



ANJOMAN-E ĀṬĀR-E MELLĪ

ANJOMAN-E ĀṬĀR-E MELLĪ (AAM), The National Monuments Council of Iran, established in 1301 Š./1922 to promote interest in and to preserve Iran's cultural heritage. The first phase of AAM activity extended from 1301 Š./1922 to 1313 Š./1934, under the leadership of Moḥammad-'Alī Forūḡī. In 1304 Š./1925 Reżā Khan Sardār-e Sepah, the future Reżā Shah became the honorary president, and the constitution, drawn up in 1301/1922 was formally circulated. In the same year, the AAM issued its first two publications: a list of historic monuments in Iran, compiled by Ernst Herzfeld, head of the German Institute of Oriental Archaeology, and a lecture on archaeology in Iran by the same author. The AAM's first major project, the construction of the Ferdowsī mausoleum (Ārāmgāh-e Ferdowsī) in Ṭūs, was begun in 1307 Š./1928. It was completed in 1313 Š./1934, the year of the Ferdowsī millenary, with funding from private and public sources. For the next ten years the AAM ceased activity; it was revived in 1323 Š./1944 with a revised constitution in order to undertake the construction of a mausoleum for Ebn Sīnā at Hamadān in conjunction with his millenary, in 1370/1951. Between 1944 and 1961 the AAM was also responsible for building the new Sa'dī mausoleum at Shiraz and the Nāder Shah mausoleum and museum at Mašhad. These projects were financed by royal donations, fundraising in schools, lotteries, excise taxes, private and municipal grants, and government credits. After 1340 Š./1961 the AAM's financial base was strengthened by a special levy on cement factory output; its activities, included the construction of mausoleums for 'Omar Kayyām and Kamāl-al-molk at Nīšāpūr, Şā'eb Tabrīzī at Isfahan, Bābā Ṭāher at Hamadān, Shaikh Rūzbehān Baqlī and Shah Šojā' at Shiraz, Mollā Ḥosayn Wā'eż Kāšefī at



Sabzavār, and Kamāl-al-dīn Behzād and Kamāl-al-dīn Koḡandī at Tabrīz; the repair of the mausoleums of ‘Aṭṭār at Nīšāpūr and Shaikh Abu’l-Ḥasan Karaqānī near Beštām and of Adīb-al-mamālek Farāhānī, Waḥīd Dastgerdī, and ‘Ebrat Nā’inī at Šahr-e Ray; and the placement of tombstones over the graves of Sayyed Jamāl-al-dīn Wā‘ez Ešfahānī at Borūjerd and Īraḡ Mīrzā Jalīl-al-mamālek at Šemīrān. Between 1343 Š./1964 and 1347 Š./1968, the Ferdowsī mausoleum was rebuilt to correct improper foundations; a library, a museum, and other facilities were added, and the garden was doubled in size and linked by a tree-lined avenue to the tomb site (*boq’a*) of Moḡammad Ġazālī. In 1351 Š./1972 the AAM undertook the construction of a memorial building in the Tabrīz cemetery to commemorate the poets Kāqānī, Asadī Ṭūsī, Ḷahīr Fāryābī, Homām, and Qaṭrān, and the martyr Āqā ‘Alī Mīrzā Teqat-al-eslām (d. 1330/1911). Work was also begun on a memorial for Amīr-e Kabīr at Hazāva near Farāhān and mausoleums for Sībūya (Sībawayh) and Abū ‘Abdallāh b. Kāfīf at Shiraz, Ebn Yamīn near Šāhrūd, Nezārī Qohestānī at Bīrḡand, RaḶī Ārtīmānī near Tūyserkān, Aḡmad Neyrīzī at Neyrīz, and Awḡadī at Marāḡa. A memorial was also erected at the house of Sayyed Jamāl-al-dīn “Afgānī” in Asadābād near Hamadān. In cooperation with the Directorate General of Archaeology the AAM also engaged in the restoration of historic monuments until 1965, when this function was transferred to the National Organization for the Conservation of Ancient Monuments, although the AAM continued to provide financial and technical assistance. The AAM has also commissioned public statues, including those of Ferdowsī, Ebn Sīnā, Sa’dī, Nāder Shah, and ‘Omar Kayyām, and has published over 100 volumes by and about these and other major figures in Iranian history.

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