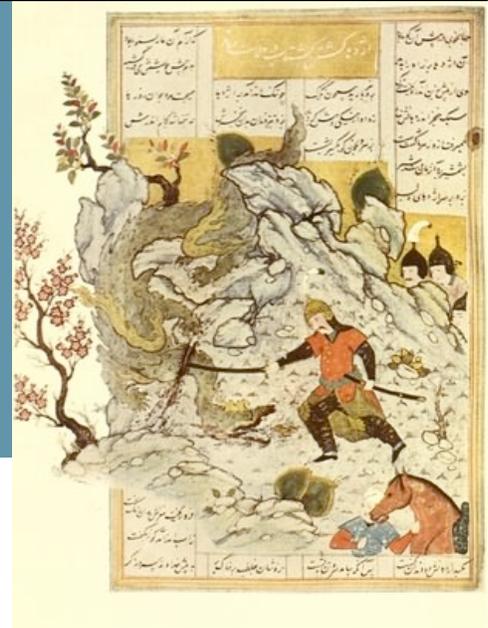


*THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF PERSIANATE SOCIETIES*



*SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE:
INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER*



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OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my outgoing letter as president of ASPS. I (reluctantly) agreed to serve a second term in 2009. Now, more than three years later, I look back with a mixture of satisfaction and wistfulness, satisfaction on account of various achievements, all of them the result of joint effort, and wistfulness, for having been unable to attend the Fifth ASPS Biennial Conference.

Our greatest achievement of the last few years was undoubtedly the Fifth Biennial Conference, held in Hyderabad, India, in January, and by many accounts the most successful of our meetings so far. I would like to express my gratitude to the Iran Heritage Foundation as well as the Roshan Foundation for their generous support for the meeting, which without their contributions could not have taken place. The same holds for the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which provided crucial additional funding for the meeting. I thank the members of the organizing committee, which, aside from yours truly, consisted of Drs Saïd Amir Arjomand, Habib Borjian, Jo-Ann Gross, and Parvaneh Pourshariati, for their hard work and dedication selecting the papers and preparing the panels. I am also grateful to Maulana Azad National Urdu University for hosting the event, and especially to Dr Salma Farooqui of MANUU, our local coordinator, who did a splendid job making all the necessary arrangements in Hyderabad. I look forward to many years of fruitful cooperation between ASPS and our colleagues in Hyderabad, and in India in general.

As always, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr Saïd Amir Arjomand, for his continued guidance and active participation in the affairs of ASPS. Said has been especially successful lifting our journal, *Studies in Persianate Societies*, to a new level of professionalism, arranging for its publication by Brill, and securing a reasonably steady flow of submissions. In this context, I would also like to thank the Soudavar Foundation for continuing to fund the publication of the Journal.

By far the most successful initiative of our Association remains CERF, which, thanks to the continuing efforts of Dr Jo-Ann Gross, maintains a strong connection with Central Asia and in particular with our two branches in Tajikistan, Dushanbe and Khorog, by way of fellowships and grants. We should all be grateful to Jo-Ann for her commitment to ASPS.

Our presence at the last few MESA meetings had been prominent indeed. This is mostly due to the hard work and initiative of Dr Parvaneh Pourshariati, our incoming president. Thanks to Parvaneh, the study of late antique Iran, a vital and vibrant field within Iranian Studies, is fast becoming an integral part of ASPS and its activities.

I finally would like to thank Ghazzal Dabiri for her dedication to the Newsletter, which under her guidance has evolved to become fully professional.

I hand the presidency of ASPS to Parvaneh Pourshariati with great confidence. I am sure that under Parvaneh's enthusiastic and inspired leadership ASPS will continue to thrive. I encourage all members to assist her in her efforts.

Rudi Matthee
President 2009-2011

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When I joined the Board of Directors of the ASPS in 2007, one of my last expectations was that half a decade later, on the wake of Nowruz, I would be sitting in my study, composing my first letter as the incoming President of the *Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*. As I reflect back on what happened in between, and what prompted me to actually agree to run for the Presidency of the ASPS, I realize that I write to you now because of a conviction that gradually grew in me: namely that the ASPS is exceptionally unique in its mission, vision, institutional policies and potentials, ideals and aspirations; it is an association through which we can achieve much that is good. Although only fifteen years old, the ASPS has obtained what, in *futuwwat* terms, would be tantamount to the ideal age for embarking on the pursuit of gnosis. In institutional terms, this translates into the recognition that the ASPS has achieved full institutional maturity. Given the pedigree of the past Presidents of the ASPS, my colleagues, Rudi Matthee and Said Amir Arjomand, and the many other colleagues and friends who, through the years, have exerted so much effort towards the mission of the ASPS, I realize that there is indeed much to be excited and apprehensive about, as I shoulder the responsibilities that have devolved onto me. In thinking about this past and the vision that I have for the future of the Association, moreover, I begin my term with an appeal, a plea to all members, friends and colleagues of the Association, current and future, to join me in realizing the full potential of the Association. So many of us have a vested interest in the development of Persianate Societies and the Iranian ecumene. The *ASPS* is one of the most useful venues at our disposal for giving voice to this remarkable cultural tradition.

