

### **In memoriam Gherardo Gnoli (1937 - 2012)**

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we inform our members of the passing of Prof. Gherardo Gnoli. He died 7 March 2012, at the age of 74, in his house in his beloved town of Cagliari (PU) at the end of a long and inexorable illness, against which he fought until the end with amazing strength.

Professor Gnoli was one of the most distinguished scholars of pre-Islamic Iran. He has been from 1965 to 1993 Professor of "Iranian Philology" at the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples, of which he was also Rector from 1970 to 1978, and from 1993 to 2008 Professor of the "Religious History of Iran and Central Asia" at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", and since 2009 Professor Emeritus. He was a member of the Accademia dei Lincei, the Académie de France, the Russian Academy, the Hungarian Academy, an Honorary Member of the Société Asiatique in Paris and an Honorary Fellow of the "Ancient India and Iran Trust" in Cambridge. From 1979 to 1995 he was President of the Istituto Italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (IsMEO), succeeding Giuseppe Tucci and Sabatino Moscati, and then, after the merger with the Istituto Italo-Africano, of the newly born Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente (IsIAO). He was also a founding member and President of the Societas Iranologica Europaea (SIE) and Member and Honorary Advisor of our Society.

His research interests spanned a wide range of topics, involving Zoroastrianism, dualistic conceptions of the Ancient World, up to Manichaeism. On all these topics he made important contributions. Particularly significant to Manichaean Studies are, among others, his *De Zoroastre à Mani: Quatre leçons au Collège de France* (1985) and the 3 volumes of *Il manicheismo*, Milan, Fondazione Lorenzo Valla, Mondadori, 2003-2008, which he directed with great skill and enthusiasm.

Enrico Morano (Vice-President)