

an accurate and comparative translation; furthermore it should be quite devoid of explanations and commentaries and they could be added in the footnotes.

Dr. Naser Kan'ani, the lecturer at the Technical University of Berlin, made his speech in the sixty first meeting of the Research Center for Written Heritage held on Monday 12 Nov 2007. The topic of this meeting was "Making electric cell in Arsacide dynasty, ten-year performance of the Mirror of Heritage (Ayene-ye Miras) and three special volumes of history of science". To explain this, Dr. Irani presented a report of the ten-year performance of this magazine. He pointed out that at the beginning of his work, Mirror of Heritage was allocated to publishing scientific works, the news and information about the Center and published books but later on it was decided that Mirror of Heritage be allotted to only the scientific news. That is why we decided to publish Heritage Report a separate journal to cover the news about the internal activities. We have tried to include some scientific news in this journal, too. He explained: intellectual's interest in our journal forced us to publish extras and specials along with the Mirror of Heritage quarterly to look into more specialized subjects. Three issues on History of Science are the result of that interest and our reflection. At the end, he expressed his condolences to the editor-in-chief, Mr. Jamshid Kianfar for the death of his son, he asserted that the two latest issues of the magazine have been dedicated to him and his late child.

After Dr. Irani's talk, Dr. Kan'ani presented his lecture, which had been analyzed in an article by him in the twentieth issue of Mirror of Heritage.

He referred to finding the remnants of an electric cell in Arsacide dynasty in Tisfun ruins and described its structure and provided some details about it. After him, Dr. Jafar Aghayani Chavoshi – who has been the issue editor of History of Science- started his speech. Pointing out the fact that Dr. Irani suggested him to publish special issues, he emphasized that studying the history of science in Iran is not sufficient and satisfactory yet; however publishing journal will definitely help the science to be spread among researchers.

Mr. Jamshid Kianfar was the last speaker of the meeting. After reminding that this meeting coincided with the birthday of his deceased son, *Mazdak Kianfar*, he mentioned some points about the formation of Mirror of Heritage quarterly and the changes it has undergone. He elaborated on the process through which the articles are selected and talked about the future activities of the quarterly. At the end he stated: "we are going to publish articles in Mirror of Heritage in other languages like special issues of History of Science".

### Report

The report section in this issue is devoted to two subjects. One is a report concerning the Fourth Festival of Book Critic and the other is about running the second seminar for Abdol-baghi Gulpinari.

The former has dealt with a description of the way this festival had been held and mentioning the names of those chosen in the Fourth Festival of Book Critic. This festival is held by Iran Book House every year and is devoted to assessing and choosing the best published critics of books. It was held with the presence of Dr. Mohsen Parviz –Undersecretary of Culture and Islamic Guidance



“Database and digital library of lithographic books” has introduced the activities which Bayaz Institute is engaged in. This Iranian institute is working on digitizing and cataloguing the lithographic printing books and has taken digital photographs of around twenty thousands books so far. The books are classified into eighty different subjects and are provided for researchers with a high quality.

“Translation of *Quran* based on the ancient manuscripts” is the subject of the sixtieth meeting from the series conducted by the Research Centre for the Written Heritage which was held on 29th sep, 2007. Dr. Ali Ravaghi and Dr. Abolghasem Emami attended there as lecturers.

At the beginning of the meeting Dr. Irani introduced some issues regarding *Quran's* translation from Arabic to other languages and mentioned that in order to know about *Quran's* old translations in the third and fourth century AH, it is necessary to have knowledge of the language variations and knowing the language variation requires that we consult the accurate translations in old copies of *Quran*. Pointing to the aforementioned issue, he stated that the first book published by the Research Centre for the Written Heritage entitled part of an old commentary in Persian contains an old Persian translation which dates back to the fourth century AH.

