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- 32 HILLENBRAND, Carole. Ann K.S. Lambton, 1912-2008. *Iran (Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies)*, 47 (2009) pp.vii-x. [Persian studies.]
- 33 YAPP, M.E. In memoriam: Professor Ann Lambton (1912-2008). *Middle Eastern Studies*, 45 i (2009) pp.161-163.

Lambton AUS
(note)

Ann K.S. Lambton (1912–2008) and Persian Studies¹

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The last occasion on which I addressed the Society, in 2000, was, like today's, a memorial lecture: to honour the memory of Professor Charles Beckingham. I spoke then about a subject that combined Professor Beckingham's interests with my own: Ibn Battuta and the Mongols.² As it happens, I have already done something similar for Professor Lambton: a 90th birthday lecture to the British Institute of Persian Studies, in 2002, when my subject was a reappraisal of the Mongol period in Iran.³ This was given in the presence of the honorand: a slightly daunting experience; and those who knew her will not be surprised to learn that she was by no means uncritical, if not necessarily of what I said, then certainly of my delivery of it. So I decided that today I would talk about Professor Lambton herself, and attempt to discuss and evaluate her contribution to the field of study which she adorned for so long.

I am not entirely certain what it was that pointed the young Ann Lambton in the direction of Persia (a term she preferred to the now more academically and politically respectable "Iran"). In her early career, her two most significant mentors were Sir Hamilton Gibb (1895–1971), who was Professor of Arabic at SOAS in the 1930s, and Sir Reader Bullard (1885–1976), the British Minister and later Ambassador to Iran, for whom she worked as Press Attachée in Tehran during the Second World War. Neither of these great men had much time for Persia or the Persians; so the explanation is not to be found with them; and in any case she had already committed herself to the study of Persian before she encountered them. I first learned about her from an interview published in *The Guardian* in the late 1960s, when I was beginning to contemplate undertaking PhD work on Persia in the Mongol period. I have long since lost my copy, but I do recall that she said that her interest at least in the Middle East more generally had been aroused by reading T.E. Lawrence's *Revolt in the Desert* (the abridged version of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* which preceded the publication of the first generally available edition of the full text in 1935), and Doughty's *Arabia Deserta*: though she added that she had since had some doubts about Lawrence of Arabia, and that she now thought Doughty's prose hideous.

The crucial figure is likely to have been Sir Denison Ross (1871–1940), founder and first Director of the School of Oriental (later: and African) Studies (SOS), and Professor of

¹The revised text of the Professor Ann Lambton Memorial Lecture, read to the Royal Asiatic Society on 15 October 2009.

²Published in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (JRAS)* Third Series, Vol. 11, No. 1 (April 2001), pp. 1–11.

³Published in *Iran*, Vol. 42 (2004), pp. 131–136.

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Caen. Since 1944 he taught at the Sorbonne. In 1954 he was elected to the Académie des inscriptions et belles lettres. His writings include *Delacroix et les femmes d'Alger* (1937), *Histoire d'un tableau, l'Abd er Rahman, sultan du Maroc* (1953), *L'Art musulman et l'art chrétien dans la Péninsule ibérique* (1958), and *L'Art musulman d'Occident des origines à la fin du XVe siècle* (1966). He died in Paris on 23 April 1961. *Al-Andalus*, 26 (1961), pp. 477-78; *Bioln*, 6; DBF; WhoFr, 1959/60

Lambert, Georges Édouard, born 29 November 1923 at Ancelle (Hautes-Alpes), France, he received a medical doctorate in 1959 from the Université de Strasbourg with a thesis entitled *Évaluation bioclimatologique d'un site d'industrialisation saharien*. He was associated with the Laboratoire de physiologie appliquée au travail at the Faculté de médecine de Strasbourg and the Centre d'études et d'information des problèmes humains dans les zones arides, later becoming an inspector of *médecine de travail* of the City of Strasbourg. His writings include *L'Adaption physiologique et psychologique de l'homme aux conditions de vie désertiques* (1968). Unesco

Lambert, Jacques Joseph Édouard Numa, born 26 August 1910 at Alger, he received a doctorate in law, and also his *agrégation* in 1941 from the Université de Paris. He was a barrister in the Cour d'Appel d'Alger, professor at the Université d'Alger, and a director of the Institut d'études juridiques at Constantine, Algeria. He was a joint author of *Symboles et rites de l'ancestralité et de l'immortalité; le vent, la pierre, l'eau et le feu dans les mythologies* (1999). Unesco; ZKO

