

From the Editor

The special issue of the journal that you have in hand focuses on religion and society in Islamic Iran during the pre-modern era. In spite of a long tradition of scholarship on religion of Islamic Iran, much remains to be examined in greater depth in the areas of formative religious trends and movements, Sufism, and evolution of Twelver Shi'ism. In addition to studying intellectual issues on their own merit, it is also important to explore questions of religion in their appropriate historical and political contexts and in their relation to sources of temporal authority.

This collection of articles, which addresses some of these questions, originated with a panel organized by Said Arjomand for the first Biennial Conference of the Society for Iranian Studies, held in Washington, D.C., in May, 1993. Dr. Arjomand kindly agreed to prepare a special issue based on the papers presented. To this we added several new submissions on related themes. I am indebted to him for all his efforts to bring this issue to fruition. My thanks are also due to Amin Neshati for his thorough editing of this issue.

Readers may note two new features in the present issue of *Iranian Studies*: the finer quality of the print and the laminated cover. Using a new process to achieve higher print resolution, we are now able to present the journal in a type easier on the eye, while the laminated cover ensures greater durability.

Abbas Amanat
Editor