

Translator or Ambassador: Prince Arfa' of Iran

Amin Amirdabbaghian*

Abstract

The nineteenth century was a transitional era in the history of Iran, and among all dynasties that had ruled over the country, it was the Qajar dynasty who had built a bridge between tradition and modernity.¹ A big part of modernization in Iran was and has been the duty of translators throughout modern history. During the Qajar era, translators were mostly found among the students who had furthered their studies in Western countries.² They were mostly employed in the government sector after graduation. One of the influential translators of the time was Mirza Reza also known as Prince Arfa', who first had served as a translator in the Embassy of Iran in Tbilisi [in present-day in Georgia] and proceeded to be an ambassador of Iran to the Ottoman court. Based on historical shreds of evidence traced from six royal decrees displayed at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, this study tries to draw a timeline on Prince Arfa', highlighting his contributions in diplomatic services as well as the Persian literature. This paper draws on a descriptive framework based on a certain timeline to explain Prince Arfa's biography in relation to historical context.

Keywords: Translator, Ambassador, Prince Arfa', Iran, The Qajar Dynasty

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¹ Dinesh Kumar Maganathan, "Islamic Arts Museum exhibits ceramic works from Iran's Qajar-era." *The Star Malaysia*, August 10, 2019. Accessed October 10, 2019. <https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/culture/2019/08/10/art-islamic-arts-museum-malaysia-ceramics-qajar-iran>.

² Amirdabbaghian, Amin., "A Cultural and Discoursal Prospect Toward Persian Literary Translation Assessment." *Modern Journal of Language Teaching Methods (MJLTM)* (Jahan Elm Institute of Higher Education) 6, No. 4 (July 2016): 470-476.

Çevirmen yahut Büyükelçi: İranlı Prens Arfa'

Amin Amirdabbaghian*

Öz

On dokuzuncu yüzyıl İran tarihinde bir geçiş dönemi idi ve Kaçar Hanedanlığı ülke üzerinde hüküm süren tüm hanedanlar arasında gelenek ve modernite arasında bir köprü kuran yönetim idi.³ Modern tarihi boyunca İran'daki modernleşmenin büyük bir kısmı çevirmenlerin eliyle gerçekleşmiştir. Kaçarlar döneminde, çevirmenler çoğunlukla Batılı ülkelerde eğitim almaya gönderilen öğrenciler arasından çıkardı.⁴ Bu çevirmenler mezun olduktan sonra çoğunlukla devlet sektöründe istihdam ediliyorlardı. Zamanın etkili çevirmenlerinden biri de ilk olarak Tiflis'teki İran Büyükelçiliği'nde [bugünkü Gürcistan'da] çevirmen olarak görev yapan ve daha sonrasında Osmanlı Divan-ı Hümayunu'nda İran'ın büyükelçisi olan Prens Arfa olarak da bilinen Mirza Reza'dır. Bu çalışma Malezya İslam Sanatları Müzesi'nde sergilenen tarihi altı fermada görülen delil parçalarına dayanarak Prens Arfa'nın diplomatik hizmetlerden Fars edebiyatına kadar olan katkılarını vurgulayan bir zaman çizelgesi ortaya koymaya çalışmaktadır. Bu makale tarihsel bağlamla ilişkili bir şekilde belli bir zaman dilimine dayanarak Prens Arfa'nın biyografisine dair betimleyici bir çerçeve çizmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çevirmen, Büyükelçi, Prens Arfa, İran, Kaçar Hanedanlığı

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³ Dinesh Kumar Maganathan, "Islamic Arts Museum exhibits ceramic works from Iran's Qajar-era." *The Star Malaysia*, August 10, 2019. Accessed October 10, 2019. <https://www.thestar.com.my/lifestyle/culture/2019/08/10/art-islamic-arts-museum-malaysia-ceramics-qajar-iran>.

⁴ Amirdabbaghian, Amin., "A Cultural and Discoursal Prospect Toward Persian Literary Translation Assessment." *Modern Journal of Language Teaching Methods (MJLTM)* (Jahan Elm Institute of Higher Education) 6, no. 4 (July 2016): 470-476.

1. Introduction

Mo'in al-Wuzara⁵ Mirza [Muhammad] Reza Khan Arfa'-al-Dowleh (1846-1937), also known as Prince Reza Arfa', was an author, poet, translator and diplomat during the Qajar era. Danesh was his pen name. He was fluent in Azerbaijani, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Russian, English and French.⁶ He was a son of Hajji Shaikh Hassan Sarraf Yerevani, known also as Mirza Hassan Khan, an immigrant money changer from Yerevan. His grandfather was Mirza Ibrahim Khan, the chief minister of the Khan of Yerevan before the second Russo-Persian war of 1826-1828.⁷ His hometown was said to be in Tabriz, where he was born in the Davachi district.⁸ Following the Russian occupation of the former Persian territories in the north of the Aras River (present-day Azerbaijan and Armenia), Mirza Hassan Khan left Yerevan for Tabriz, where he settled and raised a family.⁹ As for the young Reza, he was the eldest son of the family and his father decided to send him to a religious school to be trained as a cleric.¹⁰ However, Reza had to leave Tabriz for Istanbul in 1873 due to an adversity in the family's fortune.¹¹ There, he joined his brother-in-law, Haj Aqa Reza Salmasi, in his modest business while studying French, English and Turkish at the same time in a Greek school.¹² It is intriguing to note that he actually did not study Greek at that time. After residing in Istanbul for two years, Reza decided to go back to Tabriz as he fell sick. Eventually, Reza stopped in Tbilisi on the way back to his hometown, where he found a menial job at

⁵ Deputy Ministry

⁶ Bamdad, Mahdi., شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries]. (Tehran: Zavvar, 1968-72).

⁷ Sepahbodi, Farhad., "Villa Danesh: The Qajar Epoch, 1785-1925." *The Iranian*, November 21, 2003, accessed March 14, 2019. <https://iranian.com/2003/11/21/villa-danesh/>.

⁸ Moezzi, Fatima., "میرزا رضا خان ارفع الدوله (Mirza Reza Khan Arfa' Al-Dawlah)." *Iranian Contemporary History* (Institute of Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies), No. 23 (2002): 289-320.

⁹ Sepahbodi, "Villa Danesh."

