



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF IRANIAN STUDIES

Annual Newsletter

2005

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year has seen a noticeable increase in the ranks of the member institutions of the American Institute of Iranian Studies. We welcome, new this year, California State Fullerton, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, the University of Arkansas and Yale University as members. There have been several transitions in representation among Institutional Trustees, and we are pleased to be joined by these new individuals on the Board. We take this opportunity to extend heart-felt thanks, upon his retirement from the Board, to Dr. Farhad Kazemi, long-standing Institutional Trustee from New York University, who continuously served AIIRs as a trustee and on various committees for thirty years.

Although visas were a particular difficulty for student fellows in 2005, we are doing what we can to resolve the problems. Meanwhile, several fellows from Iran were able to pursue research in the US, and senior scholars in the US were able to participate in conferences in Iran with AIIRs fellowships. AIIRs initiated contact with the Embassy of Tajikistan about possibilities for re-establishing the prior AIIRs program for student study of Persian in Dushanbe, which operated for a brief span in 1992. Finally, AIIRs continued to recognize outstanding translations of literary works from Persian into English, through the Lois Roth award for 2004, which goes to Jawid Mojaddedi for his translation of Book One of Rumi's *Masnavi*. Congratulations! We look forward to a robust and active year in 2006/1385.

With all best vernal Noruz wishes,

Franklin Lewis
President

NEW AIIRS INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

AIIRS welcomes the following institutions as new Institutional Members:

California State University, Fullerton
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
University of Arkansas
Yale University

NEW AIIRS INSTITUTIONAL TRUSTEES

New Institutional Trustee for California State University, Fullerton:

Dr. Touraj Daryaei
Associate Professor of History
Department of History

New Institutional Trustee for Cornell University:

Dr. David Owen
Professor
Department of Near Eastern Studies

New Institutional Trustee for Dartmouth College:

Dr. Gene Garthwaite
Professor of History and Asian Studies
Department of History

New Institutional Trustee for New York University:

Dr. Shiva Balaghi
Associate Director
Hagop Kevorkian Center

New Institutional Trustee for Princeton University:

Dr. Julie Taylor
Assistant Professor
Department of Near Eastern Studies

New Institutional Trustee for University of Arkansas:

Dr. Vincent J. Cornell
Chair of Studies, Program in Religious Studies
Director, King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies

New Institutional Trustee for University of Texas at Austin:

Dr. Kamran Aghaie
Associate Professor of Islamic and Iranian History
Acting Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies

New Institutional Trustee for Yale University:

Dr. Abbas Amanat
Professor of History and International and Areas Studies
Chair, Council on Middle East Studies

AIIRS MEETS WITH IRANIAN DELEGATES

On May 1, 2005, AIIRS Past-President Dr. Prudence Harper and Executive Director Dr. Erica Ehrenberg attended a dinner hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in honor of a delegation of visiting Iranian dignitaries invited to the United States for discussions sponsored by Catholic University in Washington. The theme of the visit was interfaith communication and cross-cultural understanding, central to the "Dialogue of Civilizations" initiative established by President Khatami and carried forward by the International Centre for Dialogue Among Civilizations headquartered in Tehran. Delegates included officials from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization and members of the Iranian Parliament representing the various faith groups (including Christian, Jewish, Zoroastrian) as well as executives involved in Persian school programs in the US. Their visit was in response to a trip made previously by the Cardinal of Washington, professors from Catholic University and a number of rabbis and American imams to Iran where they were received by President Khatami. The gracious invitation provided a unique opportunity for AIIRS to meet with Iranian officials dedicated to the AIIRS mission of promoting educational exchange between American and Iranian scholars.

AIIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to running its regular programs and embarking on the new initiatives outlined elsewhere in this newsletter, the AIIRS was also a presence at several conferences held during the year which brought together researchers in various fields of Iranian Studies from around the world. Executive Director Dr. Erica Ehrenberg attended a conference on "Contemporary Iranian Art: Modernity and the Iranian Artist" held in July at Kellogg College, Oxford. The conference examined the concept of modern Iranian art within an academic framework and in the broader context of contemporary art. Speakers included artists, theorists, curators and art historians from Iran, Europe and the US. Several former AIIRS fellows attended, one as a speaker. Another speaker, Dr. Shiva Balaghi of the Kevorkian Center at New York University, has since been named NYU's Institutional Trustee to the Board of AIIRS. In mid-September, the conference "US-Iran Relations: Regional and Global Dynamics," took place at the University of Utah, sponsored by the Middle East and Central Asia Conference Committee, an academic group affiliated with the University, along with media sponsorship by World Security Network. An AIIRS pre-doctoral fellow was in attendance and Dr. Ehrenberg delivered a paper on the role of AIIRS in promoting citizen contacts. In late September, a number of AIIRS trustees and a senior fellow were represented at a conference at the British Museum titled "The World of Achaemenid Persia," organized jointly by The British Museum and the Iran Heritage Foundation in conjunction with the "Forgotten Empire: The World of Ancient Persia" exhibition at the British Museum, the largest exhibition on Achaemenid Persia ever assembled. AIIRS trustees Dr. Holly Pittman (Vice President), Dr. Judith Lerner (Treasurer) and David Stronach (Institutional Trustee from Berkeley). A paper was also given by an Iranian fellow of AIIRS, Mr. Shahrokh Razmjou (National Museum of Iran) who was a fellow at the University of Chicago in August.

AIIRs FELLOWSHIPS
CAORC AND U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND EDUCATION

All applications should be e-mailed to: aiis@nyc.rr.com

Or, if e-mail is unavailable, mailed to:

Dr. Erica Ehrenberg

Executive Director

118 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10024

1. Persian Language Study in Tehran

The AIIRs 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: Summer (session begins July 11), Fall (session begins September 30) or Winter (session begins February 4). 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 cover the cost of international air travel, tuition, and board and lodging in Tehran.

Applications must include a curriculum vitae and be made in the form of a letter, giving the following information: citizenship; research plans, level of Persian attained and what degree of proficiency is required; academic affiliation and status (stage of progress towards the doctorate); which of the three sessions is preferred; names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees (including the primary academic advisor). The CV and letter should be submitted as one file. The two referees should e-mail their letters of recommendation directly to AIIRs and include mention of relevance of Persian to the dissertation; evaluation of the project and how study in Iran will enhance dissertation work; student's level of maturity and adaptability to conditions in Iran. The deadline for receiving applications is January 10. The deadline for receiving letters of recommendation is January 15. Decisions will be made by mid-February.

2. Research Fellowship in Iranian Studies/Resident Director-Tehran

The AIIRs offers a six-month research fellowship and residency in Tehran. In addition to pursuing research, the fellow serves as AIIRs Resident Director, overseeing the affairs of the AIIRs and its language fellows in Tehran. Applicants should be U.S. citizens, have completed a Ph.D. and be proficient in Persian.

Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a letter with a detailed description of research plans. Also included must be the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of two referees, and a curriculum vitae.

3. Short-term Senior Fellowships in Iranian Studies

The AIIRs offers a limited number of short-term senior fellowships for two-to-four week visits to Iran. 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. Included must be the names and addresses of relevant contacts in Iran who have provided permission to do research, the names and e-mail addresses of two referees and a curriculum vitae. Specify preferred dates of travel.

4. Bibliographer

The AIIRs offers a two-month fellowship in Iran for a scholar with a professional interest in the history of research in Iran since 1979 and the current scholarly establishment, to research recent publications in the chosen field and compile bibliographic references which may be used for the eventual reconstitution of the AIIRs library. Applicants should be U.S. citizens and hold a Ph.D. in one or another discipline of Iranian Studies. Each year's Bibliographer will be chosen from a different discipline.

Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a letter explaining the applicant's particular interest and area of research. Also included must be the names and e-mail addresses of two referees and a curriculum vitae. Specify preferred dates of travel.

5. Senior Fellowships for Iranian Scholars

The American Institute of Iranian Studies offers a limited number of short-term (two-to-three week) and long term (three-month) senior fellowships for visits to the United States. 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 the U.S. and work collaboratively with U.S. scholars. Applicants must be Iranian citizens and preference will be given to tenured faculty members and museum staff with English fluency, a record of research in the humanities or the social sciences relating to Iran, and publications in scholarly journals.

Applications, which will be considered on a rolling basis, should be made in the form of a curriculum vitae and a letter explaining the applicant's project and how the opportunity of pursuing research in the United States (citing names of specific libraries, archival collections and/or conferences that will have a direct bearing on the research) would enhance the results. The applicant should also include three letters of reference from colleagues well-acquainted with the applicant's work, including at least one reference from the applicant's home institution. Preference will be given to applicants providing the names of relevant contacts in the U.S. who have extended an invitation and permission to conduct research, and copies of such letters of invitation/permission should be submitted along with the application. Please specify preferred dates of travel.

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF THE AIIRs

California State University, Fullerton
Cornell University
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Emory University
Harvard University
Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York University
North Carolina Center for South Asia Studies
Ohio State University
Princeton University
San Jose State University
Smithsonian Institution

University of Arizona
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas, Austin
University of Utah
University of Washington
Washington University, St. Louis
Yale University

LOIS ROTH PERSIAN TRANSLATION PRIZE 2004

The Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize was established in memory of Lois Roth whose interest in and affection for Iran and Iranian culture dates back to the late 1960s when she lived and worked in Iran as Assistant and then Deputy Cultural Attaché in the USIA and as Director of the Iran America Society. At that time Lois Roth was one of a group of persons who helped initiate and encourage the foundation of the American Institute of Iranian Studies. After her death in 1986 the Lois Roth Endowment was created. Since 1999 the Endowment has included, among many contributions to international programs, funding for the Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize of the American Institute of Iranian Studies.

