

SUMMARIES

Bert G. Fragner: Bread, hunger, and democracy. Hamadan in 1906

Late in 1906, the demand for a constitution in the empire of Qajar Iran had to be met. The socio-economy of the country by that time may be studied paradigmatically from the straitened conditions in provincial centers such as the town of Hamadan. Here and elsewhere, ruthless speculators used to sell stocked wheat - bread being the basic food for the Iranian masses, not rice, as is wrongly assumed by many western travellers - at increased prices, to the Tsarist army for instance, and cared little about the alimentation of the poor and needy. Professor Fragner in this article traces the unusual activities of the governor of Hamadan, Zahiro d-Douleh, an enlightened intellectual, aesthete, mystic leader and social reformer in one person. This remarkable man took innovative measures in the local administration. He created the "Committee for Public Welfare" for the benefit of the oppressed people of Hamadan. With excitement one reads how Zahiro d-Douleh managed to eliminate his greedy opponents, the "six khans", by using, among other means, the then modern telegraphic facilities in his diplomatic communications with the imperial court in Teheran. Zahiro d-Douleh's activities may be regarded as a direct prelude to the introduction of the first constitution in Iran.

Manutschehr Amirpur, Persian Anthology (Persische Chrestomathie) - Part 4

An important aspiration of the editors of *Spektrum Iran* is to further the interest in, and the knowledge of, the Persian language. To serve this aim, a series of mainly contemporary Persian literary texts, all of them suited for more or less advanced students of Persian, has been chosen for publication. The present 4th part is a story named "The Lost One at the Seashore" by the well-known playwright and novelist Gholam Hosein Sā'edi (1935-1985).

Interview with Professor Annemarie Schimmel

Professor A. Schimmel, who need not be introduced to lovers of Iranian arts and literature, here talks about her early career, the peculiarities of oriental studies in Germany between the two world wars, about her impressions in various countries both eastern and western, recent trends in oriental studies, as well as about the importance and the prospects of a dialogue between the Islamic and the western civilizations.