

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Open Letter to the Editor and the Editorial Committee of *Iranian Studies* about Masashi Haneda's article entitled, "The Evolution of the Safavid Royal Guard" (*Iranian Studies*, XXII/2-3 (1989), pp. 57-85).

I was utterly surprised and scandalized to see in your *Journal* an English translation of Masashi Haneda's article initially published in *Moyen Orient & Océan Indien*, I (1984), pp. 41-64, under the title "L'évolution de la garde royale des Safavides." I have never been contacted to grant you any right respecting this translation and publication. Are you so desperately in dearth of contributions? You already published, without my authorization, a translation of A. Mahdavi's article ("The Significance of Private Archives for the Study of the Economic History of Iran in the Late Qajar Period", *Iranian Studies*, XVI/3-4 (1983), pp. 243-278) initially published under the title "Les archives Aminozarb, sources pour l'histoire économique et sociale de l'Iran (fin du XIXe - début du XXe siècle), in *Le Monde iranien et l'Islam*, 4 (1976-77) pp. 195-222 (see J. Calmard's review, in *Abstracta Iranica* 7 (1989), pp. 87-88).

Besides your total disrespect for authors, editors and copyrights, we are wondering about the degree of qualification of your researchers incapable to use sources and studies in French. Can they read only English? What are they doing in our studies already overcrowded by every kind of parasitical elements? To improve your services, why don't you publish translations in English of Iranian studies in Japanese, Chinese, Scandinavian, Slavic and Caucasian languages, Arabic, Turkish, etc. far more inaccessible than French?

I also wonder about the purely mercantile aspect of your motivation. You are using others' contributions to improve the diversity of your publication and sell more copies. Furthermore a commercial deal was made out of this translation which was awarded the "Malcolm Kerr Translation Prize offered by *Iranian Studies* for the best translated article submitted in 1990". How could such a prize be attributed for what constitutes a true act of editorial piracy? Researchers of our research center, directed by J. Calmard, of which M. Haneda is a member, publish *themselves* in English whenever and wherever they like, and we accept

articles in English in our publications. May we expect a reciprocity from your side?

Notwithstanding my respect for the intellectual value of the scholars pertaining to your Editorial Committee, I insist on having this letter published, in good place, in your *Journal*, in order to draw the attention of the scholarly community and to prevent the renewal of such deeds. I feel assured that you will comply with this demand for I must recognize that you publish even the most violent critics in your "Letters to the Editor".

With anticipated thanks, I remain,

Yours faithfully
Prof. Jean Aubin

(Prof. Aubin is editor of *Le Monde iranien et l'Islam* and *Moyen Orient et Océan Indien*, Paris.)

Editorial Response:

I very much regret any offense given to Prof. Aubin or Prof. Haneda in our publication of Prof. Matthee's translation of the latter's excellent article on Safavid Iran. I take full responsibility for not having engaged in the sort of collegial consultation appropriate to this occasion.

Richard W. Bulliet