



Report



Iran Heritage Foundation
2015 in review



Iran Heritage Foundation

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Iran Heritage Foundation is the leading supporter of Iranian heritage and culture in the UK. With a mandate to promote and preserve the language, history and culture of Iran and the Persians, IHF engages with academic, institutional and cultural communities in Britain and abroad.

The organisation partners with museums, universities and artistic and scholarly institutions through the appointment of curators, the provision of grants, fellowships and scholarships, and the organisation of exhibitions and convening of conferences. IHF supports publications on subjects relating to Iran, funds the teaching of the Persian language and history at every level and holds a wide range of public, community and social events. The scope of IHF's remit covers Ancient Persia, post-Islamic, modern and contemporary Iran.

Established in 1995, Iran Heritage Foundation is an independent, non-political, UK Registered Charity.

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The CEO was supported by

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 Shezad Mahomedali, Richard Woahene
 Accounts

Management and Organisation

IHF's mission, vision, budgets and programme scope are set and approved by the Board of Trustees, which met four times in 2015. A number of specialist committees support IHF, including the Academic Grants Committee, the Contemporary Grants Committee and the Norouz Committee which organises IHF's annual fundraising dinner in London on the occasion of the Iranian New Year.

Sources of Funding

Important sources of funding for IHF include contributions from the Board of Trustees, the annual Norouz fundraising gala and contributions from individual donors and corporate and institutional sponsors.

How You Can Help

Every donation, large or small, helps to make a real difference in achieving the Foundation's objectives. We welcome your support, and urge you to become a Friend of IHF.

Additional information including how to become a Friend and updated news on IHF programmes and events may be found at www.iranheritage.org and at www.facebook.com/iran.heritage.foundation. All those on the IHF mailing-list will receive regular newswatches and other information.



2015 was my second year in charge of IHF and was marked by further progress in implementing organisational changes. To start with, we have laid the plans for governance reforms that will be introduced in 2016. Moving forward we will have two boards, a Trustees Board of reduced size that will meet six times a year and an Advisory Board that will meet once or twice a year. In addition, the new membership scheme goes from strength to strength and we already have more than 100 members. Membership of IHF entitles members to various benefits, but more than anything else it is a splendid way to demonstrate support for the Foundation and the work that it is doing. On a higher level a new Patrons' Circle has been established under the chairmanship of Saman Ahsani; In the last year this group was able to enjoy dinners in the British Museum, the Courtauld and Tate Modern.

The highlights of the year were three conferences. The first, in January 2015, was on safeguarding cultural heritage in Iran. Although Iran has been spared from the appalling wonton destruction that we have seen over the last couple of years in Iraq and Syria, there is no room for complacency, as the rich cultural heritage of Iran is under threat from different forces, such as atmospheric pollution, development, and the construction of dams. A number of experts from around the world gathered to identify these threats and discuss possible measures to mitigate them. It was highly gratifying that three colleagues from Iran were able to join us, including Dr Mohammad Hassan Talebian, the Deputy Director of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization. This conference was followed by another in December also on cultural heritage but concerned with the destruction of monuments and memory principally in Iraq, Syria and North Africa. Although these terrible crimes have not been perpetrated in Iran, many of the monuments in question have Iranian connections and what is happening in the Middle East beyond Iran is of great

concern for all those interested in the cultural heritage of Iran. This conference attracted a great deal of interest and it is intended to publish the proceedings in book form as soon as possible. A new departure for us was a third conference in June on Iran's medical heritage at the Royal College of Surgeons. Apart from highly informative lectures about early Iranian medical pioneers such as Avicenna, there were fascinating talks from contemporary Iranian medical practitioners, all of whom are trail-blazers in their different medical fields.

These conferences were supported by a series of monthly events. We had lectures about subjects as diverse as Cyrus the Great, Jewish communities in Iran, Persian gardens, the Caspian horse, and musical traditions in Iran. A day of poetry readings from Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Alan Williams and Narguess Farzad was particularly well attended. At the end of the year there was a celebration of Yalda, which is fast becoming a fixture in the annual IHF calendar. And it would be remiss of me not to mention the Norouz gala dinner, which as usual was a very enjoyable event. Entertainment was provided by the Iranian singer Arash.

Throughout the year IHF was pleased to continue working with its institutional partners. We were able this year to support posts and fellowships at the British Museum, the British Library, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate Modern, the Courtauld Institute of Art, and the Universities of London (SOAS), Reading and Edinburgh. We set great store by this scheme, which is an effective way of cementing relations with partner institutions and provides the opportunity for mutually valuable collaboration and exchange of views. We also continued to give two types of grants, for academic research and for work on the contemporary arts. In the latter connection, the remit of the new committee on Contemporary Practices in Visual and Performing Arts was formalised during the year.

There has been just one staff change during the year. Alice Piller Roner left us in August to work for another charity, and we were joined in November by Massoumeh Safinia who was previously the holder of an IHF Fellowship at the British Museum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all IHF staff for their efforts, as well as our honorary treasurer Bardia Panahy and honorary secretary Kimya Kamshad and the ladies of the Norouz Committee who have laboured so hard and given freely of their time on behalf of IHF. Lastly, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Trustees who contribute generously to the running costs of IHF. Without them, the organisation would founder.

In the course of 2015 agreement was reached on the so-called nuclear issue, which it is hoped will usher in a new era of cooperation and collaboration between Iran

and countries in the west, including on the cultural front. This could result in due course in the exchange of exhibitions, the organisation of joint cultural events, and so on. With its connections in Iran and the UK, the IHF is uniquely well placed to take a lead in any new initiatives, and we stand ready to provide help and support to any

museum or university seeking to get involved in Iran. 2016 is the 20th anniversary year of IHF and I believe we are poised on the threshold of a bright future.

Dr. John E. Curtis, OBE, FBA
Chief Executive Officer

IHF funds were raised primarily from Trustee pledges, the annual gala, individuals, corporations and foundations that are interested in supporting the culture and heritage of Iran.

The Trustees' additional pledges effectively enabled the Foundation to adhere to its policy of having unrestricted funds cover between three and six months projected administrative expenses at the beginning of 2016, enabling IHF to cover its expenses and continue its activities as new funds are raised in the new year.

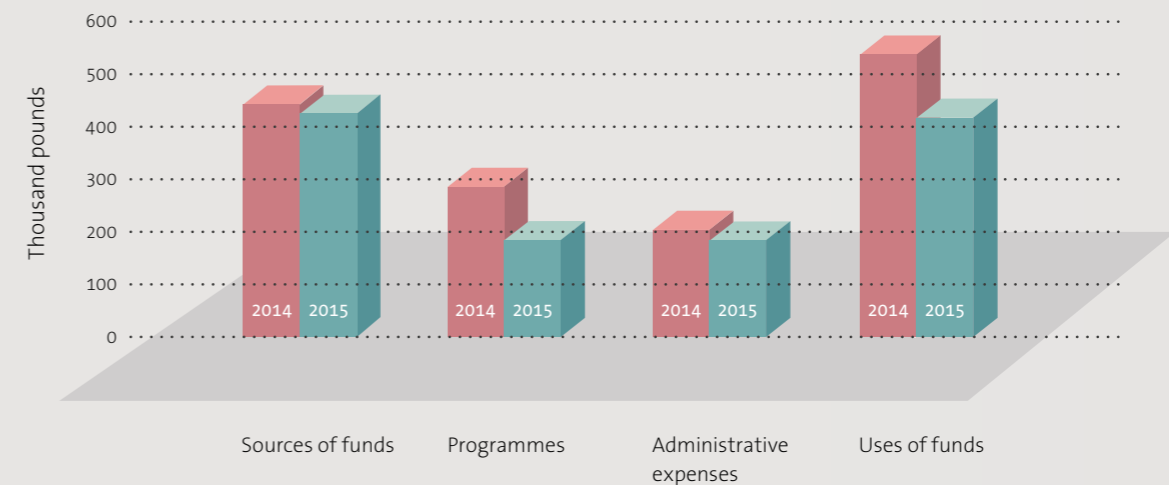
No financial support was received from government organisations within or outside the United Kingdom.

