

Shahnama Millennium Conference

Firdausi: The Next Thousand Years

Clare College, Cambridge 13-15 December 2010

Monday 13 December

9.00 Registration

9:45 Introductory remarks: **Charles Melville**

10.00 – 11.00 Keynote address:

10.00 – 10.45 Horses for courses: Kinds of hero and kinds of narrative in the *Shahnama* – **Dick Davis**

10.45 – 11.00 Discussion

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee

11.20 – 12.40 First panel: The early 14th-century manuscripts

11.20 – 11.50 The case of the Second Small *Shahnama* – **Farhad Mehran**

11.50 – 12.20 The Zal cycle in early *Shahnamas* – **Robert Hillenbrand**

12.20 – 12.40 Discussion led by **Djalal Khaleghi-Motlagh (to be confirmed)**

12.45 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 4.00 Second panel: The *Shahnama* and the Ottomans

2.00 – 2.30 A unique illustrated manuscript: The Mamluk *Shahnama* – **Zeynep Celik**

2.30 – 3.00 Persian verse *shahname*-style historical writing at the Ottoman court in the late 15th century: Firdausi and Malik Umri's *Shahnama* – **Sara Yıldız Nur**

3.00 – 3.30 The afterlife of a royal gift: the Ottoman inserts of the *Shahnama-yi Shahi* – **Ünver Rüstem**

3.30 – 4.00 Discussion led by **Andrew Peacock**

4.00 – 4.30 Tea

4.30 – 5.50 Third panel: pre-Islamic echoes

4.30 – 5.00 The mythological image of the cat: Babr-e bayan in the *Shahnama* and some parallels – **Victoria Kryukova**

5.00 – 5.30 Moses in the *Shahnama* – **François de Blois**

5.30 – 5.50 Discussion led by **Almut Hintze**

6.00 – 7.00 Reception (venue to be confirmed)

7.30 Conference dinner Pembroke College

Tuesday 14 December

9.30 – 11.00 Fourth panel: Literary themes 1

- 9.30 – 10.00 The Persian epic cycle and the *Shahnama* of Firdausi – preliminary results and future prospects – **Gabrielle van den Berg**
- 10.00 – 10.30 Zal the Perfect Man in the *Shahnama* – **Shokoufeh Taghi**
- 10.30 – 10.50 Discussion led by **Christine van Ruymbeke**

10.50 – 11.15 Coffee

11.15 – 12.40 Fifth panel: Literary themes 2

- 11.15 – 11.45 *Firdausi's Shahnama and 'Attar's Masnavi Poetry* – **Leyla Lahuti**
- 11.45 – 12.15 Visit of a mysterious friend: a classical poetic topos and its roots in the *Shahnama* – **Natalia Chalisova**
- 12.15 – 12.35 Discussion led by **Firuza Abdullaeva**

12.40 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.20 Sixth panel: Literary themes 3

- 2.00 – 2.30 Models of gift-exchange and the privileging of Siyavush as a culture hero of Iranian civilization in the poetics of the *Shahnama* of Firdausi – **Olga M. Davidson**
- 2.30 – 3.00 Siyavush in contemporary Iranian drama and cinema – **S. Talajooy**
- 3.00 – 3.20 Discussion led by **Dick Davis**
- 3.30 – 5.00 **Visit to Fitzwilliam Museum Shahnameh Exhibition**

Dinner in Clare College

Shahnama-khwani (to be confirmed)

Wednesday 15 December

9.00 – 11.00 Seventh panel: The *Shahnama* in India

- 9.00 – 9.30 The Shiraz connection: New pictorial evidence of Timurid manuscripts travelling to Sultanate India – **Emily Shovelton**
- 9.30 – 10.00 In search of heroism: Rustam and Sultan Muhammad Shahshuja' Bahadur, Prince of Bengal – **Saqib Baburi**
- 10.00 – 10.30 A unique episode from the *Karnamag i Ardashir i Pabagan* in a 19th-century illustrated Indian manuscript of the *Shahnama* – **Nasrin Askari**
- 10.30 – 11.00 Discussion led by **Charles Melville**

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee

11.30 – 12.50 Eighth panel: The reception of the *Shahnama* in Iran and the Caucasus

- 11.30 – 12.00 The *Shahnama* legacy in a late 15th-century illustrated copy of Ibn Husam's *Khavarannama* at the Gulistan Palace Library in Tehran, Ms. 5750 – **Raya Shani**
- 12.00 – 12.30 The *Shahnama* in Georgian cultural tradition – **Irina Koshoridze**
- 12.30 – 12.50 Discussion led by **Gabrielle van den Berg**

12.50 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 – 3.20 Ninth panel: The *Shahnama* and history 1

- 2.00 – 2.30 Sekandar and the Idea of Iran – **Daniel L. Selden**
- 2.30 – 3.00 History, story and discourse: The narrations of the reigns of the last Kayanid kings – **Saghi Gazerani**
- 3.00 – 3.20 Discussion led by **François de Blois**

3.20 – 3.40 Tea

3.40 – 5.00 Tenth panel: The *Shahnama* and history 2

- 3.40 – 4.10 The present meaning of the past: The *Shahnama* and Islamic historiography compared – **A.C.S. Peacock**
- 4.10 – 4.40 Rashid al-Din and the *Shahnama* – **Charles Melville**
- 4.40 – 5.00 Discussion led by **Robert Hillenbrand**
- 5.00 – 5.15 Closing remarks