



## History of Persian Culinary Manuscripts: From Legends to Cuneiform Tablets to Cookbooks

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### This work is dedicated to the memory of:



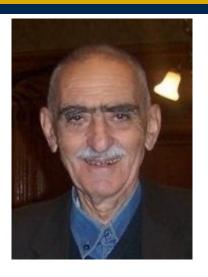
Margaret Shaida

A native of the United Kingdom who lived in Iran for 23 years.
Her 1992 cookbook "The Legendary Cuisine of Persia" was the first Persian cookbook with extensive and accurate historical culinary information about Persian cuisine.



Bert Fragner

An Austrian Iranologist and the director of the Institute of Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He used his knowledge of historical and contemporary Persian cookbooks in his study of Persian culture.



Iraj Afshar

An Iranian historian, educator, writer, bibliographer, Iranologist, editor, and an iconic figure in the field of Persian studies. He was one of the few Iranian scholars focused on historical Persian cookery manuscripts and transcribed several of them.



## Outline

- Preliminaries
  - Genesis of this Work
  - Scope of this work
- A Sampling of Interesting Finds
- Summary / Closing



# Genesis of this Work & A few Reminders



#### Genesis of this Work

- 40+ years of
  - Exploring history, principles, and practices of Persian cookery
  - Collecting Persian culinary books
- For the past four years, research and experimentation for writing a Persian cookery book which will provide:
  - Culinary History of Dishes
  - Relevant Modern Food Science
  - Learning Persian Foundational Cookery Techniques
  - Preservation of Heritage



#### Reminders

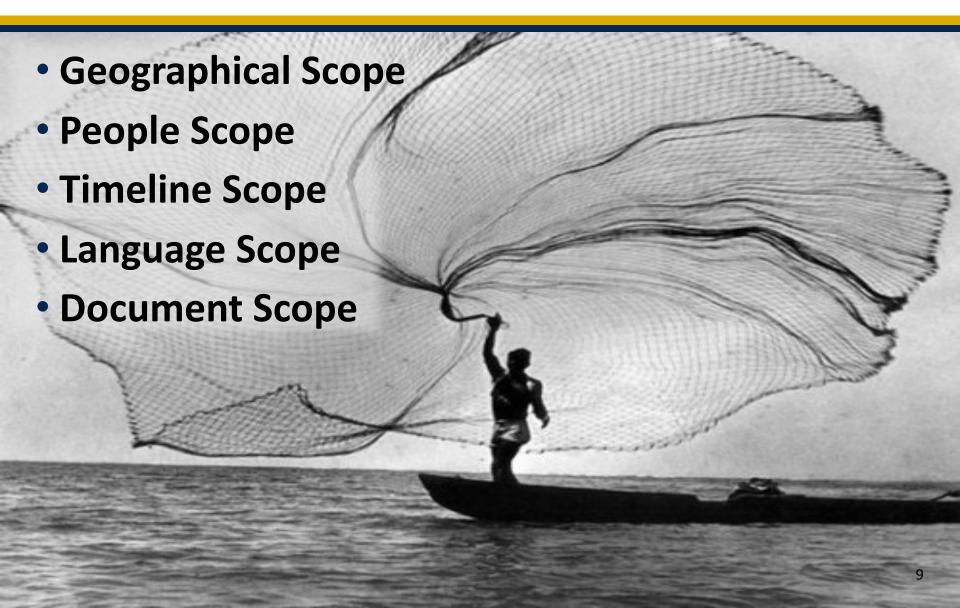
- I am not a historian!
  - At best, I am a student of history.
- "Iran" vs. "Persia" Labels
  - When it comes to languages:
    - Persian
  - When it comes to people and geography:
    - Iranian, Iran, Persian, and Persia are used somewhat interchangeably.



#### **Scope of this Work**



## Scope of the Work – Casting a Wide Net



## Geographical Scope: Iranian Plateau



## c. 8000 BCE: Goat & Sheep Domestication



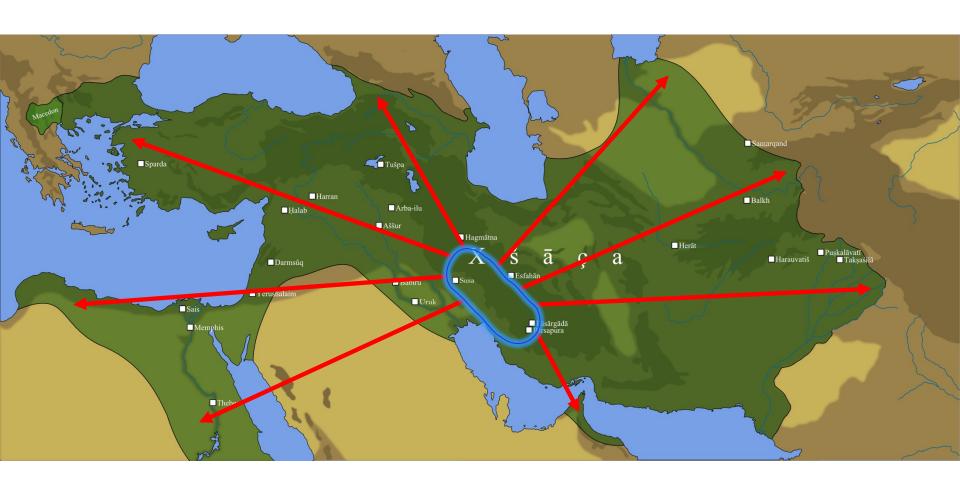
## c. 7000 BCE: Fertile Crescent



## c. 3000 BCE: Elamite Civilization



## From c. 3000 BCE $\rightarrow$ 500 BCE Elamites $\rightarrow$ Achaemenid Empire





## From 3000 BCE $\rightarrow$ 500 BCE $\rightarrow$ Today



#### **LEGEND**

Elamites c. 3000 BCE

Achaemenids c. 500 BCE

Iran Today

## People/Communities/Societies Scope

- Communities where some form of the Persian language is spoken
- Iranian diaspora communities around the world
- Societies in regions that had been ruled by various Persian dynasties
  - E.g., Medes, Achaemenids, Parthians, Sasanians, Safavids, Qajars dynasties
- Societies that had been conquered by various non-Persian empires after these empires conquered Persia
  - E.g., The Indian campaigns of Alexander the Great (4<sup>th</sup> century CE) and the Mongols (13<sup>th</sup> century CE) after having conquered Persian Empires respectively
- Societies that gradually incorporated some degree of Iranian influence into their cultural and/or linguistic traditions
  - E.g., Regions and people in the North Caucasus that were not under direct Iranian rule
- Societies surrounding the Iranian Plateau where a considerable number of Iranian people migrated to
  - Parsi communities in India (Iranian Zoroastrians who migrated to India in 7th century CE)
  - Communities on northern shores of Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman in such countries as Bahrain & UAE

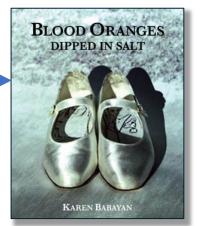


## **Document Scope**

- Culinary Books
  - Original, transcribed, or translated
  - From formally published → Unpublished collection of recipes
- Non-Culinary Books
  - Culinary centered anthologies and books of poems
  - Travel digests and diaries
  - Novels —
  - Medical texts

Most recent finding

- Other Documentations
  - Clay tablets
  - Tax/legal/inventory records
- Historians' description of events & conversations
- Folklores and legends





## Language Scope

- Persian
  - Old Iranian Languages
    - Old Persian (cuneiform script)
    - Avestan (alphabet) -
  - Middle Persian or Pahlavi (endonym Pārsig)
  - Modern Persian (endonym Fārsi)
- Dari (a.k.a. Dari Persian)
- Tajik (a.k.a. Tajik Persian)
- Tat (a.k.a. Caucasian Persian)
- Urdu
- Arabic
- English
- French
- German



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روباه قهوه ای سریع درست از پشت سگ تنبل می پرد و اکنون زمان آن است که همه مردان خوب به کمک مهمانی بیایند.