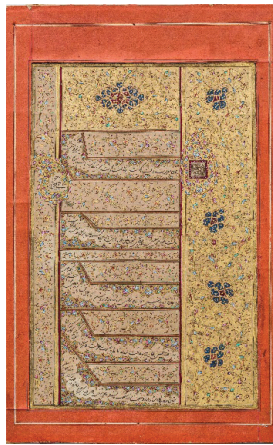
¹⁰ Sa'idi Sirjani and Ali Akbar. "DĀNEŠ (1)." *Encyclopædia Iranica*. December 15, 1993, accessed March 13, 2019. <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/danes-pen-name-of-moin-al-wezara-mirza-reza-khan-arfa-arfa-al-dawla-ca>.

¹¹ Bamdad, شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

¹² Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان," 289-320.

The editorial of the Istanbul-based *Akhtar* newspaper lauded his efforts, calling it an innovative alphabetical system to teach Arabic and Persian to the students in the Caucasus¹⁷ many of whom otherwise were more conversant with the Latin alphabet. Mirza Reza dedicated his book to Mozaffar al-Din Mirza, the Qajar Crown Prince, and received an epithet *Adjutant of the Crown Prince* and *Khan*,¹⁸ from the Qajar court. The royal decree¹⁹ which awarded Mirza Reza the mentioned epithets is shown below.

Picture 2: Royal Qajar letter related to Mirza Reza Khan



Source: Arfa' Al-Dawlah, Qajar Iran, late 19th/early 20th century. Accession Number: 2016.11.40 | © Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

¹⁷ Moezzi, “میرزا رضا خان,” 289-320.

¹⁸ A Turkic noble rank.

¹⁹ In reading the decrees, some words are left illegible as the texts are all handwritten therefore a (?) is put instead where needed.

Inscription:

- 1) چون نظر به مراتب لیاقت و کفایت عالیجاه مجدت و نجدت (؟) میرزا رضا نایب و مترجم جنرال قنسولگری
- 2) دولت علیه مقیم تفلیس (؟) (؟) (؟) عمدة الخوانین العظام میرزا محمود خان جنرال قنسول دارالسلطنه میمونه
- 3) (؟) (؟) او را بمنصب آجودانی خاصه (؟) سرافراز و برقرار داشتیم که با کمال افتخار (؟) (؟) به مراسم خدمتگزاری
- 4) پرداخته حسن کفایت و لیاقت خود را کاملاً در حضرت فکر (؟) ظاهر سازد مقرر آنکه کارگزاران
- 5) آستان (؟) عالیجاه مشارالیه را بمنصب مذبور منصوب دانسته لوازم شغل و عمل او را رجوع داشته در عهده شناسند فی شهر صفر المظفر 1297

Translation:

- 1) Due to the merits and competence of His majesty's magnanimity and bravery (?), Mirza Reza deputy and translator of General Consulate of
- 2) Dowlat-e Eliyye-ye Iran in Tbilisi (?) (?) (?) chief of great Khans Mirza Mahmoud Khan, General Consule of the Blessed Dar-al-Saltanah,
- 3) (?) (?) [we] are honored to acknowledge him [Mirza Reza Arfa'] as adjutant special (?) who with honor has served [us, and]
- 4) shown his merit completely to the Royal Highness (?) and it is ordered that the servants
- 5) of (?) the state, [must] recognize his majesty under this title and prepare the necessary stuff for his job immediately [written] in the month of Safar al-Muzaffar 1297 AH.

Following this, an official in the Embassy of Ottoman Turkey in Tbilisi had also asked him to send a copy of the treatise to Kamil Pasha, the Grand Vizier in the court.²⁰

3. Translation Service

Mirza Reza became a translator and interpreter in Iran as well as overseas, where some of his duties had had significant contributions at that time and in the contemporary history of Iran as well.

²⁰ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان", 289-320.

3.1. As a Russian Interpreter

In 1873, Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar, in his journey across the Caucasus to Europe, needed a Russian interpreter.²¹ As the official interpreter of the embassy was ill, it was Mirza Reza that was introduced to the court.²² It hence marked the beginning of his translation and diplomatic career. As Sa'idi Sirjani,²³ in the first paragraph of his entry, states “the Shah expressed satisfaction with his services, and as a result, he was appointed [as] the third secretary at the [Iran] consulate in Tiflis [Tbilisi]”. Not only that his name appeared on the list of the closest confidants of the Shah, Mirza Reza even received an *Order of Saint Stanislaus*²⁴ from the *House of Romanov*²⁵ for his good service. In 1878, Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar presented him a gift of an *Order of the Lion and the Sun*²⁶ and by an official decree, made him the translator and deputy of the Consulate of Iran in Tbilisi.²⁷

3.2. As a Turkish Interpreter

After the Russo-Turkish War (1877–1878), Mirza Reza was ordered to make a report on the living condition of the Turkish prisoners in a Russian camp near Tbilisi²⁸. He was introduced as an interpreter to the camp and the release of his interviews made their living condition better²⁹. In order to honor his work, the Ottoman court awarded him an *Order of Majidiyah*.³⁰

²¹ Sirjani and Akbar, “DĀNEŠ (1).”

²² Moezzi, “میرزا رضا خان,” 289-320.

²³ Sirjani and Akbar, “DĀNEŠ (1).”

²⁴ A Polish order of knighthood.

²⁵ Moezzi, “میرزا رضا خان,” 289-320.

²⁶ An Imperial Order to honor foreign officials who had rendered distinguished services to Iran.

²⁷ Moezzi, “میرزا رضا خان,” 289-320.

²⁸ Allen, William ED, and Paul Muratoff., *Caucasian Battlefields*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1953).

²⁹ Arfa', Reza., *خاطرات پرنس ارفع: ایران دیروز* [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa']. (Tehran: Ministry of Culture and Art, 1967).

³⁰ A Royal Order of the Ottoman court. Moezzi, Fatima., “الدوله میرزا رضا خان ارفع,” (Mirza Reza Khan Arfa' Al-Dawlah).” *Iranian Contemporary History* (Institute of Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies), No. 23 (2002): 289-320.

