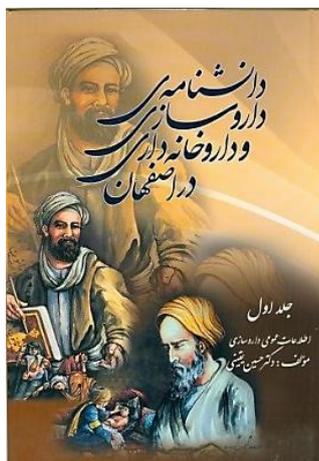


Book Review

Encyclopedia of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Supplies in Isfahan, Iran



**Daneshname-ye Darousazi
va Daroukhanehdari dar
Esfahan**

Hossein Yaghini

Kankash, Isfahan, 2015

5269 pp, paperback

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In 2015, a five volume book entitled in Persian: “Daneshname-ye Darousazi va Daroukhanehdari dar Esfahan” (the Encyclopedia of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Supplies in Isfahan) was published.¹ The author, Dr. Hossein Yaghini (b. 1943), is a pharmacist. In addition, he is a writer, painter, graphist and sculptor. His current work is a comprehensive research on the history of pharmacy in Isfahan which has been carried out in a five-year period and consists of 5269 pages including relevant documents and pictures. The author wrote the book based on previous written data and the information given to him by 135 physicians, pharmacists and pharmaceutical institutes.

Historically, the history of Isfahan dates back to ancient times, however, its higher modern educational centers were established after the World War II. In the realm of medicine and pharmacy, the first modern medical institute in Isfahan has been a Medical Auxiliary School (Amuzeshgah-e Aali-e Behdari) founded in 1946. It was the forerunner of the Isfahan University Medical School established in 1950. In due course, in 1954, the School of Pharmacy of Isfahan was established.² The founder of Isfahan University was Dr. Morteza Hakami (1903–1980), a French trained surgeon (Figure 1).¹ The first dean of the Isfahan Medical and Pharmacy School was Dr. Abdolbaghi Navab (1914–1983), a European trained expert on infectious tropical diseases and public

health (Figure 2).

The major part of the book written by Dr. Yaghini is the historical account of the foundation of Isfahan University Pharmacy School, its pioneering teachers and graduates.

The book is composed of 5 volumes and in total 15 chapters including the following: Volume one deals with the general pharmaceutical information including the history of pharmacy in Isfahan in the past centuries (chapter 1), the movement of translation of the Islamic works into European languages (chapter 2), the Dar al-Fonun School (chapter 3), Tehran University Pharmacy School and its pioneers (chapter 4).

In volume 2, the author describes in detail the



Figure 1. Dr. Morteza Hakami (1903–1980), the Founder of the Isfahan University.¹



Figure 2. Dr. Abdolbaghi Navab, the First Dean of Isfahan Medical and Pharmacy School.¹



Figure 3. The first group of students who enrolled in the Isfahan University Pharmacy School in 1956.¹

establishment of Isfahan University and its faculty of pharmacy (chapter 5), the history of students' admission at the higher scientific educational centers in Iran between 1956 and 1980 (chapter 6). The first group of students enrolled at the Isfahan Pharmacy School in 1956 (Figure 3).¹

Volume 3 narrates the history of the establishment of the traditional and modern drugstores in Isfahan and other cities of the Isfahan province during 20th century (chapter 7) (Figure 4). In volume 4, short biographies of the pharmacists who founded the private and governmental drugstores in Isfahan appear respectively in chapters 8, 9 and 10. In the appendix of this volume, the medicinal plants which flourished in Isfahan are presented. Finally, the last volume deals with the Isfahan School of Pharmacy after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, as well as its management system and its managers from 1979 onwards (chapter 11). The Isfahan's drugstores after 1979, Isfahan's city zones, the distribution system of pharmaceutical products and the Isfahan's pharmaceutical industry are described in chapters 12, 13, 14, and 15. Aforementioned chapters are compiled based on valid resources a bibliography is

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Figure 4. The List of Drugstores in Isfahan, 1950.¹

included. Each volume has also an index.

In conclusion, this five volume set written by Dr. Yaghini on the history of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals in Isfahan is informative; well- designed and can be considered as a reference in the medical historiography in Iran.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

None.

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