

Collection Development of Persian Materials

This document is meant to serve as a resource for libraries wanting to develop their collection of Persian literature and language materials.

The Persian language is spoken in several countries and has a few different dialects, such as in Iran, where it is called *Farsi*, and in Afghanistan, where it is called *Dari* (pronounced with a short “a” like in apple). *Dari* is one of the two main languages of Afghanistan, the other being *Pashto*. *Dari* and *Farsi* are mutually intelligible (think British English vs. American English).

In this document you will find a list of Persian book vendors in the U.S, as well as a list of book titles along with ISBN (when one could be found). After the title for each item, the language of the material is denoted as either Persian, English, or bilingual. Some bilingual books, including children’s books, have also been included, as well as a list of contemporary Afghan visual artists, cultural organizations, and associations that may be of interest.

Classical Persian poetry in particular is highly regarded in Afghanistan. Other books in this document may be of general Middle Eastern (SWANA) interest. There is also a short list of translators to embrace and others to avoid. Titles are cross listed on both the vendors list and book list sections.

Feel free to send any comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvements to ghazighazal@gmail.com

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VENDORS OF PERSIAN LANGUAGE MATERIALS

[Ketab Corp](#) - based in U.S.:

- They have the largest selection of materials that I have found so far
- Large collection of children's books, bilingual and Persian; adult titles; literature
- Since their collection is so massive I didn't go through and pick out titles, but if you have questions about titles or concerns, let me know and I would be happy to assist further

[Mage Publishers](#) - based in U.S.

- [Faces of Love](#) by Hafez – 9781949445022, bilingual, poetry - Also on [Amazon](#)
- [Another Birth](#) by Forugh Farrokhzad, – 9781933823379, poetry, bilingual - on [Amazon](#)
- [Layli & Majnun – Nizami, translated by Dick Davis](#); 9780143133995, also on [Amazon](#)
- [Pearls That Soak My Dress: Elegies for a Child](#) - 9781949445336, also on [Amazon](#)

[Alibris](#)

- [My First Bilingual Book-Music \(English-Farsi\)](#) - 9781840597196, bilingual board book
 - On [Amazon](#)
- [My First Bilingual Book-Opposites \(English-Farsi\)](#)- bilingual, board book
- [My First Bilingual Book-Sports \(English-Farsi\)](#) - bilingual, board book
- [A millennium of classical Persian poetry](#) – 9780936347509 also on [Amazon](#)

[Ibex Publishers](#) - based in U.S.

- [The Little black fish \(bilingual\)](#) – 9781910328002, children's, bilingual
 - Also on [Amazon](#)
- [1001 Persian English Proverbs](#), 9781588140210
- [Persian – English proverbs](#)
- [English-Persian school dictionary](#) – childrens, nonfiction
- [The Gulistan \(rose garden\) of Sa'di : \(Bilingual\)](#) – 9781588140586 also on [Amazon](#)
- [Hafez](#)- Persian edition
- [Selected Poems from the Divan Shams Tabrizi](#) - 9780936347615
 - bilingual, classical poetry, also on [Amazon](#)

Other vendors:

[Iran Farhang](#) - based in Iran, used by academic libraries in US

[Mazda Publishers](#) - based in U.S.

BOOK LISTS

Notes on poetry:

- Classical Persian poetry in particular is highly regarded in Afghanistan
 - Other books on this list may be of general Middle Eastern/Persian interest
- Translators to **avoid**:
 - It is best to avoid translations by Coleman Barks. He is responsible for westernizing Rumi (aka Mowlana/Mowlavi), but has admitted to not knowing Persian. Though his translations are widely published, [his work has now been discredited](#) by scholars since he completely erased all mention of Islam and didn't know the language he was translating.
 - It is best to avoid translations by Daniel Ladinsky, who published books he claimed were translations of Hafez, even though he has admitted to not knowing Persian and making up his translations. [His work has been discredited by scholars.](#)
- Translators to **embrace** (all are included here in the corresponding author section):
 - Jawid Mojaddedi is an excellent translator of Rumi's *Masnavi* (see: Rumi)
 - Zara Houshmand is an excellent translator who published a bilingual book of Rumi's rubaiyat (quatrains)
 - Dick Davis is a solid translator of Hafez, Ferdowsi, and Nizami, who also published an excellent collection of ancient Persian poetry written by women, *The Mirror of My Heart* (see: Classical Persian poetry by women)
 - Sholeh Wolpé is an excellent translator (see: Attar and Forugh Farrokhzad)