3.3. Representing Iran in Russia

In 1882, the Russian government held a congress to study the Caucasian antiquities and Mirza Reza represented Iran as he was fluent in the Russian language.³¹ At the same time, Abdul Samad Mirza Ezz-al-Dawlah, Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar's brother, with some of the members of the court, was visiting Saint Petersburg to participate in the coronation ceremony of Alexander III of Russia.³² Thus, the ambassador of Iran to Saint Petersburg appointed Mirza Reza as the interpreter³³ for the royal entourage. The outcome of the visit was an *Order of Saint Anna*³⁴ for him by the Russians.³⁵

3.4. Akhal-Khorasan Boundary Commission

Due to his deep knowledge of French and Russian, in the 1880s, Mirza Reza was successful in winning a place on "the mixed commission for the delimitation of the frontier" between Russia and Iran, which was in the Khorasan province.³⁶ To accomplish his task, Mirza Reza was sent to Ashgabat to meet General Kamarov of the Russian army and finally resolved the issue of the border after a three-year period of negotiation.³⁷ In February 1886, Mirza Reza, as the plenipotentiary officer, signed the protocols of the boundary on behalf of Iran.³⁸ In return for his service, he received a royal decree from Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar, which granted him the *General Adjutant* position as well as a salary of two hundred *tuman*³⁹, as promised by Suleiman Khan Sahib Ikhtiyar (Fath-Ali Shah Qajar's son-in-law).

³¹ Arfa', "ایران دیروز: 75."

³² Bamdad, Mahdi., شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries]. (Tehran: Zavvar, 1968-72).

³³ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان," 289-320.

³⁴ A Russian Imperial order of chivalry.

³⁵ Arfa', خاطرات پرنس ارفع, "ایران دیروز: [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa']".77.

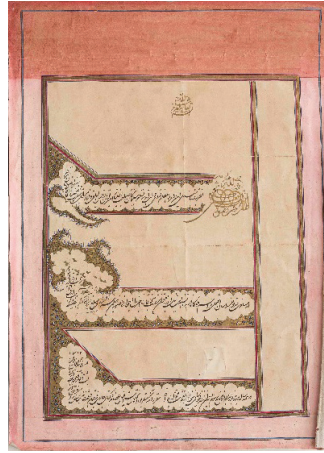
³⁶ Sirjani and Akbar, "DĀNEŠ (1)."

³⁷ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان," 294.

³⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs - IRI., ساینر دول راهنما و مشخصات معاهدات دو جانبه ایران با, [Guidelines and Specifications for Bilateral Treaties of Iran with Other Governments]. (Tehran: Department of Political and International Studies Documentation 1988).

³⁹ An Iranian currency during the Qajar period equal to ten riyals or ten thousand dinars (Amirdabbaghian, 2019).

Picture 3: Royal Qajar letter related to Mirza Reza Khan



Source: Arfa' Al-Dawlah, Qajar Iran, late 19th/early 20th century. Accession Number: 2016.11.42 | © Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

Inscription:

- (1) نظر به رضامندی امیرالامراء العظام فدوی دولت ابد ارتسام سلیمان خان صاحب اختیار امیر تومان از حسن لیاقت و فرط مراقبت مقرب بحضرة الخاقانة میرزا رضا خان مترجم
- (2) در مسافرت سرحد خراسان و شمول مراسم ملوکانه در هذه السنه (؟) او را به عنوان مقرب بخاقانی و جنرال آجودانی حضور همایون سرافراز و مبلغ دویست تومان نقد بضیعة مواجب در حق او مرحمت و برقرار فرمودیم
- (3) که همه ساله وجه مذبور را بعد از وضع رسوم دیوان اخذ (؟) (؟) بلوازم خدمت محوله پروانه مقرر آنکه مقربو الخاقان مستوفیان عظام و کتاب سعادت فرجام دفترخانه مبارکه شرح فر همایونی را ثبت دفاتر خلوده نموده در عهده شناسند حرر فی شهر جمادی الدوم 1303

Translation:

- 1) Due to the euphoria of Amir-al-Umara-al-Idzam, devoted of eternally obeyed/official government Suleiman Khan Sahib Ikhtiyar Amir Tuman from efficiency and care of Muqarab-ul-Khaqan Mirza Reza Khan Translator

- 2) In the travel to Khorasan borders and [because of] benefits of the royal formalities in this year (?) [we are] honored to acknowledge him [Mirza Reza] as Muqarab-ul-Khaqan (close [person]-to-shah) and General Adjutant and add 200 Tumans cash to his salary
- 3) Which every year, after meeting the requirements of the ministry of (?) (?) will be paid for his service and the Majesty Muqarab-ul-Khaqan has to write down this blessing of royal honor in Heavenly notebooks and considers it as [his] duty, written in the month of Jumada al-Dowum 1303 AH

This royal decree has the seals of both Amir Kabir Naeb-ol-Sultan (Grand Vizier of Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar) and Mushir-ul-Dawlahs' (Minister of Foreign Affairs) yet there is no seal from the Shah. It was most probably from Mushir-ul-Dawlah who was a close friend of Fath-Ali Shah Qajar's son-in-law, Suleiman Khan Sahib Ikhtiyar.

He was then assigned to welcome Conte Donato, the new ambassador of Italy to Iran in 1887, and following this, as a result, he received an *Order of the Crown of Italy*⁴⁰ from the Kingdom of Italy.⁴¹ It was Mirza Reza's last job that focused only on translation and interpretation, and one that also marked the beginning of his more official duties, that was in diplomatic services.

4. Diplomatic Service

Mirza Reza served in many diplomatic positions that have had impressive influences on the contemporary history of Iran.

4.1. Consul of Iran to Russia

His first diplomatic job started in Saint Petersburg in August 1887. He was appointed as the Consul and translator in the Embassy of Iran. In a royal decree, Mirza Yahya Khan Moshir al-Dawlah Qazvini, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,⁴² informed Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar of his need for

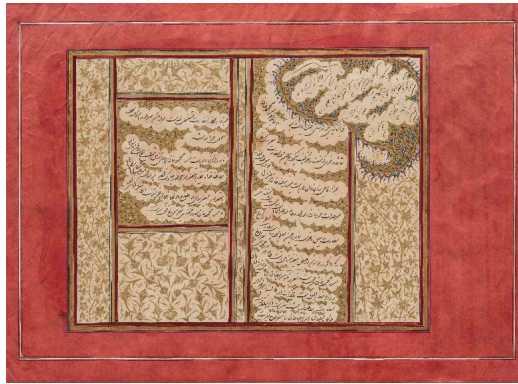
⁴⁰ It was founded to commemorate the unification of Italy in 1861.

