



Note from the Editor

Beginning with the present volume 32, the *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* will be published under the auspices of the Yarshater Center for the Study of Iranian Literary Traditions at UCLA.

For almost four decades, since its last iteration in 1987, the *Bulletin* has been published with magisterial editorial expertise and exquisite bookcraft by Carol Altman Bromberg, seconded in the early years by Richard N. Frye and Bernard Goldman, and advised by a small and distinguished editorial advisory board.

It is worth retracing briefly the major stations in the *Bulletin's* evolution, as was already put to pen in the first volume of the new series in 1987 (ix–xi). The *Bulletin* first saw the light of day as the *Bulletin of the American Institute for Persian Art and Archaeology* in July 1931, and was edited by Arthur Upham Pope, director of the American Institute for Persian Art and Archaeology, who was aided in this endeavor by his wife Phyllis Ackerman. The Institute had been established the year before in New York City, with a charter stipulating its works in the following terms:

to encourage and extend an appreciation of Persian art in its various forms by promoting research and assisting scholars, organizing and assisting archaeological expeditions and excavations, organizing and assisting exhibitions of Persian art and congresses, both national and international, publishing books and other material, and assisting in the conservation of ancient Persian monuments [Ibid., ix].

Subsequent development would see the name of both the Institute and the *Bulletin* changed: the former's designation morphing into the Asia Institute(s) in 1940, while the latter became known as the *Bulletin of the Iranian Institute*. It perdured until 1946 when due to a lack of funding it fell into desuetude. In the late 1960s, the Institute was re-established under the directorship of Arthur U. Pope at the Narenjestān mansion in Shiraz through the patronage of the Iranian

imperial house, and the *Bulletin* was revived as the *Bulletin of the Asia Institute*. Richard N. Frye, Director of the Asia Institute beginning in 1969, edited three issues of the *Bulletin* in 1969, 1971, and 1973, focusing on Iranian and Central Asian art and archaeology. From 1975 to 1978, the date of the *Bulletin's* final issue in Iran, the journal was led by Mahyar Nawabi. A decade later, in 1987, the *Bulletin* returned to American shores, whence it once arose, and prospered for four decades prior to its final relocation to UCLA, where the Yarshater Center will provide a permanent home.

At UCLA, the *Bulletin* will set forth its work animated by the selfsame philosophy that has characterized its past endeavors, openness to the world, capaciousness in perspective, and the desire to serve, and be guided by, the community of scholars worldwide, as has been exquisitely noted by the editors of the inaugural volume in 1987:

We feel that it is essential that the *Bulletin* retain not only its original breadth of interest but also its international character. Parochialism is entirely out of character for those lands of the ancient world whose cultures are our subject here. Achaemenid, Hellenistic, Parthian, Sasanian, and Islamic Iran may have had their shortcomings, but narrowness of view or limited scope of influence was not one of them [Ibid., vii].

As before, the *Bulletin* will cover all different facets of the Iranian world (art, archaeology, literary traditions, and history) and emphasize its synergies and entanglement with the cultures of eastern, southern, central, and western Asia, as well as the Mediterranean. The cultural markers of the Iranian world neither emerged nor were fostered in isolation, but were the result of cross-fertilization and intellectual borrowings from neighboring cultures. This broader outlook shall continue to inform the *Bulletin's* work.

Note from the Editor

A few words of thanks are in order. I am exceedingly indebted to Carol Altman Bromberg for her prodigious and indefatigable editorship over the past decades, and for deeming us worthy to carry on this task, following in the footsteps of such illustrious predecessors. It gives me great satisfaction to know she shall remain engaged in the progress of the *Bulletin* as the editor emerita.

A great debt of gratitude is also owed to the distinguished members of the editorial advisory board who have been judiciously guiding the work of the *Bulletin*. We pay homage to those among them who have passed away in recent years: Guitty Azarpay (University of California, Berkeley); Nina Garsoïan (Columbia University); and Shaul Shaked (Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

I would also like to welcome three distinguished scholars who have agreed to join the editorial advisory board: Lothar von Falkenhausen, Stephanie W. Jamison, and Robert Rollinger.

The present issue encompasses contributions by Samra Azarnouche, Anca Dan, Frantz Grenet, Assadullah Souren Melikian-Chirvani, Robert Rollinger, Fabrizio Sinisi, and Joseph Wiesehöfer, to whom I am grateful for their patience, while the *Bulletin* was transitioning to UCLA.

M. Rahim Shayegan