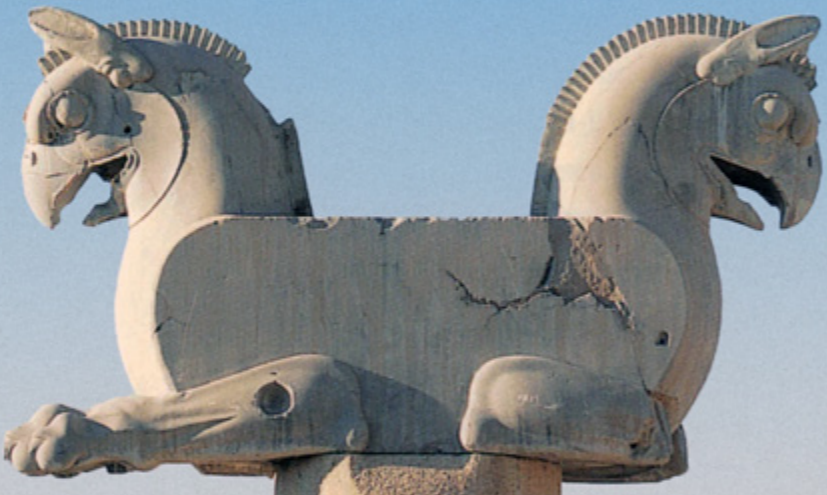
During the year IHF switched its accountants from Mazars LLP to Sturgess Hutchinson & Co in Leicester.

In 2015 total income was £477,000 and total expenses £467,000. Programmes included grants, institutional partnership programmes and monthly events. Administrative expenses were reduced by £20,000 from 2014.

Strategy for future sustainability continues to include plans for an endowment and increased membership scheme to engage a wider spectrum of the population interested in Iranian heritage.

Bardia Panahy,
Chief Financial Officer





**FROM PERSEPOLIS TO ISFAHAN:
SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Conference – London
January 16–18, 2015

In view of the threat and damages sustained by monuments and archaeological sites throughout the world, this pioneering symposium was organised to address the challenges facing Iran's cultural heritage. While Iran's cultural heritage has been relatively safe from such acute acts of vandalism as experienced in Iraq and Syria, it nevertheless suffers from natural causes such as acid rain, sandstorms, earthquakes and flood, as well as neglect, looting and development. This three day symposium aimed at reviewing the extent of the damages, to raise awareness of the problem and look at the framework within which protection is currently provided, in order to chart best practice worldwide, and suggest some practical measures to help and support Iranian colleagues.

The conference opened with a keynote speech by Robert Hillenbrand who looked at the state of Iranian monuments in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, followed by a drinks reception.

In the following two days, nineteen papers were delivered within the context of eight panels. The first session concentrated on Persepolis, with reports on the activities of the Iranian-Italian Joint Archaeological Mission at Persepolis, diagnostic investigations on the stone monuments, conservation of the place in the 21st century and beyond and the changing attitude toward the monument. Speakers included, Pierfrancesco Callieri, Alireza Askari Chaverdi, Marisa Laurenzi Tabasso, Mohammad Hassan Talebian, Mehr Azar Soheil, and Michael Roaf. The afternoon of the first day was dedicated to such forms of threats as urban development, tourism, and territorial management plans. The speakers included Wouter Henkelman,



Dariush Borbor, Jukka Jokilehto, Sussan Babaie, Alireza Anisi and the late Chahryar Adle. The day also included a panel discussion on 'Safeguarding cultural heritage' with Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, Martin Roth, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum and Jon Snow, the journalist and television presenter.

The third day of the conference looked at the ways and means through which measures could be taken toward safeguarding the Iranian cultural heritage. Speakers included Pierre Briant, Bijan Rouhani, Roger Matthews, Hassan Fazeli Nashli, and Remy Boucharlat. The conference came to an end with a Q&A session from the audience moderated by Iradj Bagherzade, John Curtis and Hassan Hakimian.

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The conference was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation in partnership with Soudavar Memorial Foundation (SMF), and was supported by the British Institute of Persian Studies and Flora Family Foundation.



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Neil MacGregor and Jon Snow

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Top: Conference speakers, chairs and organisers.

Middle: Marisa Laurenzi Tabasso, Bijan Rouhani, Fatema Soudavar.

Bottom: Pierre Briant and the late Chahryar Adle



IRAN'S MEDICAL HERITAGE: SYMPOSIUM ON A MILLENNIUM OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Conference – Royal College of Surgeons, London
June 14, 2015

From Rhazes and Avicenna to the present day, Iranians have been in the forefront of medical history. This one day symposium looked at the contributions and achievements of Iranians to the field of medicine, through presentations by historians, doctors and pioneers from across the globe, providing a comprehensive account of how medicine has evolved over the ages and more recently through the diaspora.

The conference was preceded by a dinner reception at the residence of Maryam and Vahid Alaghband for the speakers and chairs of the symposium. This was followed the next day with the conference proper at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. Nigel Hunt, dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery opened the conference by welcoming the delegates. The morning sessions were dedicated to the history of medicine in Iran, from the medieval period through to the present time, with contributions by Peter E Pormann, examining the contribution of the Persians

to the medieval medicine; Andrew Newman, looking at human anatomy in the Persian/Islamicate medical tradition with emphasis on *Tashrih-e Mansouri*; and Willem Floor exploring the medical modernisation of Iran during the 19th and 20th century.

The afternoon was dedicated to presentations by practitioners in the field. Aziz Ahmadi looked at 'Medicine During the Iran/Iraq war and Medicine in Iran Today'; Kodi Azari presented an account of 'Restorative Transplantation: A new Frontier'; Masoud Kaviani discussed 'Cochlear Implants'; Roxana Moslehi took the audience through the concept of 'Identifying Cancer Susceptibility Genes through Novel Genomic Approaches'; Alexander Seifalian, looked at the question of 'Nanotechnology and Stem Cells: Can Micro-Robots Repair and Build Organs'; and Reza Malek discussed the 'State of the Art Treatment of Stroke in 2015'. The keynote speech was delivered by the world renowned neurosurgeon, academic, teacher and innovator Majid



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Conference speakers, chairs and organisers.

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Top: Peter E Pormann, Charles Melville, Andrew Newman.
Middle: Kodi Azari, Aziz Ahmadi (left), and Majid Samii (right) with two conference delegates.
Bottom: Reza Malek.



Samii, who gave a fascinating and inspirational account of his career in medicine spanning five decades. Siamack Bagheri provided the closing remarks.

The sessions were chaired by Nahid Assemi, Marjan Jahangiri, Charles Melville, Maziar Mireskandari, Afshin Mosahebi and Ali Narvani.

The day included guided tours of the famous Hunterian Anatomy Museum.

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The conference was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation and the British Iranian Medical Association (BIMA). It was convened by Nahid Assemi, Siamack Bagheri, Maziar Mireskandari and Ali Narvani and took place at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.



DESTRUCTION OF MONUMENTS AND MEMORY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Conference – Asia House, London
December 16, 2015

The recent destruction of cultural heritage in the Middle East has been on an unprecedented scale, without parallel in the history of the world. The damage to the famous sites of Nimrud, Hatra and Palmyra has been much publicised, but the destruction of countless churches, monasteries, shrines and mosques has been largely overlooked. The destruction of a cultural legacy that belongs not just to the region but to the whole world, is irreparable.

While Iran is not directly affected by this swathe of destruction across the Middle East, it is part of the region, with many of the destroyed monuments created in times of Iranian overlordship, or showing Iranian influences.

To draw further attention to the current disastrous situation, the Iran Heritage Foundation brought



together a number of speakers to discuss the individual regions, to consider controversial issues such as the motivation of ISIS, iconoclasm in the Islamic tradition, the reaction of the media to the crisis, and the possibilities of military intervention. An important aspect of the conference was to look at the international and UK response to the crisis and ask if it has been appropriate and adequate.