⁴¹ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفا*, [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

⁴² Bamdad, *شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری*, [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

personnel who is linguistically talented to work in the Embassy of Iran in Saint Petersburg and recommended Mirza Reza due to his strong background in the Russian language. The recommendation was accepted by the Shah and Mirza Reza was thus sent to Russia.

Picture 4: Royal Qajar letter related to Mirza Reza Khan



Source: Arfa' Al-Dawlah. Qajar Iran, late 19th/early 20th century.
Accession Number: 2016.11.38 | © Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

Inscription:

حاشیه:

(1) جناب مشیرالدوله از تفصیل اطلاع حاصل شد (؟) است میرزا رضاخان را به سفارت پترزبورغ و در (؟) (؟) سفارت باشد(؟) ضرری (؟) اند و (؟) را رسم برقرار باشد.

متن:

- (1) جهان خاک پای جواهرآسای اقدس همایونیت شوم مدتی بود که میرزا محمود خان
- (2) شارژ دافر می نوشت و تلگراف می کرد چون در سفارت پترزبورغ
- (3) اجزاء قابل زبان دان لازم است میرزا رضا خان جنرال در سفر صاحب اختیار
- (4) به سرحدات خراسان مامور بود و حالا در تهران است به سمت نایب مستشاری

- 5) سفارت معین و عزیمت نماید و چون معلم منسوب ریاست سفارت پطرزبورغ
- 6) به کسی واگذار خواهد شد در عرض این (?) قابل داشت حالا که وزیر مختاری پطرزبورغ
- 7) به میرزا محمودخان مرحمت شد نظر بر اینکه میرزا رضاخان قابل و زبان دان
- 8) و وارد نظام العلماء است و خود آنها او را طالبند و هرچه اجزای
- 9) سفارت بقاعده تر باشند بهتر است اگر (?) قدسیه
- 10) ملوکانه احضار نماید میرزا رضاخان را به سطرزبورغ بفرستند
- 11) جزو اجزاء سفارت مشغول خدمت بوده باشد بهرطور است مقررى تسویه
- 12) به عمل خواهد شد.
- 13) نامه (?) ماموریت میرزا محمودخان رسم برای (?) شرف صحیح است همایون اقدس اعلی
- 14) روحنا فداه تقدیم حضور مراحم ظهور مبارک گردید (?) قدسی (?) مستطاب
- 15) (?) (?) به سفیر روس برسم اطلاع (?) خیلی خیلی از حسن انتخاب اظهار (?) کرد
- 16) که میرزا محمودخان به وزیر مختاری پطرزبورغ منتخب گردیده است.

Translation:

Margin:

- 1) Mr. Moshir al-Dawlah, I am informed in detail (?) please send Mirza Reza Khan to the Embassy of [Iran in] Petersburg and in the (?) (?) embassy (?) not to be harmful (?) and (?) to be established.

Text:

- 1) May the world be under your jewel, imperial and holy feet! There was a while that Mirza Mahmoud Khan
- 2) chargé d'affaires has been writing telegraphs because in the Embassy of [Iran in] Petersburg
- 3) they need personnel who knows languages, General Mirza Reza Khan who was, with Sahib Ikhtiyar responsible in the trip to
- 4) the Khorasan borders and now residing in Tehran [kindly] appoint [him]

- as the vice consultant of the embassy
- 5) so he can go there and since the appointed teacher of the Embassy of [Iran in] Petersburg
 - 6) will be assigned to another person, for this reason (?) as now the Embassy of [Iran in] Petersburg
 - 7) is offering the position to Mirza Mahmoud Khan and because Mirza Reza Khan is qualified and knows languages
 - 8) and scholarship system and they [the Embassy of Iran in Petersburg] themselves asked him and if the personnel of the embassy
 - 9) is qualified it would be better if the holy shah
 - 10) sends Mirza Reza Khan to Petersburg
 - 11) to serve as one of the personnel there, the salary
 - 12) would be paid regularly.
 - 13) The letter of (?) Mirza Mahmoud Khan's mission is presented (?) to the royal
 - 14) holy [shah] may our souls be sacrificed for you (?) holy (?) meritorious (?) (?)
 - 15) the ambassador of Russia is informed (?) expressed so much happiness for this excellent choice (?)
 - 16) that Mirza Mahmoud Khan is appointed as the ambassador to Petersburg.

As is visible in this decree, Mirza Reza was praised because of his excellent [translation] service in the *Akhal-Khorasan Boundary Commission*. It should be noted that Mirza Mahmoud Khan who is mentioned in the text was actually Mirza Mahmoud Khan Diba, also known as Ala-al-Malik, the chargé d'affaires of Iran to Saint Petersburg (Russia) in 1887.⁴³

⁴³ Aqeli, Baqer., شرح حال رجال سیاسی و نظامی معاصر ایران [History of Iranian Contemporary Political and Military Men]. 3 vols. (Tehran: Elm Armaghan 2001); Moezzi, Fatima., میرزا رضا خان ارفع الدوله (Mirza Reza Khan Arfa' Al-Dawlah).” *Iranian Contemporary History* (Institute of Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies), No. 23 (2002).

In a separate decree, the service was relayed to Mirza Reza by Mirza Ali Asghar Khan Amin al-Sultan, the last Prime Minister under Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar.

Picture 5: Royal Qajar letter related to Mirza Reza Khan



Source: Arfa' Al-Dawlah. Qajar Iran, late 19th/early 20th century. Accession Number: 2016.11.37 | © Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

Inscription:

وزارت امور خارجه

مورخه 6 شهر ذی قعدة 1304

حاشیه سمت چپ:

میرزا رضاخان جنرال آجودان حضور همایون

متن فرمان:

- (1) معتمدالسلطان، چون جناب میرزا محمودخان وزیرمختار خواسته بود شما به سطرزبورغ رفته و در سفارت
- (2) دولت علیه مشغول خدمت باشید لهذا اجازه عزیمت شما از خاکپای همایون اعلیحضرت قدرقدرت شاهنشاهی روحنا فداه تحصیل گردید

- (3) و آن معتمدالسلطان هم به همت مستشاری سفارت پترزبورغ به
انجا عزیمت کرده برحسب صوابدید جناب میرزا محمودخان
(4) وزیرمختار به مشاغل مربوط پای خدمت قیام و اقدام نموده با کمال
مراقبت مشغول خدمت به عهد باشید (؟)

حاشیه پایین:

وزارت امور خارجه

معمدالسلطان میرزا رضاخان جنرال آجودان حضور همایون مستشار
سفارت پترزبورغ

Translation:

Right Margin:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Date: 6 Dhu al-Qidah 1304 A.H.

