

translation of *Golestān-e honar*, an important work on calligraphy by the Safavid artist Qāzi Aḥmad b. Mir Monši (tr. as *Calligraphers and Painters*, Washington, D. C., 1959).

The first Director of the School of Oriental Studies in London, Edward Denison Ross (q.v.), had met the Minorskys on the continent of Europe and in the Middle East on several occasions (see Ross, pp. 183, 191, 225), and in 1932 he invited Minorsky to take up a post at the School, where, from 1933 until his retirement at the statutory age of sixty-seven in 1944, he was successively Lecturer, Reader and then Professor of Persian. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the School was evacuated to Cambridge, and it was there that the Minorskys chose to spend their retirement, apart from a year (1948-49) spent at Fo'ād al-Awwal University in Cairo as visiting professor. Although Minorsky's own academic standards were austere and uncompromising, he was always happy to impart and share his vast knowledge with those who sought his assistance or advice. The Minorskys' house in Bateman Street became a mecca for visiting scholars and students. He had always been especially helpful to Persian scholars whom he had met in France and then Britain; the late Mojtabā Minovi recalled how he first met Minorsky in Paris in 1929 at the house of the great scholar Mirzā Moḥammad Qazvini (q.v.) and how Minorsky then initiated him into the mysteries of using the Bibliothèque Nationale and introduced him to Western classical music by taking him to a performance of Borodin's *Prince Igor* and explaining the opera to him (Minovi, p. 9; Boyle, p. 89).

These years at Cambridge continued to be ones of intense academic productivity (see below), in which many academic honors came to him. But especially gratifying to one who had never ceased, through all his years of exile, to be a fervent Russian patriot (his *Tadkerat al-moluk* edition and translation [see below] had in 1942, the time of the siege of Leningrad, been dedicated to "The Soviet orientalists in their ordeal") was an invitation in 1960 from the Soviet Academy of Sciences to attend the meeting of the Twenty-Third International Congress of Orientalists in Moscow, where he received a triumphant welcome after an absence from Russian soil of over four decades. After his death, almost a nonagenarian, on 25 March 1966, Mrs. Minorsky took his ashes for interment in the historic Novodevichy Monastery cemetery in Moscow, one reserved exclusively for outstanding artists, literary men, composers, scholars, etc., and the greater part of his rich personal library went to Leningrad, whose oriental holdings had suffered much loss during the siege of 1942-43.

*Achievements.* Minorsky's academic output was prodigious, stretching from a Russian translation of part of Theodore Nöldeke's *Die semitische Sprachen, eine Skizze* (Moscow, 1903), when he was still a student, to the posthumous "A Greek Crossing on the Oxus" (*BSO(A)S* 30, 1967, pp. 45-53). The bibliography, prefixed to his *Iranica: Twenty Articles*, runs to 209 items going up to 1962, and these include some eleven books and monographs, most of them of seminal importance. His translation of the anonymous Persian geography, written for the author's patron, a local ruler of Guzḡān (q.v.) in northwestern Afghanistan, the *Hodud al-'alam*, with Minorsky's immensely detailed and erudite commentary (1937), would alone have made the reputation of a great scholar. It involved dealing with a work whose purview extended far beyond the Islamic world, to Western Europe, East Africa, Central Asia, Siberia and China, a circumstance that would easily lead copyists to introduce corruptions when dealing with names alien to them. These Minorsky set himself to correct as far as possible and to elucidate, and it is relevant here to quote the words of Ilya Gershevitch (q.v.), a noted scholar of Iranian studies: "It was in this book that he displayed for the first time on a massive scale his unique skill in emending corrupt place names. There was a touch of magic in the emergence of a suitable toponym from an incomprehensible sequence of letters after his deletion, addition, or shifting of a dot or two, the coaxing of a *dāl* into a *rā* position, the eversion of a *gayn* to *kā* or the straightening of a *kāf* to *lām* (p. 53). Minorsky noted that he had spent six or seven years on it, and that his wife had prepared some 4,500 cards for the indexes and had typed revised texts of some chapters up to four