Within the context of five panels nineteen speakers explored the degree of destructions sustained by the cultural heritage of the Middle East. John Curtis, Lamia Al-Ghailani Werr and Erica Hunter, set the scene by speaking about Iraq and talking on such topics as 'The Pre-Islamic Period', 'Muslim Monuments' and 'Churches and Monasteries'. Emma Loosley, Hafed Walda and Noha Sadek concentrated on the countries of Syria, Libya and Yemen. Through her presentation on 'Iconoclasm in the Islamic Tradition,' Sussan Babaie (Courtauld) tackled the ideology of ISIS. The Military and Regulatory Frameworks were addressed by Major-General Sir Barney White-Spunner, Major Hugo Clarke, Vernon Rapley and Ivan

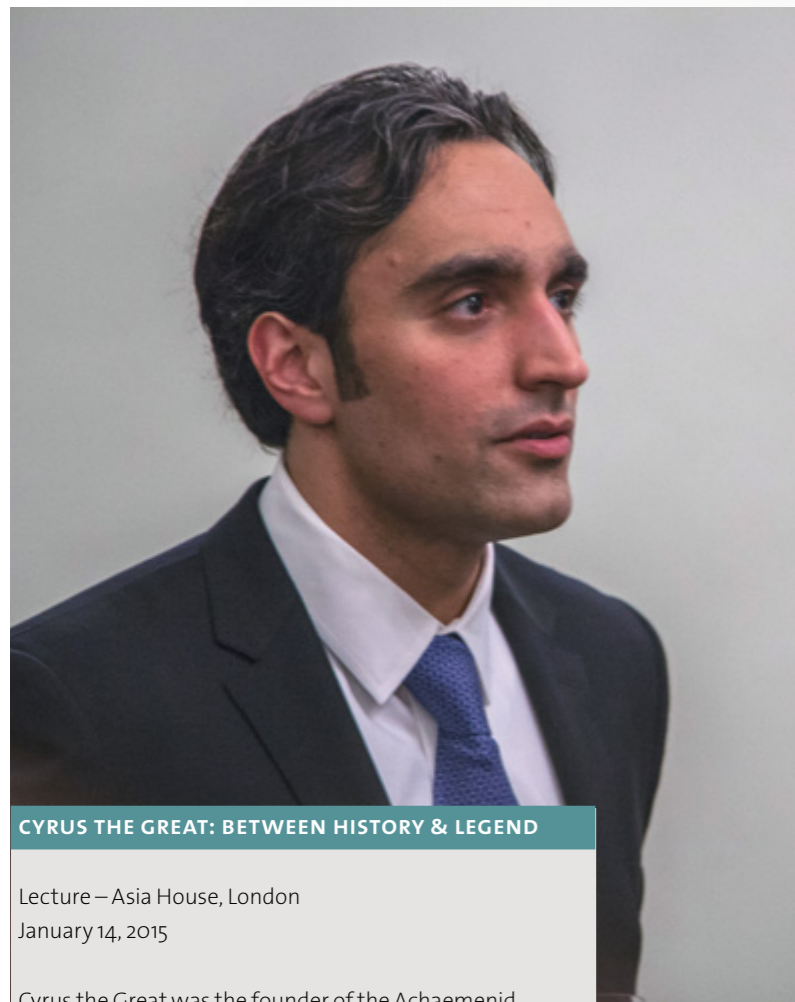
Macquisten. Martin Bailey of the Art Newspaper, Maeve Kennedy of The Guardian and Sebastian Usher of BBC discussed how such acts of iconoclasm are reported by the media. The international reaction to the acts of vandalism was covered by David Freedberg (Warburg), Johnathan Tubb (British Museum), Robert Bewley (Oxford) and Bijan Rouhani (ICOMOS/ICORP). The conference came to an end with a discussion moderated by John Curtis and was followed by a reception.

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The conference was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation and sponsored by Lipman Karas LLP.



Page 10
Top: Sir Barney White-Spunner.
Left: Noha Sadek.

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Top: Sebastian Usher, Maeve Kennedy, Martin Bailey and Iradj Bagherzade.
Bottom: Hugo Clarke.



CYRUS THE GREAT: BETWEEN HISTORY & LEGEND

Lecture – Asia House, London
January 14, 2015

Cyrus the Great was the founder of the Achaemenid Empire (r. 559–530 BC), under whose rule the land-mass of Persia expanded greatly, to include areas from the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Indus River in the east, creating the largest empire the world had yet seen. Creator of a successful model for centralised administration, a government working to the advantage of its subjects, his achievements in politics and military strategies and above all his achievements in human rights, have been subjects of growing interest from antiquity to the present day.

At a lecture to coincide with the recent publication of his book *Discovering Cyrus*, Reza Zarghamee provided a general overview of Cyrus' origins and accomplishments, as well as the interplay between legend and history in the surviving accounts of his life.

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The lecture was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.

THE IRANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY: A SHORT HISTORY FROM ACHAEMENID TO QAJAR TIMES

Lecture – Asia House, London
February 4, 2015

Iran is the only country in the Middle East apart from Israel where there has been a continuous Jewish community since 500 BCE. According to both biblical and historical sources, the Jews first came to Iran after they were freed from their Babylonian captivity by Cyrus the Great. Today there are still over 25000 Jews living in Iran as an officially recognized religious minority. Despite this strong presence, there has been no significant academic research on the history of Jews in Iran, partly due to the paucity of primary sources and in part because the Iranian Jewish history is not easily integrated into general Sephardi history, the result being a potted history of an over-glorified pre-Islamic period and a tragic post-Islamic one.

To correct the balance, Mehri Niknam, founder and executive director of the Joseph Interfaith Foundation, explored the history of Iranian Jewry from a wider, more nuanced perspective, attempting to place it within the wider historical, political, socio-economic, and religious context of the time.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.



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Top: Reza Zarghamee.

Bottom: Nasi and Hassan Mahlouji, Maryam Alaghband and Sara Irvani.

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Architectural Design from the Mirza Akbar Drawing Series, Tehran, c. 1840–1870, V&A Museum.



MASTER BUILDERS IN QAJAR TEHRAN: THE MIRZA AKBAR DRAWINGS

Lecture – V&A, London
March 4, 2015

The Victoria and Albert Museum possesses one of the world's greatest collections of Iranian art and design, and these include a unique archive of architectural drawings associated with a master builder called Mirza Akbar. In 1874–76, Caspar Purdon Clarke, a South Kensington-trained architect (and future director of both the V&A and the Metropolitan Museum in New York), was in Tehran, working with local builders on the completion of the British Embassy building on Ferdowsi Avenue. During this collaboration, two of Purdon Clarke's Iranian colleagues gave him the Mirza Akbar drawings in return for his training them in European decorative techniques that were new to them. Once back in London, Purdon Clarke sold the drawings to the Museum, where they have been preserved for almost 140 years. Recently conserved, the series consists of over 200 drawings, plans and sketches. These wonderful designs are testimony to the lively variety of structural and decorative ideas used in Qajar architecture, and they offer important evidence of how these ideas were applied in practice.

At the lecture Moya Carey, IHF curator of Iranian Art at the V&A, discussed how these designs related to standing monuments.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation in collaboration with the British Institute of Persian Studies and the Victoria and Albert Museum.





GARDENS OF MEDIEVAL PERSIA: FROM PATRONAGE TO EVOLUTION

Lecture – Asia House, London
April 1, 2015

Though Persian gardens in the medieval period are seen as places for pleasure and pastime, they were in reality dynamic parts of cities and empires. Historical accounts and chronicles picture medieval gardens as flexible territories used for a variety of functions. They had a particularly crucial role as the main context for social and political events. This phenomenon originated with the nomadic lifestyle of the majority of rulers in this region who rarely settled down in one area.

At a lecture on the subject, Mohammad Gharipour of Morgan State University, and the author of the book *Persian Gardens and Pavilions: Reflections in History, Poetry and the Arts* (2013) discussed the patronage behind the gardens of medieval Persia as well as their dynamic functionality as sites of pilgrimage, encampment and administrative affairs.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.



RETRACING A UTOPIAN STAGE: FESTIVAL OF ARTS (1967-77)

Lecture – Asia House
May 6, 2015

For eleven years beginning in 1967, the Shiraz Festival of Arts took place in Shiraz and the nearby ancient ruins of Persepolis. Conceived as a melting pot of traditional and avant-garde music, theatre and performance, the festival featured artists from both East and West and was hailed for the originality of its mission and the diversity of its programming. The festival was daring by the standards of the day and the onset of the Islamic Revolution brought it to an end.

