



Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture

SAMUEL JORDAN CENTER IN THE NEWS

مرکز مطالعات ایرانشناسی سمونل جردن
دانشگاه کالیفرنیا، ارواین

Volume 3—Fall 2012



In the past academic year a number of visitors and speakers came to the Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture. We were fortunate to host authors, filmmakers, scholars and musicians who deal with the Iranian world at our center. We were also busy with new publications which the center now directly oversees, as well as collaborations with other universities and foundations. New graduate students have also come to UC Irvine to study the Iranian world in various disciplines such as comparative literature, film, and history. In the five years that the Center has been active Iranian Studies has grown tremendously, with students and faculty involved in research and study about Iran and beyond.



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LECTURES, CONFERENCES and WORKSHOPS

The Blind Owl: A Workshop

On April 22, 2011 an international workshop was held at the Centre on Sadeq Hedayat and his masterpiece, *The Blind Owl*. The speakers included Homa Katouzian, speaking about “The Blind Owl’s Precedents,” Michael Beard, on “Afterlife of The Blind Owl,” M.R. Ghanoonparvar, “Two central Metaphors in The Blind Owl,” Babak Elahi, “The Cabinet of Mr. Hedayat and Plato’s Pharmacy: Poisons and Remedies in the Blind Owl,” Amy Motlagh, “Dismembering and Re-Membering the Beloved in Reza Shah’s Legal Reforms and Sadeq Hedayat’s *‘The Blind Owl’*,” Blake Atwood, “Masculinity and Autobiography in Sadeq Hedayat’s *Buf-e Kur*,” Sharareh Frouzesh, “Epistemological Indeterminacy in the Blind Owl,” Kyle Wanberg, “Doubles, Writing, and Indeterminacy,” and Sarah Kessler, “*The Screech Owl*”.



The Coins of 3rd Century Sasanian Iran and the Formation of Historical Criteria



On February 15, 2011, Dr. Rika Gyselen of Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the foremost Sasanian sigilographer in the world gave the third *Late Antique Iran Round-table Lectures* at the University of California, Irvine. The title of her lecture was: “The Coins of 3rd Century Iran: Numismatics and the Formation of Historical Criteria,” where she analyzed the coinage of early Sasanian rulers and the information they provide for Sasanian history. The subsequent paper from this talk is now available online as E-Sasanika 15:

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/sasanika/pdf/e-sasanika%2015-Gyselen-v2.pdf> and will soon be published in printed form. The students from the History of Ancient Iran course, as well as the faculty from the departments of Classics, History and Art History were present and participated in the discussions. The talk was followed by a dinner in honor of Dr. Gyselen, which included guests such as Dr. Elizabeth Carter (UCLA) and Dr. Hanns-Peter Schmidt (UCLA).



Roads and Logistics in the Achaemenid Empire



Keenan-jan Baca-Winter, Saeid Jalalipur, Shahriar Tooryani, Pierre Briant, Touraj Daryae, Sara Mashayekh, Ali Mousavi

On November 21, 2011, the foremost scholar in Achaemenid history, Pierre Briant of Collège de France gave a talk entitled “Roads and Logistics in the Achaemenid Empire.” The talk focused on the distances between each stop, the road and logistics which made the Achaemenid Empire become one of the best connected empires in the ancient world.



The Medes in the Ancient Near East: Old and New Perspectives

One of the giants of Iranian archaeology, David Stronach was honored at UC Irvine for his lifetime work in Iran on May 10, 2012. He gave a talk about his career in digging in Iran and the discoveries during the 1960s and 1970s. Elizabeth Carter (UCLA) introduced the speaker and Ali Mousavi (LACMA) gave a moving eulogy about a great archaeologist of the past century. The dinner was hosted with funding from the Farhang Foundation and Darioush Vinery at the Britta’s Café in Irvine.