It is with much anticipation, therefore, that I am looking forward to working with what has now become my extended family with Rudi, Said and Jo-Ann Gross, Habib Borjian, Vahe Boyajian, Snjezana Buzov, Houchang

Chehabi, Ghazzal Dabiri, Stephen Dale, Elton Daniel, Ranin Kazemi and Sunil Sharma, and especially with our colleagues in our regional offices, in Dushanbe, Khorog, Delhi, Hyderabad, Lahore, Tehran, Yerevan, and Tblisi, with Professors Mamadsho Ilov, Lola Dodkudoeva, Umed Mamadsherzodshoev, Ishtiyag Ahmad Zilli, A.W. Azhar Dehlvi, Salma Farooqui, Mohamad Miyan, Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Koursoh Kamali, George Sanikidze, Garnik Asatrian, and Victoria Arakelova, respectively. I especially look forward to collaboration with many more friends and colleagues, who will, hopefully, join the Association in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Rudi Matthee, for all the hard work that he has put into the Association during the term of his Presidency, Said Arjomand for his vision in founding the ASPS and his efforts towards building it to its current, healthy, status, and Jo-Ann Gross for the untiring diligence and care with which she has worked towards the goals of the ASPS and for her remarkable efforts in obtaining the Central Eurasian Research Fund (CERF), which she, as its Director, has so successfully administered. I would also like to thank Habib Borjian for the selfless camaraderie with which he has managed the affairs of the Association, especially as its Secretary-Treasurer. Finally, I am grateful to my colleague, Houchang Chehabi, the long-term member of the Board of Directors of the ASPS, and the current President of our sister association, the *International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS)*, for the ease with which he traverses, as we all should, the worlds of ASPS and ISIS. To these and all other colleagues who have exerted so much effort through the years, I should say: I shall knock at your door, perhaps too often, in search of

your support in the near future! I would also like to extend a personal note of thanks to the past-President of ISIS, and the current Editor of our sister Journal, *Iran-Nameh*, my good colleague, Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, for his heart-warming support, and generosity of sharing his experiences with me through the past years.

There are many issues on which I wish to report and thus I ask you to bear with me while I part from tradition and take up more space in order to fully inform you about the business of the ASPS.

ASPS Biennial Convention at the Mawlana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad

I am happy to report that thanks to the remarkable efforts of the Mawlana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Vice Chancellor, Professor Mohammad Miyan, Professor Salma Farooqui, and their team, not to mention the high caliber of the more than eighty papers presented, and the efforts of our own Organizing Committee in NY, the Fifth Biennial Convention of the Association was a resounding success and by the consensus of the participants themselves, one of the most successful Conventions of the ASPS to date.

The 5th Biennial Convention of the ASPS took place in the historic city of Hyderabad, from January 4th to 8th on the impressive campus of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University. For close to one week, more than a hundred scholars from 18 different countries from the Persianate World, Eurasia and the United States gathered at MANUU/Hyderabad, to exchange their scholarship and establish grounds for future collaborations. As has been the unique tradition of the ASPS, the Association provided lodging and meals for all of the participants and funded the travel of many colleagues from the Persianate world to the Convention. Extensive coverage of the ASPS conference at MANUU by the national and local presses, and a Press Conference at MANUU, ensured widespread dissemination of the news of the Congress in

Hyderabad and the rest of India.

As a result of a series of discussions in Hyderabad and the subsequent proposal that I submitted on behalf of the ASPS to MANUU, we hope to establish an ongoing relationship with the Mawlana Azad National Urdu University. I hope to have updated information about our plans in the near future, and look forward to further strengthening our ties with MANUU through the continued support of the Indian Council on Cultural Relations.

The hospitality of our Host Committee at MANUU was nothing short of amazing. From the efficient administrative infrastructure that MANUU had in place for the organization of the Conference, to providing transportation, free lodging for the members of the Board of Directors, and colleagues, and finally to the preparation of meals for the participants at the Guest House of the University, the efforts of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University and its team were exceptional. Among the many memorable nights of the Convention was the exquisite banquet held by Vice Chancellor Miyan of MANUU in honor of the attendees, where we were entertained by the enchanting *qawwali* performance of the famous Warsi Brothers of Hyderabad. The excursions that Salma Farouqui and her team organized for the Conference attendees to the beautiful Chowmahallat Palace of the Nizams' of Hyderabad (1713-1948) and the impressive Fortress of Golkonda of the Qutub Shahis (1518 to 1687) were a fitting end to an unforgettable journey to India. I believe I voice the sentiments of all participants when I say that the ASPS Congress at MANUU/Hyderabad will long remain a topic of pleasant reminiscence for those of us who had the

opportunity to attend (*vāqe'an jāy-e hamegā kbāhl!*). On behalf of the ASPS, therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vice Chancellor Mohammad Miyan and Professor Salma Farooqui and other colleagues, as well as the staff at MANUU, for their very kind hospitality.

The efforts of our own Organizing Committee in New York, led by Said Amir Arjomand and Habib Borjian, and including Jo-Ann Gross, Rudi Matthee, Houchang Chehabi, Ranin Kazemi, Pardis Minuchehr, and myself, were likewise indispensable and I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their crucial roles in ensuring the success of our Hyderabad convention. I would especially like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Can Ersoy, and Professor Salma Farooqui and her team, and Professor Abdul Thaha, and Ranin Kazemi, without whose help the logistics of accommodating the transportation and lodging needs of more than 100 attendees would have been all but impossible.

The ASPS is grateful for the subventions it received towards its Fifth Biennial Congress in Hyderabad. Thanks to the efforts of Rudi Matthee, the Iran Heritage Foundation and the Roshan Center for Persian Studies, under the directorship of Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak at the University of Maryland, College Park, provided generous grants for the Congress. Without it, as Rudi has already noted, the Convention could not have taken place. I would like to take this opportunity, therefore, to extend the ASPS's heartfelt gratitude to the IHF and the Roshan Center at the University of Maryland for all their support. Given the mandate of the ASPS to further strengthen ties amongst the Persianate Societies, and given the expansion of this mandate (about which please see below), I hope that the Association will continue to be a beneficiary of the academic and cultural endeavors of the Roshan Center and the IHF in years to come. Thanks to the kind efforts of Professor Zilli, Dr. Shahid Mahdi, the Vice Council of the Indian Council

on Cultural Relations, Vice Chancellor Miyan, Rudi Matthee, and Said Arjomand, the ICCR also subsidized the Conference by providing us with a very generous subvention. It is my privilege to acknowledge this support and thank Professors Zilli, Mahdi and Miyan, Matthee, and Arjomand for all their efforts in procuring this generous grant for the ASPS. Without the support that the ASPS receives from its patrons, it cannot continue its unique tradition of partially supporting its Biennial Conference attendees.

