THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

SIS News

Volume 31

Number 2

Fall 2001

Est. 1967

Letter from the Executive Director.

Dear All,

As my first year in action draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people whom I have worked with closely this year. First and foremost, it has been a sincere pleasure to work with the Executive Council. In particular, President Ahmad Ashraf, Journal Editor Robert McChesney, Treasurer Vahid Noshirvani, and Past-President Bill Hanaway are a wonderful and highly effective group and have made my work both easier and infinitely more enjoyable that it would have otherwise have been. I am grateful for the advice and support of Ali Banuazizi and Farhad Kazemi who also helped teach me the SIS ropes. I would also like to thank Farzaneh Milani who served as the Chair of the Election Committee. She and all the other members of that committee graciously took on a lot of work and are to be heartily congratulated at the wonderful slate of candidates for SIS positions that they gathered together. I certainly look forward to working with the new Executive Committee under the presidency of Richard N. Frey this coming year. My assistant Sophia Kizilbash also deserves my thanks, especially as she is subject to much of the nitty gritty. I am deeply appreciative of all the other SIS members who have offered help and advice and thank those who have sent in their news and other items of interest for this newsletter.

Over the past couple of weeks I have been working on establishing an email service for SIS members in order to transmit news in a more timely fashion – particularly regarding conference deadlines, meetings, job openings, and the like. Thus far, I have received very positive

feedback from many members. I hope to have this service more fully operational shortly. Anyone wishing to send an announcement to the SIS Membership can email me at: ringer@iranian-studies.org. Of course you may request to be taken off this listserve at any time. Also, there are still many members whose current emails we do not have, despite all our efforts (!!!) to gather everyone's complete and accurate information. If you have not received an email from SIS in October, drop us an email line and we'll verify that we have your correct coordinates.

One of my goals for this coming year is to work on the SIS website, and to make it both more up-to-date, and more comprehensive. This, together with the email listserver, should greatly enhance the ability for SIS to serve both as a clearing-house for news and events of interest, as well as a useful source for research and networking tools. cont'd next page

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The Society for Iranian Studies c/o Department of Middle Eastern Studies, New York University 50 Washington Sq. South, Room 306, New York, NY 10012 www.iranian-studies.org

THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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Student Council Members

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UCLA

Judith Pfeiffer

University of Chicago

Honoram Mombon

A word about the journal: *Iranian Studies*. We recently began working with a new mailing service. Long story short, it has come to our attention that many of the journals (vol. 33, nos. 1-2, Winter/Spring 2000) were sent to the university where people received their doctoral degrees, rather than their mailing addresses. Furthermore, many arrived in a state of some disarray. Please do bring this to our attention, and we will mail you out another issue, with our sincere apologies.

Arrangements for the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies to be held in Bethesda, MD in May 24-26, 2002 are proceeding as planned and we encourage everyone to attend! Information about the conference, hotel, and forms for pre-registration are available on our website at:

www.iranian-studies.org. The Form is also found in the next-to-last page of this newsletter. I would be happy to email the forms as an email attachment on request. Again, my email is: ringer@iranian-studies.org.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that The Society for Iranian Studies enjoys very strong membership — as strong as it has ever been. Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership, and to those members who have made donations! Names of donors this year are listed below.

With very best regards, Monica Ringer

Donations to SIS since January 2001

100-Club	Regular	Farsad Parichehr
Mehrdad Amanat	Shayan Afshar	Saidi-Sirjani Book
Carol Bier	Forough Minou Archer	Award
Houchang Chehabi	Ahmad Ashraf	Forough Minou Archer
Juan Cole	William Beeman	Farrokh Faridoun
Fariborz Damanpour	Farrokh Faridoun	Latifeh Hagigi
Michael Fisher	Thomas Fitbin	Farsad Parichehr
Willem Floor	Latifeh Hagigi	Abtin Abbas Sassanfar
William Hanaway	Duncan Haidane	Fariba Taghavi
Farhad Kazemi	Rebecca Joubin	
Ahmed Koroos	Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet	
Elahe Nazemoff	Habib Ladjevardi	P EM
Fariba Taghavi	Katsuyo Motoyoshi	

