VRA Nancy DeLaurier Award Winner 2022

Afsaneh Najmabadi

Women’s Worlds in Qajar Iran [1786 - 1925]
http://www.qajarwomen.org

Presented by Azadeh Tajpour
More than 200 collections and about 10,000 items and 53,000 images

The goal of Women's Worlds in Qajar Iran is to address a gap in scholarship and understanding of the lives of women during the Qajar era in Iran by developing a comprehensive digital resource that preserves materials related to the social and cultural history of women's worlds in Qajar Iran.
Women’s Worlds in Qajar Iran provides bilingual access to thousands of personal papers, manuscripts, photographs, publications, everyday objects, works of art and audio materials, making it a unique online resource for social and cultural histories of the Qajar world.
WWQI has been awarded four two-year grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was recognized by the White House Office of Public Engagement in May of 2012.
“Over the years Prof. Najmabadi has approached this with enthusiasm, creativity and great energy and persistence as new workflows and relationships were developed for the project. Her approach to post-custodial collecting has informed current and future projects at the Harvard Library.”
Sharon C. Smith, Ph.D.
Curator, Middle East and Africa
Affiliated faculty, Center for Arabic and Islamic Studies
Officer, Center for Maghrib Studies

“...invaluable contribution to the fields of gender studies, Iranian studies (in particular, the Qajar dynasty which is oft-times overlooked), and digital humanities”

“... Searching facets are clear and easily understood. Indeed, it is hard to identify a flaw in this thorough, well-developed site. One cannot overstate the usefulness of WWQI, it is the website for Qajar gender studies and more”.
“Professor Najmabadi’s creation of the archive has allowed for new research into the lives of women during the Qajar era, as well as what kinship, gender, and sexuality looked like in Iran more broadly during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries”.

“...the most easily navigable and comprehensively catalogued digital archive I have ever interacted with...”

“...visually mapping the connections between people, objects, their images, and the documents that describe them along timelines, including extensive lists of related documents and collections in the archive, allows one to visualize threads and arcs of history in an extremely clear manner".
Diversity: Religious minorities
marriage contracts
Hamadan 1922
Jewish Women's Society
75 P - 1996
Objects of everyday life