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2008 Annual Report



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3000 Years
in the making

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Message from the Editor



Dear Friends and Supporters of the *Encyclopædia Iranica*,

The year 2008 was, as you may readily guess, a most difficult one for us as a result of the economic downturn. Most of the individuals and organizations that used to assist us with larger amounts suffered the same economic setback and as a result were not able to support us. Fortunately the National Endowment for the Humanities continued to help us with their grant, and this enabled us to carry on even though with some difficulty.

We lost two of our editors. We need to replace them in order to keep our pace, but to do this we need to raise adequate funds, which is becoming more and more difficult.

Following the suggestion of many friends and well-wishers we tried to target smaller donations and we wrote to as many as we could, asking for modest contribution, as much as anyone could afford, even if it were no more than \$25.

Volume XIV of the Encyclopaedia Iranica was completed and published in 2008. The volume brought the printed edition of the Encyclopaedia to nearly the end of the letter J. The first two fascicles of Volume XV have been published in 2009. These two fascicles have covered an extensive series of articles on the Jewish community in Iran and the first part of a series on Julfa and its Armenian community, as well as a host of other entries.

The entire year of 2008 was spent in paving the way for shifting from Euro-Iranica fonts to the Unicode system as well as in adjusting the links for illustrations and tables in previously published entries. Dr. Christopher Brunner, our Associate Editor with a valuable expertise on computer matters, spent almost his entire time on perfecting our Unicode system, designing signs for letters with diacritics, and attending to other website problems (www.iranica.com).

The need has been felt for a website with greater search capability, being more attractive and more user-friendly, incorporating the latest advances in website technology. Steps have been taken to find a company that can best serve our purpose and in the most economical manner. Our preliminary research indicates that we shall need a layout of some \$30,000 for the purpose.

Sincerely yours,

E. Yar

Ehsan Yarshater,
Editor

What is Encyclopædia Iranica?



Encyclopædia Iranica

3000 Years

in the making

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* is a project of Columbia University's Center for Iranian Studies. It is a research tool for specialists and students and general readers in various disciplines of the humanities as they concern the Iranian lands, and related fields such as Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and Indic studies. The range of subject matter treated in the *Encyclopædia* includes geography, archaeology, ethnography, history, economics, literature, religion, philosophy, art history, history of science, folklore, material culture, and flora and fauna, beside the basic categories of biography and toponymy.

The entries, each with careful documentation and an extensive bibliography, are written by leading scholars from many different countries and they provide a detailed and accurate picture of an important world civilization from prehistory to the present, a span of several thousand years. Covering a multi-lingual and multi-ethnic cultural continent, the *Encyclopædia Iranica's* scope encompasses all aspects of the life, history, and civilization of all the peoples who speak or once spoke an Iranian language; it also treats reciprocal influences and interactions between these peoples and the neighboring regions, as well as western and central Europe, Russia, and North America. The greatest significance of the *Encyclopædia* is that it serves as the repository for wide-ranging research and resources that cannot be found in any other single source, serving scholars and researchers of many disciplines and backgrounds.

The geographic centrality of Iran has given it an important role throughout history. The *Encyclopædia Iranica* presents the Iranian aspect of almost every field of human endeavor and how it has contributed to the development of world culture.

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* has been universally acclaimed by reviewers in academic journals. It has been variously called a "treasure-house of accurate and reliable information regarding the Iranian world," "the greatest academic project of the 20th century concerning the Middle East," the identity-card of the Iranian peoples," and a "masterpiece."

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* has received the patronage of the American Council of Learned Societies and the International Union of Academies (UAI), and has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency, since 1979. It has also been supported by contributions from individuals and foundations. In 1990 the *Encyclopædia Iranica* Foundation was established in order to "promote the cause of the *Encyclopædia Iranica* and assure its completion" by raising funds for it.



Size and Nature of Audience/Population Served

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* is a multi-disciplinary research tool serving all students of the history and culture of Iranian-speaking societies throughout history (Persia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan as well as regions such as Kurdistan, Baluchistan, etc.) The *Encyclopædia Iranica* is aimed at both specialists and interested non-specialists. For the print edition, the number of institutional subscribers (universities, public libraries, and various institutions) is circa 250, the number of individual subscribers is circa 750 (out of 1600 print-run). It finds its greatest usage among academic and institutional population.

Cost

Each volume of the *Encyclopædia* consists of six fascicles. Fascicles are priced at \$36 each, and cloth bound volumes at \$250 each.

The online edition is currently free of charge. Web visits range up to 10,000 hits per month.

Number of Bound Copies

Out of 1600 print-run half is bound into volumes and half remains in fascicles with soft cover for current subscribers or future ones.

Evidence for the Success of the Project

The *Encyclopædia* has been highly praised in all academic reviews. The large number of libraries and institutions subscribing to the *Encyclopædia* also serve as an indication of its success and usefulness; according to all accounts, the actual number of its academic users far outnumbers the number of subscribers. This is further backed by the number of hits received at our website.