Ancient through Modern: India and Iran in the Longue Durée



O. Bopearachchi, Y. S.-D. Vevaina, C. Bromberg, A. Marashi, S. Sen, G. Parker, Kh. Reza khani, F. Grenet, T. Daryae, J. Rose, M. Schwartz, A. Mousavi, A. Anooshahr

For three days, from April 20th through the 22nd an international conference was held by the Centre focusing on the long history and relations between the Indian and the Iranian world. Alka Patel of UCI Art History department and an affiliated Centre faculty was a co-organizer of the conference with Touraj Daryae. The conference dealt with the first millennium BCE to the 20th century in relation to Indo-Persian history, literature and cross cultural interaction. Among the speakers included Frantz Grenet (Paris), Nile Green (UCLA), Osmund Bopearachchi (Paris), Grant Parker (Stanford), Afshin Marashi (University of Oklahoma), Ali Anooshahr & Sudipta Sen (UC Davis), Ali Mousavi (LACMA), Jennifer Rose (Claremont Graduate University), Talinn Grigor (Brandeis University) and Carol Bromberg, editor of the *Bulletin of the Asia Institute*. A publication of this conference is planned for 2013.



Pathology of Iranian Traditional Music in Three Acts

This year Mohsen Namjoo was the invited *Farhang Foundation Iranian Studies* speaker at Center for Persian Studies. He gave three very interesting talks: “The relation of Classical Iranian Repertoire to Political Despotism,” “The Nouvelle Connection between Literary Fusion and Iranian Music,” and “An overview of Independent Music in Iran.” The talk was followed by a long question and answer session about music & reality in Iran.



Collaborative Research Workshop: Oral History of Iranian Scientists, Engineers, and Medical Professionals: Tehran Asthma Files (TFA)



Mazyar Lotfalian leading the discussion.

This two-day collaborative research workshop is the continuation of a project at the Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture (UCI) on creating an oral history archive of Iranian scientists, engineers, and medical professionals in Iran and its diaspora – the workshop is organized in collaboration with the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies and the UCI’s Center for Ethnography. This year the workshop is organized with a specific theme that ushers in interviews and discussions around the problem of asthma in Tehran, Iran. The research activities included presentations on aspects of asthmatic space in Tehran, interviews of scientists and medical professionals, and group discussion on how to understand asthmatic space. This workshop will eventually make its finding available to the public and create public dialogue that includes various experts, professionals, and activists.



BOOK SIGNING

*Forugh Farrokhzad:
Poet of Modern Iran Iconic Woman and Feminine Pioneer of Persian Poetry*



On May 4, 2012 Dominic Parviz Brookshaw (Stanford) and Nasrin Rahimieh (UCI) discussed their published book on *Forugh Farrokhzad: Poet of Modern Iran Iconic Woman and Feminine Pioneer of Persian Poetry*. They provided an interactive program where many among the audience also joined the discussion and provided insights into the life of Farrokhzad.

NEW CENTER FELLOW

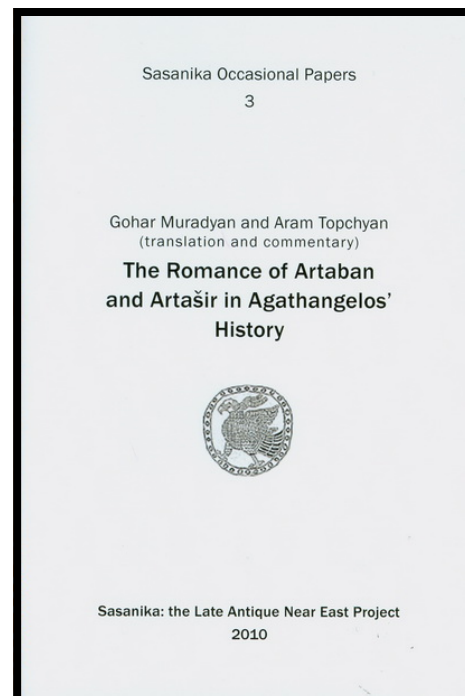


Dr. Haleh Emrani (PhD, University of California Los Angeles, 2011, History) joins the Center as the new Center research fellow. Her research focuses on the position of women across the many religious groups of the Late Sasanian and Early-Islamic Iran, with emphasis on the legal regulations governing marriage, divorce, guardianship of women and their children, and inheritance. In addition to her academic work, since 2003, she has been managing the *Sasanika Project: Late Antique Near East Project*, an online forum for the scholars of the Sasanian Period.



