

The Art of Teaching Persian Literature

The Art of Teaching Persian Literature

From Theory to Practice

Edited by

Franklin D. Lewis
Asghar Seyed-Gohrab
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We started this project in the autumn of 2021 with our dear colleague Professor Franklin Lewis, whose loss has left a permanent hole in our hearts and an irreplaceable void in the field of Persian literature and Islamic mysticism (Sufism). We consider ourselves fortunate to have worked closely with Frank on this project from its infancy, when our many hours of zoom meetings shaped the different parts of the volume, to its growth, when we invited the leading scholars in the field to contribute to the volume. Unfortunately, Frank is no longer with us to see the project in its maturity, but his influence and mentorship are present in many of the chapters in this volume. We would like to dedicate this volume to the memory of our dear Frank, may he Rest in Peace.

شمس تبریزی برفت و کو کسی
تا بر آن فخرالبشر بگریستی
عالم معنی عروسی یافت زو
لیک بی او این صور بگریستی
این جهان را غیر آن سمع و بصر
گر بدی سمع و بصر بگریستی
دیوان شمس غزل ۲۸۹۳

Shams-e Tabriz is gone, and yet
who shall weep for the Pride of Men?
The world of meaning has gained in him a bride,
but shorn of him, the world of forms would whine.

This world, without his insight and vision,
would weep if ever this loss it could envision.

Divān-e Shams, Vol. 6, p. 168, ghazal 2893, lines, 30740–42

Notes on Transliteration and Dates

There are several transliteration systems for Persian. In this volume, we follow a simplified transliteration system for Persian words: that is, only the long vowel /ā/ is indicated by a macron; the “unpronounced *h*” (or *hā-ye hawwaz*) in the final position of words, which is indicated diversely as *khāna*, *khānah*, *khāne*, *khāneh* or *khānih* in various transliteration systems, is transliterated by /e/ as in *khāne*; *hamze* and *‘eyn* to be written by a raised single inverted comma as in *‘aql*, *la’l*, *roju’*, *pā’iz*, *te’ātr* and *hay’at*; and the Anglicised Persian and Arabic words are used instead of their original forms. So, instead of ḥadīth, Khān and Ramaḍān, the book uses *hadith*, *Khan*, *Ramadan*, etc. Arabic concepts such as *mi’rāj* and *qibla*, which are commonly used in Persian contexts, are transliterated as *me’raj* and *qeble*. The few Arabic phrases used in this volume follow the transliteration system of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES). The dates of Persian sources are indicated first by the Islamic lunar Hijri calendar date, followed by the Common Era date. The same system is maintained in endnotes and in the bibliography.

Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini
AH	Hijri year (after Hijra of the prophet)
ALTA	American Literary Translators Association
AS USSR	The Academy of Sciences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
BC	Before Christ
Comintern	Communist International
CPSU	The Communist Party of the Soviet Union
ESP	English for Specific Purposes
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GIA	Global Iranian Association
HPL	History of Persian literature
IRPHE	The Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education
ISNA	Iranian Students' News Agency
IZhVYa	Institute of Living Oriental Languages (Institut Zhyvykh Vostochnykh Yazykov)
KSA	Knowledge, Skills, Abilities
KUTV	Communist University of the Toilers of the East (Kommunisticheskiy Universitet Trudyashchikhsia Vostoka)
LIFLI	Leningrad Philosophical, Linguistic and Historical Institute (Leningradkiy Institut Filosofii, Lingvistiki i Istorii)
LILI	Leningrad Historical and Linguistic Institute (Leningradkiy Istoriko-Lingvisticheskiy Institut)
LIZhVYa	Leningrad Institute of Living Oriental Languages
LSP	Language for Specific Purposes
LVI	Leningrad [A.S. Yenukidze] Oriental Institute (Leningradskiy Vostochny Institut)
MGIMO	Moscow State Institute of International Relations (Moskovskiy Gosudarstvenny Institut Mezhdunarodnykh Otnosheniy)
MIV	Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies (Moskovskiy Institut Vostokovedeniya)
NYU	New York University
PIZhVYa	Petrograd Institute of Living Oriental Languages (Petrogradskiy Institut Zhyvykh Vostochnykh Yazykov)
PL	Persian Literature
PSP	Persian for Specific Purposes
RSFSR	Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic

SAMT	The Organization for Researching and Composing University Textbooks in the Islamic Sciences and the Humanities
SH	Solar Hijri
Tajik SSR	Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic
TsIZhVYa	Central Institute of Living Oriental Languages (Tsentralny Institut Zhyvykh Vostochnykh Yazykov)
UNC	University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USSR	The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
UT	University of Texas, Austin
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II

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