The *Encyclopædia Iranica*, already an established and respected reference tool for scholars, is continuing production at its high level of scholarship, but its usefulness is also being enhanced by becoming a live, up-to-date, and growing database with excellent search facilities, available to a world-wide audience.

The History of the Project



Encyclopædia Iranica
3000 Years
in the making

The project is administered by a team of editors and staff members at the Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University since 1974 and has been directed by Prof. Ehsan Yarshater since its inception.

Several years were spent in preparatory preliminaries. These included identifying and inviting some forty Consulting Editors from various disciplines of Iranian studies to help set up a list of topics to be covered by the *Encyclopædia Iranica (EIr.)*, the scheme of transliteration of Persian and Arabic words and names, and preparing guidelines for authors, and setting into motion the preparation of the first fascicles of the *EIr.*

The first fascicle of the *EIr.* was published in 1982 by the well-known publishing firm of Routledge and Kegan Paul (London). In 1985 the first bound volume of the *EIr.*, comprising nine fascicles and 1011 pages of double columns was published. As the volumes were too bulky and somewhat difficult to handle, from Volume VI the number of fascicles in each volume was reduced from eight fascicles to six.

In 2008 the Volume XIV was published and Volume XV is currently in press.

On our electronic edition (www.iranica.com), all the material published in print as well as 750 additional articles through the letter Z have been posted online.

In 2002 a radical change occurred in the publication process of the *EIr.* Taking advantage of the electronic advances a decision was made, after due consultations, to publish also a number of articles electronically without following the alphabetical sequence, which governed the printed edition. These entries are published first online, and later when their alphabetical turns come, in print.

There are several major advantages in our new approach: 1) it gives us the freedom to commission entries from A to Z, taking advantage of the availability of the scholars to write them, before they are no longer available. 2) It gives us the opportunity to give priority to more significant entries. 3) By breaking out of the confinement of alphabetical order, the preparation of the *Encyclopædia* can be speeded up to an extraordinary degree. About a third of the time that would have been otherwise needed for the completion of the *Encyclopaedia* will now be sufficient for the purpose, provided we have the necessary funding for hiring the needed additional editors. 4) It enables us to update the entries and insert entries that we may have missed without having to wait for Supplement Volumes. 5) The *Encyclopædia* will be available to an increasing number of users as the older generations cede their place to the younger ones, who are particularly adept at using computers.

Even with the speed characteristic of the publication of the *EIr.*, it is estimated that it will take at least another 13 to 15 years to complete the project, if we can meet the aforementioned conditions.

The Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation



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3000 Years
in the making

The project has been carried out and partially funded since 1979 by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Except for the first three years, however, these grants have always required raising matching funds to supplement them.

Given the difficulty of raising funds for the annual operating budget of the project, it was deemed necessary to create an external support structure for the project to provide it with regular and long-term funding.

Thus the *Encyclopædia Iranica* Foundation was established in 1990. This is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) public foundation, registered in New York State, (tax identification number: 13-3636524) and is entirely independent of Columbia University. Even though its charter empowers it to carry out the project independently, if necessary, in practice the Center for Iranian Studies at Columbia carries out the academic functions of the *Encyclopaedia*, while the Foundation concentrates on raising funds for the project.

Our survival in the course of the past decade, apart from the generous support of the NEH, has been partly due to the efforts of the *Encyclopædia Iranica* Foundation and its Board of Trustees. Ever mindful of the long-term needs of this project, an Endowment Fund was established by the Foundation to make the project eventually self-sufficient. In 1999 the Editor and his late wife, in order to fortify the Endowment Fund, decided to sell at auction by Christie's in London and New York their collection of Iranian and Islamic art, as well as their collection of travel books and first editions of English and American literature and to donate the proceeds (\$1,400,000.00) to the Foundation, (this did not include their annual donations which they had been giving for a number of years). They further bequeathed in their joint will their estate to the Foundation. Prof. Yarshater has also donated his extensive personal library of some 6,000 volumes and some 2,500 off-prints, which forms the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* Library, to the Foundation, and continues to add new books to the collection.

The Center for Iranian Studies



Encyclopædia Iranica
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in the making

The primary concern of the Foundation is the financial viability of the *Encyclopædia Iranica* project. It must be noted however that the Foundation supports the project but does not carry it out. According to its charter and by-laws, the Foundation can, and if circumstances should make it necessary, will carry out the project independently; but in practice the Foundation limits itself to maintaining the financial health of the project by raising funds for its operating budget and by backing it with an endowment fund. The project is carried out by the Center for Iranian Studies at Columbia University and is funded by donation of supporters and grants obtained by that Center (in consultation with the Foundation) as well as funds provided directly by the *Encyclopædia Iranica* Foundation.