Lambert, Mayer, born 23 December 1863 at Metz, France, he was educated at the Lycée de Metz, the Séminaire israélite de France, Paris, the Sorbonne, and the École des hautes études, Paris. He was from 1889 to 1916 a professor at the École normale orientale israélite and concurrently since 1902 a professor at the École pratique des hautes études. His writings include *Éléments de grammaire hébraïque* (Paris, 1890), and he edited and translated *Commentaire sur le Séfer Yesira, ou Livre de la création* (1891). *Version arabe du Pentateuque de R. Saadia Ben Iosef al-Fayyûmî, revuë, corrigé et accompagné de notes hébraïques avec quelques fragments de traduction française d'après l'arabe par J. Derenbourg* (1893), and *Version arabe des Proverbes* (1894). He died in 1930. Kürschner; *Qui êtes-vous*, 1924

Lambert, Paul, born early 19th cent., he was a French trader who spent the years from 1863 to 1868 in Marrakesh, Morocco. Henze

Lambert, Paul, born in 1875, he was the author of *Dictionnaire illustré de la Tunisie* (Tunis, 1912), and *Nos corps élus* (Tunis, 1913). NUC, pre-1956

Lambie, Thomas Alexander, born in 1885 at Pittsburgh, Pa., he was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania Medical College. He served as a medical missionary in the Sudan, Ethiopia, and Palestine. His writings include *A doctor without a country* (1939), *A doctor carries on* (1942), *Boot and saddle in Africa* (1943), *A bruised reed* (1952), *A doctor's great commission* (1954). He died in 'Ayn 'Arrub, Jordan, on 14 April 1954. NUC; Shavit

Lambiotte, O. Ellesworth, born at East Orange, N.J., he was in 1941 and in 1952 a director of the Banque belge et international en Égypte, and a member of the Société Fouad Ier d'économie politique, de statistique et de législation. WhoEgypt, 1955, 1959

Lambton, Ann Katherine Swynford, born 8 February 1912, she received a Ph.D. in 1939 from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, for *Contributions to the study of Seljuq institutions*. She had an affection for Persia and its people which ensured that, during her time as press attaché at the British Representative at Tehran, 1939-1945, the Persian point of view would never be overlooked. She subsequently taught Iranian subjects at the University of London until her retirement. She was a member of the British Academy. Her writings include *Three Persian dialects* (1938), *Landlord and peasant in Iran* (1953), *Persian grammar* (1953), *Islamic society in Persia* (1954), *Persian land reform* (1969), a collection of her articles, *Theory and practice in medieval Persian government* (1980), *State and government in medieval Islam* (1981), *Continuity and change in medieval Persia* (1988), and *Qajar Persia; eleven studies* (1988). DrBSMES, 1993; Sluglett; Who, 1969-2005

Lamec-Saad, J., born around the middle of the nineteenth century at al-'Abbadiyah, Lebanon, he obtained a Dr. med. degree in 1880 from the Universität Würzburg for his thesis *Die Catarrhe der weiblichen Sexualorgane* (1880). He spent thirty years in the Ottoman medical service. His writings include *Sechzehn Jahre als Quarantänearzt in der Türkei* (1913), and *Palästina-Erinnerungen; vierzehn Jahre Quarantänearzt in Jafa* (1929). Note about the author

Lami, Lucio, born in 1936, he was a journalist, editor, and war correspondent in the Third World, from Cambodia to Latin America. His writings include *Morire per Kabul; una lunga marcia afgana* (Milano, 1982), and *Giorno di guerra; un inviato nelle zone calde del mondo* (Milano, 1987). WhoItaly, 1992-1995]

WOLFGANG BEHN, CONCISE BIOGRAPHICAL COMPANION TO INDEX ISLAMICUS: AN INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO IN ISLAMIC STUDIES FROM ITS BEGINNINGS DOWN TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY : BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUPPLEMENT TO INDEX ISLAMICUS, 1665-1980, VOL. II(H-M), LEIDEN 2006.

NEWS OF MEM

Ann K. S. Lambton selected as new Honorary Member of MEM

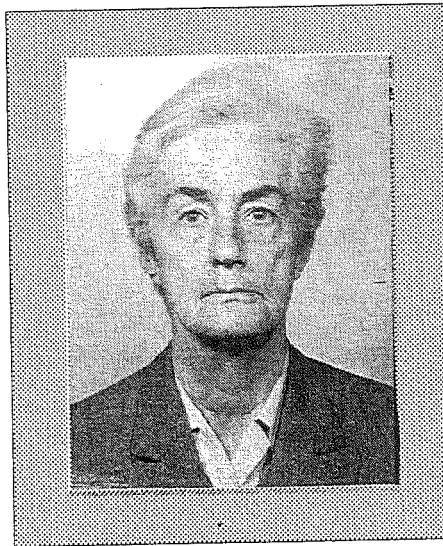
After careful consideration of many highly-qualified candidates, the Board of Directors of MEM has decided unanimously to extend Honorary Membership in MEM to Dr. Ann K. S. Lambton, O.B.E., D. Lit., F.B.A., Professor of Persian in the University of London (Emeritus) and Honorary Fellow of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Professor Lambton joins the other distinguished senior medievalists who have been selected for this honor. They are David Ayalon, Claude Cahen (d. 1991), Bernard Lewis, George Makdisi, and Franz Rosenthal. Honorary members are elected for life.

