

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSIANATE SOCIETIES



FALL 2012 ISSUE: INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Much has transpired since I last wrote to you as the Incoming President. Before giving my report, however, I would like to express my gratitude to colleagues on the Board who have been my pillars of support as I have been navigating through the new initiatives undertaken by the Association. First and foremost, I would like to thank my colleagues **Said Amir Arjomand**, **Snjezana Buzov**, **Houchang Chehabi**, **Ghazzal Dabiri**, **Jo-Ann Gross**, **Ranin Kazemi**, **Rudi Matthee** and **Sunil Sharma**, and other members of the Board of Directors who came to my rescue each time I requested help. I would like to especially thank my colleague **Jo-Ann Gross**, who has been unfailing in her support, kindly answering my every query, in deluges of emails that would come her way on a weekly basis, with characteristic promptness, untold patience, and good humor to boot. I also would like to thank **Said Arjomand** for his incredible support. Many times it has been **Said** alone who has had an answer to a six million dollar question that I would pose. I also would like to thank my dear colleague, **Houchang Chehabi**, for so kindly and consistently advising me about matters connected with fundraising. **Ghazzal Dabiri**, who has been doing such a fantastic job as Newsletter Editor, including the handsome new format she designed, has been unfailing in her support, meticulous work, professionalism, and endless energy. Finally, I thank **Pooriya Alimoradi** for his selfless efforts on behalf of the Association and the tremendous support that he has provided. With a recompense so little that is embarrassing to note, **Pooriya** has been at my side at all times of day and night, updating and maintain our new web-page, designing our new brochure for the

Association, fixing glitches in our PayPal account, etc. etc. Thank you all!

ASPS Opens a New Office in the Balkans in Sarajevo and Appoints its New Director

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you the opening of our first regional branch in the Balkans, in the fascinating city of Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Persianate Heritage of Sarajevo spans the pre-modern to the 21st century, and offers, besides, unique interconnections between the Balkans and the Iranian ecumene during the antique and late antique period, a heritage that finds its reflection, among other matters, in the existence of *Mithrae* -- the Roman temples that paid homage to the God, Mithras. Our branch in Sarajevo will be hosted in the prestigious Institute for Oriental Studies at Sarajevo (about which see below).

It is also with great excitement that I introduce to you our Regional Director and Persianist colleague, Dr. **Ahmed Zildzic**, himself a Bosnian (please see Dr. **Zildzic's** biography below on page 16), who will be in charge of the direction and growth of our branch office in Sarajevo. Amongst other colleagues, my dear colleague and member of the ASPS's Board of Directors, Professor **Snjezana Buzov** of The Ohio State University, herself a native of Croatia and a graduate of the University of Sarajevo, bears the primary responsibility for encouraging our foray into the Balkans in general and Sarajevo in particular. It was with the tremendous aid of

Professor **Buzov** and Dr. **Zildzic** that I was able to take my first trip to the beautiful city of Sarajevo, from July 23rd to the 30th, when I had the privilege of meeting our colleagues in various academic institutions of the city involved in the study of the Persianate world.

It was in their company that I had the good fortune of meeting Professor **Behija Zlatar**, the Director of the Oriental Institute of Sarajevo (Orientalni institut u Sarajevu <http://www.ois.unsa.ba/>). Our meeting with Director **Zlatar**, I am happy to report, was extremely successful on two fronts. First, with the generous hospitality and encouragement of Professor **Zlatar**, it was agreed that the Oriental Institute of Sarajevo will henceforth house the Regional Office of the ASPS in the Balkans, with Dr. **Zildzic** as its Director. And second, I am especially excited to report that the Oriental Institute shall be one of the primary sponsors of the Sixth Biennial Congress of the ASPS, which shall be held in Sarajevo in September 2013 (Please see our “Call for Papers” below.)

Along with **Snjezana** and **Ahmed**, my next meeting was with Dr. **Amina Rizvanbegovic**, the long time Director of the equally prestigious Bosniac Institute in Sarajevo (Bošnjački Institut Fondacija Adila Zulfikarpašićia) (<http://www.bosnjackiinstitut.ba>). Present at the meeting were Dr. **Zlatar**, Dr. **Buzov** and another Persianist colleague at the institute, Dr. **Sabaheta Gacanin**. In the course of our meeting with Dr. **Rizvanbegovic**, we agreed that the Bosniac Institute will be the second major sponsor of our Sixth Biennial Congress. In fact, I am happy to report that the very venue for the Congress itself will be the beautiful new abode of the Bosniac Institute, which along with its many other fascinating features—including a library containing thousands of books and a manuscript collection of

several hundred, about one-fourth of which is in Persian--also incorporates a 16th century Ottoman bathhouse. The rest of our plans with the Bosniac Institute shall remain a surprise for many of you whom we hope will be attending our exciting Congress in Sarajevo.

Another exciting feature of the trip to Sarajevo was the meeting that Dr. **Zildzic** and Professor **Buzov** had arranged for me with the Minister of Culture, His Excellency, **Salmir Kaplan** (<http://www.fmksa.com>), who previously worked at the Oriental Institute. It is my pleasure to report to you that through the generosity of Minister **Kaplan**, it was tentatively agreed that part of the funding necessary for our Sixth Biennial Congress in Sarajevo will be provided through the Ministry of Culture and, hopefully, partly through the good offices of the Ministry of Education, pending the approval of our applications. We shall be indebted to Professor **Behija Zlatar**, who as the Director of the Oriental Institute, the main sponsor of our Sixth Biennial Congress and the home of the future ASPS Regional Office in Sarajevo, will be submitting the ASPS application to the respective Ministries.