HONORARY AND LIFE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

	Honorary Members	Mehrdad Amanat	Kambiz Eslami	Leon Lewisohn	David Rockateller
	Iraj Afshar	Hossein Amir Saleh	Farhad Hakimizadeh	Masahi Mizuta	Aboalala Soudavar
	Richard N. Frye	Said Ansari	William Hanaway	Fereydoun Moqtaderi	Kazuo Takahashi
	Ann K. Lambton	Jere Bacharach	Brad Hanson	Roy Mottahedeh	Kamran Talatoff
	Ehsan Yarshater	Ali Banuazizi	Robert Hutchinson	Eden Naby	R. Tehrani
		Najmieh Batmanglij	Farhad Kazemi	Guity Nashat	Kenji Tomita
	Life Members	Houchang Chehabi	Nikki Keddie	Vahid Noshirvani	Takeshi Yoshii
	Nader Ahari	Olga Davidson	Hassan Khosrowshahi	John Perry	Marvin Zonis
	Shahrough Akhavi	Layla Diba	Habib Ladjevardi	R. K. Ramazani	

SIS At MESA 2001

SIS is sponsoring the following panels:

"Reappraising Ahmad Kasravi's Intellectual Legacy"

Chair: Negar Mottahedeh, Ohio Wesleyan University

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, Illinois State University

Critiquing Europism (Urupagarayi) and Orientalism

Azar Nafisi, Johns Hopkins University

Kasravi's Gendered Perspective on the Novel

M.R. Ghanoonparvar, University of Texas at Austin

Kasravi's Concept of "Pakdini" and His Rationalist Approach to

Religion

Faridoun Farrokh, Texas A&M International University

Ahmad Kasravi: The Street-Corner Perspective

Discussant: Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington

"Social Scientists and Challenges of Modernization and Revolution: Iran in the Latter Part of the 20th Century" (beld in

Persian)

Chair/Discussant: Ahmad Ashraf, Columbia University

Ehsan Naraghi, Institute for Social Research

SIS 2001-2002 Elections

Candidates for the Office of President:

Shahrough Akhavi is currently Professor in the Department of Government and International Studies at the University of South Carolina. He is the author of Religion and Politics in Contemporary Iran (1980) as well as numerous articles, including four invited Op-ed articles on Iran for the New York Times.

Peter Chelkowski is a professor at NYU. Some of his best-known books include: Mirror of the Invisible World (1975), Ta'ziyeh: Ritual and Drama in Iran (1979), and (with Hamid Dabashi) Staging a Revolution: The Art of persuasion in the Islamic Republic of Iran (1999).

Candidates for the Executive Council:

Ali Banuazizi is Professor of Cultural Psychology at Boston College. He is the coeditor (with Myron Weiner) of three books on politics and society in Southwest and Central Asia, including The State, Religion, and Ethnic Politics in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan (1986), The Politics of Social Transformation in Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan (1994), and The New Geopolitics of Central Asia and Its Borderlands (1994).

Michael Beard is a professor of English at the University of North Dakota. His publications include Hedayat's Blind Owl as a Western Novel (1990); Naguib Mahfouz: From Regional Fame to Global Recognition (with Adnan Haydar) (1993); and Outlandia: songs of Exile (selected and translated in conjunction with Ahmad

The Self Generating Role of Social Scientists under Authoritarian Regimes: The Iranian Experience of 1960s-70s
Ali Akbar Mahdi, *Ohio Wesleyan University*Social Scientists, Revolution, and the Reform Movement in Iran Majid Tehranian, *Toda Institute, University of Hawaii*Social Research in Pre-Revolutionary Iran

Jointly sponsored by the Society for Iranian Studies and the Assyrian Academic Society:

"The Assyrians of Iran: From Contribution to Diaspora"

Chair: Richard N. Frye, Harvard University

Khosrow Shakeri, Ecole des hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

Living in Purgatory: The Assyrians of Iran in the Twentieth Century

Eden Naby, Harvard University

With Help from Friends: Zahrira D Bara: The First Newspaper in

Arian Ishaya, San Jose State University

Urmia to Baquba: From the Cradle of Water to Wilderness Ronald Thomas-zadeh, *Shahid Beheshti University*, *Tehran, Iran* Iranian Assyrians in the Azerbaijan Crisis of 1945-46 Discussant: Houchang E. Chehabi, *Boston University*

Karimi-Hakkak) (1999); and Walking with the Wind (poems by Abbas Karostami, translated with Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak) (forthcoming).

Ali Gheissari teaches at the Department of Religious Studies at the University of San Diego. His publications include a Persian translation with Hamid Enayat of Immanuel Kant's Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysic of Ethics (1991), and Iranian Intellectuals in the 20th Century (1998).

