

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
PERSIANATE SOCIETIES



انجمن مطالعات جوامع فارسی زبان

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues and friends,

This issue comes at perhaps the most difficult time since our organization's founding: in January, Iran saw the severest crackdown against protestors in the history of the Islamic Republic. Many families suffered the loss of their loved ones in the most horrific manner. Our thoughts are with them. Barely six weeks later, and amid the ongoing crackdown, the world awoke to an open war between the United States and Israel on the one hand and Iran on the other, which already has cost thousands of lives across the region and whose endpoint remains uncertain. Many of our members have been affected by the war, in Iran, in Israel, the Gulf states, and Iran's immediate neighbors. Our thoughts go out to all those caught up in the violence, and we can only hope for, and each do our best to contribute to, a durable resolution. As scholars, we stand together when political leaders mobilize cultures and communities against one another.

In internal news, the ASPS has seen several changes in recent months. Following the winter elections, the board has undergone a change of the guard. We thank our dear colleagues Evrim Binbas, Karolina Rakowiecka-Asgari and Daniel Beben whose three-year terms came to an end in late 2025. All three had served ASPS with immeasurable dedication: Evrim Binbaş as vice president, after a previous three-year term as board member-at-large, Karolina Rakowiecka-Asgari as board member-at-large, lately serving also as liaison with the ASPS regional offices, and Daniel Beben as the organizer and convenor of the ASPS virtual events series. Thank you, Evrim, Karolina, and Daniel, for your many energetic and thoughtful contributions, your good humor, and collegiality.

In turn, several new board members have joined us since January 2026: Florian Schwarz, heading the ASPS office in Austria, now also serves as

ASPS vice president; Mahdieh Tavakol from Hamburg has been elected new board member-at-large, and Alice Lyzcia from London has joined us as graduate student member. Speaking for the board, we are excited to be working with our new colleagues!

It gives me, further, great pleasure to announce that former board member Alyssa Gabbay has stepped up to assume the position of treasurer. Alyssa has been part of the ASPS for many years and knows the organization like the back of her hand. The board is absolutely delighted that Alyssa has agreed to take on this very important responsibility. In that context, I would like to thank Rob Haug and Mikiya Koyagi who assumed treasurer responsibilities through most of 2025, with Rob Haug filling in especially at the busy time around the ASPS biennial conference.

I am equally delighted to announce that two new regional representatives have joined the board in recent weeks: Professor Shodimuhammad Sufizoda of the Gandhi Library in Dushanbe has generously agreed to serve as ASPS coordinator in Tajikistan. Professor Sufizoda, together with his colleague Professor Mirvaisov, will also be hosting us at the 2027 biennial conference to be held in Dushanbe. Further, Professor Fatima Fayyaz of LUMS in Lahore has assumed the position of regional director in Pakistan. We are honored and delighted at the prospect of seeing ASPS represented in these two societies by such distinguished colleagues, and at forming ever closer ties, through them, with the local academic communities in Persianate Studies. Both colleagues are introduced in more detail below on pages 6-7.

The date for our next biennial conference has been set for 9-12 August 2027, to be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and the Call for Papers can be found below on page 4. Abstracts can already be submitted via the [ASPS website](http://www.persianatesocieties.org).

The Central Eurasian Research Fund (CERF), led by board member Jo-Ann Gross, has once again selected grantees. More details can be found on pages 5-6.

In publication news, following many months of negotiations with publishers, the ASPS signed a new contract with Brill, the publisher of our flagship journal, the *Journal of Persianate Studies*, at significantly improved publication conditions. We thank our counterpart at Brill, Abdurraouf Oueslati, for the collegial and professional conduct of these negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Monographs Series on Iran and the Caucasus (Brill, Leiden), led by the director of ASPS' Armenia regional office, Garnik Asatryan, continues to flourish with a number of new publications (see page 8).

Please look out for the 2026 ASPS graduate student conference, which will be held this autumn. Details will be announced via the ASPS website and listserv.