Venue for the Sixth Biennial Convention of the ASPS

We have already begun our plans and assessments for the potential venue of the ASPS's sixth Biennial Convention. Exciting options currently on the table are the beautiful cities of Yerevan in Armenia, and Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are hopeful that we can ascertain the location of our next two Biennial Conferences in the current year. As usual, the final selection of the venue for the 2014 Conference will depend on the nature of accommodations available as well as our funding. Please stay tuned therefore as we explore possibilities.

New Mandate: Expanding the Chronological Coverage of the ASPS

Part of my mandate during the term of my Presidency is the expansion of the chronological reach of the ASPS to cover the long-durée histories and cultures of the Persianate and Iranian *ecumene* from the ancient to the pre-modern period. To this end, and henceforth, the ASPS shall strive to expand its coverage of "the culture and civilization of the Persian-speaking societies and related areas in the Iranian civilizational area," according to its original mandate, to cover its

subjects from the ancient period onward. The ancient, late antique, and early medieval coverage of the ASPS will be a significant addition to the already unique and solid scholarly heritage of the Association. I would especially like to see the ASPS become a home also for those scholars of the Iranian *ecumene* who specialize in the late antique Iranian and Persianate worlds. Regrettably, scholars who engage in research on the Persianate and Iranian civilizational world from the sixth century BCE to around the 1330s--a truly impressive scholarly group--do not yet have an academic venue which they can consider their "home" in the US. In order to fill this void, therefore, the ASPS is hereby extending an invitation to all colleagues who work on the chronological boundaries enumerated above, to consider the ASPS and especially its first rate journal, the *Journal of Persianate Studies* (JPS), as their home. Under the editorship of Said Amir Arjomand, the *JPS*, currently published by Brill, has become one of the foremost scholarly journals in the field. I am hereby appealing to all of you to join the ASPS as a venue through which we can establish not only a cross-disciplinary dialogue, but also one that reaches beyond the chronological boundaries that we have each set for ourselves in investigating this rich cultural heritage. In order to mark the expansion of the *JPS*'s chronological mandate, issue 5:2 of the Journal, guest edited by myself, will be devoted to "Recent Trends in Late Antique Iranian Studies," where some of the state-of-the-art research on various aspects of the Iranian civilizational world will be presented to the field.

New Public Face: The New ASPS Webpage

When you receive the current Newsletter, click on the ASPS's new home, <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/>, where you will find the new public face of ASPS. In the effort to implement a new design for our page, I wish to thank first Mr. Pooriya Alimoradi, now a graduate student at Concordia University, studying Iranian

religions, who, from its inception, has been at the center of this extensive work. As Pooriya was hard at work in effecting some changes, I had the fortune of receiving the kind offer of help from Mr. Mohammad Dolatiani in Iran, who subsequently brought to his aid a whole cadre of excellent young professional colleagues and friends. Those who have braved the waters of Cyberspace know very well that the logistics of giving a new face to any association's webpage is a daunting task. To achieve this in only a few short months, however, is truly astounding by any measures. It is here that words fall short of conveying one's gratitude. This has been truly a labor of love on the part of Mohammad Dolatiani (and his team) and Pooriya Alimoradi. On behalf of the ASPS, therefore, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to Mr. Dolatiani and his team and Mr. Alimoradi for the tremendous efforts that they exerted to this end. Theirs indeed is a generous gift to the Association. I would also like to take this opportunity and welcome Mohammad and Pooriya as the new Web-Team of the ASPS. My thanks also go to Mr. Arthur Dudney, our previous Webmaster for all his hard work in diligently maintaining the previous ASPS homepage. As Arthur shall be focusing his efforts on his dissertation, we wish him all success and hope to have him back, as he has promised, as part of the new ASPS team of web management.

So, please check out our new webpage, "like" us on "Facebook," direct friends and colleagues towards it, and give us your comments and suggestions about it. I must also offer my apologies for the delay in the publication of the Newsletter, precipitated by our efforts towards designing the new website. As we were carrying out these renovations, I requested Dr. Ghazzal Dabiri, my good friend and colleague, and the Newsletter Editor of the ASPS, to delay its

publication until such time as our various projects would be completed. I would like to add my voice to that of **Rudi** in thanking **Ghazzal** for all her hard work on behalf of the ASPS, for the extraordinary job that she has been doing as the Editor of the ASPS Newsletter, and much more, even while in Cairo on a research leave from Columbia, under a Fulbright scholarship, the past year. The launching of our new, redesigned, homepage leads me to another piece of excellent news apropos the Association.

New Endeavors: Ali Dehbashi's Column in Our New Webpage

I am delighted to bear exciting news about the new collaborative effort that I have established with Mr. Ali Dehbashi, the Editor-in-Chief of the excellent and unique, bimonthly Persian journal of arts, culture and Iranian Studies, published in Iran, the *Bukhara* magazine. It is with great excitement that I report to you the inauguration of a regular column by Mr. Dehbashi, where, on a systematic basis, he will provide the ASPS membership and the public at large with the latest cultural news about publications, cultural and academic events and all else he deems to be within the purview of interests of the ASPS membership. I am also happy to report that Mr. Dehbashi's column on the ASPS webpage will be, quite appropriately, in Persian. I would like to take this opportunity and officially welcome Mr. Dehbashi to the ASPS. The ASPS is greatly looking forward to many years of fruitful cooperation with Mr. Dehbashi and I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to him for the contributions that he will be making.

