Continued on page 2

**Encyclopaedia Iranica**

**Fascicles 5 and 6 of Volume XII Published**

The last two fascicles (5 and 6) of Volume XII of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* were completed in the Summer and Fall of 2004, and the bound volume will be distributed in late December 2004. With the publication of fascicle 6, the ‘H’ entries have been completed and titles beginning with the letter ‘I’ have commenced. The last two fascicles of volume XII feature over 100 articles on various aspects of Persian culture and history, including eight article series on specific subjects: three entries on Hosayn b. Ali in addition to three related articles, two entries on Hormuz Island, two entries on Hydrology, three entries on ideographic writing, two entries on the Ilam Province, two entries on Persian ibex, and four entries on Il-khanid history and art.

**Pre-Islamic History and Culture**

Topics related to pre-Islamic history and culture are treated in the following 29 entries: **Ideographic Writing**, the representation of language by means of “ideograms,” i.e. symbols representing “ideas,” rather than symbols which represent sound, are discussed in three articles: in **Ancient Iran**, by N. Sims-Williams; in the **Ancient Near East**, by D. Testen; and in Middle Persian, referred to **Huważesh**, term describing the use of Semitic masks in Middle Persian texts, by D. Durkin-Meisterernst.

Pre-Islamic historical geography is treated in two entries by I. N. Medvedskaya: **Irá**, land and city, part of Inner Zamua, located on the south-

**Continued on page 5**

**Gala Benefit Dinners 2004-2005**

Annual gala benefit dinners organized by Friends of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* are becoming a frequent feature of our fundraising activities. The recent series of such galas began in **New York** in 1999, followed successively by events in **Washington D.C.** in 2001, **Los Angeles** in 2002, **Miami** in 2003, and **London** on September 30, 2004 (see page 9). The next gala benefit dinners will take place in **Houston**, Texas on November 13, in **Garden City, Long Island** on December 11, 2004, and in **New York City** on March 3, 2005 (see p. 6).

**Houston Gala**

**November 13, 2004**

The theme of the Houston Gala is “fueling the future.” The Gala honors four Iranians who have distinguished themselves in various fields of the oil and gas industries.

A committee chaired by Hamid & Lily Kourosh and Ali & Gita Saberioon, with the participation of a number of socially active Iranian-Americans in Houston, Texas, was formed in early 2004 to organize a benefit dinner for the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*

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**Long Island Gala**

**December 11, 2004**

Following the successful fundraiser for the victims of the Bam earthquake organized by the Naghavi family with the support of Dr. and Mrs. Mohammad Farivar last March, Dr. Azita Khan Naghavi has organized a benefit dinner for the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* at the luxurious Garden City Hotel, Garden City, Long Island, on Saturday, December 11, 2004 at 7 p.m. Mrs. Homa Sarshar will be the Master of Ceremonies and six distinguished Iranian-Americans will be

**Continued on page 6**
western shore of Lake Urmia; and HUimir, peripheral district and city in Elam.

HUNS, collective term for horsemen of various origins leading a nomadic lifestyle, by M. Schottky; and HUNNIC COINAGE, coins struck from the late 4th to the early 8th century by Central Asian invaders of northeastern Iran, by M. Alram. HUVISHKA, ruler of the Great Kushan lineage (2nd century), by A. D. H. Bivar.

Sasanian history is discussed in nine entries: M. R. Shayegan has contributed HORMOZD I, throne name of Shapur I’s son and successor, Hormozd-Ardashir (3rd century) and A. S. Shahbazi has contributed the following: HORMOZD, brother of Sasanian great king Shapur II, who participated in Julian’s Persian expedition (4th century); HORMOZD II, Sasanian great king (4th century); HORMOZD III, Sasanian great king, eldest son of Yazdgerd II (5th century); HORMOZD IV, Sasanian great king, successor to Khusrow I Anushiravan (6th century); HORMOZD V, Sasanian great king (7th century); and HORMOZAN, one of the last military leaders of Sasanian Persia. Shahbazi has also contributed HOSHANG, founder of mythical Pishdadian dynasty; and HUNTING in pre-Islamic Iran.

Five entries are devoted to Iranists and Orientalists with interests in Iranian Studies: HEINRICH HUBSCHMANN, eminent 19th-20th century German scholar of Persian and Armenian studies, by E. Kettenhofen and R. Schmitt; THOMAS HYDE, English Orientalist, first to attempt a comprehensive description of Zoroastrianism, by A. V. Williams; PAUL HORN, 19th century German philologist, specialist in Persian and Turko-Islamic languages, by E. Kettenhofen; HUSING, 19th-20th century German scholar of Old Persian and Elamite studies, by R. Schmitt; and HOSHANG JAMASP, distinguished 19th century Parsi scholar-priest, by M. Boyce and F. Kotwal.