## Flavors of History of Iranian Lands

There are three flavors of the pre-Islamic history timelines of Iranian lands.

#### 1. Traditional History (a.k.a. National History)

- Initially, orally transmitted.
- Documented in such preeminent works as:
  - Avesta (the primary collection of religious texts of Zoroastrianism)
  - Shahnameh (one of the world's longest epic poems by Ferdowsi)
- A combination of myths, legends, folklores, and facts merged together in a unified and consistent narrative.
- Do not take exact annalistic approach to history where, for example, a listing of succession of kings is sufficient as a general chronological framework.

#### 2. Actual History

- Factual
- Documented by historians

#### 3. Archeological History

 Based on artifacts found in archeological digs



#### **Actual History**

#### **Traditional History**

#### **Archeological History**

Sheep/Goat Dom.	8000 BCE
Painted Pottery	6000-5000 BCE
Susa founded	4200 BCE
Ceramics	3400-3100 BCE
Clay Tablets	3100-2900 BCE

Pishdadians	3467-1025 BCE

3200-539 BCE	Elamites		
3200 333 DCL	Liailiites		
678-549 BCE	Medians	Kayanians	1026-333 BCE
550-330 BCE	Achaemenids		
306-150 BCE	Seleucids		306-150 BCE
247 BCE-224 CE	Parthians		247 BCE-224 CE
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821-873	Tahirids	
864-928	Alavids	
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1501-1736	Safavids	
1736-1796	Afsharids	
1750-1794	Zands	
1785-1925	Qajars	
1925-1979	Pahlavis	
1979-Present	Islamic Rep.	

Three Flavors of History of Iranian Lands

#### **Informational Elements Being Collected**



#### attempted to be

## Informational Elements Being Collected

- Physical Format
  - Book, Clay Tablet, Pillar Engraving, Codex, Pamphlet, Notebook, ...
- Type
  - Cookbook, Poem, Legend, Historical Observation, Travel Journal, Homemaking Manual, Novel, ...
- Language
  - Persian (old, middle, modern), Arabic, English, Urdu, German, ...
- Publication Date / Historical Period
- Publication Location
- Author
  - Name in native language; Nickname; Romanized name
- Title
  - In original language, Romanized, Literal Translation, Interpretation
- Editions
  - Editions
  - Transcriptions
  - Translations
- Bibliographical References
  - Worldcat, ISBN, Library of Congress, ...
- Pointers to Digital Copies
  - archive.org, Google Books, HathiTrust, ...
- Etc. etc. etc. ...



# Small A Sampling of Interesting Finds



#### **Pishdadians** 3467-1025 BCE 3200-539 BCE **Elamites** 678-549 BCE Medians **Kayanians** 1026-333 BCE 550-330 BCE **Achaemenids** 306-150 BCE Seleucids 306-150 BCE 247 BCE-224 CE **Parthians** 247 BCE-224 CE 224-661 Sasanians 224-661 821-873 **Tahirids** 864-928 **Alavids** 861-1003 **Saffarids** Samanids 875-999 928-1043 **Ziyarids** 932-1056 **Buyids** Ghaznavids 962-1187 1037-1194 **Seljuks** 1077-1231 Khwarazmians 1256-1388 Ilkhanids 1314-1393 Muzaffarids 1369-1507 **Timurids** Safavids 1501-1736 1736-1796 **Afsharids** 1750-1794 Zands 1785-1925 **Qajars**

**Pahlavis** 

Islamic Rep.

1925-1979

1979-Present

#### c. 2667-1667 BCE

#### c. 2667-1667 BCE

#### King Zahāk Period

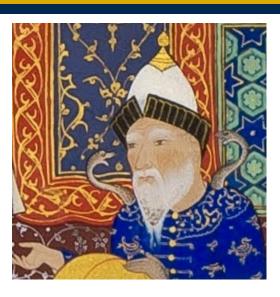
- a.k.a. Zahāk the Snake Shoulder
- 6<sup>th</sup> monarch of Pishdādiān dynasty
- An evil figure in Persian mythological history

#### Information Source

- Shahnameh
  - Written: 977-1010 CE
  - Translations: Many

#### Findings

- Cooking and eating habits of the period
- Concepts of royal cook and royal kitchen
- Seduction through food









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وكركونه جاره كزيدا وكفت ودووام بام غ وطبي ترا جواير كرده فدماز و بالأت جان ريسرا دنا بيرا تجنن طعام المبس راي ضحاك موردا ون ركنفاه أمرك سخکوی و مبنا دام باکنن جوا بى برارات از نولتن نبووش مجزا فرین کفتکوی بدوکفت کرنا در ورفورم ہمیدون فیجاک نمورو کی نامور باک خواب م زبهرفورش جا بكرفائس كليدفورنسني زباون برو دا د وستور<del>ن با</del>زدا ورندنه فاكر جون خوخ كردوا ورد كمك كحا جوازيستنها بخردند جز كبركوزازمرغ وازجارا ازان بن م موه خورد نیر بن برمن بدکنش می کرد برگشتن جا بورجای کرد بخونش سرور و برمانیم مدان تاكندبا وسندرا ولبر سخن برحه كويدش فرمان كند لفرمان وواكرو كانكند خورش صفيه مرغ والخرست بران دانشن کرمان مکدر مان دانشن کرمان مکدر بخوره وبرير أفريكي ديخت مزه بافتان خورد تكيخت خبر كفت البريك ز كه جا ويدماني وكر د نفراز بوسد المسري وس كه فروا زخورون جيازو صنی و میداشدن از وكرروزجون كنبندلاجور برأورو ونبود بافوت زوا خرب بهائ كك ترويد بازبروآ مدول مب

#### Partial Translation

Then as a youth well spoken, clean, and clever, Ahriman went to Zahhak with fawning words, "Let me," he said, "who am a noted cook, find favor with the king."

- First, he fed his lord on yolk to make him strong
   Zahhak liked the flavor much and praised Ahriman
- On the second day, a meal of partridges and silver pheasants.
   Zahhak ate and his small wits were lost in admiration.
- On the third day, Ahriman served lamb and fowl.
   On the fourth day, a chine of veal with saffron and rosewater, musk and old wine.
- Zahhak when he had tasted, in wonder at his cook's ability, said: "Worthy friend! ask thou, my recompense."

By appetite seduced, Zahhak received and welcomed him, so that the monarch's faithful minister gave to Ahriman the royal kitchen's key.