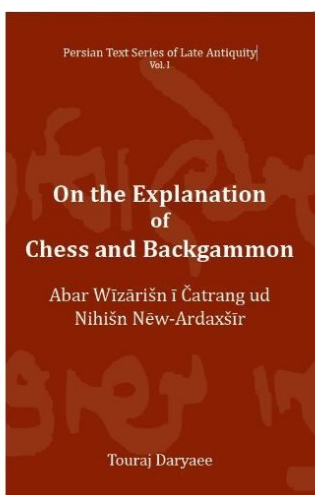
CENTER PUBLICATIONS

As part of Sasanika: Late Antique Near East Project two volumes were published under the auspices of the Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies & Culture. The first volume was by M. Morony (UCLA) and the second volume by T. Greenwood (St Andrew) on the Sasanians in the context of late antique history and the importance of Armenian sources for the period. The new publication, with support from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute is entitled: *The Romance of Artaban and Artasir in Agathangelos' History*, translated and edited by G. Muradyan & Aram Topchyan.



On the Explanation of Chess and Backgammon.

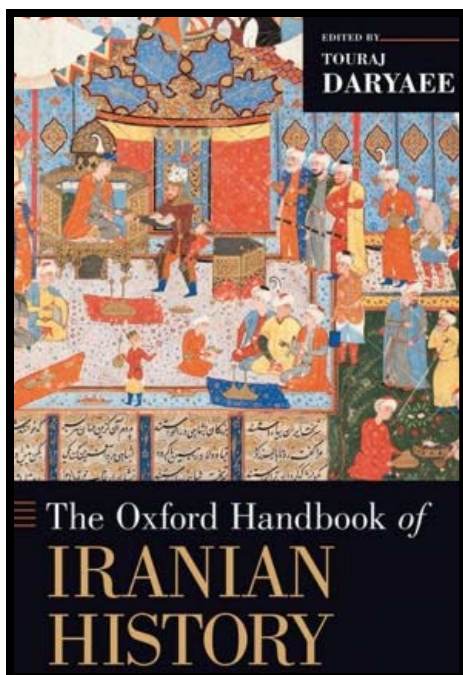
Persian Text Series of Late Antiquity, vol. 1, Afshar Publishing, 2010.



Touraj Daryaee edited and translated the oldest manual on the games of chess and backgammon in the Middle Persian language. The text dates to the 6th century CE, during the rule of Khusro Anushirvan where the story of the games takes place. With funding from the Roshan Cultural Heritage Foundation, the surviving manuscripts were collated, edited and translated.



The Oxford Handbook of Iranian History, ed. T. Daryae, Oxford University Press, 2012.



This book edited by Daryae contains sixteen chapters written by leading scholars in Iranian history and civilization. The book was commissioned by Oxford University Press to provide an up to date history of Iran from antiquity to the present.

CENTER FELLOWSHIPS

Ali Asghar Payravi Fellowship

Zarrinkelk Family Fellowship

Assadollah Peyman Fellowship and the Amir Houshang Fazaeli Fellowship

The Center for Persian Studies and Culture has been awarded 3 graduate student fellowships in Iranian studies. These include the 2012-13 Ali Asghar Payravi Fellowships: these are two \$75,000 fellowships for the study of Ancient Iranian History. Reza Yeganeh was the first recipient. Soobadeh Malekzadeh is the new awardee to the 2012-2013 academic year; the Majid Zarrinkelk - Zarrinkelk Family Fellowship to award \$5000 annually and matched by UCI for the three successive years for two students; the Kamran Peyman - Assadollah Peyman Fellowship and the Amir Houshang Fazaeli Fellowship to provide \$2000 annually for three successive years for two students.