The American Institute of Iranian Studies announces the presentation of the fifth 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 2004 is Jawid Mojaddedi, for his translation of Jalal al-Din Rumi's *The Masnavi: Book One* (Oxford University Press, 2004). The text of the award announcement was written by the Roth Prize Committee of the AIIRs:

Jalâl al-Din Rumi is a best-selling poet in the U.S., often through translations that present polished excerpts of individual parts of his *Masnavi*, one of the most widely read poems in the Muslim world. Such selections typically excerpt the stories from the fabric of the work and fail to show the lineaments that thread one story to the next. Now we are at a moment when a translation of the entire masterpiece, expressed in a contemporary, accessible language for a wider readership, is a desirable next step. This is a daunting task, requiring a commitment of heroic patience and intellectual persistence. Jawid Mojaddedi has taken that step, with the first volume of his projected complete verse translation. We honor him for his success in a timely contribution to English letters. There are translations that introduce new voices to us, and others that make the voices we had thought familiar seem new. New generations need new translations of the classics, and we feel that we now have the voice of Rumi's *Masnavi* in the idiom of today, that can take its place alongside modern translations of Ferdowsi, Dante and Homer. Making Rumi available to us in his complexity and his discursive, conversational persona is a great and lasting contribution, and we would be pleased if this award confirms Professor Mojaddedi in the commitment to translate the remaining five books of this great mystical-didactic poem.

Previous winners of the Lois Roth Prize:

- 2004: *The Masnavi, Book One*, Jalal al-Din Rumi (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004): Translated by Jawid Mojaddedi
- 2003: *The Haft Paykar: A Medieval Persian Romance*, Nizami (Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 1995): Translated by Julie Meisami
- 2002: *The Sands of Oxus: Boyhood Reminiscences of Sadriddin Aini* (Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publications, 1998): Translated by John Perry and Rachel Lehr
- 2001: *In the Dragon's Claws: the Story of Rostam & Esfandiyar*, Ferdowsi (Washington, DC: Mage Publishers, 1999): Translated by Jerome W. Clinton
- 2000: *The Conference of the Birds*, Farid al-Din Attar (Harmondsworth, Middlesex/ New York: Penguin, 1984): Translated by Afkham Darbandi and Richard Davis
- 1999: *My Uncle Napoleon*, Iraj Pezeshkzad (Washington, DC: Mage Publishers, 1996): Translated by Richard Davis

AIIRS FELLOWS, 2005

SHORT-TERM SENIOR FELLOWS

Dr. Camron Amin, University of Michigan Dearborn, Associate Professor of History, traveled to Iran to visit Isfahan University of Technology and research its founding; purchase published document sets related to press, media and related topics; and conduct research for a book on globalization in Iran. Travel within Iran to Shiraz, Isfahan and Qom served as field work for a planned book on globalization in Iran. Informal conversations with an array of individuals provided crucial context for understanding the way Iranians comprehend the effect of global political, cultural and economic forces on their lives. The fellowship tenure proved seminal to Dr. Amin's efforts to develop a long-term research agenda on the history and culture of modern Iran and gain practical experience in navigating Iran's social and infrastructural realities.

Dr. Abdolmajid Arfaee, Persepolis-Pasargadae Research Institute, conducted research in Chicago on the Persepolis tablets. Dr. Arfaee studied at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago in the 1960s and 1970s. At Chicago, he had worked on Elamite texts from Persepolis with the late Richard T. Hallock. His primary goal of research is to publish 650 of the Fortification tablets that have not been published. In Chicago, he was able to recheck the readings, take digital photos and consult Hallock's copious notes. Dr. Arfaee intends to publish these tablets in both Persian and English with transliteration, translations and photos. The Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization has accepted to publish the results of this research, which will be an important contribution towards an understanding of the relatively difficult and obscure Achaemenid Elamite, and homage to Hallock's Herculean effort to understand the language. Dr. Arfaee currently has a book in press in Iran, written in Persian and English, that will come out shortly. In this volume, he publishes 150 Fortification tablets that were returned to Iran in 1948 as well as 13 additional tablets that were discovered by Iranian archaeologists.

Mr. Mohammad Reza Razavi, a Ph.D. candidate at the Allameh Tabatabai University, undertook a project in applied linguistics with Professor Hossein Samei of the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at Emory University. Formerly a researcher at the Persian Academy of Language and Literature in Tehran, Mr. Razavi is writing a dissertation entitled "Semantic Approaches to Compilation of a Persian Language Thesaurus." Dr. Samei, himself a former researcher at the Persian Academy of Language, is a noted scholar in the field of Persian linguistics and one of the three co-authors of the prestigious 2-volume Millennium English-Persian Dictionary (Tehran: Farhang Moaser, 2000), widely acclaimed as the best English-Persian dictionary ever produced. In addition to pursuing research, Mr. Razavi also delivered lectures and visited classes at Emory and nearby universities.

Mr. Shahrokh Razmjou, completing a PhD at University College London under the supervision of John Curtis, Keeper of West Asian Antiquities at the British Museum, attended the 51st annual Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, held at the University of Chicago in July. After study in Tehran, including work on Elamite cuneiform and extensive excavation experience, Mr. Razmjou organized the current Achaemenid section and the current tablet collection at the Iranian National Museum. At the RAI, he presented a paper on the "Activities and Projects of the Centre of Achaemenid Studies" and it included the activities in the Achaemenid department in the last four years since its establishment in 2001. The conference afforded him the opportunity to meet many colleagues and talk about mutual plans and collaboration between institutions in the future and to see the material from Iran, now in the Oriental Institute and the Field Museum.

LONG-TERM SENIOR FELLOWS

Ms. Masoumeh Kimiaie, a specialist in prehistoric archaeology, was invited by the Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA) at the University of Pennsylvania Museum for a residency in the spring. At MASCA, she collaborated with Dr. Naomi Miller, an archaeobotanist who has worked on material recovered from Iranian excavations. Ms. Kimiaie assisted in the analysis of archaeobotanical materials from three Iranian sites, Tall-e Mushki, Jari and Bakun A and B. The sites were excavated in 2004 and the plant materials had been sent to MASCA for analysis. During her two-month stay, Ms. Kimiaie was able to take advantage of the rich archaeobotanical, archaeological and botanical library at MASCA and had access to the comparative collection of seeds and woods collected by Dr. Miller in Iran, and it was possible to analyze, identify and interpret plant remains recovered from the samples. Although the research could not be completed during the two months, Ms. Kimiaie plans to return to MASCA in the near future.

Dr. Farah Zahedi, Tehran University, spent the summer in Ann Arbor as an invitee of the University of Michigan, assisted there by Professor Gernot Windfuhr, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Professor Sussan Babaie, Department of History of Art and AIIRs Trustee. Dr. Zahedi collected material on her project, "Analysis of the Verbal System of Baluchi Language in comparison with Middle Iranian Languages." She investigated the two Baluchi dialects of Lashari and Saravani, beginning with the history of the Baluchis, their dialects and the etymology of Baluchi. First she studied all the grammatical resources for the Baluchi verbal system, then described the Lashari and Saravani verbal systems. The final part of the study, which she will complete in Tehran, concerns the comparison of the dialects with Middle Iranian languages.

OFFICERS OF THE AIIRS

President: Dr. Franklin Lewis: Associate Professor of Persian, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

Vice President: Dr. Holly Pittman: Professor, Department of Art History, University of Pennsylvania

Secretary: Dr. Sussan Babaie: Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art, University of Michigan

Treasurer: Dr. Judith Lerner: Independent Art Historian

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN THE U.S., 2006

EASTERN CONSORTIUM IN PERSIAN AND TURKISH

June 19-August 11, 2006

Intensive instruction in both introductory and intermediate Persian and Turkish and in elementary Pashto. The emphasis in all courses will be on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each course will provide up to 15 quarter hours of graded undergraduate credit. Some financial aid will be available from the Consortium to qualified applicants. In addition, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships and other sources of financial support may also be applied. The Consortium will accept the Summer FLAS tuition award as payment in full for Ohio State's nonresident tuition and fees. Applicants for Persian or Turkish study who are graduate or professional students may apply for a Summer 2006 FLAS Fellowship from Ohio State's Middle East Studies Center. On-campus housing will be available at nominal rates.

Application deadline: April 3, 2006.

For further information, contact:

Stafford Noble, Consortium Coordinator, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, The Ohio State University, 300 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1340

Tel: 614-292-7758

Fax: 614-292-1262

E-mail: noble.3@osu.edu

Website: <http://nelc.osu.edu/programs/ptcn0406/announce.cfm>

The Eastern Consortium in Persian, Turkish, and Pashto is a cooperative arrangement of the Title VI National Resource Centers of Columbia, Georgetown, Harvard, New York, Ohio State, Princeton, and Yale Universities and the Universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania, with special support from the College of Humanities at The Ohio State University.

GEORGETOWN SUMMER INSTITUTE IN ARABIC AND PERSIAN

June 5 - August 11, 2006

The language program is designed to help participants acquire skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, Iraqi Arabic and Persian. The language program is proficiency-based; materials are designed to help students develop their communicative abilities in order to perform tasks that a native speaker carries out in formal and informal situations. Students are assessed based on usage in comparison to an educated native speaker and in accordance with the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) guidelines. Classes are small and students receive considerable individual attention inside and outside the classroom. Our faculty members are experienced, dedicated, and diverse; they aim to incorporate advanced and effective techniques, resources and technology for teaching Arabic and Persian. The program offers the student not only exceptional academic surroundings, such as a state of the art language laboratory, but cultural opportunities throughout Washington, D.C.

Persian: In cooperation with the Division of Eastern Mediterranean Languages, a non-intensive ten-week course in first level Persian at the undergraduate level will be offered in the First and Second Sessions. This course is not open to native speakers of Persian or its varieties.

Application deadlines: Non-Georgetown students - May 3; Georgetown students - May 3

First Session (June 5 - July 7)

Non-Intensive First Level Persian I

PERS-001-10

MTWTh 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

3 cr. \$2790 lab fee inc.

Prereq: None. Non-Intensive First Level Persian is a 5-week, 3-credit course designed to build communicative skills as well as proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The course is intensive and will include the language material normally covered in two consecutive semesters of undergraduate study at the entry level. Materials and activities include conversational tasks, oral presentations, listening to the news, utilizing Persian audio-visual and internet sources. This course is open to undergraduate and graduate students, and to persons who are not academically affiliated but need knowledge of Persian for professional or other valid reasons. This course is offered for undergraduate credit only. This course is not open to native speakers of Persian or its varieties.

Second Session (July 10 - August 11)

Non-Intensive First Level Persian II

PERS-002-20

MTWTh 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

3 cr. \$2790 lab fee inc.

