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Herminio Fernández
Igor Pérez Tostado
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Links

Scientific Group CCHS-CSIC: <http://www.northeuropeinspain.es/?cat=8>
Seminario de Iranología (UA): <http://blogs.ua.es/xahor/>
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The Spanish Monarchy and Safavid Persia in the early Modern period: Politics, War and Religion

Madrid, 7th November 2013



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Seminar organized by

Research International Group of Instituto de Historia (CSIC), Departamento de Historia Moderna y Contemporánea, "Groups of Power: North European Immigrants into the Spanish Monarchy in the early Modern Period. Communities and individuals. Integration and diversity". HAR 2012-36884-C02-01 and with the Support of Soudavar Memorial Foundation

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Recent scholarship has transformed our understanding of the relationship between the Spanish Monarchy and the Safavid Persian Empire in the sixteenth- and seventeenth-centuries. Around twenty years ago historians began to explore diplomatic links between "the Sophi", as the leading representative of Shi'a Islam, and "His Catholic Majesty", the title commonly used by the Habsburg Kings of Spain. The foundations of this relationship were set down during the reign of Shah Abbas I (1587-1629). This diplomatic alliance was of considerable strategic importance, being conceived of as part of a coherent military and economic policy directed against the common enemy of both regimes - the Ottoman Empire, representative of Sunni Islam. In recent years academic studies have greatly improved our understanding of the diplomatic relations between the two "superpowers". Scholars have delved into a number of related themes, looking at the social status of immigrants from Persia to Spain and examining in depth their integration into Castilian life. These studies have brought to life patterns of employment, networks of correspondence and lines of literary collaboration that spanned frontiers, and so have underlined the contribution of Persian immigrant communities to the intellectual and cultural life of Spain. These groups left a deep and enduring legacy, establishing lines of communication, interchange and dialogue that endured throughout the early modern period. The aim of this seminar is to extend the frontiers of knowledge, examining a number of crucial aspects of the relationship between the Spanish Monarchy and Safavid Persia in the early modern period. Particular emphasis will be placed on topics or themes that require innovative approaches and methodologies.

PROGRAMA

9.00. Opening and welcome

Teniente General Alfonso de la Rosa, Director del CESEDEN
Chelo Naranjo, Directora del CCHS (CSIC).
Enrique García Hernán, IH, CCHS (CSIC)

9.30. Chair. Herminio Fernández (CEHISMI)

Eduardo Javier Alonso Romo (University of Salamanca), "Gaspar Barzeo y la misión jesuita de Ormuz".

Miguel Angel de Bunes (CSIC), "The Sherley's involvement in the Army of Naples".

Oscar Ruiz Fernández, (University of Bucharest-UTCB), "An uncommon affair? The Ormuz conflict from the perspective of the Spanish Embassy in London".

Luis Gil (Complutense University of Madrid), "El informe del Obispo de Meliapor a Felipe III sobre cosas de Persia (11-XII-1606)".

Alasdair Watson (Bodleian Library), "Love and Devotion in Persian Literature"

11.30. Coffee Break

12.00. Chair. Rudi Matthee

Beatriz Alonso Acero (CEHISMI, Spain), "Persians in the capital: community, integration and confessional identity in Madrid, 1500-1700".

Phillip Williams (CEHISMI, Spain), "Lords of all the Muslims? Christian perspectives on the Safavid-Ottoman conflict and their rival claims to leadership of the Muslim community".

José Cutillas Ferrer (University of Alicante), "Alliances, intrigue, and a letter describing the Sofi's Counsel".

Federico Palomo (Complutense University of Madrid), "Persia y la construcción de la memoria misionera entre los agustinos portugueses (siglos XVI-XVIII)".

14.00. Lunch.

15.30 Chair. Enrique García Hernán

Chakib Benafri (University of Argel), "Los manuscritos persas en la Biblioteca Nacional de Argel".

Babak Rahimi (University of St Diego), "Narrating the Safavid Culture and Religion: The Travel Account of García de Silva y Figueroa".

Rui Manuel Loureiro (Lisbon University), "The history of Tamerlane in Don García de Silva y Figueroa's Comentarios (1624)".

Dolores Perpiñán (University of Alicante), "Royal Protocol in Safavid Persia through Don García de Silva y Figueroa's Work".

Pablo Hernández Sau (University Pablo de Olavide), "Embajadas turcas y persas en la corte española: un espacio alternativo de confrontación otomano-safavi".

18.00. Closing remarks

Rudi Matthee (University of Delaware), "The Decline of Safavid Iran: A Comparative Perspective".