Left Margin:

His Excellency Mirza Reza Khan General Adjutant

Main Text:

- 1) Motamed al-Sultan... as his excellency, Mirza Mahmoud Khan, the ambassador, asked you to go to Petersburg and serve in the Embassy of [the]
- 2) dignified government, therefore your permission to leave from the world under the feet of his majesty [and] powerful kingdom, may our souls be sacrificed for him, is obtained,
- 3) and [with the support of] Motamed al-Sultan and the consul of the Embassy of [Iran in Saint] Petersburg [you can] travel there and according to Mirza Mahmoud Khan's, the ambassador, advice
- 4) involve in and serve your due jobs and promise with extra care (?).

Bottom Margin:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Motamed al-Sultan, His Excellency Mirza Reza Khan General Adjutant,
Consul of Embassy [of Iran in] Petersburg

After almost two years, Mirza Reza was asked to welcome Nasser al-Din Shah in the Jolfa border and accompany him on his third tour through Europe in 1889. For his good service, he was awarded an *Order of Brigadier General*⁴⁴ in Jolfa, a *Carbuncled Sword* in Warsaw, an *Order of Saint Anna*, a *Royal Victorian Order*⁴⁵ and an *Order of Legion Denoir*.⁴⁶

4.2. Consul General to the Caucasus

In December 1889, Mirza Reza was honored as *Mo'in al-Wuzara* by Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar and ordained as the Consul General of Iran to the Caucasus in Tbilisi, [present-day Georgia].⁴⁷ As stated in his autobiography that he was also authorized to issue passports for Iranians in the Caucasus, a position which garnered a considerable amount of income for him. During Mirza Reza's mission, Aminah Aqdas, Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar's favorite wife, traveled to Europe through the Caucasus for medical reasons. Mirza Reza managed to welcome and help her significantly, and for this great favor of him, he was rewarded with more than ten blank-signed royal decrees.⁴⁸ These decrees actually played a crucial role in the Qajar society and essentially provided *passes* or *licenses* to promote the socio-political status and grant financial bonuses. During his diplomatic service in the Caucasus, Mirza Reza eventually met and married his wife, who was a member of a well-known royal family in Tbilisi.⁴⁹

4.3. Ambassador to Russia, Sweden, and Norway

Mirza Reza was sent to Saint Petersburg as the ambassador of Iran to Russia in March 1895.⁵⁰ While he was busy with his service there, Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar honored him with the title of *Arfa' al-Dawlah* (*Heightening*

⁴⁴ It is a senior rank in armed forces.

⁴⁵ It is a dynastic order of knighthood established by Queen Victoria in 1896.

⁴⁶ A French Royal order. Afshar, Iraj., *روزنامه خاطرات اعتمادالسلطنه* [*Diary of E'temad al-Saltanah*]. (Tehran: Amir Kabir 1966).

⁴⁷ Arfa', *خاطرات پرنس ارفع*: *ایران دیروز*: *[Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa']*.

⁴⁸ Mousavi, M. *خاطرات احتشام السلطنه* [*Memories of Ihtisham al-Saltanah*]. (Tehran: Zavar, 1988): 195.

⁴⁹ Arfa', *خاطرات پرنس ارفع*: *ایران دیروز*: *[Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa']*.

⁵⁰ Afshar, Iraj. *روزنامه خاطرات اعتمادالسلطنه* [*Diary of E'temad al-Saltanah*]. (Tehran: Amir Kabir, 1966).

of the Government) in July 1895 and then with *Amir Tuman*⁵¹ a couple of months later in March 1896.⁵²

Right after the assassination of Nasser al-Din Shah Qajar and the ensuing coronation of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar in 1896, an issue arose between the governments of Iran and Italy.⁵³ The problem was regarding trade matters between the two countries and the King of Sweden was selected as the judge.⁵⁴ Mirza Reza was immediately appointed as the ambassador of Iran to Sweden and Norway while still being let to keep his position in Russia and was sent thereafter to Sweden for further discussions.⁵⁵ Fortunately, the court's vote was in favor of Iran and accordingly Mirza Reza was given the title of *Prince* by the Qajar court in return⁵⁶ allowing him to benefit from all the privileges granted to the Qajar royal family.

After a while, Mirza Ali Asghar Amin al-Sultan, the Grand Vizier of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar, was removed from his position and exiled to Qom in central Iran.⁵⁷ Due to Amin al-Sultan's close friendship with Prince Arfa', Abdul Hussein Mirza Farmanfarma, the Minister of Defense, was willing to remove him from the embassy and had him exiled to Qom too.⁵⁸ Eventually, a problem concerning the Khorasan border came up between Iran and Russia which led to a big demonstration by the people and clergy against the Russian Kingdom in Mashhad in 1897.⁵⁹ Mirza Nasr-Allah Khan Mushir al-Dawlah, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, asked Prince Arfa' in a telegraph to resolve the issue if he was still willing to keep his position in Saint Petersburg.⁶⁰ In response, Prince Arfa' wrote a letter to

⁵¹ It was a rank in armed forces commanding a troop of 1000.

⁵² Katirayi, Mahmoud. *خلسه مشهور به خوابنامه اثر محمد حسن خان اعتماد السلطنه* [An Ecstasy Known as Dream Interpretation Book by Muhammad Hassan Khan E'temad al-Saltanah]. (Tehran: Tooka, 1978).

⁵³ *خاطرات احتشام السلطنه*, Mousavi.

⁵⁴ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان", 289-320.

⁵⁵ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع*, [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

⁵⁶ Bamdad, *شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری* [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

⁵⁷ Bamdad, *شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری* [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

⁵⁸ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع*, [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

⁵⁹ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان",.

