Contents

Derek Kennet and Paul Luft	ii
Conference programme and list of contributors	ix
ARCHAEOLOGY	
The Functional Layout of the Fire Sanctuary at Takht-i Sulaimān Dietrich Huff	1
The Discovery of a Sasanian Period Fire Temple at Bandiyān, Dargaz Mehdi Rahbar	15
A Sasanian Site at Bārbār, Bahrain Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis and Søren F. Andersen	41
Sasanian Coins from 'Umān and Baḥrayn Derek Kennet	55
Suburb or slum? Excavations at Merv (Turkmenistan) and Observations on Stratigraphy, Refuse and Material Culture in a Sasanian City St John Simpson	65
HISTORY	
The Destruction of the Late Antique World Order James Howard-Johnston	79
Bishops or Bureaucrats?: Christian Clergy and the State in the Middle Sasanian Period Scott McDonough	87
History and Historiography: the Court Genre in Arabic and the Fatḥnāmah-i Sind Valeria Fiorani Piacentini.	93
Iranian Society in the Sasanian Period Hassan Karimian	99
The Great Families in the Sasanian Empire: some Sigillographic Evidence Rika Gyselen	107
ART HISTORY	
'Dionysiac' Iconographic Themes in the Context of Sasanian Religious Architecture Pierfrancesco Callieri	115
A Metamorphosis in Sasanian Silverwork: the Triumph of Dionysos? Mehdi Moussavi Kouhpar and Timothy Taylor	127
Royal and Religious Symbols on Early Sasanian Coins Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis	137
New Perspectives on Sasanian Rock Reliefs Hubertus von Gall	149