I hope by the time of our next newsletter in the autumn, the world will have returned to more peaceful and prosperous times. As ASPS members, all colleagues should feel encouraged to reach out to the board in time of need. If there are ways in which the ASPS or individual board members can be helpful to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In peace,
Mirjam Künkler
ASPS President

NEWS FROM THE JOURNAL



Planned Articles, *JPS* Vol. 19 (2026)

Ashkevāri, Muhammad Jafar and Seyed Ali Alavinia Abarquei, *Investigating the Possible Presence of the Fratarakā Dynasty in Ferdowsi's Shāhnāma*

Etemadi, Elham, *Sani' al-Molk's Voyage of Discovery in Europe*

Farshi, Golriz, *Conversion and Piety: Rashid al-Din's Conceptions of Charity*

Jafarian, Rasool, *Slavery in the Safavid Period, with New Information Based on Ādāb al-saniya by Mohammad Saleh Khātunābādi*

Khan, Timur, *Reflections on the Position of the Afghans in the Tārikhnāma-ye Herat*

Kostikyan, Kristine Petros, *An Armenian Merchant in the Socio-Economic System of Rural Society: The Persian Documents of the Matenadaran on Tax Collectors and Money Transfer*

Mansouri, Mohammad Amin, *Beyond Extremism: Rethinking Rajab Borsi's Intellectual Legacy*

Mokhtarian, Jason, *The Book of Esther in Judeo-Persian (MS. Bibliothèque nationale de France Hébreu 127)*

Rezania, Kianoosh, *Madinat al-salām: The Abbasid Capital in Sasanian Garb*

Zandi, Mohammad and Nasser Maleki, *Orientalism for Freedom: An Analysis of Occidental Misunderstanding in The Adventures of Haji Baba of Ispahan*

ASPS ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASPS Eleventh Biennial Conference 9-12 August 2027, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

We are pleased to announce that the Eleventh ASPS Biennial Conference is to take place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 9-12 August 2027. Our meeting will be hosted by the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and held at the Tajik National Library. The National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, established in 1951, is the highest scientific body in the country, comprising twenty research institutes spread out across the country.

The Deadline for [Submission of Abstracts](#) is 30 September 2026.

A current ASPS membership for 2026 is required to submit an abstract. To become a new member or renew your ASPS membership, please proceed to the ASPS [membership page](#). Submissions from non-members will *not* be considered. Further, to register and participate in the conference, attendees must be 2027 members.

A limited number of travel fellowships will be available for participants from Afghanistan and Central Asia, and for graduate students from the US. Further details regarding travel fellowships will be announced in due course.

Submissions are welcome in all humanities and social science disciplines related to Persianate Societies. Pre-organized panels are strongly encouraged. Submissions for pre-organized panels must include a panel abstract of no more than 300 words plus individual paper abstracts of no more than 300 words for each panelist. Panels are limited to a minimum of three panelists and a maximum of four.

Submissions for both pre-organized panels and individual papers can be made [here](#).

We are especially pleased to convene the Eleventh Biennial Conference in Dushanbe, marking a meaningful return to the site of ASPS's first conference in 2002, on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Dushanbe is a vibrant and welcoming city, known for its broad tree-lined avenues, cultural institutions, and mix of Soviet-era public buildings and contemporary monumental architecture, while Tajikistan is deeply rooted in the Persianate world, with a rich cultural and historical legacy reflected in sites such as Panjakent and Istaravshan, and in its enduring association with the classical Persian literary tradition, including figures such as Rudaki. At the same time, the country is home to diverse Eastern Iranian cultural traditions, particularly in the Pamir region, whose languages and lifestyles preserve distinctive and historically significant expressions of the broader Iranian world. This layered heritage continues to inform the region's intellectual and cultural life today. We look forward to welcoming participants to Dushanbe for what promises to be a memorable and exciting meeting.

Past conferences of ASPS have been held in Dushanbe/Tajikistan (2002); Yerevan/Armenia (2004); Tbilisi/Georgia (2007), Lahore/ Pakistan (2009), Hyderabad/India (2012); Sarajevo/Bosnia and Herzegovina (2013); Istanbul (2015), Tbilisi/Georgia (2018), Yerevan/Armenia (2023), and Tashkent/Uzbekistan (2025). We invite you to review our [past programs](#).

