Shah ‘Abbas’s long and important reign (1587-1629) is recorded in several contemporary Persian chronicles, notably Iskandar Beg Munshi’s ‘Alam-ara-yi ‘Abbasi. The recently discovered Afddal al-tawarikh by Fadli Beg Khuzani Isfahani adds considerably to the pool of information available, on many levels, among them details of the Shah’s patronage of architecture and urban development. This paper will look at a particular year, 1016/1607, in which Fadli Beg records an extraordinary burst of activity on the part of ‘Abbas, not only in Isfahan, Mashhad and Farahabad, but also the family’s dynastic shrine in Ardabil. In addition, however, it examines the chronological problems inherent in the chronicles of both Iskandar Beg and Fadli Beg, and in consolidating their information into a single coherent narrative that is consistent also with other independent information. Which year, in fact, are we talking about? After considering these chronological problems, we will focus particularly on ‘Abbas’s patronage of Ardabil and neighbouring shrines, both in his attention to building works and in his pious endowments.

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Friday, April 25, 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Whitney Humanities Center, room 208
53 Wall St.
Light lunch will be provided

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