

A treatise on amicable numbers by Sayyid Masīḥ Ḥussainī

Mahmoud Shahidy

The study of the sum of numbers' proper divisors has been a common topic for the mathematicians, among which amicable numbers have had an outstanding and amusing place in the history of mathematics. The Muslim scholars have paid a special attention to this subject, e.g. they proposed rules to obtain these numbers and they found few pairs of them. In this paper, we edit and study a late Persian treatise on amicable numbers in which the author reviews what his predecessors penned in this case. Since these numbers have been a subject involved with pseudo-science, the author of the treatise also mentions some of these beliefs applying mathematical rules such as placing the numbers in magic squares.

Abstracts of Persian Articles

Considerations on the book *Āyāt-e Bayyenāt* and Confrontations against Darwinism in Iran

Kamran Amir Arjomand

Āyāt-e Bayyenāt (1882) is a philosophical treatise written by the Shi'ite authority Mohammad Hosayn Shahrestani (1839-1898) to refute the 19th-century materialism and the idea of natural evolution as he understood them. These ideas were attributed to the "Naycheries" in India who probably had some followers in Iran. This refutation is supported by philosophical proofs of sacred doctrines of the unity of God, the divine creation, miracles and so forth. In addition, Shahrestani offers a creationist account for the diversity of living species, arguing that only through the existence of an intelligent Creator can the life cycle and the complex order of living beings be explained. He thereby rejects the Darwinian claim that life on earth started accidentally. Some years later Mahdi Najafi Masjedshahi Esfahani (1881-1973), another Shi'ite scholar wrote a treatise entitled *Ketāb-e Murtafaq* (1895) comprising, among others, a refutation of materialism and a rejection of Darwin that borrows heavily from *Āyāt-e Bayyenāt*, without actually mentioning it.

Historical description and the present situation of old cypress trees in Iran

Shamameh Mohammadifar

This paper describes the different types of cypress trees from a botanical point of view, followed by mythological, historical and religious accounts. Then a descriptive list of old cypress trees of Iran with their relevant historical and modern reports are provided. The significance of the cypress trees in Iranian art, literature and popular beliefs are also mentioned.

Editorial

Like any other scientific discipline, history of science as an interdisciplinary field needs to be supported and will develop better in a peaceful situation. The economic and political conditions in our age have resulted in a decreasing trend in this field, compared to, say, some decades ago. Many institutions which were very active in this field are now stopped or have decreased their activities due to destructing wars or difficult economic conditions. Nevertheless, in spite of existing obstacles, we observe an increasing trend in the history of science studies and publications in Iran. Our semiannual journal *Miras-e Elmi* (Scientific Heritage) is one of the manifestations of such a development. *Miras-e Elmi* is spiritually supported by a group of eminent historians of science in its Advisory Board who have confirmed our goals and methods, and in many cases have enhanced the quality of our work by their precious comments. The journal also benefits from contributions of a group of young promising scholars who make the publication of the journal possible and at the same time, they become trained and prepared for keeping the torch burning in future.

Miras-e Elmi publishes original papers, translations, historical notes, text editions, etc. both for enriching the existing literature and for preparing suitable materials in the field, not only for specialists in history of science, but for a wider range of audience including educated people in different fields, students, high school teachers and those with some interest in history and science. We hope that our efforts as a member of the whole historians of science society in the world will be efficient in the propagation of the relevant subjects and in the promotion of the global understanding on the basis of the shared heritage of all human beings with different nationalities, languages, religions, social systems, etc. Although our journal is in Persian, the English list of contents and abstracts of the original Persian papers may help the non-Persian readers to have an idea of the subjects and if necessary, find a way to the content of the Persian paper which is of interest to them.

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