In the past seventeen years there has been a close interaction between the *Encyclopædia Iranica* Foundation and the Center for Iranian Studies of Columbia University. While the two are separate institutions, they work in tandem towards the primary goal of the preparation of the *Encyclopædia Iranica*. The Center administers, in addition to several other academic projects, the preparation of the *Encyclopædia* including managing the operating budget which covers expenses such as the salaries of the editorial and administrative staff, the honoraria for authors and translators, and administrative expenses related to the production of the *Encyclopædia*. The Foundation concentrates on raising funds for the *Encyclopædia* on a short and long-term basis and pays for a couple of Foundation staff members and consultant positions.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of individuals actively engaged in providing financial assistance and advice to the Foundation and/or in promoting its interests. They are not involved in the academic and technical aspects of the project. The Board appoints an Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary) to administer its affairs. The fact that the President of the Foundation also serves as the director of the *Encyclopædia Iranica* project (a scheme that we expect to continue) ensures close cooperation between the Foundation and the project. The Foundation's officers, like its Trustees and advisors, are all unsalaried, and contribute time and funds to it.

In order to ensure the continued progress and the eventual completion of the *Encyclopaedia*, it was decided when the Encyclopaedia Iranica Foundation was instituted that an Endowment Fund be built as a restricted Fund, so that when it reached its target the Project could be carried on from its income. Originally the target amount was set at \$8,000,000, but as the *Encyclopaedia's* expenses gradually increased, it became necessary to increase the targeted amount first to \$12,000,000 and later to \$15,000,000, which has remained constant for the past several years. At the average rate of 5% interest this amount will produce \$750,000 of annual income. The budget of the *Encyclopaedia* was \$950,000 in 2008, which, if does not increase further, will require raising an additional \$200,000 to meet the annual budget.



Collaborating Partners & Institutions

The collaboration of a wide range of scholars from many countries and disciplines is required to maintain a consistently high level of quality. This coordinated international effort to achieve accurate and up-to-date presentation of data can be gauged from the list of contributors to the volumes. At any given time, the *Encyclopædia Iranica* staff is in contact with some 250 contributors. To date, **over** 1600 scholars from all over the world have participated in the project as contributors or consultants and we expect the number to increase.

There are a number of institutions that have cooperative relations with the *Encyclopædia Iranica*. These include: the International Society for Iranian Studies (USA), Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum (headquartered in London), the Foundation for Iranian Studies (USA), the Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg, the Research Division of the Ismaili Institute in London, the Association pour l'Avancement des Études Iraniennes in Paris (which publishes *Studia Iranica* and *Abstracta Iranica*), and Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente in Rome.

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* project also enjoys the cooperation of a large number of university departments and academic institutions, generally through their members who contribute the results of their research to the project. The *Encyclopædia Iranica* has cordial relations with the departments of Ancient Near East and Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Among universities with which we have rather close collaborative contact, we should mention the Departments of Near and Middle Eastern Studies, and their related centers at Harvard University, the University of California at Los Angeles and at Berkeley, the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan, the University of Texas at Austin, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Among the academic centers abroad with which we have frequent contact are the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, the Seminars für Iranistik at the Universities of Hamburg, Göttingen, Berlin and Bamberg as well as the Academie der Wissenschaft and the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin. There are also Centers for Iranian Studies at the Universities of Venice, Naples, and Vienna. We have very close collaboration with many members of the French academic community who generally work under an umbrella research organization, the "Monde Iranien" which draws its membership from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, the Sorbonne, the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, and the École Pratique des Hautes Études. In Iran, we have several contributors who also work with the Greater Islamic Encyclopædia Foundation.

Editorial Staff



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Editor
Ehsan Yarshater, Ph.D.

Professor Ehsan Yarshater is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor Emeritus of Iranian Studies at Columbia University and Director of its Center for Iranian Studies. He has authored and served as the editor of numerous scholarly works. Among others he has authored *Persian Poetry in the Second Half of the 15th Century* (in Persian, 1953), *Southern Tati Dialects* (1970), and has edited the third volume of *Cambridge History of Iran*, in two parts, covering the *Seleucid, Parthian and Sasanian Periods* (1983, 1986), and *Persian Literature* (1988). He was the General Editor of the 40-volume Tabari Translation Project, and has been the Founding Editor of the Persian Text Series, the Persian Heritage Series and the Persian Studies Series. He is also the General Editor of the annotated translation of Beyhaqi's *History* and *A History of Persian Literature* in 18 volumes, of which two volumes have already been published at the time of this writing. Lecture series in his name have been instituted at the University of London, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Paris, and The University of Maryland.



Managing Editor
Ahmad Ashraf, Ph.D.

He has taught sociology and social history of Persia at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Princeton University, and Tehran University. He is the author of several books and numerous articles, including *Historical Obstacles to the Development of Capitalism in Iran* (1980). His writings have covered such topics as social hierarchies in Persia, tradition and modernity, Iranian national identity, agrarian relations in Persia, and charismatic leadership and theocratic rule in post-revolutionary Persia and conspiracy theory. Prof. Ashraf has served on the editorial board of the *Iranian Studies*, *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, and *Iran Nameh*. Since 1992, he has served as a Trustee-at-Large of the American Institute of Iranian Studies.