Professor Lambton is universally recognized as a leading figure in the field of Persian studies and is well-known for her many publications on the literature, history and society of Iran. Born on February 8, 1912, Dr. Lambton entered the School of Oriental Studies (later the School of Oriental and African Studies) at the University of London in 1930, from which she received a B.A. with Honours in Persian in 1935. She first visited Iran in the summer vacation of 1934; many visits would follow during periods of study leave and numerous other occasions. She continued her advanced study at the University of London, and in 1939 completed her Ph.D. thesis, entitled "Contributions to the Study of Seljuq Institutions."

During World War II, she served as Press Attaché at the British Legation (later the British Embassy) in Tehran. After the war, she was appointed Senior Lecturer in Persian at SOAS, becoming Reader in Persian in the University of London in 1948, and Professor of Persian by 1953. In the same year, Dr. Lambton received a D. Lit. from the University; and in this year also appeared her classic study *Landlord and Peasant in Persia*. A steady stream of publications on a wide variety of topics

relating to the history and culture of Iran appeared in subsequent years (see box below).

Professor Lambton was recognized for her important contributions to scholarship by being named a Fellow of the British Academy in 1964. She was awarded an honorary D.Lit by the University of Durham in 1971, and an honorary D.Litt. by the University of Cambridge in 1973.



She has contributed her expertise to the field of Islamic and Iranian studies by serving on the Editorial Advisory Board of the periodical *Middle Eastern Studies*, on the Executive Committee of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, and on the Board of Editors for *The Cambridge History of Islam* and volumes I and V of *The Cambridge History of Iran*.

It is with great enthusiasm that the board of directors welcomes Professor Ann Lambton to MEM, as a token of our gratitude and esteem for her outstanding contributions to scholarship.

Major Publications of Ann K. S. Lambton

Three Persian Dialects (London, 1938).

Landlord and Peasant in Persia (London, 1953). Reprinted 1969 and (by I. B. Taurus, with a new Preface) 1991.

Persian Grammar and Persian Vocabulary (Cambridge, 1953 & 1954).

The Persian Land Reform, 1962-1966 (Oxford, 1969).

"Aspects of Agricultural Organisation and Agrarian History in Persia," in B. Spuler (ed.), *Handbuch der Orientalistik* 1.6.6.1, *Wirtschaftsgeschichte des vorderen Orients in islamischer Zeit*, 1 (Leiden, 1977), pp. 160-187.

Theory and Practice in Medieval Persian Government (London, 1980). (A collection of twelve major articles that originally appeared between 1954 and 1974.)

State and Government in Medieval Islam: an introduction to the study of Islamic political theory: the jurists (Oxford, 1981).

Qajar Persia (London, 1987). (Eleven studies previously published, apart from one, in various periodicals.)

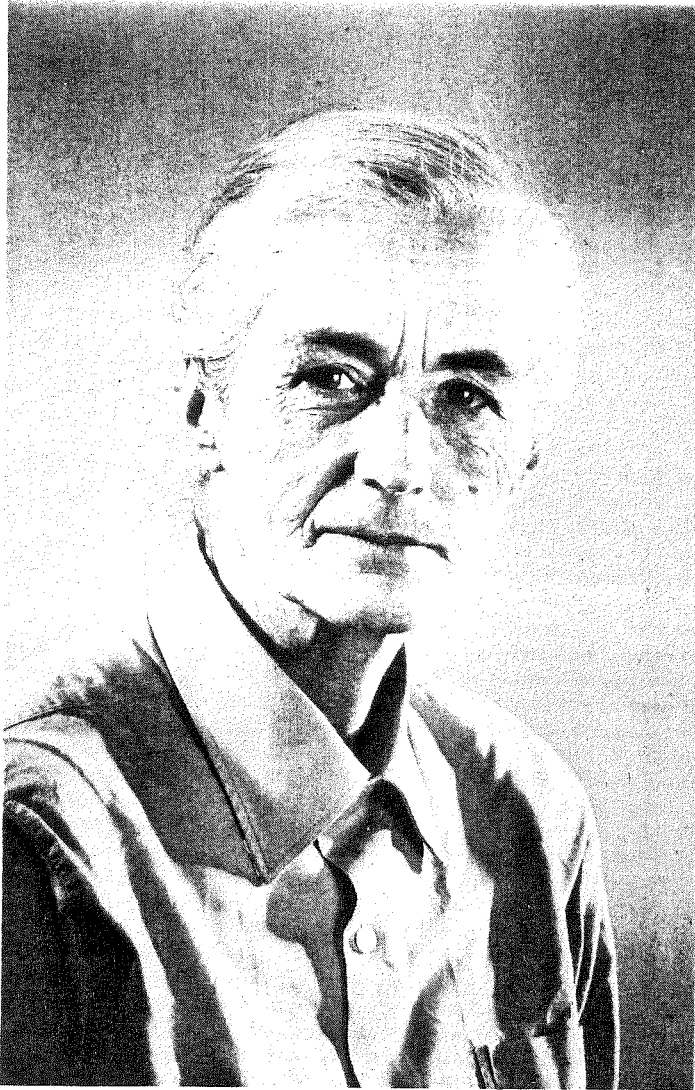
Continuity and Change in Medieval Persia. Aspects of administrative, economic, and social history, 11th-14th century (Albany, N.Y., 1988).

