

Preface

This book is the second volume of collected articles by Bo Utas. The first volume, *Manuscript, Text and Literature. Collected Essays on Middle and New Persian Texts*, was published on the occasion of his 70th birthday as no. 29 in the series *Beiträge zur Iranistik* in 2008. Now, on his 75th birthday, we are happy once again to congratulate Professor Emeritus Bo Utas, who remains as young and vital as five years ago, and present him with a collection of his linguistic and philological articles.

The seventeen articles in the present volume cover a time span of about 2,500 years and encompass all the stages of Persian. We have therefore chosen the title *From Old to New Persian. Collected Essays* for the volume. In addition to previously published work, it also contains two entirely new articles, “The Grammatical Transition from Middle to New Persian” and “Between Spoken and Written: The Formation of New Persian”, which sum up much of Bo Utas’ philological research. The second of these two articles is based on his keynote speech at the Fourth International Conference of Iranian Linguistics (ICIL4), Uppsala, June 17–19, 2011, organized by Carina Jahani, Simin Karimi, and Agnes Korn.

First and foremost our sincerest thanks go to our distinguished teacher, Professor Emeritus Bo Utas, for his help with preparing this book for publication and above all for constantly supporting and encouraging his students, including us, ever since his return to Uppsala as a researcher in 1981. Those who wish to read more about Bo Utas’ life and academic career can do so in the introduction to the book *Manuscript, Text and Literature*.

We would also like to thank Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams for accepting this volume for publication in the series *Beiträge zur Iranistik*, and the Reichert Verlag, Wiesbaden, for their friendly attitude and constant help throughout the publication process. We are also grateful to Everett Thiele for checking the accuracy of the English in the hitherto unpublished material. Thanks also to all those who have given us permission to republish Bo Utas’ articles and to all of Bo Utas’ friends and colleagues who have made this publication possible by contributing to the *Tabula Gratulatoria*.

Last, but not least: Happy Birthday, Bo! We wish you good health and many more productive years in the field of Iranian Studies.

Uppsala, May 2013

Carina Jahani and Mehrdad Fallahzadeh