

THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

SIS News

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Letter from the Executive Director:

Dear All,

This fall, SIS is experiencing the transition to our new publishers of the journal *Iranian Studies* -- Taylor & Francis. You should have received a flier from Taylor & Francis, with *Iranian Studies*'s new cover design. We are excited about the new relationship with Taylor & Francis and are confident that this is the next step in further enhancing the journal's quality and publication regularity. With subscription and marketing (both individual and library) now handled by Taylor & Francis, the editorial staff and Society management are freed up to focus on the journal contents, the biennial conference, and the development of other goals and projects concerning Iranian Studies.

A few points of clarification concerning renewal, multiple-year memberships and the SIS-*Iranian Studies* subscriptions.

- 1) Taylor & Francis is in charge of sending out renewal notices, soliciting and receiving both *subscription to Iranian Studies* renewal notices and *renewal to membership in The Society for Iranian Studies*. The Executive Director is no longer in charge of any subscriptions, whether they are to the journal, or to the Society (with journal subscription as one member benefit.). Taylor & Francis will be sending out SIS renewal notices shortly. Any member of SIS who does not receive their mailing, or who has questions regarding membership, should contact the customer services manager (Mary Elveson) at Taylor & Francis at: mary.elveson@tandf.co.uk
- 2) Although multiple-year subscriptions/memberships have been discontinued, *all existing multiple-year subscription/memberships will be honored*. This includes life-time memberships.
- 3) The advertised rate for subscription to *Iranian Studies* journal *without membership in the Society* is \$74. However, *members of The Society for Iranian Studies, as part of their member benefits, all receive the journal as part of their membership dues*. Membership dues are considerably lower than non-member subscription rates at \$55 for individuals and \$25 for students. All other rates (retired, family and multiple year discounts) have been discontinued and are no longer available.
- 4) Life-time memberships are still available for \$1000.

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THE SOCIETY FOR IRANIAN STUDIES

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PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE IN THE SIS 2002 ELECTIONS

MAIL IN YOUR BALLOT TODAY!!

(ballots due Nov. 1)

Please attend: all SIS members are urged to attend this year's SIS Business Meeting held in conjunction with the MESA conference on Saturday, November 23rd from 4:00-6:00pm in Delaware A.

items on the agenda:

- 1) Welcoming remarks by the President and President-elect.
- 2) Report from the Editor of *Iranian Studies*
- 3) Report from the Treasurer
- 4) Report from the Executive Director
- 5) Announcement of results of SIS elections of President, Council Member and student Council Member.
- 6) Saidi-Sirjani book prize winner
- 7) Selection at the meeting of members to serve on the 2003-4 nominating committee.

SIS at MESA

SIS is sponsoring two panels at the upcoming MESA meeting:

20th Century Iranian Literature:

A Retrospective

(Monday, November 25th at 10:30 am)

Chair/Discussant: **Faridoun Farrokh**, Texas A&M International University

Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, University of Washington
Generational Esthetics: Episodic Discourse and the History of Modern Persian Poetry

M.R. Ghanoonparvar, University of Texas at Austin
Climbing the Staircase of Persian Fiction

Zjaleh Hajibashi, University of Virginia
EYES and "I"s: The Impact of Socio-politics on Self-representation

Houra Yavari, Center for Iranian Studies
Forugh Farrokhzad and "The Holiness of the Heart's Affections"

Evaluating the Reformist Movement in Iran (Tuesday, November 26 at 8:30 am.)

Chair/Discussant: **Mehrzad Boroujerdi**, Syracuse University

Hormoz Hekmat, Foundation for Iranian Studies
The Rule of Law and Mohammad Khatami's Reformist Discourse

Ahmad Sadri, Lake Forest College
Iranian Reform and Its Permutations

Mehrdad Mashayekshi, Georgetown University

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COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF SOUTH ASIA, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (CSSAAME)

Call for papers for a special issue on the occasion of the Centennial of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution

Editors: Houri Berberian and Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi

On the occasion of the centennial of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, CSSAAME solicits historiographical essays that explore competing narratives of the Revolution and their divergent conceptions of the "nation," subjectivity, agency, the past, and the future.