At an exhibition of archive films and photographs, original theatre programmes and posters, which opened at the Whitechapel Gallery in April 2015, an attempt was made to recreate the vitality of the festival. At a lecture on the subject Vali Mahlouji, curator of the exhibition, took the audience through the process of reconstructing the complex networks of ideas behind the original curatorial direction of the festival. The project drew extensively on the work of the late Kaveh Golestan.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation



LOVE AND DEVOTION: RUMI, HAFEZ AND MODERNISM IN PERSIAN POETRY

Poetry Day – Asia House, London
May 16, 2015

Poetry is one of the highest achievements of Persian culture, with its flowering in the princely courts of Iran. It is said that Sultan Mahmud of Ghazna (d. 1030) had four hundred poets in his retinue, some of them the greatest of panegyrists, Unsuri, Farrukhi and Manuchehri. The theme of love and devotion is prominent in Persian poetry and is expressed in a number of forms: long romantic poems of Nizami and Jami; the heroic epics such as *Shahnama*; short lyrical *ghazals* of Hafiz; didactic and moral works of Sa'di; and the mystical works of Rumi, largely derived from Sufi teachings where love is the motivating force of the universe.

At a poetry day, dedicated to the theme of love and devotion, Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (University of Maryland, visiting Professor at SOAS) surveyed the exilic mode in classical Persian literature from its beginning in tenth century Central Asia to the waning of the classical tradition and the dawning of the modern period around the turn of the twentieth century. The day included contributions by Alan Williams (Manchester) and Narguess Farzad (SOAS), with poetry readings in Persian with English translations.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation as part of the Asia House Bagri Foundation Literary Festival 2015.

IRAN UNCOVERED: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SARIKHANI COLLECTION

Symposium – Hutton’s Farm, Henley-on-Thames
May 22, 2016

This one-day symposium took objects from the Sarikhani collection as its theme. The session was introduced and closed by Ali Ansari. John Curtis chose a number of Achaemenid pieces to illustrate his theme of ‘Power and Prestige in Ancient Iran’ and Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis spoke on ‘King and Court in Parthian and Sasanian Iran’. Robert Hillenbrand discussed an early 15th century painting of ‘Farhad visiting Shirin’, Melanie Gibson looked at the production of blue and white ceramics in Iran and Charles Melville spoke on ‘Persian art as Persian history’ focusing on folios in the collection from two historical manuscripts. The symposium was well-attended by a range of guests invited by the Iran Heritage Foundation, the British Institute of Persian Studies and the family.

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Organised by the Sarikhani Collection and supported by the Iran Heritage Foundation and the British Institute of Persian Studies.



Page 14
Left: Humay and Humayun feasting in a garden f. 40v from a Khamsa of Khvaju Kirmani, 14th c. Add 18113, British Library.
Right: Poster for Shiraz Art Festival

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Top: Folio from an unknown manuscript, c. 1592, Reza Abbasi Museum, Tehran.
Bottom: Mina'i bowl, Kashan, 2nd half 12th century. The Sarikhani Collection.



7 SIDES OF A CYLINDER

Film screening & panel discussion – Asia House, London
May 28, 2015

The Cyrus Cylinder Tour of the USA in 2013 supported by IHF provided the impetus for the short film project that has become 7sides of A Cylinder. The intention of the project was to give an opportunity to the rising generation of Iranians to respond to this unprecedented cultural initiative in the USA and bring the discussion of the value of the Cylinder outside museum walls into the diverse communities who feel a connection to the Cylinder as their heritage. The result is a collection of candid discussions in seven eclectic short films, showing the concerns and creative sensibilities of the younger generation of Iranians across three continents.

The film was screened at Asia House and was followed by a panel discussion examining the value of such an experimental project where ancient heritage is approached from outside the normal historical context and instead is used to contextualise the contemporary. On the panel were Iradj Bagherzade, Haleh Anvari, Pamela Karimi and Saeed Zeydabadi-Nejad.

The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.

IRAN'S DIVERSE MUSICAL TRADITIONS

Lecture – Asia House, London
June 3, 2015

Iran has a rich and diverse musical tradition. While the canonical repertoire of its classical music is cultivated mostly in the large cities of the central Iranian plateau, it also enjoys more regional musical traditions belonging to the many ethnic groups, such as Turks, Baluchis, Lors, and the Arabs, who live mostly on the periphery of the current political boundaries. The language and the musical practices of these ethnic communities share many common features with those of the ethnic groups living outside the borders of Iran, the musical styles and sung poetry of which have been very much appreciated in Iran.

At this lecture, Ameneh Youssefzadeh surveyed the musical repertoire of these various ethnic groups living within the Iranian borders, with particular emphasis on the musical traditions of ethnic groups living in the region of Khorassan.

The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.



REMEMBERING IRAN: ZOROASTRIAN THEMES IN PERSIAN AND GUJARATI TEXTS

Lecture – Asia House, London
July 1, 2015

Although relations between Zoroastrian Iran and India go back to at least the Sasanian period, Parsi tradition dates the migration from Iran and early settlement of Zoroastrians on the west coast of India to either the 8th or 10th centuries CE.

Drawing on texts – religious, epic and poetic – that represented different literary traditions and reflected the shifting relation between Parsis in India and their co-religionists in Iran, Sarah Stewart traced the development of Parsi identity on Indian soil which was both shaped and challenged by the feelings of allegiance to the old country mixed with a desire to put down roots in the new.

The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation



SA'DI'S BUSTAN FOR SHAH JAHAN: THE CASE OF A MANUSCRIPT BY HAKIM RUKNA

Lecture – Asia House, London
September 2, 2015

The British Library collections hold numerous manuscripts of Sa'di's works, several of which are distinguished for their literary rarity and artistic quality. Amongst these is a sumptuous Bustan, calligraphed by Hakim Rukna – a native of Kashan – commissioned by or presented as a gift to Emperor Shah Jahan I, with its illustrations marked by numerous peculiarities.

At a talk focused on the career of Hakim Rukna, delivered by Saqib Baburi, the Iran Heritage Foundation Curator of Persian Manuscripts at the British Library, the centrality of this manuscript in furthering Hakim Rukna's career was discussed. Was the manuscript purely an amateur artistic exercise or was it a bid to secure favour in the eyes of the aesthete Shah Jahan?

The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.

Page 16
Top: Haleh Anvari.

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Left: Sarah Stewart
Right: Adoration of the Prophet Joseph, Artist unknown, f. 168v from a Bustan of Sa'adi Add 27262, British Library.



