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# Iran and the Transformation of Ancient Near Eastern History: the Seleucids (ca. 312–150 BCE)

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on Ancient Iranian History, UC Irvine,  
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Edited by  
Touraj Daryaee, Robert Rollinger and  
Matthew P. Canepa

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## PREFACE

This volume brings together the contributions of the third of the *Payravi Conferences on Ancient Iranian History*, held at the University of California Irvine (Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Iranian Studies), and organized by the editors of this volume. The conference “Iran and the Transformation of ancient Near Eastern History: The Seleucids (ca. 312–150 BCE),” took place on February 24<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> 2020. The proceedings of the first two conferences have already been published in a single volume.<sup>1</sup>

The idea of the *Payravi Conferences* was born thanks to a generous donation by the Payravi family in memory of the late Ali-Asghar Payravi who had been an avid reader and enthusiast of the world of ancient Iran. The aim of the conferences and the subsequent proceedings was to present a learned and critical inquiry into the history of the Iranian Plateau from its pre-dynastic period in the second millennium BCE up to the end of the Sasanian Empire in the 7<sup>th</sup> century CE. This undertaking will be implemented through five conferences and the publication of the respective proceedings, organized by Touraj Daryaei, Robert Rollinger, and Matthew P. Canepa.

We are grateful to the Payravi family for their support in bringing together an international group of scholars from different parts of the world to present, discuss and publish papers about the ancient Iranian World. Our sincere thanks go to a group of persons who were crucial for the implementation of the conference. Without their assistance its success would not have been possible. First, to Mrs. Parichehr Farhad (Payravi), who accepted our proposal and, along with her sister, Mrs. Parvaneh Payravi, generously supported our idea all through the years. We also wish to thank Mr. Saeid Jalalipour, the Program Manager at the Center for Persian Studies at UC Irvine, for his logistical organization of the first three conferences.

Irvine and Innsbruck, November 2022  
Touraj Daryaei, Robert Rollinger, and Matthew P. Canepa

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1 Daryaei/Rollinger 2021.