Nasrin Rahimieh is Professor of Comparative Literature and Associate Dean of Humanities of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta, Canada. Her publications include *Missing Persons: Discovering Voices in Iranian Cultural History* (2001), and Oriental Responses to the West (1990).

Elaine Sciolino is a senior writer in the Washington bureau of The New York Times. Her books include The Outlaw State: Saddam Hussein's Quest for Power and the Gulf Crisis (1991) and most recently Persian Mirrors, The Elusive Face of Iran (2000).

Candidates for Student Council Member:

Rebecca Joubin is in the Department of Middle East and Asian Cultures and Literature at Columbia University under the direction of Magda al-Nowaihi and Hamid Dabashi. She is working on a translation of an Iraqi novel by Alia Mamdouh entitled al-Wala'. Naghmeh Sohrabi's dissertation focuses on the concept of ajab and hayrat in 19th century Persian travelogues as a method for examining Iranian modernity. She is supervised in this project by Profs. Afsaneh Najmabadi, Roy Mottahedeh and Cemal Kafadar.

IACC RECEPTION

The Iranian American Chamber of Commerce of the San Francisco Bay Area (IACC) will hold a reception in honor of the Executive Committee and the Council of the Society for Iranian Studies (SIS), and the Editors of its journal Iranian Studies on Sunday November 18, 2001, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lavash Restaurant, at Justin

Hotel in San Francisco. Dinner will be served.

Reservation is required. Please call (415) 646-0567.

Herman Plaza, adjacent to the Hyatt Regency



MEMBER NEWS

Ervand Abrahamian published an article on "The 1953 Coup in Iran" in Science and Society (Summer 2001).

Hamid Dabashi's book Truth and Narrative won The Lionel Trilling Award given to the best book written by a Columbia University faculty.

Willem Floor recently published the following books:

The Afghan Occupation of Safavid Persia 1721-1729. Studia Iranica Cahier 10 (Paris 1998); 374 p. text; 14 p. index. Distributed by E. Peeters, Leuven (Belgium) isbn: 2-910640-05-1.

A Fiscal History of Iran in the Safavid and Qajar Periods 1500-1925. Persian Studies Series Nr. 17 (New York 1999; Bibliotheca Persica); 506 p. text; 28 p. glossary; bibliography, index. Distributed by Eisenbrauns Inc. isbn: 0-933273-29-0. This book was awarded the price of the best book of the year on Iran in a foreign language in 2000 by the government of Iran.

The Persian Textile Industry in Historical Perspective 1500-1925. (Paris 1999; L' Harmattan), 382 p. text; bibliography, isbn: 2-7384-8380-1. This book may be ordered from the Societe d'Histoire de l' Orient for FF250 at faxnr: 33-0153 94 06 99 or at 11, rue de Reims, 75013 Paris.

The Economy of Safavid Persia Turan-Iran Series vol. 1 (Wiesbaden 2000; Reichert); 344 p. text; bibliography. isbn: 3-89500-166-X. Safavid Government Institutions (Costa Mesa 2001; Mazda), viii + 340 p.text; bibliography, index. isbn: 1-56859-135-7 (softcover) \$29.95.

Valentine Moghadam has been appointed for the academic year 2001-02 as a scholar with the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She will be working on her book project "Globalization, Transnational Feminist Networks, and Public Policy." This study examines

WITH REGRETS

It is with deep regret that we note that Dr David Neil MacKenzie (born 1926) died of pneumonia on October 13th in North Wales. MacKenzie was Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies at Göttingen; he retired in 1994. Primarily a philologist and linguist, he made many important contributions to the study of Old, Middle, and modern Iranian languages and their literatures, especially Kurdish and Pashto.

the origins, structure, objectives, and activities of a sample of six transnational feminist networks.

Negar Mottahedeh was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Institute for Research on women at Rutgers University.

Mohamad Tabakoli-Targhi recently published Refashioning Iran, Orientalism, Occidentalism and Historiography (Palgrave, 2001). In this book,he offers a corrective to recent works on Orientalism that focus solely on European scholarly

productions without exploring the significance of native scholars and vernacular scholarship to the making of Oriental studies. He brings to light a wealth of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Indo-Persian texts, made 'homeless' by subsequent nationalist histories and shows how they relate to Indo-Iranian modernity. In doing so, he argues for a radical rewriting of Iranian history with profound implications for Islamic debates on gender. Contents of the book include:

Modernity, Heterotopia, and Homeless Texts;

Orientalism's Genesis Amnesia

Persianate Europology

Imagining European Women

Contested Memories

Crafting National Identity

Patriotic and Matriotic Nationalism

Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi was also selected as Outstanding University Teacher for 2000-2001 at Illinios State Unversity.