Foods then were few, men did not kill to eat but lived on vegetals of all earth's produce; So evil-doing Ahriman designed to slaughter animals for food



#### c. 1700 BCE c. 625-539 BCE

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1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

#### c. 1700 BCE and c. 626-539 BCE

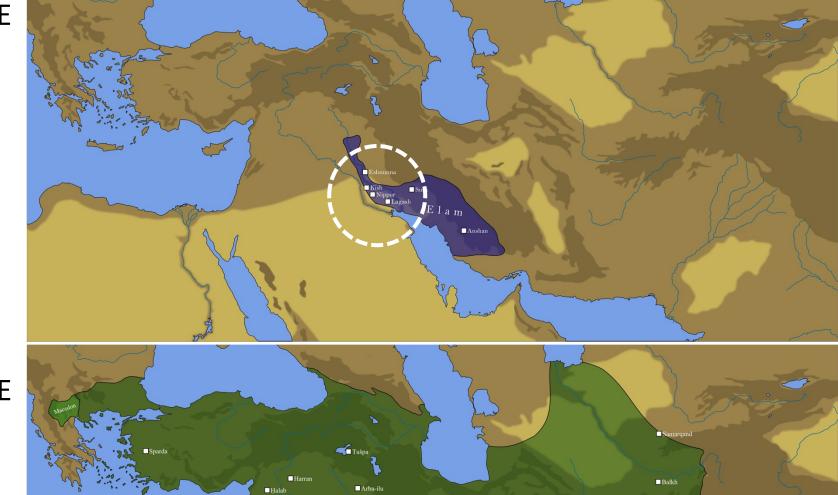
#### Artifacts

- Yale Mesopotamia Babylonian Tablets
- Very well studied and translated
- They contain:
  - Actual recipes Earliest known recipes anywhere
  - Information about ingredients (spices, sweeteners, fat, condiments, meat)
  - Cooking methods
  - Vocabulary and names of dishes
- Why my interest in these tablets?





1765 BCE



Herāt

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■Pāsārgādā ■Pārsapura

490 BCE

#### c. 1700 BCE and c. 626-539 BCE

- Why my interest in Yale tablets?
  - Found in regions that, at some point, were part of Persian Empire
  - Credited Elamites for a stew with dill in the broth.
  - References to ingredients from Iranian Plateau
    - Dill Ubiquitous in Iranian Plateau but not west of Iran
    - Samidu perhaps Persian shallots



#### 3200-539 BCE Elamites 678-549 BCE Medians 550-330 BCE **Achaemenids** 306-150 BCE Seleucids **Parthians** 247 BCE-224 CE 224-661 Sasanians 821-873 **Tahirids** 864-928 Alavids 861-1003 Saffarids 875-999 Samanids 928-1043 **Ziyarids** 932-1056 **Buyids** 962-1187 Ghaznavids 1037-1194 Seljuks 1077-1231 Khwarazmians Ilkhanids 1256-1388 1314-1393 Muzaffarids 1369-1507 **Timurids** 1501-1736 Safavids **Afsharids** 1736-1796 1750-1794 Zands 1785-1925 Qajars 1925-1979 **Pahlavis**

Islamic Rep.

1979-Present

**Pishdadians** 

**Kayanians** 

3467-1025 BCE

1026-333 BCE

306-150 BCE

224-661

247 BCE-224 CE

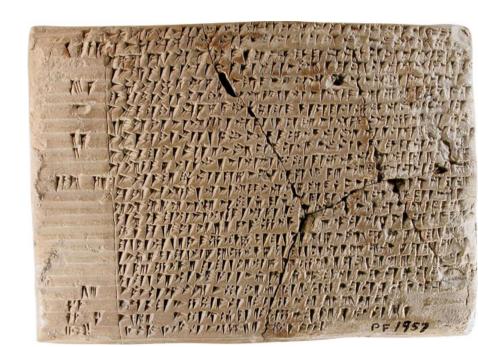
#### 509-494 BCE

## 550-330 BCE



- Persepolis Fortification Tablets
  - Discovered in the ruins of Persepolis (capital of Achaemenid Empire)
  - Well studied by researchers at University of Chicago





oi.uchicago.edu

## THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS VOLUME XCII

## PERSEPOLIS FORTIFICATION TABLETS

BY RICHARD T. HALLOCK



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS · CHICAGO · ILLINOIS

#### Published 1969 786 pages

#### 550-330 BCE

- Findings in Persepolis Fortification Tablets
  - Administrative transfer of food commodities
  - Food distribution orders
  - Concept of prepared food (including beer)
  - Existence if public bakery (baking for New Year festival)
  - List of food commodities
  - Royal food supplies
  - Ingredients





531-579 CE or 590-628 CE

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1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

### 531-579 CE or 590-628 CE

#### Title

Pahlavi Text: King Khosrow and the Boy

#### Context

- Documented conversation (interview) between King Khosrow and a young boy who had applied to become the king's page
- Earliest detailed information about Persian cuisines

### Original Language

Middle Persian, a.k.a. Pahlavi

#### Translations

- German, English, Modern Persian, Arabic
- Well studied by Iranian and European Iranologists



#### Earliest detailed study

#### Der PahlaviText

### "Der König Husrav und sein Knabe",

herausgegeben, umschrieben, übersetzt und erläutert

#### Dissertation

zur Erlangung der Doktorwürde bei der philosophischen Fakultät der Universität Heidelberg

eingereicht von

Jamshedji Maneckji Unvala

aus Bombay.

Wien 1917.

Druck von Adolf Holzhausen.

#### Sample Pahlavi Transcription - 1982

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<sup>\$16:1</sup> Mss. 115 - 2 Mss. 10 - 3-3 Mss. 2019 100

# King Khosrow Questioning the Boy

#### Questions cover:

- The finest and most savory dishes?
- The finest savory of the dishes prepared from fowls?
- The finest cold-meat-foods?
- The most tender meats laid in gelée?
- The best and finest sweetmeats?
- The finest jams and preserves?
- The finest shell-fruits?
- The best and finest wines?
- Etc.



### Boy's Answers to Questions

### The finest and most savory dishes?

 ... a kid 2-months old, which is nourished on the milk of its mother and also on that of a cow, stripped and plucked bare of its wool; rubbed with sour gruel...

### The finest savory of the dishes prepared from fowls?

- ...the peacock and the francolin and the partridge and the pheasant and the grey-partridge ...
- ... male domestic chicken that has been fed on hemp-seeds, barley flour, and olive oil, made to run and to fast the day before it is killed, and plucked and hung by a leg, and on the second hung by the neck and brine-treated and roasted, no fowl can complete...



# Boy's Answers to Questions

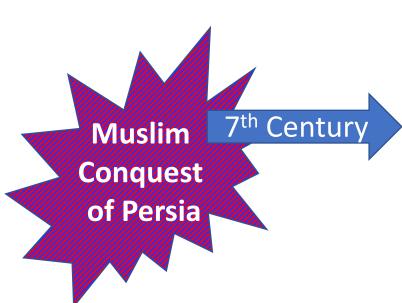
### The best and finest sweetmeats?