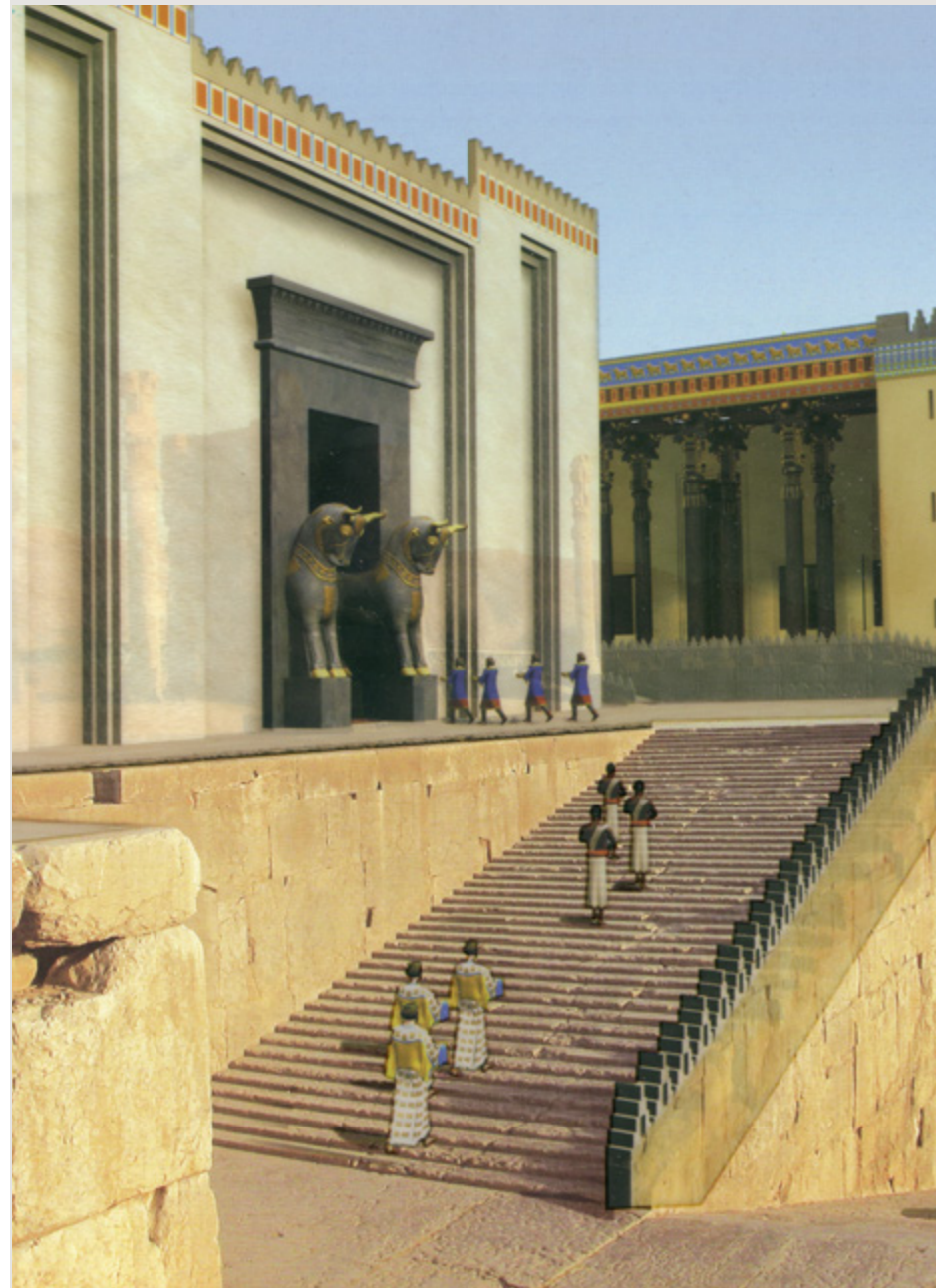
THE CASPIAN HORSE: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS REDISCOVERY

Presentation and calendar launch – Asia House, London
October 7, 2015

The Caspian horse is a breed thought to have been the preferred choice of the kings of ancient Persia, with carvings depicting it found at the Achaemenid site of Persepolis. Thought to have been extinct, it was rediscovered by Louise Firouz, an American-born horse lover, in a remote corner of Iran in 1965. Louise spent the rest of her life breeding and promoting the species.

To continue Louise's efforts towards the preservation and improvement of the breed, a Caspian Horse Sperm Bank Project has been set up. To contribute towards the cost of this project, the Caspian Horse Society has produced a commemorative calendar depicting Caspian horses throughout the world, which was launched at an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this rediscovery. The launch included a presentation by Farokh Khorrooshi, a member of the Society's council, with photographs by the renowned equine photographer Colin Baker.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation and the Caspian Productions.



DIGITAL RECONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL SITES IN IRAN, FROM SUSA TO ISFAHAN

Lecture – Asia House, London
November 4, 2015

3D reconstructions of the past are excellent tools for informing and educating the public. However, one of the primary challenges facing historical reconstruction is how to recreate the past and demonstrate the results, when the surviving remains are so fragmentary. How can we reconstruct what has been lost, understand what has been found, and represent it accurately?

In a lecture on the subject, Farzin Rezaeian, an award-winning documentary and educational film producer and director, who has digitally reconstructed many of the historical sites of Iran, demonstrated how through employment of science, art and imagination he has been able to develop composite images of famous sites. The result of his work can be found in six DVD and book packages.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.



YALDA EVENT

Social Event – Asia House, London
December 9, 2015

The festival of Yalda is one of the most ancient of Persian festivals, dating back to Iran's Zoroastrian period, when the Iranians celebrated the renewal of the sun and the victory of light over darkness. Falling on the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice, when the forces of *Ahriman* (darkness) are assumed to be at their peak, Yalda is associated with the birth of Mithra, the Sun God, bringing light to the world. As such Yalda (a Syriac word) is called in Middle Persian 'Zayesh-Mihr' (birth of Mithra). In ancient times, fires would be burnt all night to ensure the defeat of the forces of *Ahriman*. There would be feasts, entertainment and prayers to ensure the total victory of the sun that was essential for the protection of winter crops, hence the abundant presence of dried fruit as part of the celebration.

Today Yalda is merely a social occasion, when family and friends get together for fun and merriment and especially poetry reading. Being the longest and darkest night of the year, Yalda symbolises many things in Persian poetry such as separation from a beloved, loneliness and waiting, which will be over once the night is through and the light prevails.

*With all my pains, there is still the hope of recovery
Like the eve of Yalda, there will finally be an end (Sa'adi)*

In 2015 IHF celebrated Yalda at a social evening, with a brief presentation on the history and significance of Yalda by John Curtis followed by poetry readings by Narguess Farzad (SOAS) and Alan Williams (Manchester). The evening concluded with drinks and traditional nibbles.

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The event was organised by the Iran Heritage Foundation.



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Top: Norouz organising committee (see page 2)

Middle: Bagha family.

Bottom: Nathalie and Amirali Farman-Farma.

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Bottom left: Nina on stage.

Bottom right: Guests at the Gala.



NOROUZ GALA

Grosvenor House Hotel – London
March 14, 2015

Norouz or the ‘New Day’, is a traditional spring festival of great antiquity, born in Iran thousands of years ago. It celebrates the Sun’s regaining of strength, overcoming winter’s cold and darkness, when there is a renewal of growth and vigour in nature. Practiced for at least 3000 years, thus one of the oldest surviving social and spiritual ceremonies of mankind, it has crossed religious, ethnic and linguistic boundaries, to become the focal point of the calendar for millions of people not only in Iran and the Persianate world, but across the world.

In 2015, IHF continued the tradition of hosting its annual Norouz gala, now in its 19th year, which also serves as the main fundraising event of the year. This year, the gala was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel and included spectacular hospitality and entertainment provided by Arash and Nina. It also included a successful fundraising pledge aimed at the Foundation’s Institutional Partnership Programme (IPP). The funds raised provided for an increase in the number of universities joining the programme, with the University of Reading now partnering with IHF.

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The gala was organised by the Norouz Committee (See page 2 for the list) and was supported by Mr & Mrs Saman Ahsani, Mr & Mrs Vahid Alaghband, Mr Hashem Arouzi, Mr & Mrs Kambiz Babaei, Mr & Mrs Michel Danechi, Mr & Mrs Dalton Dwyer, Equities First, Mr & Mrs Aligoli Hedayat, Mr Neil Iden, Mr & Mrs Omid Kamshad, Mr & Mrs Jawad Kamel, Ms Elahe Kashanchi, Mr & Mrs Ahmad Lari (I.G. Industries), Mr & Mrs Mehdi Metghalchi, Mr & Mrs Mansour Namaki, Mr & Mrs Ali Rashidian, Mrs Sedigheh Rastegar, Mr Alireza Rastegar, Mr & Mrs Ali Sarikhani, Mr & Mrs Ali Sattaripour and Mr & Mrs Majid Tootoni.





Page 22
 Bottom left: Anahita Monibi.
 Bottom right: Hamid Sabourian, Omid, Kimya and Kian Kamshad.

Page 23
 Top: Trustee Mehdi Metghalchi and guest.
 Middle: Sadegh Dolatshahi and Parisa Maghzian.
 Bottom: Marjan and Cyrus Yaraghi, Behrooz Fatemi.





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Top: Monir Sattaripour and Vahid Alaghband.

Middle & Bottom: Guests at the Gala.

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Yassi Metghalchi, Ali Ostad, Tina Afshar, Mr Maghzian, Sogol Atighechi and Parisa Maghzian.



