

welcome personal boost to yet another junior academic; he also made the project sound exciting and worthwhile, and so it proved. It is a pleasure to know that the book bears his imprimatur. After his retirement, Vivian Bone took on the thankless task of seeing the work through the press, a task made especially complex because of the number and variety of illustrations. Like him, she managed always to stay on the right side of that invisible dividing line between encouragement and importunity, and in the closing stages of production she has been consistently helpful in ways great and small. I am very grateful to Ian Davidson for so carefully overseeing the progress of the book in general, especially at what turned out to be a tricky proof stage. Gillian Waugh, the designer of the book, deserves special plaudits for impos-

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Robert Hillenbrand

Preface to the paperback edition

The issue of a paperback edition has made it possible to correct some factual mistakes in this book. I am grateful to those reviewers who pointed them out. I am also indebted to my old friend Professor Bernard O'Kane, whose eagle eye spotted a dozen mistakes in the text proper plus others in the captions, and to Dr Bagher Ayatollahzadeh Shirazi, who in the course of translating the book into Persian came upon several errors which he kindly rectified for me. But my warmest thanks go to Ghassem Grantab, Massy Yazdchi and Kamran Mahmoodian, who laboriously compiled an extra index so as to make the book easier to use. I hope that many new readers will benefit from their hard work.

Robert Hillenbrand
Edinburgh, 28 October 1999

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