Nayereh Towhidi will spend the academinc year 2001-02 at the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. She will be working on her book project concerning gender and democratization in post-Soviet Azerbaijan.

New Internet Resources

Archives on Islam: Primary Documents, 1873-1926.

http://www.archivesonislam.com archivesonislam.com offers a collection a fascinating archival record of diplomatic communications between the British Foreign Office and their consul offices in the Middle East and North Africa during one of the most important periods in the political development of those regions. During the 19th and early 20th centuries Britain played a pivotal role in this turbulent region. Her control over India, Egypt and Sudan-- as well as her political influence in Afghanistan, Persia, Arabia and the Persian Gulf coast-- put around 100 million Muslims under her sway. For this reason there was particular concern in Britain about emerging Islamic political movements, and British consuls were instructed to report any such developments to the Foreign Office. www.archivesonislam.com contains key examples of these reports, as well as related historical materials and official correspondence by many of the key figures of the time including Winston Churchill, Lord Curzon, Chaim Weizmann, Viscount Kitchener, Ibn Saud, Sherif Hussein, Henry McMahon and Edmund Allenby. Many of the documents that are offered at archivesonislam.com were riginally classified as secret. All documents are published in full for the first time, and each document has its date and PRO reference. The archives will be welcomed as a valuable research tool for historians and all those interested in studying the foundations of political Islam.

The Iran NGO Initiative, a collaborative project bringing together non-governmental organizations in Iran is now accessible on the web at: http://www.iranngos.org/

IRANFILE, An Independent Monthly Analysis of Current Affairs With Special Emphasis on Economics and Politics. Published every two months. For Subscriptions (\$US 100 for individuals) email to: iranfile@btinternet.com.

Websites on Afghanistan:

Lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+af0065)
Lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/aftoc.html
www.institute-for-afghan-studies.org
www.gl.iit.edu/govdocs/afghanistan
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afghaniyat

Iranian Studies and Literature: www.e-golestan.com

EURAMES Info Service – a new information service on Middle Eastern Studies provided by the European Association for Middle

Eastern Studies (EURAMES) to its members and all interested in research on the MENA region. To subscribe to the service, contact the Secretariat at: eurames@geo.uni-mainz.de and the website: http://www.eurames.de.

British Middle Eastern Studies: conferences, membership and activities: visit the web at:

http://www.arts.ed.ac.uk/eiasime/brismes.

The Library of Congress announces a new photographic feature courtesy of Prints and Photographs Division: The Abd al-Hamid albums. Presently 285 have been placed on the web, primarily those devoted to schools and education.

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/cphquery.html. Search under "Abdul Hamid".

New Publications

Baharestan Nameh: An Iranian International Journal for Islamic Manuscripts Research. Published by The Islamic Republic of Iran, The Library, Museum and Documentation Center of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Semi annual – 144 pp. Persian, English, Arabic. Email: nameh_baharestan@majlislib.com or editorial@majlislib.com. Information available on line at: http://www.majlislib.com.

Students' Report prepared by the Community of Iranian Students. This new NGO is devoted to the promotion of education about human rights in Iran and internationally; cooperation with NGO's and other university organizations to promote human rights in Iran and internationally; to defend the rule of law. Available for subscription. Email: cis@neda.net.

The Washington Institute on Near East Policy has published two new monographs: Partners in Need: The Strategic Relationship of Russia and Iran by Brenda Shaffer, and Into the Shadows: Radical Vigilantes in Khatami s Iran by Michael Rubin.

Descriptions and ordering info:

http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/pubs/iran.htm.

Cabiers d'etudes sur la Mediterranee orientale et le monde turco-iranien (CEMOTI). Two-year subscriptions: \$70 for individuals, \$90 for institutions. Contact: Cyrille Coutansais, CEMOTI, 56, rue Jacob, 75006 Paris, France.

Change of coordinates??

