

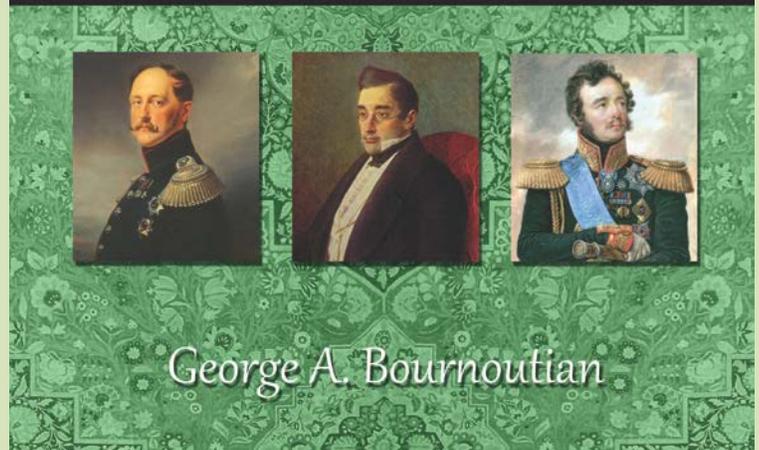
## Iran Colloquium Presents

Following the murder of Aleksander Griboedov, the Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary of Russia, and the massacre of the entire Russian Legation by an angry mob on 11 February 1829 in Tehran, the government of Iran dispatched a mission with an official apology from the Shah to Tsar Nicholas I. The mission, headed by Khosrow Mirza, the sixteen-year-old seventh son of Crown Prince `Abbas Mirza, left Iran in early May and returned on 27 February 1830, after successfully accomplishing its task. The young Prince had not only charmed the Tsar, the royal family and the nobility, but had also managed to cancel the ninth payment of the indemnity Iran owed Russia which amounted to half a million *tumans*, or two million rubles, and obtained a five-year grace period for the payment of the remainder of the indemnity. Khosrow Mirza's skillful diplomacy had saved Iran from Russian retaliation, strengthened Russo-Iranian ties, and reduced the influence of the British in Iran.

Drawing on contemporary sources in Persian and Russian, Professor Bournoutian's talk will focus on the infamous Griboedov Affair, its impact on Iran's political standing at the time, and provide an account of the long journey and experiences of the Iranian delegation in Armenia and Georgia, their séjour in the various Russian cities such as Vladikavkaz, Piatigorsk, Stavropol, Voronezh, Tula, Moscow and finally in St Petersburg.



### From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829



## George Bournoutian

Iona College

George Bournoutian is a Senior Professor of History at Iona College and has published extensively on Armenian history, as well as on Iran, Russia and the Caucasus. Professor Bournoutian received his PhD in History from UCLA in 1976 and has taught at various universities in the United States, including Columbia, Tufts and NYU. His principal publications include *Armenians and Russia: A Documentary Record, 1626-1796* (2001); *The Khanate of Erevan under Qajar Rule, 1795-1828* (1992), *Russia and the Armenians of Transcaucasia: A Documentary Record, 1797-1889* (1998). Professor Bournoutian's most recent work, *Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829* (2014) appeared in the press last month.

Friday, April 11, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Luce 203, 34 Hillhouse Ave.

*Light lunch will be provided*

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