

Foundation for Iranian Studies

Program of Oral History

Abolfath Atabai

INTERVIEW WITH ABOLFATH ATABAI

NEW YORK, JUNE 1982

INTERVIEWED BY AHMAD QOREYSHI

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PREFACE

This manuscript is the product of a series of tape-recorded interviews conducted for the Oral History of Iran Program of Foundation for Iranian Studies by Ahmad Ghoreichi with Aboufath Atabai in New York, NY, in June, 1982.

Readers of this Oral History memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Foundation for Iranian Studies is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein.

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I hereby give and grant to the Foundation for Iranian Studies as a donation for such scholarly and educational purposes as the Foundation shall determine, the tape recordings and their contents as listed below.



Interviewee

Interviewer

31st MAR 88

Date of Agreement

Subject of Tapes

ABOLFATH ATABAI

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Atabai served in the court of Mohammed Ali Shah Qajar and later Ahmed Shah Qajar. With the ascent of Reza Shah Pahlavi to the throne, Mr. Atabi continued to serve in the court. He comes from a tribal family and has retained his interest in hunting and horseback-riding. His service in the courts of the Qajar and Pahlavi kings was centered around these interests. After sixty years of service, during the last years prior to the 1979 revolution he was appointed as deputy minister of court.

Mr. Atabai was a loyal and sincere servant of the first and second Pahlavi kings and therefore much trusted by them. He often travelled among the entourage of the Shah. One of the most interesting portions of his meoir concerns his recollections of the trip to Rome by Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi during the Mossadegh premiership and his return after the events of 28th of Mordad. He was one of a handful of people who were present at the time of these events.

Mr. Atabai's recollections are also interesting in the tangible image they present of the transformation from the Qajar to the Pahlavi dynasties and in the information they present about the ancient customs and traditions related to riding and hunting.

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