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Detail from above the entrance of Tehran's fire temple, 1286š/1917–18. Photo by © Shervin Farridnejad

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Malek Iradj Mochiri (1927–2015)

Ehsan Shavarebi

Malek Iradj Mochiri was born in Tehran on 23 January 1927. He finished his secondary education at Dār-al-Fonun high school in Tehran in 1946. After receiving the Certificat d'Études Physiques, Chimiques et Biologiques (PCB) from the Université Paris-Sorbonne, he started his medical studies at the École de Médecine in Paris. From 1954 to 1959, Mochiri was an intern in hospitals of the Parisian region. In 1959, he received his doctorate degree in orthopaedic medicine. He also achieved the membership of the Société Française d'Orthopédie et de Traumatologie. After almost 15 years of living in Paris, he returned to Tehran and began his work as the chief of Aria Clinic in 1962. Four years later, Mochiri became lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Tehran. As surgeon he also worked at Amir Alam and Razi hospitals. He departed again for France at the beginning of 1980s. In 1989, he returned to Tehran, where he continued his work at Aria Clinic until 1992. From 1992 up to his decease in 2015 he was living in Paris.

During his stay in Paris, Mochiri found the opportunity to get access to the works of European scholars on the history of ancient Iran. His knowledge on the Persian and Arabic sources of the Sasanian history helped him, as well, to concentrate on certain topics of the Late and Post-Sasanian numismatics. As a coin and seal collector, he also had the chance to study the original materials surviving from the Sasanian and Early Islamic periods.

In his first publication entitled *Étude de numismatique iranienne sous les Sassanides* (Tehran 1972), for the first time he introduced a silver drachm of Queen Azarmidukht and with this important discovery established his status among the numismatists. This book was followed by a second volume entitled *Étude de*

numismatique iranienne sous les Sassanides et Arab-Sassanides (Tehran 1977; revised: Louvain 1983), prefaced by A.D.H. Bivar, which became an important source for the study of the Late Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian coinage, because of Mochiri's endeavour in reattributing certain Sasanian mint-abbreviations which were mentioned on the 6th-8th centuries' coins. His collaboration with the National Museum of Iran (muze-ye irān-e bāstān) in Tehran, as well as a number of Iranian and European coin collectors enriched his database for this volume. At the same time in 1970s and in collaboration with Philippe Gignoux and Rika Gyselen he published a catalogue of his private collection of Sasanian seals. Later in 1980s, he compiled an English monograph on *Arab-Sasanian Civil War Coinage* (Louvain 1986; reprinted: 2008). His astonishing attention to the iconographical and palaeographical details of coins is obviously observable not only in the volumes of *Étude de numismatique iranienne* and his latter monograph, but also in the papers he contributed in French, English and Persian for a variety of international numismatic and historical journals.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, 21 April 2015, Malek Iradj Mochiri passed away in Cognac G hospital in Paris. His memory will never be forgotten and his scholarly works will always remain helpful for the scholars and students of Sasanian numismatics.

List of Publications of M.I. Mochiri

Abbreviations

BAI = *Bulletin of the Asia Institute* (Iowa State University Press/Ames)

Iran = *Iran: Journal of the British Institute of Persian Studies* (London)

JA = *Journal Asiatique* (Paris)

JRAS = *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland* (London)

NAFIB = *Nashriye-ye Anjoman-e Farhang-e Irān-e Bāstān* (Tehran)

NIB = *Nāme-ye Irān-e Bāstān* (Tehran)

NC = *The Numismatic Chronicle* (London)

ONSN = *Oriental Numismatic Society Newsletter* (Croydon, Surrey)

SI = *Studia Iranica* (Paris)

Étude de numismatique iranienne sous les Sassanides, tome I (Téhéran, 1972), 59 pp; reviewed by N.M. Lowick in *NC* [133] (1973), pp. 238–239.

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- ‘The Mint Signature of the Mint Place of Yazd’, *ONSN* 155 (1998), pp. 10–11.
- ‘Une suite aux ateliers de Perside’, *Iran* 36 (1998), pp. 77–84.
- ‘Les monnaies de Kavād I à double effigie’, in N. Sims-Williams (ed.), *Proceedings of the Third European Conference of Iranian Studies* (Wiesbaden, 1998), pp. 45–54 [Presented at the conference held in Cambridge, 11–15 September 1995].
- ‘Notice Concerning Some Rare Sasanian Coins’, *ONSN* 159 (1999), p. 7.
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