Please let us know!

email: ringer@iranian-studies.org

Conferences and Symposiums

Sept. 14-16, 2001

The Making of Iranian Cinema: Two Decades and a Century. Sponsored by Columbia University and the New York Film Society at Lincoln Center. For more information, email: Kamran Rastegar at kdr7@columbia.edu; also check the Columbia University Middle East Studies Center at: www.columbia.edu/cu/mealac.

Oct. 2-3, 2001

The Middle East Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars presented a meeting entitled Middle Eastern Women on the Move: Openings for and Constraints on Women's Political Participation in the Middle East. In addition to speakers from universities and research centers in the United States, scholars and journalists also participated from Iran. For more information on the proceedings, contact: Janine Rowe at rowejm@wwic.si.edu or consult the Wilson Center website.

Oct. 8-9, 2001

The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies regrets the cancellation of the conference to have been held in Shiraz: Society, Language and Culture in the Persianate World. ASPS is working to convene the conference next year. For more information contact: Dr. Said Amir Arjomand at: sarjoman@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

Nov. 1-2, 2001

The George Washington University is pleased to announce a conference in honor of *Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr* to be held Nov. 1-2, 2001. Information can be found at www.BeaconofKnowledge@hotmail.com

Nov. 9-11, 2001

The Noor Microfilm Center of the Embassy of the

Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi, is organizing an international seminar on *Qazi*Sayyed Nurullah Shushtari: His Life and Works in collaboration with the Dept. of History, St. John's College, University of Agra, Agra, India. Contact: noormicro@yahoo.com; web:

www.noormicrofilmindia.com.

Dec. 22-23, 2001

The Center for Central Asia and the Caucasus Studies at the Institute for Political and International Studies will organize the 9th International Seminar on Central Asia and the Caucasus in order to contribute to the study of developments in the Caspian region. Deadline for submissions: Nov. 22, 2001. For information, contact: Center for Central Asia and the Caucasus Studies of Institute for Political and International Studies, Shahid Aghaie St. Shahid Bahonar Avenue, P.O. Box 19395/1793, Tehran, Iran; Email: ipis@dre-mfa.gov.ir or see the website at: www.dre-mfa.gov.ir

April 22-25, 2002.

The Iranology Foundation is holding the *First*National Congress on Iranian Studies in Tehran, Iran.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: August 30,
2001. Information: Congress Secretariat —

Iranology Foundation: irfo@iranologyfo.or.ir, tel:
(0098 21) 2417124-6).

May 24-26, 2002

The Society for Iranian Studies (SIS) will convene the Fourth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies in Bethesda, MD. The conference is co-sponsored by The Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS). SIS is accepting conference pre-registration. Information and forms are available on line: www.iranian-studies.org.

June 11-15, 2002

Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences sponsored by: University of Hawaii - West Oahu; and College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources-University of Hawaii. Submission Deadline: January 16, 2002. For information, see http://www.tapacom.net/hcsocial/cfpss.htm or email: social@tapa.com

March 19-23, 2003

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute announces the Fourth Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting to be held in Florence, Italy. Workshop topics should focus on the interactions between the Middle East and North Africa region and Europe. Deadline: Nov. 30, 2001. For application and other information, contact Imco Brouwer at medmeet@iue.it, or the web: http://www.iue.it.

Cancellation of the ASPS Conference

After many months of work on organizing a very impressive convention on "Society, Language and Culture in the Persianate World," which was to meet in Shiraz in October, 2001, the Board of Directors of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies was forced to cancel it in July, when the US Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ruled that United States regulations probibit the convening of the conference in Iran. This is extremely disappointing as the conference promised to be a momentous gathering and would have included, in addition to 21 participants from the United States, 6 participants from Uzbekistan, 5 participants from Tajikistan, 8 participants from India, 4 participants from Russia, and 12 participants from Iran who had been chosen from a much larger pool of applicants. We are working on plans to convene the conference next year, and will make an announcement as soon as they are finalized. Said Amir Arjomand, President

Association for the Study of Persianate Societies

Conference on Medieval Iranian Coins Crosses Boundaries

"The Heritage of Sasanian Iran: Dinars, Drahms and Coppers of the Late Sasanian and Early Muslim Periods" held at the American Numismatic Society on June 8th and 9th attracted scholars and participants from around the world. The conference presented a wide range of papers on Late Sasanian and early Muslim coinages. It also featured a workshop on the reading of the Pahlavi legends on these coins. The conference was held in memory of William B. Warden (1947-2000), a numismatist devoted to these coinages. The Society of

Iranian Studies and Sanford J. Durst co-sponsored it with the American Numismatic Society. More than thirty people attended from across the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

Participants have been invited to submit their papers for publication to the Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies, The American Journal of Numismatics and Al-Sikka. The conference will meet again next year on June 7th and 8th. Abstracts for proposed talks and inquiries should be sent to Stuart D. Sears (sears@aucegypt.edu) or Michael L. Bates (bates@amnumsoc.org).