- ... in summer, the almond-pasty, and the walnut-pasty, and the walnut-bun, and the finger-pasty, that they prepare from the fat of the gazelle, and fry in walnut oil...
- ... in winter, the almond-pasty, and peachpastry, and sweet-snow, with sugar-candy and rosewater









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### 632-654 CE – Muslim Conquest of Persia

- Following the Arab invasion of the Persian Sassanian Empire in the 7th century, the conquerors found a mature culinary landscape
  - Highly refined cuisine
  - Diverse culinary ingredients (including sugar)
  - Advanced cooking techniques.
- In the following decades and centuries, Arabs
  - adopted many of the Persian culinary skills, and
  - spread them
    - eastward to the Indian subcontinent
    - westward to the rest of the Middle East



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864-928	Alavids		

### 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries





### Arabic Cookbooks 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries

- Several cookbooks in Arabic were published in the Arab world (Iraq, Egypt, Syria, ...) between 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and have survived.
- These cookbooks were influenced by Persian cookery and include many dishes with their original Persian names.
- Study of these cookbooks sheds further light on the cuisine of 7th century Iran and Sassanid era and the perusing years.
- Many have been transcribed, translated, and well studied by culinary historians.



# Arabic Cookbooks 10th-15th Centuries

Period	Original Title	Romanized Title	Interpreted Translation of Title	Author's Name in Original Language	Romanized Author's Name
	كتاب الطبيخ	Kitāb al-Ṭabīkh	,	أبو محمد المظفر بن نصر ابن سيار الوراق	Abū Muḥammad al-Muẓaffar ibn Naṣr ibn Sayyār al-Warrāq
13 <sup>th</sup> c.	كتاب الطبيخ	Kitāb al-Ṭabīkh		محمد بن الحسن بن محمد بن علي بن إبر اهيم ابن الكريم الكاتب البغدادي	Muḥammad Ibn al-Ḥasan Ibn Muḥammad Ibn al-Karīm al-Kātib al-Baghdādī Commonly known as: al-Baghdādi
13 <sup>th</sup> c.	كتاب الوُصلة الى الحبيب	Kitab al-wusla ila al-habib fi wasf	Scents and Flavors the	Not definitely known	Not definitely known
	في وصف الطيّبات والطيب	al-tayyibat wa al-tib	Banqueter Favors		
13 <sup>th</sup> c.		Kitab al tabikh fi-l-Maghrib wa-l-	-	Anonymous	Anonymous
	والأندلس في عصر الموحدين لمؤلف مجهول	Andalus fi `asr al-Muwahhidin, li-mu'allif majhul	Cookbook		
13 <sup>th</sup> c.	" , "		The best of food offered at the table	ابن رزين التجيبي	lbn Razīn al-Tujībī
14 <sup>th</sup> c.		Kitāb Waṣf al-aṭʻima al-muʻtāda		Anonymous	Anonymous
14 <sup>th</sup> c.	C.3	Kanz al-Fawā'id fī tanwīʿ al- Mawā'id	Treasure of Benefits in the Variety of Dishes	Anonymous	Anonymous
15 <sup>th</sup> c.	كتاب الطّباّخة	Kitāb-al-Tibākha	Cookbook	جمال الدين يوسف بن حسن بن أحمد بن حسن بن عبد الهادي الصالحي	Jamāl al-Dīn Yūsuf Ibn Ḥasan Ibn ʿAbd al- Hādī al-Ṣāliḥī, Ibn al-Mibrad (al-Mubarrad)
15 <sup>th</sup> c.		Zahr al-ḥadīqa fi 'l-aṭcima al- anīqa	The Flowery Garden of Elegant Food	شهاب الدين أحمد بن مبارك شاّه الحنفي	Shihāb al-Dīn Aḥmad Ibn Mubārak Shāh

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list.



		Pishdadians	3467-1025 BCE
3200-539 BCE	Elamites		
678-549 BCE	Medians	Kayanians	1026-333 BCE
550-330 BCE	Achaemenids		
306-150 BCE	Seleud	cids	306-150 BCE
247 BCE-224 CE	Parthi	ans	247 BCE-224 CE
224-661	Sasani	ans	224-661
821-873	Tahirids		
864-928	Alavids		
861-1003	Saffarids		
875-999	Samanids		
928-1043	Ziyarids		
932-1056	Buyids		
962-1187	Ghaznavids		
1037-1194	Seljuks		
1077-1231	Khwarazmians		
1256-1388	Ilkhanids		
1314-1393	Muzaffarids		
1369-1507	Timurids		
1501-1736	Safavids		
1736-1796	Afsharids		
1750-1794	Zands		
1785-1925	Qajars		
1925-1979	Pahlavis		
1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

c. 1360

# Early 2nd Half of 14th Century

- Earliest surviving book about Persian cookery
  - Not a "cookbook" but a book of culinary poems
  - Detailed information about 14<sup>th</sup> century Persian cuisines as well as previous centuries

Title	Persian	ديوان اطعمه
	Romanized	Divān-e-Atameh
	Translation	Book of Food Poems, or A Treasury of Appetite
Author	Persian	جمال الدين ابواسحاق حلاج اطعمه شيرازى
	Romanized	Jamaluddin Abu Ishaq Hallaj Shirazi
Publication Date		c. 1360
Publication Location		Shiraz, Iran





# Early 2nd Half of 14th Century (cont.)

#### Author

- Satirical poet Jamaluddin Abu Ishaq Hallaj Shirazi
- Used detailed kitchen terminology and culinary vocabulary
- At times mimicked styles of other famous Persian poets

#### Editions

- Handwritten copies
  - Several in Iranian museums; one in British Museum
- Typeset Manuscripts
  - Many versions
  - Earliest from 1884 printed in Constantinople
- English Translation
  - No full English translation
  - A couple of good articles/book chapters in English



# Early 2nd Half of 14th Century (cont.)

#### Contents of the Book

- Entire book is about food
- Between 160-185 pages (depending on the version)
- Described a wide range of dishes and associated information
  - Soups and broths
  - Sour soups and pickles
  - Rice and meat dishes
  - Fruits
  - Syrups and sharbats
  - Sweets
- Description of foods found in the bazaar
- Description of a grocery store where ingredients could be found
- Description of cheap dishes
  - Etc...



ديوان اطعمة مولانا

#### 

ابتدا میکنم این سفره بنام رزاق الله که کریم است ورحیم است وغفوروستار حند فصلي صفت نعمت او خواهم كرد ال تا مجان شكر بكوئي تو يكي راز هنار ( فصل اول ) صفت آش دقیقت کویم الدق نکیری بمن خستهٔ مخمور نزار

المعالم شيخ سعدى فرمايد الهيئ

بامدادانکه تفاوت نکند لیل ونهار 🖟 خوش بود دامن صحرا وتماشای بهار

-3€ درجواب او کوبد الای-

بامدادان که بود ازشب مستیم خمار ال پیش من جز قدح بورك پر سیر مبار الر زما هیت ماهیچه بکویم رمنی انخوری رشته که این نیست چنین سلس وار برسر خوان چو سابی قدح جوش ره اسنج چو بین برخش زن که بودبا کل خار خاله بی بی چوترا میل طبیعت باشد ا عمّه خاتون بهد بهر توطشتی بربار رشته یولاد چوپا بر سراین سفره نهد از نکسی در قدمش سیم وزر آرد بنثار

وصف تماج پر از قلیه چه شاید کردن ا که بهر برك نبشت است هزار آن اسرار صحن كاچى چو براز روغن ودوشاب بود النساند بكلو لقمية آن هيچ آزار