Similar to the column of Mr. Dehbashi, I hope that we can soon establish 1) a regular column with news of the publications that are appearing in the West on Persianate Societies and 2) a "News" entry in our Webpage menu, where you can send us the news of all the conferences, talks, etc., pertaining to Persianate societies, that are taking

place in your institution or elsewhere.

RENEW your membership, BECOME A MEMBER!

As many are well-aware, amongst the many sister associations in the field that are working towards the promotion of Iranian studies, the ASPS is truly unique in that it is one of the only associations of its kind that provides possibilities for scholarly exchange *among* scholars from the Persianate world as well as between them and those of us in western academic institutions. Its mandates provide a venue for scholarly dialogue amongst all of us who have a vested interest in our field.

As we enter a new phase of the ASPS I appeal to all of you, friends and colleagues, of the Association, to renew your memberships and/or become new members of the ASPS. Please join me and other colleagues and friends of the ASPS and help us further strengthen and develop our society. If you have the possibility, consider joining for a three-year membership, and if you are amongst those who fortunately have further possibilities, consider becoming Lifetime Members of the ASPS. To those who are already members, as well as those who, I am hopeful, will join us upon the receipt of our Newsletter, I would like to make another special plea: Ask your institutions to join the ASPS as Institutional Members of the Association. This should be a very straightforward process and can be achieved by simply writing to the appropriate Acquisitions Departments of the libraries of your home institutions. If each of us were to take it upon ourselves to implement this vis-à-vis our home institutions, our Institutional Membership would increase manifold. As you are well aware, the membership fees of the Association have not increased for a while now. In order to maintain the financial health of the

HOUSHANG POURSHARIATI BOOK AWARD

Association, therefore, we have implemented a modest increase in our membership fees and have created new categories that we hope gives due credence to our members' and potential members' possibilities. These will be reflected on our new Website once you visit the membership page of the Association. I hope that you agree that this is a modest, long overdue, and justifiable increase that is, comparatively, far less than those of our sister associations.

As the ASPS gradually moves towards its vicennial celebration, when it will hold its twentieth anniversary, I also ask you to assist us in our fundraising efforts through becoming a patron of the Association or helping us recruit patrons who find the cause of the ASPS worthy of their philanthropy. There is much that I would like to effect for the duration of the mandate that you have given me as the new President of the Association. But nothing of substance can be done single-handedly. So, please join the cultural dialogue and heritage that has been in the making for millennia. Join the *Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*, and help the ASPS build on its achievements and continue to grow. I thank you all for the generous support and heart-warming encouragement that you have already given me.

Ba mehr

Parvaneh Pourshariati
President

The Houshang Pourshariati Iranian Studies Book Award recognizes on an annual basis outstanding publishing in the broader field of Iranian and Persianate studies. The prize acknowledges non-fiction scholarly monographs that focus on Iranian society, culture, and history from ancient times to the present. Rigorous original studies in English—or translations of such works—in areas such as literature, history, philosophy, social studies, art, and science are each year vetted by a committee of scholars specializing in Iranian studies. These scholars are selected by the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), the most prestigious learned society in North America that brings together scholars, educators, and those interested in the study of the greater Middle East. The Pourshariati Award was established in 2005 and, except for 2006, has been regularly presented in the MESA annual meetings. It bears a prize of \$2,000 (in US currency).

Houshang Pourshariati was a renowned journalist and director-general of the Pars News Agency, the official Iranian news agency, in the years leading up to the 1979 Islamic Revolution. An able and critical writer, Pourshariati contributed enormously to the development of professional journalism in the middle and later decades of the twentieth century. He worked in leading dailies in the country such as *Ittilâ'at* where he became deputy chief editor and editor of home desk. He served as a founding member and contributor of *Ayandigan*, yet another key newspaper with moderate tendencies towards reform. In the 1970s, he also worked as the editor-in-chief of an important weekly magazine *Rastakhiz-i Javanan*. With interests in intellectual debate and open society, Pourshariati helped establish in the early

1960s the Writers' and Journalists' Syndicate which was one of the first free writers' unions in the country. His tremendous managerial and organizational skills were recognized in the 1970s when he became the director-general of the only news agency in the country which fed reports and news to all other news outlets across the country. It is in commemoration of Pourshariati's interests in social studies and development, as well as his legacy as a public intellectual that this award has been set up by his family.

Scholars whose work have been recognized by the Pourshariati Book Award have labored in a variety of fields and written on different topics. The first prize in 2005 was given as a lifetime achievement award to the late Professor Alireza Shahpur Shahbazi of East Oregon University whose long and widely respected career in Iranology and Achaemenid archeology advanced the field considerably in the twentieth century. Others who have been acknowledged by the Pourshariati Award include:

2007 Award Recipients

Winner

Beatrice F. Manz, Tufts University, *Power, Politics, and Religion in Timurid Iran* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Honorable Mention

Vanessa Martin, University of London, *The Qajar Pact: Bargaining, Protest, and the State in 19th-Century Persia* (I.B. Tauris, 2005)

2008 Award Recipients

Winner

Maria E. Subtelny, University of Toronto, *Timurids in Transition: Turko-Persian Politics and Acculturation in Medieval Iran* (Brill, 2007)

Honorable Mention

Shafique N. Virani, University of Toronto, *The Ismailis in the Middle Ages: A History of Survival, A Search for Salvation* (Oxford University Press, 2007)

2009 Award Recipient

Winner

Sussan Babaie, Fulbright Regional Scholar, *Egypt and Syria, Isfahan and Its Palaces: Statecraft, Shi'ism and the Architecture of Conviviality in Early Modern Iran* (Edinburgh University Press, 2008)

2010 Award Recipients

Winner

Arash Khazeni, Pomona College, *Tribes and Empire on the Margins of Nineteenth-Century Iran* (University of Washington Press, 2010)

Honorable Mentions

Richard W. Bulliet, Columbia University, *Cotton, Climate, and Camels in Early Islamic Iran* (Columbia University Press, 2009)

Colin P. Mitchell, Dalhousie University, *The Practice of Politics in Safavid Iran: Power, Religion and Rhetoric* (I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2009)

2011 Award Recipient

Winner

Sebouh Aslanian, University of California, Los Angeles, *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa* (University of California Press, 2011)

Report by

Ranin Kazemi
Yale University

NEWS FROM THE OFFICES

Tajikistan

Dushanbe

Dr. Ilolov, President of the Academy of Sciences, has been successful in registering our ASPS office in Dushanbe. They will now be able to publish two issues of their local ASPS journal.

