

*From the Editor:*

This special issue on contemporary Iranian literature, guest edited by Professor Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, contains a selection of translated pieces of poetry, prose, and drama from the two decades after the revolution. Perhaps the first publication in English language on this subject, in this issue the revolution and its aftermath are, of course, recurring themes with different reactions and depictions. Other relevant themes such as the lives of women, history, religion, life in exile, and the role of the writer, are also present, thus bringing together a wide variety of voices ranging from the exiled dissidents to the victims of the Iraq-Iran war. Classical and modern literary styles are both represented as are examples of literature in languages other than Persian. While most of these selections consist of the expected literary forms of poetry and fiction, texts such as wills and open letters have also been included. As a whole, this special issue of *Iranian Studies* provides a fascinating glimpse into the cultural, social, and political currents of contemporary Iran and an additional source for the understanding of the revolution.

My special thanks are due to Professor Karimi-Hakkak for his initiative and for his dedication, professionalism and insight over the past two years as he prepared this issue. My thanks are also due to all the contributors and to others who made the publication of this issue of *Iranian Studies* possible.

*Abbas Amanat*