The ASPS conferences have provided a rare and valued opportunity for scholars from across Asia, Europe and North America to participate in an interdisciplinary dialogue. The interchange of ideas has also found its place in our publication, the *Journal of Persianate Societies*, published by Brill Academic Publishers. We encourage scholars from all backgrounds to take the opportunity to participate in what promises to be another unique gathering.

For questions, please contact the conference chair at info@persianatesocieties.org.

ASPS VIRTUAL EVENT SERIES

ASPS Virtual Event Series XV

Actors/Performers, Audience, and Narrative Strategies in *Naqqālī*: New Approaches



The Japan Office of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies and the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo, co-hosted ASPS Virtual Event Series XV: “Actors/Performers, Audience, and Narrative Strategies in *Naqqālī*: New Approaches,” an online workshop on *naqqālī* that gathered three papers by young *naqqālī* scholars across the globe. Held on November 27, 2025, the workshop explored the vast, almost uncharted terrain of *naqqālī*, Persian professional storytelling in terms of performance, audience, and narrative. It also featured a *Shāhnāma-kl'āni* performance by Mohammadali Mirzaee Jadideslam, a *naqqāl*.

CERF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTRAL EURASIA RESEARCH FUND (CERF)

Call for Applications Deadline January 15, 2027

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, and Uzbekistan. Grants do not exceed US \$1500 and provide funding for the following: publication costs for a book or monograph, technical equipment necessary for specific research projects, such as computers, printers, scanners, voice recorders, or digital cameras; travel expenses for archival research that will directly result in an original book or monograph. The deadline for receipt of electronic submissions is January 15th of each year. Awards are announced on March 1st. The award period is for one year.

CERF does not support the publication of periodical articles. The publication of previously published works, including translations from English, will be considered only in exceptional circumstances when the applicant can demonstrate a critical need for such a work. Applications for projects based on original archival or field research and those leading to the publication of previously unpublished manuscripts, lithographs, documentary sources or material culture are strongly encouraged.

Eligibility

A minimum degree equivalent to a B.A. Grantees may only reapply for a CERF Grant after five years from the receipt of a previous CERF award, and no more than two awards may be granted.

Selection

Awards are made once a year. The CERF Evaluation Committee reviews applications. Every effort is made to provide regional balance in the distribution of grants based on:

- Importance of the topic and its potential impact on the study of Persianate societies
- Academic merit of the proposed project
- Demonstrated career commitment to the field
- Feasibility of the project
- Adequate academic and professional experience of the candidate
- Clarity of the grant proposal

Application

CERF candidates must submit an electronic application in MS Word format by January 15th to the Director of the CERF program, Dr. Jo-Ann Gross, at gross@tcnj.edu with the following required information:

A. Background Information - Curriculum Vitae that includes the following:

- Name, home address, email address and citizenship
- Professional affiliation (institutional name and address)
- Research field or discipline
- Educational degrees and the highest degree obtained
- Professional experience
- Previous publications

B. Research Proposal

- Title of research project
- Description of project (1-2 typewritten pages). The description should include:
 - Theme
 - Purpose
 - Methodology
 - Outline of chapters with brief description
 - Potential impact and importance of the book
 - Language of publication

C. Budget (including detailed account of specific expenses)

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

Award and Final Report

Grant recipients must submit a written report and two copies of any publication resulting from the award within two months of the award completion period. The report must include the following: name of project and objectives; extent to which the objectives were met; impact of project; receipts of all expenses. Final reports, including receipts of all expenses, must be remitted at the end of the project period in order

for the CERF to meet its own internal accounting requirements that ensure the CERF's continued operation.