"Changing concepts of justice and injustice from the 5th/11th century to the 8th/14th century in Persia: the Saljuq empire and the Ilkhanate," *Studia Islamica* 48 (1988), 27-60.

"The clash of civilizations: authority, legitimacy and perfectability," in R. M. Burrell (ed.), *Islamic Fundamentalism* (Royal Asiatic Seminar Papers, No. 1) London, 1989, 33-47.

"Personal service and the element of concession in the theory of the wazirate in medieval Persia," in C. E. Bosworth, Charles Issawi, Roger Savory and A.L. Udovitch (eds.), *The Islamic World from Classical to Modern Times: essays in honor of Bernard Lewis* (Princeton, 1989), 175-191.

PROFESSOR A. K. S. LAMBTON



The most surprising thing of all about Professor Lambton's remarkable academic career is that it ever happened. Born into a patrician family noted primarily for the participation of its members in public affairs, national and local; daughter of one of the leading racehorse trainers of his time (and herself, at less than 14 years of age, the subject of appreciative and respectful comment in *The Sporting Chronicle* for her skill in the saddle at morning work on Newmarket Heath); a lover of the countryside, of country ways and activities and of hard physical exertion in the open air—how did it ever come about that she was drawn to the life of a scholar, with its long hours in libraries and lecture rooms? It is true that her temperament has enough of the solitary to make the loneliness of the path to the heights of scholarly achievement less uncongenial than it might be to a more gregarious personality. Even so, it would have needed the prescience of a seer to have predicted at the time of her birth that she would become a scholar and teacher of international renown, a Professor in the University of London and a Fellow of the British Academy.

But, however it all began—travellers' tales, perhaps, and the romanticism of the young, so memorably and movingly described by Joseph Conrad in *Youth*—the path entered upon with hesitant steps at the age of 18, when she enrolled at the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution (as it then was) as a student not registered for a degree course, was soon being followed with characteristic seriousness of intent and increasing firmness of purpose. It led to registration for an honours degree course in Persian with subsidiary Arabic and, after the degree was awarded in 1935, to work for a higher degree. Among her teachers were the Director of the School, Sir Denison Ross, Professors Gibb, Minorsky and Tritton, and Mr. Taqizadeh. That her promise as a scholar was already beginning to manifest itself is attested by the award to her of an Ouseley Memorial scholarship and thereafter of an Aga Khan travelling scholarship; and the year she spent in Persia in 1936-37, following a summer vacation in Isfahan in 1934, effectively decided her future. After obtaining her Ph.D. in 1939 with a thesis on Seljūq institutions, she returned to Persia with the intention of continuing her research and was there when the second World War began. Promptly appointed as Press Attaché to the staff of the British Legation (later Embassy), she had the good fortune to serve under a great and wise ambassador, the late Sir Reader Bullard, whose memory she, like all who knew him, continues to revere. Her duties gave her the opportunity to acquire an extraordinarily detailed acquaintance with all aspects of Persian life and a mastery of the Persian language which few foreigners have equalled and none surpassed; and the manner in which she discharged those duties earned her the award of the O.B.E.

The end of the war saw the resumption of her academic career with her appointment in 1945 as Senior Lecturer in Persian at the School of Oriental and African Studies (as it had become in 1938). Thereafter, the progression was swift and steady, in 1948 to the Readership in Persian in the University of London and in 1953 to the Chair of Persian, which she continued to occupy with the greatest distinction for more than a quarter of a century until her retirement in 1979. In short, it may be said to have been in most respects a record—if the implied paradox be permissible—of orthodox brilliance. *Mutatis mutandis*,