Turks and Iranians
Interactions in Language and History

The Gunnar Jarring Memorial Program
at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study

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2016
Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden
Photo (page v): Gunnar Jarring, 9 November 1933 at the University of Lund
Photographer: Emma Raquette, Library of University of Lund, Firma Per Bagges Collection, no 1488.
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Editors’ Preface

This volume contains papers presented at the workshop “Turco-Iranica: Language and History” and the symposium “Turks and Iranians: A Common Historical and Linguistic Heritage” organized in 2006 by the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS), Uppsala University.

In the 2005–2006 academic year, SCAS launched the “Gunnar Jarring Program”, dedicated to the memory of the famous Swedish Turcologist and his outstanding efforts in promoting Turkic and Iranian Studies. Within the framework of this program a group of eminent scholars specializing in Turkic and Iranian languages were invited to Uppsala as fellows-in-residence. The workshop and the following symposium, which marked the culmination of a fruitful academic year, focused on stages of Turkic-Iranian contacts from pre-Islamic times until various periods of the Islamic era, particularly the emergence and development of Iranian and Turkic varieties. They were intended as a contribution to the understanding of the interrelations between cultural-historical contacts and linguistic processes. The invited participants were scholars in Turkic and Iranian studies interested in how cultural relations are reflected in the development of the languages involved.

Two of the authors sadly passed away before the publication of this volume: Árpád Berta in 2008 and Werner Sunderman in 2012. Their departure is a great loss for scholarship in the field and for us personally. The editors have done their best to finalize their manuscripts without any substantial changes.

Uppsala, Mainz, and Budapest, September 2015

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