

Contents

Note on Transliteration ix
Preface: Why I Wrote This Book xi

INTRODUCTION

What Literature? Which World? 1

CHAPTER 1

The Formation of a Modern Discourse of Literature (1860–1960) 37

CHAPTER 2

Afghan-Iranian Literary Connections and
Romantic Nationalism (1920–1944) 79

CHAPTER 3

Anjomans and the Proliferation of Adabiyāt in Iran (1916–1947) 109

CHAPTER 4

Institutionalizing Persian Literature in Afghanistan (1930–1956) 137

CONCLUSION

National Pilgrims and the Myth of Greater Iran 169

EPILOGUE

Who Needs Literature Today? 181

Acknowledgments 185
Appendix of Biographies 189
Notes 199
Index 247