Prereq: None. This course is a continuation of Non-Intensive First Level Persian I. Non-Intensive First Level Persian II is a 5-week, 3-credit course designed to build communicative skills as well as proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The course is intensive and will include the language material normally covered in two consecutive semesters of undergraduate study at the entry level. Materials and activities include conversational tasks, oral presentations, listening to the news, utilizing Persian audio-visual and internet sources. This course is open to undergraduate and graduate students, and to persons who are not academically affiliated but need knowledge of Persian for professional or other valid reasons. This course is offered for undergraduate credit only. This course is not open to native speakers of Persian or its varieties.

Website: <http://www.georgetown.edu/departments/arabic/summer.htm>

RIRI SUMMER ADVANCED PERSIAN COURSE AT UNIVERSITY TOWERS, AUSTIN, TEXAS

June 5 -July 10, 2006

The 14th Annual RIRI® Advanced Summer Persian Course, which runs from June 5 to July 10, meets six-to-seven hours each class day, offers a total of 180 hours of instruction, and places equal emphasis on listening, reading, and speaking. Each class hour treats a discrete sort of Persian or language skill. Proficiency/performance-based course materials include units from 'RIRI® Persian Newspaper Syllabus' (2005), 'Advanced Persian Conversations' (in-progress textbook), 'Persian Dictionaries Syllabus' (2005), 'Persian Listening: A Self-study and Classroom Guide' (2006), and 'Persian Language Topics' (2007). In addition to these materials, course participants receive copies of up-to-date Persian-Persian, Persian-English, and English-Persian dictionaries, Iranian newspapers, and CD and DVD recordings of texts. The daily class schedule is: (1) 8:00-8:50 Study Hall/Review, (2) 9:00-9:50 Persian Conversation, (3) 10:00-10:50 Iranian Newspapers, (4) 11:00-11:50 Persian Listening, 12:00-12:45 Persian Lunch Tables, (5) 1:00-1:50 Iranian Geography and Technical Persian Texts, (6) 2:00-2:50 Reading, Listening and Talking about War and Terrorism, and (7) Persian Language Topics. Persian is the language of communication in and outside of class, except for use of English in the afternoon Persian Language Topics sessions. On five afternoons, course participants watch Iranian feature films for which they prepare in Persian Listening class sessions and which they review in Persian Conversation class sessions. The course also involves three Persian/Iranian cooking lessons, and a field trip to Iranian-American businesses in Houston. RIRI® Advanced Summer Persian Course classes take place at University Towers, an apartment and office complex in mid-town Austin three blocks west of the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. Course participants reside at University Towers and take their meals at University Towers Food Court. Each course participant has a private bedroom and private bathroom in a two-bedroom apartment, with free wireless connection to the Internet. Upon completion of the course, participants receive a certificate signed by course faculty and a letter by Course Director Michael Hillmann, Professor of Persian Studies at The University of Texas, stating that the Course is equivalent to three, three-credit,

third- or fourth-year Persian courses at Texas and other universities. For more information about the 14th Annual RIRI® Advanced Summer Persian Course, contact:
Persepolis Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 8016, Austin, TX 78713, USA
Tel/Fax: 512-458-2924
E-mail: persepinstitute@aol.com
Website: www.PersianNotes.com

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF DISTINGUISHED LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (ADLP)

July 31-August 25, 2006

The Advancement of Distinguished Language Proficiency (ADLP) Center is offering professional-level courses in Persian. The goal of these courses is to begin preparing students with an American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Superior level, equivalent to the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) level 3 of proficiency in Persian language and culture to attain ILR level 4 or distinguished proficiency and thus develop the ability to use the language in professional environments in the world.

Requirements: Students must have a profile containing ACTFL superior or ILR level 3 skills on the proficiency scale. Diagnostic assessments will take place, both prior to and after the course sequence. The courses must be taken together, with four and a half hours of intensive class sessions, Monday-Friday during the first 3 weeks. Students work on a personal project under professorial supervision during the 4th week.

Website: http://larcnet.sdsu.edu/workshops.php?page=adlp_pe_06

UC BERKELEY SPECIAL SUMMER LANGUAGE PROGRAM

June 26-August 18, 2006

Intensive elementary Persian (Persian 10) will cover the same contents as do the two-semester elementary Persian courses given in the regular academic year.

Intensive Elementary Persian: MTWTF 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

For information on fees and on the application and enrollment processes, please contact the Berkeley campus Office of Summer Sessions.

E-mail: info@mail.summer.berkeley.edu

Website: summer.berkeley.edu

UCLA SUMMER LANGUAGE INTENSIVE

June 26-August 4 or 18, 2006

UCLA is offering intensive 6- and 8-week Persian language courses:

Elementary Iranian (Iranian 1 ABC) (8 weeks)

Intermediate Iranian (Iranian 102 ABC) (8 weeks)

Advanced Iranian (Iranian 103 ABC) (8 weeks)

Comparative Study of Persian Poets (Iranian 120) (6 weeks)

UCLA Summer Institutes and Special Programs, 1332 Murphy Hall, Box 951418, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Tel: (310) 825-4101

Fax: (310) 825-1528

E-mail: institutes@summer.ucla.edu

Website: <http://www.summer.ucla.edu/institutes/LanguageIntensives/overview.htm>

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON SUMMER ARABIC & PERSIAN IMMERSION PROGRAM

June 17-August 12, 2006

UW-Madison's Summer Arabic & Persian Immersion Programs is a joint project of the Department of African Languages and Literature and the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, coordinated by Global Studies with support from the College of Letters and Science and Middle East Studies. The aim at the UW-Madison Arabic & Persian Summer Immersion Program (APIP) is to create an intensive language learning environment in which participants are encouraged to challenge themselves and stretch the limits of their language learning potential. Students in the program sign a language contract agreeing to communicate in only Arabic or Persian during the entire length of the eight-week course. The series of cultural activities that will take place throughout the summer is another indispensable component of the program. Students of Persian will watch Iranian films, listen to Persian lectures and music, and visit Persian restaurants all in the company of Persian-speaking teaching staff. A television in the dormitories will receive Arabic and Persian satellite stations, and a variety of Arabic and Persian language newspapers, magazines, books, music, and other media will also be available. The site of the 2006 program will be the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, a sister campus to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The program is open to both UW and non-UW students, as well as professionals. This summer's Persian offerings are Elementary Persian and Intermediate Persian. Each course is equivalent to one year of language study in a normal university setting and will offer eight semester credits.

For further information, contact:

Arabic & Persian Immersion Program, UW-Madison Global Studies, 301 Ingraham Hall, 1155 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706

Tel: (608) 265-2631

Fax: (608) 265-2633

E-mail: global@intl-institute.wisc.edu

Website: <http://global.wisc.edu/apip/>

OTHER FELLOWSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CENTER FOR PERSIAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

The Center for Persian Studies at the University of Maryland has established a certificate of professional studies in Persian (<http://www.languages.umd.edu/persian/programs.php>), and it is now accepting applications. Classes start on August 1, 2006. This professional certificate has two components. In the first year, students are immersed in the Persian world language and culture at the Center for Persian Studies in sheltered content area courses and in the second year, they are scheduled to be sent to the University of Dushanbe in the Republic of Tajikistan for further studies in Persian. The federal government provides full funding for US citizens (30,000 dollars) provided they make a commitment to work for a federal department for at least two years. Full information available at: <http://nsep.aed.org/application.html>. Those who do not qualify for such funding will be considered for a University of Maryland scholarship worth \$4000 a year.

COTSEN VISITING SCHOLAR POSITION

University of California, Los Angeles. The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA (<http://www.ioa.ucla.edu/>) invites applications for the annual Cotsen Visiting Scholar position. The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology is a vibrant, multidisciplinary environment with frequent lectures and other engagements that bring together UCLA's diverse archaeological constituencies. For the

2006-07 academic year, we invite applications for a postdoctoral fellow, rank open, to serve as a scholar in residence for the academic year and to teach a seminar in one term. We especially encourage applicants whose research area is not represented among our current range of geographic and topical specialties. The postdoctoral fellow will be paid a stipend of \$40,000. Applications should consist of a CV including the names and addresses of three references; a 1500-word proposal that describes the intellectual project that the applicant would undertake during the year in residence; and a one-paragraph description of a seminar that she/he would like to teach. Ph.D. must be in hand at the time of application. Deadline for applications is March 1, 2006. Applications should be sent to: Cotsen Visiting Scholar Committee; The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA; Fowler A-210; Los Angeles, CA 90095-1510.

FULBRIGHT VISITING SPECIALISTS PROGRAM

A new competition of the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World is now open. This program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the United States Department of State, administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). The Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program is designed to promote understanding of the Muslim world and civilization by providing opportunities for U.S. colleges and universities to host specialists from the Muslim world for short-term programs of intensive lecturing and public outreach. Specialists will lecture in a variety of humanities and social science disciplines, including arts, with some relevance to Islamic society or civilization. They will also conduct specialized seminars on their field of expertise. Specialists come from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and several countries in Central Asia, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Balkans. CIES will help successful U.S. institutions identify a specialist to be hosted. This competition cycle covers proposals of programs that take place in the Fall 2006 semester only. Up to 30 grants of visits between 3 to 6 weeks are expected to be awarded.

Eligibility of U.S. Institutions: Institutions with few or no Islam-related or relevant area studies programs/courses are encouraged to apply. Institutions that have well-established Islamic or area-studies programs should clearly indicate that their proposed program under the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program is in a field/subject that is not currently supported at the institution. Minority serving institutions and community colleges are encouraged to apply and will receive preference for an award. Institutions that had previously hosted a Visiting Specialist are not eligible.

Eligibility of Visiting Specialists: Persons holding US citizenship or permanent residency are not eligible. Logistical challenges should be expected if you are requesting an individual from Afghanistan and Iraq. The Fulbright Visiting Specialist need not be Muslim by religion, but he/she should be a specialist on either Islamic faith, culture, society, or area studies of the country.

U.S. applicant institutions may request a specific individual to host. Preference will be given to those who were not previously hosted by your department/institution under other Fulbright Programs. If you are not certain, contact CIES. CIES will recruit and identify appropriate individuals for those institutions that do not have a specific scholar in mind.

