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Authors

MELA Notes, Admin

Sonboldel, Farshad

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Number 97 (issue 2) of MELA Notes presents a focused tribute to the enduring legacy of Nūshāfarīn Anṣārī, bringing together scholarship that critically examines her transformative contributions to Iranian librarianship, reading advocacy, and civil-society institution-building. Bringing to light a special issue devoted to such a pivotal Iranian cultural figure amidst everything that has unfolded over the past year renders this volume all the more critical and urgent for the Middle East Studies community. At a time when cultural and academic ties face unprecedented strain, documenting traditions of civic resilience, public service, and intellectual institution-building serves as a necessary reminder of the endurance of regional scholarship.

I must express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the reviewers and authors based inside Iran. Preparing, revising, and finalizing academic research under normal circumstances demands rigorous focus; doing so amid recurrent internet blackouts, communications infrastructure collapse in the wake of the past year's nationwide protests, and the profound daily uncertainties of war is an act of extraordinary intellectual courage. Their persistence in communicating, meeting editorial deadlines, and seeing these projects through despite severe technical obstacles and immense stress is a humbling testament to their dedication to scholarship.

I also wish to thank our Editorial Board—Laetitia Nanquette, Evyn Kropf, and Ryan Zohar—and our Review Editor, Mahdi Ganjavi, along with our editorial assistants, Azada Rahi and Arzoo Sidiqi, for their hard work and unwavering diligence in ensuring the quality and integrity of MELA Notes. Finally, I owe my profound gratitude to our guest editor, Dr. Ali Boozari. Bringing this special issue together required sustained scholarly dedication, and extensive coordination.

Farshad Sonboldel
Editor, MELA Notes