Particularly encouraged are critical inquiries that advance the historiography of the revolution and contribute to its analytical reconceptualization. We are especially interested in essays that link the social, cultural, and intellectual histories of the Revolution and those that explore the transformation of public and private spheres and their corresponding modes of collective and personal self-presentation. As a temporal designation, how did the comprehension of the Revolution shape memories of the past and expectations for the future?

As a marker of political modernity, how was the Revolution deployed by competing political, religious, and ideological forces for legitimacy and mass-mobilization? In addition, review-essays examining studies of the Constitutional Revolution in Persian, English, French, German, Russian, Turkish, and Armenian are welcome.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 1,000 words by 6 December 2002 to: Houri Berberian by electronic mail <hberber@csulb.edu> or by postal mail to Houri Berberian, Co-editor, Special Issue of CSSAAME, Department of History, California State University, Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90840.

For further information, please visit the website at:
<http://www.history.ilstu.edu/mtavakol/cssaame/>
CSSAAME Editor, Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi
Department of History, Illinois State University,
Normal, IL 61790-4420

MEMBER NEWS

Amir A. Afkhami was this year's winner of the **Shryock Medal** given to the **best Graduate Student Essay in the History of Medicine** by the American Association for the History of Medicine. His essay was entitled: "Infection, Jihad, and Achieving the Virtues of Civilization: The 1889-1892 Cholera and Influenza Epidemics and Their Social Impact on Iran." He was awarded the medal at a banquet at the annual AAHM meeting in Kansas City in April. Besides being a great recognition for historians of Iranian Science and Medicine, Afkhami was the first "Asianist" to win the medal traditionally given to Western European and American Historians of Medicine.

Translators Needed

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* requires a number of experienced freelance translators to translate articles from French, German Turkish and Persian into English for its forthcoming fascicles. The translations are expected to conform to the *Encyclopædia*'s established house style, formatting and transliteration system.

Please apply in writing with your short resume to:

Encyclopædia Iranica
Columbia University
Center for Iranian Studies
450 Riverside Drive Suite 4
New York, NY 10027

THIRD ANNUAL LOIS ROTH PERSIAN TRANSLATION PRIZE TO JEROME CLINTON

The American Institute of Iranian Studies announces the presentation of the third annual Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize funded by a contribution from the Lois Roth Endowment to the American Institute of Iranian Studies. This Prize is given in recognition of demonstrated excellence in translating Persian literature into English. The recipient for the year 2001 is Jerome Clinton for *In the Dragon's Claws* (Mage Publishers, 1999), a verse translation of the story of Rustam and Esfandiyar from Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*. The prize was presented at the biannual meeting of the Society for Iranian Studies in May 2002 by Professor Richard Davis of Ohio State University. The text of his address follows:

The Lois Roth translation prize this year goes to Jerome Clinton, for his blank verse translation of the Rostam and Esfandiyar story from Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh*, published by Mage Publishers under the title *In the Dragon's Claws*. As someone who has labored at translating Ferdowsi himself, I know how very hard it is to bring that noble and deceptively simple voice over into English. Epic is not our medium any more, we don't think in those ways, and the voices of epic are alien voices for us. To make such grandeur speak to us naturally and persuasively is almost impossibly hard. Jerry brought this seemingly insurmountable task off with great panache in his first translation from the *Shahnameh*, his version of Sohrab and Rostam, and when it appeared it was clearly the finest verse translation of Ferdowsi in existence. In his version of the Esfandiyar story he has I think raised the bar even higher, and written a superlatively fine version - faithful, moving and beautiful, and with a stark nobility that matches Ferdowsi's own. Jerry has, as many of you will know, recently retired from his position of Professor of Persian at Princeton: it seems fitting to present this token of our appreciation to him, in the year of his retirement, and to see it not only as a recognition of his excellence as a translator but as a small sign of our profound appreciation for all he has done for Persian studies.