> ( فصل ثانی ) نکران شوکه چه خواهم کفتن یکزمان بر سراین سفره حضوری پیش آر

شور با چند خوری دست بکندمبازن 🖟 که حلیم است برای دل وجان افکار کر بدانی که چه نرمست کدوبا بوجود انخهوری هیج دکرتا بود آن در بازار

ماستبائیکه پراز لحم مهرا باشد از روغن سبز برویش شده چون خطّ نکار کشکیا کرچه غلیظست تریدش باید 🖟 پندما کوش کن ودر عمل آور زنهار چه لطیفست بصبحی قدم شیر برنج از در زمانی که کند دایه زخو ابت بیدار گرتوخواهی نخودآبی هر که تراسود دهد از عفران با عرق کل بیر انجا در کار

#### Section 1 - About āsh (class of thick *Persian soup-like dishes*)

References a poem from the famous Persian poet Sa'di which translates as:

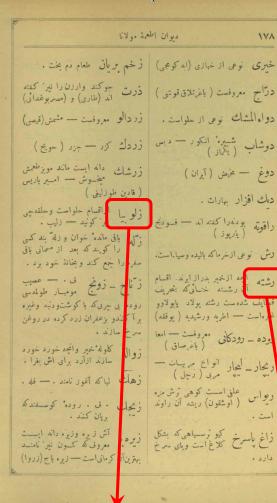
- In the morning when day and night are in equilibrium,
- It is wonderful to go out and watch the spring.

He uses the poem's rhyme for the rest of this section.

#### He then writes:

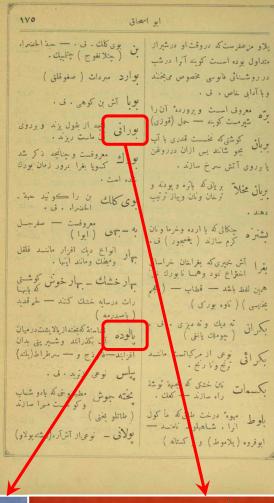
- In the morning having a hangover from last night's drunkenness
- Don't bring to me anything but a full bowl of garlicky burak.

He is describing a particular culinary practice of his time.



دىك افزار بهارات .

The vocabulary in the book is very useful in study of contemporary Persian cookery.





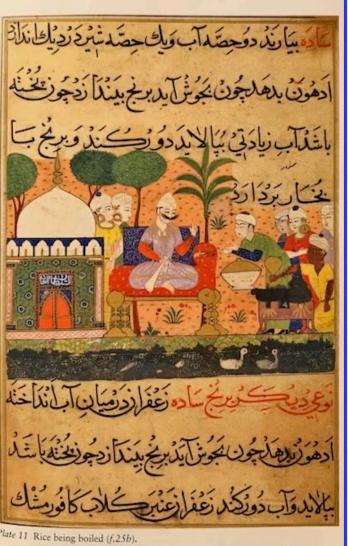




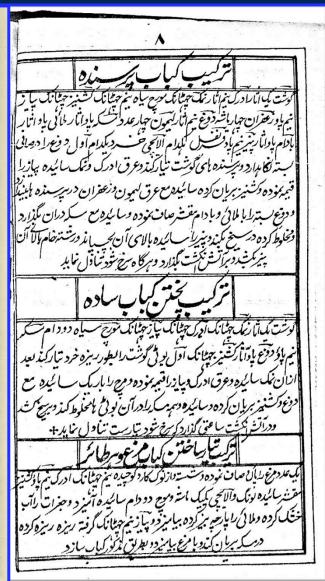


			Pishdadians	3467-1025 BCE
	3200-539 BCE	Elamites		
	678-549 BCE	Medians	Kayanians	1026-333 BCE
	550-330 BCE	Achaemenids		
	306-150 BCE	Seleud	cids	306-150 BCE
	247 BCE-224 CE	Parthi	ans	247 BCE-224 CE
	224-661	Sasani	ans	224-661
	821-873	Tahirids		
	864-928	Alavids		
	861-1003	Saffarids		
	875-999	Samanids		
	928-1043	Ziyarids		
	932-1056	Buyids		
	962-1187	Ghaznavids		
	1037-1194	Seljuks		
	1077-1231	Khwarazmians		
c. 1469-1510	1256-1388	Ilkhanids		
C. 1403-1310	1314-1393	Muzaffarids		
	1369-1507	Timurids		
c. 1628-1657	1501-1736	Safavids		
0, 2020 2001	1736-1796	Afsharids		
4000 4000	1750-1794	Zands		
c. 1800-1838	1785-1925	Qajars		
	1925-1979	Pahlavis		
	1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

# Three Cookbooks: c. 1469-1510 c. 1628-1657 c. 1800-1838



غررها شي تاريوده الداريدوقي كماروشكرفيدور ك في منا ينوده الدارندمركاه بارت وفدورها شي كدار و مصايما يره ونعفران از عل ده المازنده بكرند محن فلدنكي كوملات الاروغ أرزع أأسيف مع تحجد و داوني ووما ونفل ووماشه الانجي دوما شهفلفل كميا يمن عفران كمياشها إيادام ادك كداه حقد ريا والمالغما والازروك ما والا يالك والمكشنين كيام وال مؤك ووام ك ونيم دام اول كوست أوزنم روعن و ادنع ازان باز کهارداده استیک شرداخل کرده تدومال بعدانان اب موافق كدار تذر حقيدروال موك غيره واده كداز عانده روش ومقدروعي والرسور يراور ده يرحمن المربع آزان ميشور مركفت وحفدروغيره والمحاكرده ازقرهل قدرى ره عن بهاروم بدون موش خور دوقی کراها کست وطود به و معالیا از دور تعدال داده از دکران در کرد دساک داددارد



### Three Cookbooks:c. 1469-1510 c. 1628-1657 c. 1800-1838

Title – In Persian	نعمتنامه نصير الدينشاهي	نسخه شاه جهانی	خوان نعمت
Title - Romanized	Ne'mat-nāmeh Nasir-al-din Shahi	Noskheh Shah Jahāni	Khawān Ne'mat
Title - Translation	Book of Delicacies of Nasir- al-Din Shah	Shah Jahāns Recipe	Dinner Table's Blessings
Author	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Period	c. 1469-1510	c. 1628-1657	c. 1800-1838
Language	Persian		
<b>Publication Location</b>		India	
Format	Book	Book ~200 pages	Pamphlet ~16 pages
Original/Handwritten	The only original copy in British Library	In 1939, there had been a copy in the Gov't Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras There might be one in Tehran.	Facsimiles in Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh, India
Transcription/Typeset	?	There is a 1956 version	?
Translation	2005 by British Library personnel, Norah M. Titley	2020 by Salma Yusuf Husain	1839 – Calcutta 1992 – By David Schoonover from University of Iowa Library



