FROM TIMUR TO NADIR SHAH: CONNECTING IRAN, INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

The Nihon Room
Pembroke College, Cambridge 15-17 December 2014

Conference Programme

Sunday 14 December
first arrivals

Monday 15 December

9.45-10.45 coffee and registrations

10.45 Introduction

11.00 – 12.30 First session: Historical contexts, imperial encounters

Michele Bernardini: The Ghazavat-i Hind: a narrative of Timur’s Delhi expedition
Blain Auer: ‘The Cursed Mughal’: Encountering Timur in the history writing of Delhi
Barbara Brend: India recalled—the pavilion or tomb of Nadir Shah Afshar (d. 1747) at Kalat-i Nadiri

Lunch

1.45 – 3.30 Second session: literary encounters

Paul Losensky: Shapur Tehrani, his kith and kin: The pathways and affiliations of an Iranian family in India
Sunil Sharma: Qandahar between the Safavids and Mughals: Representations in Poetry and Painting
Christine van Ruymbke: The Kalila-Dimna: tossed back and forth between Iran and India

Tea break

4.00 – 5.45 Third session: arts of the book

Barbara Brend: The legacy of Persian painting of the fourteenth century in painting for Akbar
Karin Ruehrdanz: The Timurid legacy as a patchwork: The practicality of refurbishing luxury manuscripts
Laura Parodi: Shah Abu’l-Ma‘ali, Mir Sayyid ‘Ali and the Sayyids of Termez: two portraits question Akbari historiography

6.15 Buffet supper Pembroke dining Hall
**Tuesday 16 December**

9.00 – 10.45 Fourth session: Political elites

- **Liesbeth Geevers**: A collateral line on the crossroads: the Bahrami Safavids between the Safavids, Uzbeks and Mughals (1518-1712)
- **Jos Gommans**: The legacy of the Eurasian warband in Mughal India
- **Roy Fischel**: Foreigners in Ahmadnagar: Migrating elites and the fortunes of the state in sixteenth-century Maharashtra

**Break**

11.15 – 1.00 Visit to Fitzwilliam Museum study room: prints and drawings (restricted numbers: priority to speakers)

**Lunch**

2.30 – 4.00 Fifth session: arts of the book

- **Firuza Abdullaeva**: The Fitzwilliam Album revisited
- **Rachel Parikh**: All that glitters: Persian symbols of power in Mughal jewelry

**Break**

4.30 – 6.00 Sixth session: literature: linguistic pluralism

- **Benedek Peri**: Bayram Khan’s Persian and Chaghatay ghazals
- **Ryan Perkins**: The Persianization of the vernaculars: Competing literatures in seventeenth and eighteenth-century India
- **Arthur Dudney**: Iran in Indian lexicographers’ eyes

6.30  Reception hosted by The Ancient India & Iran Trust and the Shahnama Centre

8.00  Conference Dinner Pembroke College Old Library

**Wednesday 17 December**

9.00 – 10.45 Seventh session: historiographical literature

- **Sholeh Quinn**: Exploring historiographical boundaries: Early Safavid and Mughal universal chronicles
- **Ali Anooshahr**: Khurshah b. Qubad Husayni’s history of the Mughals and the Safavids
- **Charles Melville**: Vali Muhammad Khan and Shah ‘Abbas: an episode in Safavid-Uzbek relations

**Break**
11.15 – 1.00 Eighth session: Intellectual currents

**Peyvand Firouzeh**: Patronage of the Dead, Patronage of the Living: Sufis and Sultans in fifteenth-century Iran and India

**Keelan Overton**: Between Safavid Iran and ‘Adil Shahi Bijapur: Translocal patterns of Persian intellectualism, circulation and artistic production

**Corinne Lefèvre**: Messianism, rationalism and inter-Asian connections: the Mughals and their theologians (c. 1610)

**Closing remarks and Lunch**