NEW RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON KHORASAN

Khorasan, a large province in the East of Iran, is one of the most important, critical, and strategic parts of the world. Historically and geographically, the Silk Road passes through most of the province; as such, it joins the Middle East to the Far East through the Road. Based on such historical perspectives, it proves itself having a very rich and strong background in Iranian, Eastern and Oriental civilizations. After the collapse of the USSR, Khorasan rose in importance and has received more world-wide attention, as one of the centers of Iranian, Islamic, and Eastern civilization. Khorasan is also one of the major centers of tourism in Iran, and a center of archeology, architecture, anthropology, ethnography, music and arts studies. The Afarinesh Institute has formed a research team comprised of scholars and students and researchers interested in these areas. Their plan is to design and develop studies on culture, arts, architecture, archeology, linguistics, and handicrafts of Khorasan. The Afarinesh Institute welcomes your cooperation in these research areas. For more information, please contact Director Mohammad Vafaenezhad at afarineshtoos@yahoo.com

NEW WEBSITE ON IRAN AND MIDDLE EAST

Pars Times at: www.parstimes.com

NATIONAL IRANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL OPENS ITS DOORS

The National Iranian American Council, a new organization dedicated to the integration of Iranian-Americans into the fabric of American civic life, opened its doors in May 2002 with a web launch at www.niacouncil.org. NIAC, a non-partisan, non-political, and non-profit educational organization, will sponsor programs that support Iranian-American participation in American culture, politics, the media, and all aspects of civil society.

Despite Iranian-Americans' contribution to the engine of American economic growth, creating thousands of jobs across the country, the Iranian-American impact on American civil society is less pronounced. NIAC seeks to fill that void.

"Among Iranian-Americans, there are Fortune 500 Company CEOs, a large network of doctors, major players in the information technology revolution, thousands of university professors and world-class engineers, but our voices are not being heard in the critical American civil society debates," said Babak Talebi, a founding member of NIAC. "We hope to empower

Iranian-Americans to help them broadcast their voice, whatever position they may wish to take," he said.

Some of NIAC's first projects include an ongoing voter-registration drive, the creation of a comprehensive database on Iranian-American organizations in the US, educational workshops for Iranian-American organizations enhancing their ability to serve the needs of their community, the production of literature detailing Iranian-American success stories, surveys to assess the needs and wants of the community.

"Our community is educated, affluent, dynamic, and professionally successful," said Trita Parsi, the acting President of the organization. "However, we have yet to harness our immense human potential into constructive engagement in American civil society. In order to accomplish this goal, we hope to build capacity in our community through educational programs, workshops, and general community-building," he added.

During the Iranian New Year holiday of 2002, celebrated by hundreds of thousands of Iranian-Americans in public parks across the country, NIAC volunteers registered Iranian-Americans to vote. "Voting is only the first step towards full participation in the US society. In order to be noted for the incredible contributions we have made and continue to make to the greatness of this country and be heard, we must participate in our local parties, serve on our neighborhood associations and school PTAs", said Newsha Moraveji, a consultant to NIAC.

Local government officials support NIAC's efforts. "Ethnic groups in America, such as Iranian-Americans, should register to vote to be part of the community and have a part in selecting who represents them, whether it be Board of Education members or members of Congress", argues Betty Ann Lucey, Registration Manager of the Board of Elections in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The National Iranian American Council believes that Iranian-Americans have the ability to play a key role in American civil society with the same levels of success and professionalism that they have played in American economic, academic, technological and scientific life.

"In big ways and small, Iranian-Americans have woven themselves into the fabric of American life. We at NIAC hope to help tighten the knots already woven and help create new patterns that would forever solidify the Iranian-American patch of the great American quiltwork," said Parsi.

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