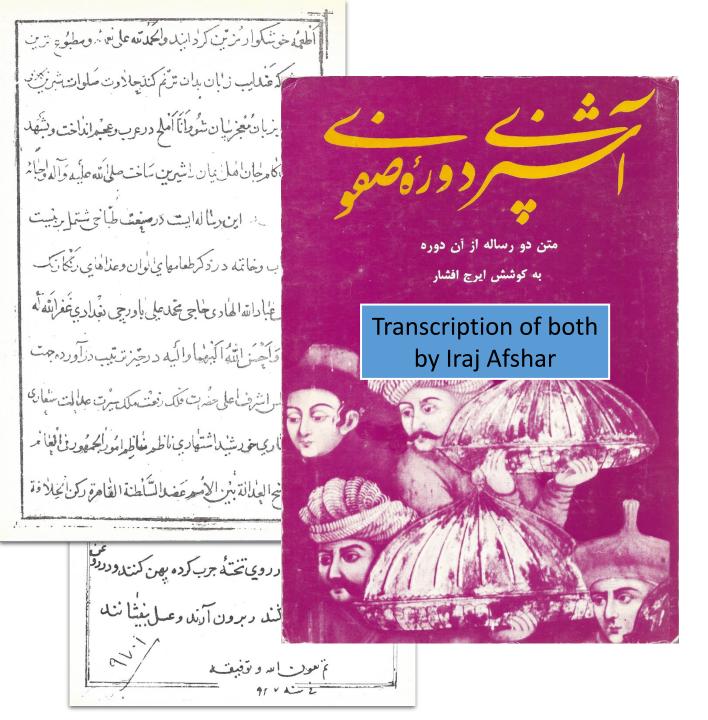
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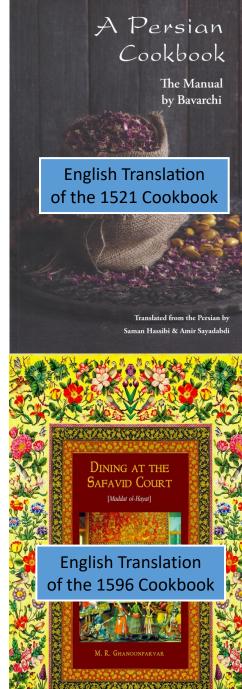


### Two Cookbooks: 1500s

### Oldest surviving cookbooks in Persian published in Iran

Title - Persian	مادة الحيوة كارنامه		
Title - Romanized	Karnāmeh Madat-al-Hayat		
Title - Interpretation	Manual for Cooking and its Craft	Treatise on Culinary Science	
Author - Persian	حاجی محمدعلی باورچی بغدادی	نور الله، آشپز شاه عباس صفوی	
Author - Romanized	Haji Mohammad Ali Bavarchi Baghdādi	Noor-Allāh, Royal Cook of Safavid King Abbās the Great	
<b>Publication Date</b>	1521	1596	
Language	Persian		
<b>Publication Location</b>	Iran		
Original Manuscript	Believed to be in Iran		
Transcription/Typeset	1981 by Iraj Afshar	1953 by Iraj Afshar	
English Translation	2018 by A. Sayadabdi and S. Hassibi	2017 by M. Ghanoonparvar	





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1736-1796	Afsharids		
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1925-1979	Pahlavis		
1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

1800s Several cookbooks were published in Persian in Iran

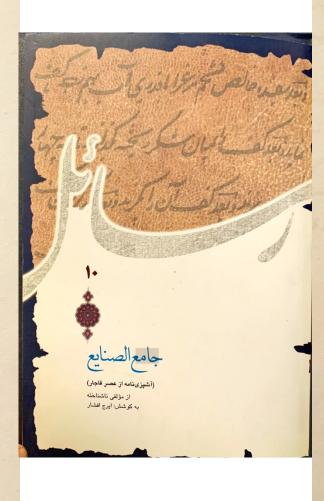


### Several Cookbooks: 1800s

c. 1814	<ul> <li>An 8-page pamphlet with recipes from the Caspian Sea region</li> <li>Only a partial copy <u>had been seen</u> in a government library in Iran</li> </ul>
c. 1835	<ul> <li>186 recipes</li> <li>Unknown author</li> <li>Transcribed by Iraj Afshar in 2008</li> <li>Transcribed Title: جامع الصنايع - آشپزى نامه از عصر قاجار — Cooking of Qajar Era</li> </ul>
1875-1883	<ul> <li>100s of recipes along with non-recipe background information</li> <li>Author: نادر میرزا بن بدیع الزمان قاجار [Nader Mirza bin Badi al-Zaman Qajar]</li> <li>Title: The author had not titled the book</li> <li>2007 Transcription by Ahmad Mojahed as خوراک های ایرانی</li> <li>2020 Transcription by Nazila Nazemi as</li> </ul>
1882	<ul> <li>100s of recipes</li> <li>Author: میرزا علی اکبر خان آشپزباشی [Mirza Ali Akbar Khan, The Cook]</li> <li>Title: سفره اطعمه [Sofreh-é-At'ameh] [Dining Spread]</li> <li>At least two transcriptions published in book format</li> </ul>
1859-1907	<ul> <li>About 150 recipes</li> <li>Author: Unknown</li> <li>Title (apparently assigned by a librarian): علم الطبخ الاطعمه و الاشربه و المزورات و المعالجين [The science of cooking food, drink, drinks and treatments]</li> <li>2015 Transcription by A. Sayadabdi and S. Hassibi</li> </ul>

c. 1835

ماكدورا صاف يمزون كركم كراوك وعادات وزد وم معروع إلى عدد ورج دفورى بهندكف كن وتعد كرامرزى ورات مكازى قب كوشكوس ما مونعد مدرج الما در مخت اكف آن ما دفع وتعدكف ازاكرفه تب رونس راند نه عدواني الت وتعدف فالص مح وفوا الدى المستمنع فارتعد فالمان كرامخ والردائدة وسر مرد وتعد كف آن الحرد وتعدار كون بن كند اكف إلى الله والمدارك البرك



. کرمیر داردزی زام هر كندوري مكنان وعالى أ الازام الحري الرام باري والمنظر المعالى 1 T 10 Jul 111111 11111 15)

# کارنامئر خوش خوس

در کوی نم پلاده نا افغیانے بلی دو فینده آدو هران وکارلیم یخته دوابران افغانا مین افغانا مین افغین اولیم نامی افغین اسپ بلیشه میسک واکشند و دیشمان برکه برکند و الها الها و دونین با برکنند و با برند و مبرم بلونه نند ما ابر بلی میند و با برناد و مبرم بلونه نند ما ابر بلی مین با برخ و با برناد و با برناد و برنا به بلی و با برناد و برنا به بلی و با برناد و برنا به بلی و با برناد و برناد و با برناد و برنا به بلی و با برناد و برنا به بلی و با برناد و با برناد و با برناد و با برناد و با برناد و برنا برناد و با برناد و برنا برناد و برناد و با برناد و برناد و برناد و با برناد و برناد