Classical Persian Poetry

- Attar
 - o *The Conference of the Birds* (English)– 9780393355543
 - On [Amazon](#)
- Ferdowsi
 - o *Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings* – 9780670034857 (English)
 - [Available on Amazon](#)
 - o Collection of stories from the *Shahnameh* in Persian:
 - *Stories of Shahnameh vol.1* (Persian Edition) – 9781939099549
 - On [Amazon](#)
 - *Stories of Shahnameh vol.2* (Persian/Farsi Edition) – 9781939099570
 - On [Amazon](#)
 - *Stories of Shahnameh vol.3* (Persian/Farsi Edition) – 9781939099648
 - On [Amazon](#)
- Hafez:
 - o *Faces of Love (bilingual edition)* 9781949445022, on [Mage](#) on [Amazon](#)
 - o *Faces of Love* (English edition) 9780143107286
 - o *Divan-e Hafez* (Persian) - collected ghazals of Hafez on [Ibex](#)
- Jami (Nūr ad-Dīn 'Abd ar-Rahmān Jami)
 - o [Yusuf and Zulaikha](#) 9780900860775
 - o [The Heavenly Wine: Renditions from the Divan-e Jami](#) 9781890772567
- Nizami:
 - o *Layli & Majnun* – English translation, 9780143133995
 - on [Amazon](#) and [Mage Publishers](#)
- Rumi (aka Mowlana/ Mowlavi/Mowlana Jalaludin Balkhi)
 - o For his *Masnavi* in English:
 - [The Masnavi, Book One](#) 9780199552313 (English)
 - [The Masnavi Book Two](#) 9780199549917 (English)
 - [The Masnavi Book Three](#) 9780199652037 (English)
 - [The Masnavi Book Four](#) 9780198783435 (English)
 - o For a bilingual edition of his rubaiyat (quatrains):
 - [Moon and Sun](#) 9781734422504 (Bilingual)
 - o *Shams-e-Tabrizi* – 9780936347615 (Bilingual) - [Amazon](#), [Ibex](#)
 - Persian edition on [Ketab Corp](#)
- Saadi Shirazi (Sa'adi, Sa'di)
 - o *The Gulistan (rose garden) of Sa'di: Bilingual Edition With Vocabulary* 9781588140586
 - available [through Ibex](#) and also [on Amazon](#)
- Sana'i, Hakim
 - o *The Walled Garden of the Truth aka The Enclosed Garden of the Truth*
 - [Bilingual edition](#): 9780900860355
 - [English edition](#) 9781530487615
 - o Persian [collection of his works](#)

Classical Persian poetry by women

- *The Mirror Of My Heart: A Thousand Years of Persian Poetry by Women*
 - o Bilingual version_9781949445169, on [Mage](#), on [Amazon](#)
 - o English version – 9780143135616, on [Amazon](#)
- *Pearls That Soak My Dress: Elegies for a Child (English)* - 9781949445336
 - o On [Mage](#), on [Amazon](#)

Classical Persian poetry: reading guide, literary criticism & history

- *A Millennium of Classical Persian Poetry: A Guide to the Reading and Understanding of Persian Poetry from the Tenth to the Twentieth Century* – 9780936347509
 - o On [Amazon](#), also on [Alibris](#)
- *The World of Persian Literary Humanism* - 9780674066717
 - o (Literary criticism & history in English)
- *The Shahname: The Persian Epic as World Literature*, 9780231183444
 - o (Literary criticism in English)

