

## Obituaries

### *I. M. Diakonoff (1915–1999)*

The Russian born Academician Igor Mikhailovich Diakonoff, one of the outstanding and most productive scholars of our time in the field of Ancient Near Eastern studies, an honorary member of the American Oriental Society, an overseas fellow of the British Academy, a Council member of Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum, and a member of the Advisory Committee of the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*, died on May 2, 1999.

He was born in Petrograd on January 12, 1915. During the 1920s he lived in Oslo, Norway, where his father worked as a trade representative for the USSR. In 1938 he graduated from Leningrad State University, where he later taught in 1940–41 and 1945–50. During this period he also worked at the Hermitage Museum. From 1953 until his death he was a Research Associate at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg. He was equally learned in philology, history, and linguistics of all the regions of cuneiform writing (Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria, Asia Minor, and Iran), and was a noted specialist in ancient Oriental languages, comparative linguistics, and the history of the ancient Middle East.

I. M. Diakonoff published 28 books and some 500 articles. Although he was primarily an Assyriologist, he also made invaluable contributions to ancient Iranian and Armenian studies. His publications include a highly praised book on the history of Media (*Istoriia Midii*, Moscow-Leningrad 1956; translated into Persian by Karim Keshavarz as *Tārikh-e Mad*, Tehran, 1966), a number of articles devoted to Zoroastrianism and the early history of Iranian tribes, as well as an edition of the Parthian inscriptions from Nisa in the Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum (in collaboration with V. A. Livshits). Several of his works were translated into other languages, including English and Persian.

*Ahmad Ashraf*

### *Ahmad Shamlu (1925–2000)*

#### *Remembering Shamlu*

On Sunday, July 23, 2000, in the evening, after a long illness, Ahmad Shamlu died at the age of 75 in the Iran-Mehr Hospital in Tehran.