Last but not least, we met with our colleagues, Drs. **Dzenita Haveric** and **Munir Drkic** from Department of Oriental Philology, the Persian Language and Literature unit (<http://www.ff.unsa.ba>). Having visited Sarajevo during the month of Ramadan, unfortunately, the Chair of the Department of Persian, Professor **Namir Karahalilovic**, was not able to join us while I was there.

This then is a brief summary of the results of my visit to Sarajevo last summer. I would like to once again thank my colleague, Professor **Snjezana Buzov**, and Dr. **Ahmed Zildzic**, our Regional Director for the Balkans, for their very generous

hospitality during my stay, and for their invaluable help in the planning and organization of our Congress in Sarajevo.

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome Dr. **Ahmed Zildzic** as the Regional Director of the ASPS branch in Sarajevo, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the ASPS, by virtue of his new position. I am extremely grateful to him for the untiring efforts that he has expended thus far on the behalf of ASPS. Under his directorship, we are certain that ASPS/Sarajevo will join the ranks of our other successful regional offices in the Persianate world. I also extend my deep gratitude to Professor **Behija Zlatar**, Dr. **Amina Rizvanbegovic**, His Excellency, Minister **Salmir Kaplan**, and our colleagues, Dr. **Dzenita Haveric** and Dr. **Munir Drkic**, and Professor **Namir Karahalilovic**, for their gracious hospitality and welcome them to the ranks of the members and supporters of the *Association for the Study of the Persianate Societies*. I look forward to many many years of fruitful cooperation between the ASPS and our colleagues in Sarajevo!

So, dear colleagues, **please note**: After extensive deliberations between the Board of Directors of the ASPS and our Sarajevoan Organization Committee of the Sixth Biennial Congress, and having taken into account many logistic issues, I am happy to report to you that:

The Sixth Biennial Congress of the ASPS

will take place

September 2nd to 6th in Sarajevo!

Please Mark Your Calendars,

See Our Call for Papers on pp. 11-12,

and Spread the Word!

Bylaws Approved:

Following the draft of several revisions to our Bylaws by the Board of Directors, and pursuant to sharing these with our membership through an email distributed on October 13, 2012, and in view of the overwhelming support that we received from our membership, pertaining to these revisions, I am happy to report that we shall henceforth incorporate these changes into our Bylaws. These revisions include the following: **I)** the creation of the office of the **Vice-President**; **II)** the change of the office of Secretary-Treasurer to that of **Treasurer**; **III)** the inclusion of the terms **humanities** and **arts and literature** into article IIa of our Bylaws; **IV)** the decision to make a distinction, *only in terms of fees due to the ASPS*, between **Regular Membership** and **Regular Membership (Persianate Societies)**; **V)** the creation of the category of Life-Time membership; **VI)** the increase in the number of members of the Board of Directors from the current 5 to 7, plus one student.

The Bylaws, as amended, are now posted on our web-page for your convenience:

<http://www.persianatesocieties.org/PDFs/ASPS%20BYLAWS.pdf>

ASPS Elections:

It is once again Election time for the ASPS. I would like to take this opportunity and thank all the outgoing members of the Board of Directors for their efforts on behalf of the Association. I thank my dear friend and colleague, Professor **Elton Daniel**, for graciously lending us his academic vigor through the past three years and congratulate him on his recent, though very early, retirement. I look forward to years of future

collaboration with **Elton**. I am sorry to report that, having shouldered many responsibilities, including the sub-editorship of the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, upon his equally early retirement, my dear colleague, Professor **Stephen Dale** decided to step down. I regret Stephen's resignation, but I am certain that he shall remain a source of support for the Association in years to come. Through the years, our outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. **Habib Borjian**, exerted tremendous effort on behalf of the Association, including above all, his role in the NY Organizational Committees of the ASPS for the past Congresses of the Association. I extend to him my gratitude. Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to our former student member, now Dr. **Ranin Kazemi**, for his untiring efforts on behalf of ASPS, time and time again, and look forward to future collaboration with him. **Ranin** has now officially started his new position as an Assistant Professor of History at Kansas State University. Congratulations **Ranin**!

It is with great pleasure that I report to you that a number of outstanding scholars and friends have agreed to underwrite their support of the Association by running for one of the vacancies in the Association's Board of Directors. I am therefore delighted to inform you that Professor **Sussan Babaie** of the The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, Dr. **Ghazzal Dabiri** of Columbia University, Professor **Salma Farooqui** of the Maulana Azad National University, and Professor **Mohamad Tavakoli** of the University of Toronto, along with Mr. **Pooriya Alimoradi** of Concordia University of Montreal and Ms. **Nazanin Shahrokni** of the University of California at Berkeley have all kindly accepted the invitation of the Nomination Committee (composed of myself, **Rudi Matthee**, and **Said Amir Arjomand**), to run for the forthcoming vacancies in the Association's Board of Directors.

Nazanin and **Pooriya** will be running for the position of student member of the Board of Directors.

The New Office of the Vice-President of the ASPS

As you are all aware by now, pursuant to the new Bylaws put forth by the Board of Directors and in the wake of the approval of these Bylaws by the Membership of the Associations through the distribution of a ballot, and following the rules of the Bylaws, henceforth, there shall be an office of Vice-President in the *Association for the Study of Persianate Societies* and the office of the Secretary-Treasurer will become the office of the Treasurer.

The Vice President of the Association is not a President-Elect and will therefore not automatically be elected as the President. A description of the new offices and the responsibilities of the holder of the office have already been distributed to you and as part of our revised Bylaws. The nominee for the office of the Vice President must be chosen from amongst the membership of the BOD and nominated by the Nomination Committee.