Contemporary Persian poetry

- *Load Poems Like Guns: Women's Poetry from Herat, Afghanistan* 9780985981884 (bilingual Persian & English) on [Amazon](#)
- Hushang Ebtehaj
 - o [Tasian \(Persian\)](#)
 - o [Siah Mashgh](#)
- Forugh Farrokhzad:
 - o *Another Birth* – 9781933823379, bilingual, on [Mage](#), on [Amazon](#)
 - o *Sin: Selected Poems* 9781557289483 on [Amazon](#)
- Sohrab Sepehri
 - o *The Oasis of Now* (bilingual) 9781938160226
 - o *Hasht Ketab* (Persian) 9781546711742
 - on [Amazon](#), and [Ketab Corp](#)
- Solmaz Sharif, *Look* (English) 9781555977443
 - o [Amazon](#)
- Nima Yooshij
 - o Persian on [Ketab Corp](#)
- Simin Behbehani
- Ahmad Shamlou

Indo-Persian & Urdu poets popular in Afghanistan:

- Amir Khusrow
 - o *In the Bazaar of Love* (English translation) 9780143420798
- Iqbal
 - o *Tulip in the Desert* (English translation) 9780773520370
- Abdul Qadir Bedil

Children's Books: Persian & Bilingual

- *Am I small? من کوچیکم؟!* *Children's Picture Book English-Persian/Farsi* (Bilingual Edition) - 9781499507423 on [Amazon](#)
- *The Little black fish (bilingual)* – 9781910328002, bilingual, children's
 - o On [Amazon](#) , and [Ibex](#)
- *My Maman: (In English & Persian)* – 9798517945266 on [Amazon](#)
- *My First Persian (Farsi) Alphabets Picture Book with English Translations: Bilingual-* 9780369600134 on [Amazon](#)
- *Soraya's Nowruz Dance* - 979-8593221919 on [Amazon](#)
- *My Mother's Persian Stories: Folk tales for all ages in English and Farsi* - 978-9657238301 on [Amazon](#)
- *My Baba: (In English & Persian)* - 979-8518137202 on [Amazon](#)
- *My First Bilingual Book-Music (English-Farsi)* - 9781840597196, bilingual board book
 - o On [Amazon](#) and [Alibris](#)
- *My First Bilingual Book-Opposites (English-Farsi)-* bilingual, board book
 - o On [Alibris](#)
- *My First Bilingual Book-Sports (English-Farsi)* - bilingual, board book on [Alibris](#)
- *English-Persian school dictionary* – children's, nonfiction, on [Ibex](#)

Books by Contemporary Afghan Authors

- *Load Poems Like Guns: Women's Poetry from Herat, Afghanistan* 9780985981884 (Bilingual Persian & English) on [Amazon](#)
- *Above Us the Milky Way* - 9781646050024
- *Sparks Like Stars* - Nadia Hashimi 9780063008281
- *The Pearl that Broke Its Shell* – Nadia Hashimi 9780062244758
- *Ask Hafiz* – Sahar Muradi via [Thornwillow Press](#)
- *[Gates]- Sahar Muradi*, 9781625579843, on [Amazon](#)
- *One Story, Thirty Stories: An Anthology of Contemporary Afghan American Literature*, 9781557289452 on [Amazon](#)
- *Lida Abdul* 9788877572233 on [Amazon](#)
- Atiq Rahimi:
 - o 9781590513828
 - o 9780099539544
 - o 9781590513453
 - o 9781590516300
 - o 9781479368051
 - o 9783862065233
 - o 9781884167133
- Asef Soltanzadeh, *Disappearing into flight* 9781780833620
- *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes* 9781586488130
- *Games without Rules: The Often-Interrupted History of Afghanistan* 9781610393195