Other articles treating pre-Islamic religion and culture include: HUSHT, Zoroastrian-Persian term designating the area assigned to a priest, by M. Boyce and F. Kotwal; HUMATA HUXTA HUWARSHTA, three Avestan words which encapsulate the ethical goals of Zoroastrianism, by M. Boyce; ORACLE OF HYSTASPES, collection of prophecies ascribed to Vishtaspa, by W. Sundermann; HORDAD, one of the Avestan entities, mentioned in association with Ameretat, by A. Panaino; HYDARNES, Greek rendering of the Old Persian male name Vidarna, by R. Schmitt; HYMN OF THE PEARL, Syriac poem composed in the 3rd century in Edessa, by J. R. Russell.

ISLAM AND SHI’ISM

Topics related to Islam and Shi’ism are treated in eleven entries: six entries are devoted to HOSAYN B. ALI, the third Imam of the Shi’ites: LIFE AND SIGNIFICANCE IN SHI’ISM, by W. Madelung; IN POPULAR SHI’ISM, by J. Calmard; THE PASSION OF HOSAYN (ta’zie), by P. Chelkowski. Hosayniya, buildings specifically designed to serve as venues for Moharram ceremonies commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hosayn; Hosayniya-ye Mosir, a Hosayniya building located in an old quarter of Shiraz, famous for its exquisite colored tiles; and Horr-e Riahi, leading tribesman in Kufa who intercepted Imam Hosayn and his followers, leading them to Karbala, all by J. Calmard.

HOSAYN B. RUH, third of the four special vicegerents of the Hidden Imam from 917 to 938, by S. Amir Arjomand; HOQAYNI, nesba of two Zaydi Imams, by W. Madelung; HORG-E AMEL, an outstanding Twelver Shi’ite Hadith scholar of the Akbari school (17th century), by M. Bar Asher. Hosayniya Hafez Karbala’l, Major Persian historian of Sufis and poet (16th century) by L. Lewisohn. Horufism, a body of antinomian and incarnationist doctrines evolved by Fazl-Allah Astarabadi (14th century), known to his followers also as Fazl-e Yazdan ("the
generosity of God”), is treated by H. Algar. The principal features of Horufism were elaborate numerological interpretations of the letters of the Perso-Arabic alphabet and an attempt to correlate them with the human form. The movement that espoused these teachings was relatively short-lived in Persia, but it had a significant prolongation in Anatolia and the Balkans, primarily under the auspices of the Bektashi order.

**HISTORY:**
**MEDIEVAL TO MODERN**

History from Medieval to Modern times is discussed in 15 entries: IL-KHANIDS, Mongol dynasty in Persia from 1260 to 1335, founded by Hulagu Khan, is the subject of five entries: DYNASTIC HISTORY and HULAGU KHAN, both by R. Amitai; IL-khanid BOOK ILLUSTRATION by S. Carboni; and IL-khanid CERAMICS AND PORTABLE ARTS by P. Morgan. Il-khanid Architecture is written by S. Blair, who underlines that the architecture produced during this period in Persia and Iraq is “notable for its mammoth size, soaring height, sparkling color, and ingenious methods of covering space. Size and scale were seen as representative of power and authority, and the wider palette and increased surface of colored decoration served to further distinguish these buildings from the landscape.”

History from the Timurids to the Safavids is discussed in the following entries: IEL, Timurid prince (14th-15th centuries), by J. Woods. HOSAYN B. BAYQARA, common designation for the last Timurid ruler of major importance in Khorasan (15th century), by the late H. R. Roemer; HOSAYNI BALKHI, translator into Persian of Wa’ez-e Balkhi’s Arabic work, Faza’el Balkh (12th century), by the late A. H. Habibi. HOSAYN KHAN SHAMLU, Safavid governor, nephew of Shah Esma’il I (16th century), by R. M. Savory.

Qajar history is the subject of three articles: HOSAYN KHAN Ajudan-Bashi, most important officer to hold the rank of adjutant-en-chef during the 19th century, by the late H. Mahbubi Ardakani; HOSAYNOOLI KHAN Sardar-e Iravani, important governor of Armenia in the early Qajar period, by G. Bournoutian; and Sir Albert HOUTUM-SCHINDLER, authority on Persia, engineer and employee of the Persian government for over thirty years (19th-20th centuries), by J. D. Gurney.