Associate Editor
Nicholas Sims-Williams, Ph.D.

He is currently Professor of Iranian and Central Asian Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 1978. In 1988 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. He is the author of numerous articles and several books on Iranian pre-Islamic languages, particularly Sogdian and Bactrian, which he has helped elucidate by his research. Among his books are *The Christian Sogdian manuscript C2* (Berlin 1985); *Sogdian and Other Iranian Inscriptions of the Upper Indus* (CII, London, 1992), *Bactrian Documents from Northern Afghanistan I. Legal and economics documents* (Oxford 2000); and *II. Letters and Buddhist Texts* (London, 2007). He was offered a Festschrift by his colleagues on the occasion of his 60th birthday, (Wiesbaden, 2009), edited by W. Sundermann, A. Hintze, and F. de Blois.



Associate Editor
Christopher J. Brunner, Ph.D.

Dr. Brunner (B.A., University of Michigan, 1966; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1971), taught pre-Islamic Iranian languages and religions at Columbia University in the 1970s and was the original Assistant Editor of *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. His dissertation, *A Syntax of Western Middle Iranian*, was published in the Persian Studies Series of the Center for Iranian Studies (1977), and his *Sasanian Stamp Seals* in the Metropolitan Museum of Art was published by the Museum (1978). His journal articles and *Encyclopaedia Iranica* entries deal with Sasanian seals, texts, and other pre-Islamic topics. He is an accomplished linguist with remarkable expertise on computer matters.



Associate Editor
Mohsen Ashtiany

A graduate of University of St. Andrews and Oxford University, Mohsen Ashtiany has taught Persian literature and history at Oxford University, University of Manchester and the University of California at Los Angeles and has held Visiting Fellowships at Harvard and Princeton. He has a profound knowledge of Persian literature and history and related bibliography. He is a member of the Editorial Board of *A History of Persian Literature* (in 18 volumes) and collaborated with Prof. C.E. Bosworth in the annotated translation of Beyhaqi's *History* (in 3 volumes). He is the author of a number of articles in the field of Persian studies. His current project is a monograph on Classical Persian Literature.



Assistant Editor
Dagmar Riedel, Ph.D.

Dr. Riedel studied Islamic history and medieval Arabic and Persian literatures at the Universität Hamburg and Indiana University. Her dissertation about Persian and Arabic anthologies received the 2005 dissertation prize of the Foundation of Iranian Studies. In 2005-2006, she was a fellow at the Arabic manuscript project of the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin. She has taught at Indiana University and Universität Hamburg. Her current research focuses on the history of Islamic studies in the West and the transmission of knowledge in the Islamic world.



Assistant Editor
Manouchehr Kasheff

A distinguished instructor of Persian, Mr. Manouchehr Kasheff has been teaching at Columbia University since 1974. He is the Secretary and Treasurer of the American Association of Teachers of Persian, and has written a number of articles for the Encyclopædia Iranica, the Encyclopædia of Asian Studies, and Iran-Shenasi. He has translated books by A.J. Arberry, S. Runciman, and T.S. Eliot into Persian.



Assistant Editor
Houra Yavari

Mrs. Houra Yavari received a BA in English Language and Literature and an MA in Psychology from the University of Tehran. Pursuing her studies in the US, she received an M.E.D. from the Bank Street College of Education, while studying literature and literary criticism, particularly as applied to modern Persian fiction. She is the author of *Psychoanalysis and Literature: Two Texts, Two Selves, Two Worlds* (Tehran, 1995), *Living in the Mirror: A Literary Perspective* (Tehran, 2005), and *Modernity and Persian Fiction* (Tehran, 2009). She is the Consulting Editor on Modern Persian Fiction to the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, to which she has contributed the article "Modern Fiction: History and Development".



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Celebrating Success

2008 Events

International Iranica Week

May 1 – 7

Last year marked the 35th anniversary of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. The occasion offered to *Iranica*'s friends and supporters the opportunity to celebrate its success in providing a detailed and accurate picture of an important world civilization from prehistory to the present, an endeavor guided by strict fidelity to the demands of independent and original research and to the spirit of free and open inquiry. The anniversary was celebrated in the first week of May 2008, at universities, museums and other locations in more than 38 cities around the world, including Berlin, Bloomfield (Michigan), Chicago, Copenhagen, Detroit, Dubai, Geneva, Irvine (California), London, Los Angeles, Maryland, Midland (Michigan), Montreal, New Jersey, New South Wales (Australia), New York, Paris, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Sydney, Tucson (Arizona), Uppsala (Sweden), Victoria (Australia), White Plains (New York), and Washington, DC.

During the “International Iranica Week,” as it came to be known, many noted researchers and Iranologists, representing scholarly communities worldwide, highlighted the manifold academic accomplishments of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and its commitment to produce reliable and scholarly accounts of our cultural heritage (for details please visit www.iranica.com, and also www.iranicaevents.com).

