



17-18 May, 2001, First IQSA Conference:

READING EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS
Visual sources for the interpretation of Iranian Qajar history

University of Leiden, Leiden, Holland
Research School of Asian, African, and Amerindian Studies (CNWS)

Photography offers an eminently suitable approach to the study of how people used to see, and still see, the world around them. Taking photographs is not merely the recording of objects and situations; it also shows the photographer's special interests and those of his audience and customers. Photographs tell what was regarded as special or typical. In other words, they reflect upon the objects photographed, and upon the photographer and his clients.

The conference focussed on the image of Iran as created in nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs. During this time Western and Persian photographers were fed by, and contributed to an ambivalent image of Iran, stressing on the one hand its traditional life (often in the Orientalist tradition), and on the other hand indicating aspects which were regarded as 'modern' and 'European'.

Organisation

The conference was jointly set up by the following organisations:

- Department of Languages and Cultures of the Islamic Middle East, Leiden University
- International Qajar Studies Association
- Research School of Asian, African, and Amerindian Studies, Leiden University
- The Genootschap Nederland-Iran

Sponsoring

The conference was financially made possible by the:

- Research School CNWS, Leiden University
- The Genootschap Nederland-Iran, Leiden
- The Royal Academy of Sciences, the Netherlands
- The Leids Universiteitsfonds, Leiden

Structure of the conference

The first day of the conference (Images of Iran by Western photographers) focussed on Iran through Western eyes, while the second day (Reflection) was devoted to the image of the country through Persian eyes. At the end of the second day there was a guided tour of an exhibition on nineteenth century and early twentieth century Iran (showing both photographs and other objects), organised especially for the conference in the Prentenkabinet, Leiden. Speakers from America, Europe and Iran presented papers.

Location

The congress was held in room 028 of the Centraal Faciliteitengebouw (Central Facilities), of the Witte Singel/Doelen complex, Cleveringaplaats 1, Leiden, located some five minutes walk from the Rapenburg, and some fifteen minutes from the railway station.



A first meeting of the reconstituted Qajar (Kadjar) Family Association took place after the conference at the premises of the Faculty Club of Leiden University.

Conference Programme

Thursday 17 May

- 9.00 Coffee; registration.
- 9.30 Opening: *Ferydoun Barjesteh van Waalwijk van Doorn*; *Prof. J.G.L. ter Haar* and *Dr. W.J. Vogelsang*.
- 9.45 *Soltan Ali Mirza Kadjar*, The Qajar Era: An Historical Perspective. See abstract.
- 10.00 *Dr. Ali Behdad*, Orientalism, Self-Exoticism, and the Oriental Despot: Nassir ed-Din Shah. See abstract.
- 10.45 *Prof. F. Bohrer*. Photographic Hybridities: Sevruguin, Iran, and the West. See abstract.
- 11.30 Coffee, tea.
- 11.50 *Dr. Layla S. Diba*, New Resources for Qajar Era Photography.

- 12.35 Lunch; Doelensteeg 16, cafeteria on third floor.

- 14.00 *Corien Vuurman*, Images of Iran in Dutch photographic collections: An analysis. See abstract.
- 14.45 *Cyrus Samii*, Illusory Promises: Iranian Cities as Portrayed in Western Travelogues in the Late Qajar and Early Pahlavi Periods. See abstract.
- 15.30 Tea.
- 15.50 *Bahman Bayani*, A Data Base of Qajar Period Portrait Photographs.
- 16.10 *Dr. G.M. Vogelsang-Eastwood*, The Qajar Era Dress Project. See abstract.
- 16.35 *Dr. Manoutchehr M. Eskandari-Qajar*, The International Qajar Studies Association: Aims and Purposes. See abstract.

- 19.00 Buffet. Location: Centraal Faciliteitengebouw (Central Facilities); Witte Singel/Doelencomplex.

Friday, 18 May

- 9.00 Coffee.
- 9.30 *Mohamad Reza Tahmasbpour*, The Pictorial Reports in the Reign of Nasser ed-Din Shah Qajar. See abstract.
- 10.15 *Dr. Alireza Mashayekh*, A Comparison Between Abdollah Qajar and Sevruguin Photography.
- 11.00 Coffee, tea.
- 11.20 *Dr. Reza Sheikh*, Heroes, Villains and Aspirations: The Portrait Photograph within Public Visual Space in Qajar Iran (1905-1925). See abstract.

- 12.05 Lunch.

- 13.45 *Parisa Damandan*, Qajar Esfahan (film). See abstract.
- 14.30 *R. Jackson Armstrong-Ingram*, Women in Late Qajar Urban Society: The View From the Lens. See abstract.
- 15.15 Tea.
- 15.35 *Dr. H. de Herder*, The Ermakov Project and Conservation and Restoration of 19th Century Photographs. See abstract.
- 16.25 Concluding Remarks.
- 16.45 Reception and visit of exhibition of 19th century photographs of Iran in Dutch collections, in the Prentenkabinet, Rapenburg 65. Speakers: *Prof. dr. C.J.M. Zijlmans* and *Corien Vuurman*.