It is my pleasure to report to you that our colleagues, Professor **Jo-Ann Gross** of the College of New Jersey, and Professor **Sunil Sharma** of Boston University, have accepted the Nomination Committee's invitation to run for the office of Vice President. On behalf of the Nomination Committee, I thank them for accepting our nominations. Following the ASPS Bylaws, the President, along with the Nomination Committee, has the prerogative of nominating a candidate for **one** of vacant positions in the Board of Directors, subject to the endorsement of the nominee, through our memberships' vote. As the term of **Habib Borjian** as the Secretary Treasurer of the

ASPS will expire effective December 31, 2012, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Nomination Committee has invited Professor **Paul Losensky** of Indiana University/Bloomington to join the ASPS Board of Directors as its new Treasurer. It is with great delight I inform you that Professor **Losensky** has accepted our nomination. Pending your vote, effective January 1st, 2013, he will officially assume his duties as the new Treasurer of the ASPS, serving a three year term through December 2015.

The biographies of our candidates are included in the following pages. I call upon our members to take this opportunity and lend your voice to the future direction of the ASPS by voting. There are **four** candidates running for **two** vacant Board of Directors positions and **two** candidates for **one** vacant position for student members and **two** candidates for the new Office of the Vice-President, so **please take the time and effort and cast your vote** by the deadline of **5:00 pm, Nov. 16th, 2012**. **Please send your votes directly to Prof. Said Amir Arjomand at said.arjomand@stonybrook.edu**.

Please note that, as we have been undertaking various structural changes over the past six months **for which I take primary responsibility**, and due to logistics beyond our control, **you will have only 10 days in order to cast your votes for the election**.

Soudavar Memorial Foundation Continues its Generous Grant to *JPS*

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that, for the eighth consecutive year, the **Soudavar Memorial Foundation** has renewed its generous funding of the *Journal of Persianate Studies* of the ASPS. It is with deep gratitude and thanks, on

behalf of the Association, its Board of Directors, and the *JPS*, that I thank the Board of Trustees of the **Soudavar Memorial Foundation** for their sustained and crucial philanthropy, and their unremitting efforts in aiding the continuous growth of the *Association for the Study of Persianate Societies*.

Three New Life Members and Counting

It is with great excitement that I report to you that three staunch supporters of the Association have taken the generous step of joining the ASPS as Lifetime Members since I last reported to you. These valued friends and colleagues are: Dr. **Dariush Borbor**, Mr. **Abolala Soudavar** and Ms. **Fatema Soudavar**. I am personally grateful to **Abolala, Dariush, and Fatema** for their support, and the endorsement that they have given the current Board of Directors for its new initiatives through becoming Lifetime Members of the Association. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the ASPS Membership at large, a heartfelt thanks to our new Life-time Members.

The ASPS Recruits Ariana Barkeshli as its Artistic Director

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you that the world-renowned concert pianist, music scholar and educator, **Ariana Barkeshli**, has accepted our invitation to join the ranks of the ASPS as the Artistic Director of the Association. In this capacity, Professor **Barkeshli** will be in charge of directing the cultural dimensions of the Association's activities in its forthcoming Congresses, including that of Sarajevo in 2013, as well as other cultural events organized by the Association. Ariana Barkeshli's appointment does not carry any voting privileges, since her position does not entail membership on the Board of

Directors.

I look forward to seeing you either in Denver or Sarajevo!

**ASPS/Brill Reception in the Ninth Biennial
Conference of ISIS/Istanbul**

Jaye-shoma khali, as a result of the organizational acumen of Ingrid Heijckers-Velt, the *Acquisitions Editor for Middle East, Islam & African Studies* of Brill Leiden, the publisher of *JPS*, along with my cooperation, Brill/ASPS had a splendid reception in a local eatery in Istanbul. Please do make sure to attend our reception at MESA in Denver!

Ba Mehr

Parvaneh Pourshariati
President

**A Second Personal Plea: Please Renew Your
Membership and/ or Join the ASPS**

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank those of you who have already heeded my call and renewed your memberships or have joined the ranks of the ASPS by becoming new members. Thank you! Your support has been and shall continue to be *the* most important source of strength for the Association and for myself personally.

As we enter a new phase of the ASPS, however, I am making a second appeal to those friends and colleagues of the Association, to please 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 Association. If you have the possibility, consider joining us for a three-year membership, and if you have the means, consider becoming Lifetime Members of the ASPS. We are making exciting new inroads. Yet, much remains to be done. Lend your support to the ASPS and ensure the Association's continuous vigor in its unique mission.

ELECTIONS: CANDIDATES' BIOGRAPHIES

Office of the Vice-President

Professor Jo-Ann Gross



Jo-Ann Gross is Professor of Middle Eastern and Central Eurasian History at The College of New Jersey. She received her Ph.D. in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures from New York University in 1982. She teaches a wide range of courses on the Middle East and Central Asia, including topics on medieval and post-Mongol Iran and Central Eurasia, Islamic history, Sufism, and politics and culture in modern Central Eurasia. Her research interests focus on early modern and modern Iran and Central Asia, with an emphasis on narrative traditions and the social history of Sufism and shrines. She has published widely on aspects of Sufism in Central Asia and the role of the Naqshbandi Sufi order. Her publications include *The Letters of Khwaja 'Ubayd Allah Ahrar and his Associates*, co-authored with Asom Urunbaev (Brill, 2002), *Musul'manskaya Tsentral'naya Aziya: Religioznost' i Obschestvo - Izbrannye Stat'i (Islamic Central Asia: Religiosity and Society - Collected Works)*, Russian translation and critical introduction by Lola Dodkhoudoeva (Dushanbe, 2004), and her edited book, *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change* (Duke UP, 1992). Recent publications include a guest-edited volume of the *Journal of Persianate Studies* entitled, "The Pamir: Shrine Traditions, Human Ecology and Identity." She is currently completing a monograph entitled *Muslim Shrines and Spiritual Culture in the Perso-Islamic*