2026 CERF Awards

The CERF Committee is pleased to announce 2026 awards:

Mr. Bekhzod Djafarov, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, \$400 to purchase a computer for the book project, *Ethical and Semantic Analysis of Music Terminology in 'Abd al-Qādir Marāghī's Maqāsīd al-Aḥḥān*

Dr. Zilola Khalilova, Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, \$1500 to support the research and publication of *The Politics of Islamic Knowledge in Soviet Uzbekistan*
Dr. Nargis Nurulla, Silk Road International University, Samarkand, Uzbekistan, \$1500 to support the publication of *A History of a Neighborhood in Samarkand*

2026 CERF Committee Members:

Jo-Ann Gross (CERF Director and Founder)
 Gershon Lewental
 Kazuo Morimoto
 Karolina Rakowieska-Asgari

NEWS FROM THE OFFICES

New Regional Director of Pakistan: Fatima Fayyaz

Dr. Fatima Fayyaz is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Creative Arts at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Lahore, Pakistan. Her teaching portfolio includes courses on Persian epic and mystical literature, with particular focus on Firdausī's *Shāhnāmah* and Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī's *Maṣnavī* and *Dīvān*. She also teaches exile literature produced

by Afghan and Iranian diasporic writers over the past two decades.

Her primary field of research is Persian mystical and epic literature across Iran and the broader Persianate world, including Central Asia, Afghanistan, and South Asia. She received her doctorate in Persian Literature from the University of Tehran, where her research focused on the hagiographical-mystical literature of Central Asia. Her dissertation examined the cross-cultural connections between Central Asian and Indian mystics during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, as reflected in Persian hagiographical texts produced by Central Asian Sufi orders of that period.

Dr. Fayyaz has also pursued extensive research on Persian epics, especially Firdausi's *Shāhnāme* and its profound influence on a range of nineteenth-century South Asian literary genres, including the Urdu *ghazal*, *dāstān*, and *marṣīyah*. Her study of the *Shāhnāme*'s influence on Urdu *marṣīyah* led her to a deeper engagement with *'āshūrā* poetry, predominantly composed in the form of *marṣīyah*, in both Urdu and Persian.

As part of her current postdoctoral research fellowship at the Mittal Institute, Harvard University, Dr. Fayyaz is undertaking a comparative study of *'āshūrā* poetry in Urdu and Persian, tracing its development from the sixteenth century onward in South Asia and Iran. This project seeks to offer fresh insights into this rich literary tradition, particularly during the late Safavid and Mughal periods, when cultural and literary exchange between South Asia and Iran was especially vibrant.

ASPS Coordinator in Tajikistan: Shodimukhammad Sufizoda

Professor Shodimukhammad Sufizoda is a Tajik scholar of Persian literature and currently serves as Director of the Central Scientific Library named after Indira Gandhi at the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan in Dushanbe. His academic formation combines literary

scholarship, textology, and library-based research. His academic background includes two advanced research degrees: Candidate of Sciences in Persian Literature and Doctor of Sciences. He earned the degree of Candidate of Sciences at the Institute for Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow, where he defended a dissertation entitled *Saqi-nameh in the Poetical System of Persian Literature*. Later, he defended his Doctor of Sciences dissertation on the genesis, evolution, and transformation of wine motifs in Persian literature. Over the course of his career, he has held several academic and research positions related to Persian literary studies, including appointments at the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.

His principal area of scholarly interest is the history of Persian poetry in its broad transregional development. He is particularly interested in the historical poetics of Persian literature, the evolution of poetic genres and motifs, and the ways in which Persian literary tradition developed across different cultural and geographical settings. A major focus of his research has been the study of Persianate literary production beyond Iran proper, especially Persian literature in India.

Another important field of his work is Sufi poetry and the metaphoric language of mystical literature. In this area, he is interested in the poetics of metaphor, allegory, and spiritual imagery, as well as in the relationship between literary form and metaphysical meaning. He has also worked on themes related to classical rhetoric, textology, genre history, and the interpretation of metaphoric motifs in Persian poetry.

Alongside his work on classical Persian literature, he is increasingly engaged with modern schools of literary criticism and theory. His professional interests include Russian Formalism, structuralism, hermeneutics, comparative poetics, and other modern literary-critical approaches that make it possible to reread classical Persian texts in a broader theoretical framework. He is especially interested in creating productive dialogue between the classical Persian rhetorical tradition and modern literary theory.

More generally, his research seeks to contribute to the study of Persianate literary heritage in Tajikistan and to strengthen scholarly connections between Tajik, Iranian, and international academic communities. He regards Persianate Studies as a vital field for understanding not only literary history, but also the shared intellectual and cultural traditions of a vast interconnected world. He therefore participates in initiatives that help introduce current research in Tajikistan to a wider scholarly audience.

