

EDITOR'S TRIBUTE TO EDMUND BOSWORTH

When the suggestion was made to Edmund Bosworth that he should receive a *Festschrift* from his colleagues in Islamic studies, he responded with his customary enthusiasm. Indeed, it was he who chose the contributors to the *Festschrift* amongst friends whom he cherishes and fellow-scholars whom he respects. I believe that this volume, dedicated to Persian and Turkish studies, is a fine contribution to scholarship in this field as well as a true reflection of Edmund Bosworth's abiding interest and research in these areas of the Islamic world.

Michael Wickens has provided an eloquent and comprehensive appreciation of Edmund's personality and scholarly achievements. I will therefore confine myself to a few personal reminiscences and observations of my own.

Over the many years that I have known Edmund I have always been impressed by his prodigious energy and enthusiasm for every project he undertakes and by his genuinely wide-ranging interests within his field. Nor is he self-seeking and mean with his knowledge—he is always willing to impart bibliographical information to others and to encourage those who are just starting their apprenticeship in Islamic studies. His own standing in the field received timely recognition in his election as Fellow of the British Academy in 1992 but his reputation extends far beyond the borders of the UK and Europe. Despite his scholarly persona, Edmund is happy to be teased; indeed, he himself has a puckish sense of humour which he rarely reveals to his colleagues but which makes him a delightful companion outside working hours.

Edmund's life-long interest in medieval Islamic history and thought has not prevented him from enjoying outside interests. He is a devoted husband, father and grandfather and a pillar of his local church. He finds time for regular visits to his alma mater, St John's College, Oxford, to collect books, to pursue his passion for Victoriana and for gardening, and perhaps above all to pace the Scottish hills and the Isle of Arran with a youthful vigour and speed that leaves his companions gasping for breath.

This volume is offered to Edmund in gratitude and affection.

Carole Hillenbrand