American Institute of Iranian Studies Fellowships

(Updated September 2001)

Persian Language Study in Tehran

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers approximately ten two-month fellowships for advanced language study in Tehran available for one of three sessions of language training at the Dehkhoda Institute: Smmer 2002 (session begins July 11, 2002), Fall 2002 (session begins September 30, 2002) or Winter 2003 (session begins February 4, 2003). Th next deadline for receiving applications is February 1, 2002. Decisions will be made by the end of February 2002. The fellowships will be awarded to U.S. citizens who are enrolled in a doctoral program in the humanities or social sciences, have an approved research topic that requires use of Persian, and have completed at least one full academic year of Persian language study. The fellowships will cover international air travel, tuition, and board and lodging in Tehran. Applications should be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information and mailed to the address below:

Citizenship
Research plans and what degree of Persian proficiency they require
Academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate)
Specify which of the three sessions you would like to attend
Names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the

applicant's primary academic advisor)
A curriculum vitae should also be attached.

Research Fellowship in Iranian Studies

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers a six-month research fellowship in Tehran. It is expected that the next fellowship period will begin in July 2001. The stipend is at the level of an assistant professor,

with an allowance for international transportation. Applicants should be U.S. citizens, have completed the Ph.D. and be proficient in Persian. Applications will be considered immediately and should include a letter with a detailed description of research plans the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees, and a curriculum vitae should be sent to:

Short-term senior fellowships in Iranian Studies

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers a limited number of short-term senior fellowships for two-to-four week visits to Iran during 2001. The purpose of these fellowships is to enable established scholars with research interests in the field of Iranian Studies to acquaint themselves with the range of academic activities and resources in Iran today. Applicants must be U. S. citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with some knowledge of Persian and a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran. Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a letter explaining how the opportunity afforded by the fellowship would benefit the applicant's work. Also included must be the names and e-mail addresses of two referees and a curriculum vitae. Please specify preferred dates of travel.

All documents and applications for all the above fellowships should be sent to the following address:

Dr. Maryam Ekhtiar 84-51 Beverly Road, #5N Kew Gardens, NY 11415 mekhtiar@worldnet.att.net Fax: (718) 850-0003

Social Science Research Council

International Collaboration Research Grants: Reconceptualizing Public Spheres in the Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Program of the SSRC is launching a research grants program to encourage international collaborative research focusing on the MENA region, which is defined as stretching from Iran to Morocco. We invite proposals that bring together researchers in different locations to address issues related to the changing nature of public spheres in the region. The notion of "public spheres" is used in its broadest sense, encompassing the transformation of socio-economic conditions, state and non-state structures, individual and collective identities and cultural production. The research grants awarded will be for a maximum amount of \$35,000 and for a maximum period of 18 months. The competition is open to PhD holders of any nationality or discipline. The deadline for preliminary proposals is **October 15, 2001**.

For further information and guidelines contact:

MENA Program, Phone: (212) 377-2700, ext. 441

Fax: (212) 377-2727; E-Mail: mena@ssrc.org

URL:http://www.ssrc.org/programs/programpage.cgi?90182AB04

New Books Published in Iranprepared by Saeed Damadi

Kambakhsh-fard, Saifallah, *Asar-e Tarikhi-ye Iran* (Sazeman-e Miras-e Farhangi-ye Keshvar Pojugeshgah, 1379), 430 pp.

Mozaheri, Houshang, Aramgah-e Kharejian dar Esfahan (Howzeh-ye Honari-ye Esfahan, 1379), 323 pp.

Author? Adab-e Pahlavani: Motale'eh'I dar Tarikh-e Adab, Adab-e Dirini-ye Irani az Zartosht ta Ashkanian (Qatar, 1379), 423 pp.

Eslam Khan, Mohammad, Adabiyat-e Farsi dar Miyan-e Hend va on Bonyad (ed.) Mahmoud Afshar, 1380.

Barhani, Mehdi, Az Zaban-e Sobh (Parjang, 1378), 320 pp.