Applications and instructions online: http://www.cies.org/Visiting_Specialists/

GERMAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (DAI) FELLOWSHIP FOR AMERICAN SCHOLARS

As a result of a conference between officers of the Archaeological Institute of America and the German Archaeological Institute (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut or DAI) the German Archaeological Institute is pleased to announce the creation of a new summer research fellowship for North American scholars. The purpose of the fellowship program is to encourage and support scholarship of the highest quality on various aspects of archaeology and to promote contact between North American and German archaeologists. Beginning in 2006, the Deutsches Archäologisches

Institut will offer one post-doctoral summer research fellowship per year to a North American scholar of archaeology who wishes to use the library facilities of the DAI in Berlin. Applications are now invited for the fellowship in archaeology for the period between June 7 and August 6, 2006. The fellowship includes travel expenses for the Fellow, a stipend of 24 Euros/day plus 4.12 Euros/day for research expenses, and residence in the DAI's guest house. If the Fellow is accompanied by a spouse the stipend will be increased by an additional 5.11 Euros/day but the spouse's travel expenses will not be covered by the Fellowship. Unfortunately, children cannot be accommodated in the DAI's guest house.

Prerequisites for the fellowship are a Ph.D. degree (or its equivalent) and professional competence in archaeology. The principal requirement is a detailed research proposal of no more than three pages. Criteria Used in the Awarding of Fellowships:

1. Fellows will be selected on the basis of scholarly promise as indicated by the applicant's academic record, prior publications and the merits of the proposed research project.
2. Preference will be given to applicants who are at an early stage of their professional careers. The German Archaeological Institute supports affirmative action and equal opportunity in the selection of fellows. Applicants should send the following materials:
 - a) a detailed research proposal (no more than three pages)
 - b) a curriculum vitae
 - c) a publication list

Applications must be postmarked by January 31st, 2006. All correspondence should be addressed to: An den Präsidenten des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hermann Parzinger, Podbielskiallee 69-71, 14195 Berlin, Deutschland

Tel : 49-(0)1888-7711-0

Fax : 49-(0)1888-7711-168

E-mail: praesident@dainst.de

IRANIAN ALLIANCES ACROSS BORDERS

We are proud to announce the launch of the first ever Iranian-American Leadership Camp for high school students. This camp is part of our mission to inspire and develop the next generation of Iranian-American leaders and connect them with existing resources in our community. We also expanded our ties with Iranian organizations for Project Connection's database, in order to provide you with more opportunities to intern/volunteer in Iran. Please visit the updated website at <http://www.project-connection.org/>.

AIIRS WEBSITE

Please visit the AIIRs website for the history of the Institute and lists of officers, trustees and programs.

www.simorgh-aiis.org

FOUNDATIONS IN IRAN

IRANOLOGY FOUNDATION

The Iranology Foundation is a scientific and research association established in 1997 by the approval of the Council for Development of Higher Education for the following purposes:

- *Gain complete scientific and technological knowledge of the numerous manifestations of Iranian culture and civilization
- *Expand the scope of knowledge about Iran
- *Promote cooperation of scientists and researchers throughout the world
- *Discover, review, and reorganize sources related to research concerning Iranology

Iranology Databases: The data presented in data banks aim to provide researchers with information about Iranology studies conducted inside and outside the country. At present, more than 100,000 entries cover various data bank topics including: Books and articles in Persian and English; Historical documents, objects, monuments and structures; Handicrafts; Movies and documentaries; Geographical, regional, ecological, political, social, cultural, educational, research, literary, artistic and economic conditions in Iran; Research projects; Foreign Iranologists and CVs of Iranologists; Institute and research centers for Iranian studies. Cooperation of researchers will help us to modify and complete the information in this data bank.

Series of Conferences on the History of Iranology and its Achievements up to the Present: The Iranology Foundation welcomes the participation of scholars, analysts and researchers in Iranology to participate in its conferences on Iranology, held in Tehran.

Secretariat of the Iranology Foundation

Shirkoh St., Bagh Ferdows, Shahid Fallahi st. (Za'faranieh), Vali – Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran

Tel: 98-21-2417124-6

Fax: 98-21-2417300

E-mail: irfo@iranologyfo.or.ir

Website: <http://www.iranologyfo.net>

COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF PERSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The Council for the Promotion of Persian Language and Literature was established 27-11-66 (Winter 1987), with a mandate to promote Persian language learning throughout the world. The council membership is composed of the Ministers of Science, Research and Technology, Culture and Islamic Guidance, Education, Foreign Affairs and six professors and researchers in the field of Persian Language and Literature. Specific programs include Persian Language teacher training; distribution of books, films, software and other educational materials to Persian language programs throughout the world; production of new films, software and texts; awarding of research and student fellowships; creation of Persian Language centers around the world; and holding of conferences for professors of Persian Language and Literature.

The website (<http://persian-language.org>) lists reports of conferences, new publications (novels, short stories, poetry collections, children's literature, critical works), interviews with authors, book prizes, profiles of Persian literature professors, profiles of Iranian authors and poets, factual information about Persian language and its literature, information on Persian language-oriented foundations in Iran and U.S., and information on Persian language acquisition textbooks and materials. There is also an e-mail discussion forum.

ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION, MASHHAD

The Islamic Research Foundation was established in 1984 in Mashhad and is one of the leading research institutions in Islamic sciences in Iran. This research and cultural organization with about 200 renowned Islamic seminary and university professors, researchers and translators has been active in research covering different fields and aspects of Islamic learning to achieve the following goals:

- *Promote and support scholarly research and disseminate Islamic culture through formation of research departments
- *Encourage and develop research activities in hawzah (Islamic Seminary) and universities
- *Strengthen scholarly and educational potentials of cultural institutions and centers of higher education
- *Spread knowledge of Islamic arts
- *Develop educational courses in order to train researchers
- *Hold scientific seminars and conferences
- *Publish scholarly works and periodicals
- *Develop academic relations with other research centers both at home and abroad

Publications: By the end of August, 2004, 1404 volumes have been published and 16 books have been awarded prizes for the Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as being selected in academic circles, Holy Quran fairs, book week contests, the children's book festival, and the Ferdowsi festival. *The Meshkat* quarterly journal is the official organ of this foundation and 82 issues have been published up to the present time.

Islamic Research Foundation

Near Tabarsi Underpass, Adjoined to the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.), P. O. Box: 91735-366
Mashhad, Iran

E-mail: info@islamic-rf.org

Website: www.islamic-rf.org

Tel: 98-511-2232501-10

Fax: 98-511-2230005

PROJECTS OF INTEREST

THE AFGHANISTAN DIGITAL LIBRARY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Afghanistan has a rich legacy of publishing that began in 1871 under the Amir Shayr 'Ali Khan. But that legacy is in danger of disappearing and with it an important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. The earliest publications, those issued between 1871 and 1930, are extremely rare and, judging by their absence from major research library collections around the world, are to be found now, if at all, almost exclusively in private collections where public access is limited or impossible. Decades of war in Afghanistan have further dispersed and destroyed holdings of books within the country itself.

The long-term objective of the Afghanistan Digital Library (ADL) project is to retrieve and restore this important part of Afghanistan's cultural heritage. The ADL will first locate as many of Afghanistan's publications for the period 1871–1930 as it is possible to find and seek permission from their owners for access to these materials. They will then be cataloged, digitized, and the digital images of complete texts will be made available over the Internet and on CD-ROM/DVD. At this point the ADL has identified some 550 published documents, pamphlets, and manuals. That number will undoubtedly increase as the project progresses. (The current status of the ADL may be seen at <http://afghanistandl.nyu.edu>) Because of the extreme rarity of these publications, their cataloguing (according to international standards) and the dissemination of that cataloguing information over

such networks as Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) will be a critical aspect of the project. Further, making the material available to anyone with access to a computer will accomplish the primary objective of the project—the restoration of an important part of Afghanistan’s heritage. In addition, where computers are unavailable, the ADL will provide archival photocopies.

According to research done to date, at least 550 individual works were published in Afghanistan between 1871 and 1930. We expect that number to increase as more bibliographic work is done. In particular, because Pashto literature has not been as carefully catalogued as the Dari, we believe there may be much more Pashto material than is listed here. For example, many of the publications of the pre-1900 period were issued in both Dari and Pashto versions. The project takes advantage of New York University Library’s expertise in, and facilities for, the creation of digital libraries. Besides cataloguing the works, the process includes stabilizing the materials for digitization in the conservation department of the library and then digitizing them using both flatbed and overhead scanners (where a work cannot be laid flat).

The ADL project offers to lenders of books and other material the services of the NYU Library in preserving that heritage in exchange for the loan of the works for cataloguing and scanning. Every work will be kept in a secure facility while in the library’s possession. For lenders, the library will return the material in custom-made archival folders or boxes, depending on size, and rebound as received if requested. All shipping and insurance costs will be paid by the project.

Each work is catalogued by the Project’s librarian into the RLIN database, an internationally available bibliographic information system, in order to allow scholars to locate these rare and valuable materials. Once catalogued, the works are reviewed by the Libraries’ preservation staff and, where necessary, dis-bound for scanning. The works then pass to the Digital Library Team for scanning. Scans are made at an extremely high resolution (600 dpi) and color depth (24-bit), then are batch-processed into versions with smaller file sizes for computer-based publishing and viewing. While the works are being scanned, ADL project staff are simultaneously recording the structure of the work and linking the scanned images with that structure using the Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard [METS], a standardized format for digital library materials developed by the Digital Library Federation. This provides the Library with the information it needs now and in the future to periodically refresh and migrate the data to new formats and standards, ensuring the durability of these valuable resources. As soon as each work is completed, the catalogue entry data and the full-size image scans become available via the Internet to all interested parties with no access restrictions.

As of the beginning of September 2005, the project had digitized and uploaded to the ADL website some 7,000 pages, including several works from the time of Amir ‘Abd al-Rahman Khan and many *nizamnামs* from the era of Aman Allah Khan as well as other things. The ADL project is grateful for any assistance, particularly information about works from the period 1871–1930 that have not yet been identified. The staff has created a bibliography of books, documents, and periodicals from the period and will send it to any interested parties. Address requests to afghanistandl@nyu.edu or rdm1@nyu.edu. The project is especially interested in works in Pashto and works published outside Kabul—in Qandahar, Herat, Mazar-i Sharif, or elsewhere, for example. The ADL publishes an occasional newsletter. If you are interested in receiving a copy send an email to robert.mcchesney@nyu.edu. In January 2005, Minister Sayed Makhdoom Raheen and Dr. Carol Mandel, Dean of the New York University Libraries, signed an agreement of cooperation for which funding is currently under review. If approved, the funding would allow the ADL to train conservation and digitization specialist for the Ministry and to establish a conservation and digitization lab in Kabul. A decision on this project will be made in April 2006.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ISLAMIC DOCUMENT DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Princeton University is embarking on a four-year project to digitize and post online about 200 Islamic documents including ninth century ornamental Qurans, interpretations of the Quran and Islamic law, treatises on philosophy, science, art, magic and medicine, as well as poetry and history. The entire collection contains over 10,000 texts written in Arabic script in Persian, Turkish and other languages, including handwritten documents, books and letters dating from the eighth century to the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Gathered in the late 1800s by a Princeton alumnus and presented to the University in 1942, the collection is the largest of its kind in North America.

