APPENDIX: PHOTO-CHRONOLOGY

General Photo-chronology
Iranian Photo-chronology

1835  *Publication of the first litographic newspaper in Iran by Mirzā Salih Shirazi.*

1839  Daguerre reproduces images by the action of light on silver-coated copperplate. The French government purchases rights to the process and makes it available to the French people.

− Talbot announces to the British Royal academy his reproduction of images on paper by the action of light.

1841  Talbot patents the calotype process.

1842  *Introduction of daguerreotype process in Iran. Nikolav Pavlov takes his first daguerreotypes by mid-December 1842.*

1844  *Jules Richard (1816-1891) becomes the first Western photographer to work in the Persian Court.*

1847  Claude Félix Abel Niepce de Saint-Victor proposes using a glass plate coated with albumen and silver halides as a negative.

1849  Gustave Le Gray introduces the waxed-paper process in France.

1850  Frederick Scott Archer, a British sculptor, invents the wet-plate process.

− Blanquart-Evrard announces the process for making photographic prints on paper coated with albumen.

1851  *A special department for photography is opened in 1851 at Dār al-Fonun (Academy), Iran’s first institution of higher learning based on Western models.*
Luigi Pesce (active 1848-1861), an Italian colonel and master of the calotype process, arrives in Iran.

Fochetti arrives in Iran, a master in the wet-collodion process.

August Karl Kriz (1814-1886) experiments in Iran with photography on paper.

1853 Tintype process is invented in France.

1854 Collodion positive images (“Ambrotypes”) are introduced.

French photographer A.A.E. Disdéri patents small-format “carte-de-visite”

1857 Francois Carlhian and Henry de Coulibeouf Blocqueville arrive with the French Mission.

1860 While photographing the Turcoman revolt in Khurasan, the equipment of Carlhiiée and Blocqueville is smashed to pieces and Blocqueville is taken prisoner.

1862 French physicist Louis Ducos du Hauron describes methods of producing photographic images in color.

Luigi Montabone (d. 1877) comes with the Italian mission. He introduces the hand-coloring technique in Iran.

Angelo Piamontese’s article “The Photograph Album of the Italian Mission to Persia (Summer 1862)” is published.

1863 The eldest treatise describing the act of photography and how to develop pictures and make copies is written by Mohammad Kāżim B. Ahmad Mahallāti by order of Nāser al-Din Shah.

The earliest information known to date about the introduction of photography in Iran: the third volume of the “Mer’at al-buldān-e Nāseri”, written by I’timād al-Saltane (Sāni al-Dawle) is published.

Abbās Ali Beik starts working at court, supervises Akskhâne and helps Rezâ Akkāşbâshi to develop photographs.

Rezā Akkāsbāši (1843-1889) is granted the title Akkāsbāši (Chief Photographer) in recognition of his mastery of photography.

1869 Nāser al-Din Shah starts taking pictures and learns the technique with Jules Richard and François Carlhiève.

− Abdollāh Mirzā Qajar (1849-1908) travels to Europe to study photography.

1870 Mirzā Hasan Akkāsbāshi (1854-1916) starts working as a photographer in his hometown Shiraz.

1871 The dry-plate silver bromide process is announced by Richard Leach Maddox; it is not perfected until 1878.

− The German ingenieur Ernst Hoeltzer starts taking photographs in Isfahan, where he lives for 30 years.

1873 Platinum-printing method is invented in England.

1877 Mirzā Hoseyn Ali Akkās starts working at court and eventually becomes the head of Akskhāne. He was active for over 20 years.


1880 First halftone reproduction of a photograph appears in a NY newspaper.

− Antoin Sevruguin starts working in Iran.

− “Qavā’ed-e aks va telegrāf”, “Principles of Photography and Telegraphy” is written by Hasan B. Ali Rezā Lāhijī Najafi.

− Abd al-Qāsem ebn al-Nuri starts working at court.

1881 Frederic E. Ives invents halftone photoengraving process, making it possible to reproduce photographic and other images in the same operation as the printing of text.

− Jane Dieulafoy journeys through Iran and takes many photographs of landscapes, people and architecture.

1882 Manucher Khān Akkās starts working in Tabriz.
1884 Abdollāh Mirzā Qajar starts his career as a professional photographer after coming back from Europe.

1886 Mirzā Mohammad Rezā Akkās (1869-1903) starts working as a photographer in Shiraz.

1888 Introduction of George Eastman’s Kodak camera.

- “Al-Ma’āthir wa-l-āthār” by E’temād al-Saltane is published (this is the second source of information written about the introduction of photography in Iran, as stated by Afshar).

1889 George Eastman applies for patent on transparent roll film.

1890 The Dutch amateur photographer and businessman Albert Hotz takes photographs in Iran during a trip of several months in the country. He also collects photographs of other photographers like Hoeltzer and Sevruguin.

- Isabella Lucy Bishop-Bird journeys in Iran and takes photographs of the landscape and people.

- Aghayanes Armeni starts working and opens a studio outside of the court.

- Mohammad Hasan Qajar starts working at court.

- Mirzā Jahāngīr Khān Akkās starts working at court.

1895 Another treatise on photography is written by Nawwāb Mushin Mirzā.

1896 Mr Ḥabīb Yaghmā’i’s article “The beginnings of the craft of photography and stereotyping in Iran” is published (it is the best source of information about Abdollāh Mirzā Qajar).

1904 Mirzā Fātollāh Chehrehnegār (1878-1942), starts taking photographs in Shiraz.

1911 Gertrude Bell is actively taking photographs in Iran.

1918 Mirzā Habīb Allāh Chehrehnegār (1897-1943) starts taking photographs in Shiraz.
Note

1 The article “Some Remarks on the Early History of Photography in Iran” by Iraj Afshar has been fundamental for this chronology.