World, under contract with IB Tauris, International Library of Iranian Studies and is co-editing a volume with Devin DeWeese entitled, *Sufism and Islam in Central Asia*. She served as Executive Secretary for the Society for Iranian Studies (now ISIS) from 1987-90, the Board of Directors for the Association for Central Asia Studies from 1995-2005, the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* from 1996-2000, and the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Persianate Studies* from 2001 to the present. She served on the Executive Board as Secretary-Treasurer for the Association for the Study of Persianate Studies (ASPS) from 1999-2002 and has served on the Board of Directors of ASPS from 2003 to the present. She founded the Central Eurasian Research Fund (CERF), which she has directed since 2005 and is administered through ASPS. CERF grants support original research leading to the publication of a book or monograph concerning Persianate culture by individual scholars from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Northwest China.

Professor Sunil Sharma



Sunil Sharma is Associate Professor of Persianate and Comparative Literature at Boston University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He was the Bibliographer for Persian at Harvard University's Widener Library and has held fellowships at the

Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture at Harvard, and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study (New Delhi). He is the author of two monographs: *Persian Poetry at the Indian Frontier: Mas'ūd Sa'd Salmān of Lahore* (2000), and *Amir Khusraw: The Poet of Sultans and Sufis* (2005); two collaborative books: *Atiya's Journeys: A Muslim Woman from Colonial Bombay to Edwardian Britain* (2010; with Siobhan Lambert-Hurley), and *In the Bazaar of Love: The Selected Poetry with Paul Losensky*; and co-editor of two volume of essays: *Necklace of the Pleiades: Studies in Persian Literature Presented to Heshmat Mo'ayyad on his 80th Birthday* (2007; with Franklin Lewis), and *On the Wonders of Land and Sea: Persianate Travel Writing* (2013; with Roberta Micallef). He has co-curated several exhibitions on illustrated manuscripts and rare books at Harvard University's Sackler Museum and Houghton Library. His research interests are in the areas of Persianate literary and visual cultures and travel writing.

Treasurer

Professor Paul Losensky



Paul Losensky received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies and the Department of Comparative Literature at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he teaches Persian language and literature and translation studies. His research focuses on Persian literary historiography, biographical writing, literary translation, and the relations between poetry and the other arts. He is especially interested in the Fresh Style poetry of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a literary movement that

extended across the expanse of the Persianate world, from India and Central Asia across Persia and even into the Ottoman empire. His publications include *Welcoming Fighāni: Imitation and Poetic Individuality in the Safavid-Mughal Ghazal* (1998), *Farid ad-Din 'Attār's Memorial of God's Friends: Lives and Sayings of Sufis* (2009), numerous articles on Persian poetry and literary history, and frequent contributions to *Encyclopedia of Islam* and *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. He has recently published *In the Bazaar of Love: Selected Poems of Amir Khusrau* with Penguin Press India with Sunil Sharma and is currently working on a book on the Persian master poet of the seventeenth century, Sā'eb Tabrizi.

Board of Directors

Professor Sussan Babaie



Sussan Babaie has taught widely in the United States and Europe including at Smith College, University of Michigan, and as the Allianz Visiting Professor at the Institute for Art History of the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. In fall 2013, she will take up a newly established post in Asian Art history at The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, where she will offer courses on Persianate arts. She received her BA in Graphic Design from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Tehran University, her Master's degree in Italian Renaissance from the American University in Washington, DC, and her Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University where she focused on the arts of Islam. She has received a residential scholarship at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles (2008-09),

a Fulbright research grant for Egypt and Syria (2009-10), and a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship (2012-13) in support of her research and the completion of a new book on domestic architecture and cosmopolitanism in 17th-century Aleppo and Isfahan. Her publications include articles in such scholarly journals as *Muqarnas*, *Journal of Early Modern History* and *Getty Research Journal*, co-authored and edited books *Persian kingship and architecture: Strategies of power in Iran from the Achaemenids to the Pahlavis* (forthcoming 2013), *Slaves of the Shah: New Elites of Safavid Iran* (2004), and *Persian Drawings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art* (1989). Her *Isfahan and its Palaces: Statecraft, Shi'ism and the Architecture of Conviviality in Early Modern Iran* (University of Edinburgh Press, 2008) won the 2009 Middle East Studies Association, Houshang Pourshariati Iranian Studies Book Award.

Dr. Ghazzal Dabiri



Ghazzal Dabiri holds a Ph.D. in Iranian Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures from UCLA. Her research centers on classical Persian literature with a particular interest in the development of Persian epics and other literary genres. She is currently Lecturer in Persian at Columbia University. She 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 second is entitled "The Shahnama: Between the Samanids and Ghaznavids" in *Iranian Studies*, the *Shahnama* Special Issue (February 2010). A third: *The Shu'ubiyah Movement and the ninth century Histories* has been accepted for publication in "Late Antique

Iran Studies Proceedings from 2009 Middle East Studies Association Conference" (JPS). Other publications include: "The Mother Tongue: An Introduction to the Persian Language." PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau and "Shiraz Nights." PBS Frontline: Tehran Bureau, August 10, 2009. She is currently working on a book project that is entitled "Prophets, Kings, and Heroes: Iranian Historiography and the Development of Persian Epics," which was the subject of her dissertation and which won Honorable Mention for Best Dissertation from the Foundation for Iranian Studies in 2007. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Research Grant for Egypt (2011-2012). She has served as Newsletter Editor and CERF Grant Reviewer since 2009 for the Association of the Study of Persianate Societies.