IHF's Institutional Partnership Programme (IPP), now in its seventh year, provides much needed support for fellowships, teaching positions, and research centres dedicated to Iranian Studies at respected academic institutions. It also underwrites curatorial posts in Iranian art at major cultural institutions based in the UK and abroad. IHF provides multi-year funding to facilitate Iranian Studies teaching and research, focusing on the language, history, art and culture of Iran at partner institutions. In return, the partner institutions typically allocate matching funds and commit to the establishment of medium- or long-term posts. The IPP encourages academic and cultural collaboration amongst partner institutions through meetings and workshops, the exchange of visiting scholars and the sharing of best practice. The objective of the IPP is to strengthen Iranian Studies programmes within partner institutions to the point where IHF supported posts are strategically entrenched and acquire longevity within the partner institutions without needing continued IHF support.

In 2015 eight institutions participated in IHF's Institutional Partnership Programme including three museums, four universities and a national library:



British Museum IHF sponsors a rotating fellowship in one of the departments of the British Museum for scholars and curators working on the Iran collection.



Tate Modern IHF is sponsoring the position of an adjunct research curator at Tate Modern, a post in contemporary Middle Eastern and North African art.



Victoria and Albert Museum the Iran Heritage Foundation Curator of the Iranian Collections is a post dedicated exclusively to the arts of Iran.



School of Oriental and African Studies The Iran Heritage Foundation Visiting Fellowship in Iranian Studies is a rotating fellowship for younger scholars from across the globe, situated within the Centre for Iranian Studies at the LMEI. A second visiting fellowship is devoted to promoting research and scholarship on Iran's environmental challenges.



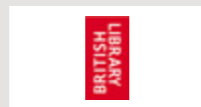
The University of Reading The Iran Heritage Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow is a post in the Department of Archaeology.



The University of Edinburgh The Iran Heritage Foundation Language Teaching Fellow is based in the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.



The Courtauld Institute of Art The Iran Heritage Foundation MA/Research Assistant post provides funding for a postgraduate position with a focus on Persian art.



British Library The IHF Curator of Persian Manuscripts is a post dedicated to the creation of an online catalogue and partial digitisation of the extensive collection of 11,000 Persian manuscripts at the British Library.

APPOINTMENTS

Fellowship at the British Museum

In her IHF Fellowship at the British Museum, Massoumeh Safinia worked on the Ottoman coins and the Safavid coins collections. She created and amended detailed records of about 3000 Ottoman coins on the Museum's database; this included Arabic inscriptions with their English translations. The collection contains about 1000 Safavid coins; of these, 200 Safavid coin records have now been updated, amended and created on the database with their full Arabic and Persian inscriptions, transliterations and English translations. All this information is now accessible to the larger public on the British Museum's Collection Online.

Work on these two collections has indicated a need for future research projects where the coins of these two great dynasties can be compared on different levels.

IHF Adjunct Research Curator for the Middle East and North Africa at Tate Modern

In 2015 Morad Montazami continued as Adjunct Research Curator, Middle East and North Africa, supported by the Iran Heritage Foundation. In this second year, Morad continued to work both nationally and internationally to build the public profile of Middle Eastern art, increasing awareness of both the extraordinary works from this region, and his own expertise through curatorial, writing and research projects.

During this period, Morad undertook six research trips to Beirut, Morocco, Istanbul, Algeria, Cairo and Tehran. In addition to building relationships with artists and institutions in these areas, he has continued to produce and contribute to publications, lectures, symposiums and exhibitions.

2015 saw Morad co-curating a film programme on artist Parviz Kimiavi at Beirut Art Centre in Spring 2015 and Tate Modern in June 2015. This series of four landmark films by Kimiavi was the first major survey of the filmmaker in the UK.

IHF Curator of Iranian Art at the Victoria and Albert Museum

In 2015 there was a busy programme of public activities and research projects at the V&A connected with the the Museum's great collections of Iranian art and design. A large crowd turned up to celebrate Norouz at the V&A's Family Day in March. They enjoyed music, dance, and craft activities for children, including an opportunity to make a 'garden carpet' in paper. Also at Norouz, Moya Carey, the IHF Curator for the Iranian Collections, gave an evening lecture on the the Mirza Akbar drawings, the V&A's unique archive of Qajar architectural designs.



Later in the year, she lectured on the trade in Safavid ceramics at Cambridge University, and on Qajar Tehran at the National Portrait Gallery. There were many student visits to the Museum's stores, to view Safavid carpets, manuscript material and the metalwork and ceramics collections, and the Museum hosted research visits from textile conservator Janina Poskrobko of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and the Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli, among others.

Top: Morad Montazami and Parviz Kimiavi.

Bottom: Craft activity for children at the V&A.



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Sultan Mahmud helping an impoverished boy to fish, f. 68r from *Mantiq al-tayr* of Attar, late 15th–early 16th c. Add 7735, British Library.

Page 29

Zahra Afshar at an archaeological site.

IHF Curator of Persian Manuscripts at the British Library

The British Library's Persian Manuscript Digitisation Project has achieved several benchmarks in the period since 2014. Having made available online a total of 50 digitised Persian manuscripts (photographed and uploaded to www.bl.uk/manuscripts), the project team has completed cataloguing all Persian accessions dating from 1903 to the present for upload to the union catalogue FIHRIST (www.fihrist.org.uk). This process has revealed a number of rare and interesting manuscripts, including Safavid and Mughal histories, illuminated and illustrated works, as well as large numbers of diplomatic, legal, and administrative documents.

As part of efforts to showcase some of these achievements and the project team's research interests, Sâqib Bâburî, IHF Curator for Persian Manuscripts, delivered a lecture at the Iran Heritage Foundation focusing on an illuminated and illustrated deluxe copy of a *Bustan* of Sa'di (BL Add. 27262) transcribed by Hakim Rukna. The discussion explored elements of the manuscript's design and illustration, the circumstances of its creation, and its later circulation between owners in Iran, India, and Britain.

The project's achievements are described with further detail on the project site (<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/asian-and-african/persian.html>), while recent discoveries and new directions for research are presented on the popular departmental blog (<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/asian-and-african/index.html>).

The IHF Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Reading

In 2015, Zahra Afshar held the post of IHF Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Reading, Department of Archaeology. Her PhD thesis at Durham University was on the topic of human skeletal remains from the important site of Tepe Hissar in Iran. During her tenure, she has been preparing sections of her doctoral thesis for publication as a series of articles in peer-reviewed journals, with three major articles planned. She has also been assisting with teaching at Reading, in particular holding a session for Year 3 and Masters students on the Archaeology of Human Skeletal Remains, with specific reference to ancient Iran, as well as giving a seminar on her research. She will also participate in the planned spring 2016 season of excavations at Bestansur, Iraqi Kurdistan, where excavations will focus on an unusual Neolithic building with at least 28 human individuals buried beneath the floor of a large room, dated to 7650 BC.

IHF Language Teaching Fellowship

In 2015 Azin Mostajer Haghighi, the IHF Persian Teaching Fellow at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies in the University of Edinburgh continued teaching all the Persian language courses including Persian 1, Persian 2 and advanced Persian. She has been fundamental in strengthening the Persian teaching programme across the four years of the degree, and developing her own teaching materials to do so. Her commitment to the expansion of the Persian programme has resulted in an increase in the number of students undertaking an honours degree in Persian, with Edinburgh now having thirty three students at the sub-honours level this year.

2015 has also seen the launch of the MSc in Persian Civilisation, which attracted students from across a range of disciplines, including History, Politics and International Relations. World-leading scholars including Carole and Robert Hillenbrand have contributed to delivering the core courses for the Persian MSc programme, to which Azin Mostajer Haghighi also contributes as guest lecturer. Courses taught by Azin consistently receive very positive student feedback.

The Iran Heritage Foundation New MA/Research Assistant at the Courtauld Institute of Art

In this academic year, two IHF Research Assistants were appointed at the Courtauld Institute of Art. These were Hannah Hyden and Surasti Puri. Hannah is an American student, formerly at the University of Jerusalem and an interest in pursuing research on Judeo-Persian manuscripts. Surasti Puri, from India, has a background in fine arts and design and has proven to be equally strong in scholarly pursuits. Both have been supporting



Sussan Babaie in her research, helping to gather articles and other research material, searching for photographs in archives, and producing bibliographies to support her two current projects: on the link between the 17th-century houses of Isfahan and Aleppo and on Nadir Shah's Indian campaign. They have also been engaged with the administrative tasks of promoting lectures and public events at the Courtauld, in particular for the Persian and Islamic Art series established in 2013.