In December 2011 a conference about the manuscript collection of the Rudaki Institute for Languages, Literature, Oriental Studies and Written Heritage of Tajikistan's Academy of Sciences in Dushanbe (location of the ASPS Dushanbe office) was held in the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan. A special computer disk was prepared by Dr. Lola Dodkhudoeva on the Semenov Collection for this occasion. Three book presentations were also held at the Rudaki Institute to discuss publications sponsored by CERF, including the work of Malika Abduvasieva and Ali Khorasani.

In March 2012 there was a presentation and discussion of Lola Dodkhudoeva's recent work, *Materials on Socio-Political Aspects of the History of Central Asia between the Eight and Early Sixteenth Century*. A conference on Nowruz was held at the Academy of Sciences in March, which included the reading of poetry and the presentation of papers on the various traditions of Nowruz in Central Asia.

In May, 2012 the Rudaki Institute for Languages, Literature, Oriental Studies and the Written Heritage of Tajikistan's Academy of Sciences in Dushanbe (location of the ASPS Dushanbe office) is co-sponsoring with the NATO Science for Peace and Security Program a conference on Afghanistan's Stability and Regional Security Implications for Tajikistan. The first issue of the new ASPS Tajikistan branch journal, *Sipehr*, was published, which contains materials from the ASPS

roundtable, "The State of Science in Tajikistan: Perspectives, Challenges, and Possibilities." The second issue, devoted to the memory of the Tajik scholar, Professor Zahir Ahrori, a specialist in Tajik-Persian literature, who sadly lost his life in an automobile accident, is under preparation and is expected to be published shortly.

Khorog

Three scholars from Badakhshan attended the 2012 ASPS Biennial Conference in Hyderabad, where they presented papers on nineteenth-century manuscript copies from Badakhshan of Rumi's *Masnavi*, the role of the rubab in Isma'ili culture, and themes in Pamiri journalism in the 1990s. In December 2011, the Khorog office published their second *Majmu'ai Makolot* (Collection of Articles), which includes six papers (in Tajiki) written by scholars from Badakhshan.

Dushanbe report by: Lola Dodkhudoeva

Khorog report by: Umed Mamadsherozshoev

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF IRANIAN STUDIES, YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE CAUCASIAN CENTRE FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

Several new publications of the Department of Iranian Studies of Yerevan State University and Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies (Yerevan) will replenish the library of professionals and amateurs of the Oriental studies.

Comparative Dictionary of Central Iranian Dialects (Humbaba: Farhang-e Guyeshba-ye Markazi-ye Iran) by G. Asatrian was published in Tehran by the state publisher *Encyclopedia*. A rather voluminous edition, this dictionary is, in fact, an encyclopedia, in which many of the words are dealt with not just as lexemes, but rather as cultural phenomena with explanatory passages that are actually original excursions into the realities reflected in this concept.

The material for the dictionary was compiled as a result of the expeditions of the Iranian Studies' Department staff of YSU to the mountainous regions of Kashan. The genetic line of groups inhabiting this region dates back to the people of Greater Media, and the culture and peculiar archaism.

Another publication, *Introduction to the history and culture of the Talishi people* (edited by G. Asatryan), was devoted to the Second International Conference on Talishi Studies. The publication is a collective monograph by the Department of Iranian Studies, YSU. This is a first effort of its kind in the field of Iranian Studies. In many respects it will, indeed, determine the vector of future research on Talishi studies. The monograph, which consists of 10 chapters and several significant appendices, relate to almost all aspects of Talishi Studies - issues on Talishi ethnic origin, the traces of ancient civilizations in the territory of the Talish, the natural-climatic conditions of Talish, its toponymy, the population, the history of the Talishi people, religion and folk beliefs, the questions on ethnography, folk art, language and literature. Of particular interest, is the chapter, "Azerbaijani statistics on the number of Talishi people and other national minorities," which clearly demonstrates a serious misestimation of the population of this ethnic group caused by a reliance on the analysis of the official census data of the Azerbaijani Republic, as well as the assessments of experts at international organizations, dynamics of the population growth in the region and so on. In Iran, *Introduction to the history and culture of the Talishi people* was among the winners of the "Book of the Year" President's award. The second book awarded the same prize was *Persian Tales in Armenian* (The Largest Collection of Persian Tales in a Foreign Language), translated by Gevorg Asatryan, edited and with an introduction by Garnik Asatryan.

Another publication of the Department is the new tutorial on the Persian language, intended for students of Iranian Studies (written by K. Bakhshinyan, A. Bianjyan, L. Ghazarian and G. Melikyan, edited by G. Asatryan).

This textbook summarizes the experience of teaching the Persian language in the last two decades and takes into account the many comments and amendments made to the previous editions. The publication is a general language course, including phonetics, grammar, textual material, and so on.

Regular readers of *Iran-Name*, the Armenian journal of Oriental Studies, may have already noticed a recently released new issue of it. *Iran-Name*, an important component of the scientific editions of Armenia, was founded in a very difficult period of the modern history of our state in, 1993. At an early stage of its existence it has become a symbol of the Armenian scientific and social thought and its traditional strength and propensity to develop even in the most critical conditions. The journal is an academic edition, geared toward scholars in the social sciences, in particular, dealing with issues related to the Orient.

