

## Foreword

The idea of a volume on Iranian studies in memory of RONALD E. EMMERICK arose spontaneously at the time of his death and was prompted by a desire not only to testify to the appreciation by his colleagues and friends for his distinguished scholarly work, but also to reciprocate, in some way, the stimuli and teachings which he always generously offered.

On the occasion of the academic memorial service held in Hamburg on 14 December 2001 in his honour MARIA MACUCH proposed to MAURO MAGGI that such a volume be included in the “Iranica” series of which she is editor, and WERNER SUNDERMANN also offered to help with the editing. Thus, it was natural that we edit this volume together.

The thirty-three papers collected here are essentially concerned with Old, New and, above all, Middle Iranian languages and texts, and they thus reflect the predominant scholarly interests of RONALD EMMERICK, whose researches were also directed towards Indian and Tibetan studies, especially classical medical texts. Nine papers deal with the Khotanese (and Tumshuquese) language and texts, thus paying homage to EMMERICK’s main field of research.

Of course the contributions in this collection should have been far more numerous but, much to our regret, constraints of space have forced us to limit the number of contributors, with the consequence that many colleagues and friends who would have gladly participated in honouring the memory of RONALD EMMERICK, and whose names one would expect to find here, are unfortunately not represented by a paper. We trust they will understand, and we are sure that they participate in the sentiments that induced us to publish this volume.

We would like to express our thanks to all the colleagues who have enthusiastically contributed their papers and waited patiently for the appearance of the volume; to ANN EMMERICK for providing for publication a photograph of her husband that was taken at a reception at the Rijks Universiteit Groningen in 1999; to BARBARA GOSS, a fellow countrywoman of EMMERICK’s, for accurately revising and polishing the English of the papers by non-English speakers; to CLAUDIUS NAUMANN for his usual and competent care in the preparation of the volume; and to GERAINT EVANS for a final help with the English after BARBARA GOSS fell seriously ill.

Finally, we would like to thank our colleague EHSAN YARSHATER (Persian Heritage Foundation) for his generous subvention towards the publication costs of this volume.

The Editors