Visiting Fellow in Iranian Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

This Fellowship brings scholars specialising in the field of Iranian studies to the London Middle East Institute (LMEI) at SOAS, enabling them to use its facilities, and those of other institutions in the United Kingdom, to further their academic research and publications. In 2015 two Fellows held the post each for a six month period.

Pamela Karimi, an Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, was the first fellow whose tenure ran from January to June 2015. During her tenure, she worked on her forthcoming monograph, *Designing Dissidence: the Creative Enterprise and Alternative Spaces of Imagination in Iran* and participated in several other scholarly activities. She also contributed to a 2015 issue of the LMEI Magazine – *The Middle East in London*; participated in an IHF panel discussion on the '7 Sides of a Cylinder' at Asia House; took part in two BBC Persian programmes; and

collaborated with Howard-Griffin Gallery for an exhibition of contemporary Iranian art.

The second fellow is Rana Daroogheh, whose fellowship runs from October 2015 to March 2016. During her fellowship she is working on 'Ideologies in Archaeology: Re-imagination of Iranian Identity through 'Dialogue among Civilizations' during the Khatami Period'. The contention of this research is to re-think the often underestimated role of archaeology as an instrument that facilitated the construction of a new identity in Iran under the doctrine put forth by President Khatami.

IHF Fellow in Iran's Environmental Sustainability at the London Middle East Institute (SOAS)

The IHF Fellow in Iran's Environmental Sustainability at the London Middle East Institute from October 2015 to March 2016 is Hamid Poursan whose research background is in environmental pollution, in particular biogeochemistry. During his fellowship he was the guest editor of the *Middle East in London* special issue (April–May 2015) focusing on environmental sustainability in Middle East and North Africa. He has also done a number of interviews with BBC Persian TV, Radio Farda and Voice of America about environmental problems in Iran and contributed articles discussing Iran's environmental sustainability to the BBC's Persian Website and prominent Iranian newspapers such as *Donya-e-Eqtasad* (*The World of Economy*). These articles have been widely circulated and republished.



SOVEREIGNTY AND IMPERIALISM: NON-EUROPEAN POWERS IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE

Conference – Cambridge
September 10–12, 2015

SYMPOSIUM ON LITERATURE AND HISTORY IN PERSIANATE SOUTH ASIA

Symposium – Oxford
May 15, 2015

The questions of how we historicise the circumstances around producing literature and what that adds to the study of history as a whole were the subjects of this one day symposium, which considered the relationship of South Asia's pre-modern cosmopolitan literary traditions (Persian and Sanskrit) with vernacular traditions, rethinking anachronistic interpretations of an 'artificial' and 'anti-national' Persian cosmopolitanism.

The subject was explored through seven presentations by scholars from the UK and abroad. Topics addressed included Persian lexicography, literary representations of Kashmir as political legitimation, the use of Indic imagery in Sufi poetry, and dialectical variations in the Persianate world. The symposium closed with a roundtable discussion led by three senior scholars in conversation with Arthur Dudley, the symposium's organiser.

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The symposium was convened and organised by Arthur Dudley, the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Early Modern Indian Culture of Knowledge at Oxford University and took place at St. Antony's College, Oxford University. It was supported by the British Institute of Persian Studies, the Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities and the Iran Heritage Foundation.

This conference explored how diplomats, military officials, statesmen, and monarchs of the independent non-European states struggled to keep European imperialism at bay. Bringing together leading scholars in the field from across the world, the conference was the first attempt to provide a comparative study of the engagement of the independent non-European states with the European empires. This was achieved through four specific themes.



The most obvious indication of the weakness of the non-European states was military defeat in conflicts with European empires. The first reaction of the political and military elites in these countries to rising European hegemony was therefore military reform. The theme of 'Armed Conflict and Military Reform' was explored through five papers delivered by Erik Jan Zürcher (Leiden), Gwyn Campbell (Mc Gill), David Sai (Hawaii), Kirk Larsen (Brigham Young), and James Roslington (London).

In the aftermath of political and military conflicts, the great powers regularly imposed unequal arrangements on the independent non-European states. The theme of 'Capitulations and Unequal Treaties' was examined by Ali Gheissari (San Diego), Rana Mitter (Oxford), and Sven Trakulhun (Zurich).

The question of 'Diplomatic Encounters' was explored by Oliver Bast (Manchester), Henrietta Harrison (Oxford), Eiko Kuwana (Tokyo), and Andreu Marinez (Hamburg).

All of the independent non-European states were ruled by monarchies, most of whom sought contacts with European diplomats and royalty. The theme of 'Royalty and Courts' was addressed by Abbas Amanat (Yale) and Cemil Aydin (UNC).

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The conference was convened by David Motadel of Gonville and Caius College of Cambridge, Faculty of History and Houchang Chehabi of Boston University. It was sponsored by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), The Trevelyan Fund and the Iran Heritage Foundation. The conference took place at CRASSH, at Cambridge.

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Top: Speakers, chairs and organisers at the conference.

Bottom: 'En Chine – Le gateau des Rois et ...des Empereurs' H. Meyer, 19th c., Goldstein Foundation Collection.

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Nasim Khan – University of Peshawar, Pakistan.



BIMARAN WORKSHOP

Workshop – Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT), Cambridge
September 10–11, 2015

The Buddhist relic deposit from Bimaran stupa No. 2 is one of the richest Buddhist stupa monument deposits in ancient Afghanistan. The deposit contained a unique gold casket with images of the Buddha, as well as an inscribed stone reliquary and various gold ornaments and jewels. Four coins issued by a Scythian satrap were found with the casket, and these late 1st century AD coins suggest that the Bimaran deposit was one of the earliest in the region. This gold casket, has long fascinated art historians, puzzled numismatists and archaeologists, and been a popular topic for articles on the art and religion of ancient Afghanistan since its discovery in 1834.

This two-day workshop brought together international scholars from different disciplines, whose work and interests have been closely engaged with ancient Afghanistan and the practices of relic worship, and provided a vibrant atmosphere for participants to discuss different aspects of the Bimaran stupa deposits. Four papers were presented on the first day. These included Joe Cribb's 'The Numismatic Context of the Bimaran Relic Deposit', Wannaporn Kay Rienjang's 'Biography of the Bimaran inscribed stone container', Kurt Behrend's 'The Bimaran Reliquary and the Practice of Openly Displaying Relics' and Robert Bracey's 'The development of the Buddha image: problems of date and style'.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to discussions on the inevitable topics of chronology, relic practices, and Buddhist imagery. The workshop was wrapped up by Cameron Petrie, who summarised the state of play and elements necessary for re-interpreting the relic assemblages of Bimaran stupa No. 2

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The workshop was organised and convened by Wannaporn Kay Rienjang, and sponsored by the British Institute of Persian Studies, the Neil Kreitman Foundation, Clare Hall College Cambridge and the Iran Heritage Foundation.



COLLOQUIA BALTICA IRANICA

Conference – Rzucewo (Gdańsk)
December 4–8, 2015

The second meeting in the series 'Colloquia Baltica Iranica' took place in Rzucewo, Poland. It consisted of a two-day conference and a cultural tour of the mediaeval city of Gdańsk. The aim of the Colloquia is to gather Polish and international archaeologists and historians interested in the cultural heritage of ancient Iran and facilitate the contact of Polish scholars interested in the cultural heritage of Iran with their Iranian and European counterparts. As a result of the 2014 session Marcin Paszke, Gdańsk, was invited to participate in the excavation of Iron Age burials in Kani Zerín, Kurdistan Province, Iran by Ali Hozhabri of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organisation last summer. This year the conference was attended by 12 Polish delegates (5 from Gdańsk), 9 Iranian and 7 Russian delegates. Delegates from Rumania, Germany and the United Kingdom also attended.

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The conference was convened by Nicholas Sekunda and Marcin Paszke of the Archaeological Institute of the University of Gdansk and took place in the hotel and conference centre of the Palace John III Sobieski, Rzucewo, near Pluck, Pomerania. The conference was supported by the Historical Faculty of Gdansk University and the Iran Heritage Foundation.