SASANIKA PROJECT, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

One of the most remarkable empires of the first millennium CE was that of the Sasanian Persian Empire. Emanating from southern Iran's Persis region in the third century AD, the Sasanian domain eventually encompassed not only modern day Iran and Iraq, but also the greater part of Central Asia and the Near East, including at times, the regions corresponding to present-day Israel, Turkey, and Egypt. This geographically diverse empire brought together a striking array of ethnicities and religious practices. Arameans, Arabs, Armenians, Persians, Romans, Goths as well as a host of other peoples all lived and labored under Sasanian rule. It is the aim of the Sasanika: Late Antique Near East Project to bring to light the importance of the Sasanian civilization in the context of late antique and world history. Sasanika's aims: (1) Integration of the Sasanian Empire into the field of late antiquity, as well as the field of world history; (2) Creation of a web-site dedicated to Sasanian civilization; (3) Establishment of panels on Sasanian studies, dedicated to a specific theme in Sasanian studies; (4) Publication of Sasanian material culture; (5) Re-discovery and re-attribution of many artifacts that are Sasanian in origin.

Website: <http://sasanika.fullerton.edu/>

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF PERSIAN CULTURE, PERSIAN MANUSCRIPT FACSIMILES

In 1999, SPPC embarked on a mission to contribute to research in Classical Persian literature. It was decided that we fund a series of facsimile reproductions of important Persian manuscripts in order to make them available to the scholarly community for textual and paleographical studies. We hope such a series would facilitate access to codices that were either inaccessible or difficult to find.

The process of publication involves three steps. First, a manuscript is chosen based on its paleographic, textual, cultural, or other important characteristics. The choice is made by the series' editors, Professor Iraj Afshar (emeritus, Tehran University), and Mahmoud Omidshar, (John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, California State University, Los Angeles). The editors may rely on advice from other experts in the field. Second, permission to reproduce the codex in facsimile form is secured from its individual or institutional owner. Third, the manuscript is filmed, and reproduced in a limited number in Iran. Every volume has an extensive introduction, and depending on the language of the introduction, a summary in Persian or English is provided.

Thanks to the generous financial contributions of SPPC members, we have so far been able to publish three manuscripts. These are: "Mujmal Al-Tawârikh wa-'Lqisas" (composed circa 1126 AD, and copied in 1350 AD), "Mujmal al-aqwâl fi al-hikam wa al-amthâl" (copied by its author in 1293 AD), and "Hezâr hekâyat-I Sufîyân" (a Sufi text of uncertain date, but important textual and codicological features, from Professor Iraj Afshar's private collection).

Funds for the 4th and 5th volumes in the series are already on deposit. Potential selections currently being considered for these two volumes include the oldest complete manuscript of the Shahnama, which is kept at the British Library, and three manuscripts of the Garshasnama, which will be produced in a single volume.

Website: <http://www.sppcindiana.org/index.htm>

CONFERENCES IN IRAN, 2006/2007

National commission of UNESCO Seminar on Cultural Diversity, March 17-23, 2006, Tehran

UNESCO's national commission in Iran will hold a seminar on the Cultural Diversity, during which issues related to cultural diversity will be discussed and studied by different cultural, legal, and economical authorities and experts. The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted unanimously by the 185 Member States represented at the 31st session of the General Conference in 2001 in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001, is the founding act of a new ethic being promoted by UNESCO at the dawn of the 21st century. For the first time the international community is provided with wide-ranging standard-setting instrument to underpin its conviction that respect for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue is one of the surest guarantees of development and peace. On 20 October 2005, the UNESCO General Conference approved the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The context of this convention has been translated to Persian by Iranian experts to be submitted to Iran's Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution to consider joining the convention. The Cultural Diversity Seminar will provide an opportunity for experts and authorities to get familiar with different aspects and role of this convention in preserving cultural diversity in different nations. Preserving the cultural heritage and promoting different cultural productions by countries against the influence of mass cultural productions of minority countries such as the United States which has caused a lot of concern in this respect is the main aim of this convention. Regarding cultural diversity, Iran is considered an ethnically diverse country, with Persians forming the majority of the population. The main ethno linguistic minority groups in Iran include the Azaris, Kurds, Baluchis, Turkmen, Armenians, Assyrians, Persian Jews and Kurdish Jews. The tribal groups include the Bakhtiari, Khamseh, Lurs, Qashqai, etc. Though many of the tribal groups have become urbanized over the decades, some continue to function as rural tribal societies. Many of these ethnic groups have their own languages, cultures, and often literature. Their differences occasionally emerge as political ambitions. Some of these groups are also religious minorities. For example the majority of Kurds and Baluchis are Sunni Muslims, while the state religion in Iran is Shiite Islam. One of the major internal policy challenges during the centuries up until now for most or all Iranian governments has been to find the appropriate and balanced approach to the difficulties and opportunities caused by this diversity.

UNESCO Tehran Office Official Weekends are Fridays & Saturdays

Junko Taniguchi (Ms), Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office, Bahman Building, Sa'ad Abad Palace Complex, Tehran 19894, Islamic Republic of Iran

Tel: 98-21-2274-0141~3

Fax: 98-21-2274-0144

Cell: 98-912-209-3102

Email: j.taniguchi@unesco.org or junkotaniguchi@usa.net

Exhibition and Congress of the Art of Revolution (Resistance), June 10, 2006, Tehran

The Cultural and Artistic Center of Saba will hold the first exhibition and congress of the Art of Revolution from Iran, South Africa, Latin America, Cuba, Mexico & Argentina in May 2006. Eligibility for participating in the exhibition: the artworks should be sent until the end of March, through the Foreign Ministry and Iran's Embassy in the home country. The exhibition will be held for one month.

Subjects of the congress:

1. History of the art of revolution
2. Art of revolution and society after revolution and religious beliefs.

3. Characteristics of the art of revolution
4. Relation between the revolutionary art of Iran and other countries.
5. Art of revolution and its slogans
6. Art of revolution and war
7. Art of revolution and national leanings
8. The analysis of the artistic works of the revolution
9. Devoted art and its characteristics

Articles should be in line with the subject of the congress and are to be in one of these branches: literature, cinema, theatre, music and imaginative art (graphic, caricature, drawing, pictorial art, calligraphy). The paper should be typed in zar and be sent with a floppy disk of it. It should be at least 15 and at most 20 pages in A4. It should be new and not previously published.

Address:

Saba Cultural and Artist Institute, No.53 Mozafar St., Taleghani Av., Felstin Sq., Tehran, Iran

Tel/Fax : 98-21-6647534

E-mail : artacademy@honar.ac.ir

Website: www.honar.ac.ir

The Third National Congress on Iranian Studies, June, 2007, Tehran

The First and the Second National Congresses on Iranian Studies held in May 2002 and Dec.2004 respectively in Tehran attracted the attention of numerous Iranian and foreigners interested in Iranian Studies. According to the statements approved at the Second National Congress on Iranian Studies and in order to promote the status and quality of the meeting, the third congress would be allocated to consider studies and research achievements pertaining to a certain historical era. This policy would both help determine priorities and also would hopefully encourage scholars and researchers to exchange their views and experiences as well as be informed of the new achievements. To achieve this goal, The Third National Congress on Iranian Studies aims to focus on studies particularly conducted related to “Iranology during the Safavid era”. The Iranology Foundation hopes to be capable of providing opportunities for Iranologists and researchers to participate actively and to share their views with other colleagues during the meeting. The Third congress focuses on the following issues and has put the following objectives in its agenda: opening a dialogue between scholars and researchers who have focused on Safavid Studies and findings; creating the atmosphere of making critiques and analyses of opinions and ideas regarding Safavid Studies; creating a center for presenting the last achievements and findings related to Safavid Studies; analyzing the problems and hindrances in conducting studies on Safavid era within and outside the country; determining the research priorities and introducing the new fields of research in Safavid era; providing a definition for the realm of Safavid Studies through the exchange of thoughts and ideas regarding the Safavid era. Scholars are requested to send their works in one of the following groups:

1. Persian Literature (Poetry and Prose) in Safavid era
2. Iran's Economy in Safavid era
3. History, Geography, Historical Geography, and Local History of Iran in Safavid era
4. Iranian Languages and Linguistics in Iran during Safavid era
5. Peoples' Culture and Anthropology in Iran during Safavid era
6. Islamic Sciences and Theology in Iran during Safavid era
7. Politics and Management of Local affairs and International Relations in Iran during Safavid era
8. Bibliography and Manuscripts in Safavid era
9. Arts and Handicrafts in Safavid era
10. Urban development and Urbanization in Safavid era

Authors are requested to send a copy of their abstracts to be evaluated by the Scientific Committees. Papers read in International and National conferences or already published in conference proceedings will not be accepted. The researchers are cordially requested not to send papers which have been published before. Abstracts should cover no more than two A4 pages. The abstracts should represent the researcher's recent findings on the issues aimed for in the congress. Hand-written abstracts will not be accepted (Word 2000 or XP is highly requested). The full written paper must not exceed 20 A4 pages. The authors are requested to write their first names, surnames, titles, positions, scientific ranks and major fields of study underneath the title of the paper. The members of scientific boards should mention their membership. Postal addresses, E-mail, telephone and, fax numbers facilitate communications. The congress secretariat will preserve the right not to return the papers handed to the congress.