Rastegar Fasa'I, Mansour, Ejdeha dar Asatir-e Iran (Tus, 1379), 378 pp.

Esnadi as Emtiyaz-e Naft-e Shomal 1300-1303 Hejri Shamsi (Sazeman-e chap va Entesharat-e Vezarat-e Farhand va Amuzesh-e Ali, 1379.

Afsaneh-ha-ye Khorasan, 4 vols (Mashbad, 1379).

Dahbashi, Hosayn, Afghanestan. . .Ruzha-ye Soqut. . .Naqsh-e Jahan-e Honar (1379), 150 pp.

Babachahi, Ali, In Bank-e Delaviz: Zendegi va She'r-e Fereydun Tavalali (Thaleth, 1379).

Tavana, Zia, Bazar-e Qaysariyeh-e Lar (Nay, 1380), 160 pp.

Eskandari, Nasrin, Bozorgan-e Arsanjan (Novid-e Shiraz 1379), 256 pp.

Pozuheshgaran-e Mo'aser-e Iran, vol. 1 (Farhang-e Mo'aser, 1379).

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Call For Dissertation and Academic Research Works

In honouring the academic efforts of the students, researchers and university professors who have done research and academic work on Iran the Committee for Selection of Outstanding Academic Works on Iran plans to select the outstanding works and introduce them at a ceremony which will be held by Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance sometime in the middle of December 2001 in Tehran, Iran.

This competion is being organized for the fourth year and the following points are helpful for those interested in sending their works for the review committee.

- Iranian and non-Iranian academics are encouraged to participate provided their work is related to Iran and falls in one of the following categories; Socio-cultural Issues, Mass Media, History, Geography, Literature, Religion, Art, Sociology, Folklore, Ethnology, and Anthropology,
- A committe will review all the works and will select at least five of them for the award ceremony.
- Only those works that have been produced between January 1995 and August 2001

are qualified for this years' competition.

- 4) Those participants whose works are selected will recieve a return ticket and will be provided with all costs during their stay in Iran.
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- 6) We need to have a copy of the applicant's original work to be recieved no later than September 30, 2001.
- 7) The ceremony will be held sometime in the middle of December 2001.
- 8) Please send your inquiries to the following Fax No. in Tehran 0098-21-890-1298, Ms. Salehi will recieve your inquiry.
- 9) For further information do not hesitate to call at the following number, 98-21-8905374. Or send your email messages to Dr. Abdollahyan at Email: habdolah@chamran.ut.ac.ir, or pershad@neda.net

Please send your other inquiries to Miss Salehi at the following address.

The Research Institute on Culture, Art and Communication, No. 11, Dameshgh St., Near Vali Asr Square, P.O. Box 14167, Tehran, Iran. The American Institute of Iranian Studies is delighted to announce that the 2001 Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize has been awarded to Afkham Darbandi and Dick Davis for their translation of Farid ud-Din Attar's Conference of the Birds.

The publication in 1987 of the translation of Attar's Conference of the Birds by Afkham Darbandi and Dick Davis was a watershed moment in the long history of Persian/English literary relations. English speaking scholars and poets have labored since the 18th century to bring the richness, variety and lyric beauty of Persian poetry into their own language. While there have been a few qualified successes, such as Gertrude Bell's rendering of Hafez, the one unquestioned triumph until now has been FitzGerald's remarkable recasting of randomly composed quatrains into the Ruba'iyyat of Omar Khayyam - a work that gained so eminent a place in English letters that it forced a reevaluation of the poet in his native land.

Attar was a greater poet than Khayyam, and his Conference is an unquestioned masterpiece of the Sufi poetic tradition. The fluency, elegance and precision of Darbandi and Davis's translation belies its foreign origins and makes it appear rather as a remarkable native innovation—a vivid and moving anthology of Sufi stories that has miraculously blossomed from the pen of an English poet. In short, it merits comparison with the best translations from languages more familiar and better studied than Persian such as Heaney's Beowulf or Fagles' Odyssey and Iliad.

Despite a minimum of publicity, their Conference was quickly recognized by students of Persian literature as a masterwork and promises to serve for many years as the new standard by which translations from Persian will be judged.

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Saeed Damadi is the President of the Bistotun Publishing House in Iran. He is also willing to provide bibliographic support to scholars working in the field of Iranian Studies — including procuring books, articles and other materials published in Iran. He can be contacted at Damadi@mail.com.

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