Humor in Persian literature, contributed by J. T. P de Bruijn, is a wide ranging entry in which the author examines the concept of humor throughout Persian literature to the present time and pays particular attention to its many forms and genres including puns, parodies, satirical diatribes, etc. The function of humor in society as a critical tool against hypocrisy, pedantry and bigotry is also discussed with a wealth of illustrations. HOSN O DEL, allegorical work by Fattahi Nishaburi (15th century), by the late Z. Safa. HOSAYN-E KORD-E SHARESTARI, Persian popular romance narrating the exploits of a Kurdish warrior, by U. Marzolph. Finally, HOSAM-AL-DIN CHALABI, leading disciple and first successor of Jalal-al-Din Rumi, who wrote down and edited his master’s original dictation of the Mathnawi, by M. Estelami.

**LITERATURE**

Ten entries treat various aspects of Persian literature: fascicle 6 begins with the remaining part of a major entry on HOMOSEXUALITY in Persian Literature by ELT., treating the development of the concept of the beloved, pedophilia, non-Muslim subjects of love, social acceptance of homosexuality, emotional ties between Sufi adult males and youths, the genesis of the acceptance of homosexuality, homoeroticism in Sufi literature, studies of the representation of homosexuality, and homosexuality in modern times.

Other articles on Persian literature include: HYPERBOLE, described in the context of the classical Persian system of elm-e badi’; HOSN-E TA’LIL, rhetorical device among the figures of ‘elm-e badi’; IHAM, or double entendre, a kind of play on words based on a single word with a double meaning, all by N. Chalisova.
Clement Huart, French Orientalist, renowned as editor and translator of Arabic, Persian and Turkish sources (19th-20th centuries), by J. Calmard. Ignatius of Jesus, Italian missionary in Persia, scholar of Persian language (17th century), by P. Orsatti.

Topics related to contemporary times are discussed in three entries: Hoseyda, Amir-Abbas, longest serving prime minister in 20th century Iran, by A. Milani; Mohammad Baqer Hushyar, professor at the University of Tehran and author, by D. Ashouri; Hostage Crisis, the events following the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran by leftist Islamist students in 1979 with subsequent wide and long repercussions on Iran’s domestic politics as well as on U.S.-Iran relations, is the subject of a major article by M. Milani and Elr. This entry treats various aspects of the crisis, including its background, a sociopolitical profile of hostage takers, the seizure of the American embassy, negotiations for the release of the hostages, the failed American rescue mission, the final stage of the crisis, the hostage crisis and its influence on the 1980 Presidential election, known as “October Surprise,” and finally, Iran in the aftermath of the hostage crisis. The article also provides a list of the hostages with their position at the embassy.

**Geography**

Geography is the subject of six neighboring countries are the subject of eleven entries: Ilkhanids (or Qara-khanids), first Muslim Turkic dynasty that ruled in Central Asia from Tarim basin to the Oxus river (10th-13th centuries), by M. Biran; Ilaq, medieval name of an area in present-day Uzbekistan, by B. Litvinsky; Ilbars Khan, name of two rulers of Khwarazm in the 16th and 18th centuries, by Y. Bregel; Ledong, site in Central Asia, by M. Maggi; Hydrology of Afghanistan, by X. de Planhol; Huntington, American geographer who traveled through Central Asia, by U. Sims-Williams; Iqdir, Turkic tribe in Persia and Anatolia, by P. Oberling; Hosam-al-Din, Kurdish Sufi author of a number of works, including a commentary on the Koran (15th century), by the late T. Yazici. Hyderabad, a city in the Deccan of India, and the former capital of the Nizams of Hyderabad (c. 1724-1948), and at present the state capital of Andhra Pradesh in southern India, is the subject of two entries: History by G. Hambly; and Monuments by D. Hutton. From the time of its foundation in 1591 until Indian independence in 1947, Hyderabad had a three and a half century history as one of the major Muslim cities and as a center of Indo-Persian culture in the sub-continent.

