

# SIS NEWS

The Newsletter of the Society for Iranian Studies

Volume 27, No. 2

Winter, 1997

## CONTENTS

- New Executive Secretary of SIS
- Saidi-Sirjani Award Announcement
- MESA 1996 : SIS Meeting Reports
- Conferences
- Job Announcements
- Dissertations in Progress
- Obituaries

### NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SIS

In the previous issue of *SIS News* we reported the 1996 SIS Council election results, including the election of Professor Ehsan Yarshater as the President and Professor Ali Banuazizi as the President-Elect of SIS. As a result, for the first time in the thirty-year history of the Society a president will officiate at the annual Business and Council meetings to be held later this year in San Francisco.

Presiding over the annual SIS meetings held on November 21, 1996 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, the Treasurer of the Society, Professor Jere Bacharach, announced the resignation of the Society's Executive Secretary, Dr. Charlotte Albright, due to her unexpected relocation to Britain.

After considering several possible candidates for the position of Executive Secretary, the Council unanimously elected Kambiz Eslami of the Princeton University

Library as the new director of the Society. He will begin his term on January 1, 1997.

In order to convey the Society's deep appreciation for the services of the former Executive Secretary, the following resolution was approved by all members present at the Business Meeting:

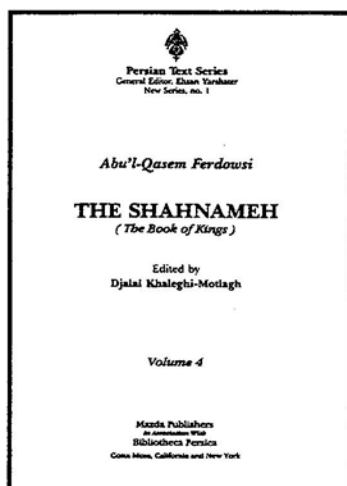
*The Society extends its warmest and most sincere thanks to both Dr. Albright and Professor Bacharach. Dr. Albright, associate director of the Middle East Center at the University of Washington, took the helm of our Society at a critical time when its resources had been depleted and its membership, both individual and institutional, had dwindled to a critical level. Under her leadership, our Society has been rebuilt, its resources restored, and its membership increased to a promising level. Single-handedly, she has managed the SIS office, edited its newsletter, and supervised the Society's reorganization over the past three years. Her hard work, dedication, and sense of responsibility will serve as a positive example to all future officers of the Society. For all these qualities, we are grateful to Dr. Albright and wish her the best in all her future work.*

*Professor Jere L. Bacharach, currently director of the University of Washington's Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, has served the Society in an*

*exemplary manner as Treasurer. His vision, optimism, and boundless energy have proven to be the greatest assets available to our Society as his efforts led to the restoration of its financial health. For all his invaluable and selfless service, the Society expresses its most heartfelt thanks to Professor Bacharach. We are delighted to note that Professor Bacharach has generously agreed to serve as Treasurer until a suitable replacement is found.*

### KHALEGHI-MOTLAQ WINS BOOK AWARD

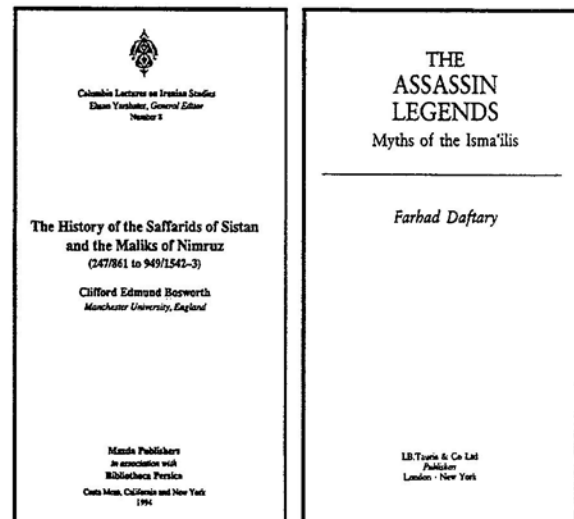
The Saidi-Sirjani Book Award Committee of SIS (consisting of Professors Ali Banuazizi, Richard N. Frye, William L. Hanaway Jr. (chair), Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, and Priscilla P. Soucek) announced the winner of the first book award (for books published in 1994) at the Society's Business Meeting held on November 21, 1996 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. The winner was Professor Djalal Khaleghi-Motlagh for his critical edition of volume IV of Ferdowsi's *Shahnameh* (Mazda Publishers).