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: April 20, 2006

Announcement of the accepted Abstracts: June 20, 2006

Deadline for Submission of Full paper: August 20, 2006

Announcement of the papers accepted by committees: November 20, 2006

Deadline for Registration: March, 2007

Announcement of the Congress Final schedule: April 2007

Congress Secretariat:

Iranology Foundation, Iranshenasi St., South Sheik Bahae Ave., Molla Sadra Ave., P.O. Box: 14665-1146

Tel: 98-21-88066146-8

Fax: 98-21-88066149, 88211991

Email: irfo@iranologyfo.com

Website: www.iranologyfo.net

CONFERENCES OUTSIDE IRAN, 2006/2007

Discourses of Memory in Iranian Languages, February 23-24, 2006, Paris, France

This conference is organised by CNRS - Mondes Iranien et Indien in association with The Iran Heritage Foundation, and convened by Christine Allison (Mondes Iranien et Indien, CNRS, Paris) & Philip G Kreyenbroek (Georg-August Universitaet, Goettingen) with support from The Soudavar Memorial Foundation. The international conference, the first to focus on this field, brings together specialists working on aspects of memory, oral history and oral tradition in Iranian languages, whose disciplines include anthropology, history, literature, psychology, and religious studies. The conference will consider wider theoretical approaches within the context of Iranian cultures. The world-wide phenomenon which Pierre Nora has termed 'the current upsurge in memory' has provoked a corresponding academic interest, all the more pervasive for being multidisciplinary. The 'upsurge in memory' which has touched Europe and the US has also been noticeable in the Iranian cultural area. At the time of official commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, academic interest in popular historical discourse is growing; in Central Asia, the evolving post-Soviet national identities make use of totemic past events; in Kurdistan, national history is being created - by normal State means in the Kurdish area of Iraq, and by unofficial Kurdish political and media activity elsewhere. In all these cases, remembrance and commemoration are actively used to forge stronger national and community identities. Accompanying this in many areas is the urge felt by many to record their own lived memories and the events that they or their ancestors witnessed. Some are making these memories public in published books, others on the internet. The latter in particular may partly be seen as part of the global trend towards publication of personal discourse, but this

phenomenon is also a normal response to upheavals across the whole region over the last thirty years - the Iranian revolution, wars in Afghanistan and Kurdistan, the fall of the Soviet Union - and a consequent desire that sufferings should not be forgotten. The interest in the past prevailing in the Iranian cultural area is not merely the result of nebulous 'globalisation' or even the activities of the vigorous diaspora communities originating from the region, but is, at least in part, the product of a traumatic recent history. A number of specialists currently work on subjects linked to memory in the Iranian cultural area. Subaltern history, and history from below, have recently been considered in academic conferences on Iran (Amsterdam 2001, London 2004). Rituals of commemoration and remembrance have also formed part of wider studies of group and national identity. However, despite the number of researchers working on such material as oral traditions, lamentations, oral history interviews and life stories in Iranian languages, these verbal discourses of memory are for the first time the subject of an international academic conference.

Venue:

INALCO (2nd floor, staircase C), 2 Rue de Lille, 75007 Paris, France

For conference programme, see: www.iranheritage.org/memoryconference

Enquiries:

Dr. Christine Allison, INALCO, Dept Eurasie, 104 Quai de Clichy, 92110 Clichy-sur-Seine, France

Tel: 33-1-41408925

E-mail: dgktaylor@Noos.fr

Asian Merchant Cultures at the Crossroads, March 9-11, 2006, Long Island, New York

The Hofstra University Cultural Center and Asian Studies Program will be hosting an interdisciplinary conference Asian Merchant Cultures at the Crossroads. The development and movement of Asian merchant cultures provides a fascinating perspective from which to view the cultures of Asia, as well as other cultures with which they have interacted. This international conference seeks to explore the various ways that Asian merchant cultures intersect. Presenters will explore the ramifications of the development of merchant cultures in Asia from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. Papers and panels related to the following topics are solicited:

1. Globalization and Asian Merchant Culture
2. Merchants as Aristocrats: Changing Tastes in Art, Literature and Society
3. Transnational Identity and Merchant Culture
4. Merchant Cultures, Urban Spaces
5. The Silk Road and Asian Merchant Cultures

Website: www.hofstra.edu/pdf/Cul_AsianReg.pdf

The World of Ancient Persia: Achaemenid Archaeology, History and Religion, March 18, 2006, Irvine, California, U.S.A.

This one-day seminar is sponsored by the History Department of the California State University, Fullerton, the Iranica Institute, Irvine, California, the Rastegar Family Foundation, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, California State University, Fullerton. It will be held at: Ruby Gerontology Building, 13, California State University, Fullerton.

Website: <http://www.safarmer.com/Indo-Eurasian/persianseminar.pdf>

Directions: [http://maps.msn.com/\(jxc2nzyqhfa2lpqwcvtzik55\)/directionsFind.aspx](http://maps.msn.com/(jxc2nzyqhfa2lpqwcvtzik55)/directionsFind.aspx)

Literarische Stoffe und ihre Gestaltung in mitteliranischer Zeit, March 30-31, 2006, Berlin, Germany

Das Colloquium Literarische Stoffe und ihre Gestaltung in mitteliranischer Zeit widmet sich einem Thema, das sich räumlich auf das Sasanidenreich und die Seidenstraße und zeitlich auf das erste Millennium n.Chr. konzentriert. Ausgehend von den Schwerpunkten der Turfanforschung und den Arbeiten Prof. W. Sundermanns auf diesem Gebiet soll der Austausch literarischer Stoffe im riesigen iranischen Sprachgebiet sowohl innerhalb der iranischen Sprachen als auch mit den nicht-iranischen Sprachen und Kulturen in- und außerhalb des Gebiets aufgezeigt werden.

Veranstaltungsort:

Leibniz-Saal, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Jägerstr. 22/23 (am Gendarmenmarkt), 10117 Berlin

Kontakt:

Susann Rabuske

Tel: 49-30-20370 521

E-mail: rabuske@bbaw.de

Website:

www.bbaw.de/bbaw/Forschung/Forschungsprojekte/turfanforschung/de/Ehrencolloquium

The 2006 Middle East and Central Asia Politics, Economics and Society Conference, September 7-9, 2006, Utah, U.S.A.

The fourth annual multidisciplinary Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference will be held during September 7-9, 2006. Since its inception in 2003, the conference has successfully brought together academics (professors and advanced graduate students), analysts, policy makers, and NGO workers interested in the two regions of Middle East and Central Asia/Caucasus in order to network and share research interests. This year, the organizers expect to accommodate as many as 150 research papers from around the world divided into nearly 40 panels. There will also be two plenary presentations, one of which will be delivered by Professor Dru C. Gladney of the University of Hawaii-Manoa and entitled: "China Faces Central Asia: A New Chapter in the Great Game?" The three-day event will also include a presentation by an Ambassador to the US from one of the two regions. Other attractions include three complimentary meals, an evening of Middle Eastern and Central Asian music and art, a book fair, and the screening of recently released films and documentaries on the Middle East and Central Asia. The conference encompasses and encourages interdisciplinary social science approaches to analysis and problem-solving. Panel themes may fall within, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

1. State/Society Relations
2. Religion and Politics
3. Islam and Islamism
4. Civil and Inter-State Conflict Prevention and Resolution
5. Human Rights and Minorities
6. Post-9-11 International Affairs
7. Terrorism and State Violence
8. Authoritarianism and Democracy
9. Challenges of Post-Communism
10. Problems of Economic and Democratic Transitions
11. Nuclear Non-Proliferation
12. Natural Resources and Conflict
13. Economic Development and Sustainability
14. International Financial Institutions and Regional Policy
15. Oil and Natural Gas Trade and Conflict
16. Nation-building Projects in Iraq and Afghanistan
17. Politics of External Actors (US, Russia, EU, China, etc.)

18. Regional Organizations and Cooperation
19. Post-Communist Velvet Revolutions
20. Xinjiang and Uyghur Nationalism
21. Kurdish Nationalism
22. Azerbaijan-Armenia Dispute
23. Chechnya and Russia
24. US-Iran Relations
25. Turkey-EU Relations
26. Palestine-Israel Conflict
27. Culture, Gender, and Ethnicity
28. Impacts of Globalization
29. Civil Society, NGOs and International Development
30. U.N. Millennium Development Goals
31. Media, Cinema, and Film
32. Migration, Refugees, Displaced, and Diaspora

Selected papers from the conference will be submitted to three social science journals, including the Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs and the Digest of Middle East Studies for publication in late 2006 and early 2007. There may also be opportunities to contribute to a book project, details of which will be distributed at a later date. If interested in proposing a pre-organized panel or presenting a paper, please submit:

Your full name

Institutional affiliation

E-mail, postal address and telephone numbers (work, mobile, home)

Paper title (and Panel theme and paper titles if applicable)

300-word maximum paper abstract

One-page maximum academic resume

Indicate willingness to serve as a session moderator and/or discussant and whether, if accepted, you will need a US visa to attend the conference. Kindly save the above in no more than 2 pages total in a Word file and name your file as: Your last name in capital letters, a hyphen, followed by your first name (e.g. if your name is 'Vadim Sharapov', your 2-page Word application should be named: SHARAPOV-Vadim.doc). As the 'Subject' of your email type: 'MECA 2006 Proposal'. Applications should be sent no later than March 31, 2006 to: Middle-East@utah.edu or Central-Asia@utah.edu. Note that the Conference Committee is unable to provide for participants' travel and lodging expenses. Participants are expected to seek funding from their own institutions. For overseas participants whose paper proposals have been approved, we will send official letters necessary for acquiring entry visas into the United States. All participants will be required to pay a conference participation fee of \$65 (and a late fee of up to \$100) with due dates to be given out in a later time. Other important information including due dates and suggested lodging venues will be forthcoming. Updates will also be included in the conference website: www.utah.edu/meca/. If you are a publisher or organization and would like to reserve exhibition space at the conference or if you would like to purchase an advertisement for publication in the conference program booklet, please contact us at the email addresses above or the telephone number: (801) 856-7031.

