

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To begin with I would like to express my gratitude to the publishing house Brill for having taken the initiative to propose the present translation project several years ago.

With regard to providing the financial support which made this translation possible Brill is also to be thanked along with the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft and in particular the German cultural organization Internationes which sponsors the translation of important German books. Likewise, the Ritter family has also been very generous in contributing to this project. The practical business of arranging the funding in question was undertaken by Bernd Radtke.

And Bernd deserves my special thanks for other forms of assistance he has given me in producing the final English version of *Das Meer der Seele*. Besides answering my many queries about the original German, he has painstakingly provided references to Richard Gramlich's magisterial translations of sources Ritter cites in the main text, as well as new bibliographical data in both the Analytic Index and the Bibliography. These additions were deemed necessary in view of the relevant developments in scholarship since Ritter's book was first published in 1955. Bernd also helped me by putting in all cross-references in the English version and by sharing the tedious job of substituting the English page references in the Analytic Index. And last but not least, he was responsible for producing the camera-ready copy according to specifications laid down by Brill.

Here I should also say a word about the thorny problem of transliteration which inevitably arises in a translation of this nature. My primary concern has been to simplify matters without introducing any misunderstandings. I have therefore adopted a system which treats Persian words like Arabic but indicates the distinctive features of Turkish. This should not cause any difficulties for the specialist and be somewhat easier on the eye for non-specialist readers. I may also add that any typos or insignificant errors in Ritter's text have been corrected without pointing this out. In that respect my special thanks must go to Rudolf

Sellheim who had been indispensable as general editor in the production of Ritter's original text. He has had the kindness and patience to proof-read the whole of the English translation and to offer numerous corrections and useful suggestions.