

## PREFACE

Ten years ago an international colloquium was convened to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Professor Sándor Fodor, or “Alexander” as he is known to his colleagues worldwide. The volume of its proceedings was published as volume 23 of *The Arabist*. The magic of decimal numeral system has produced an even more intriguing number: Alexander’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. It seemed appropriate that this event be fêted in the “tightest family circle”, with a collection of papers written by a small bunch from his many students whom he had taught in the last more than 40 years. The limits of the volume necessarily restricted the choice of studies, so only his current colleagues or doctoral students at his beloved Chair for Arabic Studies at Eötvös Loránd University were asked to contribute by the editor.

The variety of papers amply shows Alexander’s openness to the many facets of the world of Islam, albeit his primary interest has driven him to the examination of the syncretism in the great monotheistic religions of the Middle East, and to the various manifestations of popular religion in Islam, having become one of its foremost authorities.

It is our duty to attach here an update on his bibliography, supplementing the one which appeared in his previous *Festschrift* (*The Arabist* 23).

We wish that this dedicated scholar could continue his research for many years to come together with successfully initiating future generations of young scholars (as professor emeritus) to the magical world of Islam.

*The Editor*