Enayatollah Reza's book *Azerbaijan and Arran: Aturpatakan and Caucasian Albania* (translated from Persian into Russian, preface and additions by Garnik Asatryan), which still has not lost its relevance, was republished in Moscow by the Institute for Political and Social Studies of the Region of Black and Caspian seas. It should be noted that the first edition of the book was published in Yerevan (also translated and annotated by G.S. Asatryan) in 1993. The study of the famous Iranian historian E. Reza is devoted to the history of the origin of the name Azerbaijan and the history of Caucasian Albania. It covers a huge range of scientific issues from ethno-genetic and linguistic aspects of the history of Iran and the Caucasus to the problems of recent political history and ethno-demography of the region. The new updated edition of the book includes a valuable note of

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soudavar Memorial Foundation

the mid 19th century by Colonel A. Rakint named "Brief Historical Sketch of the Christianity of Caucasian highlanders since the Apostles to the beginning of the XIX century" with comments by V. Zakharov.

The same Institute for Political and Social Studies of the region of Black and the Caspian seas has published the first volume of *Caucasica*, a new scientific-journalistic magazine (edited by V. Zakharov). The Department of Iranian Studies of Yerevan State University has had an active participation in the foundation of this edition, three members of which are on the editorial board of the journal (V. Arakelova, G. Asatrian, V. Voskanian). *Caucasica* covers a wide range of problems of the Caucasus and bordering countries of the Black Sea and Caspian region (Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, etc.). The socio-political and socio-economic situation, historical concepts, linguistics and literature of all peoples of this vast region are in the area of interests of this magazine.

On the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of "Iran and the Caucasus" (ed. By Garnik Asatrian), BRILL, Leiden-Boston, several academic gatherings were held in Yerevan:

"Iran and the Caucasus: 15 Years of Achievements" (1-3 July, 2011; Yerevan, Armenia) <http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/20447737/1064241049/name/PROGRAMME,%20Iran%20and%20the%20Caucasus,%2015.pdf>;

"The Second International Conference on Talishi Studies" (28-10 October, 2011; Yerevan, Armenia) (<http://www.armacad.info/conferences/the-2nd-international-conference-on-the-talishi-studies-12-13-nov-2011-yerevan-armenia/programme>), and

"The Zaza People: History, Language, Culture, Identity" (October 28-30, 2011; Yerevan, Armenia) (<http://www.armacad.info/conferences/the-zaza-people-language-culture-identity-28-30-oct-2011-yerevan-armenia/abstracts>)

Report by
Victoria Arakelova

[HTTP://WWW.PERSIANATESOCIETIES.ORG](http://www.persianatesocieties.org)

On February 4h 2011, the *Soudavar Memorial Foundation* marked its Decennial Anniversary, and a decade of its impressive academic and cultural philanthropy by holding a series of events in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre at SOAS in London. Beginning with a panel discussion on the extremely appropriate title of, "**Persian Culture as a World Culture**," the event was co-organized by The *Soudavar Memorial Foundation*, and *The Center for Iranian Studies*, LMEI at SOAS, and took place at the Brunei Gallery in London.

Chaired by Abolala Soudavar, the speakers included

Professor Philip Kreyenbroek (Georg-August University) who spoke on "The Legacy of Ancient Iran in Western Culture" in a session titled, The Legacy of Ancient Iran in Western Culture;

Dr Farhang Jahanpour (University of Oxford), who spoke on "Iran's Literary Heritage;"

Professor Elaheh Kheirandish (Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard University), who spoke on "A Quartet of Persian Scientific Traditions: Geometry, Astronomy, Mechanics, Optics;"

Dr Gül Russell (Texas A&M Health Science Center) who spoke on "The 'First Renaissance' & the Development of Medicine in Islamic Civilization: the Persian Foundation;"

Professor Robert Hillenbrand (University of Edinburgh) who spoke on "Iran's Artistic Heritage." The panel was followed by a concert by the Parvaz Ensemble and a reception, in the Brunei Gallery.

See link below for more information on other panels
<http://www.payvand.com/news/11/oct/1137.html>

New Journal: Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (ACME)

ACME is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal devoted to the anthropological studies of societies and cultures in the Middle East and Central Eurasia. ACME is published on behalf of the Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia network of European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) and benefits financial support of Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (GSRL, Paris).

The journal publishes original research articles written by scholars from various fields of anthropology, sociology, folklore, religion, material culture, minority groups, and other related social sciences, which covers all areas of contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, China). We have a special interest in publishing articles about the contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia written by new and established academics from a wide range of disciplines. Our journal will cover research monographs, reference works, result of conferences and also international workshops. ACME also publishes review essays, reviews of books and multimedia products (including music, films, and web sites) relevant to the main aims of the journal.

<http://www.brill.nl/publications/journals/anthropology-contemporary-middle-east-and-central-eurasia>

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Assistant Editor: Faegheh Shirazi, University of Texas, Austin, USA

Assistant Editor: Faegheh Shirazi, University of Texas, Austin USA

Book Review Editor: Ingvild Flakerud, University of Bergen, Norway

Film Review Editor: Michael Abecassis, University of Oxford, UK

Editorial Coordinator: Olivia Fairless, UNESCO, France

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

Literacy in the Persianate World: Writing and the Social Order, edited by **Brian Spooner and William L. Hanaway**, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012 see http://books.google.com/books?id=CjibFs9JlgoC&dq=literacy+in+the+Persianate+world&source=gbs_navlinks_s

Language Policy and Language Conflict in Afghanistan and its Neighbors: The Changing Politics of Language Choice, edited by **Harold F. Schiffman and Brian Spooner**, Leiden: Brill, 2012.

