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WŁADYSŁAW DULĘBA (1920—1987)

Professor Władysław Dulęba was born on May 25, 1920, far from Cracow, in the small city of Tlumacz, Stanisławów voievodship (now the Ukraine). In 1945 he entered the Jagiellonian University beginning his Oriental and English philology studies. He did not finish them at that time, eventually obtaining his M. A. in Oriental philology as late as June 25, 1965, after studying anew in the years 1960/61—1964/65. At that time he was already well known as a translator of British and Persian poetry into Polish and a member of the Związek Literatów Polskich (Polish Writers' Union). His M. A. thesis concerned "Persian Poets till Rudaki". In the years 1950 to 1973 W. Dulęba worked at the Państwowe Wydawnictwo Muzyczne (Polish Music Publishers) in Kraków and edited many books in his capacity as head of the department of iconographic and album publications.

W. Dulęba's scholarly career was connected with the Institute of Oriental Philology in Cracow. He started his work as a part-time assistant in 1965, obtaining a permanent post of lecturer in 1975. Having received his Ph. D. for the dissertation "The Cyrus Legend in the Šāhnāme" on Nov. 18, 1979 he was promoted to the position of reader (adiunkt) in 1982. On April 25, 1985 he received his *veniam legendi* (docent's degree) for the book *Klasyczne podstawy poetyki perskiej* [Classical Foundations of the Persian Poetic Art; in Polish], Kraków 1986 and started officially a seminar in Iranian literary history. He received the Chair of Iranian Philology at the Institute.

For many years he had been translating the great Iranian national epic, the Šāhnāme, into Polish. All 49,741 couplets were translated in poetic prose. This enormous manuscript is awaiting a publisher. W. Dulęba was able to publish only some excerpts of the translation (in 1981), adding a critical introduction in which he stressed the historical and mythological elements, and notes to the text.

W. Dulęba died unexpectedly in 1987, in Vancouver, visiting his son living in Canada.

Władysław Dulęba, author of the present book, was an Oriental scholar and certainly one of the best connoisseurs of Iranian poetry in this century, a talented translator and experienced editor. He left us the Polish translations of the love songs of Hafiz (*Pieśni Miłosne Hafiza*, Kraków 1973) and three anthologies of Persian poetry (*Dywan perski*, Kraków 1977; *Drugi dywan perski*, Kraków 1980; *Trzeci dywan perski*, Kraków 1986). Finally, in 1981 he published a selection of verses from the Šāhnāme (*Ferdousi, Księga Królewska*, Warszawa 1981). His name will forever be connected with translations of the Iranian national epic and Persian poetry into Polish. His study on the classical foundations of the Persian poetic art will remain a professional handbook for at least a generation ahead.

The present publication is a re-written English version of W. Dulęba's Ph. D. dissertation defended in 1979. In *The Cyrus Legend in the Šāhnāme* he discusses the question of whether and in which part Persian tales about Cyrus the Great, known already to Herodotus, Ctesias, and other ancient authors, influenced Iranian epic writings. The most beautiful expression of this influence can be found in Ferdousi's, *Šāhnāme*.

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