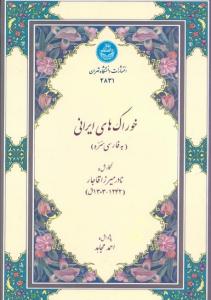
شلىرلىدىلاندىدچىدادىدائان ، شالبىدانسىخچىجادەنائات دىدادىنان دورسواف دانسى ، مكر كرخدا ويدكد مست فتواان نافاغ بالغ ودناغ وطن ساخف ، شد ملياخيش كوي سي كاه وبالبا انابریکافتربیه شبه سرکی لا ، انبادنشادات بدینا وکلیات فيفتن ان جنان الشككا لم يعز إد عابناسيد جونالك في كدو وهند واند بناسلا كروا كبره بس بهنج خوب بال كردة مروبات مبزنلد جذا لكدبلوها بدناد وبعض ومزند فانزوبابك جنان كود دبره وهسالان وشنربي داده وبندن وصف براه فواللا كرباندوس بعي شدوباً لأبكر نعف إن سوده وداد وبالنا فشائند مدكون كرخله ندانج بلا صريدة بصائر فينك ماكثمش وحفاه بوعن نافذ بإندوا لوص خشك نافذ إلى دِى دِمِ المَسْنِدِهِ إِنْ بِلِوهِا فِرْنِكِق وَحِنْشُ خِلاَكَ أَلْ كَوْنِثُ سُودِهِ إِن كُمْشُ وَحِنْا وندمال صخشك لهند بهكوش ولهنزاف كراكوش كبك ودراج والمدوق تهق وطاكناً تنهذ كعضر دمكى افسك كداو شنذ بحريث ميزند والضنان فإشلك وشلهويا وه بإجوشان وبن للع وصدس جيشا منندنا بينة كرود الكربيا المهنأ

زعنان وبادوم أننا كويشك وهركؤنه فإشك فإكتشثا فذ بإخرها بره بالن لهند ودم كذا

دُركوبتُربلِافِظًا

صودو مزاواداسك مإدالوباك فاده واملها اح كدهيات ما فليم الموسان فل

كىنى الى كىنى كەنت كەربالى بىنا خادە بىنى دائىنى ئاشكىرلى بالىسىلىد ئاسىن ئىلىنى ئىلىرى بىنى ئىلىرى بىنى ئىلىرى ئىلىرى ئىلىرى بىنى ئىلىرى ئىلىدى ئىلىرى ئىلىرى ئىلىرى ئىلىرى ئىلىرى ئىل





c. 1882

(برنامهیأشپزخانهی دربار ناصرالدین شاه)

تالیف: علی اکبرخان آشپزباشی به کوشش: رشید تفقد

با مقدمه: دكتر محمدمهدى اصفهاني



ودودانه حفي الماخند

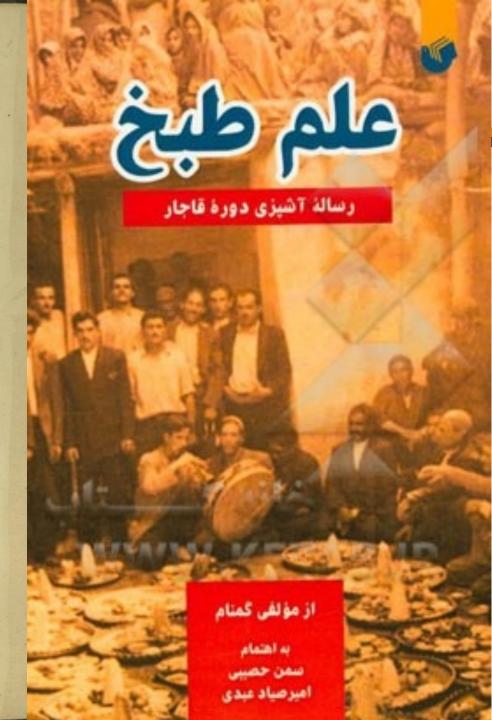
٤ شئ بالدرد كربه واستخبر باشداب غوره زنند والبانارزية فادويه نمك فلفا يزيند كفك دُوجُم متن الوعج اللَّيْ والمخانجان إشدكه ببازداغ كرده والوزا بالمدرى ابدران يختاه كشنهامغ وبالزادوان كذارده بحوشان فالروغي بشبداد وبغرف فلفا فنند وكلستم متن كويدوا فاست وطيخ انمانندا لوح عِنَا لَكُمَا بِشُد زَيْلَ حِمَا عِصِمَن العَبُهُ ان السَّادِ الجَان اللهُ اللهُ غارانى باشداكوغواه نامناع وجمدي خورمكره وسنج نموه درارمى دبندد دانسوين جون سرى غيشه شورالوحيد داخاك تداد وجرونمك خلفل فندويك يجج مستكنكراست وانجان باشكركنك بالإلكاة ولمغش اكفرودب إنداغ سرخ غودة باكوشت بامغ بهان دوانعك ابكذاره وبجوشا سندال بروض بنشيند ولرشى مانتداب فوره وغوره غوره زيند ولدوبروغك وفلفا زنند كالماث شيم متن ربول لهث ولجنخ انجان إشدكر وبولي بابوسكرده وسرخ تموده وكوشا بإمغ بيان داددان كذارد واللك أب ريخ لله بكذارند بجوشدا لما برؤن بشبشد اكراب زاد داشله باشدر بواس ابعة وذكرك هفام متن كدوسا وانجان اشكركدووا بوستكنه ونازلتكيه درروغن سرخ عوه

### مجموعهاحياى متوان



ستقره الطعمر میرزاعلی اکبرخان کار اشپرخشوس امرالدین شاه نسیجه بنید: سدند سرکانمی c. 1859-1907

بعد سررار کیه باز دو بعدات دفر کیدش فات وش دوغ ارئوب، در وقت او گین مع نواندان دیک ری مراسر محز ورده الشر بغور تر بسردرت بي ري دي مي الديد الشوافي م اول عدرا، كود يا درست كشر ريخ كون بعد العناج ، وكالتعبد ورا ما روز تا بحداد و مدر در افتی تر تردر تا ما رکته خدوس و در دردد الشي والمعدد ، والحذر، ترب المحرور والمركة و در باش در م الحدود و، خرنه دوئه سرکوشهرات سرداریان رکیه روار باعد قرار سرواغ ، فید کوشردی المعروث في قرر سرائه والمائل الكالم المائل ا بهم أنه الحية وصر المورجه والمراد ع مع المرام المروم والم الله والمرابة والمرابة ا وقعت وكي توزيخ ك در ب رطر في برينه مانده ويفيه والهواده ا وب زور در می اس بربر والم د مندل در و در ای میدار می ایم استار و ایم در ده ي المدود به الطريم نوب در من ما دوره والمراك ما فلوا ورت كرون قور مرام عشركروه مورز كالدعة في عوب وقد م ديد وامركا مغ الروسه وبرنه معدار ونعيد عن وراز والديرون كم تحمير كه واس را الكارية عامروره ان درور ميدارم لعمالا روس را اي وب حرف كم دوس مدارم العدارة العدارة اربع الدر و الخلط درم مستى لعف شود ما زكت لوش دائز المرابية لم كارا خوص ٠ رسم ١٨٠٠ وفت رويزه ، سي رنوه بعد كله از كي فرام بيد رويان ج لود . كيم ير ادام احمد ازوب الم دور بل وغال طالم والني الم المراحة اوى ازال



			Pishdadians	3467-1025 BCE
	3200-539 BCE	Elamites		
	678-549 BCE	Medians	Kayanians	1026-333 BCE
-	550-330 BCE	Achaemenids	7.2.7	
	306-150 BCE	Seleucids		306-150 BCE
	247 BCE-224 CE	Parthians		247 BCE-224 CE
	224-661	Sasanians		224-661
	821-873	Tahirids		
	864-928	Alavids		
	861-1003	Saffarids		
	875-999	Samanids		
	928-1043	Ziyarids		
	932-1056	Buyids		
	962-1187	Ghaznavids		
	1037-1194	Seljuks		
	1077-1231	Khwarazmians		
	1256-1388	Ilkhanids		
	1314-1393	Muzaffarids		
	1369-1507	Timurids		
	1501-1736	Safavids		
	1736-1796	Afsharids		
	1750-1794	Zands		
	1785-1925	Qajars		
	1925-1979	Pahlavis		
	1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