see <http://books.google.com/books?id=dXDkygAACAAJ&dq=Harold+F+Schiffman&hl=en&sa=X&ei=42NTT7HuKcPn0QHKhOnBBQ&sqi=2&ved=0CGwQ6AEwCA>

Rudi Matthee published *Persia in Crisis: Safavid Decline and the Fall of Isfahan* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2012)

and

“Facing a Rude and Barbarous Neighbor: Iranian Perceptions of Russia and the Russians from the Safavids to the Qajars,” in Abbas Amanat and Farzin Vejdani, eds., *Iran Facing Others: Identity Boundaries in a Historical Perspective* (New York: Palgrave, 2012), pp. 99-124.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

RECENTLY HELD CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Islamic Art Circle at SOAS

The First Bahari Foundation Lecture in Iranian Art and Culture

Seeing in Isfahan: Expanding Gaze for an Early Modern Capital
by

Professor Renata Holod

College for Women Class of 1963 Term Professor in the Humanities, History of Art Department; Curator, Near East Section, PENN Museum, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Archaeological Discoveries Series at Louvre

Professor Renata Holod gave a talk on Qipchaq Kurgan burial of the early 13th century and the Seljuk and Alan-derived armor traditions

Dariush Borbor headed a small group of researchers to Fars (17-30 March, 2012), in order to find whatever information which may be available, concerning the Bōrbōr sub-tribes within the Qashqai, Khamseh and the Qashqai, Khamseh and Baharlou tribes.

There has been no research conducted on any aspects of this tribe within other tribes -- nothing is known of their population, their administrative structure, language or social and economic standing.

The second leg of the trip will be in the middle of April, 2012 in central, western Iran and the Zagros to study the Bōrbōr sub-tribes within the Bakhtiaris and other tribes.

Cinema in Iranian

Circulation, Censorship, and Cultural Production

December 16-18, 2011

ICI Berlin

<http://www.ici-berlin.org/event/414>

12th IQSA Conference: Women in the Qajar Era

A conference organized jointly by: The International Qajar Studies Association and Boston University.

Date: May 31-June 1, 2012

Location: Boston University, Boston, Mass.

For more information please visit: www.qajarstudies.org

American Institute for Pakistani Studies and HEC (the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan) will sponsor three three-day workshops on Research Methodology for PhD and M Phil candidates in Pakistan during 2012, for three different disciplines. For example, I and a Pakistani colleague may do a session for art historians.

Please contact Nadeem Akbar at nadeem@aips.edu.pk for more information.

The forum is supposed to cover a wide spectrum of problems concerning this important multicultural area – history, archaeology, linguistics, culture, literature, religions, anthropology, and current political issues.

Conference in Honor of Prof. Dr. Manfred Mayrhofer

Prof. Dr. Mayrhofer, one of the most prominent scholars in the field of Comparative and Historical Iranian, Indian and Indo-European Linguistics and Philology, as well as former Secretary General of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and Professor of General and Indo-European Linguistics at the University of Vienna, passed away last October after a long and rich scholarly life.

In order to pay homage to Mayrhofer's life and the scholarly impact of his work on Iranian and Indo-European Studies, especially Comparative and Historical Linguistics, the Institute of Iranian Studies (Institut für Iranistik) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Vienna Linguistic Society (Wiener Sprachgesellschaft) organize an

International symposium on "Iranian and Indo-European Onomastics and Linguistics". The conference took place on May 10th–12th, 2012 in Vienna.

Call for Papers and Applications

Autochthonous Peoples of the Caucasian-Caspian Region, International Conference, 5-7 Oct., 2012, Yerevan, Armenia

The International Journal *Iran and the Caucasus* (BRILL, Leiden-Boston), in cooperation with Yerevan State University, "Modus Vivendi Center", "Caucasian Centre for Iranian Studies", "International Society for the Study of Turkey, Iran and the Caucasus", "Public Relations and Information Center", and the "Armenian Association for Academic Partnership and Support – ARMACAD", organises an International Conference "Autochthonous Peoples of the Caucasian-Caspian Region" (supported by *Hyksos Foundation*).

The conference will be held in Yerevan, Armenia, from the 5th to 7th of October 2012.

Papers presented should directly address relevant issues concerning one or several autochthonous peoples of the mentioned region, including but not restricted to North Caucasian and Western Caspian peoples.

The working languages of the conference are English and Russian.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is July 15, 2012.

The application form must contain:

- Name(s)
- Affiliation
- E-mail address/fax/phone
- Title of the paper
- Abstract not exceeding 500 words

Please email your abstracts in Word document format to:

Dr. Khachik Gevorgyan

Secretary of the Organising Committee,

khachik.gevorgyan@yahoo.co.uk

The Organising Committee will likely have limited travel and accommodation grants available for a number of participants.

2012 CERF AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ASPS CERF Committee would like to extend its congratulations to the 2012 CERF Award Recipients:

Nazardod Jonboboev

Project Title: Proverbs and Sayings of Shughnan

and

Yusuf Boboev

Project Title: Issues Related To History and Culture of Central Asia Peoples in the Works of Aburayhon Beruni



NEWS FROM THE JOURNAL EDITOR

Contents of JPS 4.2 (2011)

Special Issue on the Pamir Guest Editor Jo-Ann Gross

Symposium: Shrine Traditions, Human Ecology and Identity in the Pamir

For additional information on the contents of this issue, please visit our page: <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/index.php/journal/current-issue> and be sure to check periodically for information on our next issue JPS 5.1 (2012)

OBITUARIES

Gherardo Gnoli (1937-2012)

With the passing of Professor Gherardo Gnoli on 7 March 2012, one of the great Iranologists of all times and a very outstanding promoter of Iranian Studies has left us.