Professor Salma Farooqui



Salma Farooqui. A gold medalist from the University of Hyderabad in M.A. History and a UGC-JRF/SRF awardee, I completed the M.Phil and Ph.D. programs in History from the same university in 1992 and 1996 respectively. I then finished a post-doctoral fellowship awarded by the K.K.Birla Academy, Division of Historical Research, New Delhi. Before joining the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, I earlier worked with ICFAI University. My penchant for research led to several research publications which include seven books and research papers. My presentation of papers at many national and international seminars and conferences include one each at the University of Cambridge, in 2009, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA in 2010, New York University's off shore campus in Florence, Italy in 2011 and University of Hawaii in 2012.

I was also selected for the Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) Program on *Religious Pluralism and Public Presence 2010* hosted by the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2010.

Presently working as Honorary Director, H.K.Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies and as an Associate Professor of History at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, my responsibilities are of varied nature entailing both academic and administrative tasks. I have completed a major research project sanctioned by the University Grants Commission titled *The Growth of Hyderabad as an Urban Tourism Hub*. I am a member of the Editorial Board of Journal for Deccan Studies, an international level peer reviewed journal published from Hyderabad. In addition I handle printing and dispatch of Self Instructional material to students, coordination of Regional Centres in Jammu & Kashmir and University's Guest House.

In the capacity of being the Chair of the Host Committee, one of the most wonderful opportunities I was entrusted was to organize the Fifth Biennial Convention for the ASPS from 4th-8th January 2012 at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi



Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi is professor of history, Near and Middle Eastern civilizations, and historical studies at the University of Toronto. He is the past-president of the International Society for Iranian Studies and a former chair of the

Department of Historical Studies at the University of Toronto-Mississauga. Between 2002 and 2012 he served as the editor in chief of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, a Duke University Press journal. He is currently the editor in chief of *Iran Nameh* and the coeditor of the *Iranian Studies* book series with Homa Katouzian. Tavakoli's areas of specialization encompass Middle Eastern history, modernity, nationalism, gender studies, Orientalism, and Occidentalism. He is the author of two books, *Refashioning Iran: Orientalism, Occidentalism and Nationalist Historiography* (Palgrave, 2001) and *Tajaddud-i Bumi [Vernacular Modernity]* (Nashr-i Tarikh, 2003). He has authored numerous articles and is currently completing a book on clerico-engineering mode of governance in Iran. Tavakoli is the recipient of two Outstanding Teacher awards from Illinois State University (1996 and 2001); a Research Initiative Award (1992); and visiting fellowships at St. Antony's College, Oxford University (1998), the Center for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, 1992–93); and Harvard University (1991–92). He holds a BA in political science, an MA in history from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago.

Student Member of the Board of Directors

Pooriya Alimoradi



Pooriya Alimoradi is a student of the history and philosophy of religion at Concordia University. He has an M.A. in ancient Iranian history from

University of Tehran. He has also been working on ancient Iranian languages such as Avestan, Old Persian, Middle Persian, Parthian and Manichean since 2000. He is interested in Iranian history, languages and culture in the late antiquity, Religions of ancient Iran including Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism and Mazdakism as well as the study of Zoroastrianism in the early centuries of Islam in Iran. He is a recipient of the “Soudavar Memorial Foundation Travel Grant” (2012), “Houtan Scholarship” (2012), “Concordia University Merit Scholarship” (2011) and “Concordia University International Tuition Fee Remission Award” (2011). Additionally, he is a former editorial and webmaster of the Bulletin of Ancient Iranian History (BAIH), former editorial of the “Donyaye Nooshidaniha” and “Sakht o Taesis” advertising magazines and numerous students magazines. As of December 2011, Pooriya Alimoradi is the webmaster of persianatesocieties.org. He, alongside a team of programmers, was responsible for overhauling the old version of the ASPS website and re-designed it.

Nazanin Shahrokni



Nazanin Shahrokni is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of California at Berkeley. Her work offers a contextual analysis of gender segregation practices in post-revolutionary Iran and highlights their diverse — and sometimes paradoxical — implications. She was awarded one of six national 2012 Woodrow Wilson Women’s Studies Dissertation Fellowships and is one of the recipients of an AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship for the 2012-2013 academic year. Nazanin is currently one of the Middle East representative and a board member of the International Sociological Association, Research Committee for Women in Society (ISA-RC32). Prior to pursuing a doctoral degree, she worked as a journalist and a senior editor for Zanan, a major feminist monthly in Iran.

SIXTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

**Call for Papers:
The Sixth Biennial Convention
of
the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)
September 2-6, 2013
Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina**

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) calls for the participation of its members in its Sixth Biennial Convention, to take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, September 2-6, 2013. The Oriental Institute of Sarajevo (<http://www.ois.unsa.ba/>) and the Bosniac Institute (<http://www.bosnjackiinstitut.ba/home/sadrzaj/191>), located a short distance from the old town, will host and help organize our meeting. The **deadline for submission of abstracts is February 15, 2013**. Following tradition, the ASPS will cover accommodation, food and events during the meeting. We will likely have a limited number of fellowships available for participants from Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia and Georgia.

All humanities and social science disciplines related to Persianate Societies are welcome. We encourage pre-organized panels, but individual papers are also welcome. Submissions for pre-organized panels must include a panel abstract of no more than 300 words plus individual abstracts of no more than 300 words for each panelist. Panels must be limited to a minimum of three panelists and a maximum of four. Panels and individual abstracts must contain:

Name(s)
Affiliation
Discipline
Address E-mail address/fax no./phone no.
Title of paper and abstract with clearly stated thesis

For pre-organized panels, panel abstract with a clearly stated thesis plus individual abstracts.

