

FOREWORD

Professor Clifford Edmund Bosworth FBA, whom this Festschrift honours, is one of the greatest historians of the Middle East of the 20th century. When a latter-day Arberry comes to write the biographies of the leading Orientalists of *this* age, there is no doubt that Bosworth's name will rank among the foremost. He is a great orientalist with all the positive, good connotations of that much-abused word, and totally lacking in the pejorative aspects with which the term "orientalism" has become imbued since the writings of Edward Said.

Professor Bosworth was born on 29 December 1928 in Sheffield, England. His first degree, taken at St. John's College, Oxford University, was a 1st class BA in Modern History in 1952 (MA, 1957), which he promptly followed by another 1st class degree, this time an MA in Middle Eastern Languages (Arabic, Persian and Turkish) from Edinburgh University, in 1956. He received his PhD from Edinburgh University in 1961, and a third (honorary) MA from the University of Manchester in 1971.

A distinguished and varied career followed: Bosworth was Lecturer in Arabic at St. Andrews University in Scotland from 1956–65, and 1966–7, intercalating a period as Visiting Associate Professor at Toronto University (1965–6). However, the institution with which he is most associated is the University of Manchester where he was Professor of Arabic Studies in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies from 1967–1990, as well as Head of Department for most of that time. He is now Emeritus Professor in that Department and Honorary Fellow, and also holds an Honorary Professorship at St. David's College, Lampeter in the University of Wales, in the Department there of Theology and Religious Studies and its associated Centre for Islamic Studies. His academic career was deservedly crowned with his election as a Fellow of the British Academy in 1992.

Bosworth's publications are almost literally legion: he is the envy of his less prolific colleagues. However, quality has never been sacrificed to quantity. As well as being the author of some 15 books, he has produced some 85 articles in learned journals, about 200 articles in the new edition of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* of which he

is the British editor, and some 80 articles for the *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Notable among his books are the 2 volume *Mediaeval Islamic Underworld*, the revised *Islamic Dynasties* (entitled *The New Islamic Dynasties*), his translations of Tabari and the seminal and magisterial *History of the Saffarids of Sistan and the Maliks of Nimruz*.

The diversity of Bosworth's academic interests is mirrored in the academic colleagues and friends he has made all over the world. Some of them have joined together here in this *Festschrift* to honour an outstanding master of his trade. All the contributors join with me and Dr Carole Hillenbrand in wishing Clifford Edmund Bosworth *ad multos annos* and continued productivity in the field of academe which he graces with such distinction.

Ian Richard Netton