The astounding success of “The International Iranica Week” in May 2008 persuaded many friends of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* to designate the first week of the Persian New Year (21-28 March in 2009) – when Iranians mark the arrival of the New Year – as the “International Week of Iranian Culture,” and celebrate it around the globe.



Dr. Yarshater celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* in San Francisco

International Iranica Week - Places and People

BERLIN, GERMANY

Pergamom Museum

Organizer: Mr. Jahangir Hosaynpour

Speakers: Prof. Werner Sundermann, Prof. Peter Clause Haase, Prof. Djalal Khaleghi-Motlagh & Mr. Jahangir Hosaynpour

BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN, USA

Khana-ye Iran

Organizer: Prof. Keyvan Najmabadi

Speakers: Prof. Kayvan Najmabadi & Dr. Mahmud Moallemian

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Organizer: Prof. Jalil Doostkhah

Speaker: Prof. Jalil Doostkhah

CHICAGO, USA

Northeastern Illinois University

Organizer: Prof. Keyvan Najmabadi

Speakers: Prof. Hamid Akbari, Prof. Janet Afary, Prof. Saeed Yousef & Prof. Frank Lewis

COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND, USA

University of Maryland

Organizers: Mrs. Mona Khademi & Prof. Ahmad Karimi - Hakak

Speakers: Provost Nariman Farvardin, Prof. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak & Prof. Marianna Shreve Simpson

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

University of Copenhagen

Organizer: Prof. Fereydun Vahman

Speaker: Prof. Fereydun Vahman

DUBAI, UAE

International Academy of Arts & Science @ Knowledge Village

Organizer: Mr.

Manouchehr Houshmand
Speakers: Prof. Fereydun Vahman, Dr. Michael Lustig, Mr. Mohamad Sotoudeh & Mr. Samad Tavana

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

La Société de Lecture

Organizers: Mrs. Monir Parvin & Mrs. Minoo Khamsi

Speakers: Prof. Djalili, Dr. Abtin Sassanfar, Dr. Rassekh, Mr. Parvin & Prof. de Fouchecour

LONDON, UK

Khaneh-e-Iran

Organizer: Dr. Reza Ghasemi

Speakers: Prof. Homa Katouzian, Dr. Faruq Farmanfarian & Dr. Mashallah Ajoudani

LONG ISLAND, NY, USA

Cider Brook Country Club

Organizer: Dr. Parviz Nezami

Speakers: Prof. Ahmad Ashraf & Mr. Parviz Nezami

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN, USA

Saginaw Valley State University

Organizers: Dr. Kamal Sadjadpour & Prof. Mohammad Bidgoli

Speakers: Prof. Keyvan Najmabadi, Dr. Kamal Sadjadpour & Prof. Mohammad Bidgoli

MONTREAL, CANADA

Concordia University

Organizers: Mr. Mohammad Fazel & Prof.

Mohammad Estelami
Speakers: Prof. Mohammad Estelami & Dr. Ziaeddin Shadman

NEW JERSEY, NY, USA

Rulgers University

Organizer: Prof. Minoo Varzegar

Speakers: Prof. Stever Diner, Prof. Phillippe Yeagle, Prog. Virginia Tiger, Prof. Ehsan Yarshater, Prof. Saeed Fatemi, Prof. Jawid Mojadeddi

NEW YORK CITY, NY, USA

Kimmel Center, New York University

Organizer: Center for Iranian Studies, Columbia University

Speakers: Prof. Ehsan Yarshater & Prof. Bo Lawergren

PARIS, FRANCE

B.O.A. Institute

Organizer: Mr. Abdol-Hamid Eshragh

Speakers: Dr. Farhad Ameli, Mr. Rahmat Ghasemlou, Mrs. Atefeh Gorgin, Mr. Ali Mirfatrus & Prof. Shahla Shafigh

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, USA

Rosemont College

Organizer: Prof. Mohammad Rafi
Speakers: Prof. Ahmad Ashraf, Prof. Hamid Zanganeh & Dr. Hasan Shahpari

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA

University of California, Berkeley

Organizers: Dr. Sadreddin Elahi & Mr. Reza Moini

Speakers: Prof. Ehsan Yarshater, Prof. Ali Ferdowsi & Mrs. Etrat Elahi

TUCSON, ARIZONA, USA

University of Arizona

Organizer: Prof. Kamran Talatof

Speakers: Prof. Kamran Talatof, Prof. Michael Bonine, Prof. Richard Eaton, Prof. Anne Betterige, Prof. Amir Ajami, Prof. Mansour Rastegar Fasai & Prof. Kudwig Ademec

UPPSALA, SWEDEN

Organizer: Prof. Forough Hashabeyki

Speakers: Prof. Bo Utas, Prof. Mehrdad Fallahzadeh & Prof. Farhad Shakely

NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

University of Wollongong

Organizer: Mr. Masoud Rowshan

WASHINGTON, DC., USA

Georgetown University

Organizers: Mrs. Mona Khademi & Dr. Farmia Mostowfi

Speakers: Prof. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Prof. Mehrdad Mashayekhi & Prof. Terry Potter



A Mythical Celebration of Persian Dance with Shahrokh Moshkin-Ghalam

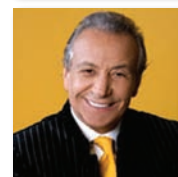
On May 4th, 2008, the 35th Anniversary of the commencement of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* was held at the Wilshire Abel Theatre in Los Angeles.



