

## FOREWORD

When Prof. D.N. MacKenzie celebrated his 75th birthday at his favourite Greek restaurant in Göttingen none of his friends and colleagues would have thought of his untimely death some months later. It was a great shock to all who knew him and who had the great opportunity to work with him. Immediately a plan arose to honour this outstanding man by a collection of various contributions to be presented in a *Volume* as a token of gratitude for what he had given as a teacher, as a colleague or simply as friend.

When the plan was introduced to the audience of the *Collegium Turfanicum* which was held at the *Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften* in Berlin on 3 April 2002 (*Zum Gedenken an D. N. Mackenzie*) it was welcomed in a very positive way. Now the *Volume* can be presented to the public under the title “Languages of Iran: Past & Present”, an appropriate title in my mind that will show the wide range of studies of Prof. D.N. MacKenzie including not only Iranian languages proper but also their contact with neighbouring non-Iranian cultural groupings such as Chinese or Turkish though Iranian and particularly Middle Iranian studies are standing in its focus.

That this *Volume* can appear in an adequate form is the result of many favourable coincidences. I am very indebted to all contributors who made, with their engagement in things Iranian, this *Volume* possible. For generous financial support I have to thank the *Council of the Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum* (London) and the *Institut für Iranistik* of the *Freie Universität Berlin*. I am grateful to Dr. Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst (*Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften – Turfanforschung*) who willingly consented to have his speech of the *Collegium Turfanicum* of 3 April 2002 printed as a kind of introduction to this book as well as for checking the English, to Claudius Naumann (*Institut für Iranistik* of the *Freie Universität Berlin*) for various technical support, and last but not least to Prof. Maria Macuch who accepted the book to be published in the series “Iranica” of which she is the editor. Furthermore, I am indebted to Prof. Nicholas Sims-Williams (*School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London) and again to Dr. Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst for remarks and comments improving the *Bibliography* of Prof. D. N. MacKenzie.

Though all contributions have been adjusted to a common lay-out they still reflect the personal character of each contributor who, of course, are responsible themselves for ideas or interpretations put forward in their articles.