Please send abstracts in Word document format to:

Prof. Rudi Matthee
matthee@udel.edu;

For more than six centuries, Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as the larger region of the Balkans, have boasted strong currents of Persianate culture that have remained unknown to most of us. As a part of the ancient Mediterranean, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkans are also rich in monuments related to Mithraic cults that bear testimony to the region's much older ties with the larger Iranian ecumene.

We look forward to an exciting sixth convention in Sarajevo. Past conventions of the ASPS have been held in Dushanbe/Tajikistan (2002); Yerevan/

Armenia (2004); Tbilisi/Georgia (2007); Lahore/Pakistan (2009), and finally, Hyderabad/India (2012). We invite you to peruse through notices of these, as well as their programs, through our web page at <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/index.php/convention/asps-biennial-convention-sarajevo-2013>

The ASPS Congresses have provided a rare and valued opportunity for scholars from West, Central and South Asia, Europe and North America to participate in an interdisciplinary dialogue. The interchange of ideas has also found its place in our publication, *Journal of Persianate Societies*, published by Brill Academic Publishers. We encourage you to take the opportunity to participate in this unique gathering.

PERSIANATE CULTURE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



Photo Credit: Ahmed Zildzic

With the inclusion of medieval Bosnian state into the Ottoman Empire, the eastern and central regions of the Balkans at large and especially Bosnia as its central land were fully integrated into Ottoman and Islamic civilizational fold. Before long, the Bosnian Muslims assimilated all the traditions of the Ottoman Islamic civilization and contributed actively to its further enrichment and elaboration. During more than four centuries of the Ottoman rule in the Balkans, several hundred local Bosnian, Slavic speaking authors participated actively in the scholarly and literary life of the Empire, creating a vast literary heritage which was composed in four languages and as such surely unique in the Muslim world: Ottoman Turkish, Arabic, Persian and Bosnian. As is well known, the mastery of Persian language and literature was an integral and indispensable part of Ottoman culture and learned acquaintance with it was regarded as the ultimate proof of scholarly ability and literary sophistication, the necessary prerequisite for a successful career.

For this reasons, masterpieces of classical Persian literature were read, copied, studied, and commented upon by Bosnian Muslim authors throughout many centuries. Works of Hafez, Jami,

Attar, Mawlana and others were indispensable part of one's personal library and are today preserved in the manuscript collection at the manuscript holding institutions of Bosnia such as the Gazi Husrev-beg library, the Bosniac Institute in Sarajevo, the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo, Archive of the city of Sarajevo, National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina and others. In time, local authors after having mastered the language and having acquainted themselves with the literary canons of classical Persian literature began composing their own works in Persian in poetry (*ghazal*, *qasida*, *mathnami*, *qit'a*) and prose. The only complete prose work by a Bosnian author is the *Bulbulistan* by Shaykh Fawzi Mostari written in 1152/1739. In addition to this work, there are dozens of other Bosnian Muslim authors, in most cases associated with different Sufi orders, who wrote in Persian and whose works are still in manuscript form. By virtue of its Persian literary heritage, Bosnia could be regarded as the westernmost point of an arch stretching from the eastern corners of Central Asia alongside which Persian language and literature were honored, read and written.

Ahmed Zildzic

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Lifetime Members

It is with great pleasure that we present our newest lifetime members and warmly thank them for their generous support of the ASPS

Dariush Borbor



Architect ■ Urban Planner ■ Iranist
<http://www.dariushborbor.com/>

Abolala Soudavar



Independent Scholar
http://www.soudavar.com/index_files/Page315.htm

Fatema Soudavar



photo: © Gitty Darugar

Independent Researcher and Writer
Fellow Trustee of the Soudavar Memorial
Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland

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

Artistic Director



It is with great pleasure that we announce that the world-renowned concert pianist, music scholar and educator, **Ariana Barkeshli**, has accepted our invitation to join the ranks of the ASPS as the “Artistic Adviser and Director” of the Association. In this capacity, Professor Barkeshli will be in charge of directing the cultural dimensions of the Association’s activities at its future conferences, including that of Sarajevo in 2013, as well as other cultural events organized by the Association. Ariana Barkeshli’s appointment does not carry any voting privileges, since her position does not entail membership on the Board of Directors.

An international concert pianist, Ariana Barkeshli, is a former Assistant Professor of Music at the Arts University in Tehran, and currently a faculty member at Dutchess Community College Music School in Poughkeepsie, New York. Ariana attended the Tehran Music Conservatory and later continued her musical education in France and the United States. She worked under the direction of the renowned international pianists **Ivonne Loriod**, **Germaine Mounier**, and **Vladimir Feltsman**. She studied at the conservatories of Amiens and Paris (Foreign Division), École Normale de Musique de Paris and the State University of New York, wherefrom she earned two master degrees in performance and piano pedagogy.

A recipient of several music awards in France, Barkeshli has performed in many international fora in the US, Europe and Iran. Dubbed “a keyboard Scheherazade” by music critics, in addition to her passion for J.S. Bach and other classical composers, Ariana has also been performing pieces from contemporary Iranian composers. Amongst her long repertoire of other performances is her recent recital at the Centennial celebration of the renovation of Christal Hall Rugaska Slatina in Slovenia, 1912-2012. We are delighted to have Ariana Barkeshli join us as Artistic Director.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICES

Tajikistan

Dushanbe



On August 16, 2012 Dr. Mamadsho Ilolov, President of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and ASPS Central Asia Regional Director, convened a gathering of scholars and administrators at the Academy of Sciences to celebrate the official registration of ASPS in Tajikistan and to discuss its past role and future activities. Prof. Jo-Ann Gross, member of the ASPS Board of Directors and Director of the Central Eurasian Research Fund (CERF), was in attendance to mark the occasion and enthusiastically endorse the registration. Among the topics of discussion was the ASPS Biennial Convention in 2014; Dr. Ilolov expressed a strong interest in hosting the convention in Dushanbe. The very first ASPS Biennial Convention was held in Dushanbe in 2002. With the official registration now achieved, the Dushanbe office plans to publish an annual ASPS Tajikistan journal, entitled *Sipebr*.

