

## Preface

This book in honour of our teacher and friend, Bo Utas, who held the chair of Iranian Studies at Uppsala University between 1988 and 2003, is the outcome of an idea that was born five years ago, at his retirement. At that time, a volume of *Orientalia Suecana*, namely no. 51-52 (2002-2003), was dedicated to him and his colleague, Gunilla Gren-Eklund, professor of Indology at the same university and differing in age from Bo Utas by only one day. When we discussed what to do for Bo Utas' 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, he mentioned that it would be very valuable for him to get a number of his articles republished in one or two volumes.

The present volume is one of these two volumes and comprises part of Bo Utas' extensive scholarship on Persian literature. We have had to limit ourselves to articles written in one of the languages of wider use in academic circles, and have thus not been able to include his numerous articles in Swedish. Also other articles have had to be left out for the sake of space. However, we are convinced that this selection will give a good picture of Bo Utas' profound knowledge of Persian literature. He has also made a significant scholarly contribution in Iranian linguistics. We hope to be able to publish a selection of his articles in this field on another occasion.

Our sincere thanks go to Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams for accepting this volume in the series *Beiträge zur Iranistik* and to the Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden, for their kind assistance during the publication process.

Finally, we extend our warmest congratulations to a distinguished scholar and a good friend, professor emeritus Bo Utas, on his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and wish him all the best for many active scholarly years to come.

Uppsala, April 2008  
*The editors*