Other Afghan authors

- Ahmad Shah Durrani
- Rabia Balkhi – [info](#)
- Gul Pacha Ulfat
- Ibn Sina (Avicenna)
- Sher Zaman Taizi
- Mahmud Tarzi
- Khalilullah Khalili
- Pir Mohammad Karwan
- Parween Faiz Zadah

Other titles of interest:

- *Parwana: Recipes and Stories from an Afghan Kitchen* 9781623718756
- *Carpets of Afghanistan* 9781788840484
- *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul* 9781426203763
- *I am the beggar of the world: Landays from contemporary Afghanistan* 9780374535186
- *Songs of Love and War: Afghan Women's Poetry* 9781590513989
- *Washing the Dust From Our Hearts* 9780991386161

Contemporary Afghan Visual Artists:

- Lida Abdul
 - o [Artist website](#) and [Guggenheim artist page](#)
 - o Monograph: 9788877572233 available on [Amazon](#)
- Gazelle Samizay
 - o [Artist website](#)
- Moshtari Hilal
 - o [Artist website](#)
 - o [“Sampling Watana”](#) and [“Fluid Identity in Black and White”](#)
- Khadim Ali
 - o [Guggenheim artist page](#)
- Aziz Hazara
 - o [Biennale of Sydney](#)
- Rahraw Omarzad
 - o [“Gaining and Losing”](#) exhibit
- Shamsia Hassani
 - o [Artist website](#) and [UCLA Hammer Museum](#)
- Mariam Ghani
 - o [Artist website](#)
- Akram Ati
 - o [BBC](#) and [Saatchi Art page](#)

Groups & Organizations of Interest

[Afghan American Artists and Writers Association](#)

[Middle East Librarians Association](#)

[The Samovar Network](#)

[Afghan Punk Zine](#)

Other Titles of Interest from the Middle East/SWANA Region & Diaspora (In English)

- Poetry:

- *Call Me Ishmael Tonight* 9780393326123
- *Born Palestinian, Born Black* 9780976014225
- *Revolt Against the Sun* 9780863563171
- *HOMES* 9781566896092
- *Sadder Than Water* 9789659012558
- *A River Dies of Thirst* 9780981955711
- *Deluge* 9781556595899
- *Calling a Wolf a Wolf* 9781938584671
- *Pilgrim Bell* 9781644450598
- *Poems of Nazim Hikmet* 9780892552740
- *Words Under the Words* 9780933377295
- *The Veiled Suite* 9780393068047
- *I Was Born There I Was Born Here* 9781408822470
- *The Country Without a Post Office* 9780393317619
- *Inquisition* 9780819577627
- *Arabian Love Poems* 9780894108815
- *Princess, Priestess, Poet* 9780292723535
- *Inanna, Lady of Largest Heart* 9780292752429
- *Midnight: and other poems* 9781904614685
- *Fasting for Ramadan* 9781932195941
- *Time* 9781643620046
- *Songs of Mihyar the Damascene* 9780811227650
- *Adonis: Selected Poems* 9780300181258

- Fiction:

- *The Book of Collateral Damage* 9780300251753
- *The Wrong End of the Telescope* 9780802157805
- *Wild Thorns* 9781566563369
- *The Corpse Washer* 9780300205640
- *The Beauty of Your Face* 9781324003380
- *Against the Loveless World* 9781982137038
- *Exit West* 9780735212206
- *Women without Men* 9781558617537
- *Touba and the Meaning of Night* 9781558615571
- *Men in the Sun* 9780894108570
- *Palace Walk* 9780307947109
- *Midaq Alley* 9780385264761
- *My Name is Red* 9780375706851
- *The Bastard of Istanbul* 9780143112716
- *Planet of Clay* 9781642861013
- *The Forty Rules of Love* 9780143118527