News of the ASPS Armenia

1. New publications in the Iran and the Caucasus Monographs Series, Brill, Leiden.

- Vol. 4. Benjamin Rassbach, *Landscapes of Resistance: Narratives around Sacred Places in Sinjar (Iraq) and the Islamic State's Genocide against Yazidis*, 2024.
- Vol. 5. Mikhail Pelevin, *Love, Honour and God – Pashto Writings of Early Modern Times*, 2025.
- Vol. 6 Przemyslaw Adamczewski, Open Access: *Polish ethnopolitical myth and the Caucasus – Looking at the past*. 2026.
- Vol. 7 (Eds. G. Asatrain et al.), *Scytho-Alano-Ossetica from Scythian Saddle to Ossetic Word*, 2026.

Iran and the Caucasus Monographs is a double-blind peer-reviewed book series that covers recent findings in Irano-Indian, Caucasian, Near-Eastern, Armenian, and Turkic studies. The Series invites monographs presenting original research, revised high-quality theses, commissioned edited volumes, festschrifts, opera minora of prominent scholars, and scholarly translations with commentaries and appropriate apparatus. The predominant language of the volumes in the Series is English, but German and French submissions are welcome too.

If you are interested in submitting proposals for this series, please contact Abdurraouf

Ouelsati Abdurraouf.Oueslati@brill.com or Garnik Asatrian garnikasatrian@gmail.com.

Victoria Arakelova
ASPS Armenia

News of the ASPS Japan

Since submitting its report for the previous ASPS Newsletter, the Japan Office has co-organized two lectures and two workshops in collaboration with institutions in Japan:

Gilas Lecture by Shamim Homayun, “Legends of ‘Ali b. Abi ‘Talib and Sacred Geographies in Central Asia,” 19 October 2025.

Gilas Lecture by David Lelyveld, “A Reflection on Muslim Identities in South Asia,” 24 October 2025.

ASPS Virtual Event Series XV “Actors/Performers, Audience, and Narrative Strategies in *Naqqālī*: New Approaches,” 27 November 2025, with Mohammдали Mirzaee Jadideslam, Sara Mashayekh, Radman Rasooli Mehrabani, and Kumiko Yamamoto. See the detailed report on page 5.

Workshop “Genealogies in Motion: Recording, Visualizing, and Mobilizing Lineage across the Islamicate World,” 26–27 March 2026, 11 presenters in 3 panels.

These events were held either online or in hybrid mode, combining in-person and online attendance. The Japan Office will continue to co-organize events with relevant institutions in Japan with the aim of expanding its network of cooperation and making the ASPS better known to the audiences mainly from Japan. It also holds its events online or in hybrid mode when possible, so they can benefit the global community of Persianate scholars and beyond. The next event will be a hybrid Gilas Lecture on religious situations in Tajikistan, as follows:

Richard Foltz, “Religious Tensions in Tajikistan: Hanafi, Salafi, and Isma’ili Islam,” 11 May 2026, at 18:00–19:30 JST

For more details and registration, visit: <https://www.persianatesocieties.org/lecture-richard-foltz-religious-tensions-in-tajikistan-hanafi-salafi-and-ismaili-islam-11-may-university-of-tokyo/>

Kazuo Morimoto
ASPS Japan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Past Events

Second European Roundtable on Modern Persian Literature

Vienna, Austria | January 15–17, 2026

The **Second European Roundtable on Modern Persian Literature**, held from January 15 to 17, 2026, at the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, brought together an international group of scholars working on diverse aspects of Persian literary production and criticism. Convened by Laetitia Nanquette (UNSW), Robert Steele, and Florian Schwarz, the conference provided a dynamic forum for examining the historical, political, and aesthetic dimensions of modern Persian literature.

The event opened with a keynote lecture by Zuzanna Olszewska (University of Oxford), who explored the emergence of Persian-language Afghanistani poetry after 2021. Her talk highlighted poetry as a medium of witnessing and political reflection in the aftermath of the Taliban’s return to power, emphasizing its role in documenting trauma, exile, and shifting forms of collective memory.