**Other Articles**

Seventeen entries discuss other subjects: Two entries treat demography of housing and migration in Iran: Housing, by H. Zanjani, examines the fol-

**Music**

Five entries treat Persian Music: Aqa Hosaynqoli, an outstanding tar player, reputed to be the greatest master of the latter half of the 19th century; his radif (repertoire), passed down to his sons, is considered to be the well-spring of Persian traditional music; his performances were considered both technically brilliant and artistically exquisite; and Hosayn Khan Kamanchekash, master of kamancha (19th-20th centuries), both by A. Youssefzadeh; Hosayni, a gushe of the canonic repertory of Persian classical music, by B. Nettl; Sa’id Hormozi, setar and tar virtuoso, student of Darvish Khan, by J. During; and Andre Aminollah Hassanein, French composer of Iranian origin, by I. Khademi.
ollowing main topics: 1) The growth of housing units during 1966-96; 2) The policies adopted in various development plans towards housing and the results obtained; 3) Main characteristics of housing in Iran; and 4) Investment and economics of housing. Human Migrations, by M. Amani and H. Zanjani, treats three types of human migration in modern Iran: 1) Migration within the country; 2) Immigration of foreign nationals to Iran; and 3) Emigration of Iranians to foreign countries (referred to DIASPORA viii and x).

Two entries deal with topics in traditional medicine: Humoralism, medical theory that considers illness as an imbalance in the body’s four elemental humors by A.A. Afkhami; and Sharaf al-Din Yusof I LAQI, follower of Avicenna and author in medicine, scientific and philosophical (11th-12th centuries), by L. Richter-Bernburg.

Three articles discuss fauna of Iran: Ibex, Persian wild goat, is subject of two entries: its natural history, by E. Firouz; and in pre-Islamic art, by D. T. Potts. Hyena, medium-sized carnivore in Iran and Afghanistan, is treated by S. C. Anderson.


Horoscope, horoscopic diagram or theme which depicts the positions of the stars in zodiacal signs, by D. Pingree; and Honey in lore, tradition, and Persian literature, by H. A’lam.

Finally two articles treat horses: Horseshoes, authored by W. Kleiss; and Horse Racing, by A. Azarnoush. The latter entry traces the history of horse racing in Iran back to the Achaemenid period and refers to races set up by Cyrus in Persia as well as between Persian and Greek horses in Greece. The article examines, in some detail, the horse manuals (faras-nama) and the books of manners (adab) and argues that Iranians, throughout their history, preferred to use horses in sports such as polo, tournaments (jarid-bazi) and trick riding, of which there are many accounts. The author notes that it was probably in the early part of the Qajar era that horse races as such were introduced in the capital, Tehran, perhaps with the encouragement of the Europeans.

KHALEIGHI-MOTLAGH RECEIVES AWARD

Dr. Djalal Khaleghi-Motlagh of Hamburg University—who has prepared a critical edition of Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh, the Iranian national epic, for the first time—was the recipient of the 2004 award, named after Ehsan Yarshater by the Rudaki Foundation of Vancouver, Canada, founded and directed by Dr. Monir Taha. Previous recipients of the prize were Dr. Zabiollah Safa (1997), Nader Naderpour (1998), Ali Tajvidi (2000), Househang Seyhoun (2001), and Hassan Shabazh (2002).

Prof. Yarshater, who has undertaken the publication of this edition of Shahnameh (of which five volumes plus two volumes of explanatory notes have

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Shirin Ebadi

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Shirin Ebadi

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Shirin Ebadi

Continued from Columbia University

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an activist is best known for promoting peaceful, democratic solutions to social and political problems.

The event was held at Columbia University’s Rotunda on Wednesday, June 9th, 2004, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Following a reception, Dr. Lee C. Bollinger, President of Columbia University, gave a talk on “Human Rights and Iranian Studies at Columbia.” He was followed by Prof. Louis Henkin, University Professor Emeritus and Director of the Human Rights Institute at the School of Law, who spoke on “Human Rights, Peace, and Columbia.”

Prof. Ehsan Yarshater, Hagop Kevorkian Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies and Director, Center for Iranian Studies, introduced Dr. Ebadi, citing her human rights activities.

In her talk, which was given in Persian and ably translated by Prof. Mansour Farhang of Benington College, Dr. Ebadi focused on her past experience with Columbia University and its Center for Iranian Studies. She pointed out that her contribution of the entry “Children’s Rights” to the Encyclopedia Iranica, and publication by Center for Iranian Studies of the English translation of her book on human rights as Documentation of Human Rights in Iran (New York, 2000), helped disseminate her messages on women’s and children’s rights in the West. She concluded her presentation by saying that “if the 21st century wishes to free itself from the cycle of violence, acts of terror, and war, there is no way but through a consistent application of human rights for all mankind, irrespective of race, gender, faith, nationality or social status.”

