

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Since the inception of Iranian Studies three years ago, one of our primary objectives has been to present the work of Iranian scholars on the various facets of Persian studies. Perhaps in no other area of scholarship has the contribution of Persian researchers been more prodigious and significant than in the field of Islamic philosophy and culture. Ironically, however, this is an area in which their work has received only scant recognition in the West. It is thus a great and timely privilege for our journal to be able to present an outstanding example of this scholarship in its current issue.

Professor Abdol-Hosein Zarrinkoob, one of Iran's foremost historians and literary critics, is currently on the Faculties of Theology and Letters of Tehran University. His prolific publications include Tarīkh-i Iran ba'ad az Islam (History of Iran after Islam), Du Qarn Sukūt (Two Centuries of Silence), Bā Karāvan-i Hullah (With a Caravan of Silk), Nagd-i Adabī (Literary Criticism), Arzish-i Mirāth-i Sūfiyyah (An Evaluation of the Legacy of Sufism), Shi'r-i bī Durūgh, Shi'r-i bī Niqāb (Poetry without Falsehood, Poetry without Mask), and most recently, Az Kūchah-i Rindān (From the Street of the Debauched). The present essay, "Persian Sufism in its Historical Perspective," is based on a series of lectures delivered by Professor Zarrinkoob at Princeton and the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1969-1970.

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