Website: www.utah.edu/meca/CFP-2006-LONG.pdf

One Hundred Years of European Anthropology in and on the Middle East: 1900 – 2000, September 18-21, 2006, Bristol, England

To be held at the European Association of Social Anthropologists 9th Bi-annual conference, Europe and the World. Panel convenors: Susanne Dahlgren, Fellow, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced, Finland Nefissa Naguib, Fellow, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Bergen. Early European ethnographic narratives of the Middle East have been criticised from different positions: for focusing only on men, lineages, pastoralists, or Islam, and for making such biased foci a platform for generalisations about the region as a whole. On the other hand, today scholars ask the relevance of the mere regional concept of "the Middle East". We need to look ahead, re-write and articulate other truths about the region, yet a weakness in anthropology is that we often proceed not by resolving arguments, but by concluding that some issues have ceased to be fascinating. The proposed workshop will be concerned with European ethnographic engagement with the Middle East from the late 19th Century, a point in time that marked the end of one imperial rule - the Ottoman - and the continuation of another - the European. It's a moment in the history of the Middle East that represents considerable Western presence: Russians, Germans, Italians, the French, and the British sent exploration teams to dig in the deserts; tourism was started, and maps were drawn; and an extraordinary ethnographic production was unfolding. The colonial enterprise brought European anthropology to the periphery by negotiating a place for knowledge about places, peoples and cultures to distinguish colonizer from colonized. Examination of these translations and interpretations which we find in one hundred years of anthropological production the region offers a form of intellectual *longue durée*. What role did ethnographic material play in Europe's "civilizing mission"? How did European scholars seek to engage their colonial subjects in their scientific enterprise? How was the practice of fieldwork transformed in colonial and war-zone settings? In the interplay between colonizer and colonized how did these practices and beliefs intervene in perceptions of the places, peoples, and cultures? In today's world, how do development consultants, aid workers and terrorism specialists reproduce the old Orientalist scheme? Ultimately the aim is to develop a fuller picture of developments in anthropological history and to see to the future of European anthropology on the Middle East.

Website: <http://www.easaonline.org/>

Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, November 18-21, 2006, Boston, U.S.A.

The Middle East Studies Association calls for proposals for preorganized panels, roundtables, thematic conversations, and individual papers for the association's 40th annual meeting. To celebrate MESAs 40th anniversary, "Creative Expressions" has been chosen as the theme for the 2006 meeting. Paper and panel proposals on other topics are of course welcome as usual.

Website: <http://fp.arizona.edu/mesassoc/cfp/cfphome.htm>

The Art and Material Culture of Iranian Shiism, July 7-8, 2006, Oxford, England

The conference is organized by The Middle East Centre (St. Antony's College, University of Oxford) in association with the Maison Française d'Oxford and the Iran Heritage Foundation, and convened by Professor James W Allan, University of Oxford and Mr. Pedram Khosronejad, University of Oxford. Despite the numerous studies of Iranian art and material culture, covering architecture, object studies, flat art and photography, very little work has been published on the subject of Shiite art per se. This interdisciplinary conference aims to address this problem by bringing together historians, art historians, numismatists, anthropologists and folklorists, in order to try and identify what is specifically Shiite in the art and material culture of Iran. The conference will cover Iran from earliest Islamic times until the 21st century, but expects to focus on four main periods, Safavid, Qajar,

Pahlavi and post-Revolutionary Iran. It will also include Iranian Shiism as it has spread to other areas of the Islamic world, in particular India and East Africa.

Venue:

Maison Française d'Oxford, University of Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, Oxford OX2 6SE

E-mail: pedram.khosronejad@orinst.ox.ac.uk

For program and registrations: www.iranheritage.org

Website: www.oriental.cam.ac.uk/shiiteart.html

The Iranian Constitutional Revolution 1906-1911: July 30-August 2, 2006, Oxford, England

This Centenary Conference, to be held at University of Oxford, is organized by the Iran Heritage Foundation and University of Oxford. Conference committee: Prof. Abbas Amanat, Prof. Houchang Chehabi, Dr. John Gurney, Mr. Farhad Hakimzadeh, Dr. Vanessa Martin, Prof. Mohammad Tavakoli-Targhi. It is a hundred years since the Iranian Constitutional Revolution of 1906, the first event of its kind in the Middle East. The Revolution opened the way for cataclysmic change in Iran, heralding the modern era. It saw a period of unprecedented debate in a burgeoning press. It created new opportunities and opened up seemingly boundless possibilities for Iran's future. Many different groups fought to shape the course of the Revolution, and all sections of society were ultimately to be in some way changed by it. The old order, which Naser al-Din Shah Qajar had struggled for so long to sustain, finally passed away, to be replaced by new institutions, new forms of expression, and a new social and political order. The Constitutional Revolution was an immensely complex event, involving different parts of the country in different ways, facilitating the rise of some whilst hastening the decline of others. It was bound up with imperialism and Iran's role as a buffer state between the British and Russian Empires, with the encroachments of the world economy, and with the introduction of modern technology. In social terms it created new opportunities for women, and influenced the evolution of minority identity. The ways Iranians saw their place in the world and remembered their past underwent a transformation. One of the earliest in the decade of revolution, 1905-1915, it had global reverberations from the Ottoman Empire to South East Asia.

The Revolution has been subject to a whole range of different interpretations, and it still raises a great many unanswered questions. Amongst them, for example, might be: What kind of a revolution was it? How far did Iranian society change as a result of the revolution, and how far did it remain the same? What precisely was the role of imperialism, particularly in the ending of the Revolution? In what ways were the ideas flooding in from Europe interpreted? How lasting were the institutions established by the revolution? What global influence did it have? How did it change the identity of Iran, and most particularly, how did it shape the country's future? We look forward to debating these questions and many others at the Conference.

The Conference Committee proposes to organise panels on following subjects, and is open to innovative ideas:

1. Coming of the Revolution: Pre-constitutional ideologies; the political, social and economic background
2. Ideologies and identities of the Revolution: The liberals; the social democrats; the Islamists; nationalism
3. Established organisations and institutions: The court and the higher bureaucracy; the bazaar; the religious institutions
4. Emergence of new organisations: Political parties; the role of propaganda; the 'Anjomans'; the peasantry
5. Print, the press and the new technology: The political role of the press; printing and photography; cartoons
6. Arts: Literature and translations; poetry and drama
7. Women: The emergence into the public sphere; the growth of sociability
8. Ethnicity and the making of identity: The revolution and the evolution of ethnic and tribal identity

9. Religious minorities: Christians: Armenians and Assyrians; the Jews; the Zoroastrians; the Bahais: their contribution, their expectations, their wider significance
10. Religio-ideological groups: The Sufis, the Sheikhis, and the Babis; multiple identities
11. Regions: Tabriz and the northwest; Mashhad and the northeast; Isfahan and the centre; Bushehr and the south
12. Global dimensions: International events; international trade; imperialism: the British, the Russians and others
13. Subsequent impact of the revolution: The survival and demise of institutions; the role of the military; the changes in the law; building the nation
14. The Revolution in the global context: Reverberations and impact in the Ottoman Empire, the Levant, Egypt, the Caucasus, Central Asia, India, East and South East Asia; its place in the revolutionary decade
15. The Revolution and memory: The shaping of memory; new ways of remembering Iranian history; remembering the Revolution itself
16. Perspectives and narratives: The historiography of the revolution and its role in Iranian history; the long-term impact

Enquiries:

Iran Heritage Foundation, 5 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1AH.

Tel: 44-20-7493 4766

Fax: 44-20-7499 9293

E-mail: info@iranheritage.org

Website: www.iranheritage.org/mashrutehconference/

Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies, August 3-5, 2006, London, England

The Sixth Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies is organized by the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS), Iran Heritage Foundation (IHF) and the London Middle East Institute (LMEI) and will be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The Programme Committee welcomes contributions in all fields of Iranian studies, especially new areas of investigation and/or novel approaches to traditional fields. Ordinarily four papers are presented at a panel, and those wishing to submit a proposal for a pre-arranged panel should provide four abstracts and the name of a discussant in their proposals. The primary language of the conference will be English and scholars are strongly encouraged to use that language, but proposals for papers in Persian will be considered as well. However, no proposals regarding the Constitutional Revolution will be accepted. Scholars wishing to present a paper on that topic are encouraged to visit the IHF website at www.iranheritage.org for information on how to propose papers for the earlier conference. Information on the conference will be available on the following websites: www.iranianstudies.net and at www.iranheritage.org.

The conference will be held at SOAS, and participants should contact the Iran Heritage Foundation (info@iranheritage.org) if they require an invitation in order to obtain a visa for entry into the United Kingdom or if they wish to make arrangements for accommodation at student halls of the University of London.

Website: www.iranheritage.org/sixthbiennial/

Hafiz and The School of Love in Classical Persian Poetry, March 30-April 1, 2007, Exeter, England

The conference is organised by the University of Exeter and the Iran Heritage Foundation, and convened by Dr. Leonard Lewisohn, University of Exeter. Recent research into Hafiz's romantic lyricism by Iranian scholars has revealed that in addition to his masterful use of poetic devices and his expertise in rhetoric and imagery, his verse is also deeply steeped in the philosophy and symbolism of the Persian Sufi love mysticism. The speakers at this conference aim to explore the aesthetic theories and mystical philosophy of the classical Persian love-lyric (ghazal) as exemplified in the poetry of Hafiz, the greatest master of this genre (along with such other major figures as Rumi and Sa'di). To this end, Hafiz's rhetoric of romance will thus be situated-for the first time in the Western study of Persian Literature-within the broader literary context of what scholars refer to as 'Love Theory' in Arabic and Persian poetry in particular and Islamic literature in general. His symbolic vocabulary and lexicon of sophisticated technical terminology relating to wine and intoxication (both sacred and profane) will be analysed in depth, along with such themes as shahidbazi/nazar-bazi (dallying with the Mistress who bears witness to the Divine beauty), Hafiz's dynamic faith of spiritual liberty (rindi); his praise of the 'Law of Love' (shari'at-i 'ishq, whose hero is a kafar-i 'ishq, 'a heretic to the creed of love', referring to the highest degree of the 'religion of love') over the static 'orthodox' vision of ordinary doctrinal Sufism; and the poet's fierce anti-clericalism-his antipathy to figures of exoteric Islamic authority such as the zahid, faqih, and va'iz)-always denigrated and scorned in his verse, while their opposites, the disreputable rake (rind) and qalandar, the Magian master, and the 'arif (gnostic adept), are exalted and praised. Other speakers will examine the views of the famous commentators on his poetry in Safavid Iran, Mughal India and Ottoman Turkey, who interpreted his verse in the context of the 'School of Love' (madhhab-i 'ishq) in classical Persian literature. It is projected that the international roster of Iranian and Western specialists on Persian literature will thus reveal for the first time the historical, aesthetic, rhetorical, philosophical and theological bases of his love lyrics in the culture and civilization devoted to the School of Love in mediæval Persia.