In their announcement the Committee remarked, "Dr. Khaleghi-Motlagh's work in

editing the *Shahnameh* sets a new standard of rigor in text criticism and literary scholarship for classical Persian literature. In awarding the first prize, the Committee recognizes the singular achievement of Dr. Khaleghi-Motlagh over the past two and a half decades in the preparation of this multi-volume edition of Ferdowsi's work." The award carries a \$3,000 prize.

The Committee also announced the two runners-up: Professor Clifford Edmund Bosworth's *The History of the Saffarids of Sistan and the Maliks of Nimruz* (Mazda Publishers), and Dr. Farhad Daftary's *The Assassin Legends: Myths of the Isma'ilis* (I. B. Tauris).



The Committee pointed out that both works "exhibit careful, thorough, and mature scholarship and bring a wealth of new information to the study of Iranian history and culture."

### 1996 ANNUAL SIS MEETINGS AT MESA

The annual meetings of the Middle East Studies Association took place on

November 21-24, 1996, at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island. The Society's Council and Business meetings were held on Thursday, November 21. The following reports were presented by Professor Jere Bacharach and Professor Abbas Amanat:

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**  
(Charlotte Albright)

Three editions of the Society's newsletter, *SIS News*, were published during the last year. A large portion of the director's time and energy was spent on answering a significant amount of correspondence regarding Society membership and journal subscription. We were able to sell quite a number of back issues of *Iranian Studies*, including several complete sets. This year again as part of the obligatory steps for the lawful function of the Society, necessary forms were filed with the New York State Department of Law and the Internal Revenue Service. Also, the Constitution of the Society was revised (thanks to the efforts of Juan Cole, Ali Banuazizi and William Hanaway) and sent to members for ratification.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Last year at this time individual membership in the Society stood at a little over 300. Currently, we have approximately 350 individual members, including many new student members. As to institutional membership, last year that membership stood at approximately 175. Today it is about 180, but many institutional members appear to be choosing not to re-subscribe. One-third of the institutional subscriptions go to universities overseas. A membership database was also created which includes name, address, and dues information. It also prints reports for creating mailing labels.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
(Jere Bacharach)

The following report is based on a comparison of the first 10.5 months of 1995 with those of 1996.

**OPERATING REVENUES:** Membership dues for 1996 (\$10,649.39) were high compared to 1995 (\$7,433.00), for they represent some members who paid for a 2 year period. This year we noticed an alarming reduction in institutional renewals (1995 = \$8,439.75 / 1996 = \$3,943.00); we should make every attempt to retain the current institutional accounts. A positive step would be for those SIS members who are affiliated with a university to contact their respective university serials librarians. Gifts were also down, while sales were high due largely to the sale of old volumes of *Iranian Studies*. In 1996 the total costs were cut back by \$2835.32.

**ADDITIONAL ASSETS:** This year assets from Annuity (a separate endowment of life members), Time Deposit, and Saidi-Sirjani Fund (a separate checking account) increased by \$2546.53, making the total revenue and assets of the Society at \$61,961.99.

**OPERATING EXPENSES:** An increase in editing costs was noted (1995 = \$5,179.05 for 3 issues) in contrast to (\$3,086.82 for 2 issues). We may be in a better financial position if we postpone the printing of a new Roster of members until 1997/8. Names of new members could appear in an addendum to the Roster of 1995, as well as in the newsletter. We should also make a final payment of debt to Columbia University. Overall, SIS has spent \$40,888.81 this year, which is \$2,900 over what it spent in 1995.

### EDITOR'S REPORT

(Abbas Amanat)

In 1996 we spent \$3,942.84 on printing one double volume (28, nos. 3-4), while an additional \$4,000 will be needed for the next issue, i.e. vol. 29, nos. 1-2. which will be mailed out to everyone in December. It includes eight articles dealing with historiography and cultural aspects of national identity, along with nearly twenty book reviews of English, German, and Persian texts. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi and Houchang Chehabi were invaluable in helping put together this issue. Volume 29, nos. 3-4 will be out in April 1997 and will include several interesting articles on a variety of subjects, including a linguistic approach to the Tonb Islands, the Islamic Rights versus Human Rights dilemma, Judeo-Persian Epics, Khumayni's Theory of Wilayat al-Faqih, and the Babi Uprising in Zanjan, together with another twenty lengthy book reviews.

We are currently working on Volume 30, including a very special issue dedicated to the midterm review of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. As always, we encourage members of The Society for Iranian Studies to submit articles to the journal.