To celebrate this remarkable occasion, the friends and supporters of the *Encyclopaedia* along with renowned choreographer Shahrokh Moshkin-Ghalam and the Nakissa Dance Company gathered in what was perhaps the greatest Persian cultural event of 2008.

Mr. Moshkin-Ghalam performed the stunning *Peykar-Ranganeh*, a production in three acts, all themed around classical Persian romances and epics. In the first and second acts, he performed pieces based on Nezami Ganjavi's timeless *Khosrow & Shirin* and *Haft-Paykar*, while for the third act he masterfully brought to life the tragedy of *Rostam & Sohrab* from *Ferdowsi's Shahnameh* before a captivated audience.

At the end of the evening, Dr. Yarshater gave a speech regarding the *Encyclopaedia*, after which he presented Mr. Moshkin-Ghalam with an award in praise of his efforts in the preservation of Persian dance and performing arts. In addition, documentary-filmmaker Abbas Hojatpanah was also awarded for preserving the history of modern Iranian art and literature. Subsequently, Mr. Bijan Pakzad, who had recently purchased a set of the *Encyclopaedia* for \$50,000 was announced the winner of the evening's silent auction, and praised for his generosity and support towards Iranian non-profit organizations.



Iranica Evenings at the Residence of the Friends of *Encyclopaedia Iranica*

Brookfield, Wisconsin



In an effort to offset adverse ramifications of the current economic crisis on fundraising efforts, several friends of Iranica offered their residence as venues for benefit events for the project. In November, Dr. Hossein & Mrs. Monir Almassi hosted an elegant dinner at their residence in Brookfield, Wisconsin, and introduced the *Encyclopaedia* for the first time in the region. Sums collected from their kind efforts provided financial respite at an especially critical period.

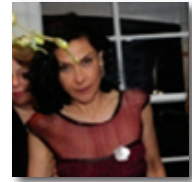
Manhattan, New York



With the aim of bringing together loyal supporters of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, Mrs. Nasim Alikhani, and her husband, Mr. Theodore Petroulas, philanthropists and co-founders of Ashiané, an organization devoted to assisting needy mothers and children in Iran, hosted an enjoyable reception in their attractive residence in Manhattan, on Saturday 15 November 2008. Trustees of the Iranica Foundation, some members from the 1000 Club, several prospective donors, and a number of Iranica's regular supporters who have stayed with the Project through thick and thin, attended the reception.

Los Angeles, California

On May 3rd, Nastaran Akhavan and Hamid Khameneipur celebrated *Encyclopaedia Iranica's* 35th anniversary at their residence in Los Angeles. The celebration was held in the company of Dr. Yarshater's friends, as well many supporters of the *Encyclopaedia*, and was especially memorable thanks to the warm reception and generosity of the evening's hosts.



Iranica Evenings in Dubai



The Society of the Friends of the Encyclopædia in Dubai, chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Houshmand, hosted an elegant gala at Dubai's magnificent Grand Hyatt Hotel, on 2 May 2008. The event, part of the bi-annual "Iranica Evenings" that have been held in Dubai since February 2002, was attended by 400 guests, drawn from both the Iranian and international community in Dubai. Among the many prominent guests were Ambassador Philippe Welti of Republic of Switzerland in Iran, as well as Ms. Shohreh Aghdashloo, the internationally acclaimed Iranian actress, whose performance as the Gala's mistress of ceremony was accompanied by prolonged applause and standing ovations.

"The Iranica Evenings" of Dubai regularly feature musical performances, poetry readings, traditional story telling sessions, as well as live auctions. Proceeds from them are regularly donated to the Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation.

This year's gala will be held in Dubai on 23 October 2009.

Benefit Concert in Chicago

Publicizing the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and Persia's unique cultural heritage has comprised multi-faceted and sustained efforts on the part of the friends of *Iranica* all over the world. On 12 September 2008 the Recital Hall of the Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, hosted a magnificent benefit concert for the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, organized by Professor Hamid Akbari, associate professor and chair of the Department of Management and Marketing in Northeastern Illinois University. Cyrus Forough, the internationally acclaimed Iranian violinist, professor of violin and chamber music at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, and a faculty member in the Music Institute of the Chicago Academy for the Gifted, mesmerized the audience with his masterly rendition of musical pieces. Accompanying Forough was Tatyana Stepanova, the outstanding pianist.