Among the notable activities of scholars are two publications that were supported by CERF grants. Javlon Najmuddinova published a Tajik transliteration of the Persian historical source, *Adab ul-Harb va-Shuja'* ["Rules of Warfare and Courage"] (230 pages with 41 illustrations). This work was compiled in India by Sharif Muhammad

Mansur Sa'id Abdulfaraj with the title of Mubarak Shah, known by the name of Fahri Mudabbir. Devoted to the Delhi sultan Abdumuzaffar Iltitish (r. 607-633/1210-1236), it is notable as a unique medieval source on warfare.

The second publication by Lola Dodkhudoeva is *Materialy po Sotsial'no Politicheskoi Istorii Central'noi Azii. VIII-nach. XVI v.* ["Materials on the Socio-Political History of Central Asia. VIII-XV Century"] (780 pages, in Russian). Lola Dodkhudoeva, Chief of Department of Manuscripts of the Institute of Linguistics, Literature, Oriental Studies and Written Heritage of the Academy of Sciences, makes available Russian translations of seminal essays published in various scholarly institutions in CIS which are currently inaccessible in Tajikistan, and also includes a series of new materials and articles concerning religion, culture and state, the evolution of Islamic legal thought in Central Asia, political legitimacy, and problems of social philosophy.

Khorog

The Khorog office continues to be active in promoting scholarship in Badakhshan. With the support of a CERF grant, the Khorog office sponsored the publication of *Muntakhabi Pandu Hikmatboi Badakhshon* ["Collection of Advice and Wisdom of Badakhshan"], by Nazardod Jonboboev (Merosi Ajam, Khorog, 2012). Under the direction of Umed Mamadsheerzodshoev and Sabohat Donayorova, ASPS Khorog office plans to publish its third *Majmu'ai Makolot* (Collection of Articles) in early 2013.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Sarajevo

ASPS has opened up its newest branch in Sarajevo,



Bosnia-Herzegovina and it is with great pleasure that we introduce its **inaugural director, Dr. Ahmed Zildzic**, who was born in the city of Zenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1977. After finishing his primary and secondary education in his hometown,

he transferred to Sarajevo where he joined at the Department for Oriental Studies (current name is Department for Oriental Philology) in 1997 and studied Arabic and Persian language and literature for four years, earning his BA degree from that institution in 2002. After graduation, he started working at the Oriental Institute of the University of Sarajevo as associate research fellow and entered the MA program at the University of Sarajevo where he worked on the Persian divan by the Ottoman grand vizier Mahmud Pasha Adni. In 2007, he transferred to the US for doctoral study at the University of California in Berkeley, where he worked under his advisor prof. Hamid Algar and has finished his dissertation titled: *Friend and foe: The early Ottoman reception of Ibn 'Arabi*. He will graduate in Fall 2012. As of 2010, He is working as senior research fellow at the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo.

celebrated historian and writer, William Dalrymple, on 11th September 2012 at 11 a.m. at the university campus. Dr. Salma Farooqui has been appointed as the Honorary Director of the Centre.

The prestigious Centre has been named after the renowned Indian historian, scholar, and author H.K. Sherwani whose contributions to the study of the various aspects of the Deccan are perhaps unrivalled.

Located at Hyderabad almost in the heart of the Deccan Plateau, the H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies assumes special significance as it aims to develop as a research/resource centre which would facilitate research by providing facilities to scholars undertaking research on the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The Centre will foster greater professionalism and scientific temper among academicians, archivists, policy makers and educated laymen interested in the history and cultural heritage of the region by adopting a multi-focussed, interdisciplinary approach essential in the present day.

India

Hyderabad

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University has recently established the Centre for Deccan Studies at its University Headquarters, Hyderabad. Prof. Mohammad Miyan, Vice Chancellor, MANUU is pleased to announce the operationalization of the Centre with the Inaugural Lecture by the



NEWS FROM THE JOURNAL EDITOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contents of JPS 5.1 (2012)

Saïd Amir Arjomand, The Conception of Revolution in Persianate Political Thought

Ismail K. Poonawala, An Early Doctrinal Controversy in the Iranian School of Ismaili Thought and Its Implications

Helen Giunashvili & Tamar Abuladze, Persian Historical Documents of Georgia (Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries): Aspects of Linguistics Analysis

Irene Schneider, The Concept of Honor and its Reflection in the Iranian Penal Code

Review Essay

R.D. McChesney, Recent Work on the History of Afghanistan

<http://www.persianatesocieties.org/index.php/journal/current-issue>

ASPS Board and Business Meetings and the Reception

Please put the following dates in your calendar!

Board of Director's Meeting (open only to the Board Members):

Time: Saturday Nov. 17th 2:00-3:00 pm

Venue: Director's Row G, Plaza 1

Business Meeting (open to all-Members)

Time: Saturday Nov. 17th 3:00-4:00 pm

Venue: Sheraton Denver, Governor's Square 9, Plaza-C

Please make a point of coming to the Business Meeting of your Association with queries and suggestions, and to be further informed of the activities of ASPS, or simply to say hello!

Reception: Come celebrate with us!

Time: Sunday Nov. 18th 8:30-10:30

Venue: Sheraton Denver, Governors Square 11

Member News and Publications

A small research team under the direction of **Dr. Dariush Borbor** will visited Semirom and its environs on the 11th of September, in order to study the Burbur subtribe summer quarter situation in the Qashqai tribal confederation.