Closing Remarks was given by Prof. Lisa Anderson, Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs, and Co-Chair of Human Rights Watch/Middle East.

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Long Island Gala Benefit Dinner
December 11, 2004

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The program will also feature the Persian vocalist, Ms. Shahla Sarshar. For information, please contact the Center for Iranian Studies at (212) 851-5723. Donations and/or items for auction will be gratefully accepted.

Please address inquiries to Dr. Azita Khan Naghavi at (616) 626-9303 or (516) 526-4032.

Mr. Mrs. Shahla Sarshar

Mrs. Homa Sarshar

THE HONOREES OF THE LONG ISLAND GALA

Shohreh Aghdashloo, an abundantly talented actress and media personality, was nominated for an Academy Award in 2004 in the best supporting actress category for her role in the film "House of Sand and Fog." Shohreh’s debut was in a family drama, Gozaresht; she then appeared in a number of films, including Sooteh Delan, Soltan-e Saheb Gheran and Hezar Dastan. In the United States she has appeared in many plays with her husband Hooshang Touzie. Their collaboration on Boo-ye Khosh-e Eshgh became an instant hit. Its sequel, Sahm-e Ma az Khane-ye Pedari, as well as Maryam have once again claimed the audiences’ attention and generated rapturous reviews.

Dr. Mohammad Farivar, a staunch supporter of philanthropic causes, teaches at Harvard Medical School, is member of a number of boards of medical institutions, and has published numerous articles on various aspects of endoscopy in medical journals. Dr. Farivar and his wife Mrs. Massy Akhavan Farivar, the winner of the 2000 Canadian Helen Prize for her humanitarian work, have long been active in various philanthropic projects. Dr. Farivar established the Earthquake Relief Fund for Orphans in 1990 and, since 2002, has organized a number of scientific medical trips to the medical schools of the universities of Mashhad, Kerman, and Tabriz. Mrs. Farivar has founded several homes for homeless children in Iran and has traveled to Bam 4 times since December 27, 2003 to help orphans and homeless children.

A well-known artist, Nasser Ovissi was initially trained in law and political science and entered the Iranian Foreign Ministry after graduating from Tehran University. He left the Ministry in 1979 and dedicated himself to his real passion, painting. Using vibrant colors, unique techniques, and exclusive motifs drawn from both traditional Persian life and nature, Ovissi has developed an easily recognizable and distinct style. In addition to his bright colors, 22k gold embossing and leafing give his work an exotic aspect. Exhibitions of his works have been held in Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, and North and South America, securing international recognition.

Azar Nafisi is a professor at Johns Hopkins University. She won a fellowship from Oxford, and taught English literature at the University of Tehran, the Free Islamic University and Allameh Tabatabai University in Iran. Refusing to submit to the restrictions imposed on women by the Islamic Republic of Iran, she found herself obliged to leave Iran for America in 1997. She has contributed to the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal and the New Republic, has appeared on countless radio and television programs, and is the author of Anti-Terra: A Critical Study of Vladimir Nabokov’s Novels. Her recent book, Reading Lolita in Tehran, a resounding success, has been on the bestseller lists of the New York Times and Washington Post for over 42 weeks.

Dr. Firouz Naderi is manager of the newly created Mars Program Office at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA. He has been the manager of NASA’s Origins Program since 1996. He joined JPL in 1979 and has served as program manager for space science flight experiments and project manager for the NASA Scatterometer project. The new Mars Program Office will serve as the single point-of-contact for NASA Headquarters at JPL for all Mars exploration efforts. The office will work closely with the NASA Headquarters Mars Directorate Office for the development and implementation of the long-term strategy for the robotic exploration of Mars, as well as for the program’s architecture and management of related funding.

NEW YORK GALA
March 3, 2005

A committee in New York chaired by Mrs. Maryam Panahi (Ansary), assisted particularly by Roya Khajavi Heidari, is preparing a gala benefit dinner to take place on the 3rd of March, 2005.
NEW YORK GALA

The luxurious ballroom of Cipriani’s in midtown Manhattan has been selected as the location for the Gala. Susie Gharib Nazem will be the Master of Ceremony. The committee members include Faranak Amirsaleh, Shalu Arjomand, Mina Atabai, Nazi Batmanghelij, Layla Diba, Tamilla Ghodsi, Atoussa Hamzavi, Leila Heller, Laya Khajavi Biglari, Nazi Moinian, Susan Motamed, Massoud Nader, Fereydoon Nazem, Mahshid Noshirvani, Rana Sahni, Nazgol Shahbazi, Nahid Taghnia, and Marjan Yarahgi.