Left to Right: Prof. Hamid Akbari, Cyrus Forough & Tanya Stepanova



Ways to Support the Encyclopædia

Outright gifts can be made by checks in any amount affordable by you. Checks may be drawn to the order of the Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation and sent to the address below. Donations can be made also to the Encyclopædia Iranica through Columbia University by using your credit card. The direct link to the Encyclopædia Iranica's secure online giving site is as follows:

<https://giving.columbia.edu/giveonline/?schoolstyle=43043>

Contributions may be paid once, annually or in installments and are tax exempt to the extent permitted by law. Please send us your donations, even if it is not no more than 10 dollars or Euros. What is important is your participation, which signifies your support of our cultural heritage. Also, please remember, matching gifts from your employer or your spouse's employer could double or triple your gift.

Stock and Security transfers are popular because they also provide tax benefits to the extent permitted by law. If you are interested in donating stocks and securities, please contact us at the below address for transfer information.

If you live outside the United States and would like to register your charitable contribution abroad, please contact us so we can provide information on how to make contributions to the project via donations to Columbia University.

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450 Riverside Drive, No. 24
New York, NY 10027-6821
Tel: (212) 851-5723

Fax: (212) 749-9524

Email: ey4@columbia.edu

Two-Year Financial Summary



Encyclopædia Iranica
3000 Years
in the making

Please note that Columbia University and the *Encyclopædia Iranica* Foundation are two separate entities and have two different fiscal years.

Columbia University – *Encyclopaedia Iranica* Project

Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	2009	2008
Revenue & Support		
NEH Grant	137,043	212,957
<i>Encyclopaedia Iranica</i> Foundation Gifts	247,543	308,500
Gifts to Columbia in Support of the Project*	54,856	100
Transfers from other CU Gift Accounts**	278,811	0
Total Revenue & Support	718,253	521,557
Expenses		
Staff Wages & Benefits	460,052	540,867
COntributing Authors, Editors & Translators	38,249	30,525
Other Direct Operating Costs	21,684	28,825
Other Expenses	27,372	75,439
Total Expenses	547,457	675,656
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets		

* In FY09, online giving was implemented

** Transfers included gifts received in FY08 that were deposited into prior period matching gift accounts

Financial Summary Cont'd



Encyclopædia Iranica
3000 Years
in the making

Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation

Fiscal Year Ended December 31,	2008	2007
Revenue & Support		
Special Events, Net of Direct Expenses	125,426	440,469
Contributions	265,295	799,083
Sales of Encyclopædia Iranica	122,467	101,425
Interest	2,194	4,498
Total Revenue & Support	515,382	1,345,475
Expenses		
Programs	123,623	166,594
Contributions to Columbia University*	377,500	212,000
Cost of Goods Sold	47,874	38,295
General and Administrative	80,810	63,144
Net Transfer to Temporarily Restricted Funds	222,246	645,826
Total Expenses	852,053	1,125,853
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	-336,699	219,622

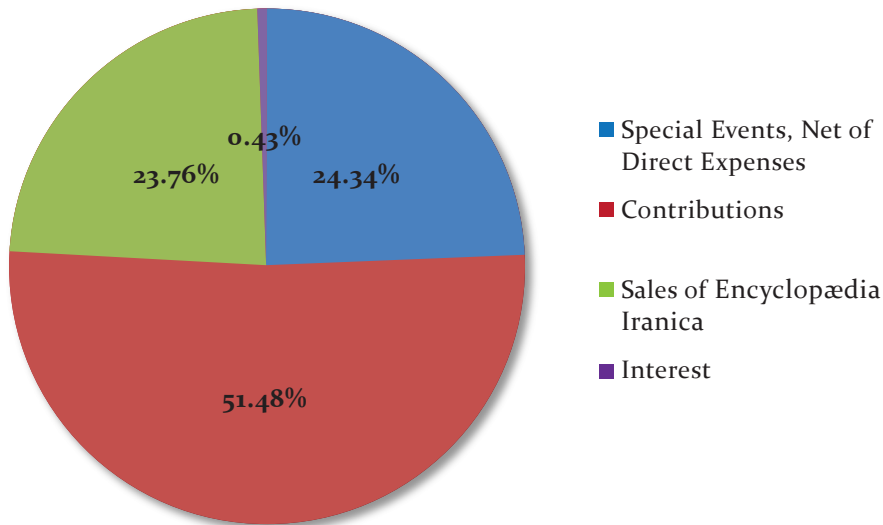
* Contributions to Columbia University were made in support of the Encyclopædia Iranica Project. These amounts are included as revenue in the Columbia University section above.