Early 1900s
The First Two
Cookbooks Intended
for Iranian Home Cooks

### Early 1900s- Two Cookbooks for Home Cooks

### The French Family Connection!!

#### The Grandfather

- Jules Richard
- a.k.a. Monsieur Rishār Khan
- French adventurer came to Iran in 1850s
- Lived in Iran (married, learned Persian, became Muslim, buried in Tehran)
- Employed by Iranian Royal Court (photographer, French teacher, advisor)



#### The Father

- Joseph Richard
- a.k.a. مؤدب المُلك [Mo'adab al-Molk
- a.k.a. Monsieur Rishār Khan
- Born, lived, and buried in Tehran



#### The Granddaughter

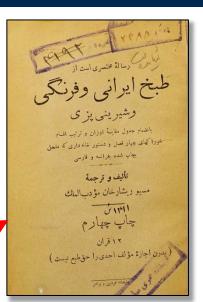
- Josephine Richard
- a.k.a. نشاط الدوله [Neshāt al-Do'leh]
- a.k.a. Josephine Rishār
- Born and lived in Tehran





Published 190

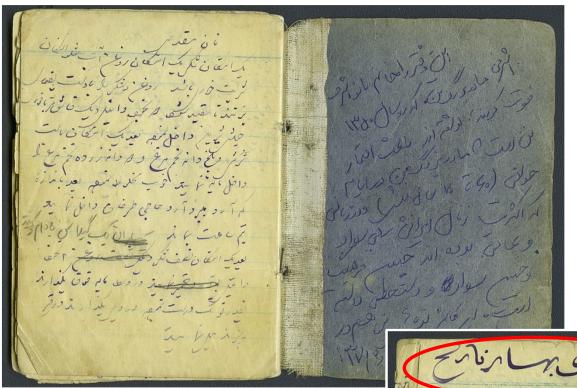






		Pishdadians	3467-1025 BC
3200-539 BCE	Elamites		
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<u>1920s</u> Personal Recipe Notebooks



Written by a home cook, Ashraf Ashrafi, between 1922-1932.







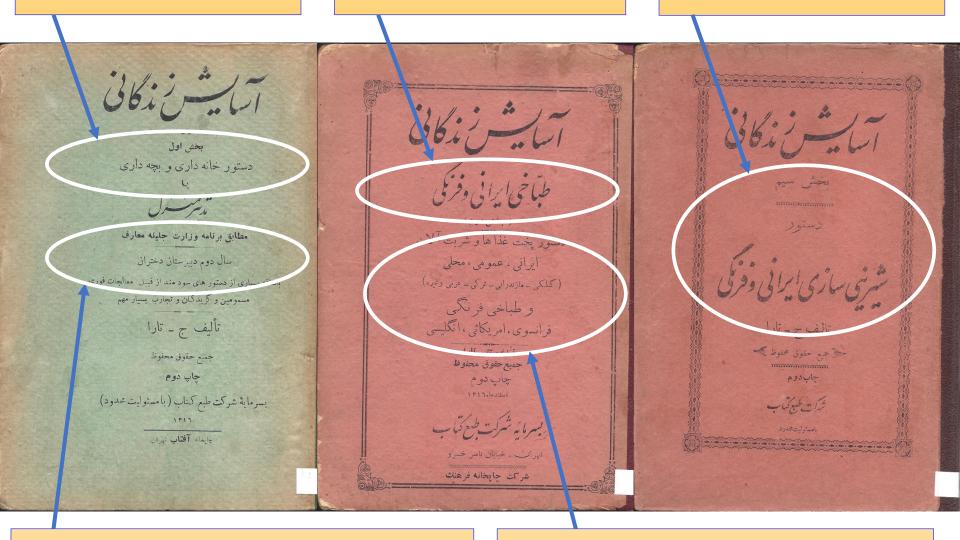
		Pishdadians	3467-1025 BCE
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1979-Present	Islamic Rep.		

Early 1938
A 3-Volume Set for
High School Curriculum

Volume 1
Home Economics

Volume 2
Iranian & "Foreign" Cooking

Volume 3
Iranian & "Foreign" Baking



Based on Programs of Ministry of Education For 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Girls Highschool Recipes for Iranian, Foreign, Regional Dishes and Beverages

### **Summary / Closing**



# Challenges (in no particular order)

- Romanization inconsistencies
- Access to manuscripts in Iranian libraries and museums
- Unsearchable digitized copies
- Minimal English translations
- Translations by individuals without culinary experience
  - Still extremely valuable
- Typical Internet inaccuracies
- Pay walls to research material



### High-level Observations

#### • Pre 1900

- Written by male professionals for other professionals
- Assumes the reader is an experienced cook
- Provides general idea of the recipe
  - Not necessarily detailed step by step
- With regards to amount of ingredients
  - · Anywhere from none to some
  - Often assuming preparation for large gatherings and banquets
- Use of expensive and hard to find ingredients
- Bidirectional flow/exchange/impact of recipes and cookbooks across borders
  - Southwest borders of Iran ←→ Arab world
  - Eastern borders of Iran ←→ Afghanistan, India
  - Northeastern borders of IRan ←→ Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

### First half of 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- Beginnings of writing for home cooks
  - Assumption that home cook is female
- Organized more like modern cookbooks
  - Table of contents; Index; Chapters/section organization



# Thank you for your attention.

- This work is dedicated to the memory of three individuals who had studied the culinary history of Iran:
  - Margaret Shaida
  - Bert Fragner
  - Iraj Afshar
- The author has benefited from interactions with:
  - Ken Albala
  - Willem Floor
  - Bert Fragner
  - Mohammad Ghanoonparvar
  - Hasan Javadi
  - Mitra Mehrabadi
  - Nazila Nazemi
  - Charles Perry
  - Amir Sayadabdi
- Some of the historical maps shown are courtesy of:
  - Ollie Bye
  - Ali Zifan



### Author

Nader Mehravari has been exploring the history, principles, and practices of Persian cookery and Iranian food for over 40 years – initially as a serious side quest and for the past several years as a fulltime mission.

His current explorations and writings deal with historical, cultural, and social practices relating to the preparation and consumption of food within Persianate societies. He puts the outcomes of his explorations into practice by recreating traditional and authentic Persian dishes in a typical modern western home kitchen, while carefully documenting associated methods behind individual and classes of dishes.

He is writing an innovative Persian cookbook where accurate historical information and modern food science techniques are incorporated for modern western home kitchens. His academic and professional background in science, engineering, and technology allows him to incorporate a structured and scientific approach into his culinary passion.

He received his PhD from Cornell University in 1982. He is a retired corporate executive, has taught at Cornell, Syracuse, and Princeton Universities, and has published extensively.

He is currently a volunteer Research Associate at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences of University of California, Davis. He also volunteers at the Center for Iranian Diaspora Studies at San Francisco State University as the Center's Foodways Research Fellow.

Most recently, his work has been published in Petits Propos Culinaires, presented at Oxford Food Symposium, and appeared on SeriouseEats.com.

