

## Acknowledgements

This book is based on research conducted in the framework of a project undertaken in the Institute of Iranian Studies FU Berlin with the financial support of German Research Foundation (DFG) in 2010–2013. I would like to express my profound gratitude to the then director of the Institute Prof. Dr. MARIA MACUCH, whose initiative and support played the decisive role in the go-ahead for the project, as well as to all the employees of DFG and Free University of Berlin who contributed to its fulfilment.

Naturally, any new project in a new place brings new contacts and acquaintances with colleagues. It is, however, an outstanding luck that the colleagues I met in Berlin became my closest friends. It is not only due to their highest professional skills, but also in virtue of their truly outstanding human qualities (the things which coincide by no means always) that the work on the project became one of the most valuable experiences in my life.

In the course of the work I faced numerous and various tasks connected with an edition of Pahlavi and Neo-Pahlavi texts, in particular the interlinear Pāzand-Pahlavi compositions, such as *Patit ī pašēmānīh* II. It is owing to inestimable help and collaboration of Dr. MIGUEL ÁNGEL ANDRÉS-TOLEDO and Dr. JUAN JOSÉ FERRER-LOSILLA that I could get acquainted with the methods of editing Avestan *zand* manuscripts, which were elaborated in the University of Salamanca under the guidance of Prof. ALBERTO CANTERA and apply them to my work. The first and most important steps in this direction were made during the first travel to India in November and December 2010 which I undertook in their company. For both Dr. ANDRÉS-TOLEDO and Dr. FERRER-LOSILLA it was not the first time in India, and their previous experiences helped me to avoid many dangerous situations in this marvellous but not always safe country. I also use this opportunity to thank the whole staff of The First Dastur Meherjirana Library in Navsari and of the library of K.R. Cama Institute in Bombay, in particular to Mrs. BHARTI GANDHI, who generously allowed us access to the manuscripts and rendered kind assistance in our work. I recall with gratitude my second travel to Navsari and Bombay in the beginning 2013, since it endowed me with further acquaintance with Prof. CANTERA, which subsequently turned into close collaboration and friendship. Now I hope to have a right to profess being a member of his team.

After the relevant manuscripts were found, collected and examined, the main phase of the work took place, namely that of editing and commenting the texts. On this stage, it was Dr. GÖTZ KÖNIG, with his unique benevolence and utmost

expertise, which he is always ready to share with colleagues, who did me an invaluable favour. I am happy to express to him my infinite gratitude here.

Everyone who had the pleasure of cooperation with our layout editor Mrs. TATSIANA HARTING will agree with me that any academic institution cannot but dream of such a fellow. Her commitment, accuracy and evenness made the final – inevitably most stressed – stage of the work quite tolerable and sometimes even nice. I hope to repeat this experience in future.