### TWO NEW COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

At its November meeting in Providence, the SIS Council appointed two new committees. The first, to be chaired by Hasanali Mehran, will be in charge of a new fund-raising campaign to increase the Society's still modest endowment and to add to the number of life members, thus enabling the Society to improve the quality of its publications and undertake new projects. Vahid F. Nowshirvani and Abolala Soudavar will also serve on the Fund-Raising Committee.

The second committee will be responsible for expansion of the Society's membership. The Council members firmly believe that the Society is now in a strong position to attract new members, both in the U.S. and abroad, particularly among the younger generation of Iranian scholars and students. Co-chairs of the new Membership Committee are Dr. Kathryn Babayan and Dr. Ernst Tucker. Dr. Houchang Chehabi will also serve on this Committee.

### LAMBTON AND AFSHAR NAMED FIRST SIS HONORARY MEMBERS

During its November 21, 1997 meeting, the Council named Professor Ann Lambton and Iraj Afshar as the first SIS honorary members. The honorary membership announcement was conveyed to the distinguished scholars by the Society's President, Professor Yarshater, who congratulated them on their significant contributions to Iranian studies.

### NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Filbin  
Burzine K. Waghmar  
Meran C. Bauer  
Franklin A. Lawrence

### CONFERENCES

### JOINT IRANIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE WITH THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF IRANIAN STUDIES (AIIS)

Discussions are underway with AIIS to organize a joint conference for Spring 1998. The new Executive Secretary will probably shoulder the task of organizing the

conference, while Dr. Michael Bonine and Dr. Nasr will serve as joint members of the program committee. The conference will most probably take place in Washington DC due to its centrality. The Foundation for Iranian Studies and the Freer and Sackler galleries will be approached for participation in the conference.

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LANGUAGE LECTURER IN PERSIAN**

The Department of Middle Eastern Studies of New York University invites applications for a full-time Language Lectureship in Persian. The position is a permanent contract subject to yearly renewal. The successful candidate will have experience teaching in Persian at all levels from elementary to advanced, be familiar with proficiency-based language learning and computerized instruction, and have a Ph.D. in Iranian studies and/or applied linguistics. The ability to offer courses in Tajik or Dari will be considered advantageous to the application. Position available September 1, 1997, pending final administrative and budgetary approval.

Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, and the names of three referees to Professor Peter Chelkowski, Search Committee - Persian Language Lectureship, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, New York University, 50 Washington Square South, Room 200, New York, NY 10012. NYU is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from women, minorities, and members of other groups under-represented in the field of Persian language teaching.

### **ASSOCIATE RESEARCH SCHOLAR (MANAGING EDITOR)**

Ph.D. or equivalent in a field of Iranian studies. A solid background in Persian history and culture, a thorough knowledge of Persian and English, familiarity with Arabic; academic background must be at associate professorial level or above; other applications will not be considered. Editorial and administrative experience are required; publications to support proficiency in the above requirements must be made available. Computer competency (Macintosh) is also required. He/she will deal with all administrative and most editorial aspects of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and report to the Editor. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. All responses and inquiries should be sent to Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University, 450 Riverside Drive, no. 4, New York, NY 10027: attn.: Director.

## **DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS**

### **CALL FOR DISSERTATIONS IN PROGRESS**

In an effort to familiarize SIS members with the research being carried out by its graduate student members, and in an effort to create better ties between graduate student members and scholars in Iranian studies as well as among graduate students themselves, SIS would like to invite all Ph.D. candidates in Iranian studies to send in a paragraph describing their dissertations in progress.

We have already three such descriptions, forwarded by Houri Berberian and Monica Ringer both of Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles, and Mohammad Shahbazi of Department of



Anthropology, Washington University at St. Louis.

**Working Title: Armenians and the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1905-11**

Houri Berberian's dissertation addresses the often-neglected issue of Armenian participation in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1905-11. The dissertation provides a detailed account of the Iranian Armenian community of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, specifically the activity of Armenian political parties, especially those of Caucasian Armenians in the Azarbaijan province. This study examines the ideological and political motivations of Armenians who participated, with a concentration on the Dashnaktsutun, the Armenian party which contributed most to the Constitutional Revolution. Furthermore, it explores the collaboration of Armenian and Iranian constitutionalists and draws attention to the ideological and military contributions of Armenians to the revolution.