⁶⁰ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع*, [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs explaining his situation and asked him to overlook their rights. Due to his close friendship with the Russians, his request was accepted and to compensate his deeds, Mirza Reza was awarded two diamond epaulets by the Qajar court and he managed to keep his position in Saint Petersburg.⁶¹

4.3.1. The Hague Peace Conference

In 1899, Prince Arfa' represented Iran in the *Peace Conference* which was held in the Hague and he supported the Russian Kingdom against the Germans.⁶² This resulted in an epithet, *the Prince of Peace*, awarded to him by the Qajar court.⁶³

4.4. Loan from Russia

In January 1900, Prince Arfa' was reported to have been entertaining "Russian sympathies and was certainly instrumental in negotiating the first Russian government loan" to Iran, which amounted to two million liras.⁶⁴ A short while afterwards, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar traveled to Europe using the loan in April 1900⁶⁵ and he appreciated Mirza Reza's efforts in getting the loan. To welcome the Shah, Mirza Reza held a reception party in Saint Petersburg.⁶⁶ During his visit to Russia, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar assigned Prince Arfa' to participate in the twenty-fifth anniversary of the coronation of Sultan Abdul Hamid II in Istanbul. Having fulfilled this duty granted Prince Arfa' an *Order of Majidiyah* decorated with a diamond from the Ottoman court.⁶⁷

⁶¹ Mousavi, *خاطرات احتشام السلطنه*, 258.

⁶² Arfa, Hasan. *Under Five Shahs*. (New York: Morrow, 1964).

⁶³ Bamdad, شرح حال رجال ایران در قرن ۱۲ و ۱۳ و ۱۴ هجری [Biographies of [notable] personages of Iran in the 12th, 13th, and 14th/18th, 19th, and 20th centuries

⁶⁴ Sirjani and Akbar, "DĀNEŠ (1)."

⁶⁵ Safai, Ibrahim. اسناد سیاسی دوران قاجاریه [Political Documents from the Qajar Period]. (Tehran: Babak, 1967).

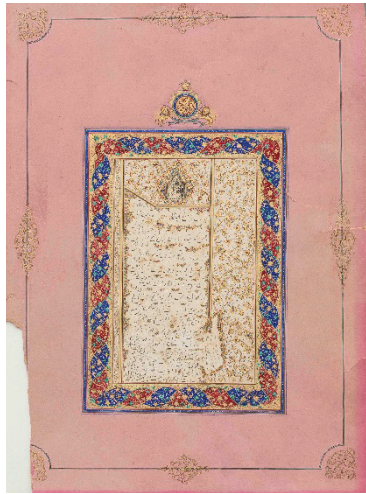
⁶⁶ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع*, [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

⁶⁷ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان," 289-320.

4.5. Ambassador to the Ottoman Court

In early 1901, Mirza Reza was removed from the Embassy of Iran in Saint Petersburg.⁶⁸ Nonetheless, according to the royal decree below, he was then granted an inlaid sign of *Commander-in-Chief* and in August 1901 was ordained as the ambassador of Iran to the Ottoman court in Istanbul.

Picture 6: Royal Qajar letter related to Mirza Reza Khan



Source: Arfa' Al-Dawlah. Qajar Iran, late 19th/early 20th century. Accession Number: 2016.11.39 | © Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

Inscription:

مظفر الدین شاه قاجار

- (1) جناب اشرف اتابک اعظم نظر به مراتب خدمت صادقانه
- (2) و حسن کفایت و کاردانی پرنس ارفع الدوله در تمام ماموریت های
- (3) بزرگ در هر مورد و مقامی که بوده است در کمال دولتخواهی و
صراحت
- (4) و بی طمعی به طوری که باید از عهده ی خدمات عالی برآمده و
عالم مهر

⁶⁸ Arfa', *Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'* [ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع, Arfa']

- (5) مظاهر همایونی ما را از خود قرین رضایت و خرسندی کرده است
- (6) و با کمال عنایت و مرحمتی که در حق او داریم لزوم امر او را
- (7) در این موقع که به سفارت کراالاسلانول ماموریت داده
- (8) و به این اختصاص انتخاب فرموده ایم. عطای مرحمت
- (9) مخصوص (؟) مختار و تطهر فرماییم لهذا با مزید
- (10) الطاف و غیاث شاهانه به مشارالیه با اعطای نشان
- (11) مرصع و حمایل سرداری را از مبادرات بزرگ دولت روز افزون
ما است
- (12) (؟) مباحات (؟) و به مراتب (؟) و شئونات
- (13) را افزودیم که با نهایت (؟) زائد اعلی (؟) مشغول
- (14) خدمات مرجوعه به خود بوده غفلت ننماید حرر بشهر جمادی الاول
1319

Translation:

Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar

- 1) His Excellency, His Highness, the Great Atabak, due to Prince Arfa's honest,
- 2) qualification and efficient service in all of the important missions
- 3) in any position which he was, [and because he] with the generosity and specificity and non-materialistic manners did his service fruitfully
- 4) and made our majestic world happy and satisfied,
- 5) [so we] with all our favor and kindness,
- 6) for the time being, appoint him as
- 7) the ambassador of [Iran to] Istanbul [Ottoman Turkey] to serve. Mercifulness is
- 8) only for (?) authority and (?) therefore,
- 9) with our royal and ombudsman mercy
- 10) [we] grant him an inlaid sign (?) of commander-in-chief [which is] from the generosity of our great government and
- 11) add to (?) (?) (?) and to the rankings (?) and dignity [of him]
- 12) which with extremity (?) high (?)
- 13) serves his due job with no negligence [This letter is] written in the month of Jumada al-Awwal 1319 A.H.

Prior to Prince Arfa's departure from the Qajar court for Istanbul, Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar also advised him to conform to Ottoman policies and assist them in the unification of the Islamic world.⁶⁹ During his second year of service in Istanbul, Prince Arfa' paid a visit to Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar in Austria after the coronation ceremony of Alfonso XIII of Spain. It was during this visit that Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar addressed Prince Arfa' as a *qualified servant* in his memoir.⁷⁰

Adding to his now long list of accolades, Mirza Reza was nominated as the honorary member of the *International Institute of Peace in Monaco* by Albert I, Prince of Monaco⁷¹ in 1906.

On 21 January 1907, Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar, the newly-installed Qajar Shah, released a royal decree to Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II, informing the Ottoman monarch of the recent passing of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah Qajar and also reinstating Prince Arfa's position as the ambassador of Iran to the Ottoman court. For more information, refer to the royal decree below:

Picture 7: Royal Qajar Letter related to Mirza Reza Khan



Source: Arfa' Al-Dawlah. Qajar Iran, late 19th/early 20th century. Accession Number: 2016.11.41 | © Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

⁶⁹ Sassani, Khan Malek. *یادبودهای سفارت استانبول [Memorials of the Embassy of Istanbul]*. (Tehran: Babak, 1975).