FIGURES ON THE EDGE: THE DIVAN OF SULTAN AHMAD JALAYIR

Lecture – Courtauld Institute of Art, London
January 13, 2015

The *Divan* of Sultan Ahmad Jalayir in the Freer Gallery of Art is the earliest extant collection of poetry of a reigning monarch in the Islamic world. It contains eight enigmatic marginal compositions, which set a new standard in *siyah-qalam* (black ink) technique, introducing a taste for pictorial lyricism that continued to define Persian aesthetics for at least a century.

At a lecture on the *Divan*, Massumeh Farhad, Chief Curator and Curator of Islamic Art at the Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution, examined the manuscript as a whole, considering it in the light of the broader artistic, literary, and historical context of the late fourteenth century and early fifteenth century.

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The event was organised by Sussan Babaie of the Courtauld Institute of Art, as part of the lectures on the Visual Cultures of Iran: New Perspectives. This series of lectures was supported by Friends of the Courtauld and the Iran Heritage Foundation.

EDINBURGH IRANIAN FESTIVAL 2015

Festival – Edinburgh
February 15–30, 2015

The Edinburgh Iranian Festival (EIF) was a two-week affair, taking place in various venues across the city of Edinburgh, showcasing Iranian art and culture in its differing forms and introducing it to those living in Scotland. The festival is organised by volunteers and is affiliated to the Edinburgh University Persian Society (EUPS). Through a broad range of interactive events spanning a wide range of art forms, the festival aims to integrate the Iranian community into Scottish society.

This year the festival included an Iranian fashion show with work from six different designers, shown at the grand gallery of the National Museum of Scotland, as well as an Art Exhibition.

Funding received from the Iran Heritage Foundation was specifically used for a series of lectures, workshops and symposiums, with twenty speakers taking part.

Information on all events as well as media coverage of the events can be found at the festival's website www.ediranfest.co.uk.

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The festival was sponsored by a host of private and public institutions, including the Iran Heritage Foundation, the British Council, the University of Edinburgh, the National Museum of Edinburgh and a host of other supporters. For the full list refer to the Festival's website.



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Left: Speakers and delegates at the conference.
Right: Folio from Divan of Sultan Ahmad Jalayir – Tabriz, c. 1400, Freer Gallery of Art.



JUNCTURE

Page 34
Juncture: panel discussion via Skype between Cambridge and Tehran.

A day-long event – Cambridge Junction, Cambridge
March 10, 2015

Working across cultures and across disciplines – can we find a common language?

This was the principle on which a day-long event was organised at the Cambridge Junction, with the aim of bringing together practitioners and experts from within the arts and sciences to explore and inspire new models of working, enabling experimentation, collaboration and innovation, working across sectors and across geographies. The day thus included presentations, performances, discussions, workshops and a panel discussion on International Exchange with participants from Iran skyped to the venue.

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Produced by 30 Bird in partnership with the British Council Iran and in collaboration with ZENDEH and supported by the Iran Heritage Foundation.



Masters of Iranian Cinema

MASTERS OF IRANIAN CINEMA, UK TOUR

Film Season – Various locations
March 21 – June 24, 2015

A season of Iranian films from 'Iranian Masters' was organised to tour Wales and elsewhere in the UK, to generate greater understanding of the heritage of Iranian cinema and more widely of Iranian culture and society, and comprised thirty four screenings of eight films in ten cities that were attended by over a thousand people.

The season started with a day event in Cardiff in celebration of Norouz, with the screening of four films, *Where is My Friend's Home?*, *Hamoun*, *Under the Skin of the City* and *Fish & Cat*. Each film was followed by a panel discussion by Saeed Zeydabadi-Nejad (SOAS), Maryam Ghorbankarimi (ST Andrews) and Ehsan Khoshbakht (Film Critic & Curator). The programme was simultaneously shown at Aberystwyth Arts Centre with the panel discussion skyped to the audience in that venue. Further screenings were organised in Cardigan and Cardiff.

Outside Wales, the tour started over the weekend of April 10/11 with screenings in London at Cine Lumiere and Greenwood Theatre, Kings College. The tour then travelled to Queens Theatre Belfast, Watershed Bristol,

The Courtyard Hereford, Tyneside Newcastle, and Salisbury Festival.

Other films on the tour included *The Apple*, *Children of Heaven*, *Bashu*, *the Little Stranger* and the acclaimed *Gabbeh* which was screened at Salisbury Festival, achieving the single highest attendance of the tour.

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Organised by David Gillam, Director of WOW Wales One World Film Festival, and supported by the British Council, British Council Wales, Ffilm Cymru Wales, the British Film Institute (BFI), WOW Wales One World Film Festival and the Iran Heritage Foundation.

MOGHOLHA (THE MONGOLS)

Film Screening – Tate Modern, London
June 19, 2016

This masterpiece of the Iranian cinema by the director Parviz Kimiavi is conceived as a critical reflection on the expanding presence of TV screens and antennas in Iran's poor villages with a re-enactment of the Mongols' 13th century invasion of Iran. A filmmaker played by Kimiavi himself is caught between these movements in the desert trapped between dream and reality, script and images, as if the whole history of cinema was reduced to an artificial paradise. The result is one of the highest points of the history of the Iranian cinema.

This acclaimed film was screened at Tate Modern, as part of the Cinema Mavericks season.

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Organised by Tate Modern and supported by the Iran Heritage Foundation.

In 2015, IHF continued its valuable support of projects related to various aspects of Iranian culture undertaken by individuals and organisations.

IHF's 2015 grants provided:

- A travel and research grant for four scholars for the purpose of research into various aspects of Iranian art and culture
- Support towards the costs of five conferences/workshops/lecture series
- Support towards production of a film
- Support towards organisation of two festivals
- Support towards the cost of an exhibition; and
- Subsidies for the preparation and publication of one scholarly work.

Individuals who received funding in 2015 for research and related travel costs included:

- Moujan Matin, for research into the origin of tin opaque glazed wares to establish whether it was a continuation pre-Islamic practices, or a completely independent invention.
- Ignacio Agrimbau, for fieldwork in Iran to collect data on Iranian musicians through a short-term apprenticeship with traditional musicians playing 'radif'.
- Samaneh Moafi, for investigation into mass-housing projects in Iran in a move towards modernisation, using developments in Abadan and Bushehr as case studies.
- Mark Stephenson, for a one week reconnaissance mission to Tehran, to lay the foundations for a new British-Iranian classical music initiative.

In 2015 grants were awarded to the following individuals in support of conferences/lectures/workshops:

- Sussan Babaie, for a lecture series on the visual cultures of Iran;
- Wannaporn Rienjang for a workshop to discuss the many aspects of the Bimaran Stupa No. 2 in Afghanistan
- Nicholas Sekunda for a second international conference on Iranian-Polish connections.
- Arthur Dudley for a symposium on literature and history in pre-colonial Indo-Persian territories of South Asia.
- David Motadel for a conference on 'Sovereignty and Imperialism: Non European Powers in the Age of Empire,' exploring how independent non-European states managed to keep European imperialism at bay and how others struggled but ultimately failed to maintain their sovereignty.

A grant was awarded for the preparation of a scholarly book:

- David Stronach for the publication of a detailed study of the pottery found in Building V at Shahr-i Qumis in North-Eastern Iran, during the excavation of the site in the 1960s and 1970s.

A grant was awarded in support of the organisation of an exhibition:

- Sarah Makari-Aghdam, for an exhibition of record covers and memorabilia from 1960s and 1970s pre-revolutionary Iran and Anatolia.

Grants were awarded to the following in support of the production of films:

- Maryam Tafakory for a film exploring the rituals and traditions of Persian warrior training, as seen through the eyes of a young girl on the threshold of womanhood.
- Mahdieh Zare, for a documentary on the role of Abdol Hossein Sardari, in saving Iranian Jews from prosecution in World War II.

Grants were awarded to the following individuals in support of the organisation of festivals on the arts and culture of Iran:

- David Gillam, for a season of Iranian films to tour Wales and elsewhere in the UK.
- Sarah Kheradmand for the biennial Edinburgh Iranian Festival.

IHF would like to acknowledge all individuals, institutions, corporations and foundations who worked with or supported us by sharing their expertise, providing financial support or becoming our project partners .

Bank Julius Baer has supported the IHF for the last decade. We are most grateful to them.