Prof. Jo-Ann Gross (The College of New Jersey), will deliver the Yuri Bregel Annual Lecture at the Indiana University in November, entitled "Mir Hasan Khamosh: Narrative Traditions and the

Construction of Sacred Genealogy in Badakhshan.”

Prof. Jo-Ann Gross, member of the ASPS Board of Directors and CERF Director, traveled to Tajikistan in July-August 2012, where she celebrated the official registration of ASPS in Tajikistan at the Academy of Sciences in Dushanbe on August 16th. She also was given a tour of the newly opened National Library and the soon to be opened National Museum in Dushanbe.

Prof. Gross also traveled to Khujand, where she met with Dr. Timur Karimov of Khujand State University to explore the possibility of opening an ASPS branch there. Due to the unfortunate turmoil in Badakhshan, she was unable to travel to the ASPS Khorog office. However, co-director Saboyat Donayorova was able to come to Dushanbe, where they convened a meeting to discuss present and future ASPS activities in Badakhshan.

Professor Rajeev Kinra published “This Noble Science: Indo-Persian Comparative Philology, c. 1000-1800 CE,” in *South Asian Texts in History: Critical Engagements with Sheldon Pollock*, edited by Yigal Bronner, Lawrence McCrea, and Whitney Cox (Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, 2011), pp. 359-85.

and

“Make it Fresh: Time, Tradition, and Indo-Persian Literary Modernity,” in *Time, History, and the Religious Imaginary in South Asia*, edited by Anne C. Murphy (New York: Routledge, 2011), pp. 12-39.

Prof. Rudi Matthee published “The Portuguese Presence in the Persian Gulf: An Overview.” In

Jeffrey R. Macris and Saul Kelly, eds., *Imperial Crossroad: The Great Powers and the Persian Gulf* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2012), pp. 1-12, 185-86.

He wrote the “Introduction,” to the new edition of H. Chick, ed., *A Chronicle of the Carmelites in Persia* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2012), pp. VII-XV.

His latest book, *Persia in Crisis: Safavid Decline and the Fall of Isfahan* (London: IB Tauris, 2012) is the joined recipient of this year's British-Kuwaiti Friendship Prize (formerly known as the BRISMES Prize).

Conferences and Events

Call for Papers for the **International Conference of Iranian Studies “Power of Identity. The Persian World in Research”** to be held at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw, Poland, April 15-16, 2013.

Deadline for submission: **November 15, 2012.**

For further information please follow the link <http://www.orient.uw.edu.pl/web-iran/conferences>

Call for Papers for the **2013 MAMEIS Annual Conference “Frontiers and Peripheries in the Islamic World”**

The Midwest Association for Middle East and Islamic Studies (MAMEIS), in conjunction with the Department of History at Indiana State University, is pleased to issue a call for papers for the 2013 MAMEIS Annual Conference, to be held **Saturday April 6, 2013** in Terre Haute, Ind.

The conference will highlight outstanding current research by Middle East and Islamic Studies scholars throughout the Midwest, with a special emphasis on the theme of “Frontiers and Peripheries in the Islamic World.” Individual presentations will be allotted 50 minutes including question and answer periods.

Presenters should send a one-page abstract by email or post by December 1, 2012 to:

Dr. James M. Gustafson

President, MAMEIS

Department of History

Indiana State University

Terre Haute, IN 47809

James.Gustafson@indstate.edu

Russian Orientalism to Soviet Iranology: The Persian-speaking world and its history through Russian eyes

**St Antony's College, University of Oxford
November 30 – December 1, 2012**

Organized by St Antony's College, University of Oxford and supported by the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute and the Iran Heritage Foundation and convened by Dr Stephanie Cronin and Professor Edmund Herzig



The Soviet Union possessed a long tradition of Iranian Studies, a tradition which it inherited from imperial Russia but transformed to suit its sense of its own historical mission. This tradition had its origins within the framework of Russian Orientalism as this

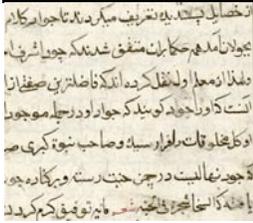
developed during the nineteenth century age of imperial expansion. After 1921, under the auspices of the new Soviet regime, Iranology grew into an extensive and well-organized field, producing large quantities of books and articles every year. Despite the reputation acquired by individual Russian scholars of Iran such as Vladimir Minorsky, this tradition of scholarship remains largely unknown in the West. Little has been translated and Russian is not conventionally seen as a language necessary for scholars of Iran.

This workshop, taking place on November 30, 2012, proposes a re-examination of this tradition, taking, as its disciplinary focus, Russian/Soviet historical research on Iran and the Persian-speaking world. It has three objectives. It seeks to acquaint a wider audience in western Europe and the US with the work of Russian/Soviet scholars of the history of Iran and the Persian-speaking world; to initiate a discussion of possible new directions in historical research on this region opened up by the wider availability of Russian source materials, and to begin to integrate an analysis of Russian/Soviet Iranian Studies into the critique of Russian Orientalism, derived from Edward Said, which has emerged since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Enquiries to Dr Stephanie Cronin

Stephanie.cronin@orinst.ox.ac.uk

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 **March 1, 2013**

ASPS has a new official address:

Journal of Persianate Studies
Department of Sociology, State University of New York
Stony Brook, New York 11794-4356
Tel: (631) 632-7746; Fax: (631) 632-8203
www.brill.nl/jps

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. 5.1 (2012) of *Journal of Persianate Studies*, please let us know.

One last final reminder to kindly email your votes for the candidates by **5:00 pm, Nov. 16th, 2012 to:**

Prof. Said Amir Arjomand
said.arjomand@stonybrook.edu.