**Working Title: Education and Reform in Qajar Iran**

Monica Ringer's dissertation examines the introduction of European-style education into Iran in the Qajar period. The study begins with the first dispatch of students to Europe by Crown Prince Abbas Mirza in 1807 and concludes with an evaluation of the educational legislation passed during the Constitutional Revolution of 1906-11. The goal of this study is twofold. First, it charts the establishment of European-style schools and their institutional competition with the existing educational establishment. Second, the thesis investigates the ideological conflict over the promotion of European-style education. Specifically, it addresses the changing nature of perceived benefits and dangers of European-style education and

how its promotion is connected to the larger political and social reform agendas.

**Working Title: Formal Education and Qashqa'i Tribespeople in Southern Iran : the Role of Schoolteachers**

The focus of Mohammad Shahbazi's dissertation is on Qashqa'i schoolteachers: the roles they played in the processes of formally educating Qashqa'i tribespeople, the ways they prepared their students for new roles in a changing Iran, and the extent to which they enculturated them with cultural values held by earlier generations. In the 1950s a formally educated Qashqa'i, Mohammad Bahmanbaigi, gained support of Iranian state officials in directing a formal education program for the Qashqa'i. The program was intended to undercut Qashqa'i culture and to integrate Qashqa'i people into the larger Iranian society. The Iranian revolution in 1978-79 interrupted the continuity of the program. It created a fertile ideological ground and an opportunity for formally educated Qashqa'i tribespeople to re-examine their cultural beliefs and their current and future roles and activities in their own and the wider Iranian society.

## OBITUARIES

### KENNETH ALLIN LUTHER

It is with sadness that we report the death, on February 2, 1997 of Dr. Kenneth Allin Luther, professor of Iranian history and civilization, and classical Persian literature. SIS would like to extend its condolences to Professor Luther's family, colleagues, and students. The following is an excerpt from a communication on Professor Luther's life and achievements released after his death by the Regents of the University of Michigan.

*Professor Luther was born on January 22, 1934, in Denver, Colorado. He obtained his B.A. at the University of Florida in 1955, his M.A. at Princeton University in 1959, and his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1964. He was a reserve officer in the military from 1955 to 1963 in Army Intelligence and Security. He began his professional career in 1962, when he became an Assistant Professor of Persian and Arabic at Portland State University. In 1963 he joined the faculty at the University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies; in 1969 he became an Associate Professor, and in 1973 he became a full Professor. His many positions of responsibility at the university included the Directorship of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, and membership on many executive and other university committees; he was outstanding in his service as the Director of Admissions and Fellowships in the Department of Near Eastern Studies from 1981 to 1991. In 1996 he was honored with the University Distinguished Service Award.*

*His international stature was evident by his election to the position of President of the American Institute of Iranian Studies. He was also a coordinator for Peace Corps Training, a contributing editor in the area of Saljuq history for the Encyclopaedia Iranica, and served on many national and international advisory committees. He was committed to helping the Iranian students who were studying in the United States during the Iranian crisis, and in so doing was instrumental in getting adverse visa regulations rescinded. He played an important role in educating the public about the Iranian revolution and gave many free public lectures to local and national organizations.*

*Professor Luther focused his scholarship on matters and topics that filled important*

*gaps in the history of Iran. He cared very much about details and accuracy in his scholarly contributions. This was reflected in his teaching, in which his demands for linguistic and historical rigor were legendary but also coupled with a gentleness and humaneness that earned him respect and enormous affection. His students have accepted major positions at leading universities in this country. He lived to help others who shared his passions, as was evident in his weekly Sunday afternoon meetings of the Persian Poetry group.*

#### **K. ALLIN LUTHER PRIZE**

The K. Allin Luther Prize was initially established in 1993 by the Department of Near Eastern Studies to honor this Iranist who had mentored and inspired students throughout the span of his three decade career at the University of Michigan. In recognition for the endeavors of this scholar, teacher and devotee of Iran and its cultural heritage his colleagues and students contributed to this award. The prize has since been granted annually to graduate or undergraduate students who distinguished themselves in the field of Iranian Studies. Last month (Feb. 2, 1997), with his passing, the department has decided to broaden this attempt at commemoration for their late colleague's dedication to the field, soliciting new contributions with the hope of turning the Prize into a Scholarship for graduate work in Iranian Studies. Such a scholarship would be a fitting testimonial to Professor Luther's commitment and concern for the financial support of students whom he recognized as essential to the future livelihood of Iranian studies. Contributions can be made to the K. Allin Luther Prize (Account #304963) c/o Department of Near Eastern Studies, 3074 Frieze Bld., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 [Contact person: K. Babayan].