



بنیاد مطالعات ایران

Foundation for Iranian Studies

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Announcement

The Foundation for Iranian Studies announces closure of its quarterly journal of Iranian Studies Iran Nameh with the fourth issue of the 30th Volume (February 2016). The board of trustees of the Foundation is grateful to the journal's editor-in-chief, Professor Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi, who over the past five years has ably met the challenges of publishing a Persian-language research journal outside Iran during a period when traditional publishing has been undergoing a serious crisis. Dr. Tavakoli has led the Iran Nameh team of staff and editorial advisors superbly and published many valuable and evocative articles while also introducing innovative design features to the publication.

The board wishes to acknowledge the previous teams of exceptional scholars who dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to create, build, and sustain the journal over 30 years of challenging times.

The Foundation for Iranian Studies (FIS) was one of the earliest—if not the first—manifestations of the response of Iranians in diaspora to sustain and promote the rich Iranian cultural heritage and the Persian literary tradition after the 1979 Iranian revolution. The foundation's flagship publication, Iran Nameh, started in the fall of 1982 under the editorship of Professor Jalal Matini, who deserves high praise and gratitude for keeping the journal above the many partisan divisions in the Iranian community in diaspora. The first 26 issues of the journal, through volume VII, Number 2, prepared by him as editor and Professor Heshmat Moayyad as book review editor, focused mainly on history and culture, especially of the pre-Islamic era, to which a host of luminaries, including Ehsan Yarshater, Mohammad Jafar Mahjoub, Jalal Khaleqi Motlaq, and Zabihollah Safa, among others, contributed regularly.

The next editor-in-chief, Dariush Shayegan, a renowned philosopher who managed the journal's volumes VII (1989) number 2 to volume XI (1993), brought with him a team of scholars and experts of the next generation, including Dariush Ashouri as executive editor, and Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak as book review editor. During Shayegan's editorship the foundation was laid for a much greater emphasis on in-depth studies of social, political and economic issues Iranians faced after the end of

the devastating Iran-Iraq war and the ways and means of addressing and resolving them. Accordingly, Iran Nameh underwent a corresponding structural and policy change in 1992 and 1993. The editorial board of the journal was restructured to include a managing editor (Dr. Hormoz Hekmat), a permanent editor (Shahrokh Meskoob), and guest editors who were invited for each volume according to the subjects chosen for the special issues. In the 1990s and 2000s, both special and mixed issues were focused primarily on themes of special import in contemporary Iranian society—modernization, constitutional questions, civil society, economy, politics, religion, foreign policy, oil, cinema, women, and literary criticism, among others. The journal’s success in these years was owed to the contributions of the writers, guest editors, Hormoz Hekmat’s meticulous editing and command of Persian language, and the guiding attention of Shahrokh Meskoob, who for almost sixteen years, until his passing in 2005, was in many ways the soul of the journal.

Throughout its thirty-four years of publication, Iran Nameh remained a journal of distinction, bringing the most rigorous standards of scholarship to Persian scholars, students, and general readers throughout the Persian speaking world. But the most important achievement of the journal has been its “creation of a space for deliberation, innovation, and interaction through scholarship.” It has been unique in bringing together scholars from opposite sides of the political spectrum to freely present their thoughts, share their knowledge and research, and engage in mutually enriching dialogue.

The board of trustees of the Foundation thanks the hundreds of men and women who have contributed selflessly to the journal as contributors, editors, and assistants, as well as thousands of readers who have supported it over the past three decades.

The closure of Iran Nameh is not of course the end of the Foundation’s cultural research, and publishing activities. The Foundation’s board of trustees is currently exploring a number of alternative mechanisms and venues for advancing research and scholarship in various fields of Iranian studies, in promoting a greater appreciation of Iranian arts, literature, and culture, and in addressing the many social, economic, and political challenges that Iran faces today. We shall soon share the news about the Foundation’s future directions and programs with our many colleagues, supporters, and the public in greater detail.

**Mahnaz Afkhami
Acting President and Executive Director**