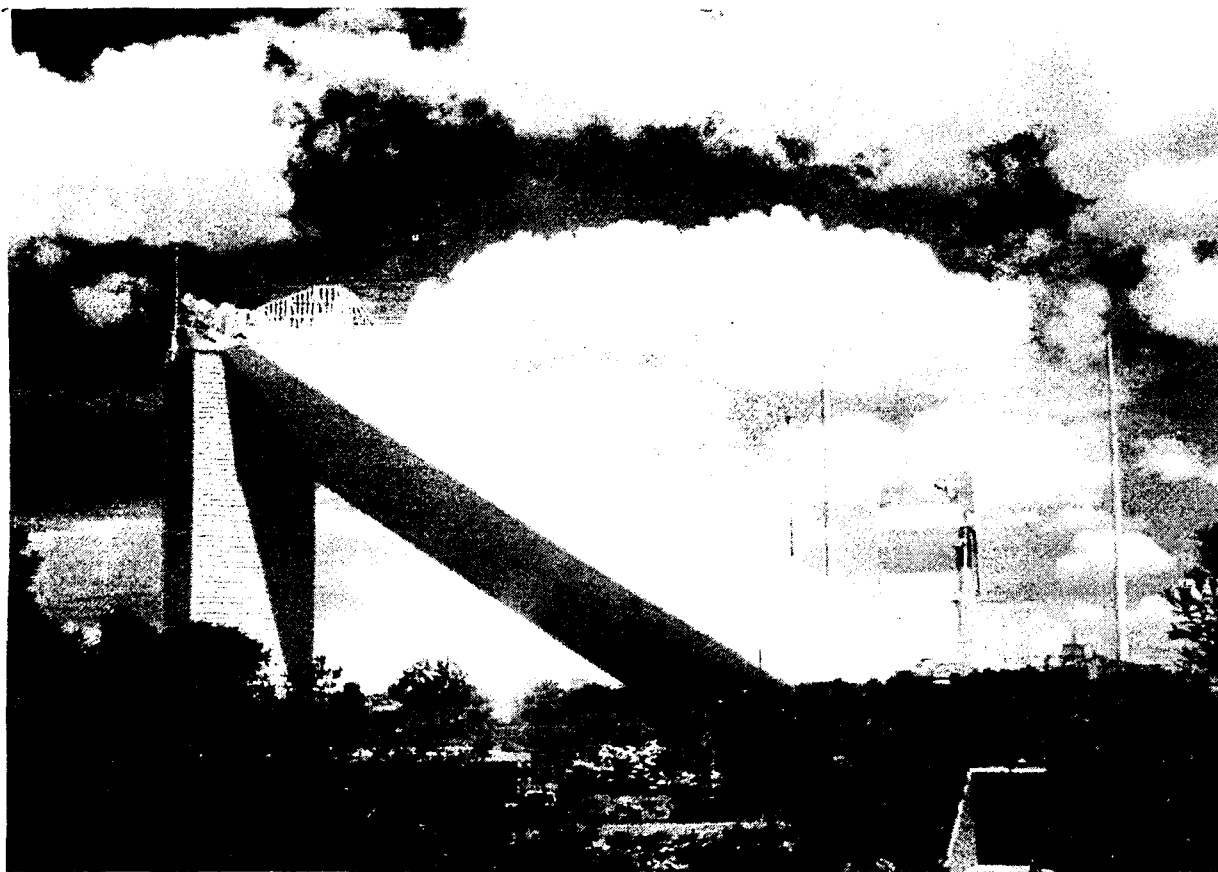
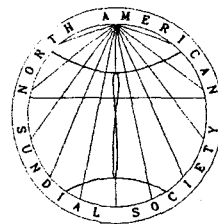


# The Compendium\*

*Journal of the  
North American Sundial Society*



West View of the McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope / Sundial

The sun, when it appears, making proclamation as it goes forth, is a marvelous instrument....

- Ecclesiasticus 43:2

\* *Compendium...* "giving the sense and substance of the topic within small compass." In dialing, a compendium is a single instrument incorporating a variety of dial types and ancillary tools.

## The First Analemmatic Sundial In Iran Mohammad Bagheri (Tehran, Iran)

Iran has a long and rich tradition in many branches of astronomy, including gnomonics. Until a few decades ago, sundials were used in mosques and *madrasas* (traditional religious schools) to show the times of the day, especially to determine the times of the five daily ritual prayers. Nowadays in Iran, there is a noticeable interest in astronomy, both on academic and amateur levels. Some modern sundials have been constructed in educational and religious centers. For a short report on "Sundials in Iran", see *The Compendium*, Dec 1998, 5(4):24-25.

The first analemmatic sundial in Iran has been constructed in a beautiful park named Būstān-e Mellat (lit., National Park) in the city of Rasht, center of the green province of Gīlān (37°16'N 49°36'E) situated on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. Gīlān is the birthplace of Kūshyār ibn Labbān, the Iranian astronomer who flourished around 1000 AD (see *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, 1981, 7:531-533.)



The calculations and design of this analemmatic sundial were carried out by Mohammad Bagheri, an Iranian member of NASS. The construction of the sundial was encouraged by Thāqeb Astronomical Society of Gīlān and supported by the municipality and the city council of Rasht. Rasht, being surrounded by the Caspian and the Alburz mountain range, has mostly cloudy and rainy weather. However, on March 2, 2002, when the inauguration ceremony was being held in the presence of the official and academic authorities of the province and scores of astronomy enthusiasts, the sky was clear and the sun was shining. So, the curious participants in the gathering could check how the sundial works. There was also an exhibition of photos of different types of sundials

from all over the world in the Park in a building that is the seat of the astronomical society.

There is a plan to construct several sundials of different types in this park in order to make it a scientific tourist attraction. We also plan to make Thāqeb Astronomical Society of Gīlān the main center for research and activity in gnomonics. We appeal hereby to all dialists and related institutions (observatories, planetariums, astronomical societies, sundial societies, etc.) to contribute to these goals by kindly sending their ideas, designs and sundial kits through the address mentioned below.

Mohammad Bagheri [sut5@sina.sharif.edu](mailto:sut5@sina.sharif.edu)  
P.O. Box 13145-1785, Tehran, Iran



[Friday 27 September 2002 was the first day of establishment and formal activity of a "Sundial Group" as a working branch of the Thāqeb Astronomical Society in Rasht. The seat of the Society is in a newly built beautiful park, which is planned to become a "Sundial Park". At present there is an analemmatic sundial in this park that attracts many visitors. The members of the Sundial Group (mostly young schoolgirls) plan to study the history along with mathematical, astronomical and artistic aspects of sundials, which provide them with a concrete application of the mathematical courses, especially trigonometry. They are supposed to be in charge of designing several sundials for the cultural buildings in the whole province in future. Any comments or communications may be sent to the Sundial Group at the above address.]