Professor Gnoli was born in Rome on December 6, 1937. In the course of his studies he became interested in the Middle and Near East and Indo-Iranian and Semitic languages and cultures of the region, but gradually his research and publication gravitated more and more towards the Iranian world.

The period when he was an undergraduate and graduate student happened to be a great period in Italian history for Oriental studies and outstanding scholars like Antonino Pagliaro, Giorgio Levi Della Vida, Sabatino Moscati and Alessandro Bausani, were teaching in Italy and Gnoli studied with them and took advantage of their instructions. The study of cultures and religions that had flourished in a vast area stretching from the Indian Subcontinent to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean absorbs his attention.

From 1970 until 1993 Gnoli taught Iranian languages and culture in the University of Naples and from 1970 to 1978 he was the President of this University. In 1979 he assumed the directorship of the Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (IsMEO) which had been founded by Giuseppe Tucci, the well-known Italian scholar of Oriental Studies and a very capable organizer. Later the Institute for the study of African and the Far East were joined to IsMEO and the expanded institute came to be known as Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente (IsIAO).

Gnoli's rare ability in organizing and promoting were best seen in his administration of this

expanded Institute. He continued his teaching and inspiring his students to follow his example. Many of his students like Antonio Panaino, Adriano Rossi, and Mauro Maggi became great scholars and contributed to the exceptional flourishing of Iranian Studies in Italy.

When after 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, Iranian Studies began to suffer in other European countries as well as in the United States, Italy not only did not exhibit any decline in its pursuit of Iranian Studies, but even showed progress and growth, new chairs were established and some younger Italian scholars of Iranian Studies received offers of teaching in countries other than Italy.

Gnoli was a prolific author. He published some major books and a very great number of articles. From among his books one can mention *Ricerche storiche sul Sistan antico* on ancient Sistan (Rome, 1967); *De Zoroastre à Mani* (Paris, 1985), *Zoroaster's Time and Homeland* (Naples, 1980), and *Zoroaster in History* (New York, 2000), in which he supported, like Henning before him, the traditional date of Zoroaster, found in Pahlavi books, against much older dates.

He was invited to become a member of the International Advisory Board of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* since its inception. He contributed more than 20 significant articles to this *Encyclopaedia*. He was also one of the active founders and for years the President of the *Societas Iranologica Europaea*.

His passing at the age of 74 is a truly great loss to Iranian Studies anywhere.

Ehsan Yarshater
Columbia University

Simin Daneshvar (1921-2012)

Simin Daneshvar (b. April 28, 1921/8 Ordibehesht 1300), writer, translator, intellectual, and towering figure in the history of modern Persian fiction, died on March 8, 2012 (18 Esfand 1390).

The third child of Doctor Mohammad Ali Daneshvar Ahia' al-Saltaneh and Qamar al-Saltaneh Hekmat, Daneshvar's family's roots in Shiraz were deep, and she called herself a "pure Shirazi." The Shiraz of Daneshvar's childhood is memorialized in her first major novel, *Savushun*, which was not only the first novel published by a woman in Iran but for decades was the best-selling novel in Iranian history. Daneshvar acknowledged that many of the characters in her fictions—including the manservant Gholam in *Savushun* and Mehrangiz in "Shahri chawn behesht" ("A City Like Paradise")—were based on the family's life and the servants, relatives, and friends that peopled it. Daneshvar credited her facility with English to early exposure in the form of her education at the British missionary school Mehr Ayin, where instruction was initially offered only in English. Throughout her life, translation would be both a practice that enriched her own writing and a source of financial support.

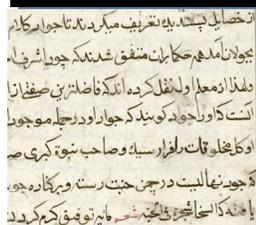
Daneshvar's first collection of short stories, *Atash-e khamush* (*The Quenched Fire*), was published in 1948, but Daneshvar would later disown that work and ask that all copies be destroyed. Before publishing a second collection of short stories called *Shahri chawn behesht* (*A City Like Paradise*, 1961), Daneshvar would complete her doctorate in aesthetics at the University of Tehran under the supervision of Badi' al-Zaman Foruzanfar. In 1969, her magnum opus *Savushun* was published, and in the same year, Daneshvar lost her beloved husband and partner, writer and intellectual Jalal Al-e Ahmad.

Daneshvar would go on to publish many more books, including *Beb ki salam konam* (*To Whom Should I Say Hello?*, 1980), *Ghorub-e Jalal* (*Jalal's Sunset*, 1981),

a two-part novel called *Jazireh-ye sargardani* (*The Wandering Island*, 1992; the second volume of this novel was given the additional title *Sarban-e sargardan* [*The Wandering Cameleer*, 2001], and a third volume, *Kub-e sargardani*, remained unpublished at the time of Daneshvar's death). After the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Daneshvar's works took a turn in theme and tone, and her late work was increasingly preoccupied with the idea of displacement: in a 2002 interview with the magazine *Zanan*, Daneshvar insisted, "Wandering is a universal condition."

When she had married Al-e Ahmad, Daneshvar famously insisted that the marriage would be contracted between equals or not at all: "I wanted to remain myself and not to be Mrs. Al-e Ahmad," she later wrote. Daneshvar kept her name, but it was more difficult for her to avoid being recognized as Al-e Ahmad's wife rather than as a major author in her own right. Though Daneshvar's impact on modern Iranian culture and thought was for decades less widely recognized than Al-e Ahmad's, the influence of her writing, which is simultaneously profoundly sympathetic to and critical of the society in which she lived, can be seen in the works of the generations of Iranian authors that succeeded her.

Amy Motlagh
The American University in Cairo



Editorial Notes

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

The deadline for the the next Newsletter will be September 1, 2012

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 <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/content/membership.htm> 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. 4:2 (2011) of *Journal of Persianate Studies*, please let us know.