcations of Late Antique Iran," will reflect upon axiomatic chronologies adopted thus far in the field, and the political and cultural ideological implications of maintaining or revising these chronological schemas. Recent studies on the shu'ubiyya controversy will provide a potentially crucial test case for discussing issues of continuity and rupture in this domain.

Panel III: "Aesthetic, Sacred and Martial Expressions of Iran in the Late Antique period," discusses the latest research on important aspects of the history of Iran in the late antique period. The first paper in this panel explores the use of pearls as the favorite gems of Sasanian kings and elites, while the second paper investigates the archaeological evidence for the creation of major Zoroastrian shrines and the reinterpretation of the ancient Avestan past during the late Sasanian period. The third paper considers possible Sasanian roots for the moral and martial codes of later Islamic brotherhoods, while the fourth paper re-examines the enigmatic, but crucial military corps known as the asawira in the early Islamic sources.

Finally, the fourth panel, Panel IV: "Urban and Agricultural Processes and Transformations," offers state-of-the-arts research -- conducted from a long-duree perspective -- on the continuities and ruptures in the urban, agricultural and administrative landscape of Iran during antiquity (500-850s) and the new historiographical methodologies used for obtaining these results.

## Announcements (continued)

### Participants: Panel 1

- Said Arjomand (Stony Brook University) - Discussant
- Parvaneh Pourshariati (The Ohio State University) - Chair
- Haleh Emrani (UCLA) - Presenter
- Richard Payne (Princeton University) - Presenter
- Maria Macuch (Freie Universitaet Berlin) - Presenter
- Yaakov Elman (Yeshiva University) - Presenter

### Participants: Panel II

- Elton L. Daniel (University of Hawaii, Manoa) - Discussant
- Parvaneh Pourshariati (The Ohio State University) - Presenter
- Rosemary Stanfield-Johnson (University of Minnesota, Duluth) - Chair
- Touraj Daryaee (University of California, Irvine) - Presenter
- Ghazzal Dabiri (Columbia University) - Presenter
- Asef Kholdani - Presenter

### Participants: Panel III

- Hossein Kamaly (Columbia University) - Presenter
- Joel Walker (University of Washington) - Presenter
- Abolala Soudavar (Independent Scholar) - Presenter
- Maria Macuch (Freie Universitaet Berlin) - Chair
- Matthew Canepa (Merton College, Oxford/ College of Charleston) - Presenter

- Richard W. Bulliet (Columbia University) - Presenter
- Michael G. Morony (UCLA) - Discussant
- Hugh Kennedy (SOAS) - Presenter
- Ghazzal Dabiri (Columbia University) - Chair
- Khodadad Rezaekhani (UCLA) - Organizer
- Khodadad Rezaekhani (UCLA) - Presenter

For titles and summaries of papers presented, please visit:

<http://mesa.wns.ccit.arizona.edu/annual/previous.htm>

and click on “program.”

### **The Idea of Iran: Last of the Persian Dynasties**

at SOAS London Middle East Institute on February 6, 2010 at the Brunei Gallery Room: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre

The focus of the symposium was on ideas of kingship, authority and identity and their articulation through the written word, architecture and the visual arts of a series of autonomous Iranian dynasties – Tahirids, Saffarids, Samanids and Buyids – [which] emerged in the eastern provinces of the caliphate.

For list of presenters and summaries of papers presented, please visit:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/events/event55671.html>



## Announcements (continued)

### Announcements from our members

**Rudi Matthee** has recently published three articles: “The Politics of Protection: European Missionaries in Iran during the Reign of Shah Abbas I (1587-1629),” in Sabine Schmidtke and Camille Adang, eds., *Contacts and Controversies between Muslims, Jews and Christians in the Ottoman Empire and Pre-Modern Iran* (Würzburg: Ergon Verlag), pp. 245-71; “The Safavids under Western Eyes: Seventeenth-Century European Travelers to Iran,” *Journal of Early Modern History* 13 (2009): 137-171; and “Was Safavid Iran an Empire?” *Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient* 53 (2010): 233-65.

**Jo-Ann Gross** will lead a Silk Road Tour to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in May-June 2010. The tour is connected to a 2-year Department of Education Title VI-A UISFL grant at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) which focuses on strengthening the undergraduate programs in Central Eurasian and Middle Eastern Studies, including the development of a new Persian language program and the expansion of the Arabic program through advanced-level courses. Nine students and three faculty members from TCNJ will participate.

**Elyor Karimov** published two document collections. *Regesty kaziiskikh dokumentov i khanskikh iarlykov Khivinskikh Khanstva XVII-nachala XX v* (*Qazi Documents and Khan's Yarliqs of the Khivan Khanate from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

(Tashkent, “Fan” Publishers, 2007), in Russian and French). The historical documents in this collection include 73 qazi documents and 5 yarliqs from a private collection as well as 14 khan’s yarliqs from the collection of the Ichan-Qal’a Museum. These sources provide important information on the economic, social, and political life of the Khivan Khanate and on various aspects of the Qazi courts in Central Asia. The Chaghatay and Persian documents were collected by the author during field expeditions in 1998-2002.

