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Shamsa: The Journal of the Persian Manuscripts Association

Call for Papers

The Persian Manuscripts Association (PMA) is delighted to announce the launch of their new online, open-access journal, *Shamsa: The Journal of the Persian Manuscripts Association*. We invite submissions to be published in the inaugural 2024 volume.

Shamsa is a scholarly journal that hopes to encourage the rigorous and comprehensive examination of Persianate manuscript material and to promote and disseminate this research across its global readership. The journal is a vital part of the PMA's mission to provide a forum for specialist colleagues around the world to connect, discuss developments in the field and exchange ideas and information. The journal focuses on Islamic manuscript studies in the historically Persianate world (including, but not limited to, Iran, Iraq, South Asia, Central Asia, and Turkey). We welcome submissions that focus on manuscripts and related media from the Late Antique up to the modern periods and discuss material written in Persian, Arabic, Turkish and other related languages like Urdu, Chagatai, and Uyghur. Submissions include **articles** and **research notes** that contribute to the fields of history and art history, literature, codicology, conservation, historiography, and museum and library studies.

Articles (5,000-10,000 words) must consist of original and meticulously researched contributions to the field of Persianate manuscript studies. Articles will be double-blind peer-reviewed by a minimum of two reviewers. **Research notes** (1,000-5,000 words) present original material or findings of a more limited scope, typically as part of a larger, ongoing investigation. Within 'research notes', original translations of primary sources relevant to the study of Persian manuscripts are also acceptable (submissions must also include a transcription of the source but transliteration is not necessary). Discussions of new acquisitions or discoveries that do not form part of a project are also welcomed. Research note submissions will be double-blind peer-reviewed by a minimum of one reviewer. Word counts are inclusive of footnotes but not the abstract, keywords, bibliography or captions.

All submissions must be in English or Persian and include:

- A Microsoft Word document of the main text file, with all references to the author(s) – including self-citations – removed to maintain anonymity. Submissions that have been anonymized will be returned to the author. Included in the text file must be:
 - A 150–200-word abstract that clearly outlines the main content of the article, its original contribution(s) to scholarship and the key material discussed.
 - 5–10 keywords.
 - Legible images with captions (see “Citation and style guidelines” for guidance on images and captions). Low-resolution images are acceptable for the initial

submission with the understanding that authors will provide high-resolution files and **secure all necessary permissions** if the article is accepted for inclusion in the journal. There is no limit on images, but authors are advised to ensure all images are directly relevant to the content of their submission.

- A bibliography of all works cited (see “Citation and style guidelines” for guidance on referencing and citation formatting).
- A CV for each author, including details of current positions and institutional affiliations (if any), full contact details and lists of publications.
- A Word document containing one or two suggestions for peer reviewers (though the Editors cannot guarantee that these names will be assigned as reviewers). One or two individuals that authors wish not to be contacted as peer reviewers may also be mentioned.

Submissions with multiple authors must identify a lead author for correspondence. *Shamsa* welcomes submissions from advanced students and independent scholars and curators.

All submissions (articles and research notes) are due by Friday February 24, 2023, to be published in Fall 2024.

Submissions are reviewed by the journal’s Editors and the PMA Editorial Board, which consists of scholars, curators, and librarians in the field of Persianate manuscript studies. **Submissions that are not within the journal’s scope, incomplete, do not adhere to the journal’s word count or are inconsistently formatted and/or transliterated will be rejected before the peer review stage.** The Board aims to secure peer reviewers within one month following the submission deadline. Peer-review reports should be expected within a further four months. Reports will typically have one of the following outcomes: acceptance with minor corrections, acceptance with major corrections, or rejection. If the two reports are strongly conflicting, a third report will be sought. Final decisions are up to the discretion of the Editorial Board.

In the case of acceptance with corrections, the allotted time for re-submission may be between one and six months. Once final versions have been accepted by peer reviewers (typically within one-to-three months), submissions will be copy-edited, and authors will be sent proofs (typically within three months). Authors can then submit final corrections before publication.

It is the author’s responsibility to obtain all necessary permissions to publish copyrighted material. **Authors should attempt to acquire permissions as soon as their submission has been accepted as it can take several months to receive this documentation.** Documentation of copyright permissions (or explanations as to why they are not needed) must be sent to the Editors by **August 31, 2024**. Images without copyright documentation will be removed from the submission prior to final publication.

Late Feb	Submission deadline
End of Mar	Peer reviewers appointed
End of Jul	Receipt of peer review reports
Aug–Apr (approx.)	Re-submission (if applicable) and final approval from peer reviewers
Jan–Jul (approx.)	Production of copy-edited proofs and submission of final corrections
August 31	Final date for receipt of permission documentation
Fall	Publication of journal

Please email completed submissions to the Editors by **Friday, 24 February 2023**: info@persianmanuscripts.org.