Dr. Ali Ravaghi was the next lecturer. He spoke about translations of *Quran* from the most ancient times, up to the present. He said that the translation of Tabari commentary (*Tafsir-e-Tabari*) is the first official translation of *Quran* to Persian. He added that there might have been

other translations before Tabari commentary (*Tafsire-Tabari*) but this one was the only translation authorized by the government. Referring to the translations in *Taj al-tarajem*, Sour abadi commentary (Tafsire Sourabadi) and Rawzo Al-jinan commentary (*Tafsire Rawz Al-Jinan*), he pointed to the differences and variations observed in them and mentioned that each translation is independent of others; therefore it is not acceptable to mix them. At the end of his lecture he emphasized the necessity for compiling a lexicon of old Persian words used in these translations.

After Dr Ravaghi, Dr. Emami put forward his views. In the first part of his speech he expressed that the existence of different dialects and words from other languages in *Quran* has made some people think that God has brought words from different languages to *Quran*; however considering the circumstances under which *Quran* has been descended, we could perceive that the foreign words seen in the language of *Quran* are the constituent elements of a live language called Arabic.

Continuing his lecture, he questioned the necessity of new translations of *Quran* while hundreds of translations have been made throughout history. As he was answering the question, he began to analyze the structure of some old translations. He stated that many of them are literal translations- an exact Persian equivalent has been used for each Arabic word- thus not enough attention has been given to the Persian language structure.

He highlighted the necessity for working on an authentic translation and added that it should be

# Abstracts

“The Pathology of Printing and Ancient Manuscripts (14)” subtitled “The study of manuscripts: the basis of cultural engineering” is another subject that has occupied its own place in the editorial section Heritage Report. Like the previous issues, this one has dealt with the existing difficulties of studying and editing manuscripts and has discussed the damage inflicted with the cultural structure of society due to lack of attention to the cultural engineering.

Among other things it has mentioned the observed deficiencies in the emended manuscripts. It has also pointed out that the Research Centre for the Written Heritage will do a review of its published works as well as those of others besides carefully examining the books and their printing. It has actually allocated a section of Heritage Report for this.

Further more it has highlighted the measures taken by The Research Centre for the Written Heritage to keep the public fully informed about the edited manuscripts. *Bibliography of printed manuscripts in Iran from beginning to now* and also constructing an internet website are samples of these measures.

“Esm-e ‘Alam Proper noun” written by Ali Safari Agh-Ghaleh is the title of an article which examines the term proper noun in Persian literary texts. “An older handwritten copy than the oldest translation of *Nahj al-Balagha*” is another article by the same author about finding an old manuscript of the Persian translation of *Nahj al-Balagha* in Vaziri Library of Yazd. However, Dr.

Azizollah Joveini has published this translation based on a copy which dates back to 973 AH, several years ago. The handwritten copy, presented in this article has been written in 882 AH; therefore it is the oldest manuscript of the Persian translation of *Nahj al-Balagha* ever known.

Codicology and Cataloguing Workshop” includes the first part of the text extracted from the series of lectures on manuscripts studies and cataloguing held by A. Anvar in the Research Centre for the Written Heritage in 1385.

“A Report of the stylistics and typology Workshop” is the text extracted from the lectures on Persian Stylistics and Typology by Dr. Ali Ravaghi. “A Report of the Linguistics Workshop” includes the lectures on linguistics by Dr. Ali-Ashraf Sadeghi. It is worth mentioning that these classes were simultaneous with those about manuscripts studies dealing with the application of “Stylistics and Typology” and also “Linguistics” in editing manuscripts.

“Understanding Alaviism (leaning toward Alavi) and Baktashism (leaning toward Baktashi) in the cultural world of Turks” is the subject of the second international conference on understanding the approach adopted by Haj Baktash Ali Neyshabouri held in Turkey. A report of this conference has been published in this issue of the Heritage Report. Mr. Abolhassan Khalaj-Monfared Iranian representative, attended the conference and presented his paper entitled “Verses, narrations and Persian poetry in Haj Baktash Ali’s collection of written works”.