*Kubraviiskii vakf XVII-XIX vv.: nis'mennye istochniki po istorii sufiiskogo bratstva Kubraviia v Srednei Azii* (*The Kubraviyya Waqf 17-19<sup>th</sup> Century: Written Sources on the Late History of the Kubravi Sufi Brotherhood in Central Asia*) (Tashkent, “Fan” Publishers, 2008, in English, Uzbek and Russian). The documents in this collection provide important information about the socio-economic and spiritual aspects of the Kubraviyya Sufi brotherhood and local history in Central Asia. They include the waqf of the khanaqah of Shaykh Husayn Khorezmi in Samarqand, which lists land parcels, gardens and mills in the tumans of Shovdor and Sad-i Qal’an and the district of Shahrisabz.

The oldest waqf document, dated 1073/1662, is that of the shrine of Shaykh Husayn Baba.

**Ghazzal Dabiri** has published two articles: “Visions of Heaven and Hell from Late Antiquity in the Near East” in *Quaderni di Studi Indo-Mediterranei* (Winter 2009) and “The Shahnama: Between the Samanids and Ghaznavids” in *Iranian Studies*, the Shahnama Special Issue (February 2010).

## Employment Opportunities

### Assistant Professor of Persian Literature and Culture

The Department of Comparative Literature at Stanford University invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in Persian literature and culture, funded by an endowment gift from Bita Daryabari. Candidates should combine a research specialization with extensive familiarity of Persian literature and culture in order to teach a broad range of courses.

Comparative and/or theoretical approaches are welcome. Native or near-native fluency in Farsi is expected. In addition to participating in Comparative Literature, the successful candidate will have significant involvement in the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies.

Send cover letter describing scholarship and teaching, CV, transcripts, three references and writing sample to

Midori Inahara, Department Administrator,  
Comparative Literature and German Studies,  
450 Serra Mall, Pigott Hall, Stanford, CA  
94305-2031.

Email: [minahara@stanford.edu](mailto:minahara@stanford.edu).

Stanford University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty. It welcomes nominations of, and applications from, women and members of minority groups, as well as others who would bring additional dimensions to the university's research and teaching missions.

Review of applications will begin on April 1, 2010 and will continue until the position is filled.

### Persian Language/Adjunct Position

Columbia University, the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures, announces an opening for an adjunct (Part Time) in Persian language to be filled at the Lecturer or Associate in Discipline rank, beginning September 2010 and ending May 2011. We are seeking professional language teachers with a serious commitment teaching languages for academic purposes.

Applicants should preferably have a Ph.D. in Persian, but those with a Master's degree and considerable language teaching experience are also encouraged to apply. We are seeking professional language teachers with a serious commitment to developing pedagogical materials and incorporating technological innovations into the curriculum.

## Employment Opportunities (continued)

Responsibilities will include teaching one course in the Fall and two courses in the Spring and other duties associate with the language program. Successful candidates for all ranks (Lecturer, Associate) must have native or near native fluency in Persian and English, foreign language instruction experience, and an oral proficiency based approach.

An application letter including a brief description of the applicant's teaching philosophy and methodology, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, teaching evaluations and other supporting materials about teaching should be sent to:

Ghazzal Dabiri, Search Committee Chair  
Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures  
401 Knox Hall MC 9628  
606 West 122nd St 4th Floor  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027

Applications will be reviewed starting April 22, 2010.

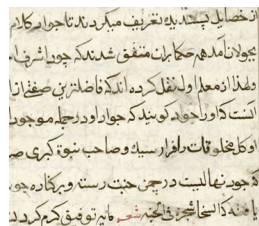
Columbia University is an Equal Opportunity/  
Affirmative Action employer.

### **Lecturer Position in Persian, UNC-Chapel Hill**

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill invites applications for a two-year renewable lecturer position in Persian language and culture beginning July 1, 2010.

We are seeking a skilled language instructor with a commitment to a proficiency-based approach to language teaching at all levels, and an interest in

ongoing professional development. Native or near-native fluency in Modern Persian and English is required. Experience teaching Persian to nonnative speakers is preferred. At least an MA in Persian, applied linguistics, or an allied field of the humanities, social sciences, journalism, or education is preferred, but those who will have completed an MA by July 1, 2010 will be considered. Applicants having ACTFL-OPI certification or interested in acquiring such a certification are preferred. Responsibilities include teaching three courses per semester (primarily Persian language, and also some content courses) and developing a Persian language and culture program. Submit a letter detailing teaching philosophy, CV, available sample syllabi and course evaluations online at <http://jobs.unc.edu/1002468>. Paper or email applications will not be accepted. In addition, send a teaching DVD/video and have three original, signed letters of reference sent to: Persian Search Committee, Department of Asian Studies, CB 3267, 113 New West, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill NC 27599. The review of applications will begin April 18, 2010 and the search will remain open until the position is filled. For additional information, contact [persiansearch@unc.edu](mailto:persiansearch@unc.edu). UNC-CH is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.



## Editorial Notes

Please send your news and all items of professional interest to Ghazzal Dabiri ([gd2287@columbia.edu](mailto:gd2287@columbia.edu))

The deadline for the the next Newsletter will be Sept. 1, 2010

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. Your continued support is now made easier with online membership renewal. Please go to [www.persianatesocieties.org](http://www.persianatesocieties.org) and click on “Membership” to access the online form and link to PayPal (which accepts multiple currencies). The ASPS online form should reflect the address where you would like your issues of the *JPS* to be sent and your preferred e-mail address for ASPS communication; the PayPal site requires your billing address. If you paid but have not received vol. 2:1 and 2 (2009) of *Journal of Persianate Studies*, please let us know.