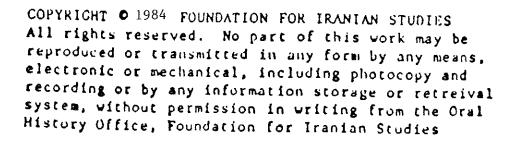
Foundation for Iranian Studies Program of Oral History

LEON BRASSEUR

INTERVIEW WITH LEON BRASSEUR
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 12, 1984
INTERVIEWED BY FARROKH GHAFFARI



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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 Farrokh Ghaffari with Leon Brasseur in Paris in September 12, 1984.

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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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mr. Leon Brasseur was born in Izmir, Turkey in 1904. His father was a teacher at Alliance Française in Turkey. In 1908 the family was transferred to Esfehan, Iran. There Mr. Brasseur received his education in Persian language and culture. He made several trips around Iran, including to Tehran, and met many of the dignitaries of the time through his father. He became involved in several business ventures in Iran up until 1939. Then he became associated with the war in the service of the Gaullist forces. He served as a British agent in Iran up to 1941 when he became the Gaullist representative in New York. After the war, Mr. Brasseur joined the France diplomatic corps. He served in New York and Paris, became charged d'Affairs in Kabul, and Ambassador to Germany, Peru, and Ivory Coast. Upon his retirement, at the insistance of prime minister Hoveyda, Mr. Brasseur accepted to head the Irano-Frnace Chamber of Commerce in 1966. Over the next decade, he made frequent visits to Tehran and took part in numerous business ventures conducted between France and Iran.

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