Friday’s sessions began with a panel on **literary forms and genres**, focusing on the evolution of Persian fiction and the increasing use of colloquial language in contemporary writing. Speakers addressed broader processes of genre transformation, noting the tension between literature as a vehicle for political expression and as a space for aesthetic innovation and readerly engagement.

The second panel, on **literary publishing institutions**, examined the structural conditions shaping literary production in Iran. Presentations addressed the history of the Iranian Writers’ Association (Kanoon-e Nevisandegan), debates surrounding copyright and translation, and the broader relationship between cultural policy and literary circulation. These discussions underscored how institutional frameworks continue to shape both access to literature and the formation of literary authority.

In the afternoon session on **revolutionary and war narratives**, participants explored literary representations of the 1979 Revolution and the Iran–Iraq War across different contexts. Papers examined how these events are narrated in both Persian and English-language literature, highlighting the diversity of perspectives—from state-aligned narratives to more critical or revisionist approaches—and the ongoing negotiation of memory and ideology.

The final session of the day, **“Writing Lives,”** turned to biography and literary historiography. Presentations on figures such as Shojaeddin Shafa and Bijan Mofid demonstrated how literary texts can serve as sources for reconstructing intellectual histories, while also raising methodological questions about the relationship between literary production and lived experience.

Saturday’s program opened with a panel on **gender and women’s writing**, which offered important insights into the role of female authors in modern Persian literature. Papers explored topics including the female gaze in contemporary poetry, the publication of women’s writing in early twentieth-century periodicals, and

representations of mother-daughter relationships in fiction. Together, these contributions highlighted the centrality of gender as both a thematic concern and an analytical lens.

The following session on **literary analysis and readings** brought a more explicitly theoretical focus, with papers engaging psychoanalytic and philosophical approaches to works by authors such as Sadeq Hedayat and Gholamhossein Sa'edi. These discussions emphasized themes of grief, subjectivity, and narrative form, demonstrating the continued relevance of canonical texts in contemporary scholarship.

The final panel, on **theatre and performance**, expanded the scope of the conference to include performative and digital forms. Presentations examined the interaction between Iranian theatrical traditions and other Asian performance forms, as well as the emergence of new forms of “performative literature” on social media. These papers highlighted the adaptability of Persian cultural practices in response to new media environments.

The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion that reflected on key themes emerging across the sessions, including the importance of situating Persian literature within broader global and comparative frameworks, and the need to engage more fully with changing media landscapes.

Overall, the roundtable showcased the breadth and vitality of current scholarship in Persian literary studies. By bringing together scholars from across Europe and beyond, it fostered meaningful dialogue and opened new avenues for collaboration. Supported by the Soudavar Memorial Foundation, the event reaffirmed the importance of sustained international exchange in advancing the field.

Donation of Private Papers to the University of Tehran

On Monday, 27 October 2025, a ceremony was held at the Central Library and Documentation

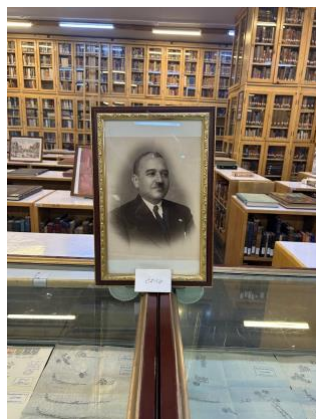
Center of the University of Tehran to mark the donation of a substantial collection of family financial documents by Ali Gheissari. The collection, comprising of approximately 12,000 pages and organized into 56 ledgers and folders, originates from the papers of Gheissari's grandfather, Hajj Mirza Ali Gheissarieh (1887–1947), and his father, Hajj Ahmad Gheissarieh (1857–1917). The bulk of the materials was digitized in two phases, during the summer of 2024 and early autumn of 2025. In addition to the original documents, the complete set of digital files has also been donated to the library for further classification and cataloguing.



