

FOREWORD

Profound learning, linked with an unflagging zest for discovery and the most scrupulous scholarship, led W.B. Henning to publish most of his work in the form of articles, each a small masterpiece of lucidity, insight and condensed erudition. These articles all dealt with some aspect of Iranian or Central Asian studies, over a great stretch of time and space, and in a variety of fields—philology, epigraphy, history, geography, literature, religion. They were chiefly devoted to Iranian—and above all, Middle Iranian—matters, but touched also on peripheral areas of study, including Aramaic, Arabic, Babylonian, Coptic, Old Turkish, Chinese, Prakrit, and Tocharian. They appeared, naturally, in varied publications, over a period of more than thirty years, from 1932 (when Henning was in his early twenties) to 1968, just before his untimely death. Most of them remain, despite the passage of time, authoritative and essential works; and to collect them and make them easily and generally available is therefore an invaluable service to Oriental studies.

The present edition, in two volumes, contains all Henning's articles and most of his reviews, in chronological order. There are also some of his longer works: *Ein manichäisches Henochbuch*, *Ein manichäisches Bet- und Beichtbuch*, *Sogdica*, and three of the most important, namely *Mitteliranische Manichaica aus Chinesisch-Turkestan* I, II and III. A number of the texts which these contain have also been reproduced, with Henning's own emendations made over the years, in "A Reader in Manichaean Middle Persian and Parthian", published in *Acta Iranica*, 9 (1975). Henning constantly made new discoveries in his pioneering work among the Turfan fragments, which led him to correct his earlier writings here and there. Such corrections were almost all published in his later articles, and are therefore contained in the present edition, which includes the index made by A. Ghilain to his earliest work, "Das Verbum des Mittelpersischen der Turfanfragmente". This study was Henning's doctoral thesis, which he corrected fairly heavily both in Ghilain's index (made under his supervision) and in later writings of his own. Three articles, "Mani's Last Journey" (1942), "Waručān-Šāh" (1945), and "The Khwarezmian Language" (1956), were emended by him in small respects almost immediately after publication (in the last two cases in the offprints

which he sent out), and he did not subsequently repeat these emendations in print. The text of these three articles has therefore been altered in some places in accordance with his own expressed wishes. In the case of *Sogdica*, which alone of his works he was unable to see through the press, there was an *errata* slip, and the corrections contained in it have been transferred by M. Duchesne-Guillemin to the text given here. Otherwise the works in this edition are reproduced exactly as they were originally printed.

It is to be hoped that one day it will be possible to provide an index for these collected works, thus making their riches even more fully accessible. Meanwhile Orientalists, and Iranists in particular, will be profoundly grateful to *Acta Iranica*, and to its editor, Professor Duchesne-Guillemin, for publishing this admirable edition, the best memorial which could be created to a great scholar.

Mary BOYCE.