Venue:

University of Exeter, Exeter.

Enquiries:

The Iran Heritage Foundation, 5 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1AH. 44 20 74934766

Tel/Fax: 44-20-74999293

E-mail: info@iranheritage.org

Website: <http://www.iranheritage.org/hafizconference/>

Wondrous Words: The Poetic Mastery of Jalal al-Din Rumi, September 20-22, 2007, London, England

The conference is organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation and the British Museum, with convenors Dr. Leili Anvar Chenderoff and Professor Fatemeh Keshavarz. Widely admired, translated and commented upon, the works of Jalal al-Din Rumi remain largely unexamined from a literary perspective. Emphasis has been placed on him as a spiritual master, and on his Masnavi as a sacred text. As a result, the poet has often been concealed from view. There is much to be explored and discovered in the poetic legacy of Rumi's entire corpus: his dynamic image-making and his mastery of lyrical expression, his use of poetic devices, including strategies of unsaying or silence, the powerful rhetoric of his narrative structures, and more.

Topics:

While we would welcome papers with fresh topics and approaches, the following are suggestions for core concepts to be used as panel topics:

1. Rumi on Language: complexity, artistry, and function in poetic language, issues of generic diversity, hybridity (linguistic and generic), intertextuality, image making

2. Rumi, Historical Reflections: in the mirror of Persian, Turkish, South Asian, Western, and other - freshly attempted -- biographies
3. Rumi, Textual Studies: Study of the manuscripts, philological investigations, critical editions
4. Rumi the Lyrical Poet: the incorporation and impact of music, tradition and innovation, his sources of inspiration
5. Rumi the Storyteller: Masnavi as fiction, Masnavi as pedagogical tool, character formation, voice and narrative structure
6. Rumi across Linguistic Traditions: strategies and issues of translating classic texts, an overview of translations of Rumi, ongoing translations of the Masnavi and the Divan
7. Rumi Reflected in Arts: recitation, performance to music, oral performance/whirling and Sama, pictorial arts. Studies of the architectural structure of Mevlevi tekkes
8. Rumi on Subjectivity and the Self: explorations of the self and selflessness, issues of human agency and individuality, free will and determination, the role of love, the life journey

Abstracts: Prospective participants should send an abstract of 300 words by September 1, 2006 to Farhad Hakimzadeh, the Iran Heritage Foundation, farhad@iranheritage.org. Please submit abstracts in digital form using Microsoft Word. The papers presented in the conference will be published in a volume of proceedings, edited by Leili Anvar Chenderoff, Fatemeh Keshavarz and Alan Williams. All papers submitted should therefore be of publishable quality, constitute new work, and reserved to be exclusively published as part of the conference proceedings. No previously published work should be submitted.

This conference is being organised within the context of the Wondrous Birds: The World of Jalal al-Din Rumi festival, a series of programmes and events which include concerts (both classical and contemporary), exhibitions of works of art as well as photographs, poetry readings, plays, dance performances, educational programmes for adults as well as the younger generation, etc. There will be no fees for speakers and their partners. Fees for all others will be announced at a later date. Conference delegates are asked to try to raise funds for their travel and accommodation from local sources. But the conference office will assist in booking suitable accommodations, close to the conference venue. Limited funds are available for the expenses of speakers who do not have access to sources of funding. Early application for funding is recommended.

Venue:

Clore Education Centre, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Enquiries:

The Iran Heritage Foundation, 5 Stanhope Gate, London W1K 1AH. 44 20 74934766

Tel/Fax: 44-20-74999293

E-mail: farhad@iranheritage.org

Website: <http://www.iranheritage.org/rumiconference/>

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WEBSITES

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Eurasia: Official Newsletter of the International Institute for Caspian Studies, Tehran

Articles concerning Iran and surrounding countries. To subscribe send a blank e-mail to: eurasia-subscribe@topica.com:

<http://www.caspianstudies.com>

Iran Report

Prepared by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Prague, Czech Republic:

To Subscribe send an e-mail to iranreport-subscribe@list.rferl.org; Website: <http://www.rferl.org>

To listen to news broadcasts online, RFE/RL Persian Service broadcasts daily on:

<http://www.radioazadi.org>

For Persian-language broadcasts: Local short-wave broadcast frequencies are available on the Persian Service website: <http://www.radioazadi.org>

News about Tajikistan from RFE/RL in Tajik Persian (Cyrillic script) is available at:

<http://www.ozodi.org>

Iranian Women

"The Iranian Women" website is trying to open a window on the life of Iranian women:

<http://www.womeniniran.com>

Netiran

Daily news from Iran: links to the websites of the Islamic Republic News Agency, English-language dailies and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting. Also on the site are a Who's Who of all government members; information on state structure and laws; and cultural and business contacts:

<http://www.netiran.com/>

IRANIAN CIVILIZATION, ANCIENT TO MODERN

Achemenet

Devoted to Achaemenid Studies, to make Achaemenid documentary evidence available:

<http://www.achemenet.com>

Adabiyat Discussion List for Persian, Arabic, Turkish and Urdu Literatures

Discussion list of academics, authors and book dealers in medieval and modern literatures of the Middle East, specifically Persian, Arabic, Turkish and Urdu, for professional announcements, research queries, book reviews, etc.:

Adabiyat-request@listserv.cc.emory.edu

Ancient Iranian History

Journal, in Persian, dedicated to ancient Iranian History

<http://www.iranancienthistory.com/>

Avesta – Zoroastrian Archives

This site offers the complete text of the extant *Avesta* as well as many Pahlavi scriptures. It also includes information about the Avestan language, and Zoroastrian religion:

<http://www.avesta.org/avesta.html>

Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies

A articles about ancient Iranian civilization and culture, along with a glossary; recent archaeological excavation reports; notice of recent publications about ancient Iran; and notices of exhibitions, seminars and symposia:

<http://home.btconnect.com/CAIS/frontpage.htm>

H-Islamart

Edited discussion and notification list sponsored by H-Net, an international interdisciplinary organization of scholars dedicated to developing the educational potential of the Internet, promoting scholarship in the history of Islamic Art, and facilitating communication among its members through meetings and the HIA Newsletter and Directory:

To subscribe: <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/lists/subscribe.cgi?list=H-Islamart>

Iranian Cultural & Information Center

Information on travel, culture, geography, history; and a section on Iranian names and their meaning: <http://tehran.stanford.edu/>. Also accessed from <http://persia.org/>

RESEARCH CENTERS IN IRAN

Academy of Persian Language and Literature: <http://www.persianacademy.ir/>

British Council: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/iran/>

British Institute for Persian Studies (BIPS): <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/bips/>

Center for Iranian Scientific Documents and Research: <http://www4.irandoc.ac.ir/Iranian-doc.htm>

Council for the Promotion of Persian Language and literature: <http://persian-language.org>

Cultural Research Bureau (CRB), a multidisciplinary Iranian private sector initiative (NGO): <http://iranculturestudies.com/>

Dehkhoda Foundation (Mo'asseseh-ye Dehkhoda): <http://www.ut.ac.ir/faculties/dehkhoda/index.htm>

Deustches Archäologisches Institut (DAI): <http://www.dainst.org/abteilung.php?id=269>

Institut Français de Recherche en Iran (IFRI): <http://www.ifriran.org>

International Center for Persian Studies of The University of Tehran (Mo'asseseh-ye bayn ol-melali-ye amuzesh-e zaban-e farsi): <http://www.ut.ac.ir/faculties/persian-studies/index.htm>

Iranian Academy of Arts: <http://www.honar.ac.ir/>

Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO): <http://www.iranmiras.org>

Iranian Universities on the web: <http://www.nli.ir/english/sites.asp>

Iranology Foundation: <http://www.iranologyfo.net>

Islamic Research Foundation, Mashhad: <http://www.islamic-rf.org>

National Library of Iran: <http://www.nli.ir/persian/>

RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S.

Association for the Study of Persianate Societies: <http://persianatesocieties.org/>

International Society for Iranian Culture (ISIC): <http://www.isicweb.org>

Middle East Studies Association of North America: <http://fp.arizona.edu/mesassoc/>

Society for Iranian Studies: <http://www.iranian-studies.org/>

MUSEUMS IN TEHRAN

Carpet Museum: <http://www.carpetmuseum.ir/>

Golestan Palace: <http://golestanpalace.org>

National Museum of Iran: <http://www.nationalmuseumofiran.com/>

Niavaran Cultural/Historic Complex: <http://www.niavaranpalace.org/>

Saadabad Complex: <http://www.saadabadpalace.org/>

Museum of Contemporary Art: <http://www.ir-tmca.com/>

IRANIAN ART

Iranian architecture: <http://iranian.tv>

Iranian artists: <http://www.kargah.com/>

Iranian music, in Persian: <http://www.iranflamenco.com/>

Iranian Photo Agency: <http://www.photoagency-ir.com/>

Iranian pottery: <http://www.irib.com/ouriran/art/sofal/html/en/1.htm>

IRANIAN CINEMA AND CULTURAL NEWS

Book reviews and current cultural events in Tehran: http://www.tehranavenue.com/ws_book.htm

Farabi Cinema Foundation and Fajr International Film Festival: <http://www.fcf-ir.com/>

Iranian cinema: <http://www.daryaye-noor.com/>

Iranian culture and art news, in Persian: <http://www.e-golestan.com>

Survey Catalogue and Brief Critical History of Iranian Feature Film (1896-1975), searchable database produced by The Near East Section of the University of Washington Libraries:
<http://www.lib.washington.edu/neareast/cinemaofiran/default.html>

DICTIONARIES/ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Academic Grammar of New Persian by Navid Fazel: http://www.fazel.de/dastur_cd.zip

Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University, *Encyclopaedia Iranica*: <http://www.iranica.com>

Comprehensive Persian-English Dictionary, Francis. J. Steingass:
<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/steingass/>

English-Persian dictionary: <http://www.aryanpour.com/>

Persian-English dictionary: <http://www.farsidic.net/FarsiDic.asp?farsi>

To order on-line Persian language course:
<https://secure.sws-server.com/irnexnet/FarsiDic.asp?grade1>

To send e-mail in Persian: <http://www.postchi.com/>

ACADEMIC VISA PROCESS INFORMATION

<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/visas/>

<http://fp.arizona.edu/mesassoc/visapages.htm>

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