The Gala promises to be a splendid and most enjoyable event. For inquiries please call (212) 851-5723, (917) 293-1178 or (212) 517-5755.

SUPPORT FOR ENCYCLOPÆDIA IRANICA

The Encyclopædia Iranica is a project of Columbia University carried out by its Center for Iranian Studies, and is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The execution of the project is being made possible also by donations from institutions and individuals who value a comprehensive, meticulous and reliable record of Persian culture and history.

We appeal to all such institutions and individuals to assist the project by their donations. We acknowledge with thanks the donations by the following for the period of October 15, 2003 - October 15, 2004.

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UNITED Way of Tucson & S. AZ (Shirin Sorooshian)
Houston Gala Benefit Dinner  
November 13, 2004  

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on Saturday, November 13, 2004 at the elegant River Oaks Country Club. Rudi Bakhtiar, the well-known CNN news anchor and media personality, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

Persian dancer, Laya Torkaman will perform a meditating dance.

The award ceremony will be conducted after dinner with Prof. Yarshater’s acknowledgements and remarks on the Encyclopædia Iranica. Musical performance will be conducted by Anoushirvan Rohani, a renowned Iranian pianist and composer and Shardad Rohani, an internationally acclaimed conductor and composer.

In addition to 60 items in the silent auction, the benefit auction at the Houston Gala will include 14 valuable items in live auction conducted by Amir Parviziyan, President of Parviziyan Rug Company.

The event will begin with a cocktail reception and silent auction of 60 items at 7:00 pm. Mr. Saberioon will open the Gala with his welcoming remarks and introduce Mr. Mahmoud Khayami, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation, who will comment on the goals of the Encyclopædia Iranica. A short video about the Encyclopædia Iranica by noted filmmaker, Aryana Farshad, will follow.

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Mr. Akbar Ladjevardian

Mr. Ali Saberioon

Dr. Abbas Firoozabadi is Director of the Reservoir Engineering Research Institute (RERI) in Palo Alto, CA, and an adjunct professor at Yale University, and at Imperial College of London. He has taught at Stanford University and the University of Texas-Austin. Dr. Firoozabadi is the author of Thermodynamics of Hydrocarbon Reservoirs pub-
lished by McGraw-Hill in 1999 and over 100 papers in scholarly journals. His prestigious awards include the Lucas Gold Medal of the SPE/AIME, the highest technical award of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Dr. Asadollah Hayatdavoudi is professor of petroleum engineering at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. He is a 1993 recipient of the regional SPE Service award, a former SPE short course instructor, a practicing registered professional engineer and the 1990 distinguished professor of the UL Foundation. As principal inventor, he holds 20 US and international patents and has published more than 50 papers in various SPE, SME, ASME, SPWLA symposia, journals, and trade publications.

Dr. Parviz Mina received his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical/petroleum engineering from the University of Birmingham in England. He served the Iranian oil industry for 25 years and his last position before the 1979 Revolution was Member of the Board of Directors and Managing Director of International Affairs of the National Iranian Oil Company. Since 1979, Dr. Mina has been working as an international petroleum consultant with various international oil companies, the United Nations, and the Group for International Studies and Evaluations.

Mr. Ali Saberioun, a Trustee of the Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation, is an entrepreneur with more than 25 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. As the president and CEO of Sabco Oil and Gas Corporation, he has managed to expand his one-man exploration and production company with a startup value of less than $1 million into a substantial mid-sized independent company operating onshore and offshore the United States. Mr. Saberioun is the founder and major contributor of the Iranian Medical Relief Foundation (IMRF), and serves on several Boards of philanthropic and educational organizations.

London Gala Benefit Dinner
September 30, 2004

On September 30, 2004, the Ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel in London was site of the Magic of Persia Inaugural Event in support of the Encyclopædia Iranica. Dr. Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Laureate and Honoree of the evening was sadly unable to attend due to a family tragedy; however, she graciously sent a video presentation of her speech which was shown at the start of the event.

The Executive Committee consisted of Shirley Elghanian (Chair), Vajihe Solaymani (Vice Chair), Michael Elghanayan (Treasurer), Ahmad Boroumand (Auditor), Sepideh Saldjoughi (Event Coordinator), Diddi Malek (Auctioneer), Shahnaz Atighetchi (Catering), Farhad Thoraya Kanji, Nalina Giacopazzi, Elham Farsian, Sanam Oveyssi, Roya Kalhor, Guity Benjamin, and Liza Tesei.