⁷⁰ Fakh al-Malik, Abul Hassan. *دومین سفرنامه مبارکه همایونی [The Second Blessed and Royal Travelogue]*. (Tehran: Kavosh, 1983): 75.

⁷¹ Moezzi, Fatima., "میرزا رضا خان ارفع الدوله," *Iranian Contemporary History (Institute of Iranian Contemporary Historical Studies)*, No. 23 (2002): 309.

Inscription:

- (1) مدار مجد و دولت مرکز قدرت و شهامت حضرت سلطان عظیم الشان
- (2) دوستی و اتحاد بی ریب و ریایی که از قدیم الایام فی ما بین دولتین علیتین ایران و عثمانی حاصل است اقتضا دارد
- (3) که در هر موقع آن حضرت را با خود سهیم و شریک دانسته و با کمال تأسف و ألم و فرط تأثر و غم خاطر محترم آن اعلیحضرت را
- (4) مستحضر داریم که به مصیبت وارده قادر لایزال پدر بسیار محترم و تاجدار ما در شب بیست و چهارم شهر ذی القعدة سنه 1324
- (5) از این دار فانی به سرای جاودانی ارتحال فرموده و از این واقعه جان گداز ما را قرین نهایت حزن و سوگواری فرمودند
- (6) اگرچه زخم این مصیبت عظمی هرگز التیام پذیر نخواهد بود ولی در مقابل خواست خداوندی چاره ای جز صبر و شکیبایی ندیده
- (7) موافق رسم نیاکان و معمول قدیم و حق مقرر برسریر سلطنت آباء و اجدادی جلوس نموده و اول وظیفه که نصب العین
- (8) خاطر مودت ذخایر خود داشته ایم همانا پیروی نیات حسنه پدر تاجدار خودمان خواهد بود در این صورت آشکار است که (؟)
- (9) ارکان یگانگی و حلت و تزیید روابط دوستی و مودت این دو دولت تا چه پایه منظور نظر و به چه اندازه مکنون خاطر موحدت اثر
- (10) ما می باشد و برای حصول این مقصود جناب مستطاب اجل اشرف پرنس ارفع الدوله سفیر کبیر این دولت ابدیت قامور دربار
- (11) آن دولت علیه را کماکان به سمت مزبوره باقی و برقرار داشته امیدواریم که آن اعلیحضرت نیز به اقتضای حسن توجهی که
- (12) به پیشرفت مقاصد مقدسه ما دارند کمافی السابق کمال مساعدت همراهی را مبذول فرموده عرایض و (؟) او را
- (13) که مبنی بر استحکام روابط و دادیه دولتین است به سمع قبول اضعا فرمایند همواره طول عمر و صحت وجود آن حضرت را
- (14) از خداوند متعال درخواست نموده احترامات فایقه و دوستی تغییر ناپذیر خودمان را نسبت به اعلیحضرت سلطانی تجدید می نماییم.
- (15) در قصر سلطنتی دارالخلافة تهران به تاریخ 6 شهر ذی الحجه سنه 1324 سال اول سلطنت تحریر شد.
- (16) محمدعلی شاه

Translation:

- 1) The Circuit of Magnanimity and the Central Powerful and Courageous Government, His Majesty the Sultan,

- 2) The sincere friendship and unity that has been established between the dignified governments of Iran and Ottoman since the old times necessitates sharing with His Majesty
- 3) whenever needed and with the great regret and sorrow
- 4) inform you that our crowned and respected father passed away on the night of 24 Dhu al-Qidah 1324 A.H.
- 5) and made us very sad and sorrowful of this incident
- 6) even though this pain will never be healed, there is no solution for this sad fate except patience and
- 7) according to our ancestors' tradition and absolute right, I accession to the throne and as the first duty
- 8) that I would like to perform is to follow our crowned father's good deeds
- 9) and in this case, it is apparent that (?) how and up to what extent the basis of unity and expansion of the friendship of these two government is considered in our opinion and
- 10) in order to achieve this, we reinstate His Highness Prince Arfa' as the ambassador of this [Iran] government to
- 11) the [Ottoman] government [and] we hope that His Majesty will also pay homage
- 12) as usual to the fulfillment of our sacred purposes for the good of our progress, consider his petitions and (?)
- 13) which are to strengthen the relations between the state, [we] always ask for the long life and health of His Highness from God Almighty [and] we renew our respect for our unchangeable friendship with His Majesty Sultan.
- 14) Written in the royal palace of Dar al-Khilafah of Tehran, on the date of 6th of Dhu al-Hijjah, the year 1324 A.H., the first year of the reign.
- 15) Muhammad Ali Shah

On the other hand, Prince Arfa's role and actions concerning the *Constitutional Revolution in Iran* are deemed inarguable as Istanbul was

also a shelter for Iranian constitutional revolutionists. No less Prince Arfa' was said to be against the movement at first as many active revolutionists of the time had written many critiques about him in different oppositional newspapers of the time in Istanbul.⁷² Yet he was reported to play different cards when the revolution successfully took place and even went further to be the arbiter between the Saadet Association of Revolutionist Iranians in Istanbul and the Qajar court during the *Minor Tyranny* period in 1908-1909.⁷³

4.6. Ministry of Justice

Following these developments and as the revolutionists had been putting more pressure on the constitutional government, Prince Arfa' was removed from the Embassy of Iran in Istanbul in 1910.⁷⁴ Consequently, he began to travel throughout Europe and America to collect the antiquities until he was asked to undertake the Ministry of Justice in 1914.⁷⁵ During his service as minister, he dissolved the *Criminal Tribunal* of the *Shahrbani* (a law enforcement unit with police duties inside cities of Iran) which was under the supervision of a non-Iranian colonel, Johan Carl Gustaf Westdahl, and held similar judicial courts under his ministry.⁷⁶ The first graduate law school was also established by a foreign chancellor, Français Adolphe Perny, during Prince Arfa's service in the Ministry of Justice. By the beginning of World War I, Prince Arfa' resigned from his position and left Iran for Monaco.⁷⁷

⁷² Katouzian, Mohammad Ali. *مشاهدات و تحلیل اجتماعی و سیاسی از تاریخ انقلاب* [Social and Political Observations and Criticism of the History of Constitutional Revolution]. Edited by Amir Nasser Katouzian. (Tehran: Sahami Enteshar Company, 2000).