Primarily commercial in nature, the archive includes a wide range of accounting books, many of them written in *sijaq*, as well as property records, share certificates, and extensive correspondence, instructions, and receipts spanning the early 20th century to around 1945. These materials were originally kept at Gheissarieh's main office in Tehran central bazaar before being transferred to his residence.

In his remarks Ali Gheissari provided some background on the collection, mentioning that

Hajj Mirza Ali Gheissarieh was a member of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce during the early Pahlavi period. The documents reflect a significant transition from mainly domestic commercial activity to broader economic engagement, including participation in joint-stock companies and industrial enterprises such as the Risbaf (carding) complex in Qom, where Gheissarieh was a principal founder and shareholder.



Gheissari emphasized the diversity and richness of the archive, observing that it illuminates not only economic transactions but also social relationships, patterns of property ownership, and regional networks. The collection also offers valuable insight into broader historical developments, particularly in relation to state economic policies, the evolving role of merchants in government-linked enterprises, and the impact of global events such as the Second World War.



In geographical terms, the documents include financial records and land deeds relating to Mahallat, Saveh, Varamin, Rey, and Tehran. Taken as a whole, the archive constitutes an important resource for the study of Iran's economic and social history, particularly during the late Qajar and early Pahlavi periods. The collection also demonstrates nuanced practices in textual economy and document organization, a

variety of calligraphic styles, and the range of papers that were used for different purposes.

The event brought together several distinguished scholars, including Mansoureh Ettehadieh, Seyyed Ali Al-e Davoud, Dariush Rahmanian, and Rasul Jafarian, professor of history and director of the central library. All speakers emphasized the importance of preserving private papers and archival materials while ensuring their accessibility for future research.

Source: Iran Book News Agency (IBNA)
Tuesday, 28 October 2025.

PUBLICATIONS

Alvandi, Roham; Afshin Marashi, and David Motadel, ed., *The Making of Iranian Modernity, Studies in Honor of Houchang E. Chehabi*, Harvard University Press, 2025.

Edmondson, John, ed.: *Memoirs of Eskandar Firouz (1926-2020): word leader in environmental conservation*, translated by Ebrahim Amel Mehrabi, Acanthophylluim Books, July 2026.

Hermann, Denis and Erdal Kaynar, ed., *Constitutionalism Unbound: Constitutional Dynamics and Political Transformation in the Ottoman and Qajar Lands in the Long Nineteenth Century*, Volume: 135, Brill, 2025.

Jaśkowski Stanisław, Adam and Anna Jolly, *Letters in silk pouches: Diplomatic Correspondence from the Safavid Court in the Swedish National Archives*, Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien, 2026.

Mathee, Rudi, "Jean-Baptiste de la Maze, missionnaire jésuite français (1624-1709), et sa description du Chirvan," *Studia Iranica* 53 (2024), pp. 183-235.

Rubanovich, Julia. *The Biblical Tale of Judah and Tamar in Fourteenth-Century Iran: A Judeo-Persian Versified Account by Shābīn with Scholarly Edition, Annotated Translation and Persian Transliteration.*

Veröffentlichungen zur Iranistik 94. Vienna: The Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2026.

Soudavar Farmanfarmaian, Fatema, *Scent, Colour and Glitter in the Ancient World: A Comparative History of Aromatics, Cosmetics and Adornment, from the Mediterranean to the China Seas*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2025.

Trentacoste, Davide, “Safavid Wars and Italian Archives: Shedding Light on Italian Knowledge of Ottoman-Safavid Conflicts,” *Iranian Studies*, November 2025.

_____, *Shahs and Grand Dukes: Medici-Safavid Diplomatic Relations in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, Routledge, 2026.

Editorial Notes

The **deadline** for the **next Newsletter** will be August **1, 2026**.

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 visit: <http://www.persianatesocieties.org/index.php/membership> to access the online form and link to PayPal (which accepts multiple currencies). ASPS' online form should reflect the address to where you would like your issues of *JPS* to be sent and your preferred e-mail address for ASPS communications. Please note, the PayPal site requires your billing address. If you have paid, but have not received the latest volume of the *Journal of Persianate Studies*, please let us know.

Please send your news and all items of professional interest to **Mehdi Faraji** at: newsletter@persianatesocieties.org