Notes

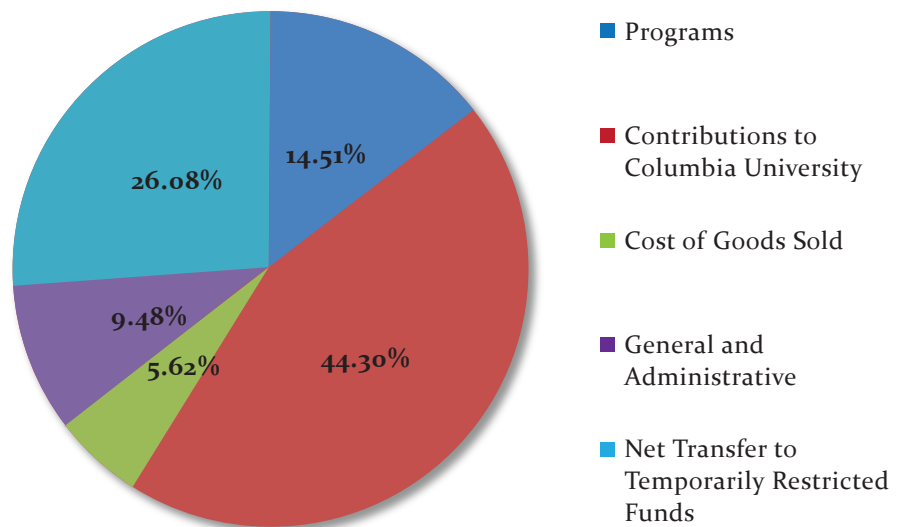
- Any discrepancy in the amounts reported on the Columbia University's Encyclopædia Iranica Project and the Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation summaries is due to the different fiscal years of the two separate organizations.
- The Foundation summary only includes the statements of activities section of the audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007.
- The Foundation is audited each year by an independent auditor. The above information is based on the most recent audit. The complete auditor's report is available upon request.
- NEH grants are paid to Columbia University and the major portion of expenses for the project are paid by Columbia University. The Encyclopædia Iranica's mandate is to raise funds to support the project. The Foundation makes gifts to Columbia University in support of the project and contributes to the endowment fund for the project.

Financial Summary Cont'd

Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation 2008 Revenue & Support



Encyclopædia Iranica Foundation 2008 Expenses



Financial Statement Highlights



Encyclopædia Iranica
3000 Years
in the making

Raising Funds

Despite heavy editorial duties and scholarly obligations, the Editor and a number of his colleagues are doing their best to meet this requirement. Iranian expatriates and Iranians born in Diaspora remain our strongest sources of support, and strenuous efforts have been made to engage their interest. Some recent demographic statistics place the number of Iranian-Americans at about one million. The majority have a college degree or higher. We hope that the younger generations of this Diaspora will become increasingly interested in our project as they begin to search their roots and their ancestral history and culture.

In 2000 the Foundation applied for an NEH Challenge Grant, which was awarded. The Foundation successfully met the challenge and two million dollars were thus raised, bringing the Endowment to six million dollars. Currently the goal of the Endowment is 15 million dollars, which is the minimum amount that could viably generate funds in today's economy to support two-thirds of the project's annual expenses in the years to come. The Endowment Fund remains restricted until this minimum level is reached. The Foundation's Board continues to vigorously raise funds for both the project's on-going budgetary needs, including matching funds for NEH's grants as well as for the Endowment Fund.

As part of the strategy for raising cash contributions for matching funds, a group of volunteer supporters of the *Encyclopædia Iranica* help us identify and contact likely donors. Organized as "Friends of the *Encyclopædia*" they help us raise funds for the project. Our most successful approach in recent years has been to organize fundraising benefit galas. Our volunteers have organized several successful benefit galas for us in New York (twice), Washington, D.C., Los Angeles (twice), Miami, Long Island, Houston, Toronto, London, San Francisco, Geneva and Dubai.

To add to the interest of our galas, we recognize and encourage the achievements of successful Iranians in Diaspora by holding award ceremonies during the benefit galas. Each gala has a theme such as art, medicine, science, economy, energy, women's activities, and the honorees are selected in connection with the theme chosen for the gala. For example, our awardees at the San Francisco gala were in the fields of science and technology and in the Geneva Gala, awardees in the field of medicine were honored.

Summary



Encyclopædia Iranica
3000 Years
in the making

The *Encyclopædia Iranica* is a monumental project covering a wide range of topics from prehistory to the present. Aiming at an interdisciplinary presentation of information, it serves a vast cultural area. As repeatedly shown in scholarly reviews, the *Encyclopædia Iranica* has established itself as an accurate and reliable basic reference work, not only for the Iranian world, but also for related societies. Many of the *Encyclopædia's* entries are based on original research or provide new syntheses rather than simply summarizing available data, setting new standards for collecting and organizing information. Many of the subjects taken up by the *Encyclopædia* had not been researched or treated independently before. Such articles not only expand the horizons of knowledge and stimulate new research; they also highlight gaps to which future efforts should be directed. The content of the *Encyclopædia* is further distinguished by coverage of a number of subjects either generally neglected or imperfectly treated in existing reference works, but nevertheless of particular importance in the field of Iranian and related studies.



{ Encyclopædia Iranica
3000 Years in the Making }



2008 Annual Report

