

NEWS OF ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

The Afghanistan Council of the Asia Society

The Afghanistan Council of the Asia Society is one of 16 councils which form the Country Councils Program of the Asia Society. Afghanistan and Iran are the westernmost countries with which the Asia Society (112 East 64th St., N.Y. 10021) is currently concerned.

Formed in 1963, the Council is made up of scholars and other experts on Afghanistan who coordinate the activities of the Council. The original members included, among others, Richard Ettinghausen, Donald Wilber, Rosanne Klaus, Leon Poullade and Mary Watkins. Among the first activities of the Council was the initiation of a traveling fine arts exhibition of pre-Islamic objects from the Kabul Museum in 1966. Since then the Council has enlarged its responsibilities to include several approaches to its basic goal: the expansion of knowledge about Afghanistan by creating opportunities for scholars and experts to communicate with each other and the lay public. The chief function of the Council remains the organization of public programs, open to the members of the Society and friends, at which researchers on Afghan social, economic, political and cultural topics speak.

The Council sponsors about five or six programs each year at Asia Society and an equal number at its branch in Boston. In addition to programs devoted exclusively to Afghanistan, the Council encourages panels and other programs which place Afghanistan in its three regional contexts: the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia. The Council encourages use of audio-visual means of supplementing presentations and a healthy atmosphere exists for exchange of information. Audiences range from 35 to 40 for esoteric topics, to 150 or more for programs of a more popular nature. The Boston area series of programs, begun in 1977, are held in joint sponsorship with an existing academic body, such as the Committee on Inner Asian and Altaic Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (both at Harvard University), and at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Among programs sponsored at New York and Boston during the past year have been lectures on Afghan Textiles, Buzkashi, Nuristani Tribes, Recent Political Events, New Archeological Finds, Central Asian Immigrants to Afghanistan, The American Role in Afghanistan, Ethnic Factors in Afghan Politics, and so forth. Participants have included Deborah Klimberg-Salter, Philip Kohl, Audrey Shalinsky, Whitney Azoy, Arlene Lieberman, Theodore Eliot, Jr., Stephen Solter and Louis Dupree.

Reaching international and national audiences are the publications of the Afghanistan Council, begun in 1969 with a modest Newsletter. Today the publication program includes a quarterly Newsletter and two series of monographs, all produced with an eye toward thrift, speed and quality. Currently there are over 300 institutional and private subscribers to the publication series. The annual rate is \$10.00 in the U.S. and Canada and \$12.00 overseas. Back issues of the Occasional and Special Papers are available at \$4.00. Together with the *Afghanistan Journal* (Graz, Austria), this publication series represents the only scholarly serial devoted solely to Afghan studies outside that country. Included in the Afghanistan Council Newsletter are news about Afghan scholarly activities, reproductions of articles about Afghanistan from the world press (in English), selected reproductions

of *Kabul Times* articles; brief, original, timely articles; and book notices and reviews. A number of the Occasional and Special Papers are based on lectures presented at Asia Society or in Boston. Below is a list of such papers issued thus far:

Occasional Papers

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| L.B. Poullada | 1970: The Pushtun Role in the Afghan Political System |
| C.L. Jung | 1970: Some Observations on the Patterns and Processes of Rural-Urban Migrations to Kabul. |
| R. Canfield | 1971: Hazara Integration into the Afghan Nation. |
| M.H. Kakar | 1973: The Pacification of the Hazaras of Afghanistan |
| R.L. Kaiser | 1973: Genealogical Beliefs and Social Structure Among the Sum of Afghanistan |
| M.J. Hanifi | 1974: The Central Asian City and its Role in Cultural Transformation [out of print] |
| M.A. Miran | 1974: Some Linguistic Difficulties Facing Dari Speakers Learning Pashto |
| Carol A. Sigel | 1974: A Cultural Analysis of Afghan Folk Tale Themes [out of print] |
| Anne Sweetser | 1975: Family Formation Attitudes Among High School Girls in Kabul |
| D.N. Marshall
(C.J. Brunner, Ed.) | 1976: The Afghans in India Under the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire |
| M.A. Miran | 1977: The Functions of National Languages in Afghanistan |
| M. Noorzoy et al. | 1977: An Analysis of Several Recent Afghan Laws. |
| G.B. Kerr | 1977: Demographic Research in Afghanistan |
| Margaret Mills | 1978: Cupid and Psyche in Afghanistan |
| J.W. Anderson and
R.F. Strand, Eds. | 1978: Ethnic Processes and Intergroup Relations in Contemporary Afghanistan |
| A.G. Constable | 1978: An 1879 Lecture on Afghanistan (C.J. Brunner, Ed.) |
| K.E. Seraj and
Nancy H. Dupree | 1979: The KES Collection of Vintage Photographs |

Special Papers

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| E. Naby et al. | 1973: Bibliography |
| Nancy H. Dupree | 1975: Kabul City |
| Afghanistan Council | 1975: New Laws |
| Annemarie Schimmel | 1975: Sufi Literature |
| L. Dupree | 1976: The New Republic of Afghanistan |
| Afghan.Council | 1977: The Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan |
| D. Chaffetz | 1979: Afghanistan, Russia's Vietnam? |

Those who wish to subscribe to the publication series may write to: Mary Ann Siegfried, Asia Society, 112 East 64th St., New York, N.Y. 10021. Notices of lectures are mailed to members of the Asia Society chiefly, but some exceptions are made for those with special interest in Afghan studies (again, inquiries should be addressed to Ms. Siegfried). Scholars and experts on Afghanistan, who plan to be on the East Coast, are urged to contact the Council well in advance if they are considering making a presentation. Very modest honoraria

are available, as are expenses or the equivalent when appropriate.

*Eden Naby, Co-Chairman
Afghanistan Council*

The Library of Congress Office in Cairo

Since 1962 the Library of Congress, through its Overseas Operations Division, has administered a group of programs to procure hard-to-get publications in various countries around the world. Known officially as Special Foreign Acquisitions Programs but more commonly called PL-480 programs, they represent an unconventional approach to obtaining library materials in countries where the book trade is not well organized or geared for export. These programs are designed not only to bring material to the Library of Congress, but also to distribute publications to a group of American research libraries in support of their area studies interests.

The idea for these overseas activities arose in the 1950s at a time of widespread dissatisfaction with the paucity of non-European research material in American library collections. A group of scholars suggested that foreign currencies, which had accrued to the U.S. government under Public Law 83-480 from the sale of agricultural commodities to developing countries, might be used to purchase books, journals and newspapers. The Special Foreign Acquisitions Program in Cairo was among the first to be established using local funds excess to the other needs of the U.S. government. The Cairo office is administered by an American field director and operates with a staff of local personnel.

Since the late 1960s, as excess foreign currencies diminished, programs in some countries have terminated. In other countries cooperative collecting efforts have been arranged under the Library's National Program for Acquisitions and Cataloging. NPAC offices acquire current materials of research value in order to disseminate cataloging data to libraries rapidly. This year excess Egyptian currency no longer being available to the Library of Congress, Cairo operations