470 guests attended the memorable gathering; a new version of the Encyclopædia Iranica video presentation, edited by Aryana Farshad and with a score by Farnoush Behzad, was shown, and speeches by Mr. Mahmoud Khayami, Chairman of Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation, and His Highness Shaykh Nahayan al-Nahayan followed. Prof. Yarshater then explained in particular the new approach of the Encyclopædia which has led to the commissioning of entries both alphabetically and also out of alphabetical order. The new approach has accelerated the program of the Encyclopædia and considerably shortened the timeframe for its completion.

The event was ably managed by journalist and radio anchor Mr. Farzad Djavadi. Since April 2000, he has been producing and hosting a series of weekly programs called “A Look at the Encyclopædia Iranica” (Negahi be Dameshname-ye Iranica), for the Persian Service of Radio France Internationale.

The evening also featured superb entertainment by Sufi dancer Laya Turkaman, songs by Sattar and Mahasti, and last but not least, a magi-
cal performance by Experimentalist Gerard Senehi.

A beautiful meditative dance by Laya Torkaman followed the live auction. Laya’s dancing is inspired by the mystical poetry of the classical Persian poets such as Rumi and Hafez.

Mahasti Sattar

Mahasti is a genuine and versatile vocalist with a long and solid career and rich artistic portfolio, ranging from traditional Bazm to some pure pop creations. She maintains the respect that she has always received from her fellow artists and the loyalty of her fans.

Sattar’s fame began at the age of 22 with the release of the theme song for the popular television show called “Morad Barghi” in Iran. Now after having recorded over 200 songs, Sattar has started a company devoted to keeping Iranian music and culture alive. As a caring individual Sattar volunteers to perform at charity events for causes close to his heart.

With a joyful and skillful style, Gerard Senehi, mentalist, mind reader and corporate entertainer, astonished the audience. Gerard is recognized internationally not only as a brilliant performer but also as a true master of the art of mentalism.

The resounding success of the evening was in no small measure due to the initiative, dedication, and tireless efforts of Magic of Persia Chairman Shirley Elghanaian, her advisor Roxane Zand, her assistant Sepi Saljoughi, and the rest of the Magic of Persia Event Committee.

KHALEGHI-MOTLAGH RECEIVES AWARD

Continued from page 5

been published in quarto format) gave a brief account of the significance of Ferdowsi’s work for preservation of Iranian national identity and continued by discussing major editions of Shahnameh, pointing out the significance of Khaleghi’s edition based on 14 manuscripts that have served as the main sources of this edition.

Dr. Khaleghi, who has spent the past 35 years collating the oldest and most reliable manuscripts of the Shahnameh and has produced the first truly critical edition of Ferdousi’s monumental work, gave a talk on the work and the tremendous amount of effort that has gone into securing MSS copies and its editing.

At the event, a vocal composition called My Land (Sarzamin-e man), by Dr. Taha, in addition to a number of local songs and two poems of Hafez were performed by former musicians of Tehran’s National Symphonic Orchestra: Talin Ohanian, soprano vocalist, and Amin Jamalpour, pianist and choir director.

This event was supported by Mr. Arbab Rostam Zartoshti of whom Prof. Yarshater said “he lives with the Shahnameh, he breathes the Shahnameh, and he dreams of the Shahnameh.” He has been sponsoring monthly Shahnameh readings in Vancouver for years and has encouraged the same elsewhere. He celebrates the birth of Ferdoysi each year with great relish.

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HONORING SUPPORTERS OF IRANICA

Dr. Mahin and Masood Khatamee will be hosting a dinner reception on December 2, 2004 to honor the long-standing supporters of the Encyclopaedia Iranica, including members of the 1000 and 2000 Clubs who have supported the project for ten years or more, as well as the individuals and couples who have hosted a dinner for the members of those clubs, namely: Misha & Mansour Sharif Zandieh, Farideh & Fraydoon Moqtaderi, Vicki Khalili, Nahid & Shahrokh Akhami, Layla Diba, Nina & Zia Ghavami, Sedi & Akbar Gahary, and Mitra & Shahram Razmzan.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SEMINARS ON IRANIAN STUDIES

SULTAN MURAD III MORAQA'

On Tuesday, May 18, 2004, Dr. Aimée Froom of the Brooklyn Museum of Art led the discussion on “Ottoman and Persian influences in the Sultan Morad III moraqqa’ (Vienna, Cod. Mixt. 313)” and discussed the extraordinary and unique moraqqa’ (album).