⁷³ Kasravi, Ahmad. *تاریخ مشروطه* [History of the Iranian Constitutional Revolution]. (Tehran: Amir Kabir, 1970): 724-726.

⁷⁴ Afshar, Iraj. *مبارزه با محمد علی شاه: اسنادی از فعالیتهای آزادی خواهان ایران در اروپا و استانبول در سالهای 1326-1328 قمری* [Fighting Muhammad Ali Shah: Documents of Iranian Liberation Activities in Europe and Istanbul in the Years 1908-1910]. (Tehran: Venus, 1980).

⁷⁵ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع* [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

⁷⁶ Aqeli, Baqer. *اور و عدلیه* [Judge and Justice]. (Tehran: Elmi, 1990): 325.

⁷⁷ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع* [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa']

4.7. League of Nations

After World War I, Prince Arfa' was designated as the representative of Iran in the *League of Nations*⁷⁸ in Geneva, Switzerland.⁷⁹ He represented Iran from 1919 to 1928 even when the Qajars were already overthrown by Reza Khan Pahlavi.

4.8. Freemasonry Activities

Prince Arfa' was said to be among the one hundred and twenty members of the *Iranian Awakening Lodge*,⁸⁰ the first Masonic lodge in Iran. During one of his travels to London, Prince Arfa' was believed to have met Edward VIII in 1936, and asked his help to ease the foreign policies of Great Britain toward Iran during a Masonic ceremony.⁸¹

5. Publications

Prince Arfa' was himself a mediocre reformist poet and author. He published his works under the penname *Danesh*.⁸² His very first publication was "a treatise on the Persian alphabet [...] published in Istanbul in 1879" as discussed earlier in detail.⁸³ During his last years of diplomatic service in Tbilisi, he published a work of poetry called *Montakhab-e Danesh (Selected [poems of] Danesh)* in 1894.⁸⁴ His other poetry works include *Masnavi-e Tul-e Omr (The Long Life Mathnavi)*, *Masnavi Solh (Peace Mathnavi)* and *Divan-e Gohar Khavari (Diwan of Oriental Gem)*. His

⁷⁸ It was an international organization created to provide a forum for resolving international disputes after the World War I.

⁷⁹ Moezzi, "نخاض ازریم," 289-320.

⁸⁰ It was established in 1907 based on the *Constitutional Movement's* rules; Naraghi, Ehsan. *From Palace to Prison: Inside the Iranian Revolution*. Translated by Nilou Mobasser. (London: I. B. Tauris & Co Ltd, 1994): 194.

⁸¹ Afshar, مبارزه با محمد علی شاه: اسنادی از فعالیتهای آزادیخواهان ایران در اروپا و قمری 1328-1326 [Fighting Muhammad Ali Shah: Documents of Iranian Liberation Activities in Europe and Istanbul in the Years 1908-1910]

⁸² It means *Knowledge* and was proposed by Joseph (Hovsep) Melkumyan also known as Mirza Malkam Khan, a prominent Iranian modernist diplomat, when Prince Arfa' proposed the new alphabet for Persian language (Arfa', 1966).

⁸³ Sirjani and Akbar, "DĀNEŠ (1)."

⁸⁴ Moezzi, "میرزا رضا خان," 298.

most significant publication is a memoir called *Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'* published in 1966, almost thirty years after he passed away. This book is an autobiography of him that gives useful information on the contemporary history of Iran.

5.1. His Contribution to Education

Maybe his very first contribution to education started when he became an ambassador to Russia. While he was busy with diplomacy in Saint Petersburg, Prince Arfa' registered Abdolhossein Teymourtash⁸⁵ in the *Cavalry School of Nicholas*.⁸⁶ The next educational mission happened in 1900 when the Qajar court had inquired him to find a Russian language teacher for Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar, then the crown prince.⁸⁷ Prince Arfa' then in response introduced Seraya Shapshal who would later become one of the influential characters in the 1908 Bombardment of the Parliament.⁸⁸

He also contributed officially to pioneering efforts to establish a system of modern primary education in Iran by founding an elementary school called *Dabestan-e Danesh (Danesh Elementary School)* in Tehran.⁸⁹

6. Conclusion

Translators are not only bridging the gap between the source and target texts but also sometimes developing their career in an interdisciplinary way to fill in the cross-cultural and international interventions especially in delicate historical moments. Prince Arfa' was one of those figures who built his life on the basis of translation, and then developed it outside the field under

⁸⁵ The first *Minister of the court* during the reign of Reza Khan Pahlavi.

⁸⁶ Afshar, Iraj. *زندگی طوفانی: خاطرات زندگی سید حسن تقی زاده* [*Stormy Life: Memoir of Sayyed Hasan Taqizadeh*]. (Tehran: Elmi, 1993).

⁸⁷ Arfa', *ایران دیروز: خاطرات پرنس ارفع*, [Old Iran: Memories of Prince Arfa'].

⁸⁸ It was the beginning of *Minor Tyranny* in Iran; Zinoviev, Ivan. *انقلاب مشروطیت ایران: نظرات یک دیپلمات روس* [*Constitutional Revolution of Iran: Opinions of a Russian Diplomat*]. Translated by A E'tesami. (Tehran: Eqbal, 1983): 38.

⁸⁹ Hushmand, M. *تاریخ پرنس ارفع دانش* [*The History of Prince Arfa' Danesh*]. (Tehran: Tolu'e, 1936); Al-e Dawud, Ali. "EDUCATION ix. PRIMARY SCHOOLS." *Encyclopædia Iranica*, December 15, 1997, accessed September 24, 2019. <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/education-ix-primary-schools>.

the shadows of diplomacy. As was mentioned earlier he was designated to serve in different missions primarily due to his good command of different languages. Prince Arfa' played a key role in the contemporary history of Iran ranging from signing the *Akhal-Khorasan Boundary Commission*, which led to the establishment of Iran-Russia borders, to representing Iran in the *League of Nations* after the World War I. The array of royal decrees issued to him also reflects the dignity seen in a translator's position by his patrons. It can be concluded that if a translator is given an opportunity in the wider social, cultural and/or political levels, he/she would not only be able to make significant contributions to the fundamentals of his/her native society, both internally and worldwide but would also be able to influence delicate decision-making at a global scale.

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Acknowledgement:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Heba Nayel Barakat, head of the Curatorial Affairs Department, and Mr. Muhammad Syukri Mohd Shairi, the junior curator at Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, for their kind assistance and considerations in preparing this article.