- *Mornings in Jeninn* 9781608190461
 - *Frankenstein in Baghdad* 9780143128793
 - *Chronicle of a Last Summer* 9780770437299
 - *Gate of the Sun* 9780914671619
 - *Guapa* 9781590517697
 - *The Map of Love* 9780385720113
 - *No Knives in the Kitchens of this City* 9789774167812
 - *Celestial Bodies* 9781948226943
 - *The Museum of Innocence* 9780307386243
 - *An Unnecessary Woman* 9780802122940
 - *Azazeel* 9781848874299
 - *Memory in the Flesh* 9789774247347
 - *The Loved Ones* 9781558615564
 - *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World* 9781635575811
 - *The Tent* 9789774244735
- **Nonfiction: Gender & Feminism in the Middle East/SWANA Region**
- *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots to a Modern Debate* 9780300049428
 - *Separate and Dominate: Feminism and Racism after the War on Terror* 9781781688809
 - *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* 9780822330219
 - *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* 9780822341147
 - *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America* 9780300181432
 - *In Other Worlds* 9780415389563
 - *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* 9780674088269
 - *It's Not About the Burqa: Muslim Women on Faith, Feminism, Sexuality and Race* 9781509886425
 - *Cut from the same cloth?* 9781783529445
 - *We Have Always Been Here* 9780735235007
 - *My Past is a Foreign Country* 9781473684065
- **Nonfiction: History, Politics, & Memoir**
- *Guantánamo Diary* 9780316517881
 - *No Friend but the Mountains* 9781487006839
 - *The Drone Eats With Me* 9780807049105
 - *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes* 9781586488130
 - *Games without Rules: The Often-Interrupted History of Afghanistan* 9781610393195
 - *I Saw Ramallah* 9781400032662
 - *Kissing the Sword* 9781558618169

- *Terrorism: Theirs & Ours* 9781583224908
- *Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History* 9780691154411
- *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People* 9781566567527
- *The Islamophobia Industry* 9780745337166
- *The Great War for Civilisation: The Conquest of the Middle East* 9781400075171
- *The Coup* 9781620970867
- *Culture and Imperialism* 9780679750543
- *How We Met* 9781783965410
- *The Invisible Muslim* 9781787383029
- *Covering Islam* 9780679758907
- *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim* 9780385515375
- *The Location of Culture* 9780415336390
- *Except for Palestine* 9781620975923
- *Freedom is a Constant Struggle* 9781608465644
- *Going Home* 9781788163071
- *The Limits of Whiteness* 9781503603370
- *Diaries of an Unfinished Revolution* 9780143125150
- *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason* 9780674177642
- *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* 9781851685554
- *Love is an Ex-Country* 9781948226585
- *A Map of Home* 9780143116264

- **Comics & Graphic Novels**

- *Baddawi* 9781935982401
- *Guantánamo Kid: The True Story of Mohammed El-Gharani* 9781910593660
- *I Remember Beirut* 9781467744584
- *Persepolis* 9780375714832
- *Palestine – Joe Sacco* 9781560974321
- *A Child in Palestine: The Cartoons of Naji Al-Ali* 9781844673650
- *Footnotes in Gaza* 9780805092776
- *A Game for Swallows: To Die, To Leave, To Return* 9781575059419
- *Nylon Road* 9780312532864
- *The Arab of the Future* 9781627793445
- *The Arab of the Future 2:* 9781627793513
- *The Arab of the Future 3:* 9781627793537
- *The Arab of the Future 4:* 9781250150660
- *The Unwanted: Stories of Syrian Refugees* 9780358452140
- *Brothers of the Gun* 9780399590627
- *Jerusalem* 9781770461765
- *Rolling Blackouts* 9781770462557
- *Exit Wounds* 9781897299838
- *Arab in America* 9780867196733

Cultural Programming:

- Nowruz: Persian New Year
 - First day of spring (March 21st/22nd)
 - Celebrated in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Kurdistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and other countries in Central and Western Asia
 - *Haft-sin* includes a table laid out with specific items (details can easily be looked up on Google), it is customary to put out a book of classical poetry, like by Hafez