She began by explaining its creation in the 16th-century for one of the greatest Ottoman bibliophiles, Sultan Morad III (r. 1574-95; Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Codex Mixtus 313). Moraqqa’ means “that which is put together from several pieces” and refers to the albums compiled by and for imperial and non-imperial Muslim connoisseurs and collectors from prized examples of paintings, calligraphies and drawings that were collected together and bound into a volume. Within the Islamic album tradition, the Sultan Morad III album is unusual and worthy of study for a number of reasons. It has a clearly documented history: the album dedication identifies its patron, Sultan Morad III, and the detailed preface names the album’s compiler, one Mehmed Cenderecizade, and the location and date of its production, Constantinople/Istanbul, 980 H./1572-73. Secondly, Morad III’s album is unique because of its decorative program. Elaborate designs were created especially for the margins of each folio by Ottoman palace artisans.

Dr. Froom continued by comparing these extraordinary works of art, which stand in sharp contrast to the homogenous marginal decoration of contemporary Islamic albums and even deluxe manuscripts. This feature not only increases the album’s aesthetic value, but also aids greatly in reconstructing the “original” album. Thirdly, the album’s miniature paintings, ink drawings and calligraphed verses of poetry are not predominantly Turkish, but are of Persian origin.

Finally Dr. Froom explained that the majority of material in the album consists of calligraphy specimens, mostly from ghazals of Persian lyric poetry copied by celebrated Persian calligraphers active in the early to mid-16th century. There are also Tabriz and Ottoman-style decorative pages that feature saz-style drawings and a beautiful example of a papercut garden of flowers and cypress trees. This moraqqa’ celebrates a marriage of Persian and Turkish art re-contextualized in an Ottoman format and provides a unique opportunity to comment on the artistic patronage of Morad III, Ottoman collecting practices, and the possible reasons why an album for one of the greatest Ottoman bibliophiles features so prominently Persian literary and visual culture.

IRANIAN-RELIGIOUS MATERIAL IN ARMENIAN CULTURE

On Tuesday, September 7, 2004 Dr. James Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, led a discussion on “The Place of Epic in the Preservation of pre-Christian (mostly Iranian) religious material in Armenian Culture.”

Prof. Russell pointed out that the particular type of pre-Islamic Iranian religion the Armenian epic enshrines is a complex of beliefs and images, which, taken together, represent the proto-Mithraism from which the Roman cult of the Imperial era develops. Even as the Western Mithraists were mainly soldiers and always men, the Armenian form of the cult one can reconstruct from the Sasan epic involves heroes of pre-natural statuering acting within a heroic code. The first generation, Sasasar and Baghdasar, are twins, like Coutes and Cautopates, and are likewise unequal in height and character. They are born of a rock (cf. Mithras Saxigenus/petrogenes). The heroes wear a magic ‘battle cross’ (Khuch patrazin), fight with a magic sword later immersed in water, and ride a talking horse. The former detail seems to originate in Armenia, travel to the Narts, and move with the Alans to the lands where the legends of King Arthur took shape. Two of the heroes of Sasun are named Mher (i.e., Mithra). The first fights a lion and is named arryutsadsez (‘lion-rend’ or ‘lion-form’, cf. the Mithraic Leontocephalus); the second is an apocalyptic figure (cf. the Zoroastrian Mithra).

Prof. Russell next discussed the possible social context for the epics, examining the medieval Armenian young men’s associations. He then turned to the question of epics before that of Sasun, particularly the Artaxiad cycle with its apocalyptic dénouement in the story of the millenially imprisoned Artawazd.

The Artawazd episode, and the part of the cycle concerning Tigran, which Prof. Russell has attempted to reconstruct, both deal with Armenian enmity toward the Medes and their king Azhdahak. Azhdahak is of course the Azhi Dahaka of the Avesta, a dragonman and the paragon of misrule. His name sounded like that of the historical Astyages (*Rishitvaiga), the Mede vanquished by Cyrus-Iranian imagination fused the two; and since ‘Mede’ in Armenian is mar, which in turn was tendentiously interpreted as Persian mar, ‘snake’, the wars of the Armenian kings in the epic assumed the religiously potent and folkloric archetypal character of a Drachenkampf.

Finally, Prof. Russell observed that more recent Armenian epics also deal with ancient themes, and episodes from Armenian epic traveled north and were incorporated into the Nart cycle. Armenia was thus a part of the Iranian world, but distinct, innovative, creative, and a source in its own right.
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